

COASTAL PRIDE

Ocean Shores

and Southwest Grays Harbor County

Community Newsmagazine
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity
and Dances of the Human Spirit

July/August 2023 v2

LOCAL
POLITICS
&
the Arts

Grays Harbor

Pride
Festival 2023





Mike and his husband Steven

From the Publisher

It's local election season.

Lets get to know our candidates, not by rumor or hearsay. Study and attend what you can, virtually if available. Voter's guides, town hall meetings, meet-and-greets, interviews, and debates. Respectfully ask lots of questions of our candidates - they all provide contact info.

I narrowed the focus in this issue to more specific nuances of inquiry. I asked our candidates for both Ocean Shores City Council and North Beach School District Board about their experience in working with the LGBTQ community, and how they would bring us together, not divide us. I asked about LGBTQ discussion in schools, anti-trans bills and book bans. Some candidates responded, some did not. In a public forum where candidates should want to share their ideas and positions on all the issues, the silence of those candidates declining to respond speaks volumes.

No minority group should be ignored, side-stepped or marginalized. We should all be recognized and have an equal seat at our table of democracy. And all kids should be safe and welcome, *as they are*, in our schools.

Welcome to the second issue of Coastal Pride, where we're unabashedly diving into our local City of Ocean Shores races for Mayor, four City Council positions and three North Beach School District Board positions with a focus on inclusiveness of the LGBTQ community.

In this issue we also explore Grays Harbor Pride Festival 2023, interview Ocean Shores Mayoral candidate Frank Elduen, cover the Annual Arts & Crafts Festival and Art Splash Studio Tour coming up, the Ocean Shores Pride Bonfire, Interview artist Jen Charkow, examine the Real Estate Market Report, Interview artist Gina McCauley, and other eclectic and dynamic pieces from generous contributors

Thanks for taking a look, and joining the ride.

Mike Schultz
Publisher

Coastal Pride

OCEAN SHORES

July / August 2023
Vol. 1 Issue 2

Community Newsmagazine
Celebrating LGBTQA Diversity
and Dances of the Human Spirit

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Dedication

This issue is dedicated to my brother, Tim.



Mary Lambert

joins

Grays Harbor

Pride Festival 2023

Multi-platinum artist Mary Lambert will be performing live at Grays Harbor Pride Festival 2023, September 23rd at Grays Harbor Historical Seaport in Aberdeen.

by Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

“We may like to throw a party – and our Pride festival is a fabulous party – but we never forget how this all started and why we are here. This has always been and will always be rooted in protest and advocacy”

- Jen Gillies, President and Co-Founder, Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

The 10th annual Grays Harbor Pride in September will feature multi-platinum award winner Mary Lambert. Best known for her musical collaborations with Macklemore on “Same Love” and “She Keeps Me Warm,” Lambert has expanded her work to include poetry, acting, producing, composing and writing. She has received national awards for her work on destigmatizing mental illness and for her support of the LGBTQIA+ community.

“When we thought about acts to bring to our 10th annual festival, Mary was at the top of my list,” said Jen Gillies, president and

co-founder of Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition, the nonprofit organization behind Grays Harbor Pride. “Her work around mental health and body positivity has helped me deeply. She’s from the Pacific Northwest, and it seemed fitting to have a performer join us who has a connection to our area and an unparalleled resume, and who knows the struggles that the LGBTQIA+ community faces.”

Grays Harbor Pride will launch at 1 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Grays Harbor Historical Seaport in Aberdeen. This year’s theme is “The Love Boat.” Admission

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CITY of OCEAN SHORES

Candidates for Mayor



Two candidates are running for Ocean Shores Mayor.

Current Mayor Jon Martin, running to defend his seat, was interviewed in the June issue of *Coastal Pride*.

Current City of Ocean Shores Council Member Frank Elduen is vacating his City Council seat to challenge Jon Martin for Mayor. His interview follows in this July/August issue of *Coastal Pride*.

INTERVIEW WITH

Frank Elduen

candidate for City of Ocean Shores Mayor



“This community down here is a very loving community, and everybody is welcome. Diversity makes you stronger.”

-Frank Elduen

by Rhonda Brown
photo by Matt Cyphert

Upon hearing that Frank Elduen had announced his intention to run for Mayor of Ocean Shores I became excited - democracy thrives when citizens have choices. Frank himself sees citizen engagement as well as an “open door” policy with government as one of his many priorities, both in his current role as City Councilperson and potentially as Mayor. One of the many items addressed during our interview was his desire to amplify citizens’ voices in major decisions made by representatives through promoting town halls and a citizens oversight committee for the City Council Code of Ethics, and broadening this to also include the Mayor’s office.

As active as he is in his roles in Ocean Shores on the City Council and President of the North Beach

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CITY of OCEAN SHORES

Candidates for City Council



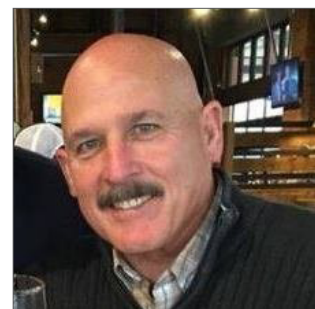
Nine candidates are vying for four City Council positions.

Coastal Pride emailed the candidates five questions gauging their positions on equality, inclusivity, instilling civility in discourse and bridging community divides.

The questions and their responses follow.

Five Questions Asked of Each Candidate:

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?
2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/ LGBTQ communities?
3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?
4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?
5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?



City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 2

Candidate Thomas Taylor

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

I have worked in the law enforcement field for over 40 years. I have been a Deputy Sheriff, Detective, Field Training officer, Corrections Deputy and a pre-employment and criminal polygraph examiner. All my positions have required the ability to talk to and listen to community members, often during very challenging times. The ability to listen and gather information and develop solutions is a skill that I believe is very important as a City Council member. Listening to the community and being their voice in addressing issues is something very needed in Ocean Shores

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/ LGBTQ communities?

I have co-workers who are members of the LGBTQ community. I am currently employed as Animal Control/Code Enforcement for the City of Hoquiam. Every day I interact with LGBTQ community members.

TAYLOR- Continued Next Page

TAYLOR- From Previous Page

I also have conducted pre-employment polygraphs for members of the LGBTQ community who are seeking careers with Law Enforcement agencies.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

I would like to see more restorative practices used to bring healing to challenging community issues. I believe that through guided conversation it is possible to bring understanding to all parties. Each county in Washington State has a designated Dispute Resolution Center whose purpose is to assist in helping develop solutions. I believe in using trained neutral facilitators which these centers provide.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

People want to feel like their opinions are heard and valued. Using town hall style meetings to gather people together, allowing them to express their opinions and then making sure that those opinions are acknowledged and applied to a solution or cause as much as possible is very important. Follow-up is also an important part of building bridges.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

Everyone is welcome in Ocean Shores. It takes many different perspectives and visions to make a community great. I am looking forward to listening and learning about the needs of our LGBTQ community.

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City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 6

Candidate PJ Faria

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

Any member of our community is fully capable of providing a voice on the city council of Ocean Shores. The beauty of city council representation is that citizens who are aware of the important issues affecting each of us have this opportunity to serve. My professional background is that of a previous business owner and Media Communications/Project Coordinator for Costco Corporation, where my voice and sensitivity to our members from all walks of life, was critical to supporting this successful retail operation.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/ LGBTQ communities?

I personally treat all members of society equally and believe we are all

entitled to have a right to be heard. I accept people on their character. My engagements and experiences with family and friends in the workplace and in my personal life have been positive and supportive.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

Hearing each others needs and discussing differing opinions respectfully is critical to keeping all our citizens safe and secure in this beautiful city. We are not always going to agree on certain issues but making sure we can count on the responsibility of our city government to be honest and ethical as a basis for our relationships with each other, I believe civility will prevail.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

Participation in community meetings and other gatherings where open discussion takes place is critical. All citizens are welcome to make public comments at City Council meetings and this has proven to be a powerful tool for action taken on attention to challenging matters. Finding common ground on all issues will support positive energy and a vibrant inclusive strong community.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

Welcome to Ocean Shores our little piece of paradise here in the northwest!

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City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 3

Candidate Susan Conniry

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

Over 45 years ago I took an oath to uphold the constitution when I swore allegiance to America as a naturalized citizen and since then, I have voluntarily served my community both on and off the Dias, including my first elected position as a member of the governing board of the Lakeside Fire Protection District (2010-2014 when my family relocated to Ocean Shores.) In 2017, the people of Ocean Shores voted me into office as a city council member. Proud to be a public servant and knowing that the most important trait of a council member is to know the difference between needs and wants and to listen to all my constituents, I hosted weekly meetings and town halls. I listened, and heard, everyone's concerns and ideas, encouraged them to actively engage in the government process and then worked collaboratively to spend the people's money wisely, set legislative policy to satisfy the health and safety needs of our ever changing demographic; all the while being mindful of how public policy impacts all people's lives. I continued

my civic education, achieving the Advanced Municipal Leadership certificate; the Greater Grays Harbor Leadership Certificate. I currently serve on the Governor's State Council on Aging (SCOA) and I am a member of the Olympic Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee (O3A) I am a volunteer member of the Grays Harbor Medical Reserve Corps and a volunteer AHAB Siren Observer. I am a former member of the Ocean Shores Planning Commission and the Grays Harbor Board of Equalization.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

We are a diverse family. I was born and raised in England. When I was 14, my parents moved to Panama, Central America where I attended an American high school. My younger sister is a member of the LGBTQ community and she and her spouse raised two beautiful and well educated children. My youngest sister is a native of Guatemala. My parents adopted her as a baby. When my family emigrated to the United States, my sisters and I became naturalized citizens. All three of us experienced discrimination of some sort, because we spoke "funny" had a different color skin, are women, or members of a culture that others may find hard to comprehend. We each found our paths in life to deal with and accept our differences and we have a unique perspective and compassion for all people who face similar challenges.

In the early 2000's, our non profit in partnership with the school district were awarded a federal grant and we developed a program for our local continuation high school in San Diego County. The program, Coyote Youth, based on Respect and Character Education, afforded us the opportunity to advocate for young people with diverse backgrounds so they would be treated equally and have their views genuinely considered when decisions were being made about their lives. The curriculum was inclusive of all our young people to inspire them to rise above their

challenges. One young man who did just that is now a professor at the local community college, teaching glass blowing!

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

From the early days when I sat on the Assessment Appeals Board in San Diego County it seems that has been my mission in life. Property tax appeals often start with non-civil discourse! I earned the reputation during that six years of being a person whose decisions made everyone feel that they were the winner at the end of the Appeals process!

For seven of the nine years I have lived in Ocean Shores, I hosted a weekly discussion group meeting, Community Voices. (During the pandemic we held zoom meetings) Every week, we encouraged community involvement in the decisions affecting city projects, infrastructure, budgets, taxes, public safety and community services. We met with neighbors, civic leaders and business owners and worked together for positive change. We debated issues and found common ground. Our goal was to promote ideas and come up with innovative solutions that would benefit our entire community and to share them with the city administration.

I lost my council seat in November of 2021. Though I acted in my fiduciary capacity as a good steward of the public's money, alerting the state auditor to the city's lack of financial oversight of the golf course, the lessee took the position of feeling personally threatened and retaliated by mobilizing hundreds of golfers to vote me out of office. In February, 2022 I was vindicated. The auditor's recommendation was that the lease agreement did indeed include requirements for the lessee to submit financial reports to the city and that the city had no documentation of having received those reports. With that the city finally took action and

CONNIRY - To Page 18



City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 6

Candidate Richard Wills

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

I have a history of service to the community. I served four years on the Planning Commission and five + years as a trustee of the Ocean Shores Fresh Waterways, one of nine trustees volunteering time and hard work towards keeping our city's fresh waterways navigable. I am currently serving on the City Council as an appointed member serving out the remaining term of a member who resigned.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

First and foremost, I believe strongly in our constitution and bill of rights as it was written, not as has been (actually) practiced since its inception. I particularly believe that everyone should be equal under the law. I served in the Army for 24 years defending our Constitution. My wife and I count several LGBTQ persons among our friends and associates. I am neither shocked nor surprised whenever I discover a new acquaintance to be a member of the LGBTQ community. A person's sexual identity has virtually zero

impact on how I relate to that person. For the record, and until I am treated negatively by someone, I live by the "motto treat others the same way I would like to be treated" regardless of sexual orientation, ethnicity or skin tone.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

I do my best to communicate non-violently. I have attended workshops and read books on the subject. I confess that I do have "buttons" and sometimes I allow my buttons to be pushed. I mindfully keep trying to do better.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

I do my best to legislate with the mandate that everyone deserves equal opportunity. I abhor "class". I absolutely reject the idea that "some of us deserve to rule and the rest of you deserve to be ruled." Kings got to be kings by oppressing and exploiting those weaker or less well off. I try to treat everyone with respect, but that in no way implies I think they are "better". For example, our president, a nation's royalty or the boss deserve respect for their position, but that doesn't make them a higher class person.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

Live your life. Honor who you are. God made us all. God did not make mistakes, that is a foolishness foisted on humanity by persons seeking power and control. I am appalled by state, federal and local officials who marginalize or dismiss anybody who is LGBTQA, a person of color, an immigrant, or (in many cases) female. These people are doing their best to weaken or reverse the 14th amendment which guarantees equal rights for all in the United States.

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City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 4

Candidate Alison Cline

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

I was unanimously appointed to city council In January 2022 when Jon Martin became mayor. I have a bachelor's degree and two masters' degrees in education. I have worked in education for twenty-seven years. My husband and I have been homeowners in Ocean Shores since 2007. We became permanent residents in 2015. Since moving to Ocean Shores I have been active volunteering in the community at events including Sand and Sawdust, Razor Clam Festival, Hog Wild, Celtic Festival, Grays Harbor Youth Athletics, and Super Hero - Musicfest. I served as President of the Ocean Shores Library Foundation. I am also involved in activities for our youth. I was the administrator for the Summer Fun Program for two years. I am the State Chairman for the Drug Awareness Program for the WA State Elks as well as the district chairman for scholarships and Americanism.

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2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

I have family and friends who are part of the LGBTQ community.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

As an educator, I work with students and their families with support and resources. It is important to me to bring people together to work together.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

People are going to have disagreements; however, we need to be able to sit down and discuss those differences and find solutions.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

All people should have equal rights and I am a strong supporter of everyone having those rights. I am a supporter of the LGBTQ community and would love to sit down and talk with you about your vision for our city.

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Answers from the following three candidates were received after the response deadline and early release of the original issue. They have been included in this revised issue.



City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 3

Candidate Lisa Griebel

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

My professional background is based in over thirty years in public education, as a teacher, Behavior Interventionist, School Counselor, Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and Principal. My successful track record as a school building leader provides proven experience in working with people to solve problems in a positive way. I do not shy away from tough conversations, but can foster these in a respectful and positive way. My previous experience on the Ocean Shores City Council and other local community service opportunities gives me a unique insight into the challenges facing our

city and the ways to work through these challenges.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

Over thirty years of experience in public education has steeped me in experience working with all youth and families, including LGBTQ. While it is unprofessional to share individual stories, I can say that in each school building I have been in our team has worked together to create a culture of respect where harassment, intimidation, and bullying is not tolerated. I have been grateful as our state and district policies and procedures have changed over thirty some years to support our LGBTQ youth. My current building in particular, because of its smaller size and relationship centered learning, seems to attract many of the local LGBTQ youth who find the culture of acceptance a place they can finally be themselves and get back to pursuing their dreams.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

Welcome to my job on a daily basis! Sometimes working with middle school students is way easier than working with adults! In fact, the same strategies that work with pre teens and teens often work with adults. It is important to listen, but to be clear that the conversation needs to be conducted in a way that is respectful. It is OK to disagree, but let's do it in a way that is not disagreeable. Boundary setting in tough conversations is important and interjecting when those lines have been crossed. I am not afraid to end a conversation when it has crossed into hateful and demeaning language.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

GRIEBEL- Continued Next Page

Again, this is what I do on a daily basis and I used those skills when I was serving previously on the city council. Set boundaries. Find commonalities. Model the behavior you expect from others. Remind people that only when we can treat one another with respect and feel valued can we work together for a common solution

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

I hope you find our city, our community, to be a safe place to live, learn, and love. If not, let me know what I can do to support you!

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City of Ocean Shores City Councilmember Position 4

Candidate Caroline Emmert

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

I see the position of council member as a servant, not a leader. Many in those positions forget the "public servant" part, and it seems like they use their position to ensure they get what they want, regardless of what the community wants. I believe every person has a right to be heard, no matter what their background. While I've not held public office, I was first the Secretary and then the President of our car club, managing club meetings, preparing documents and publishing our newsletter. For nearly 30 years I worked directly with west coast utilities in the electric energy industry. Through both personal and professional activities, I have amazing organizational and analytical abilities that will benefit the city. As a resident of Ocean Shores, I see a need to balance the taxes paid by citizens with what is spent to ensure we have appropriate services and are spending any excess responsibly. In my own life I manage a fairly complex home budget. It doesn't sound like much, but like everyone else, I have limited income and must ensure that my "outgo" doesn't overrun that income. I believe that will be an excellent skill when I am part of the council that will manage the city's budget! We must plan and budget for a better future for everyone.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

I've never looked at my career- or socially-oriented activities as "working with" any particular part of society. Over my life's experiences I have played, worked and socialized with people from all walks of life. For many years I performed in community theater. Most of the cast members were LGBTQ. My castmates were my friends and fellow-professionals, although we were not paid. We were just a group of people with one goal - present the finest play with the best performances we had in us. We worked hard and we played hard (no pun intended).

As a volunteer with Just One Thing Battle Ground, our goal was to end and prevent homelessness in our community. Homelessness can strike anyone, anywhere. An individual or family is often just one tragic event from

losing it all and living in their car or a tent. Along with the co-founder I was instrumental in setting up a network of resources to meet the needs of and help homeless individuals to regain their sense of self-worth and begin to live their best life once again.

Here is me in a nutshell - I am not a public speaker, nor am I a politician. If someone hands me a microphone, I'd much rather belt out a song than preach a sermon or give a speech. I enjoy the heck out of people. They crack me up, I like to make them laugh, and I will do my best to bring a simple smile to someone's face. In a restaurant a gentleman once asked me to please hand him a toothpick. I said it would cost him...a smile! He repaid me with a very nice smile, and I handed him a toothpick. Whatever needs to be taken seriously, I will take seriously. However, nothing says we can't have a little fun while we do it, right?

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

People are often quick to say they don't judge as a way to try to make others feel at ease. This is misleading. We all make judgments, every moment of our day. It's easy and common to judge anything or anyone. Houses, colors, flowers, animals, people, actions, ideas. Everything we see or hear on a daily basis brings to mind an instant opinion, which, in reality, is a judgment. What makes the difference in conversations is how you respond to those judgments. Blurting out those judgments can cause anger and resentment. Taking a moment to analyze your own judgment and putting it into perspective is key. Working with people to accomplish a goal requires tact and patience. It takes working things out and not bringing anger and resentment to the table. It requires taking a step back and really looking at the situation. It takes pausing and actively hearing what someone else has to say. It takes being aware of what the other person is going through and understanding. Those are the tools I will use.

EMMERT - To Page 12

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

The Declaration of Independence is the best authority on this: We are ALL created equal. Our Bill of Rights guarantees that everyone has the same opportunity – Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. Everyone deserves respect. Everyone deserves to be heard. Equally. No one should ever be silenced simply because they have a different idea than someone else. There are a number of opportunities for community members to come together and discuss what is important to them. I would encourage everyone to attend City Council, waterways, library, building, and any other community-focused meetings and be part of the dialogue that is out there. Invite friends and family to also participate in community discussions. And again, take a step back, listen to understand and be aware of what others are going through.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

We live in an amazing coastal community – everyone is welcome here. Share your ideas, concerns and questions. Unless you do that, nobody knows your needs.

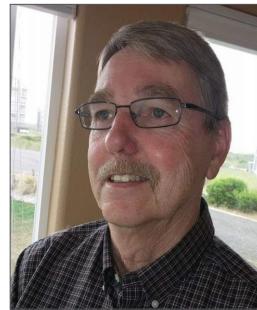
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City of Ocean Shores
City Councilmember
Position 4

Candidate

Jennifer
Herboldsheimer

Candidate did not respond.



City of Ocean Shores
City Councilmember
Position 2

Candidate
Bob Peterson

1. In one paragraph, can you share your professional qualifications for the position of City of Ocean Shores Council Member?

My name is Bob Peterson and I am a candidate for the City of Ocean Shores City Council in Position #2. I have a Masters Degree in Psychology and another In School Administration and am a practicing School Psychologist. I was first elected as a Council member at Position # 6 in 2015, and again in 2019. On those Councils I served as the Pro-Tem for over two years. In total I served 7 years on the council. Unfortunately, I submitted my resignation in August of 2022 due to health concerns in my immediate family. During the time I was on Council I partnered with two other members to create an updated version of the Council Guidelines. I also assisted in creating the Financial Guidelines that is a roadmap to a healthy Monetary Reserve for the City. The Reserve currently is 2.5 million dollars. Using these principles the City has paid off a significant amount of debt. Another accomplishment I am proud of is the creation of the "Summer Fun" program in the two years prior to Covid-19. It served the youth of our community using STEM as a basis along with cultural events and socialization opportunities. During the time I was on Council we moved

the High Dunes Trail forward, Oyhut Ditch Project forward, created the Transportation Benefit District (which helps pay for street maintenance), and we brought the Library back into the City Budget. Other positions held within the City have been Library Board President, liaison to the Port of Grays Harbor, Finance Committee, Radio Board and signed warrants for the City.

2. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LG-BTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

My professional career as a School Psychologist has brought me in contact with LGBTQ people. One of my primary duties is to help provide a safe place for kids where they can grow and learn in environments that are accepting and non-threatening.

3. How would you bring civility to non-civil community discourse?

I learned a long time ago that there is always an element of less than civil discourse, particularly in governmental activity. I like to work from the standpoint of giving respect to get respect. That is always my starting point along with the important skill of listening. These two points are effective ways to achieve success in both civil discourse and arriving at good decisions that meet the needs of the city.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

(response included in question 3 above)

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

In conclusion I would like to say that I recognize individual differences and try to understand and respect their platforms. I support the LGBTQ population

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About the
CITY of OCEAN SHORES
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From the City of Ocean Shores website
www.osgov.com

About the City Council

The seven Council positions are elected at large, serving four-year terms that are staggered so that no more than four are up for election at any one time. At the first meeting of the new Council, the members choose a Mayor Pro Tem from among their number.

The Mayor Pro Tem's duties will fill-in for the Mayor's ceremonial duties when the Mayor is absent. Meetings of the Council are presided over by the Mayor, if present, or otherwise by the Mayor Pro Tempore, if present, or by a member of the Council selected by a majority of the councilmembers at such meeting. Appointment of a Councilmember to preside over the meeting shall not in any way abridge his or her right to vote on matters coming before the Council at such meeting.

The Council is a policy making body that creates the departments of the City, the offices of the City and fixes compensations. The City Council meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6:00 pm in the Convention Center, unless another time and place for meeting is specially designated. Should any regular council meeting fall on any legal holiday, then the meeting shall be held at the same time and place on the next regular business day unless announced in advance otherwise.

The City Council Vision

The Council visions the City of Ocean Shores as an attractive residential and beach resort destination community, economically able to support total build-out with living wage jobs and required technological, social, and cultural amenities.

City Council Mission Statement

It is the mission of the City of Ocean Shores City Council to provide effective leadership, pro-active planning to attain short and long term goals, and to strive for trust, economic prosperity, and quality of life for citizens, businesses, and visitors through fiscal responsibility. This Council will strive to be an open, honest representative, aggressive Council that moves pro-actively to:

- Establish adequate levels of service within available resources;
- Support economic development incentives within legal parameters, with a focus on identifying locations for commercial development that will provide family wage jobs;
- Address the shortage of facilities and programs that create activity opportunities for all age groups, as well as the perceived separation of the senior community;
- Seek all avenues of funding, including grants, for infrastructure improvement.

About the Mayor

As the Chief Executive and Administrator officer of the City, the Mayor is in charge of the day-to-day operation of the city, including the supervision, hiring, and firing of all appointed officers and employees, subject to civil laws. The Mayor also carries out the policies set by the council, seeing that local laws are enforced.

The Mayor, or the Mayor's designee, may appoint citizens to serve on the city planning commission, the airport development and operating committee, civil service commission, library board of trustees, lodging tax advisory committee, park board, and board of directors of the city radio station, as well as other boards and commissions. Such boards and commissions must be confirmed by a majority of the whole City Council and serve in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

The Mayor also has the authority to:

1. Enforce contracts.
2. Bring lawsuits, with Council approval.
3. Preside over Council meetings, exercise tie-breaking authority on some council votes, and exercise right of veto on ordinances.
4. Call special meetings of the Council.
5. Prepare a proposed budget.
6. Report to the Council on the financial and other affairs and needs of the City.
7. Perform as ceremonial head of the City.
8. Approve or disapprove all official bonds and contractor's bonds.

Vision And Goals:

Provide accurate descriptions of approved projects and their status. Conduct clear, visual public briefings on the use of revenues.
Improve public relations through a better flow of information.

Values:

- Honesty
- Openness
- Ethical behavior
- Responsible actions
- Fairness

Eight candidates are vying for three North Beach School District Board positions.

Coastal Pride emailed the candidates five questions gauging their positions on equality, anti-trans bills, restricting LGBT discussion in public schools and book bans.

The questions and their responses follow.

Five Questions Asked of Each Candidate:

1. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?
2. What are your thoughts on the record number of anti-trans bills across the country, especially ones that target their healthcare?
3. Are there any aspects of LGBT education within your school district that you would wish/try to change during your term?
4. What are your thoughts on restricting discussion about race, gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools?
5. What are your thoughts on banning books, particularly those with content that include sexual orientation and gender identity?

North Beach School District Candidates for School Board



North Beach School District Board, District 1

**Candidate
Jeff Albertson**

1. Can you describe your previous experience, if any, working with LGBTQ people/ LGBTQ youth/ LGBTQ families/LGBTQ communities?

My main experience working with LGBTQ youth came in the 1990s and early 2000s, when I volunteered with overnight shelter and meal programs for homeless youth and young adults in Seattle's University District. A significant number of the kids we served identified as LGBTQ, and lack of family support was often a factor in their becoming homeless.

With respect to LGBTQ families, I served as co-chair of the board at Equal Rights Washington, a civil rights advocacy group, during the 2012 campaign to establish equal marriage rights in our state. We were part of a broad coalition which was successful in persuading legislators, the governor, and voters to support basic but critical legal protections for thousands of couples and their children all across Washington.

Finally, there's my own life experience. I'm a gay man, I've been in a committed relationship with my spouse Ben for 25 years, and we're the parents of a young son who's a

ALBERTSON - To Next Page

ALBERTSON - From Previous Page

student in the North Beach School District.

2. What are your thoughts on the record number of anti-trans bills across the country, especially ones that target their healthcare?

I think these anti-trans bills we're seeing in many states, and the harassment, discrimination, and violence directed at trans Americans more generally, are inconsistent with the American values I was raised to respect and practice, like equal treatment under the law, compassion for others, and living together respectfully in a pluralistic society. We should turn our backs on politicians and other grifters who are trying to score points or raise money by dividing us at the expense of persecuted minority groups.

3. Are there any aspects of LGBT education within your school district that you would wish/try to change during your term?

An important challenge for our school district (and many others) is finding ways to prevent bullying and harassment; to hold aggressors accountable for their words and actions; and to promote mutual respect, reconciliation, and personal growth. There's no single solution to this challenge — it requires a combination of clear and enforceable policy, staff training in how to intervene, family engagement, and strong peer leadership in the student body to make progress in creating a safe and supportive environment for all.

4. What are your thoughts on restricting discussion about race, gender identity and sexual orientation in public schools?

Public schools are a forum where students and teachers should explore a wide range of knowledge, ideas,

and history together to broaden their perspectives and prepare them for life in our infinitely diverse society. I trust our NBSD teachers to provide a well-rounded education, while respecting the wishes of individual students (or their parents & guardians) who may choose to temporarily opt-out of engaging with curriculum that they personally find objectionable.

5. What are your thoughts on banning books, particularly those with content that include sexual orientation and gender identity?

This is the Washington coast — we read books (often on dark, stormy nights) but we don't ban them. Any person or group that wants to ban books in the North Beach School District will have to overcome my strong opposition. The best choice for anyone who objects to a particular title is simply not to read it.

Contact information:
jeff@albertsonforschools.org
www.albertsonforschools.org
https://www.facebook.com/albertsonforschools

**Beach Tyme
Fabric & Craft Supplies**

Ghuck and Gail Anderson Owners
Beachtymequilts.com 873 Point Brown Ave NW
Find us on Facebook Ocean Shores, WA 98569
Store 360-289-7917
gail@beachtymequilts.com

**GALILEAN
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

*ALL are welcome.
Come as you are.*

824 Ocean Shores Blvd NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-289-3313
churchofficeglc1419@gmail.com
www.galileanlutheranchurch.com

Angela Renecker
Pastor

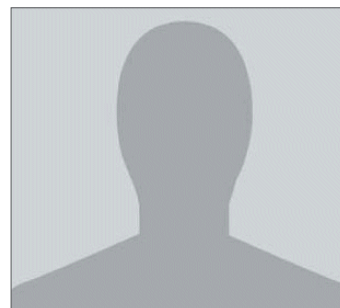
DanSellsOceanShores.com

**NORTH BEACH
REALTY**
Ocean living at affordable prices

DAN DARR
Real Estate Broker
North Beach Realty OS LLC
114 East Chance a La Mer NE
Ocean Shores, WA 98569

Mobile: 360-660-5033
Email: danselloceanshores@gmail.com
Web: DanSellsOceanShores.com

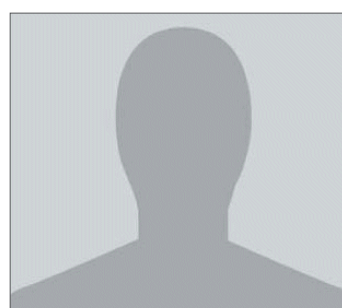
Candidates below for North Beach School District Board declined to respond to two requests, remaining silent on questions of LGBTQ inclusiveness, restricting discussions in schools, anti-trans efforts, and book bans:



North Beach School District Board, District 2

Candidate
Robert Doering

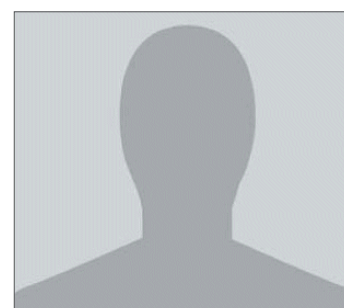
Candidate did not respond.



North Beach School District Board, District 2

Candidate
Susan Rogers

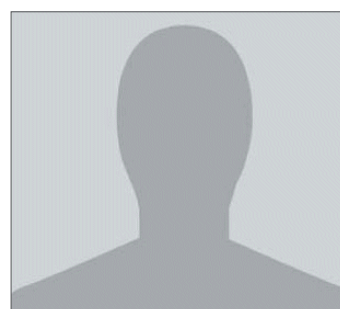
Candidate did not respond.



North Beach School District Board, District 1

Candidate
Rickie Day

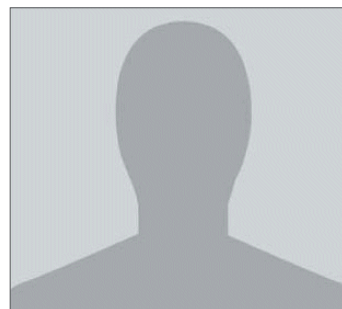
Candidate did not respond.



North Beach School District Board, District 1

Candidate
Francelle Jordan

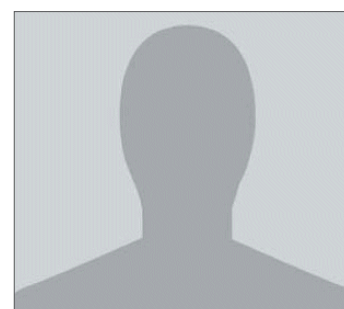
Candidate did not respond.



North Beach School District Board, District 4

Candidate
Jessica Iliff

Candidate did not respond.



North Beach School District Board, District 4

Candidate
Joe Lomedico

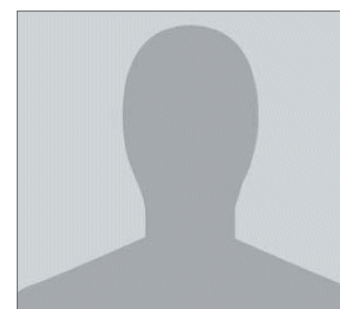
Candidate did not respond.

BELOW: Excerpts from the first two paragraphs of *Reading and Teaching the Rainbow, Making Elementary School Classrooms LGBTQ-Inclusive*, by Jill M. Hermann-Wilmarth & Caitlin L. Ryan, published on the American Federation of Teachers website.

Reading and Teaching the Rainbow

“People are sometimes shocked by the notion that teachers should address lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) topics in elementary schools. Maybe they think children those ages are too young, that those conversations are better had at home, or that the whole topic is simply inappropriate. Such concerns often arise because people assume talking about people who identify as LGBTQ means talking about sex. That is not what we believe at all.

Instead, when we advocate for elementary school teachers to address LGBTQ topics, we simply want them to talk about the diversity of families and relationships and communities in ways that include LGBTQ people. After all, public schools are for everyone, yet many elementary schools are too frequently unwelcoming and unaccommodating of all children, especially children of LGBTQ parents or those who are or may be LGBTQ themselves. LGBTQ people exist in children’s lives in myriad ways. If children themselves don’t have LGBTQ parents, perhaps they have a peer with two moms at daycare or a relative who comes out as gay, or maybe they’ve heard a story about transgender rights on the news. Elementary school students are surrounded by these experiences, but their teachers are often underprepared when it comes to realizing why LGBTQ topics might matter to their work as elementary school teachers and how they might make their classrooms more inclusive.”



North Beach School District Board, District 4

Candidate
Halvar Olstead

Candidate did not respond.



The full transcript of this piece can be found here: https://www.aft.org/ae/spring2019/hermann-wilmarth_ryan

Jill M. Hermann-Wilmarth is professor of social foundations at Western Michigan University. **Caitlin L. Ryan** is an associate professor in the College of Education at East Carolina University.

I am proud that I did the right thing for the taxpayers of Ocean Shores even though it cost me my council seat and I suffered months of abuse during the campaign.

Saddened to have lost my seat, I took a hiatus from the weekly meetings although I continue to speak at council meetings and if you review the council recordings you can listen to my comments that often focus on reminding the council about equity, that they represent all of us and we need to work together for the greater good of those they serve.

In January 2022, I started North Beach Project Connect, (NBPC) (www.nbprojectconnect.com) a non profit division of the North Beach Senior Center. Our mission is to establish, promote and maintain partnerships with organizations that support our common goal to serve the needs of citizens in the North Beach. Though many of our seniors are in need, NBPC serves everyone in the North Beach advocating for people who face eviction, people who are hungry, and people who face daily discrimination.

The good news? On June 7, 2023, Community Voices will once again be live and offer a place for civil conversation. A place for all people to gather and share their concerns and ideas on how we can keep Ocean Shores a supportive and caring environment. Please join us every Wednesday at the OS Lions Club from 1-2:30pm.

4. How would you bridge divides to bring people together for important common causes under the larger umbrella of good governance?

The health and safety of our community can only flourish in a caring and supportive environment. Working together we can ensure an environment where everyone has a voice and is encouraged to express their views and stand up for their rights. Where everyone is heard without fear of retaliation

or retribution. The first step is to convince this mayor and administration to place the people where they belong. At the top of the organizational chart. Government for the people, by the people. Our elected officials serve us. Not the other way around.

People feel safe when they are respected and have access to a wide range of social, natural and educational resources such as our city offers. We must continue to focus on the common good. Together we will enjoy an inclusive and safe environment no matter where we are in life's journey.

5. What would you say directly to our LGBTQA community?

When I was first elected to serve the citizens of Ocean Shores in 2017, though I had attended dozens of council meetings and served for three years as a Planning Commissioner, comprehensive civic education and becoming competent in how municipal government works was my immediate priority. The Association of Washington Cities offers training in five core areas to provide city elected officials with the knowledge they need to effectively operate within the law, plan for the future, secure and manage funds, foster strong relationships, and work to build more equitable communities. <https://wacities.org/events-education/cml-program>.

I completed the training with 101 credits along with the required courses necessary to receive my Certificate of Municipal Leadership (CML) (<https://wacities.org/events-education/cml-program/certificate-of-municipal-leadership>) and the Advanced CML (<https://wacities.org/events-education/cml-program/advanced-certificate-of-municipal-leadership>)

Those courses provided the framework for me to be the best council person I could be and as you can see, diversity, equity and inclusion are considered one of the

key elements!

I will not stop pursuing and demanding equality for all citizens of Ocean Shores and, as such, I speak often to the council even though I have been subjected to various forms of retaliation. On August 8, 2022, during public communication to council, I pleaded with the council, once again, to consider the needs of all those they represent. Not just those who are the loudest, but those who barely whisper, for they are intimidated by fear of retribution if they speak out.

I paraphrased Charles Dickens, Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times; it was the spring of hope; it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us; we had nothing before us." Ocean Shores is a tale of two cities and the problem can't be resolved unless you recognize it.

I continued to speak of those who have and those who have not and focused on the glaring inequalities. How raising taxes and fees to fund projects doesn't hurt those who can pay one more tax and one more fee. For the rest of us, it pushes us one step closer to bankruptcy, going hungry, losing our homes. We aren't looking for pity. We are hoping for compassion, respect and equality. I ended my plea with: "Let us be a city of one tale. A city that is progressive, compassionate and equitable. Where everyone who lives here can reach our full potential. Let us be that city."

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619-977-7132
www.susanforshores.com
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093135157900>

Booster Club, he has a depth of experience in many other roles, both professional and volunteer. For many years he worked privately as an electrician, and as he moved into more supervisory roles in the industry was eventually recruited by the IBEW to take on the role of a union organizer. After some initial reluctance he agreed and found the job ultimately fulfilling because, "I really thoroughly enjoyed the job because I was changing people's lives." Having the ability to improve wages, medical benefits, and retirement kept him happily in that role until retirement. He still maintains his IBEW membership and licenses, even though his life has different priorities now.

Frank admits that he is "not really good at retiring", as many of the volunteer activities he is engaged in keep him constantly busy. Most of his interests began years before: while living in the Kent area he coached high school baseball, and after moving to Ocean Shores continued to coach baseball as well as track and this upcoming year will coach football. As President of the North Shore Booster Club he has also kept very busy, especially with working to replace the outdoor scoreboard with an LED board that will withstand the corrosive weather in the area by encouraging local businesses to contribute \$24,000 and reduce the burden on the school district and taxpayers.

Another love of his over the years has been both raising and training dogs, as well as competing and judging in obedience, field work, and showing AKC dogs. His love of dogs began when he was a kid, and in 1980 he started being active in the show community, which continued to grow as a shared family activity as well. While showing and training dogs is not as much of a priority in his life right now, his love of animals is very evident and his current Gordon Setter, Wilson, is

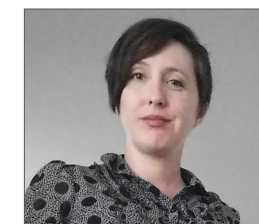
his loving companion as well as an award winner.

Having a union pension has allowed Frank the freedom to do what he feels is the greatest way for him to be a citizen, as it frees him up for so many volunteer opportunities. However, he is aware that with 43% of the citizens being 65 and older, and housing expenses continually increasing, "we need to be mindful" of how the area might increase taxes that could ultimately leave many unable to afford their homes. One of the recurring themes, regardless of which item on his priority list we were discussing, was the desire to keep area voters not only informed but part of the conversation as infrastructure and other improvements are up for discussion. Some of his top agenda items are already being addressed in the city and county government, such as: improving walkability to have greater ADA access, increased healthcare availability to provide for an aging populace and reduce strain on the fire department, and shoring up the jetty and other erosion improvements.

One of the major hopes for his open government focus is to also ensure that the diversity of the area is fully and openly expressed. Frank has many friends in the LGBTQ community, here and from his years living throughout Western Washington, and is happy to express that "this community down here is a very loving community, and everybody is welcome." In his years with the IBEW he only had a handful of incidents where an unfriendly environment occurred. Working in a no tolerance workplace for discrimination, and his personal feelings that everyone should feel loved, accepted, and safe have only reinforced to him that "diversity makes you stronger." In his personal life and as a community leader, Frank wants all to know that he would want to know if there was hate in the community, and would be an ally for LGBTQ individuals should they ever need one.

He realizes that in any community there will be disagreements and different ways of living or viewing any particular issue, but feels that having open communication is not only the best way to encourage an informed public but also to resolve unspoken issues. One particular item that came to mind for him was initial reluctance for the Public Works Committee to open up meetings to the public, but he and another person on the City Council pushed for it and ultimately were successful. In his mind, when dealing with public sentiment, "you never know until you ask right? ...the more you're upfront with things, and the public's informed, the easier life is in general". He noticed that living in a smaller community there is a tendency for neighbors to talk more openly, and having an expectation of good conduct, an open door policy, and that citizens feel they have a voice is the best way to promote civil discourse overall.

Regardless of the election outcome, Frank Elduen has been and will continue to be an active member of the Ocean Shores and Grays Harbor communities. If he is successful in his bid, expect a few new items on the public agenda - all in the interest of transparency and engaging the community. As Mayor Jon Martin and City Councilperson Frank Elduen seek your votes in the months ahead expect campaigns with similar objectives, but different ways of getting there.



Rhonda Brown is a contributor to local LGBTQ+ publications in Washington State. She currently resides in Shoreline, WA and continues to work in art restoration and international finance. Her hobbies include kayaking and caring for elderly and disabled pets.

Real Estate Market Update



by Dan Darr
North Beach Realty
Ocean Shores

Market Update: Ocean Shores, Washington Real Estate - June 5th, 2023 The real estate market in Ocean Shores, Washington has witnessed notable shifts in recent months, particularly due to its nature as a second home market. Here's an updated market analysis with a focus on specific dynamics:

Second Home Market and Decreased Sales: Ocean Shores is a popular destination for second home buyers seeking a coastal retreat or vacation property. However, in recent times, the market has experienced a decline in sales activity within this segment. Economic uncertainties, changing buyer preferences, and the lingering effects of the global pandemic have contributed to this trend.

Price Trends: As a result of decreased demand and inventory surplus in the second home market, home prices in Ocean Shores have started to lower, or at least level off, compared to the rapid appreciation witnessed in previous years. This adjustment in pricing reflects the balancing of supply and demand dynamics in the current market conditions.

Higher Than Typical Days on Market: Homes in Ocean Shores are staying on the market for longer periods compared to the past. The increased number of days on the market can be attributed to several factors, including decreased buyer interest in second homes, reduced urgency among potential buyers, and the overall slower market activity.

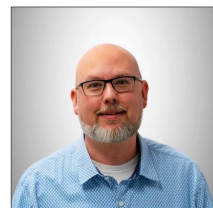
Fluctuating Market Activity: Ocean Shores' real estate market has become more unpredictable, with periods of high activity followed by slower periods. This volatility can be attributed to various factors, including changing buyer sentiments, economic uncertainties, and the influence of external factors such as interest rates.

Influence of Higher Interest Rates: The recent rise in interest rates has had a notable impact on the Ocean Shores real estate market. Higher borrowing costs have reduced affordability for some potential buyers, leading to a decrease in demand and a slowdown in sales activity. Buyers are taking a more cautious approach, carefully evaluating their purchasing decisions.

Market Outlook: The market outlook for Ocean Shores real estate is characterized by increased uncertainty due to

the factors mentioned above. The market is currently in a transitional phase, adjusting to changing buyer preferences and economic conditions. It is crucial to closely monitor interest rate movements, local economic indicators, and shifts in buyer sentiment to gauge the future direction of the market.

Please note that real estate markets can be subject to local and regional variations, and it's advisable to consult with local real estate professionals or conduct thorough research for precise and up-to-date information.



Dan Darr is an Ocean Shores resident, loving husband, and a devoted cat and dog dad. With a passion for travel, gardening, and all things real estate, Dan's enthusiasm for the industry is unmatched. As a seasoned professional, he brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to help clients navigate the ever-changing real estate market and find their dream homes. With his friendly demeanor and commitment to exceptional service, Dan is dedicated to making the buying and selling process a smooth and enjoyable experience for all.

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Email: danselloceanshores@gmail.com
Web: www.DanSellsOceanShores.com
Instagram: @DanSellsOceanShores



During the Pride Festival, tall ship Lady Washington will be in port for tours and an afternoon cruise around the Chehalis River. More on Lady Washington can be found online at: <https://historicalseaport.org>

Grays Harbor Pride Festival Information

Date: Saturday September 23, 2023

Time: 1:00 - 5:00pm

Location: Grays Harbor Historical Seaport
500 N Custer St, Aberdeen, WA 98520

Mary Lambert Concert 5:00pm

Drag Show hosted by **Cesar Hart** 7:00pm

More info on Out & Proud Grays Harbor

Coalition: www.opghc.com

PRIDE - From Page 3

is free. The family-friendly event will include children's activities, food and craft vendors, demonstrations, and various musical and other performances. The tall ship Lady Washington will be in port for tours and an afternoon cruise around the Chehalis River. At 7 p.m., after Lambert's concert, drag king Cesar Hart will present a drag show with performers coming from all over the PNW.

This is a celebration of all the

LGBTQIA+ community has accomplished over the past decade, and a recognition of the work still to come.

"We may like to throw a party – and our Pride festival is a fabulous party – but we never forget how this all started and why we are here. This has always been and will always be rooted in protest and advocacy," said Gillies. "This is an act of solidarity and strength for our LGBTQIA+ neighbors of all ages who are forced to walk through a world that refuses to welcome them. We

are standing strong for the kids in our community who are surviving abuse and discrimination every day.

"Too many lives have been cut short for us to stay silent," she added. "Too many people live in shame for the beauty of their true selves. We love all of them. We are proud of all of them."

For more information on Grays Harbor Pride (including vendor and sponsorship forms), Out & Proud, and other local resources, visit <https://opghc.com>.



Festival!

Art, Music & the Ocean

Associated Arts of Ocean Shores 54th Annual **Arts & Crafts Festival**

Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3, 2023
Ocean Shores Convention Center

AAOS boasts a half-century of support for the arts

by Scott D. Johnston

The central coast area of Washington state offers an amazing array of natural beauty with its beaches, forests and nearby mountains. It's no wonder that many artists have chosen to live along this stunning stretch by the sea.

The City of Ocean Shores was officially incorporated in 1970. By then, the group that was to become "The Associated Arts of Ocean Shores" (AAOS) had already produced its first Ocean Shores Arts & Crafts Festival. This Labor Day Weekend will see the 54th edition of what is thought to be the longest running annual event in the Shores. It takes place Friday through Sunday, Sept. 1-3,

at the Ocean Shores Convention Center.

According to the group's website, www.associatedarts.org, "The Associated Arts of Ocean Shores was incorporated in 1974 to:

- Promote and organize the visual, literary, and performing arts
- Promote arts education
- Inform the community about arts events
- Sponsor arts programs and activities
- Lead and assist in the development of arts programs

"The mission of Associated Arts is to lead and assist individuals and organizations in providing diverse arts education programs and events in our community."

One of Ocean Shores' oldest non-profit organizations, the group boasts over 100 artists, associate and business members. In more than half a century of service to the arts and the people of Ocean Shores and the North Beach, AAOS has been involved and instrumental in all of the above and more.

They have awarded tens of thousands of dollars in college scholarships to aspiring young artists in the area. They have offered countless workshops and other similar opportunities involving a wide variety of art forms. They have developed, promoted and/or supported various professional, juried art shows. They have aided and supported the formation of

AAOS - To Page 29

Opposite page: "LIFT" by Patricia Jollimore

Ocean Shores artist Patricia Jollimore works in contemporary fine art photography and digital collage. Her creations are imaginative imagery, sometimes with darker viewpoints that directly respond to her surrounding environment.

Her work can be seen at the Associated Arts of Ocean Shores Arts & Crafts Festival September 1st-3rd, also at various art galleries throughout the Pacific Northwest, and on her website at www.patricia-jollimore.com.

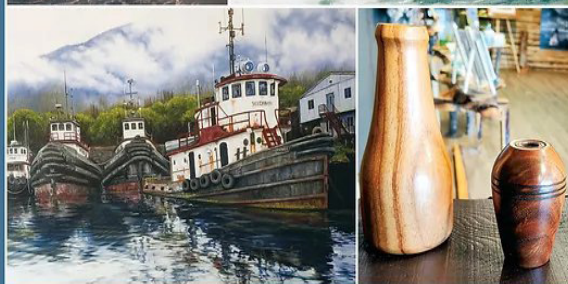


THE 54TH ANNUAL
Arts & Crafts Festival

Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 1-3, 2023
Ocean Shores, WA

For more info go to associatedarts.org

MAP AND DETAILS ON THE OTHER SIDE



Ocean Shores, WA

Convention Center, 120 W Chance a La Mer NW
Friday-Sunday • 10 AM-5 PM

Labor Day Weekend
September 1-3, 2023

For more info go to associatedarts.org
Associated Arts of Ocean Shores (AAOS)



75 Booths of Arts and Crafts
Live Bands
Children's Choirs
Festival Food
Activities for Children
Live Demonstrations



When at the Festival be sure to visit these supporting businesses...



Door Mouse Boutique
A Charming Little Clothing Store

Tim Rossow Watercolors & Associates

A Pacific Northwest Beach and Rain Forest Themed Art Gallery



Burlap & Lace Vintage Market

getting to know

DESIGNER

JENN CHARKOW

STONE CROW DESIGNS

"I've always wanted to make sure the emphasis was not only on style but also on the environment. I feel that this is one of the most important aspects of *Stone Crow Designs* is to utilize luxurious sustainable resources and new technology to help our environment."

-Jenn Charkow

by Gina McCauley

photo by Tina Witherspoon



Participating in Goodwill's Glitter Gala & Fashion Show, an upscale challenge in 2019.

Model Megan Tee (left) wears a dress designed and made by Jenn Charkow from a handbag and hand-dyed linen curtains. Her caplet is made from an upcycled blazer.

Jenn Charkow (right) is wearing a parachute top made from a used army parachute.

I must admit, I'm a wee bit star-struck, and, thrilled to introduce you to our newest Ocean Shores neighbor, Jenn Charkow of *Stone Crow Designs*. I first met Jenn, and her mom, when they visited my booth at the Art Splash Studio Tour last year. Jenn was interested in moving to Ocean Shores from Belltown, Seattle, and asked me about the LGBTQ+ community here in Shores. Her

CHARKOW - To Page 32

visiting Artists' studios

5th Annual Art Splash Studio Tour

August 12-13, 2023 | Throughout Ocean Shores

by Sharon Gochoel

Five years ago, a group of artists asked me to organize a private studio tour for Ocean Shores. We had been wanting to form such an organization for years, but needed the right team to support the endeavor. And now we are celebrating our fifth year doing Art Splash Studio Tour of Ocean Shores.

Art Splash Studio Tour of Ocean Shores takes place every second weekend of August. There are usually 18 to 20 artists participating in the event with approximately 10-12 studio sites.

These artists work several months prior to the event to build up their inventory in order to present an exciting array of their art. We have, but not limited to, watercolor, pottery, glass fusion, oil, acrylic and wood carving artists.

The artists opens up their private studios for you to view their equipment and supplies. The Tour offers you an opportunity to see how various artists work and produce the finished product. Some artists will perform demonstrations of their

work during the event. One artist may be working on a watercolor and another pulling hot molten glass from a specially made kiln. It's an opportunity to see how the artist creates and produces an art piece.

Come get your art fix at the next event of Art Splash Studio Tour of Ocean Shores which takes place the weekend of August 12th and 13th, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM.

For the event brochure see the next page, or email Sharon at gochs100@gmail.com.



Sharon Gochoel, Director of Art Splash Studio Tour of Ocean Shores, is an Ocean Shores resident and glass fusion artist, having studied under Richard La Londe. She has a passion for vibrant colors that are reflected in her art. Her art can be seen in numerous galleries throughout the region and festivals around Washington State.

AT THE BEACH RENTALS INC.
 Nightly/Weekly Rentals 881 Point Brown Ave. N.W.
 360-289-4297 Ocean Shores, WA 98569
 email: atthebeachrentalsinc@gmail.com
 RicksBeachHouses.com

Ocean Shores Fun is a one-stop website for all things eventful in, and around, Ocean Shores, WA.
 www.oceanshores.fun

Map of Ocean Shores Art Splash Studio Tour 2023

August 12th & 13th
Saturday and Sunday
10am-5pm

Ocean Shores
 Washington

19 ARTISTS
 10 STUDIOS

Fiber Art
 Glass
 Jewelry
 Multi Media
 Photography
 Pottery
 Watercolors/Oils/Acrylics
 Woodturning

www.artsplashtour.org
 artsplashtour@gmail.com

Thanks for Your Support

Artists by Location

Artist	Studio#
Garrett, Vicki	A
Horton, Jacqueline	A
Lowatchie, Sue	B
Gochoel, Sharon	C
Allos, Beth	C
LaMadrid, Susan	D
McCauley, Gina	D
Dana, Cindy	E
Carman, Linda	E
Knight, Melanie	E
Nelson, Lyn	E
Tucker, Sue	E
Sumter, Annette	F
Baker, Tom	G
Baker, Kathy	G
Rossow, Tim	H
Nichols, Karen	I
Fox, Karen	J
Stacey, Kelly	J

Art Splash Studio Tour 2023

Phone: 360-591-5940
 artsplashtour@gmail.com
 www.artsplashtour.org
 Thanks for Supporting our Local Artists!

Supported By

Associated Arts of Ocean Shores
 PRESENTS THE ANNUAL
Arts and Crafts Festival
 And The
Fine Art, Photography and 3D Show
 Be part of one of the
 oldest Art Communities
 On the harbor
 "Serving the Arts since 1974"
 For more information
 www.associatedarts.org

WYNDHAM EXTRA HOLIDAYS
World Mark Mariner Village
 Ocean Shores
 360 289 0702

A unique piece of artwork has been donated by each of our artists. Here are instructions:

- The Gift Basket Drawing form will be given to you at your first stop.
- Visit at least 7 studios and have the form marked by each Studio.
- The drawing will be held at the Art Splash Studio Tour meeting in September. Ocean Shores pickup required.

Gift Basket Drawing Value = \$800+

ART SPLASH STUDIO TOUR 2023 — 19 ARTISTS — 10 STUDIOS

Grays Harbor

Duck Lake

Lake Minard

Pacific Ocean

- A- Vicki Garrett
- Jacqueline Horton
- B- Sue Lowatchie
- C- Sharon Gochoel
- Beth Allos
- D- Susan LaMadrid
- Gina McCauley
- E- Cindy Dana
- Linda Carman
- Melanie Knight
- Lyn Nelson
- Sue Tucker
- F- Annette Sumter
- G- Tom Baker
- Kathy Baker
- H- Tim Rossow
- I- Karen Nichols
- J- Karen Fox
- Kelly Stacey



Sorry, but we don't have this for sale, but we wish we did

ONE REALTY **ONE** GROUP ALL STARS
 The **only** LGBTQI+ owned real estate brokerage in Western Washington
 John Dirgo Dewese - (360) 986-5969
 john@realtyonegroupallstars.com

VOTE
~~BE~~ THE CHANGE
 YOU WANT TO
 SEE IN THE
 WORLD.

CLEO WADE + ROCK THE VOTE

AAOS - From Page 23

countless local and area artists groups and activities.

Most apparent to the general public is the annual AAOS Arts & Crafts Festival, which has become a Labor Day Weekend tradition in the North Beach, with free admission and parking at the Ocean Shores Convention Center. The arts and crafts vendors in the event are curated to allow only original, hand-made, one-of-a-kind arts and crafts, with the artists and artisans on hand to discuss their work. This year, the festival also offers several hours of live music daily, festival food and beer garden, and a variety of family friendly activities including a free kids zone and children's guided, hands-on art experiences. Over the course of AAOS' history, several art galleries have been established in the area, representing untold numbers of artists and artisans. The newest, opened in 2021, is Tim Rossow Watercolors & Associates, at 171 E. Chance a la Mer in Ocean Shores. A watercolor artist for 50 years, Rossow has this year taken on the presidency of AAOS and has been calling on his many experiences as an event producer to lead the organization in creating new content, enthusiasm and excitement.

LIVE MUSIC at the ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Live Music will be inside the Ocean Shores Convention Center starting at 12 noon Friday, Sept. 1, Saturday, Sept. 2 and Sunday Sept. 3. Headliners will play each day at 5 pm: Friday, country recording artists **Luke and Kaylee** (Luke of the Olson Bros); Saturday **Randy Linder's Creedence Revelation** CCR tribute; Sunday the return of Grays Harbor's own **Ericka Corbin**.

Rossow's life also offers an example of the kind of thing many artists in the area have eventually experienced. In his case, a professional life as a minister and fund-raiser for Lutherans in Africa has taken him around the world and has provided him with many stunning photo opportunities vitally instrumental in his art. However, his preferred subject matter is the Pacific Northwest coastline within an hour's travel of the place he and his wife chose for their eventual retirement. Just a short walk from the dunes, the sand and the surf is their home in Ocean Shores.



Scott D. Johnston is vice-president of the North Beach TV community television station, a non-profit serving the North Beach from Ocean Shores to Taholah. He began covering local news on the radio, in print and on TV after moving to Ocean Shores in 2009.

ONLINE LINKS

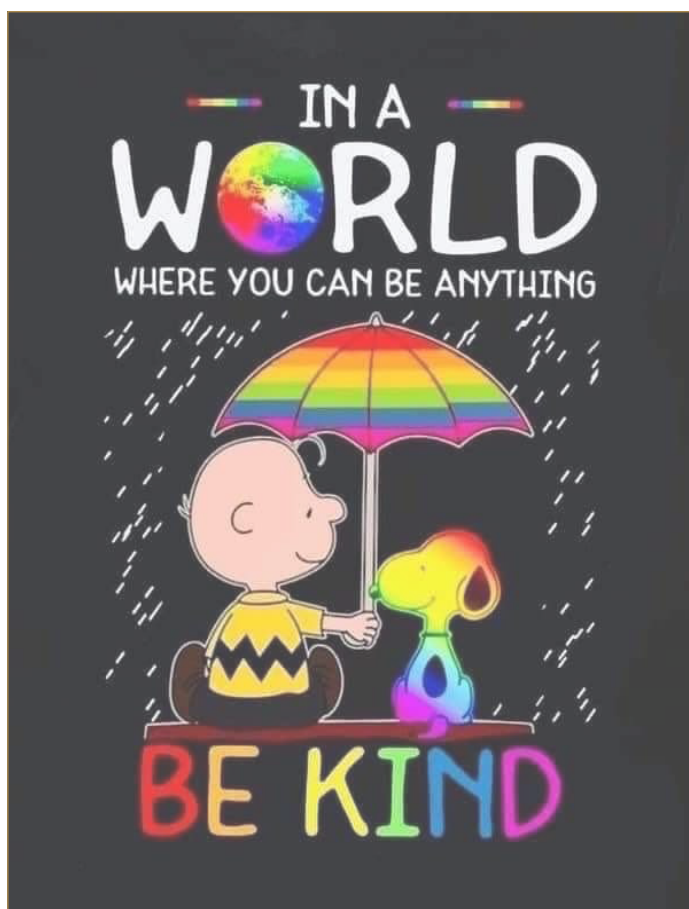
- Associated Arts of Ocean Shores: <https://www.associatedarts.org/>
- 54th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: <https://www.associatedarts.org/artsandcraftsfestival>
- AAOS Arts & Crafts Festival FAQs: https://www.associatedarts.org/_files/ugd/a8e1ef_f08f38a8ab664650bf218f7689873477.pdf

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INTERVIEW WITH
 artist & ardent
 community supporter

Gina McCauley

“I think it’s important that the local LGBT community comes together, creates more of a community, and supports one another.”

-Gina McCauley



Gina McCauley with some of her Snooter-Doots creations.

by B. D. Butler

In this world, some people immediately stand out when you think about what I like to call “do-gooders.” When my husband and I moved to Ocean Shores almost three years ago, I heard the name Gina McCauley in various facets of the community, including the LGBTQIA+ community. I was told by several people she scheduled LGBTQIA+ boat rides, meet and greets, and so much more. I thought, who is this “Julie McCoy of Ocean Shores?” So naturally, when I had the opportunity to sit down and talk to this lesbian artist, community

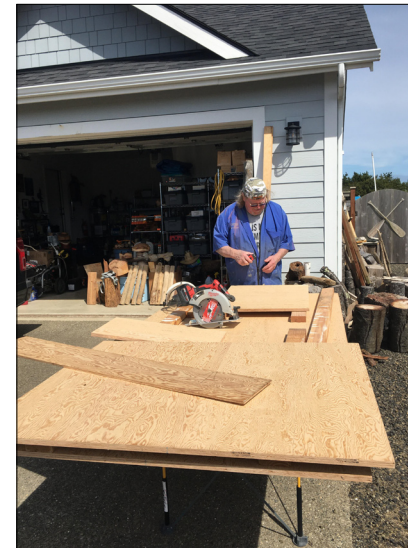
advocate, and entrepreneur, I jumped at the opportunity.

Gina and I sat down at Ocean Beach Roasters in Ocean Shores and had a bite and coffee. I had coffee, and she had water, which made me wonder how this woman who does so many things has the energy to do the things she does. I wish I had a third of her energy level and passion for the community.

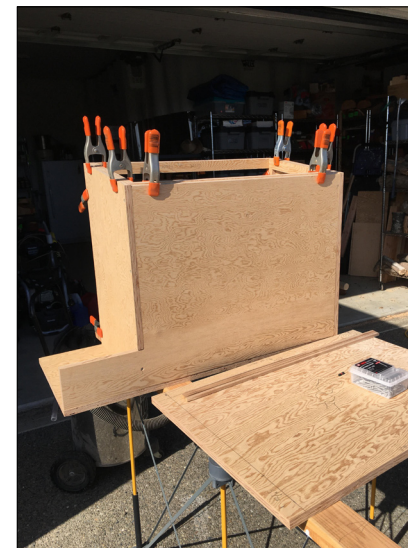
Gina came to Ocean Shores years ago after the tragic loss of her wife. She said, “I needed a fresh start,” and she did just that. I have spoken to many people in this world and, to be quite frank, have

rarely come across such a selfless person. She views the world in such a way that you almost feel like you are talking to Willy Wonka, where there is nothing but opportunity and possibilities. It’s truly inspirational. Not only is Gina a queer advocate, but she is also an artist. You may have heard of Snooter-doots (see her website, snooter-doots.com) or seen them around the area, which are extremely popular. She has been making them since the 2000s. It’s considered a fiber-art medium, some also call it felting. Gina got into felting and eventually took that medium, tapped into her

MCCAULEY- To Page 34



Tom Baker begins construction of the Free Little Art Gallery.



Construction progress.



Kathleen Baker stands beside the mostly completed Free Little Art Gallery.

“Take Art -
 Leave Art - Love Art”

Free Little Art Gallery

by Kathleen Baker

I have always loved the idea of the Free Little Libraries that appear in neighborhoods and public spaces. And then I discovered that there were Free Little Art Galleries popping up as well! I researched the development of these FLAGs and the idea intrigued me. What a great idea for Ocean Shores!

The FLAG movement carries this motto: “Take Art - Leave Art - Love Art”

There is no official organization for the FLAGs. Seattle-based artist, Stacy Milrany, is generally credited with creating the first FLAG in late 2020, according to the website, freelittleartgalleries.net.

I decided to design a gallery for Ocean Shores. But, I needed to know that I had the support from my community. So, I set up a Facebook page and posed the question...there was immediate and enthusiastic support.

Next, I needed funds to build the FLAG and a gofundme page was suggested. Within two days, I had garnered \$580 from local donors to work with. This was amazing! I could not believe the support and encouragement I received from fellow artists, crafters and patrons of the arts.

My work had begun...I enlisted the help of my multi-talented husband, Tom, to draw up my design and then construct the little gallery. ADA guidelines were used in the construction and will be used in the placement of the outdoor gallery. While it was being built, I began my search for a location to place the gallery. Several suggestions were made and two facilities were approached. Following an enthusiastic and very supportive meeting with the Library Director, Keitha Owen and City Administrator, Scott Andersen, a decision was reached. The little gallery would be placed outside the front door of the library. It had found a home.

I wanted to work in concert with the Library Vision, “To be the essential community resource for residents to access information and ideas that strengthen and enrich their lives.” I feel that this is an essential component of this vision statement. Art certainly enriches one’s life.

Through this gallery, local artists and crafters will be able to donate by furnishing the little gallery with their art. The concept is quite simple...Art is placed in the gallery and the community is

FLAG- To Page 43

folks own a house and property here, so she was familiar with the basics. I encouraged her to make the move, and, now she lives just up the street from me!

Why am I a wee bit star-struck? Jenn was on season 18 of Project Runway! But, more about that later. I asked Jenn for a little history, and she explained that she's always wanted to be in fashion. She started sewing at age 12 and hasn't stopped. She moved from California in the '90s, and studied at the Art Institute in Seattle. Jenn worked for Nordstrom Private Label for 3 years, then started her own business, *Stone Crow Designs*, in 2010 when she couldn't find the clothing she wanted to wear – sustainable, upcycled and 'modern goth'. We talked about 'sustainability'. Jenn's philosophy is to avoid bringing more 'stuff' into the world. But that can be challenging. The price points for sustainable fabrics are higher than traditionally produced fabrics, which in turn makes the end product more expensive for the consumer. Sticking to her mission, Jenn tries to use more 'dead stock' and 'seconds' from other designers so that fabric doesn't end up in the landfill. That can present its own concerns – when she reaches the 'big name' level of fashion design will she be producing her own dead stock? Also, that yardage may be one of a kind and of limited supply, so not suitable for production runs, just custom work. Production run, aka 'hamburger sweater' is the bread 'n butter of a fashion designers house; often subsidizing the custom, one-of-a-kind work. Jenn prefers the custom arena. As a vegan, she prefers to work in cottons, linens, bamboo and Tencel.

I asked Jenn why she chose to move to Ocean Shores. She replied that Seattle was getting too expensive, and unsafe. She has always wanted to live by the coast, and this area was most affordable. She also heard there was a community of creatives here. Her biggest surprise is that there is so much to do in our area, and, that the drug store doesn't open till 10:00. Jenn was pleased to learn we also have a strong and active LGBTQ+ community in Ocean Shores, and she plans to get involved as soon as the moving dust settles. She hopes to feel safer here than she did in Seattle.

Now that she's here, Jenn likes to walk the beach to find her inner peace, and inspiration. She finds her inspiration just about everywhere – living and observing life. Then she disconnects by watching lots of YouTube and doing yoga. Jenn is currently studying 3D Pattern Making online with the goal of producing less wastage on samples to maintain her sustainability. Her next goal is to open a boutique here in Shores showcasing her Ooak and small batch production work. She's looking at upscale, designer beachwear that will appeal to GenX or younger, creatives of any age, and the LGBTQ+ community. Right now she's focusing on textile/fiber art and embroidered and embellished upcycled pieces, some abstract wire and beadwork, and, getting settled.

Back to Project Runway; I remember seeing her on Season 18 where she was working with upcycled parachutes and other unusual materials (unfortunately she was the first to go). She feels that she learned a lot from being on the show and will use that knowledge as she steps into the next chapter of her designer life.

I asked her what advise she'd give someone thinking about entering this field. Her reply, "Not to take everything to heart. If you love it, keep going. You'll have moments that are hard, but keep going." She also advised to 'take that corporate job, even if it's temporary. You'll learn a lot that you didn't get in classes; you can make mistakes on someone else's dime, and it's all less risky. You'll learn more about teamwork and the business side of business, and you'll experience interactions that you wouldn't get as a small business. You'll learn how to work with suppliers, factories, buyers, customers, make contacts that you can take with you'.

I really enjoyed my visit with Jen Charkow, and *Stone Crow Designs*. Keep an eye out; she's on the rise!

More on *Stone Crow Designs* can be found here: <https://www.stonecrowdesigns.com>



Gina McCauley lives in Ocean Shores, founded Snooter-doots and is very active promoting small businesses and bringing the LGBTQ community together.

Southwest Grays Harbor County Art Galleries



Alphabetically

ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Art Center

Featuring local artists.
200 West Market St
Aberdeen, WA 98520
562-208-4226
info@aberdeenartcenter.com
<https://aberdeenartcenter.com>

Mother Crow's Studio Gallery

Featuring local artists.
200 West Market St, #2
Aberdeen, WA 98520
360-593-6208
Mothercrowstudio@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Mother-Crows-Studio-Gallery-100064255442710>

COSMOPOLIS

Opal Art Glass

Glass blowing studio.
1232 First Street
Cosmopolis, WA 98537
360-532-9268
info@opalartglass.com
<https://opalartglass.com>

OCEAN SHORES

Fusions Art Gallery

Featuring local artists.
834 Point Brown Ave NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-289-2811
www.fusionsgallery.com

Octopus Crafts

Locally made arts & crafts.
810 Point Brown Ave NE
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-986-6977
octopuscrafts@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/OctopusCrafts>

The Gallery of Ocean Shores

Featuring local artists and the North Beach Artists Guild.
849 Point Brown Ave NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-289-0734
galleryofoceanshores@gmail.com
<https://thegalleryofoceanshores.com>

Tim Rossow Watercolors & Associates

PNW themed gallery featuring local artists.
171 E Chance a La Mer NE
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
360-362-7535
rossow.tim@gmail.com
<https://www.timrossowgallery.com>

PACIFIC BEACH

Studio 58

(opening June 30th)
58 Main Street
Pacific Beach, WA 98571
<https://www.studio58art.com>

SEABROOK

Ordelheide Fine Art

Representing artist Heidi Ordelheide
14 Trillium Lane
Seabrook, WA
ordelheidefineart@gmail.com
<http://ordelheidefineart.com>

WESTPORT

South Beach Arts Association

Featuring local artists.
800 N Montesano St 98595
Westport, WA
southbeacharts@gmail.com
<https://www.southbeacharts.org>

Todd Fischer Art

PNW adventure & lifestyle artist.
260 E Dock St
Westport, WA 98595
(in the Westport Marina)
<https://toddfischer.net>

entrepreneurial spirit, and sold her products into twenty-plus stores nationwide. Impressive, right?

Along with her felting, Gina is also co-founder of the Facebook group, Happily Sharing Ocean Shores. She and two other women decided they wanted to start a group that promoted Ocean Shores in a positive way and promoted the local small businesses in the area. Happily Sharing, as Gina calls it, wants to focus on the fantastic things this local community has to offer and support the people who own and operate local businesses. "We want to bring awareness to local businesses who might not necessarily have the financial means to do advertising on a large scale," Gina said. Happily Sharing currently has 2.5k followers and growing. The members who follow their page are not only from the local Grays Harbor area but are from visitors and tourists who have visited and want to stay in the loop of what is happening in Ocean Shores.

You might have heard of the local Ocean Shores Gay Bingo from Out and Older; that is another one of Gina's brainchildren. She was inspired by the variety of drag bingo in the Seattle area, especially with the drag queen Amazonia. She said, "I loved her raunchy, irreverent humor and quick wit." The gay bingo here in Ocean Shores is gaining popularity and will hopefully gain momentum, requiring a drag host. "I see so much potential here in Ocean Shores, and there are more and more LGBT community members moving here, and I am so happy about that," Gina said. "I think it's important that the local

LGBT community comes together, creates more of a community, and supports one another. We have a great community and stuff to do, but there's always room for more." Gina added.

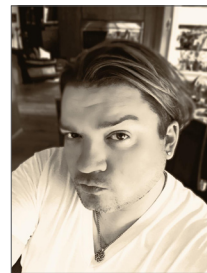
When I asked Gina if she had personally dealt with adversity about her being an open lesbian in Ocean Shores, she simply said, "No, everyone has been nothing but kind here." When I asked Gina, "Have you always had such a generous spirit, and have you always been an advocate for the queer community?" she took a deep breath, and tears began growing in her eyes. "I do it to honor my late wife, she always wanted to help people, and I am doing it for her." This statement, of course, tugged at my heartstrings and made me see a side of vulnerability that most people don't like to share. The fact that she has taken tragedy and decided to carry herself with grace and honor her late wife makes me respect her even more.

You might have seen her on the net or out and about dressed as Mrs. Claus, promoting local businesses or an event during the holidays. She brings such a smile

to the faces of people she comes in contact with; I mean, who doesn't love Mrs. Claus?!

After chatting with this inspirational individual for about an hour, I asked one last question, "what are your hopes for Ocean Shores and the LGBTQIA+ community?" Gina responded, "I want to see our community come together; I want to see visibility and want people to live in Ocean Shores without fear."

This writer is absolutely enamored with the spirit of Gina McCauley and hopes all of us can adopt some of her outlook, generosity, and selflessness to make the world a much better place.



B.D. Butler, an ocean Shores resident, has been a freelance writer, published in various publications for over two decades.

survey says...

Coastal Pride needs your input! Help us get to know our community with an anonymous 16-question survey. Go to the **Coastal Pride** website at www.coastalpride.net and complete the survey online. *Thank you!*



Pride on the Beach

Ocean Shores Pride Committee's 3rd Annual

Pride Bonfire

August 5, 2023, 7pm at the Taurus Beach approach

Organized by the Ocean Shores Pride Committee, the 3rd Annual Pride Bonfire aims to create a safe and inclusive space where LGBTQ+ individuals and their allies can come together.

"The 3rd Annual Pride Bonfire is a testament to our unwavering commitment to LGBTQ+ visibility and acceptance," shared Dana Clark, the driving force behind the Ocean Shores Pride Committee. "We take immense pride in providing a space where individuals from all walks of life can come together and celebrate their authentic selves. This event serves as a powerful reminder that, together, we can create a more inclusive and compassionate world."

The Pride Bonfire is made possible by the generous support of local sponsors and dedicated community volunteers. Admission to the 3rd Annual Pride Bonfire is free. Attendees are invited to bring their blankets, chairs, and pride flags.

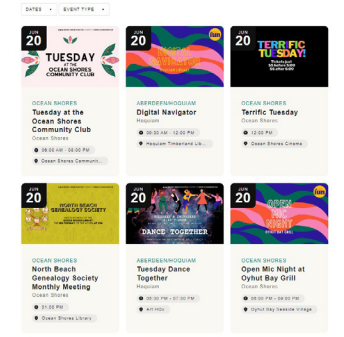
For more information: <https://www.oceanshores.fun/pride> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/osannualpridebonfire>.



Graphic courtesy of www.oceanshores.fun



Flags at the inaugural 2021 Ocean Shores Pride Bonfire.



Regional online calendar www.oceanshores.fun now includes LGBTQ events filter.

Whether you're an art enthusiast, enjoy outdoor adventures, food festivals, family-friendly activities, or looking for LGBTQ events, this one-stop calendar covers it all.

Featuring a user-friendly interface, www.oceanshores.fun offers convenient navigation with a number of options. You can search for events by date or location using the "dates" and "event type" sort feature.

This online calendar provides detailed information about each event, from the location and timings to ticketing details and participant lists and more.

You can subscribe to their newsletter or follow them on Instagram (@oceanshorewa) to receive timely notifications and stay in the know.

Go to www.oceanshores.fun/submit if you'd like to have an event listed.

Queen on the Beach



Tru Saint James performing at the Black Zia Cantina in Burien in 2019. The show benefitted the non-profit Gilded Feather Foundation.

“After living here for a while, I remembered everything I didn’t like about being raised in my small town. I realized I made people uncomfortable; I was the little effeminate boy who loved dolls, wore nail polish, and carried my Matchbox cars in an old purse.”

-Tru Saint James

Transplanted professional Drag Queen performer **Tru Saint James** shares her culture shock in moving to Ocean Shores.

by Tru Saint James

When I say I have rewritten this article two other times, I would not be kidding. I have struggled with my view and opinions on the topic. I was asked to share my experiences and what some would call “culture shock” with being a drag queen in the bustling Seattle area and then

moving to Ocean Shores during the pandemic. There have been variations of opinions, even just in the few hours I have been awake attempting to formulate while allowing the caffeine in my cup to take effect. You will need a back story to get the entire picture.

I was born on a farm in Colorado.

My hometown was about 1,197, and I swore I would never live in a small(ish) town, and what do they say about saying “never?” I moved to Seattle a couple of decades ago and engulfed myself in the Seattle culture, and to be

QUEEN- Continued Page 40

“I had the pleasure of attending Gay bingo with my adult child. Neither one of us had ever played Bingo previously and it was an amazing experience. Everyone was warm and welcoming and we had a fantastic time. It was heartwarming to see people of all ages and backgrounds having fun and enjoying themselves. V and I are looking forward to attending more bingo events. A special thanks to Gina for organizing this!”

- Shannon Rubin
General Manager,
Canterbury Inn



by B. D. Butler

I got to sit down with Gina McCauley and discuss the Out and Older group’s Gay Bingo at the Lion’s Club in Ocean Shores. This bingo is a chance for those “in” and “supporting” the local LGBTQIA+ community. It allows participants to come together as a community and the opportunity for some to be their authentic selves when they don’t feel comfortable in the regular community.

Gina is one of the founding members of Out and Older and wanted to start an event that would be a safe haven and a chance to meet others in the local community. Out and Older has held other events, including meet and greets in various locations, which has created comradery and cultivated friendships within the OS community. Gina believes bingo has

the potential to become something much bigger and has a vision to bring it to the next level, uniting people from all over Grays Harbor County. “We need participation” Gina said. “It’s open to all people, LGBT+ and allies alike,” she added. Currently, Gina is paying for most things out of her pocket, but there have been people bringing White Elephant Gifts as prizes, and attendees are asked to pay a minimal cover. If you are looking for something to do in the queer community, consider attending, supporting this event, and helping it evolve into something bigger. This bingo might even evolve into a drag queen bingo if enough people begin to attend!

Bingo is held monthly at the Lion’s Club in Ocean Shores. Please “like” the *Out and Older in Ocean Shores* page on Facebook to stay informed on the dates.

The Dark Side of the Rainbow

A review of KJK Publishing's

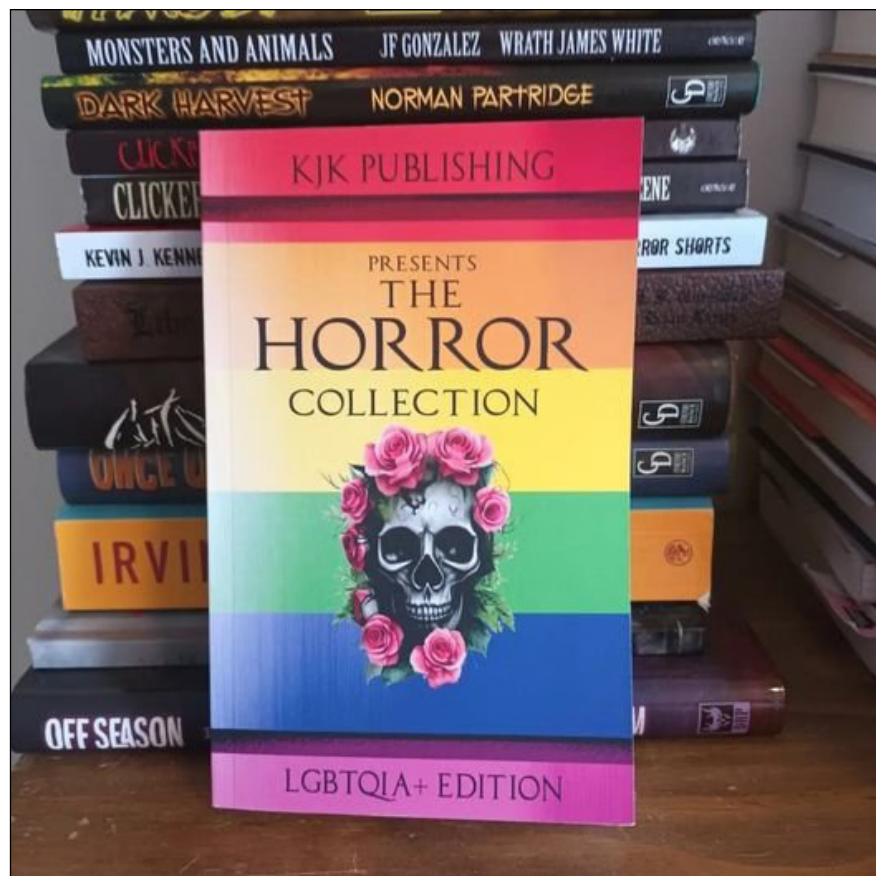
THE HORROR COLLECTION LGBTQIA+ Edition

by C. S Anderson

A long time ago (ten years or so) in a galaxy far far away (Renton WA) my wife and I and a good friend decided to start our own horror small press. We named it Alucard Press and we proceeded to put out books under that label, at first just books by myself but we eventually decided to put out an anthology of stories by other authors. That book became our first collection titled Fifty Shades of Slay and it featured writers from six different countries. Some of the authors were experienced and some we had the honor of publishing them for the first time. One such author was Kevin J. Kennedy.

He went on to form his own wildly successful small press called KJK Publishing and has put out over a dozen anthologies featuring some of the biggest names in indie horror. His collections absolutely and routinely dominate Amazons charts. Today I am reviewing his latest offering, The Horror Collection LGBTQIA+ Edition.

But first I would like to share a quick chat I had with him about the book, Kevin lives in the UK so during our talk due to the time difference I was getting ready



to go to bed and he was getting ready to go to the gym for his morning work out/

C.S-Tell us how this book came to be

KJK-The book came about after

a conversation with Mark Allan Gunnells. Mark identifies as queer. He feels that he has faced prejudices in his writing because of this. He also felt that while he is further into his career

HORROR- To Next Page

HORROR- From Previous Page

that himself and other authors still struggled to find refutable places to submit queer fiction. It was really quite as simple as that. The Horror Collection books are an established series so I decided book 15 would feature stories solely written by authors that identify as LGBTQIA+. While these anthologies are invite only, I had to put the feelers out a bit for this one as I didn't have a clue who was straight, gay, bi, trans or any other gender. I spoke to the few authors that I did know identified, asked for some recommendations, spoke to a few reviewers that I've worked with and over a few weeks I got a solid invite list. Like all projects a few authors dropped out because of other deadlines. A few couldn't come up with an idea on time. A few had stories rejected but by the end we had another solid book for the collection.

C.S-How is the book doing?

KJK-The book is selling well and seems popular on Kindle Unlimited. It's still early days for reviews but they have been pretty positive so far.

C.S- What is next for KJK? Both group and solo projects

KJK-I have a ton of stuff going on. Books 16 and 17 in The Horror Collection are well underway. They will be themed. A Sci Fi horror book and a Creature Feature this time. I also have a Vampire anthology nearly finished and a Non Fiction anthology almost complete as well. I barely write anymore so no projects are moving but I have a few I will get round to eventually. The Clown which is a prequel to Halloween Land will likely be my next solo release.

C.S- Really loved the cover, who was the artist?

KJK- Michael Bray did the cover.

C.S- Thanks Kevin

My review of the book:

A full five stars!

The stories run the gamut from quiet psychological horror to splatter gore and every flavor in-between. I wasn't familiar with a few of the authors but they are all on my radar now and I will be searching out other works by them.

Kevin has curated yet another solid collection of tales and this one

is well worth reading no matter how you indentify. I enjoyed all of the stories, which is unusual for me because I am a picky bastard.

A few stand outs for me were, in no particular order Husk by James Bennett, The Loss by Michael R. Collins, Bad Night at the Office by Emma K. Leadley and Like Peonies by Caitlin Marceau. I highly recommend this collection to all fans of the horror genre.

Check out the dark side of the rainbow and add it to your horror library. Available on Amazon in ebook and paperback formats. I look forward to more offerings from this indie horror powerhouse of a press.



C. S Anderson has been writing since he could form letters. He currently resides in a strange little beach town with his extremely patient wife who also has the misfortune of being his editor.

Graphic Design - Marketing Consulting - Social Media Management - Website & Logo Design



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honest, I fell in love with the city. Warts and all. I managed a sports bar during the day and was one of the original queens of the Lashes show at Rplace. You have to know this was before Drag Race was in, and being a drag queen was still not in style. We had a little budget for the show, and after our shows, we would hang out at Manray bar on capitol hill or hit Purr and then eventually the Compound. For some of you reading this, mentioning those bars identified my age(ish). Those days seem so long ago.

Fast forward to years later, when we decided to bring drag to West Seattle, my husband and I worked with a local bar, Feedback Lounge, and we started Booze Balls & Bingo. My original co-host was Mama Tits and then eventually Donnatella Howe. We collectively raised over \$45k for local Seattle charities. We then brought a drag show to the Black Zia in Burien, and it was a smash hit. I even got to headline Burien Pride for a few years! It's a great feeling we were trailblazers and brought drag to suburban neighborhoods where some said it would never work.

My husband and I had talked about making a change and possibly moving for a bit of a slower-paced life. There had been some instances in our neighborhood and outlying areas, and we weren't fans of the occasional sounds of gunshots and crime rates increasing. Then Covid happened, and we weren't sure what would happen. We had friends and family dying, and I got it very early on. I was sick in bed for five and a half weeks. That was when they didn't know what it was, they had no ventilators, and I thought I was going to die. I re-

fused to go to the hospital because if I was going out, I wanted to be with my husband, our animals, and in our home. It's hard to look back at those scary times; however, because of that experience, I am forever changed. We didn't expect the house to sell so quickly, but it did. Unfortunately, we didn't have a place to land yet, which was terrifying. Thankfully my husband's family owns a beach cabin outside of Grayland, WA, which they so graciously let us live in. Before you picture a small bungalow on the beach, I will let you know the cabin is a "dry cabin" meaning there are no bathroom facilities and non-consumable water. We had a honey bucket out back, but at least there was light when it was dark. The cabin was also tiny. My first apartment was actually bigger, but we made it work. I tell people, your relationship is solid if you can survive living together in a 500+ square foot cabin with a port-a-potty for four and a half months.

Funny enough, my husband, who had spent summers on the south end of the harbor for most of his childhood, had never been to Ocean Shores. We thought about looking in the Westport area but needed to figure out if there was enough to do. Also, we wanted to slow down but not kick the transmission in neutral. So, I suggested we take a look at Ocean Shores. Considering we had spent months in the Grayland cabin when we arrived in Ocean Shores, we felt like we had pulled into a metropolis. There were restaurants, shops, and a gas station, and I remember saying, "Oh my god, they have a Mcdonald's and a Subway!" Funny how you gauge what is considered populated by the fast food chains they have, but it was invigorating and terrifying at the same time. Previously I had looked up the local LGBT groups in the area and had gotten

in touch with a real estate broker, who guided us around, and eventually, we pulled the trigger and bought our house.

After living here for a while, I remembered everything I didn't like about being raised in my small town. I realized I made people uncomfortable; I was the little effeminate boy who loved dolls, wore nail polish, and carried my Matchbox cars in an old purse. People in our farming community didn't quite know what to do with me, and of course, they sure as hell didn't know what shelf or box I should go in. I am still clocked for being gay; I open my mouth, and 50 yards of purple taffeta fly across the room. I may or may not have a bit of a runway strut if the right song is on in the local market; you'll just have to see that for yourself. I learned a long time ago I was put on this planet specifically to make people a little nervous.

When we first moved to the Shores, I dulled my shine, and my mental health suffered. I became reclusive, agoraphobic, and riddled with anxiety and panic attacks. I was terrified I would be talked about, embarrass my husband, or directly affect his career. I was also terrified someone would vandalize our home, which I now know was a direct result of childhood trauma. Thankfully I had an excellent therapist then, and I did the work. I also realized some people are always whispered about in small towns because they stand out and are different. Being unique can be lonely, and I found it incredibly hard to find my footing. I went through depression and fell into the dark cavernous place that no one wants to find themselves in. I had a verbal altercation and was mocked and

gay-shamed by a woman at the local pharmacy. When cornered, a drag queen will come out of a bag like a venomous snake, and I read that woman like a bible on a Motel 6 nightstand. The people who had to endure this apologized profusely for her hate-filled rant, which made me start to see the kindness I had somehow overlooked in the locals in this community.

We tried assimilating into the local culture, and I remember just the line from the cherished gay favorite Fried Green Tomatoes, "I'm too young to be old, and I am too old to be young." I realized this was a "me" thing; I was in the midst of a midlife crisis, struggling with aging and trying to fit in. As we all know, aging in the gay male community is stigmatized and isn't embraced, and I went through all of the bullshit attached. I didn't have my creative drag outlet anymore, and I realized it was not about me dulling my shine to make people comfortable; I don't do that. I have never done that, so why was I wasting life and not living. This isn't why I survived Covid and the numerous other crazy situations I had been in in my life (that's a whole different article). Being authentic is the most enjoyable way to live; if people have a problem with it, so be it. Suddenly, just like in one of those inspirational movies starring Sandra Bullock or Julia Roberts, the passionate inspirational music swells, the clouds part, and for whatever reason, suddenly, they're in the cutest outfit. Their skin and hair look better, and they strut out into the world, forever confident and changed. Finally, I began to find my footing. I got involved in local organizations and started volunteering my marketing, website design, and graphic design services to people and non-profits who needed a little sparkle

in their small businesses. It was the validation and self-esteem boost I needed.

I'll be honest: I miss things about the city but things I do not. For example, I miss Amazon Prime's same-day delivery, grocery delivery, grub hub, cultural diversity, various restaurants, warmer weather, and Lyft. Still, I don't miss the lack of people waving when you're driving down the road, no one smiling while you shop in the market, and I certainly don't miss the traffic.

I sit here with a grin and realize that even writing this article has been cathartic. A friend once told me, "The reason your rearview mirror is a small portion of your windshield is that you are supposed to occasionally glance back but keep your focus on moving forward." Looking back, I see how I tried to assimilate and fit in, which was my mistake. I put that pressure on myself and allowed the trauma of yesteryear to become my cage. Since then, I have realized there are those of us who just aren't meant to blend in. I often say, "I am a flare in a Montana night sky," and I take great pride in my identity. I have always believed "the universe always has its way," moving to The Shores, I learned to love myself again and celebrate that little effeminate boy who grew up in that small town.

I realized the struggles the LG-BTQIA+ community are facing in this country. It is up to us as individual members of the community to do what we can to make each day a little kinder and brighter. Control the things we can, and focus on love and light. It's up to us to be seen, claim our space in this world, live authentically, and don't forget to "make people a little nervous."

"It is up to us as individual members of the community to do what we can to make each day a little kinder and brighter. Control the things we can, and focus on love and light. It's up to us to be seen, claim our space in this world, live authentically, and don't forget to "make people a little nervous.""

-Tru Saint James



Tru Saint James has been a professional Drag Queen, MC, Singer, Political Advocate, and Comedian for the past 20+ (clears throat) years.

Straight *but not* narrow

by John Gallone

It's been wonderful to have an entire month to celebrate any group or historic event.

June being gay pride month gives all supporters of LGBT folks an opportunity to engage with this welcoming and diverse community.

Parades, festivals, block parties welcome families and friends alike, attracting a wide variety of supporters, from the simply curious to experienced party goers alike. Subsequently pride month is a city-wide fete in many places around the United States and the world and the month of June has been an excellent opportunity to support our LGBT friends and attend events that are great fun for everyone.

TIP: Want to attract more straight support to an already diverse demographic? Make it LGBT- BLT and you've built a better mousetrap! Everybody loves bacon.

While a month of events is perfect for raising awareness, it's important to remember that it takes more than advocacy. We know nothing gets done in United States without having a popular movement and mass support and communities work best as they grow more inclusive; a reminder that the pride flag has many colors for a reason.

The rainbow flag, a true symbol of diversity, is the key to this welcoming experience. Most of us at this point in time have many gay friends, relatives, co-workers. The sight of same gender couples showing public affection or interacting with their own families is a common sight for most of us. It's easy as straight allies to forget at times just how under siege our friends actual are.

As California Governor Gavin Newsome points out:

"There is a full-throated purge effort going on here by the far-right that we have not seen for decades. They are on a boycott binge and cancel crusade, trying to eliminate the existence of minority communities. Burning Flags. Banning Books. We have seen this before. And it's happening everywhere, all across the country. Woke has become just another dog whistle. We must continue to call out hate when we see it, as they keep trying to normalize it. If we go silent, this will only get worse. We cannot become numb to this."

Pride month is a great time to celebrate but also a perfect opportunity to redouble efforts to become aware and work against; repression of LGBT rights and LGBT public activism, the many legislative and judicial objections to same-sex couples' recognition, attempts to restrict sex education in schools. Many of these

issues aren't on the radar for most straight people but as allies for the LGBT community it's important to educate ourselves and others.

During Pride Month and beyond roast those weenies, wave that flag, dance like everyone's watching, toast the work that's already been done but be prepared to keep the battle going for another year.

And remember, it's ok to be straight just never narrow.



John Gallone is a writer, photographer, artist, traveler and raconteur living in the Pacific Northwest.

His work can be found in several online and print forums.

Known for his bon mots and insights on subjects ranging from Anthropology to Zoology, John has been a source of insightful, humorous observations and pithy commentary for a number of decades.

FLAG - From Page 31

encouraged to stop by and browse the selections. If you find a piece that enriches your life, take it home with you. It's that simple.

The following have been instrumental to the success of this project:

- Construction: Tom Baker
- Library Director, Keitha Owen
- Ocean Shores City Administrator, Scott Andersen
- Exterior Art Design: Carol Senecal-Deluu
- The 18 Generous Donors who made this all possible.

My hope for the future includes Library art classes to showcase elementary school children's art, Senior Citizen Art Seasonal Exhibits, Monthly Featured Artist display and Themed Art.



A native of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, Kathy was a strong organizer within her community. Following a career with the National Park Service, she and her husband of 43 years, Tom, retired to Ocean Shores in 2019.

Publisher's Note: Stay tuned for the update on this *Free Little Art Gallery* in the next issue of *Coastal Pride*.

Ruminations on the death of Pat Robertson

by "K"

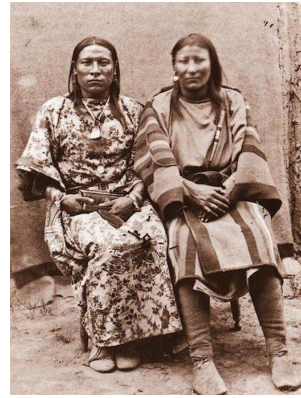
I don't like to think
About Pat Robertson going to hell.
That lets him off too easy.
I like to think about
Pat Robertson finding himself
In a heaven he never believed
Would exist.

Where Divine is reading in drag
To the children murdered at
Sandy Hook and Ulvalde.
While Edie Windsor
And Gertrude Stein drink coffee
In the breakfast nook
talking politics with Harvey Milk.

Where Matthew Shepard relaxes by
A stream, reading poetry to
A nameless young man whose family
Never claimed his body
when he died
Of AIDS.

Where the music plays loudly
Welcoming dancers from the Pulse
And Club Q to the floor where they
Twirl and vogue with
All the murdered trans women of color
Whose names we never knew.

Where Jesus puts his arm around
Pat Robertson's shoulders and
Drapes them with a rainbow feather boa.
And, gesturing around him says
Come, meet my disciples.



Above: Celebrated Lakota Two Spirit Osh-Tish (left) with his wife.

Context of the following poem: It wasn't until Europeans took over North America that natives were forced to adopt the ideas of gender roles. For Native Americans, there was no set of rules that men and women had to abide by in order to be considered a "normal" member of their tribe.

People who had both female and male characteristics were viewed as gifted by nature, and therefore, able to see both sides of everything. All native communities acknowledged the following gender roles: "Female, Male, Two Spirit Female, Two Spirit Male and Transgendered."

Poem by David Clark Done

What is in a name?
Would not a rose
By any other name
Smell just as sweet?

Among the "Original People"
There were many tribes
Who assigned many names
In many tongues to describe

The five genders they thought
Nature bestowed upon the world.
Male, female, two spirit males,
And two spirit females,

Plus some transgender souls.
Many tribes held that before a child
was born it came before the
Creator and could choose

Between the roles, picking
The one that suited its kind,

Winkte, Hemanch, Nadleehi and many others

The "Original People" name five genders.

There was no moral gradient
Assigned to love or sex!

A two spirit being could be born
A male and live a female life
Or be born a woman but
Live a manly life!

A person was judged by
the content of their character
And the life they lived doing
Deeds uplifting others!

"Two spirit souls", meaning males
With female spirits or females
With male spirits were a "gift"
Because they could see the world

Through the eyes of both genders,
And so were given great respect
Allowing them to become the shamans,
The medicine men, or the keepers

Of the tribe's oral history.
Believed to be gifted
with high intellect,
while possessing artistic skills

It was thought they had the
Highest capacity for compassion,
Possessing all the traits needed to
Stand tall in the creators' grace.

For the "Original People"
It was crucial that the gifted
Ones, the "Two Spirited" ones
Be allowed to live according

To their "natural" Impulses
Without interference or judgment.
To do otherwise was a crime
Against the way of things.

Then the invaders, the Jesuits,
And others gained possession
Of the land, claiming it, in the name
Of distant Kings and Queens.

The "way" was "Given to Sin"
So they erased it from

History, imprisoning its followers
and enforcing gender roles.

The invaders occupied the land
and when the fighting stopped,
The "Original People" were gathered
Onto small plots of land.

Their children were forced to attend
Government schools, their
Languages were banned,
"The five genders" concept was
purged from memory
And persecution reigned!
All those who had once stood
Before the creator

as the "gifted" were shunned,
And forced from the tribe by the
Over lords of moral certainty
Who enforced the Christian code!

The land of the "Original
People" vanished and those
Who were "two Spirits"
were condemned

To live on "reservations",
In internment camps,
where the old ways,
expired and died.



David Clark Done, an Ocean Shores resident, holds a degree in English with a concentration in poetics. He is retired from a career in international shipping and began writing full time five years ago. He is also an actor having performed numerous times at Stage West Community Theater.

More on the history of 5 genders and the story of the Native American two-spirits can be found here:
<https://www.the-numinous.com/2016/07/06/native-american-two-spirits>

two of our Ocean Shores Authors

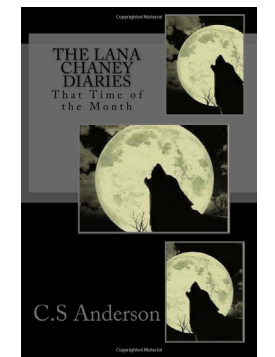
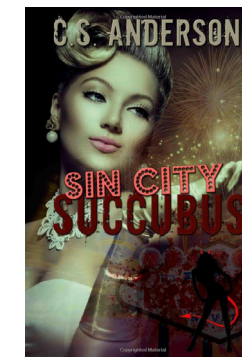
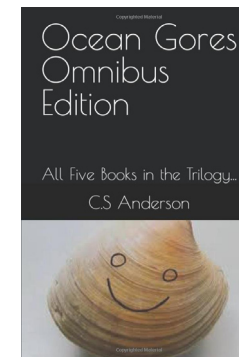
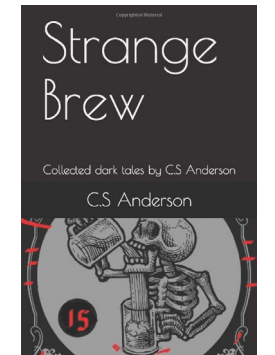
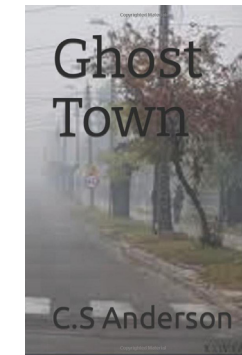
C. S Anderson

has written 30 books and has been included in a couple dozen anthologies and collections - all of them available on Amazon in Ebook, paperback formats with a growing list available on Audible.

When asked to describe his genre, he notes, "I write in a few genres. Straight up horror, pulpy horror comedy, urban fantasy and science fiction mostly. Some times I throw all these in a blender and hit puree."

Six of his more recent titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: https://www.amazon.com/s?k=C.+S.+Anderson&crd=2VRIY9XOCX0DN&srefix=c.+s.+anderson%2Caps%2C131&ref=nb_sb_noss_2



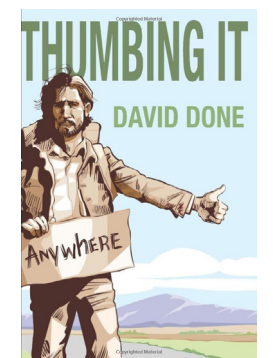
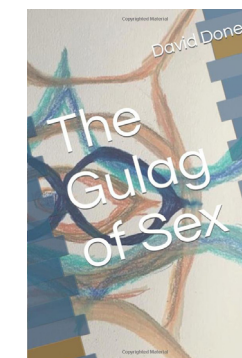
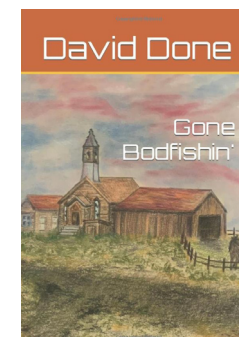
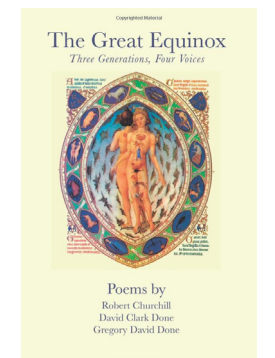
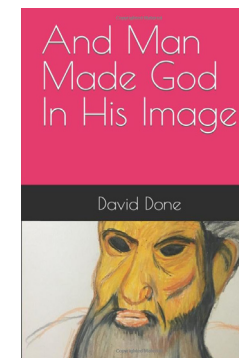
David Clark Done

has written two novels, a book of short stories plus three more which are poetry, all are available on Amazon.

David doesn't classify his work into genre(s), instead, he writes because it is interesting and important to him.

His six titles are shown to the right.

Amazon link to all of his works: https://www.amazon.com/stores/David-Clark-Done/author/B083KKDDH3?ref=ap_rdr&store_ref=ap_rdr&isDramIntegrate=true&shoppingPortalEnabled=true



My thoughts on OCEAN SHORES



by Tom Baker

It's an interesting turn that, as my wife Kathy and I head for a new adventure, I am given the opportunity to express my thoughts on our small coastal town, one in which so many profess so much PRIDE. This is one of the largest municipalities we've lived in during our 45 years together; in all honesty, it causes me to giggle just a bit when I hear so many speak with near reverence about their small town. But I continually remind myself that most of the folks living in Ocean Shores hail from mega-metro areas, and to them Ocean Shores is, indeed, a very small burg.

We raised our girls in a town of 350

year-round residents. Real shopping was 110 miles away in a city of 15,000. It was an idyllic existence, and one where we ensured that our daughters saw that a real world existed in large cities at least a couple of times each year. The remainder of our lives have been spent in smallish communities as well.

And what does this have to do with "My Thoughts on Ocean Shores?" For all of those years living in small towns, we struggled—along with our small-town neighbors—to deal with the questions of growth/no growth, tourism, progress, and economic survival, just as we do in Ocean Shores. The conversations have always been similar; the challenges, nearly identical.

Add to our localities, the fact that we participated in many of the familiar community engage-

"A fully honest, robust examination of our community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats is needed. Although it's been done before, those elements are dynamic, changing with the make-up of the citizenry, which has been significant since the advent of COVID and remote work opportunities. The complexity of the residents' needs, wants, and desires is rapidly changing."

-Tom Baker

ment opportunities: volunteer fire department; volunteer Ambulance Corp; Chamber of Commerce (for several years our home phone was the Chamber contact number); Economic Development Steering Committee; county-level Economic Development Corporation Board;

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regional planning commissions, and community planning initiatives up the wazoo! During my career with the National Park Service, I was intimately involved in community development efforts (never knew the NPS was interested in such matters, did you?). Community engagement and appropriate planning for historical areas were a major element of my career.

I cite my 'creds' for the simple reason that it's all too easy to dismiss off-hand any new blood in a small community—someone who blows into town from afar with "big city ideas." I don't, nor have ever claimed to be an expert in such matters, but I do bring a certain perspective to the table that may or may not be of value to the residents of Ocean Shores. It's your choice whether to lend it any credence or not.

Ocean Shores is in a relatively unique position: while it certainly meets the 50-year threshold of a historic community, beyond the recently contemporary Pat Boone story, there really are no compelling historic, character-defining features. There are no iconic historic structures. The few that could theoretically qualify, could be anywhere in the world. They don't define Ocean Shores culture, primarily because we lack that element, which puts us in the unique position of working from a veritable blank slate. That could be perceived as a strong positive in our favor!

Our history lies entirely within the stories that nobody wants to talk about, namely, the indigenous connection to the land and sea. The physical structure of our 'downtown' has no discernable cohesive planning. This is not an indictment, simply a statement of fact. The

indictment lies in the matter that so many don't want it to change!

There is and has always been one major flaw in that consistent argument from one small community to the next: change is going to happen. Period. It is as unavoidable as taxes and death. Our choices aren't all that complicated. We can either choose to do nothing, in which case the change will come in the form of unwanted slow decay and deterioration (which has already reached an advanced state), or we can control change/progress in a thoughtful deliberate manner for the greater good of the community.

True community planning, which results in a significantly higher quality of life for all residents and businesses, comes from a fully open process, one in which all stakeholders are welcomed to the table. Advocates for working people, retirees, LGBTQ+ communities (with advocates for each sub-group), indigenous nations, businesses, schools/academics, tourism, artists, outdoor enthusiasts, shut-ins, people with physical and/or mental challenges, and yes, even advocates for our transient communities, all bring value to the discussion of Ocean Shores' future. The broader the net is cast, the richer the ultimate results.

A fully honest, robust examination of our community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats is needed. Although it's been done before, those elements are dynamic, changing with the make-up of the citizenry, which has been significant since the advent of COVID and remote work opportunities. The complexity of the residents' needs, wants, and desires is rapidly changing.

From that frank genesis, it becomes possible for diverse stakeholders to

work as a team, exploring alternatives that consider diverse points of view that can be molded into comprehensive, conscious visions and decisions for desired future conditions. There are ample opportunities to combine the components of a beautiful, walkable downtown area with outlying development. Perhaps facilities that enhance the already vibrant arts community, or developing components that enhance active lifestyles complimented by thoughtful elements of universal access which could add significantly to the overall quality of life for Ocean Shores.

None of these thoughts are prescriptive, but rather serve to make the point that sights need to be set high. Unbiased, professional community planning groups are available to conduct the stakeholder meetings and collaboratively develop charters to consider for the thoughtful, deliberate development of Ocean Shores. There can be a much brighter future for small towns that languish in stale air and staler attitudes. Ensure that Ocean Shores becomes a model of community development—love your community and love your life.



Tom Baker was born, bred, and schooled in southwest Detroit amid all that its music implies. Migrated to the woods and shores of Lake Superior for 40+ years. Former design-builder, cabinetmaker, and still woodturner. Nearly 30 years with the National Park Service until 2018 retirement. Dad of two; grampa of five; friend of many; enriched life beyond his wildest dreams.

Resources

Events

Ocean Shores Fun

(Updated July 2023)

Regional

Comprehensive online calendar of regional events, can be filtered by location and LGBTQA specific events.

<https://www.oceanshores.fun>

Social

Out & Older in Ocean Shores

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group fostering community for LGBTQA generally 50 years and older.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/582414015695077>

LGBTQ+ Family & Allies - Ocean Shores/ North Beach

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group for LGBTQ+ people, their parents, families and allies, resource and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnballies>

Ocean Shores/North Beach LGBTQA+

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores / North Beach

Private Facebook group to share events, stories, news, make friends and support.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/osnblgbtq>

Medical/Mental Health

BHR

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Counseling LGBTQ

205 8th St
Hoquiam, WA 98550
800-825-4820

SeaMar

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Medical and Counseling LGBTQ

1813 Sumner Ave
Aberdeen, WA 98520
360-538-1293

Advocacy/Outreach

North Beach Project Connect

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

Putting you in touch with the information and services you need.

nbprojectconnect@gmail.com
<https://nbprojectconnect.com>

Harbor Include

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Harbor Include is a nonprofit organization serving teens between the ages of 13 to 18 years of age that are part of the LGBTQ community and their friends.

info@harborinclude.com
<http://harborinclude.com>

CAYA

(Added June 2023)

Come As You Are

206-307-9388

CAYA4youth@gmail.com

<https://abelhousefarm.wixsite.com/caya>

Out & Proud Grays Harbor Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Resource Center, Community Outreach and Education
PO Box 173 Hoquiam, WA 98550
360-580-7774

outproudghc@gmail.com

<https://opghc.com>

Safe Schools Coalition

(Added June 2023)

Anti-bullying, anti-harassment and support for GLBT youth.

888-307-9275

info@safeschoolscoalition.org

<http://www.safeschoolscoalition.org>

Churches

Galilean Lutheran Church

(Added June 2023)

Ocean Shores

ALL are welcome. Come as you are.

824 Ocean Shores BLV NW
Ocean Shores, WA 98569
www.galileanlutheranchurch.com
churchoffice1419@gmail.com

Hoquiam Methodist Church

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

Reconciling Church
520 5th St, Hoquiam, WA 98550
360-533-1101

Aberdeen First Presbyterian

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Open and accepting church.
420 N Broadway, Aberdeen, WA 98520
360-532-1330

Emergency/Hotlines

GH Beyond Survival

(Added June 2023)

Aberdeen

Support for those impacted by sexual abuse.

360-533-9751

888-626-2640 (24-hr crisis line)

admin@ghbeyondsurvival.com

<http://www.ghbeyondsurvival.com>

Crisis Clinic Grays Harbor

(Added June 2023)

Hoquiam

360-538-2889

360-584-6569

Foster Care Helpline

(Added June 2023)

LGBT youth specifically.

866-LGBTTeen

800-227-8922 (STD Hotline)

Trevor Helpline

(Added June 2023)

24-hour suicide hotline for LGBT youth.

800-850-8078

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org>

State

Equal Rights Washington

(Added June 2023)

Ensure and promote dignity, safety and equality for all LGBTQ Washingtonians.

<https://www.equalrightswashington.org>

National

SAGE

(Added June 2023)

Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders

<https://www.sageusa.org>

Movement Advancement Project (MAP)

(Added June 2023)

Independent nonprofit think tank working to create a thriving, inclusive, and equitable America.

<http://www.lbgmap.org>

Equality Federation

(Added June 2023)

Working collaboratively on critical non-partisan issues that affect how LGBTQ+ people experience the world from cradle to grave.

<https://www.equalityfederation.org>

Queer Goggles

Christ on a Cracker!

by Joan Opyr

When I was putting the finishing touches on my second novel, *From Hell to Breakfast*, I thought once again about what exactly makes a story gay. Is it gay characters? Maybe. My first novel, *Idaho Code*, was rejected by at least eight mainstream publishing houses because they deemed it too gay. While I thought the book was a murder mystery about a crazy family living in Idaho, to mainstream editors it read like a wild hootnanny of Radical Faeries and Lesbian separatists. Sure, there were men in dresses and dykes on bikes, but that wasn't the point of the story. The point was coming of age, finding true love, and learning to deal with your domineering mother, all while trying to figure out whose body is buried in your new girlfriend's garden. Nothing particularly gay about that.

But what I've discovered about being a gay writer is that it turns even the most sensible straight people into a queer version of that kid in *The Sixth Sense*. Whatever you do, however you do it, they see gay people. You write about a woman who breeds dogs. Someone will ask you if all lesbians like dogs. You write about the Marine Corps. Someone will ask if that's because lesbians are uniform queens. And it gets stranger and more esoteric. Months ago, I gave a copy of *Idaho Code* to a straight friend. She's a great woman, brilliant, and she has a terrific sense of humor. She's the same age I am, and though

she was born and raised in Idaho, she spent many years in Los Angeles. She knows plenty about the wider world and nothing much surprises her. This, however, was the conversation we had about my book.

Straight Friend (SF): So it was really funny. The main character's voice – was that you?

Me: No. And yes. Every character is always in some small way the writer. It's kind of like having a child. It's you but it's not you. You give birth to it, and then it takes on a life of its own.

SF: But you don't swear like that.

Me: What?

SF: Or maybe you do swear a lot but just not around me. Do you swear more around your gay friends? Is it a gay thing?

Me: I really don't know . . . what are you talking about?


SF: Do gay people swear more than other people? They swear a lot in your book. Some of it's really creative – you know, "Christ on a cracker," stuff like that.

Me: The woman who does the bulk of the swearing in the book is straight! She's the foul-mouthed mother, the crazy old woman, the comic relief!

SF: Really? I didn't notice that.

Do lesbians all have a thing for motorcycles?

This lesbian does. This lesbian loves motorcycles, swears quite a lot, actually, and writes whatever pops into her idiosyncratic head. If I were married to a man, would all of that stuff be straight? Or would no one even notice? Would my books be funny or strange or compelling or odd if they were about people other than the people I know best and care about most? Are my books gay because I'm gay?

Or do people pick up my books and, without knowing it, don my Queer Goggles? 



Joan Opyr is a gigantic crank. Her life is frequently weird, and she enjoys writing and talking about that. She's a transplanted Southerner who dreams of golden beaches, sweet iced tea, and sunny skies. She believes that Eva Cassidy should be beatified. Oh, and she's also an award-winning novelist.

Joan's books can be found on Amazon:

Idaho Code (2006)
From Hell to Breakfast (2009)
Shaken and Stirred (2011)

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Matt Cyphert

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