

March 9, 2010

“What’s Happening on Shaw (2)?!”

Greetings to the Shaw Islanders Inc. Membership!

This is the second in an ongoing series of letters to the membership designed to open up new avenues of communication between the Board of Directors for Shaw Islanders Inc. and the membership, as well as to foster dialogue between the members themselves. Toward that end we have inaugurated an online Bulletin Board—the Shaw Islanders Community Forum. Please check it out by going to the Shaw Islanders Inc. Website (<http://www.shawislanders.org/>) and following the link (under “Announcements”: “on line community forum”). It’s fairly easy to participate—you need to do a one-time only “registration”, which is explained under the Help section labeled “How To”—and we’re hoping it can be a “meeting place” for Shaw Islanders regardless of whether you’re on island or off. And please check the Website itself for updated Events notices and our monthly Calendar. For those who can’t access the Internet, we continue to post event notices, calendars, and these letters at the Kiosk and the Community Center, in addition to sending it out via email.

February was a busy month as we held both the [Valentine’s Day Dinner and Dance](#) and the bittersweet farewell for the Hoffman, Larsen, and Foley families. Many of you will have already seen the photos posted on the Website from the Valentine’s event—a big thanks to Superintendent Rob Patterman and Skagit Swings, the band in which he plays trombone. It was a great evening, and just about everyone got up and danced!

The Shaw Island community paid **tribute to the iconic Hoffman family** on February 27, saying farewell to Marlyn and Henry, and their children and grandchildren (the Larsen and Foley families). Pete Nelsen generously donated and cooked (with help from his stalwart crew) salmon for the masses (and there were over 140 of us in attendance!), and the food tables were piled high with side dishes and desserts from the entire community. Alex McLeod acted as Master of Ceremonies, with a history of the Hoffman Family on Shaw, followed by a poem (Leon Fannesbeck’s) and story (Henry’s) read by Henry Hoffman. Marlyn Hoffman offered some poignant reflections on their life on Shaw. Native American violinist Swil Kanim (and friend on drum) gave a remarkable performance, blending the Native American culture of the region with the present sense of Shaw Island community. The evening’s program ended with heartfelt testimonials and shared stories of the Hoffmans, Larsens, and Foleys from several Shaw Islanders. It was the kind of evening that reminds us of how lucky we are to know life on Shaw. (Photos taken by Gabriel Jacobs at the event should be posted on the Website in the near future.)

There are many events planned for the upcoming months, so keep checking the Website, the Kiosk, and your email!

Brian Lynch, President (On behalf of the Shaw Islanders Inc. Board)