

Calendar of coming events

CENTRAL SAANICH RESIDENTS ARE invited to attend regular neighbourhood gatherings, held every Friday night at 7 pm at Spelt's Coffee Shop, 7586 East Saanich Road, in Saanichton. Share stories, books, talk politics and enjoy hot coffee. Nothing is taboo. No pretentiousness, no meeting agenda...just a chance to chat with neighbours and build community. Call 250-652-8228 for further information.

THE VICTORIA LABOUR COUNCIL representing affiliated unions in the Greater Victoria area, holds its regular monthly meetings at 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday each month at the BCGEU Auditorium, 2994 Douglas Street, Victoria. All delegates are welcome to come to meet their executive, president Mike Eso, treasurer, Stan Dzbik, and secretary Michael Maloney.

WOMEN IN BLACK invite you to join them in their monthly vigil to remember Hiroshima

and Nagasaki and call on all Canadians and people globally to work for peace and disarmament. All those who support our goals are welcome. For further information, contact bbcf@bbcf.ca.

GARY HOLMAN, MLA, invites you to his Annual Holiday Open House, on Tuesday, December 8, from 3:30-6 pm, at the Saanich North and the Islands Community Office, 2393 Beacon Avenue, in Sidney. Join him for a celebration of the holidays with food and light refreshments. Sidney Lions Food Bank donations will be gratefully accepted.

CAROLE JAMES, MLA, invites you to join her at her Holiday Open House, on Thursday, December 10, from 4-6 pm, at her Community Office, 1004 Fort Street. Everyone is welcome. Light refreshments. Non-perishable food and sock donations will be

gratefully accepted for Anawin House.

ROB FLEMING, MLA, invites you to join him at his Holiday Open House, on Friday, December 11, from 4-6 pm, at the Victoria-Swan Lake Community Office, 1020 Hillside Avenue. Please bring a donation of a non-perishable food item for the UVic Student Society Food Bank.

VICTORIA FEDERAL NDP will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, December 12, starting at noon, at the Cook Street Activity Centre, 380 Cook Street. For more information, please contact James at President@victoriandp.ca or go to www.VictoriaNDP.ca.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON! The Sidney Concert band will be giving a Christmas Concert, with Roy Bannister conducting, on Monday, December 14, at 7 pm at Peace

Lutheran Church. 2295 Weiler Avenue, Sidney, BC. Tickets available at the door, \$10 suggested donation

JOHN HORGAN, MLA, is looking forward to seeing you at his Annual Christmas Open House, on Wednesday, December 16, from 4-7 pm, at the Juan de Fuca Community Office, 122-2606 Jacklin Road (corner of Jacklin and Goldstream). Light snacks and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 250-391-2801. Please drop by. Food bank donations will be gratefully received.

JUAN DE FUCA NEW DEMOCRATS invite you to their 8th Annual Sweetheart of an Evening, a Valentine's Dinner/Dance/Auction on Saturday, February 13, at the Olympic View Golf Course. For tickets or more information, call President Sharon Wilkinson at 250-478-5907 or email her at

LIN attends a book launch at the Guardian



Author and sociologist Hilary Burrage was recently honoured by the Guardian's Maggie O'Kane at a moving book launch. The cover of her book, *Eradicating Female Genital Mutilation, a UK Perspective*, is visible at the right. Speaking of the book, Dr. Toby Levin, of Lady Margaret Hall, said that not since "Efua Dorkenoo's *Cutting the Rose* (1994)" has a monograph on female genital mutilation shone like Hilary Burrage's. Above, Burrage (centre) and her mother are welcomed by O'Kane.



Arifa Nasim, a Youth for Change UN delegate, and a DFID volunteer, works to 'Educate to Eradicate' in London schools giving educational workshops. Her area of specialty is forced marriages, VAW, and feminine genital mutilation. She and Walsh met at the entrance to the Guardian building as they both arrived to attend the book launch.



Diane Walsh, a frequent contributor to Lower Island News, is currently in Scotland at St. Andrews University, where she is studying for her PhD. With the subject she is concentrating on being the very matter of the eradication of female genital mutilation, she naturally found time to attend the book launch. Here she waits in the lobby of the Guardian for the event to start.

