

Letter from the President (aka "What's Happening on Shaw?!") October 2010

My previous letters ("What's Happening on Shaw?!" 1-3) were focused on summarizing the activities of the Shaw Islanders, Inc. Board and community events in and around the Community Center on Shaw. In this communication I want to focus on why I hope everyone will renew their membership in our association. You will have or will shortly be receiving your 2011 Membership Renewal packet, including the renewal information form (very important this year, as it will be used to create the 2011-2012 Shaw Directory!) and Ballot (approval of next year's Board, the 2011 Budget, the Digital Projector proposal, and the DSL service proposal). At \$5 per person (of course, "General Fund" contributions are also encouraged!), you are renewing your support for our Community Center. If you've never attended an event in our building, then you have a unique pleasure ahead of you. However, I'm guessing that almost all of you, at one time or another, have experienced the profound sense of community that happens in different ways, for different purposes, with different numbers and faces in the "Large Room" or the "Small Room" (or, sometimes, in "The Kitchen"!). If you've ever looked up from a particularly difficult yoga pose and seen several people that have become familiar enough with you to joke about aging bodies and still impressionable minds; if you've ever caught your foot tapping in a long forgotten rhythm as the band worked its magic and your neighbors smiled authentically; if you've ever held the sweet taste of ice cream in your mouth as you watch the home run ball soar against the Blind Bay backdrop at the July Fourth Baseball Game; if you've ever stopped, just for a moment, and looked around the room (at Fellowship, at Literature Class, at a Town Hall Meeting, at a Candidates Forum, at Farewell Gathering, at a Memorial Service, at the July 4th Auction, at the Shaw School Concerts...) and said to yourself "I feel very fortunate to be a part of this", then you know what I mean by "community." Our Community Center is the hub for the gatherings and activities that continue to define us in a complex web of relationships. It brings us in touch with other Shaw Islanders who become new acquaintances, and these acquaintances often grow into friendships that expand and strengthen our identification with Shaw. Even those who value Shaw as a place of quiet and solitude can take a certain genuine comfort from the image of a community hearth, there when and if you need it, as you drive, cycle, or walk Blind Bay Road, or Squaw Bay Road, on your way to or from home.

Each person receiving this letter, and receiving the Membership Renewal packet, is a part of what makes Shaw Island such an interesting and unique place. Join me in reaffirming your connection to Shaw: send in your Membership Form, Ballot, and check in the coming weeks (no later than December 15, for ballot counting purposes, please!). And please join us at the next event, or schedule one of your own!

October 27: Flu Vaccinations

November 18, 7.00-9.00 pm: Friends of Cedar Rock Community Meeting

November 27: Holiday Boutique

December (TBA): Shaw School Winter Concert

Join Yoga, Tai Chi, Literature, Fellowship, Exercise, 4H, EMS, Fire Dept.,
or start your own class/event!

Brian K. Lynch, President (2010), Shaw Islanders, Inc.