



Issue Twenty Four **The Bloomin' News**  July 2013

Ordained in the Garden

by Rayya Leibich

Excerpted from a cookbook called Seasonings, a year of local flavour in words and recipes. A project of the Kootenany Country Store Co-op and the Nelson Municipal Library.

Your spine curves white
under fire sun
while tender hands
smooth the soil to perfection
you become the earth
hold miracles
breathe the silence
then disappear
behind your greenhouse
kingdom
the walls of humidity
drip green
vines descend to drape
and ordain you
time has you
on one knee
in reverence
fingers locked
in golden ratios

Shared by Caitlin, newest member at Mia's, Pacific Gardens.

Talent Show

July 5th

7:00 until 8:30 P.M.

See Soma Love for more information.

Our Graduates



Over the years, since we have been renting rooms to students, we have noticed that at the end of a year or two, they graduate, of course. This is not just any graduation ceremony; this is very special because most of the students are international which means they have no families here when they graduate.

This fact dawned on Mia Jongkind, one of our fellow cohousers several years ago, so she has been attending their grad ceremonies as often as she can, usually taking one or two others of us along for support.

This year our lovely Lulu from China was graduating and Mia was unable to attend, and as my own daughter was graduating from the same course, and I was attending anyway, I simply went along to support Lulu too!

What a ceremony it was, a very gala affair put on by our Vancouver Island University really honoring the graduates in their speeches, acknowledging the dedicated work of those receiving honorary doctorates, and talking about the benefits and values placed on students by this University. It was announced that this ceremony was on live webcam so that families around the world could participate in their children's ceremonies while it happened.

The students were piped in, one of the graduates sang a beautiful song, our Snuneymuxw [Nanaimo] First Nation drummed and sang a welcoming song, and then the speeches began, and not at all dry either!.

Then came the drum roll ... announced by Chief Atleo... the Candidate Degree Oath... and the students, while turning their tassels on their hats were declared graduated, and each in their

Appreciative Farewell

Last month I sent an article about all the wonderful people we have had the pleasure of meeting and as usual a few were missing from my memory.

Now that I do remember and have gotten over my embarrassment about forgetting some pretty impressive people

I want to say a hearty and appreciative farewell to Eileen Little, a very stalwart and sensible woman who graced us with her presence for a sweet short while before moving to higher ground in a seniors complex finding it a little less noisy.

Liam, who shared with Jess and Lulu at Mia's place very kindly moved out to help buy his mom's home with 3 other brothers so she could afford to keep it.

Tarik, a very enterprising Moroccan student in the MBA course at VIU graduated and moved to Montreal, taking with him a load of stuff we did not want anymore so he could auction it off to make money.

Elena and Apolonia (Apple), both of whose energy and intelligence added to our community while Elena was being a student taking an english grad course. Elena introduced us to a micro finance workshop so we could be more informed about this form of financial aid.

Jody, [now Jada Rae on facebook], with Jane and Joel lived with us for a while till Jada realized she needed a bigger home that eventually came their way, but before going she loaned me her machine to put names on cupboard doors in our kitchen and organized and purchased our first organic turkeys for thanksgiving dinner in our second year here.

Ahhhh parting is such sweet sorrow, but blessed we are. If I have forgotten anyone else, forgive me I am getting older!!!
submitted by Roz

turn, were announced, congratulated and received their degrees with formal pictures being taken.

To say the least, I was very proud to be witnessing this occasion both for my own daughter and for our friend Lulu Liu. Misty eyed, and full of joy I congratulated them and wished them the very best. They have worked long and hard to achieve what they hope will be a promise of a good future for themselves and their families.

As this is the Grad week, I would also like to take a moment now to name and congratulate our previously graduated students that we have had the pleasure to know, while they lived with us: Khaled, Nistar, Jesse, Bob, Zoey, Lulu, Alex, Gerry, Krissy, Tarik, Gary.

If I have forgotten anyone, please accept these hearty congratulations, and if there are any other students coming to Nanaimo to study, please do not hesitate to contact us because we are happy to have you live with us at our 'Scholarly' Pacific Gardens Cohousing Community.

All the very best to you,
Rosalind McKenzie

How To Whinge Effectively To Get What You Want!

When I lived in Scotland during the late 1990's, I found the Scots had some wonderful words, words I still like to use because they are so much better than our dull Canadian ones.

A favourite of mine was "whinge", which is the Scots word for "whine". I like it because it has so much more heft than mere whining, or grumbling. It's definitely serious complaining!

Now I have to say, as someone who appreciates the art of a good whinge, people at Pacific Gardens are really not up to snuff. They simply don't know how to whinge effectively to get what they want.

And, you should know, as the secretary of the Accounting/Legal Committee, I am a one-woman complaints committee. If you have something you want to whinge about, you need to put it in writing and send it to me.

Then the Accounting/Legal Committee can actually do something about it. But if you just whine or grumble to your neighbour, but don't put anything in writing, we can't.

So, if you have a complaint, e-mail me, write me a note – whinge with verbiage and vigour, and you may just get what you want!

Kathryn Hazel
Secretary
Accounting/Legal Committee

New Garbage and Recycling Service



We will be **trying out** a new service provider, Sun Coast Waste Services. The trial period will begin July 1st.

We welcome any comments you might have regarding their performance.

We will be sorting recyclables as before except; mixed paper will include newspaper.

Every person who came to do a quote was very impressed with our recycling system.

Comments were also made about the cleanliness of the room and lack of odour.

The compliments are to all of us at Pacific Gardens for our recycling, reducing, reusing and refusing efforts.

Thank you from your Recycling Team - Mia and Gloria



Visit the Pacific Gardens website at pacificgardens.ca/
Follow Our Cohousing Adventure Blog at mycohousingadventure.blogspot.ca/
and Island Myriam at www.islandmyriam.wordpress.com

Homey Cleaning Crew

The Homey Cleaning Crew was founded approximately two years ago to help our community to keep up on cleaning duties that weren't being done regularly enough by community hours and especially when we didn't have the Community Contribution System up and running. Now, even with the CCS, it seems that people are finding other ways to make their contributions to the community than in the cleaning department so the Homey Cleaning Team cleans on!

There are four paid hours a week at \$15/hr which are done on Fridays on a rotating basis by whomever is interested in getting trained and participating on a regular, reliable basis. Any member of the community is welcome to apply for one of the positions. Please contact Tara at 250-591-0501 if you would like to join the team!

The four hours of paid labour help to clean things such as the floors, stairways, windows and ledges but is no where near enough time to actually keep our building properly clean and all community members remain responsible for putting in their part, especially where their own area's and belongings are concerned. Residents are still expected to keep their own outside window ledges and doorways as well as the area's where they extend their living areas into the atriums clean themselves. Resident's can support the Cleaning Crew by ensuring that their areas outside their homes are prepared to be swept and washed every Thursday night as cleaning begins on Friday mornings and much time is taken up by picking up personal belongings left out in the atrium. Your participation and assistance in maintaining our beautiful home is much appreciated!

Thanks for your continued support and all of the wonderful efforts by so many to make this space enjoyable for us all to share!

Tara Thurber

Garden News

Calling all gardeners!

Our previous Garden Committee has disbanded in hopes of forming a new group for all gardeners to be able to get together, share ideas, coordinate garden space and watering, grow food, flowers and community. We could form a "team!" a club" or even a "garden party". At this point the door is wide open! If you are interested in joining this group please let Kari or Sharon know.

Our first get-together will be a walking meeting of the gardens starting at the herb garden on the patio on Saturday June 29 at 10 am. Please bring your ideas and enthusiasm!

Comings and Goings

This month we are sad to see Tyler Walker leave us from 308 but he promises to keep coming back to visit.

Please welcome Carla Wilson who will move into 201 with David, Jane and Sook. Carla is a keen gardener and an artist interested in using the Art room.

Matt and Charles are looking for a roommate in 304 and Tara and Jordan are looking to share 308.