

Nov. 16, 2017 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Guemes Island Community Center Association (GICCA) board has had a busy and productive year. Our Community Hall has opened its doors to a variety of events and activities. Following is a review of our work in 2017 with a reminder of upcoming events for the remainder of November and December.

The year started off well with planning meetings in **January** with the new board: Sukki Herman, President; Barb Ohms, Vice President; Sarah Sibley, Secretary; Marietta Harrigan, Treasurer; Deb Strathman, Rob Schroder and Loalynda Bird, Trustees.

In **February** the Hall hosted two community events, the Valentines Day Dance and the Wine Tasting and Jazz Event. The Stage showed some progress with the concrete ramps being poured.

March was the start of a new tradition at the Hall. The Luminary Workshops brought young and old, new comers and long timers, together to socialize and create beautiful paper and wood luminary lanterns.

April saw the launch of GICCA's new myguemes.org website. The Hall hosted an Easter Egg Dyeing Party with an egg hunt at the Park. The Luminary Workshops continued and culminated at the 1st Annual Earth Day Luminary Parade. This was a fun community event that will surely grow each year.

May was a month of conflict and compromise. Our President stepped down and those duties were passed on to Barb Ohms. After several favorable meetings with the GICCA Board and the stage volunteers we created a path forward with plans for the work ahead on Phase I of the Schoolhouse Stage Project.

In **June** the Hall and grounds got some sprucing up thanks to a crew of hard working volunteers. We hosted the Strawberry Sundae Social organized by the Groundfloor Guemes group, the Luminary Potluck and the Summer Chamber Music Concert Series.

July 4th saw the annual Hot Dog Picnic at Schoolhouse Park. It was a great success with over 400 hot dogs sold. Wendell and Kathleen Phillips organized the All Wheels Car Show and Open House at the Hall. The popular Guemes Kids Science Camp filled the Hall with enthusiastic participants. We also hosted an educational talk on Razor Clams.

In **August**, the band Bingo Therapy rocked the island for a fundraiser for the Stage. The summer showed some real progress on the Stage Project. The central beam was finished and placed and the joists were installed. All the lumber for the deck and ceiling was treated and stacked. Many island volunteers rallied in a spirit of cooperation to accomplish these tasks.

In **September** our Appeal Letter went out to over 800 Guemes property owners and residents. We are so grateful for the generous response from our community. The GIPOA sponsored Fall Festival filled the Hall with craft vendors and baked goods. GICCA sponsored the first Rock Painting classes, another new artistic tradition, that will hopefully blossom into monthly rock painting sessions. Work continued on the Stage as the deck installation began as well as some initial grading of the site. Thanks to all the volunteers for their collaborative efforts.

October was a busy month at the Hall. The Rock Painting Classes continued. The "Galaxy of Talent" Show was literally a star-studded evening of entertainment with out-of -this-world decorations and desserts. Island ghosts and goblins gathered at the Hall for the Kid's Spooktacular Halloween Party. On a more serious note, CERT held an informational meeting to remind us all of the need for emergency

preparedness. The Community Emergency Response Team procedures on the island were reviewed. We addressed a much needed maintenance chore and had our parking lot at the Hall scraped and regraded.

During this month of **November**, the Hall is hosting a series of Facebook Essentials classes sponsored by the Library. The GICCA Annual Meeting welcomes three new board members, Liz Hartley, Chris Skinner and Karen Lamphere. We appreciate the hard work of the outgoing members Sarah Sibley and Marietta Harrigan. The Holiday Bazaar, organized by the Historical Society, once again fills the Community Hall with craft vendors as we mark the start of the Holiday season. The Woodchopper's Ball and Potluck returns for another year of Guemes style fun and entertainment.

Looking ahead to **December**, the Hall brings the community together for a reception supporting the Skagit Land Trust campaign to save our beautiful Kelly's Point. The annual Holiday dinner gets us all in the Christmas spirit. The Winter Chamber Music Concert Series closes out the events for the year that have brought our community together in this wonderful old building.

Last but not least is a review of the ongoing activities that are hosted in the Hall. We have provided meeting space for other island organizations. The Ferry Replacement Project has prompted a number of special forums, one with record-breaking attendance. GICCA and the Guemes Island Ferry Committee meet in the Hall monthly. GIPOA held their Guemes Gold Scholarship Award ceremony in conjunction with our May meeting. Both GIPOA and GIPAC hold their annual meetings here at the Hall.

The Hall is truly our island living room as we host ongoing fitness classes, yoga and Zumba, at least 4 days per week. We had just one movie night this year but we did provide space for a yoga retreat, a wedding rehearsal dinner, 3 birthday parties and 1 family dinner. We also continue to offer the loan of our tables and chairs to islanders for their own events.

The GICCA board provides ongoing support to the other island organizations for their many events and activities. We want to acknowledge the Dog Island Run, the Dog Island Dog Show, the monthly Historical Society Programs, the Gathering Lunches, the Soup Suppers at the Church, the Sunday services at the Church, the ongoing music events at the Store, and the many art classes at Tower Arts Studio for countless enrichment opportunities of our community.

Our Community Center is very much the heart of our island. We are proud to continue the 103 year-old tradition of providing a place for the community to come together. We look forward to another productive year in 2018.

On behalf of the entire GICCA board, thank you for your continued support.

Barb Ohms
President

