

THE GAZETTE



GOWARD HOUSE

April 2026 Editor: *Marlene Abney*

General Manager: Heidi Hodgins
Assistant Administrators: Marlene Abney & Tara Jackson
Janitor: Russ Saunders Custodians: Leslie Hall & Brandi Ennis

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President's Message

Well as the saying goes, “April showers bring May flowers. . .” however, we have been fortunate with so many wonderful blossoms already - and many more to come. Spring is warming up, and we can soon look forward to enjoying a coffee or lunch outside on our deck with our new deck furniture!

March was a busy month -- a highlight for me was the presentation by the Right Honourable Joe Clark to a sold out crowd!

We have also been pleased to learn that once again the Goward House Society received a Gaming Grant - this time for \$25,000, which will be of enormous assistance to our budget. Many thanks to Heidi for all her great work on the application.

Our activity schedule is in full swing this time of year, including lots of interesting speakers coming soon:

- Not to miss! Saanich Mayor Dean Murdoch at 2pm, Thursday April 9, talking about the current challenges facing Saanich, and
- 2pm, Monday April 27 is Michael Leyland - distinguished author of four books about the history of Vancouver Island, discussing how he developed his fascination with this topic.

We also have new sets of Bridge Lessons and Somatic Movements starting in April - spots are still open for both, so do sign up!

Later in April we will be celebrating our amazing Volunteers - we could not operate with them! Many thanks to every one of you.

Of course, we all look forward to Easter, and hope everyone enjoys some Easter treats and time with friends and family over the holidays. Happy April!

Mary Collins, President

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday April 2nd - **Jennifer O'Halloran's Somatic Movements**. - A four-week course ending April 23rd. Please sign up at the front desk.

Tuesday April 7th - 1:00 pm - President's Corner with **Mary Collins** in the Living Room.

Thursday April 9th - 2:00 pm - Saanich Mayor **Dean Murdock**. Mayor Murdock will discuss current issues facing Saanich. FREE. Please pre-register at the front desk.

Tuesday April 21st - 1:00 pm - **Haro Woods Guided Walk** with Deborah Dickson.

Thursday April 23rd - 2:00 pm - Money Matters. The topic this month is Estate Planning with a focus on trust considerations. The guest speaker is **Damien Enright**. Please pre-register.

Monday April 27th - 2:00 pm - **Michael Layland**, author and Vancouver Island historian. Mr. Leyland will discuss "My Publishing Pathway". FREE for members, \$10.00 for non members. Please pre-register.

Monday May 4th - 2:00 pm - **MAID - Dying with Dignity**. The topic is MAID from a Family's Perspective. Please pre-register.

Tuesday May 5th - President's Corner with **Mary Collins** in the Living Room.

Tuesday May 19th - 1:00 pm - **Haro Woods Guided Walk** with Deborah Dickson.

Thursday May 21st - 2:00 pm - **Goward House Annual General Meeting**. Please pre-register at the front desk.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are always looking for members to add to our roster of volunteers and for special events. If you are able to help or want more information, please email Marlene at marlene@gowardhouse.com or call 250 477-4401.

HOT LUNCH & PANTRY PROGRAM - Chefs and bakers needed! We need cooks who want to share their culinary talents with our membership. Meals are first served as hot lunches, then fill our freezers with take-home suppers and baking. Please email administration@gowardhouse.com for more information.



Dying with Dignity

Monday May 4th 2:00 pm

The topic for this presentation is MAID: From a Family's Perspective. Please pre-register at the front desk.





Goward House presents Saanich Mayor Dean Murdock

PREPARING FOR SAANICH'S FUTURE AND REFLECTIONS ON THE TERM

As he moves into his final months in office, Mayor Murdock joins us to discuss Saanich's planning efforts, infrastructure renewal, and his hopes for Saanich's future.

Thursday April 9th 2:00 pm

FREE

Please pre-register at the Front Desk

Dean Murdock is the Mayor of Saanich. Prior to his election as Mayor in 2022, Dean served three terms on Saanich Council. He worked for the Provincial Government at the Ministries of Health and Transportation & Infrastructure and was an instructor of political science at Camosun College. He grew up in Saanich, attended high school at Claremont Secondary and graduated from the University of Victoria. Dean lives in Saanich with his wife, Rachel, two children, and their 16-year-old Beagle named Bella. Dean is a coffee-drinker, guitar-player, and cyclist.

GOWARD HOUSE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday May 21st 2026 at 2:00 pm

Please pre-register for our AGM and let us know that you will be attending. We need your input and your votes. The meeting will be held outdoors (weather permitting).

Give us a call, or email administration@gowardhouse.com



Goward House would like to extend a very warm welcome to new members:

Keith Brown, Linda Brown, Sylvan Boies, Faye Ford, Michelle Hoekstra, Julie Kaye, Carol McMehen.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!



On behalf of the staff and Board, we thank all of the wonderful volunteers at Goward House! It has been said before, but we love saying it again...that we can't do it without your help. From help at the Front Desk to the Kitchen, from group leaders and the Board of Directors to our special events, Goward House Society relies on the generous time given by our volunteers.

THANK YOU !

Goward House Honour Roll of Volunteers

Board Of Directors

Mary Collins, President

Barb Turner, Vice-President

Lee Frank, Treasurer

Gail Branton, Secretary

Allan Davies, Past President

Joy Olesky, Director

Barb Sawyer, Director

We did our best to recognize everyone, please forgive us if we missed you. If you do not see your name listed, please email Marlene by April 6th. marlene@gowardhouse.com

Crafters & Quillers

Elaine Daniel, Karin Geppert, Esther Pomeroy, Joan Porter, Barb Sawyer, Jean Smith, Kittie Ure, Penny Van der Valk & Sheila Wall

Front Desk

Peta Alexander	Suzanne Ball
Jane Birkbeck	Gail Branton
Mary Collins	Julia Day
Gail Flitton	Lee Frank
Cassie Kangas	Brenda Lee
Barb Martin	Joy Olesky
Esther Pomeroy	Ivy Pye
Carolyn Tabarrok	Barb Turner

Kitchen & Pantry

Margo Allen	Wendy Denyes
Rosita Dworschak	Deb Flitton
Wendy Major	John Martens
Joy Olesky	Gillian Roach
Val Roberts	Myrna Rouse
Russ Saunders	Barb Sawyer
Rheta Steer	Barb Turner
Spring Yates	

And...

Rheta Steer, Myrna Rouse, Barb Sawyer, Gill Roach, Rosita Dworschak, Wendy Major, Gail Flitton, Lee Frank, Patricia Brook, John Martens, Barb Turner, Gail Branton, Mary Collins, Suzanne Ball, Chris Neilson, Tricia Bowden, Isabel Hunsinger, Ron Hunsinger, Peta Alexander, Wendy Denyes, Nancy Lypkie, Margo Allen, Deb Flitton, Gail Flitton, Gayle Gorrill, Bree Watts, Spring Yates, Anne Heel, Rennie Heel, Allan Davies, Lois Looman, Irene Rathbone, Louise de Lugt, Connie Hepburn, Barbara Hawkins, Deborah Dickson, Esther Pomeroy, Kittie Ure, Patricia Panteleyev, Susan Porter, Penny Van der Valk, Karin Geppert, Julia Day, Katharine Odgers, David Collins, Joy Olesky, Valerie Roberts, Gayle Millbank, & Barry Mah Ming.

Thank you, each and every one of you for volunteering for our Craft Fair, Christmas Luncheon, Strawberry Tea, Music in the Park, and BBQs ! We could not do it without you!

A Big THANK YOU to our Volunteer Instructors and Group Leaders

Lois Akam (Mah Jong)	Jim Brackenbury (Duplicate Bridge)	Anton de Bakker (Spanish Conversation)
Alison Campbell (Choir liaison)	Deborah Dickson (Haro Woods Guided Walks)	Eric Elbers (Meditation)
Angela Enright (French Conversation)	Leah Freedman (iPad Club)	Ann Gibbard (Chinese Brush Painting)
Susan Gilberstad (Book Club)	Donna Grainger (Social Bridge)	Carol Nuernberger (GH Painters)
Joy Olesky (Jigsaw Puzzle Club)	Esther Pomeroy (Crafters & Quillers)	Vicki Postl (Portrait Painters)
Phil Robbie (GH Singers)		



Bridge Lessons - "Defense"

Thursday April 9th to Thursday June 4th - 9:30 - 11:30 am

Jim Brackenbury will teach this nine-week course at Goward House on Thursday mornings. The course will be aimed at players familiar with bidding and play of the hand, using the most recently updated textbook from the American Contract Bridge League. Jim is an accredited ACBL bridge teacher and club director.

Fees are \$90 for Goward House members and \$120 for non-members. The required textbook can be purchased directly from the instructor. (Please let the front desk know if you require the textbook "Defense in the 21st Century" at registration.)

(Sorry, no refunds!)



Book Club with Susan Gilberstad

Book Club will meet **Thursday April 16th from 1:30 - 3:00 pm**. The title for discussion will be **Before We Were Yours** by Lisa Wingate.

There is a Book Club Set at the front desk. As always, one should call and ask if there is a copy in the bag before coming to sign out a book. Book Club members are encouraged to bring their copy back when they are finished reading the book to ensure that everyone is able to get a copy to read before the next meeting. Thank you, Susan Gilberstad.



Goward House presents

Michael Layland

MY PUBLISHING PATHWAY

Michael Layland recently published his fourth book related to Vancouver Island's early history. His talk will relate how he developed his fascination with this topic and his publishing journey.

Monday April 27th 2:00 pm

FREE for Members

Non-Members \$10

Please pre-register at the Front Desk

Born in London, Michael served in the Royal Engineers of the British Army for seven years, where he was a commissioned officer, and trained as a mapmaker. As a civilian, he continued working on map-related projects in Arabia, Africa, and for 13 years, in various countries of Latin America. He came to live in BC in the early 1980s, became a citizen, and married Jean, a Canadian of Scottish descent. They moved to Ten-Mile Point in 1992. Since then, he has served as president of the Victoria Historical Society, the Friends of BC Archives, and the Hampton Orchestra.



Somatic Movements for Spring Awakening for your Body with Jennifer O'Halloran

4 - week course

Thursday mornings, 10:30 - 11:30 am from April 2nd - April 23rd.

Pre-registration and payment of \$32.00 required.



MONEY MATTERS with Pam Katunar

The March session of Money Matters is Thursday April 23rd at 2:00 pm

The topic is Trust Considerations - Guest Speaker is lawyer, Damien Enright.

Hosted and presented by Heart Wealth Management of Raymond James.

Money Matters is FREE. Please pre-register at the front desk.

WEDNESDAY LUNCH SPECIALS

April

Wednesday 1st - Thai Curry Pork

Wednesday 8th - Vegetarian Chili

Wednesday 15th - Beef Lasagna

Wednesday 22nd - Russ's Perogies

Wednesday 29th - Vegetarian Lasagna



(Lunch specials are available while supply lasts. Items not sold day of may be available for take - out.)

New Day & Time

JIGSAW PUZZLE CLUB

Seeking members interested in putting together puzzles and meeting other members. All skill levels welcome!

When: first and third Monday of each month.

Time: 12:45 - 2:15

Where: Sun Room

Fee: blue ticket (first time free)



MONTHLY DRAW FOR A FREE BEVERAGE PUNCH CARD

Submit any of your used punch cards for a chance to win a FREE beverage card in our monthly draw. Simply write your name and phone number on the back of your card and give it to a kitchen volunteer or a staff member. Draws are done the last day of each month. **GOOD LUCK!**

Our March punch card draw winner was **Arlene Davey**. Congratulations!



Goward House will be closed Friday April 3rd and Monday April 6th for the Easter long weekend.



We received \$189.25 from our Purdy's easter Fundraiser. Thank you to all who participated!



Goward House is excited to offer drop in Mah Jong (Hong Kong style) every Tuesday from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We have a lot of fun and laughter. Participants meet in the Sunroom on the main floor. Beginners are welcome!

Come and try us out - the first time is free!

(a blue ticket will then be required to participate)

NEW: Over the Phone DUES Payments

As requested, members can now renew their dues over the phone! Leave your name and number with a Front Desk volunteer, and staff will call you back to facilitate payment.

Please note: as over-the-phone payments are costly, and require a staff person, we are currently limiting these kinds of payments to DUES renewals only.

FUNDRAISING - How Can You help?

You can help raise money for Goward House by loading a Fairways or Pepper's card. Fairways cards are available at the Front Desk. Once you have your card assigned, please visit customer service at a Fairway Market and have it loaded with any amount you would like. For Pepper's, please see a cashier and ask them to load a card for you and always mention that you would like the charitable portion going to Goward House. 5% percentage of the value of the cards will go to Goward House! Thank you to all the members who help raise these funds by participating.

Barry's Bottle Recycling donated \$150.00 for the month of March. Thank you, Barry for your continued support volunteering for Goward House! If you have returnable containers you'd like to donate, please call Barry at 250 888-9963. Proceeds to Goward House!



Activity Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Strength & Balance 9:00 – 10:00	Line Dancing 9:30 – 11:00	Drop in Art 8:00 – 11:30	Qigong & Mobility 9:00 – 9:30 Tai Ch Form 9:30 – 10:15	Yoga 9:30 – 10:30
Quillers 10:00 - noon	French Conversation Adv. 1:00 – 3:00	Chinese Brush Painters 9:30 – 1:00	Strength & Balance 12:00 – 1:00	Spanish Conversation Adv. 10:30 – noon
iPad & iPhone Club 10:00 – 11:30	Mah Jong 1:00 – 4:00	Duplicate Bridge 12:15 – 4:00	Social Bridge 12:30 – 4:00	Choir 1:15 – 3:15 (currently on hiatus from rehearsing)
Qigong & Mobility 10:15 – 10:45 Tai Chi Form 10:45 – 11:15 (no class April 6th & 27th)	Portrait Painters 1:15 – 4:00	Crafters 1:30 – 3:30	Book Club 1:30 – 3:00	
Social Bridge 12:30 – 4:00				
Jigsaw Puzzle Club 12:45 – 2:15 (1st & 3rd weeks)				
Meditation 2:30 – 4:00				

GOWARD HOUSE SOCIETY

Board of Directors: 2025-26 Committees

COMMITTEE	DIRECTORS
FACILITY	<i>Allan Davies, Lee Frank, Mary Collins</i>
FINANCE	<i>Mary Collins, Lee Frank, Allan Davies (& Heidi Hodgins)</i>
KITCHEN	<i>Barbara Sawyer, Joy Olesky</i>
PERSONNEL	<i>Gail Branton, Lee Frank, Mary Collins</i>
PROGRAM	<i>Mary Collins, Barbara Turner, Barbara Sawyer, Joy Olesky</i>
PUBLICITY & OUTREACH	<i>Barbara Turner, Mary Collins</i>
VOLUNTEERS, MEMBERSHIP & FRONT DESK	<i>Gail Branton, Joy Olesky, Lee Frank</i>
President: Mary Collins	Vice-President: Barbara Turner
	Secretary: Gail Branton
	Treasurer: Lee Frank

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the neighbourhood of Cadboro Bay lies, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Pantry Program - Come Join Us!

Are you interested in cooking hot lunches for our Tea Room, but unsure how to begin? Our team of chefs are quite happy to have a shadow assistant while they cook, and always happy to talk about the program!

If you would like to book a no-obligation “shadow” session, please contact Marlene at administration@gowardhouse.com



PARKING at Goward House

- 1) Please refrain from parking on the grass by the sidewalk, as well as in the garden bed by the bus stop.
These are sensitive areas easily damaged by cars.
- 2) We respectfully ask you to park straight in your parking spot.
We know the stall lines are not always easy to see – focus on the concrete header. (We lose spots when multiple drivers park on a slant.)

We have 45 spots available between our two parking lots, which is more than ample most of the time.
When we have large groups at the House, carpooling is strongly advised.

On behalf of the Staff, THANK YOU!

“Scene” Around Goward House



Vintage Fashion Showcase



The Right Honourable Joe Clark