

# Good friends make all the difference at Seaside Library

The Seaside Public Library has been supported for over a hundred years by community members who love our library and all it stands for. From its formation by a woman's civic group here in Seaside, our library has been always focused on reading services in the community. The library is the one place anyone in the community can walk in the doors and receive services free of charge.

To mention just a few: free Wi-Fi in the library, free computer time, free paperback books, free programs, and free help finding the local resources you need. In a world where most things have a fee attached to it, the library is the last place where we truly do provide as much as possible for free. Of course to get a library card, you do have to support purchasing books and services either by paying your property taxes or buying an out of town card.

We have funding to support all of these services as well as staff time and materials for the library. So many people love and support the Seaside Public Library. In lieu of listing all of the people who support the library because it would be a very long list and I know I would leave out many important people, it's important to know that those who support the Seaside Public Library are very important, and we value what you do.

The Friends of the Library group supports all library programs, and the Library Foundation Board supports the long-term goals of the library. These are two of the biggest groups that support

## BETWEEN THE COVERS

ESTHER MOBERG



our library. For more information on how to join either group, you can get more information at the library. But we also have many individuals who support the library both privately and publicly. All I can say is: Thank you for all you do.

One very special man who was a friend of the library was Elbert Groot. His legacy continues here at the library. I never had a chance to meet him but according to the previous library director Reita Fackerell, she shared the following in 2007 and it is worth sharing again. Reita met Mr. Groot back when the library was located on Highway 101 where Cleanline Surf Shop is now located.

One morning when she opened the front door of the library, there was a very tall elderly man waiting to be let in. When she opened the door, Mr. Groot handed Reita a crumpled piece of paper and told her it was for her. It looked like a bank statement. She honestly thought Mr. Groot was homeless and she thought maybe it was a piece of paper from the parking lot he had picked up for the trash can. Mr. Groot then asked to talk to her in private. He told her the paper was his stock portfolio and he wanted it to go to building a new library. By this point Reita thought maybe Mr. Groot was a little crazy.

After talking for a while, Reita



R.J. Marx

Seaside Public Library relies on supporters for new programs and services.

finally realized this was real. Mr. Groot was sincere, and his stocks portfolio was worth \$500,000. Mr. Groot loved libraries and simply wanted to help the Seaside Public Library get a new building. Thanks to Mr. Groot, this was the start of the new library building program, and the new library building was finished in 2008.

When Mr. Groot was young he had dropped out of school to join the Merchant Marines. While he was serving, he spent a lot of time in the ship's library. Afterward, instead of going back to school, he spent all his spare time in the public library to complete his primary education. When he went on to higher education his test score

was one of the highest in the state and he credited it to his time in libraries. He worked throughout his adult life all over the world as an accountant for private industries and he told Reita many stories about his time in Ghana.

Reita had a great relationship with Mr. Groot. She would take him grocery shopping every week. He didn't have any family so library board member Cindy Svennson would have him over for dinners and holidays. He invited Ms. Fackerell over for dinner one time and he served Top Ramen. She got the seasoned pork flavor but he liked his plain, so he gave her his seasoning packet to take home. He

ate standing up. She would also take him out for lunch at KFC or Dairy Queen, his favorite choices.

Mr. Groot was a very special man. Sadly Mr. Groot passed away before the library was opened in 2008 but his love of libraries is still with us today in the beautiful Seaside Public Library building. Next time you stop by you can check out his name over the bookstore and also his sea chest which he gave to the library. As you can tell, the heart of the Seaside Library is our community and more specifically all of the individual, unique, and wonderful people who love and support the Seaside Public Library.

## HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF

### Keeping downtown in bloom for 24 years

It's not spring in Seaside without the Seaside Downtown Development Association's annual flower basket program.

Beautification co-chairperson Stephanie Stevenson invites residents to help support the cause, with a fundraising night at Dundee's on Tuesday, March 5.

From 5 to 10 p.m., Dundee's will donate 50 percent of their food and drink income to the program, which costs almost \$20,000 for the 65 large baskets distributed and along Broadway from U.S. Highway 101 to the Turnaround, and on Columbia and Avenue A.

The flowers are tended by Pam Fleming of Nature's Helper, who takes care of the flowers through the summer. The baskets will be put up the third week in May, right before Memorial Day. The baskets stay up until mid-September.

Donations of private baskets are welcome and can be purchased for \$125. Donors will be listed in the downtown information kiosk in Downing Park on Broadway.

For more information, contact SDDA at 503-717-7914 or email admin@seasidedowntown.com.

### Promoting educational opportunities for women

Seaside P.E.O. Chapter CR is now taking plant orders for this year's annual fundraiser. All profits fund P.E.O. scholarship and loan programs. The plants are provided by New Leaf Greenhouse in Cornelius and include a spectacular array of flowers, vegetables, herbs, planters and hanging baskets. Each



The Seaside Downtown Development Association is looking for sponsors for spring flower baskets.

year, our customers praise the quality and assortment available. All orders are prepaid and forms are available from any Chapter CR member or by calling 503-810-5196. The order deadline is Monday, April 1. Plants will be available for pick-up or delivery on Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

P.E.O., an international Philanthropic Education Organization, was established in Seaside in 1953 and has awarded hundreds of scholarships, grants and loans. Women of all ages may apply to P.E.O. for financial help as she progresses through higher education. Donations are also welcome to help fund our mission. For more information visit [www.peointernational.org](http://www.peointernational.org).

### Annual WINGS conference

Seaside's branch of the American Association of University Women will be joining the Astoria AAUW to pres-

ent its 17th annual WINGS conference at Clatsop Community College on March 9.

The day-long conference is free to women interested in returning to school to complete their GEDs, start or finish certificates or degrees or develop or update job skills.

Seaside AAUW is part of a more than 130-year old national organization that seeks to empower women and children.

Workshops help women meet their educational or career goals. Contact [clatsopcc.edu](http://clatsopcc.edu) or call 503-717-1852 for information on the conference.

### Drawing birds

"Mini Bird Drawing Class" with local artist and illustrator, Dorota Haber-Lehigh takes place Saturday, March 9, at 1 p.m. sponsored by The Friends of the Seaside Library.

Sign up at the circulation desk or by phone. All levels of artistic ability are welcome.

Participants will create a whimsical portrait using colored pencils on walnut ink paper. Bring a reference photo or two of the bird you intend to draw.

Dorota Haber-Lehigh received a bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific University, with a focus on printmaking and art history. She designed, illustrated and published a children's book titled "ABC of Native Plants of the Coastal Pacific Northwest" and is currently at work on books about native berries and wildflowers of the Pacific Northwest. She is also a member of the Oregon Botanical Artists and the Native Plant Society of Oregon.

The Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information call 503-738-6742 or visit [www.seasidelibrary.org](http://www.seasidelibrary.org)

## Community Calendar

### Friday, March 1

**Arthritis Exercise**  
10:15 a.m., free, Bob Chisholm Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

**Senior Lunch Program**  
11:45 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393, [www.sunsetempire.com](http://www.sunsetempire.com). \$3 suggested donation, for those 60 and over; \$6.75 for those under 60.

**Dance Fitness**  
6:30-7:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

**"Little Shop of Horrors"**  
7 p.m., Seaside High School, 1901 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside, OR. For more information, visit [shs.seaside.k12.or.us](http://shs.seaside.k12.or.us), or call 503-738-5586.

**Music at McMenamins**  
7 p.m., Tony Smiley, McMenamins Gearhart Hotel, 1157 N. Marion Ave., Gearhart; 503-717-8159.

### Saturday, March 2

**Whale Spirit Drum Circle**  
7-8 p.m., all welcome to gather and drum together; no drumming experience is necessary. Check [www.WhaleSpirit.com](http://www.WhaleSpirit.com) to confirm location each month. Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside.

**Treasure the Beach**  
9-11 a.m., beach cleanup, rain or shine; sign in at The Seaside Inn on the Beach, 60 N. Prom, Seaside.

**Play the ukulele**  
9:45 a.m., learn to play the ukulele, for beginners, conference room, Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

**Gearhart ArtWalk**  
2-5 p.m., Gallery events, from A Great Gallery, Trail's End Arts Association, The Natural Nook, Coast Gallery and Numismatics.

### First Saturday Artwalk

5-7 p.m., the free event takes place between Holladay Drive and Broadway Street in the Historic Gilbert District of downtown Seaside.

**"Little Shop of Horrors"**  
7 p.m., Seaside High School, 1901 N. Holladay Drive, Seaside, OR. For more information, visit [shs.seaside.k12.or.us](http://shs.seaside.k12.or.us), or call 503-738-5586.

**Sunday, March 3**  
**Youth campership fundraiser**  
4-6 p.m., Calvary Episcopal Church, 503 N. Holladay Dr., Seaside.

**Monday, March 4**  
**Dance Fitness**  
6:30-7:30 p.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

**Hold 'Em**  
7 p.m., American Legion, 1315

Broadway, Seaside, 503-738-5111.

### Tuesday, March 5

**Excel, Level 1**  
8:30-10:30 a.m., at South County Center Lab, 1455 N. Roosevelt Dr.; register at [bizcenter.org/centers/clatsop-sbdc/our-classes](http://bizcenter.org/centers/clatsop-sbdc/our-classes) or call 503-338-2402.

**Top's Meeting**  
9:15 a.m., Take Pounds Off Sensibly/North Coast Family Fellowship, 2245 N Wahanna Rd, Seaside; 503-738-7453.

**Smart Meter workshop**  
5:30 p.m., hosted by Pacific Power, Seaside Brewing Company, 851 Broadway St, Seaside, OR. For more information, visit [seasidebrewery.com](http://seasidebrewery.com), or call 503-717-5451.

**Tabata**  
6-7 p.m., high intensity interval training; Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, 503-738-7393.

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