**Sunnyside Up**

Join us for the Sunnyside Up breakfast, scheduled for Thursday, December 11 at 7:00 am at the Majestic Inn & Spa.

Our community update this quarter focuses on our great local library. Cynthia Harrison, the executive director of the Anacortes Public Library will introduce some of the resources we have available to our business community. Harrison will tell us about database and print resources the library has and will also be seeking input regarding how the library can collaborate with chamber members in the future.

Your chamber staff is committed to continually provide personal marketing opportunities. Sunnyside Up is half networking, so prepare a one minute infomercial about your business. Donate to the door prizes and receive further promotion for your business. Please RSVP to the chamber; the breakfast is $10.

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**Business After Hours**

Please join us for the monthly Business After Hours at Opulence Salon at 902 Commercial Avenue on December 18 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

Opulence Salon and Gallery opened their second location this past May at 902 Commercial Avenue after having been located inside Chandler’s Square Retirement Community for four years. Owner Angie Baker and her talented staff of hair designers are passionate and dedicated to their art.

The salon also employs an on-site licensed massage therapist who has begun offering “massage in the workplace.” Additionally, Opulence is an art gallery that showcases the talents of eight northwest artists at the current time.

Opulence is open seven days a week, has extended hours, free WIFI, a 42” flat screen T.V., special children and student pricing, and a men’s day every Tuesday, offering 20% off for haircuts and hot towel face shaves. We offer high quality and environmentally friendly products plus a comfortable and relaxing experience.

This holiday after hours is always a festive event, where many members promote their business by donating to the door prizes. Please RSVP to the chamber.
President’s Letter

It is difficult to believe 2008 is almost at an end. What a year this has been! The board of directors, staff and I have been busy this year making your chamber a more viable, pertinent organization. We are a healthy and growing organization, with membership up over 15% since January 1. Thanks to all of our members for making this possible.

Your board began the year with an ambitious set of objectives focused on membership and a strategic vision. As evidenced by our annual membership survey, completed mid-year, I believe we have made strides in both areas. Specifically:

- The futures project is nearing completion. This represents literally hundreds of hours of work performed by a dedicated committee, formed through the economic development division. They will be releasing their study in early January, forming the basis for discussion with a number of interested constituencies.
- A strategic marketing program is also nearing release, encompassing a new look and feel, including a tag line, logo, and related materials. It is our belief that this can be integrated into member advertising, increasing our reach, and providing cooperative marketing opportunities. Our goal is to make member marketing more efficient and effective, while leveraging 2% hotel/motel programming.
- With the advent of our Buy Close By campaign, we seek to provide additional support to members in speaking with the local community. This will be an ongoing program throughout 2009.
- The approval and release of a comprehensive legislative agenda through the governmental affairs division provides a framework for continued discussion next year. Your chamber must provide a common voice for members and this is an essential part of that process.

On an ongoing basis, the chamber continued to be a vital part of the Anacortes community. Some key highlights:

- Our events brought many tourists to town, as well as providing enjoyment to locals. Waterfront Festival was substantially refined, with a variety of new features and attractions. Shipwreck Day was expanded. Jazz Festival continued in a new format. We also saw a dramatic new event—Trawler Fest—which we were instrumental in bringing to town. The sponsoring organization (PassageMaker magazine) will be returning next May and hopefully for years to come.
- Your chamber continued to take the lead in civic beautification with a variety of initiatives, including a new banner program, over 100 hanging flower baskets, white lights, and maintenance of the 35th Street pocket park.
- We advocated for and supported the international ferry run and will continue to do so in coming years.
- We provided a variety of educational seminars for members, as well as consulting services through EDASC.
- The chamber took an active role in researching and advising membership regarding the marine trades skills center and other relevant issues.

It has been a privilege to be your president this year and an honor to work with your board of directors. We have had some interesting and sometimes spirited discussions over the last twelve months. I would like to thank Pam Allen who nominated me for the board five years ago, Vince Oliver who nominated me for the executive board and president-elect, Zee Hogan, who has been a supportive second-in-command this past year. The board of directors has been an incisive, imaginative, hard-working, humorous and dedicated group. The staff has been fabulous, doing a yeoman's job this year in keeping up with the many and varied tasks we have asked them to perform.

I leave office with the knowledge that we have made huge strides in moving the Anacortes Chamber forward—we not only have excellent people on the board of directors but we have a list of qualified people who have shown interest in the future. We have the people and programs in place to further the chamber’s mission for years to come and we have a board of directors and an executive board headed by Zee Hogan that will take these programs and make them a reality for our members.

Thank you for your continued support of the chamber of commerce. I wish you the best in your businesses and in your personal lives.

Happy Holidays!
I was born in Winnipeg, Canada and grew up in California. I met my husband to be, Gilles Coté, on a blind date and we were married in 1944. He was a B-24 pilot and went overseas. After his return, we were stationed in Colorado where our first daughter was born. A couple of years later our second daughter was born. Gil was sent to England. We joined him there for three years (a wonderfully interesting tour of duty). We transferred back to the USA. Then to Westover AFB for the next 11 years, where our third daughter was born, as was a love of sailing. While there I taught in the base pre-school, our oldest daughter was married, and later we became grandparents.

In 1966, after 28 years in the Air Force, Gil retired and we traveled across country, towing the latest sailboat, headed for San Diego. We made our home there for 20 years. We came up to look around and visit relatives in Victoria, BC. It was 1984 and much like it is today as I write this. We said maybe someday, but not now.

We moved here in May of 1986 and haven’t looked back. My husband died in 1994. We had only been here eight years and friends assumed I’d be going back to California—but I said no way. Decision was the right one because now all of my kids are in Washington.

I’ve been at the VIC about 4 years, and spent 21 years volunteering at Island Hospital, as well.

I’ve been active in my church for 22 years. ACT theater, the Museum and the Skagit Band are all great attractions to me.
Chamber Cheers: A NIGHT ON THE TOWN WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS!

Events of this magnitude need a lot of hands to pull them off. We would like to thank the planning committee for making this truly a night to remember.

Mark your calendar: the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon will be hosting the annual county-wide business awards and chamber recognition ceremony. The date is Thursday, January 29 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Heavy appetizers and dessert will be served. A no-host bar benefiting the Lincoln Theatre Foundation will also be up and running.

The purpose of the event is two-fold. First, it's a great opportunity to network with board members from other county chamber organizations. We will also be formally recognizing each board during the evening. Second, Skagit Valley College Business & Community Development will be recognizing three businesses of the year, encompassing small, medium, and large companies. Nomination forms are available through the chamber office and are due by December 15. Nominees and winners will be recognized by the Skagit Valley Herald.

Cost of the event is $20 per person. Call (360) 416-7873 to register.

The program will begin January 1 and will run through the end of June, 2009—the deadline for this first round of marketing is December 15. All funding contributed will be used for tourism advertising in these key tourism markets. If you are interested, please contact Karen Mills, Mount Vernon Chamber, (360) 428-8547.

The Skagit County Chamber Executive Directors Association (SCCEDA) recently launched a cooperative campaign to promote tourism and to support local businesses, focused on Seattle metro and Vancouver, B.C. marketing efforts. The program is two-pronged:

- Advertising will drive consumers to the county web site (www.visit-skagitcounty.com), a portal that will then take them to either chamber Web sites for information or to a central reservation site (www.washingtonres.com), where rooms may be booked at participating lodging properties. The cost to hoteliers is $10 per room to join the program and a 10% booking fee for each room reserved through the Web site. This is a great opportunity for hoteliers to augment their winter and spring business.

- Concurrent with the hotel program, retailers may also participate at a variety of levels, with Web site listings and a savings book that will be made available through the lodging properties. Levels of sponsorship start at $125.

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– CHAIR –
Carrie Tisinger, The Bank of the Pacific

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Matt McKay, Human Resources, Inc.

– DECORATIONS CHAIR –
Sandy Swartos, Steam Interactive

– PROGRAM CHAIR –
Zee Hogan, Maison Group

– AWARDS CHAIR –
Pat Meyer, Viking Moving Services, Inc.

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Anaco Bay Inn

Colleen Craig
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Wendy Granville (and her talented family)
Days Gone By Antiques

Stephanie Hamilton
Anacortes Chamber of Commerce

Barry Harter
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Jan Iversen and Kirk Kennedy, two tireless Anacortes community volunteers, were honored Saturday night at a lively celebration and social mixer sponsored by the chamber of commerce. “Chamber Cheers: A Night on the Town” was held at the Port Warehouse — dressed up for the occasion with sparkling icicle lights, a disco ball and a checkered dance floor that saw plenty of use.

Chamber president Robin Pestarino, from the Ponte Vecchio Corp., presented the President’s Award to Kennedy, a volunteer who has dedicated hundreds of hours to working behind the scenes at community centers and organizations, doing online research and analysis, digging up demographics, public records, economic information and putting them together in ways that everyone can understand.

Kennedy, whose multiple sclerosis led to early retirement from a managerial position at Honeywell Aerospace in Arizona, moved to Anacortes in 2003 and quickly started using his expertise to help out in the community, including helping launch a community Web site (http://www.fhog.org) and coordinating the local Meals on Wheels program. He cares about things that really matter — and he never talks about himself,” Pestarino said Saturday night. She pointed to Kennedy’s leadership in the Anacortes Futures project, the chamber’s study on what will be the best and highest use for property in the city. “We could not possibly have paid for what he has done for us,” she said. Kennedy quietly thanked the chamber for the honor, and the city for “letting me chip in.”

One of his current projects is helping local businesses understand how to increase accessibility. “People with multiple sclerosis often find themselves pulling away from society. Volunteering gives you the chance to contribute and be part of it,” Kennedy said. “One of my doctor’s prescriptions was to continue engaging in volunteer work.”

Pat Meyer presented the Chamber’s Community Service Excellence Award to Iversen, secretary and president-elect to the Island Hospital Board of Commissioners. Meyer, of Viking Moving Services, cited Iversen’s many years spent helping improve senior health care in the community, calling her “a major voice in the delivery of services to the elderly.”

Iversen’s long list of community activities includes serving on the advisory council of the Skagit Hospice Foundation, as volunteer senior advocate for Skagit County, as a board member for Summit Assistance Dogs, and as point person for the Community Emergency Response Team. She is also a weekly volunteer at Island Hospital’s information desk, and a founding member of Guemes Gathering and Guemes Connects, services that offer hot meals, health care, transportation and home repair for island seniors. Iversen said she was “completely overwhelmed” by the award. “There are so many of you in this room tonight whose purpose is like mine — service to others.” She offered a quote from Sleep Country USA entrepreneur Sunny Kobe Cook, who recently spoke at a Chamber luncheon: “It isn’t possible to be 1000 percent better than everyone else, but we can be one percent better in a thousand ways.”

The five-hour Saturday-night celebration, which was sponsored by Comcast, included a Martini Bar offering such creative concoctions as a Mexican tequini and a muddled basil martini. The Roughnecks band kept the dance floor hopping with hearty rock ‘n’ roll, served with a country-western twist.

For more information, contact Chamber of Commerce executive director Mitch Everton at 293-7911.
A Community Within A Community
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A HAPPY HALLOWEEN & A SPECIAL TREAT FROM KP STUDIOS

KP Studios: A special thanks to KP Studios for their photo service to our young ghosts and goblins on the Halloween trick or treat! Basically any youngster in costume was able to come into the studio with their parents and get their picture taken. These were then labeled and placed in the chamber office for pick-up. The response was outstanding. Two of the results appear to the right.

6th Street Hair & Co.
907 6th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Diane Guarino
Phone: (360) 293-7571
Referred by Boyd Veer,
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Anacortes Automotive
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Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Jeff Rudolph
Phone: 360-293-2450
jeff@anacortesautomotive.com
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Seaside Autobody & Accessories

Anacortes Health & Nutrition
1020 7th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Don Magness
Phone: (360) 293-8849

Anacortes Yacht Sales/ Yacht Finders Int.
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Anacortes, WA 98221
Frank Durksen
(360) 299-2628
fdurksen@anacortes.net
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Bandanas Skin Art & Fine Art
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Contact: Michael Staum
Phone: (360) 299-9831
bandanasarts@msn.com

Best Western Harbor Plaza
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Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Contact: John & Zane Platt
Phone: (360) 679-4567
salesbwhp@comcast.net

Candlewood Suites
33221 State Route 20
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
Contact: John & Zane Platt
Phone: (360) 279-2222
salesbwhp@comcast.net

Easy Companions
6639 Rykosa Lane
Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Meredith Lesley
Phone: (360) 299-8237
easycompanions@yahoo.com
Referred by Jan Vigure, VIC Volunteer

Elite Fitness
704 R Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Kathy Campbell
Phone: (360) 202-7931
jwc@cnw.com

Encompass Financial & Accounting Services
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Anacortes, WA 98221
Contact: Brooks Wiersum
Phone: (877) 477-1065
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Fidalgo Machine
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Contact: David DeWitte
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- Island Hospital
- KWLE 1340 the Whale
- Mark Nilson Mortgage Consultant
- Read Me A Story
- San Juan Toffee
- The Bank of the Pacific
- Williams & Nulle, PLLC
The annual community Christmas Tree Lighting is set for Friday, December 5 at 6:00 pm in the chamber parking lot – 819 Commercial Ave. Carolers from our schools and other musical groups will entertain the revelers after Santa lights the tree. Mt. Erie and Island View Elementary, the High School Choir and Jazz Band, the Island Acoustic Society and the An-O-Chords will perform. Chamber President Robin Pestarino will also announce the winner of the White Lights & Bright Colors Competition. Also the winners of the Buy Close By campaign will be announced.

Immediately following the festivities kids can have their pictures taken with Santa Claus.

The Chamber Holiday Art Walk is also on Friday, December 5 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm and Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 – 5:00 pm.

We want to thank our Christmas Tree sponsors Pioneer Tree Service & Landscaping and Anacortes Construction Services. Special thanks to the Portis family for donating the tree.