

## Nov. 15, 2018 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Guemes Island Community Center Association (GICCA) board has had another 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 2018 with a reminder of upcoming events for the remainder of November and December.

**January** 2018 started off well with planning meetings with the new board. The Hall hosted the *GI Ferry Committee Annual Meeting*.

In **February** The *Women's Full Moon Circle* celebrated the Snow Moon with a potluck and music.

In **March** the tradition continued with the second series of *Luminary Workshops*. Newcomers and seasoned luminarians made new designs created by Loalynda Bird. An old tradition is kept alive as volunteers organized the *Kid's Easter Egg Dying and Egg Hunt* in the Park. The *Women's Full Moon Circle* celebrated again with the March full moon.

**April** was the one year anniversary of GICCA's [myguemes.org](http://myguemes.org) website. It has become a valued online resource for our community. GICCA's *Trivia Night* was a new offering this year and was a great success. Karen Lamphere taught a *Foraging Workshop* that ended with gathering edible plants in the adjacent Labyrinth. A *Pattern Making Class* brought professional sewing skills to both beginning and experienced sewers. Groundfloor Guemes had their annual *Island Clean Up Day* on Earth Day weekend. The *Luminary Workshops* continued and culminated at the 2nd Annual *Earth Day Luminary Parade*. The Hall hosted the *Holiday Hideaway Association Annual Meeting* and a *Ferry Public Forum*. GICCA helped organize a week-long celebration for the Guemes, Spain visitors that included island tours by van and boat, lunches, picnics and a *Community Potluck* at the Hall.

**May** saw the passing of, Banjo Eddie, and islanders celebrated his life at a gathering at the Hall. The first of several series of *African Drumming classes* began. Music events continued with a *Guitar Concert* by renowned finger pickers. Guemes' own *Margaret Read McDonald had a children's book reading*. CERT got people thinking about emergency water storage by filling and storing several hundred water jugs near the Hall and distributing 150 additional jugs to residents.

In **June**, Karen's workshops continued with a *Cheese Making Class*. The Hall hosted the *Strawberry Sundae Social* organized by Groundfloor Guemes with the proceeds going to CERT. *Pattern Making* and *African Drumming classes* continued. *GIPOA held their Annual Meeting* at the Hall and GICCA President, Barb Ohms, was voted Citizen of the Year. Island residents held a private birthday party in the Hall.

**July** 4th was the annual *Hot Dog Picnic* at Schoolhouse Park. It was again a great success with over 400 hot dogs sold. The Murray Read Pavilion hosted a memorial service for an island resident. The annual *Guemes Kids Science Camp* filled the Hall with enthusiastic young people. The *Summer Chamber Music Concert*, a public political forum and a wedding shower kept the Hall booked and busy. GICCA helped with *Skagit Land Trust Picnic* at the Red Barn in the valley.

In **August**, an *Autoharp Concert* came to the Hall. The building hosted a wedding rehearsal dinner and *film screening* about the Navy jets. GICCA members helped with the GIHS Dog Show in the Park.

In **September**, GIPOA sponsored the *Fall Festival* that filled the Hall with craft vendors and baked goods. A presentation at the Hall *by nature photographer, Paul Bannock*, educated residents about the

lives of North American Owls. The proceeds benefited the GI Environmental Trust. Six weeks of *CERT Classes* began with 31 initial attendees.

**October** saw another workshop by Karen this time on *Fermenting*. This year's *Home Grown Community Talent Show* was a huge success with over 20 performers and an audience that filled the Hall. This is a great community event. The *Kid's Halloween Party* tradition is carried on by a group of dedicated volunteers. This year saw what many hope will be a new annual tradition, *Trunk-or-Treat* in the Hall north parking lot. The *Island Knitting Group* is now meeting in the Hall on Wednesday afternoons.

A busy **November** in the Hall began with an annual *Yoga Retreat* and a concert by *Cowboy Poet, Dick Warwick*. An *African Drumming Benefit Concert* brought drummers from Whidbey Island, Anacortes and Guemes together for a community celebration and potluck. The proceeds went to Saeed Abbas, the drumming teacher and soon-to-be US citizen. The month continued with a private birthday party, the *GIPAC Annual Meeting*, a private family dinner on Thanksgiving and the *GIHS Annual Holiday Bazaar*. The Hall ended the month with the Annual *Woodchoppers' Ball and Potluck*.

In **December** there is no public GICCA meeting, but the newly elected board will meet to determine board positions. Your 2019 board will be Barb Ohms, Chris Skinner, Liz Hartley, Loalynda Bird, Rob Schroder, Carol Deach and Libby Boucher. Thank you to outgoing board members Deb Strathman and Karen Lamphere for their dedicated work this past year. As 2018 comes to an end, the Hall continues to host, for our community, the *Ferry Committee Quarterly Meeting*, the Annual *All-Island Holiday Dinner and Potluck* and the *Winter Chamber Music Concert*.

Nearly every island organization utilizes the Community Hall in some way over the course of a year. Fitness classes at the Hall offer a variety of choices and times with Yoga two mornings and three evenings per week. Zumba classes, though still seeking a paid instructor, continue three mornings per week with dedicated DIY Zumbanistas. Our facility continues to offer meeting or celebration space at no charge to island residents. Donations are welcomed to help defer utility costs. Our chairs and tables have been loaned out for many events both public and private.

The GICCA board provides ongoing support to the other island organizations for their many events and activities. We are just a small part of the island-wide network of volunteers that make the Guemes community special. We want to acknowledge 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 and Firelight Studios for countless enrichment opportunities for our community.

Our Community Center is very much the heart of our island. We are proud to continue the 104 year-old tradition of providing a place for the community to come together. We look forward to another productive year in 2019.

When you receive your Annual Community Outreach Letter from GICCA in the coming days, please remember that it is your financial support that makes all this possible.

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

Barb Ohms  
GICCA President