

Newsletter of the Fourth Corner Exchange

May 2006

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Welcome—Happy Spring!

We now have over **220** Members and **57** Joint Members. The trading is sure and steady! Now is the perfect time to put that food garden in, get ready for summer, start those home repair projects, and get to know more members of your community.

We will produce this newsletter on a monthly basis to keep you informed about what is happening with Fourth Corner Exchange. Please let us know if you have comments or suggestions by e-mailing Francis Ayley at francis@openaccess.org.

Social Gatherings—

June Potluck at Bellingham Co-Housing!

Member, **Ted Ullman**, has graciously agreed to host the June Fourth Corner Exchange Potluck at the Bellingham Co-housing Common House.



When: Friday, June 2nd, 5:30 PM – 8 PM, **please NOTE NEW DAY & TIME!!!!**

Where: Bellingham Co-Housing, Donovan St.

What to bring: a potluck item to share, a friend, and a musical instrument if you have one.

Since parking is limited, please take the bus, walk, bike, or if you must drive a car, please carpool and park on the street. On-site parking is reserved for residents. Just follow the signs to find the Common House. It is centrally located and full of activity. Because dinnerware will be provided, we will need volunteers to help clean up the kitchen and eating area at the end of the potluck. So if you can, please pitch in!

If you have any questions, please call Ted at 220-0044.

Would you like to host a Fourth Corner Potluck? If so, please contact Lorraine Wilde at 647-9251 or wildelg@comcast.net. You may always check the “News and Events” web page for the latest information about potlucks.

Dates to Remember

New Members Meeting: Sunday, May 28th, 5 PM –7 PM at the WECU Educational Building

June Potluck: Friday, June 2nd, 5:30 PM - 8 PM, Bellingham Co-Housing Common House

Recent Exchanges: Sharing and Care Giving

"We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results.

~ Herman Melville

As members of the Fourth Corner Exchange, we are given, with each exchange, the opportunity to broaden our perspective about what we consider valuable. Sharing each other's skills and talents not only makes life run more smoothly; it connects us to the meaning of true prosperity.



When you join Fourth Corner, it soon becomes apparent that this network is much more than a work exchange. We are, all of us, engaged in building a resourceful community upon which we can rely. Everyone brings something to the mix; and everyone is essential to building its strength.

The scope of exchanges at Fourth Corner is limited only to your imagination. With each new connection, you get a chance to expand your definition of what's helpful to another person; a chance to mine your own resources and figure out ways to reciprocate. It's a process that brings us all closer together as we connect our collective dots. The exchange that took place between Members, **Barbara Quinones** and **Ed Layton** is a perfect example of how lives get woven together through Fourth Corner.

Barbara joined Fourth Corner last fall, having heard of it through a friend. She loved the idea of exchanging services without exchanging currency. "It's how life should be," says Barbara. She was raised in the Midwest, lived in Port Orchard for a number of years, and has resided in Bellingham since 1994. As a mother, grandmother, nanny, and eldercare and hospice caregiver, Barbara has years of experience (plus references and a portfolio!) answering the call of human need.

Ed Layton is a licensed acupuncturist. He and his wife, **Jean McFadden Layton**, a naturopathic physician, have a natural health practice here in Bellingham. Originally from the too-hot-for-them Medford area in Oregon, they've lived here with their twin 7-year-old daughters, Fiona and Katie, for about a year and a half.

Initially drawn to the Fourth Corner Exchange because of philosophical alignment, their interaction with the network has been frequent and satisfying. During an early April ice skating lesson exchange between Ed, his girls, and Member, **Karla Newson**, Ed took a tumble that broke his leg. According to Ed, it was a 'good break,' one that didn't need a cast but did bounce him off the skating team. Although Ed felt he was getting around reasonably well, Jean felt that for safety's sake, Ed needed some home care while she was at work. So she called Barbara Quinones.

Barbara knew Ed and Jean, having met them earlier at a Fourth Corner potluck. She'd also been to see Jean at her practice, so Jean knew that Barbara was a professional and newly retired caregiver. A perfect solution! They set up the exchange and the rest is history. Another stitch in the knitted fabric of community.

So if you ever break a leg, need a naturopathic treatment or acupuncture, these folks are the people to call. Of course this isn't all they're good at or all they offer. But it's a good story.

Each newsletter we will feature a recent exchange. If you would like to have your exchange profiled in our next issue, please contact Lorraine Wilde at wildelg@comcast.net.

Meet New Members: Nickie Dane



Nickie Dane has been in Bellingham since September of 2001. She hails from the south...Marysville to be exact. It was there she spent most of her school years until it came time for college, and that's when she headed north to Bellingham to attend Western Washington University.

Nickie joined Fourth Corner in December, 2005. She learned about the Exchange through her roommate, Emily Johnson. The Exchange appealed to Nickie because she wanted to feel like part of this community... and what better way to get to know people? "My exchanges have been really pleasant," says Nickie. "These are definitely the kind of people I want to be around. Helping to build community was a major draw, but just as importantly, the Fourth Corner Exchange is based on local currency, which is the next important step in sustainability and localization."

Nickie's offerings at the exchange are versatile and energetic. Her interest in event planning motivates her to offer an 'extra pair of hands,' for special occasions. She'll help prep, cook, serve, clean, watch kids... in other words, whatever it takes to help the event come off without a hitch.

Planning a vacation? Nickie also offers house sitting (and yes, she'll care for your critters). Hungry? She makes dinner for her roomies on Wednesday nights...and you're welcome to join them for some mighty good eats. And if that's not enough, Nickie loves to hike and offers herself as a hiking companion. The Lake Padden Triathlon is on June 26 of this year, and Nickie is in training. "It involves swimming the lake, biking for 10 miles, and then running for 2.5 miles," Nickie explains. "I just want to see if I can do it."

Outdoor activities rank high on Nickie's priority list. She enjoys long boarding and bike riding. As a matter of fact, one of her all-time favorite exchanges was a mountain bike escapade with Ted Ullman. They'd arranged to go hiking but ended up spontaneously going on a 22-mile bike ride! Ted earned 3.0 time dollars for triathlon training and, although it was Nickie's very first mountain bike ride, she loved every minute of it. "If you're enthusiastic," Nickie laughs, "nothing's a chore!"

Promoting hip-hop is one of Nickie's passions. "Not the MTV variety," she emphasizes. "That's only one kind of hip-hop. It's really much more versatile than that; it can have such a political and social consciousness." When asked what else she does for entertainment, Nickie responds, "I love live music and watching local, live comedy, particularly the Cody Rivers Show. I like to have fun and be silly."

Nickie is soon to join the staff at Terra Organica, and she's excited about it. "They're good people there." She also volunteers in the community, especially for Planned Parenthood and Sustainable Bellingham, her two favorite organizations. And if ever you're in the Green Frog Café Acoustic Tavern, you might just run into Nickie. She's an "on call" bartender there and can often be found enjoying the beer, music, and peanuts.

If you'd like to initiate a trade with Nickie, you can find her in your Directory at www.fourthcornerexchange.com

Each newsletter we will feature a profile of a new member. If you would like to be profiled in our next issue, please contact Lorraine Wilde at wildelg@comcast.net.

April Potluck—Thanks Francis & Analiese!

Members, **Francis Ayley** and **Analiese Volpe**, graciously hosted the April Fourth Corner Potluck.

About 20 people made it to the potluck and there were lots of new Members. Everyone was able to introduce themselves and describe their “Offered” and “Wanted” ads. As always, there was great conversation, newly initiated trades, fabulous potluck food, and newfound friendships. Thanks for your effort and generosity, Francis and Analiese!!!!



Open House for Grand Opening of Barkley Chiropractic

New Members, **Erika and Kelly Arnold**, are proud to announce the Grand Opening of their new practice, Barkley Chiropractic. An Open House will be held Tuesday, May 23rd from 3 PM to 7 PM at their offices at 3410 Woburn Street (in the Frontier Bank Building). They will accept 2/3TD and 1/3 cash for services. As part of their Grand Opening, they are also offering Fourth Corner Members a special offer for the month of May. Please give them a call for more information at 752-0061.

Handy Features of the Online Database: Paying Your Membership Dues!



Paying your Membership Dues in time dollars is as easy as 1-2-3!

Log on to your web site at www.fourthcornerexchange.com with your Member ID and password. Choose “Exchanges” from the left menu bar, then select “Pay Membership Dues”. The due date of your next Membership Dues payment will be listed and you simply select the “Submit” button. Easy as that!

If you occasionally have trouble remembering due dates, or if things take you a while to follow up on, please consider paying your membership dues in advance. This will prevent you from forgetting, and we save our administrative staff from calling you with a phone reminder. Your membership dues are used to pay for a variety of administrative support, including those return phone calls with answers to your questions.

As long as your account is in good standing and you have been actively trading, you may pay your membership dues in time dollars. If you have any problems, you may call Janet Kingsley for help at 715-1342.

Each newsletter we will present a feature of the online database or web site. If you would like to suggest a feature for the next issue, please contact Lorraine Wilde at wildelg@comcast.net.