

LANGLEY SIDEWALK CHALK ART FESTIVAL
 COME DECORATE THE STREETS OF LANGLEY!
 MAY 19, 2009 NOON - 4:30
 (ALTERNATE RAIN DATES: MAY 20, 21)
 @OUR THEME THIS YEAR IS
THINK LOCAL BUY LOCAL
 CHECK-IN AT THE
ISLAND Coffeehouse Books
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 SPONSORED BY:
 SOUTH WHIDBEY YOUTH CONNECTION
 ISLAND COFFEEHOUSE AND BOOKS
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 Would Appreciate Your Email Address

In an effort to save trees and reduce handling and postage costs (leaving more time and funds for the teens we serve) we invite you to send us your email address so that we can mail future issues of this publication to you in a paperless form. (And you get the added benefit of full color!) Please send your name and email address to gary@swyouth.com.

9th Annual Benefit Art Show & Sale

One of our biggest annual fundraising events is on the horizon! This year's art show will be held July 10th thru 12th at the Langley United Methodist Church's Fellowship Hall. With neither road construction on Anthes Ave. nor a whooping cough scare, we expect ideal conditions for art sales this year. Art for sale will be in every price range and category, including painting, sculpture, glassware, calligraphy, ceramics, photography, mixed media, table flameware, wearable art, monotypes, encaustic—you name it! If you're an artist interested in showing, please contact Gary @ 221.4142 or gary@swyouth.com.

South Whidbey
Youth Connection
 PO Box 331, Langley, WA 98260
 360.221.4142 / info@swyouth.com
www.swyouth.com

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Connections
 THE SOUTH WHIDBEY YOUTH CONNECTION NEWSLETTER
 MAY 2009



From the Executive Director

Dear friends of SWYC,

As the famous educator, William Arthur Ward once wrote, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." So let me take this opportunity, on behalf of my small but dedicated staff, our wonderful board of directors and the hundreds of teens who participate in our programs, to express our heartfelt gratitude to those of you who have donated your precious time and money to our organization. Thank you for being our life blood.

Without you we would not be able to:

- offer local teens healthy activities that we do our best to ensure are drug-, alcohol- and violence-free.
- provide safe harbor for literally hundreds of teens who come to The Hub, our after-school drop-in center, to get a healthy snack and engage in a wide variety of fun activities, like gaming tournaments, holiday parties, guitar lessons, apple dunking, art & decorating projects, jam sessions, pool, ping-pong, Guitar Hero, computer and board games, movies, etc.
- offer numerous Hub-sponsored group events throughout the school year and summer that promote physical exercise and healthy socialization, such as bowling, horseback riding, go-karting, skimboarding, camping, picnics, sailing lessons, barbecues, trips to Wild Waves, etc.
- help fund the Tutor-Mentor program at South Whidbey Middle School.
- support the Youth Leadership Council and the many projects they, in collaboration with South Whidbey Commons, lead and organize, such as publication of *The Edge*, a booklet featuring youth poetry, photography and art, teen dance concerts and parties, open mic's, t-shirt decorating, photography classes, art walks, rock climbing, and Chalk Art Festivals. In addition they donate their time to worthy causes, like the Compass Homeless Shelter and Operation Sack Lunch in Seattle, and organize "Career Passion Exploration" field trips, such as to the Seattle Culinary Academy.

So what more can we say, except thank you, thank you, thank you!

Duane Gimbel



Youth Leadership Council

Diana Shirley,
YLC Manager

So far this year the Youth Leadership Council has sponsored two open mics. Performers at the April 24th event included some of our talented Council members. Savannah True Randall belted out some of her own music with her beautiful, clear and powerful voice, accompanied by Mark Buzard and Josh Stejskal on guitars. Chuck Simpson held the audience captive with, among others, his humorous Aunt Jemima song. The talented Ahren Bader Jarvis not only emceed but did an engaging piece of live looping which included audience participation. Hillary Mellich performed a moving piano and voice piece. The musical group Maine-Coons intrigued with their original and multilayered rhythms and got the crowd dancing, as did the grunge rock band, Electric Son. We are grateful to The Langley United Methodist Church for the use of their Fellowship Hall. Another open mic is scheduled for May 29th. Bring your talent or just come to enjoy the talents of others.



In March the group visited Vertical World Climbing Gym. We were fortunate to have two experienced belayers among us. It was a successful event with everyone making it to the top!

The Council is seeking submissions for their teen zine, *The Edge*. If you are a youth and/or know of someone who would like to submit art, poetry, photographs or an article, please e-mail them to merrill@whidbey.com. Youth are also invited to attend an Edge Party, where submissions can be created on site. This event will be held in the back Commons room of Island Coffeehouse and Books at 3:00 PM on May 13th.

Plans are underway for the Council to attend the First Thursday Art Walk and open studio tour in **Seattle's Pioneer Square in June**. This will be a fitting end of school year final event for this creative group!

Diana Shirley

The HUB

Frankie Petitclerc,
Hub Program Manager

It's mid spring, the sun is coming out and with the end of the school year in sight the kids are starting to get antsy. Luckily for them we have a variety of activities going on now and planned for this summer to help them release their energy.

We recently started a comprehensive series of six sailing classes in conjunction with the South Whidbey Yacht Club in which the students will have a combination of classroom lessons and practical hands-on instruction in sailing on Lone Lake. During their final class they will do a solo sail and upon completion **earn their "Beginning Certificate in U S Sailing."** It's a fantastic opportunity for the kids and I want to give a big thank-you to the Yacht Club for giving the kids this opportunity.

On our next early release day, May 22nd, **we'll be holding our annual BBQ at the Hub**, with hamburgers and all the fixings. Live music will be provided by the **Hub's house band Electric Son**. It should be a lot of fun.

This summer we'll be having a number of great activities for youth entering 6th - 12th grades, including horseback riding, skim-boarding, sailing, go-carting, bowling and swimming at Oak Harbor pool.

We also have a very special activity planned for youth entering 6th—9th grades, **only. We'll be going on a 3-day, 2-night camping trip at Deception Pass Park. On the second day we'll be taking a full day, round trip excursion to beautiful Sucia Island in the San Juans on the 65-foot steel cruiser, "Indigo."** This learning program cruise, provided by S.E.A. or "Service Education Adventure" will be teaching a variety of skills, such as: piloting the boat, navigation, knot tying, marine science, art and computer technology. This is going to be an experience the kids will remember for the rest of their lives.

For details and registration on all of these activities look in the South Whidbey Youth Connection section of the "South Whidbey Parks and Recreation Activity Guide" or go to their website at www.swparks.org. It saddens us that during these difficult economic times not all families can afford to participate in our activities. With this in mind, **Please consider sponsoring a child by donating \$291. This will provide a South Whidbey teen with an all inclusive summer scholarship and a lifetime of memories!**

As this is the last newsletter of the school year I'd like to give out thank-you's to all the organizations and individuals that contributed to the Hub program this year and who are mentioned on the next Donor page: *We couldn't make this program happen without you.* **I'd also like to thank** Corey Graves for his expertise and patience instructing the guitar lessons The Hub offers for free and to Bruce Alexander for volunteering his time and giving his loving support to youth attending the Hub. Thank you to my assistant Erick Westphal for the myriad things you do and to Erin Wright my student kitchen assistant who has been such a help and a joy to work with. Good luck and best wishes in your life as you go out on your own into the world.

If you have any questions about these activities, or about the Hub, please contact me at 221.3230 or frankie@swyouth.com

Frankie Petitclerc

Thank You!

The board of directors, staff, volunteers and youth of the South Whidbey Youth Connection gratefully acknowledge the following community members and organizations who have made generous donations to our programs since our last newsletter.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Bruce Allen
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*Contributions are tax deductible under IRS code 501-c3

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P.O. Box 331 * Langley, WA 98260

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lucysharp@whidbey.com

Sharon Beck, Vice-President
5209ster@gmail.com

Katie Barnett, Secretary
ibktb@whidbey.com

Tom White, Treasurer
tomwhite@whidbey.com

Bruce Allen
bruceallen40@gmail.com

Patrick Bitts
bitts@whidbey.net

Jayanne Bixby
jbixby@sno-isle.org

Bruce Blakeslee
islanddotter@whidbey.com

Kathy Gianni
kgianni@sw.wednet.edu

Mary Green
rowsbud5@aol.com

There is Room for You Here!

Staff

Duane Gimbel
Executive Director
duane@swyouth.com

Frankie Petitclerc
Hub Program Manager
frankie@swyouth.com

Diana Shirley
Youth Leadership Council
diana@swyouth.com

Gary Croft
Administrative Assistant
gary@swyouth.com

Erick Westfall
After School Program Assistant
wolfcateagle@gmail.com

Erin Wright
Hub Assistant