



Salt Spring Island / Mayne Island Branches  
THE GIFT EXCHANGE

4th Quarter, 2006 Issue 43

*The man whispered, "God, speak to me" , and a meadowlark sang.  
But, the man did not hear.  
So the man yelled, "God, speak to me" and the thunder rolled across the sky.  
But, the man did not listen.  
The man looked around and said, "God let me see you." And a star shined brightly.  
But the man did not see.  
And, the man shouted, "God show me a miracle." And a life was born.  
But, the man did not notice.  
So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here."  
Whereupon, God reached down and touched the man.  
But, the man brushed the butterfly away , and walked on. Author Unknown*

As we draw near to the Season of Light and Gift-giving--we ask that you remember that the Land Bank needs to pay off the interest bearing loan used to complete the purchase of our new Grandma's House. Thank you to those who have helped already.  
If **you** can help to repay this loan, please mail cheques directly to the Land Bank.

**SSI Land Bank, 1115 Beaver Point Road, V8K 1X2**

Any donation will be greatly appreciated. Charitable tax receipts will be issued.  
More information [neddy@saltspring.com](mailto:neddy@saltspring.com) or call (250) 653-4573



**At Grandma's House**, our new Facilitator has created a home for those who are in need of temporary housing in a *definitely* drug and alcohol free environment. We thank David for making sure that the Guidelines are kept. It is always difficult to find a Facilitator who is able for this task of being firm but compassionate and creating a really dignified retreat for those in need.  
In David, we hit the jackpot! Thank you David!

At the Women's House, we keep the name our generous Owner gave: **Bittancourt Manor**. We thank the retiring Facilitator, Cathrine, who after years of service is moving on to take care of her own future. Every blessing Cathrine! And we welcome Sanatta, a beautiful healing woman who is a real gift to the House and to all the women who come and go.

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**News from St Francis of Assisi Memorial Chapel, Mayne Island**

Monthly Gatherings to share spiritual gifts and to give support to those who are marginalized:

**More info:** Outside Victoria: --1-800-691-9366

On Mayne Island-- Phone 539-5310 E mail: [grandmas@saltspring.com](mailto:grandmas@saltspring.com)

Many thanks for taking part in "the exchange of life's gifts"!

**Sincere thanks to:**

- **The Anglican Parish Outreach** for their monthly gift to subsidize rent and utilities.
- The **many donors** who have re-established a dignified home for the homeless on Salt Spring Island and who keep on giving generously to assist with the Loan re-payment.
- **Irene C.** for Christmas stockings; linens, blankets, household items, note cards and GVM tapes. Also very fine men's clothes from **Rod**. Thank you from Grandma's House!
- **Neddy** of the **Salt Spring Land Bank Society** for supervising work at our new House and for advice and patience towards all. Also for referring homeless males to us.
- **Macie P.** for advocacy and generous service for persons facing housing challenges.
- **Mark S.** of Pender for regular donation to assist persons with mental illness.
- **Margaret B.** for monthly assistance with the rents through post-dated cheques
- **Macie, Jean K.,** and **Joan** for picking up and distributing bread and baked goods.
- **Ganges Village Market** for bread and baked goods. And for grocery tape rebate.
- **Imagen** for continued Internet Access for our Gulf Islands Branches.
- **Sanatta** for creating a warm healthy environment for women of Bittancourt Manor.
- All those, especially **Bill**, who have donated services and items needed by the House.
- **Pat L.** for arranging for the donation of a bed and for sharing her human gifts with others.
- **David** for making sure that Grandma's House remains a clean and sober environment.
- **Colleen B.** for new hot water tank and for being a generous and supportive Owner .
- **All** whose names we have missed but who have 'shared life's gifts'. **We thank you!**

**MAYNE ISLAND BRANCH:**

- **Jan and Ernie R.** for sharing several truckloads of furniture; gardening equipment , carpet , life jackets, fishing items and other goods when moving off-Island.
- **Sue C., Joanna W.,** and the **Mayne Isl. Thrift Store** for bags of linens.
- **Doreen B.** for 4 mattresses; 2 frames; 2 round tables; 3 high backed chairs; a stove.
- **John M. and staff at Mayne Island Building Supply** for promptly picking up donations on Mayne and transporting them to our VHES House in Victoria, free of charge.
- **ALEA** and **Judi W.** for our monthly notices re local Mayne Island Branch activities.
- **Michele, Jim , Yvette, Viola, Lois, Gillian, Reine and many others** for wonderful Chapel Gatherings, so empowering and nurturing.
- **Sylvia I.** for fresh produce that give healthy meals to persons of low-income.
- **Shirley H** for more welcome children's books. **Carol K.** for gifts of clothing etc.
- **Joyce K.** for lovingly sharing her new lambs with tiny visitors and for gifts of produce.
- **Diana L.** for ongoing gifts of many kinds gladly received. And toiletries from **Susan S.**
- **Pat G. and Yvette** for pick up an delivery of many gifts to the less materially fortunate.
- **Wayne T.** for cartage of lawn mower and furniture to Esther's House in Victoria
- *Financial donations* : **Lazlo B** for Tom's Chapel; **Patricia F., Marion M., Yvette B.**
- **Sunny Mayne Bakery** for gift of soups and other foods generously given.
- **Yvette B.** for travelling to Victoria weekly to Meetings and a Rally to bring attention to the problem of Homelessness.
- **Pender Island Cable and Internet** for high speed Internet at discount to our Society.
- **Monica** of **MonicaWorks** for uploading newsletters and updating the donated web- site.
- **Errol F** for continuing to give us clothing and footwear.
- *All who have dropped off goods anonymously or whom we missed. **We thank you all.***

In the Gulf Islands, Monetary gifts may be mailed to:

**VHES Box 8534, Victoria BC, V8W 3S1**

(With memo re usage)

Email: [grandmas@saltspring.com](mailto:grandmas@saltspring.com) Outside Victoria Society pager: **1-800-691-9366**

On **Mayne and Outer Islands:** Tel: 539-5310 / 539-3286

For Houses in Victoria : **418-9997** For Sidney Houses: **361-2762**