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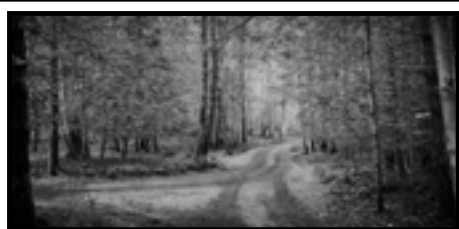
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Cover image:
Returning on the Maple Park Trail

by Mark Prior
printartphotography.ca

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*The opinions expressed herein do not
necessarily reflect the views of the
Publisher.*

FILM SCREENING

Calling All People- The Story of TemPest Grace Gale

By Hollie McGowan

Born in California and raised on Hornby Island, B.C., TemPest was a creative powerhouse—a spoken word artist, musician, puppeteer, and activist—

who captivated audiences across North America. She performed alongside DOA, No Means No, Ember Swift, CR Avery, and Joey Only, inspiring countless people with her raw talent and fearless pursuit of truth.

In her powerful poem "Calling All People," TemPest issued a radical call to action—a plea to unite against oppression and work together to heal the planet. But in 2009, at just 25 years old, her life was tragically cut short when she was found dead in Ford Cove Marina. Her case remains unresolved, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire artists, activists, and communities today.

Through rare footage, intimate interviews, and powerful storytelling, this documentary explores her life, her art, and the impact she left behind. Come be part of the conversation, honor her story, and experience the spirit of TemPest that still moves through us all.

Location: Denman Island Community Hall

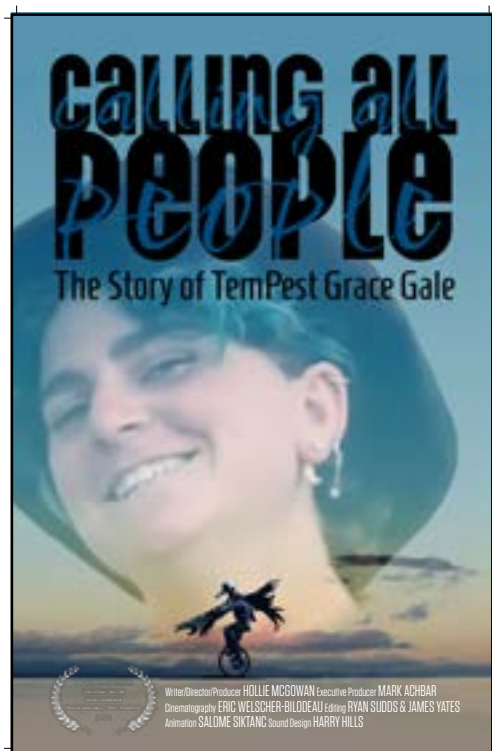
Date: Sunday June 1st

Price: sliding scale \$10-20, tickets sold at the door.

Times: Matinee at 12:00 (doors at 11:30am), and

Evening screening at
7:00pm (doors 6:30pm)

Q & A's at 1:00pm and at 8pm



TIG's dedication to providing our communities free fire starter would be rendered moot if we didn't have our mail workers to deliver it. We've ridden their backs for almost 34 years now and support them in their fight for a new and fair deal.

Regardless of what transpires in these days ahead The Grapevine will continue unabated. **Should it be that posties return to the picket line we'll leave a modest stack of hardcopies at the General Store and Co-op each Thursday morning** and, *though admittedly not as combustible*, a .pdf of each week's issue can be accessed at <https://theislandsgrapevine.com>. Go ahead and check it out.

But for those of you who really prefer burning your Grapevine, should postal workers strike you'll need to download the file and then print it up yourself.

Either way, "See you next Thursday!"

The Encampments

By Eartha Muirhead

Please come out to the Community Hall on Fr day, May 30th at 5 for a benefit supper and film at 6 to support Sara Kishawi, who was suspended for two years from Vancouver Island University for her advocacy for Palestinian rights. Sara is a Palestinian Muslim woman who was a leader at VIU's Palestinian Solidarity Encampment, and suspended for her involvement in a series of actions promoting Palestinian human rights. Ms. Kishawi participated in a sit-in, put up "un-sanctioned" posters, climbed a ladder to straighten a banner and other student activities. She was suspended for two years, during which time she cannot access her academic records or apply for further schooling. Of all the people who engaged in these actions, Palestinian students who were leaders of VIU's encampment were the only ones to face suspensions, despite dozens of settlers involved in actions similar to the ones that Sara was suspended for.

This racial profiling and selective punishment mirrors similar arrests and suspensions across US campuses. Columbia University in New York alone has suspended 65 students. Hunger strikes are spreading now that police brutality and harsh penalties have had a chilling effect on the encampment movement. The Denman Palestinian Solidarity group is showing the documentary, The Encampments, produced by Watermelon Productions in 2025, which looks at some of the history of protest at Columbia and some of the peoples lives who have been impacted recently. Student protesters claim that Columbia incites racial violence against them and are being labelled "anti-Semitic" meanwhile Mahmoud Khalil, arrested at Columbia, without charges, on March 15, remains in custody, one thousand miles away from his newborn son.



Sara has filed a judicial review of her suspension with the BC Supreme Court seeking that her suspension be canceled on the grounds that it is a disproportionate and draconian response to her actions. VIU has previously argued that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not apply to their discipline of students, despite the significant impacts that suspensions can have on students. Denman lawyer Noah Ross is representing Sara in this litigation. Sara was suspended based on VIU's non-academic misconduct policy. Universities across British Columbia have instituted non-academic misconduct policies and this litigation is one of the first cases to challenge University discipline based on these policies. For more information or If you cannot attend but can help with fundraising, donations can be sent via e-transfer to ejmuirhead4@gmail.com.

TIDE TABLE		
• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove • • Source: tides.gc.ca •		
2025-05-22 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:24	4.521	14.8
09:26	2.205	7.2
15:00	3.475	11.4
20:25	2.353	7.7
2025-05-23 (Fri)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
02:54	4.538	14.9
10:03	1.634	5.4
16:25	3.809	12.5
21:29	2.700	8.9
2025-05-24 (Sat)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:25	4.574	15.0
10:43	1.063	3.5
17:35	4.189	13.7
22:31	3.014	9.9
2025-05-25 (Sun)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:58	4.615	15.1
11:24	0.556	1.8
18:34	4.543	14.9
23:30	3.272	10.7
2025-05-26 (Mon)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
04:34	4.637	15.2
12:06	0.167	0.5
19:27	4.825	15.8
2025-05-27 (Tue)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
00:27	3.454	11.3
05:13	4.619	15.2
12:49	-0.065	-0.2
20:17	5.013	16.4
2025-05-28 (Wed)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
01:24	3.558	11.7
05:56	4.543	14.9
13:32	-0.122	-0.4
21:05	5.107	16.8
2025-05-29 (Thu)		
Time	PDT (m)	(ft)
03:22	3.536	11.6
07:33	4.185	13.7
15:01	0.255	0.8
22:37	5.074	16.6

Shucking Oysters: **How Illuminating**

By Alex Allen

“There's another disadvantage to the use of the flashlight: like many other mechanical gadgets it tends to separate a man from the world around him. If I switch it on my eyes adapt to it and I can see only the small pool of light it makes in front of me; I am isolated. Leaving the flashlight in my pocket where it belongs, I remain a part of the environment I walk through and my vision though limited has no sharp or definite boundary.”

- Edward Abbey, Desert Solitaire

You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your neighbours. We all know this bon mot. Some of us are extremely lucky. Most of our neighbours are mindful when it comes to noise, like using power tools and playing loud music. But there is one area, where we all seem to suffer in silence. The neighbour's ubiquitous exterior lights pointing aggressively at our properties. These exterior lights have nothing to do with home security – more like home insecurity. Why else would you have a 3000K metal halide lamp shining outwards all night long while you are fast asleep?

Artificial light has been a problem since the light bulb was invented. From street lights to sporting stadiums to flaring gas in oil fields, light pollution affects around a quarter of the Earth's surface. The invention of light-emitting diodes, LEDs, has further exacerbated the problem. “One of the biggest things is the cheapness of LED lights,” said Bernie Hasselman, a member of the light pollution abatement committee with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. “Bright white gives off a lot of blue light and blue light is... a serotonin inhibitor.”

“You might look at LEDs and think, “This is great because it's so low energy usage compared with everything else. You get a lot more light for the amount of energy.” Hasselman warns us that we can quickly run into a concept known as Jevons' Paradox. This happens when things get easier or cheaper to use, we start using them even more, resulting in the unintended consequences of technological progress and resource utilization.

Local laws governing outdoor lighting vary. The CVRD passed a dark sky policy in 2007 to “guide commercial, industrial and multi-family residential development to have exterior lighting that does not negatively impact the quality of life for adjacent neighbours nor create any light pollution.” In 2022, the UBCM endorsed amending the BC Building Code to give local governments control on regulating lighting fixtures – including intensity and direction – for all new construction and major renovations. Islands Trust have also had discussions this past year on implementing a dark sky policy.



According to a 2025 University of Helsinki study, artificial light influences not only humans but also wildlife. Migration is critical for many bird species, ensuring they reach breeding and feeding grounds essential for their life cycle. Disruptions caused by artificial light threaten their ability to complete these journeys, ultimately impacting bird populations and biodiversity. The loss of even a fraction of migratory birds can have ripple effects on ecosystems, affecting everything from insect populations to plant pollination.

Oliver Millman writes in *The Insect Crisis*, that “the link between action and consequence can seem a little blurred.” Flicking on the porch light “doesn't immediately provoke a wave of guilt over food shortages and scores of tormented creatures.” But light pollution is one of the “most *continued on P.9...*

Conscious Dying *My mother was my first teacher in conscious dying. Her courage, her faith and her absolute trust in the process was an inspiration. In her final days she remained present to every little nuance of the process; the pain in her body, the love in her heart, the expectancy of the relief that lay ahead, the joy of, "meeting her Maker" and her grief.*

By Olivia Rose

It was a collision of sorrow and beauty. She took me with her into the liminal space between worlds and I was spell-bound.

On her last day she wept as she said, "I'm not afraid to die dear, I just don't want to say goodbye."

Nobody wants to say goodbye to everything they've ever known. It's difficult to leave this rich and wonderful life. That's why we must practice the Art of Dying now, today. Dying well takes practice.

Mother's death inspired me to create Sacred Crossings to help change the culture of death and dying. I wanted to nudge people out of fear, dread and denial into an informed and peaceful surrender. That was twenty years ago. Although things are slowly changing, most of the people I 'm called to visit on their death bed still haven't given dying much thought. When they realize the end is inevitable, now, the shock and grief overwhelm them which causes great suffering.

Our pain is physical but our suffering is mental. Pain can almost always be mitigated with pain medication but people still die suffering. They are tormented by unexamined thoughts, feelings and beliefs about death and the dying process. This creates anxiety, exacerbates pain and incurs heavy sedation which disconnects them from the actual dying process.

So what can we do?

We can face and embrace our dying *today* and examine what might be lurking in the unconscious mind and We can apply skills and practices in our everyday life that will help us accept, allow and surrender to allow us a conscious dying without suffering. We can build our courage by facing our fears and embracing 'not knowing'. We can open our being to receive our death with arms outstretched. Willing and ready for whatever is next.

When we give birth we make a birth plan outlining our wishes for how we want to be treated. We find a birth doula to support us through the process and give us tools to relax and surrender to the process. When we know we are dying, we need to make a death plan and find a death doula to help us 'put our things in order,' and help us relax and surrender so we can die peacefully.

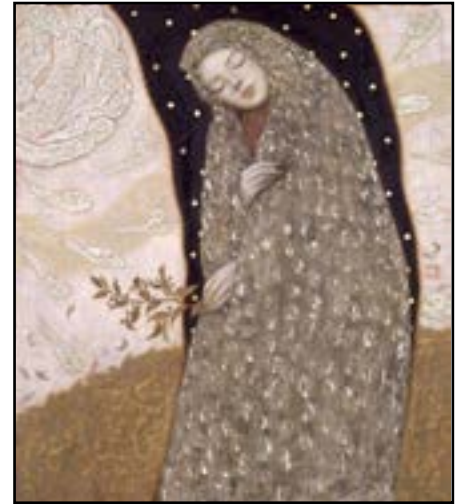
I believe if everyone supported three close friends or relatives on their dying journey we would be less fearful about our own dying and begin to embrace death as birth, with excited anticipation. Anyone can be the death doula for a loved-one with just a little education.

Please join me for a free talk about this important subject.

June 1, 1pm – 3pm in the Backhall

"To die proudly when it is no longer possible to live proudly. Death of one's own free choice, death at the proper time, with a clear head and with joyfulness, consummated in the midst of children and witnesses: so that an actual leave-taking is possible while he who is leaving is still there"- Friedrich Nietzsche

Olivia is an ordained inter-faith minister, death doula, home funeral guide and celebrant. She is founder of Sacred Crossings, The Institute for Conscious Dying and the Sacred Crossings Alternative Funeral Home. For more information, please visit: Sacredcrossings.com



Call To Action-Write to: *Please support my March 15 request to the Auditor General for an audit of the B.C. Government's administration of the cable ferry by writing to bcauditor@bcauditor.com*
By Sharon Small

The AG's conclusions in his 1999 audit of the fast ferries that the B.C. Government failed to provide adequate governance and risk management mirror those involving the cable ferry. This audit, which the press characterized as the most scathing rebuke of government ever, triggered immediate action as the fast ferries are believed to be somewhere in Egypt now. <https://www.oag.bc.ca/a-review-of-the-fast-ferry-project-governance-and-risk-management/>

March 29, 2025

Dear Honourable Transportation Minister Farnworth:

This follows up your February 26, 2025 response to my multiple requests for government action involving the unreliable Baynes Sound Connector. Your response that you can only forward my appeals to CEO Jimenez confirms a continuing breakdown of governance that is strikingly similar to the conclusions drawn by the BC Auditor General in his 1999 *A Review of the Fast Ferries: Governance and Risk Management*.

The following similarities between BCF and government actions involving the fast ferries and the Baynes Sound Connector confirm a need for stronger governance:

Failure to thoroughly research feasibility: in 2013 BCF and the provincial government rushed to pursue building a cable ferry based on the expectation of saving tax dollars. Strong opposition from previous CEOs and government officials and from industry experts who predicted that a cable ferry could not do the job was ignored. BCF's plans to stretch the cable ferry to accommodate increased need, indicate a continuing failure to thoroughly research feasibility.

Failure to create a risk management plan: rather than having a risk management plan in case the cable ferry experiment failed, BCF temporarily patches up unresolved mechanical issues and then gaslights both government and the public that the problems are being resolved. BCF's intent to stretch the vessel, characterized by industry experts as preposterous, suggests BCF has not created a risk management plan for stretching.

Failure to thoroughly research operating costs: the cable ferry costs **\$5.9M** annually to operate rather than the projected **\$230,000** that gained government approval for the vessel. This projected cost failed to include expenses for future capacity needs or anticipated and unanticipated cable replacements. Although BCF remains secretive about the expenses for and frequency of cable replacement, experts speculate that a set of three that are shipped from abroad costs \$900,000 and that a few years ago the cables had been replaced sixteen times. Failure to anticipate increased costs for stretching and for heavier cables calls for thorough research.

Failure to release information: currently there are **34 pending FOI requests** that BCF and the government have not released. The released data for 2016- 2019 is confusing and so heavily redacted that the expenses for and the number of cable replacements are redacted. Withholding information is also indicated by the absence of evidence in annual cable ferry service reports to the Commissioner that contradicts the repeated claim that the vessel provides service on a par with conventional vessels. In violation of a Commissioner directive, BCF refused to explain for over a month last December why service was reduced on Route 21 or inform islanders when full service would resume.

Failure to submit accurate records: the released FOI data for 2016 - 2019 includes thirty pages of cancellations due to mechanical breakdowns, but in reports to the Commissioner BCF under-reports cancellations and repeats claims about service that is contradicted by the evidence. Although insiders claim that the cable ferry has the highest number of mechanical breakdowns and service reductions in the fleet, BCF recorded zero cancellations for Route 21 in the 2023 Annual Service Report to the Commissioner.

Failure of governance: the Commissioner and the Minister of Transportation publicly acknowledge their acceptance of BCF's conflicting reports and claims. Responses to nine years of evidence-based complaints from islanders, our FAC, and from industry experts have generally been silence or repeating

...continued on P.7...

...continued from P.6

BCF marketing slogans and claiming a lack of authority to compel BCF to replace the cable ferry. Evidently, the Commissioner has the legal authority to issue directives like dramatically improving collaboration with the Ferry Advisory Committees, but lacks enforcement authority. Further, your support of BCF's claim that a digital system will be more inclusive is not trusted by Islanders, the eighteen sacked FAC chairs who gave BCF a failing grade for meaningful engagement right before BCF sacked them, or those who reported that the February 2025 engagement events were disorganized and a waste of time. Given this period of grave economic uncertainty, the staggering current and future expenses for transporting and replacing sets of steel cables from abroad each year, alone, should argue for improved governance and risk management planning. Transportation Minister Farnworth, I ask again, "What can you do to improve governance so that Denman and Hornby islanders are assured safe and reliable ferry service on Route 21?"

Respectfully,
Sharon Small.

Auditor General Appeal

I am appealing to the office of the Auditor General to examine the financial records of the B.C. Ferries Commissioner and Minister of Transportation with respect to their support of B.C. Ferries keeping an unsafe, unreliable, and costly Baynes Sound Connector cable ferry in iffy service. Currently the B.C. Ombudsperson is conducting an investigation into the Commissioner's failure to hold BCF accountable.

The following gaps between BCF decision-making involving the cable ferry experiment in service and the evidence of the cost to taxpayers call also for an Auditor General investigation:

The gap between the anticipated cost of \$230,000 annually for the Baynes Sound Connector operating expenses and the \$5.9 million annual cost submitted in non published reports to the Commissioner.

The gap between BCF service reports indicating in 2023 that there were zero cancellations on Route 21 and evidence that the cable ferry is responsible for the most mechanical-related cancellations and repair costs in the fleet. FOI data released from 2016 - 2019 includes thirty pages of cancellations that draw on tax dollars that are not recorded in posted annual reports to the Commissioner.

The 2023 Anderson Review, authorized by the Commissioner, lists the cable ferry's unresolved design issues and much higher than anticipated operating costs. Each time the chaotic effect of lengthy cancellations is covered in the media, the corporation gaslights with claims that the cable ferry's problems are being resolved and that its service record is the same as that of conventional vessels. Evidence of operating costs refute this view. See media reports last May when a cable fell off on a windless day. This service interruption created significant chaos, anguish and personal expenses for many islanders.

Although the Commissioner directed the corporation to report service interruptions transparently and promptly to all customers, the more than one month-long significant 30% reduction in service last December has yet to be acknowledged by either BCF or the Commissioner. Staff, moreover, were ordered to remain silent during this anxious period. Evidently this reduction was due to BCF finally dealing with a sham fire suppression system.

The gap between BCF's claims that the cable ferry is safe and provides service on a par with conventional ferries and the evidence. For example, a cable could fall off in winds higher than 39 knots and evidently is currently in service without a reliable fire suppression system that can be used when in operation. The threat of an electric vehicle catching fire remains a significant safety concern.

<https://www.bcferrycommission.ca/performance-reviews/>

continued on P.8...

...continued from P.7

The gap between corporate claims that the mechanical problems were merely teething issues and the ongoing secrecy involving the frequent replacement of the cables. Replacing a set of cables is estimated at \$900M. The 2013 \$250,000 estimate of anticipated annual operating expenses evidently did not include the regular replacement of the lead cable every three years or the numerous unanticipated full set replacements due to the cables bruising on the sea floor or other unanticipated mechanical reasons. **A retired master skipper estimated a few years ago that the cables had already been replaced sixteen times.** Because they are replaced in secret and at night, the corporation will not provide emergency service to Route 21. Early cable replacements were explained away as merely teething issues. The fiscal evidence will show, however, that the teething issue is a chronic condition that costs taxpayers millions.

The gap between the laws regarding FOI requests and the Commissioner and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's pattern of ignoring requests. Currently there are thirty-four pending FOI requests to BCF for access to how much the cable ferry costs taxpayers. The one recently released set of data from 2016 - 2019 was heavily redacted without an explanation, as required by the FOI Act. Neither the Commissioner nor Minister Farnworth has responded to my request, mailed over thirty days ago, for either a release of this data or an explanation as to why the data can't be released. (BCF has apparently eliminated the department that formerly handled FOI requests.)

The gap between how tax money provided to support the corporation's legal directive to engage meaningfully with ferry dependent communities and evidence that this money supports a less expensive autocratic decision-making model. The report of the Denman/Hornby Ferry Advisory Committee chair on the recent "engagement" event provides supporting evidence that the corporation has failed to move beyond the gathering feedback and reporting stage of the engagement process to include community feedback in decision-making. (See on the Commissioner's website re the failing grade the Ferry Advisory Committees gave BCF and the Commissioner's prompt directive to BCF to improve community engagement by engaging more meaningfully with the FACs.)

Instead of following her directive, BCF axed the committees without any preliminary discussion by claiming their new digital engagement model would be more inclusive. The Commissioner has not responded to requests for an explanation re BCF's violation of her directive. Attached is the Denman/Hornby FAC chair's report on the recent "engagement" events that provide evidence that the corporation is continuing to "engage" autocratically and not a more costly democratic model.

The gap between fiscal responsibility and irrational decision-making regarding BCF's resolve to keep the cable ferry in service. To date the corporation appears to be considering stretching the cable ferry rather than replacing it. BCF justifies this irrational costly decision on the fact that some money for stretching is included in the current budget. Given the increases in operating costs since 2020, the cost of stretching will be significantly more than anticipated. In addition, since stretching involves installing a heavier engine and heavier cables, its current slow motion speed will be reduced even more and will necessitate using more fossil fuel.

Denman and Hornby residents who have been stuck with unreliable ferry service for a decade look forward to your response to this appeal for an investigation into the BCF Commissioner and the Transportation Minister's administrative practices with respect to the Baynes Sound cable ferry.

Respectfully,
Sharon Small,
On behalf of Denman and Hornby residents.



...continued from P.4 intractable problems for insects.” If those LED lights hurt your eyes, what do you think it’s doing to a moth?

If you still need more proof, read *The Darkness Manifesto: On Light Pollution, Night Ecology, and the Ancient Rhythms that Sustain Life*, by Swedish conservationist, Johan Eklöf, who urges us to appreciate the natural darkness, its creatures, and its unique benefits. Eklöf shows the “startling domino effect of diminishing darkness: insects, dumbfounded by streetlamps, failing to reproduce; birds blinded and bewildered by artificial lights; and bats starving as they wait in vain for insects that only come out in the dark.”

On Hornby, we have the worst exhibit of unnecessary obnoxious exterior lighting. Just drive up or down Sollans and pass the Cop Shop (as we affectionately call the building) and experience the sensory blinding floodlights. I have been lobbying for over 12 years for the RCMP to switch to motion sensor lighting. Once again I’m informed it’s all about safety, yet glaring, blinding floodlights while your driving is not.

Here’s a solution for all you insecure homeowners: motion sensor lights (aimed downward and shielded). These units not only turn on upon detecting movement and save you electricity costs, but they won’t piss your neighbours off either. It’s all about thoughtful practices and responsible illumination. Now, will the last person on the planet please turn off the lights?



Congratulations Barry Ray!

Winner of
Denman Hardware's
Spring Fling
BBQ Raffle...

...or was it for
winning
Best Salsa Dancer?



Denman Community
Housing Society

A Community Land Trust

NOTICE TO DENMAN COMMUNITY OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please attend our first Annual General Meeting of the
Denman Community Housing Society on
Thursday, June 12th, 7-9pm in the Back Hall.
Following the AGM, we look forward to providing an update on
the Denman Green project as well as telling you about the
proposed Works Yard affordable housing project.

We look forward to seeing you.

For more information about the AGM,
please call or email our board chair, Pam Willis.
250 335 9016 willis.pamela@gmail.com

Kugel would complain that time was behaving poorly.

By Gabriel Jeroschewitz

May 4th, 2025

*Dedicated to my stepfather.
And all the Humans and their families
whose loved ones have had
Dementia or Alzheimer's*

LITERARY

The street was not so much a street as a misunderstanding between buildings. It curved upon itself without logic, presenting unexpected dead ends and sudden, pointless widenings where a few tired cobbles lay scattered like discarded teeth. Here lived people accustomed to the gentle, persistent pressure of the improbable nudging against the everyday. We, who watched from windows draped with lace yellowed by time rather than dust, had learned to see the world through a particular kind of lens, one that magnified the peculiar and allowed the merely ordinary to fade into a blurry background.

Our street, which had no name anyone bothered to remember consistently, housed, among other quiet marvels, the family of Mr. Kugel. Mr. Kugel, a man whose beard seemed less like hair and more like spun brass filings, was a retired watchmaker. But his retirement was not one of leisure; it was a deep, obsessive dive into the very fabric of time itself. He maintained a small, cluttered workshop at the back of his narrow house, its single window facing our row, often glowing late into the night with a weak oil lamp.

It began subtly. Mr. Kugel would complain that time was behaving poorly. It was, he insisted, unruly. Minutes lingered when they should have hurried. Hours vanished behind the back of the sun. He spoke of time not as a river, but as a capricious bird, prone to fluttering away or perching stubbornly where it wasn't wanted. His initial efforts were conventional enough – regulating clocks, oiling gears. But these were merely skirmishes. He soon escalated to the full-blown war he waged daily against the temporal disorder he perceived.

His most ambitious project involved collecting what he termed "stray moments." According to Mr. Kugel, time often detached itself from the general flow, particularly around old, neglected, or deeply thought-about objects. An antique armchair, for instance, could hold decades. A forgotten teacup might brim with a Sunday afternoon from years past. He developed an intricate capture system, using nets woven from fine copper wire and jars of various sizes lined with velvet to cushion the fragile moments he trapped.

We, his neighbours, watched from our windows, initially with polite amusement, then with a growing, uneasy fascination. We would see Mr. Kugel stalking his small garden, net in hand, making sudden, awkward lunges at a particularly ancient rose bush or a discarded gardening boot. He would carefully transfer his invisible catch into a jar, screw the lid shut with a triumphant, if slightly breathless, flourish, and label it meticulously. Labels like "Fragment of Last Thursday's Rain," "Half an Hour Lost Near the Cistern," or worryingly, "Unknown Moment, Possibly from the Early 1900s."

The true comedy, however, began when Mr. Kugel started using these moments. He believed he could reintroduce them into the world and redistribute them for greater temporal harmony. If he felt a morning was dragging, he might open a jar labelled "Three Brisk Minutes from a Monday." We would all experience a strange, sudden urge to hurry, a feeling of skipping a heartbeat in the day's rhythm. If he deployed "A Leisurely Quarter Hour from a Sunday Nap," the street would collectively yawn, and even the most diligent peddlers would find themselves leaning against walls, eyes glazed with unexpected drowsiness.

The memorable incident was with the "Lost Fortnight from Behind the Wardrobe." Mr. Kugel had found this significant chunk of time lurking in the neglected corner of a large, dusty armoire. Convinced it was too valuable to waste, he released it slowly, adding a little to each day. The result was catastrophic. Our days became elongated, elastic things. The sun would take an eternity to cross the sky. Meals seemed to last for hours. Children forgot the day of the week, their games stretching into timeless, weary marathons. People developed an unsettling stillness, a tendency to pause mid-stride, mid-sentence, as if waiting for the borrowed fortnight to catch up. Mr. Kugel, oblivious in his workshop, merely noted that time felt "unusually viscous" and began brewing special teas he claimed would help the minutes flow more freely.

His relationship with objects deepened as well. Following his peculiar logic, he believed that objects didn't just store time, but were sometimes repositories for other, more fundamental principles. For

continued on P.11...

...continued from P.10 instance, a particular chair in his living room was not merely furniture; he declared it the essence of "waiting." One could sit in it, but its purpose was to embody expectation. He would talk to it, asking how long it had been waiting, what exactly it was waiting for. The chair, naturally, offered no reply, but Mr. Kugel nodded sagely, interpreting its silence as profound.

His boots, scuffed and worn, were deemed by him to be "distilled journeys." He would polish them with reverence, recalling every path they had taken, every puddle they had encountered. Sometimes, he claimed, if he listened closely, he could hear the echo of distant marketplaces or forest paths emanating from the soles. His wife, a weary woman who moved through their house like a sigh made visible, ironed pillowcases and pretended not to hear her husband's conversations with footwear.

The most comical, and perhaps unsettling, phase came when Mr. Kugel decided that specific individuals on the street were not entirely themselves, but were somehow 'composites' of various materials and forgotten intentions. He peered at people with a critical eye, as if assessing the fabric quality or the spring's tension. Old Mrs. Dresner, with her sharp angles and perpetually creased face, he declared was "mostly newspaper, with a binding of dried glue." He would approach her cautiously, murmuring about print quality and the dangers of dampness. Young Josef, the baker's boy, with his cheerful plumpness, was clearly "kneaded dough, still rising," and Mr. Kugel once tried to pat him down, explaining the importance of even fermentation.

He concluded that his body was a complex mechanism prone to the usual ailments of flesh and bone and mechanical failures. A creak in his knee was a joint needing oiling, and a headache was a gear slipping. He developed a peculiar tick, where his head would jerk sideways every few seconds, like a clock resetting its pendulum. He insisted it was a vital function, keeping his internal time synchronized.

These were the times we found ourselves stifling laughter behind cupped hands, or turning quickly from the window lest he catch us watching. Yet, there was a strange dignity in Mr. Kugel's madness. He pursued his theories with such earnest conviction, such meticulous, if misapplied, logic, that it lent his bizarre activities an unavoidable, undeniable reality within the confines of our street. His house became a temporal anomaly, its internal rhythm decoupled from the rest of the world. Visitors would leave feeling subtly jet-lagged, convinced they had arrived too early or late for their appointment.

The hourglass became a particularly potent symbol for him. He acquired several, placing them on every available surface. He didn't see them as measuring time's passage, but as miniaturized landscapes where time could be observed falling, grain by grain. He spent hours watching the sand, claiming to discern individual moments in their descent – tiny, shimmering specks of the past accumulating into the growing mound of the future. His fascination with the falling sand often made him forget practical matters, standing motionless for long stretches. At the same time, dinner burned, or a customer waited patiently for a clock repair that he would never begin.



Life on our street under the informal reign of Mr. Kugel's temporal experiments was a constant negotiation with the absurd. We checked our watches exaggeratedly, trying to anchor ourselves to external time. We learned to interpret the sudden silences or bursts of activity on the street as indicators of which "moment jar" Mr. Kugel might have opened. We lived, in essence, under the sign of his peculiar hourglass, where reality was not a fixed quantity but a fluid, malleable substance, constantly being reformed by the strange, earnest hands of a retired watchmaker who saw the world not just as it was, but as it might be, if only time would behave itself. And in this bizarre, comic world, perhaps, we understood time and ourselves a little better than those who only lived in the measured, predictable flow. For in our street, the clock didn't just tick; sometimes, if you listened carefully, it sighed. 🍇

Phoenix Riting!

There are so many important topics to talk about right now that I feel stuck choosing what to focus on. But sure, let's talk about short-term rentals again, since it's back up for discussion.

Yes, we should cap the number of permitted short-term vacation rentals.

We live on an island with limited resources, particularly water. That alone creates a natural limit on what our environment can support. If we don't proactively manage our usage, we risk running out of the most essential resource for life. Nobody wants that. So we need to limit the number of vacation rentals.

We're also seeing a rise in year-round residents, many of whom now work from home. A walk through Sandpiper, Whaling Station, or Galleon Beach in the winter makes this clear; lights are on, people are home. It's a wonderful thing for our community, but it also adds pressure on our shared resources. At the same time, it's understandable that people want to benefit from Hornby's tradition of renting to visitors to help cover their mortgages. But in the past, when there were fewer people, less was used. People lived closer to the land, with fewer luxuries. There were more 'not to code' homes: hand-built cabins, off-grid solutions, simple dwellings that made minimal demands on infrastructure. This allowed for flexibility and room for exceptions. But now, with a larger population and stricter regulations, that logic no longer applies. What once worked when only a few participated becomes unsustainable when everyone does it. That's the tragedy of the commons.

Our current reality calls for a new approach, one that balances personal needs with collective responsibility so we don't destroy the very things that make this island such a desirable place to live.

The trouble is, people used to come here for a rough, rugged, back-to-the-land lifestyle. Hand-built homes, water catchment systems, weekly baths, and gardens watered carefully, plant by plant. That way of life was once the norm. Now, million-dollar architect-designed homes are becoming more common. Regulations meant to ensure safety end up enforcing urban building standards that make community-led, affordable housing projects nearly impossible. No more cob houses, no more slowly built cabins with imperfect corners, no more artistic homes pieced together with salvaged materials.

Times have changed, and we have to change with them. We can mourn the old world, but we don't get to have it back as it was. And these expensive dream homes are water hogs. Lush gardens filled with non-native flowers, ornamental trees, and thirsty landscaping draw heavily from our limited water supply. I'd love to see regulations that mandate native-only plantings and water-wise buildings. Maybe some already exist, and certainly there are builders and residents working on eco-conscious homes and catchment systems, but it's not yet the norm. Most people pay lip service to water conservation without fully grasping what it really means.

We can't dictate how people live in their homes, but we can regulate short-term rentals, which swell the population during the very months when water is scarcest. We can and should impose limits. In fact, it's common for communities like ours to restrict short-term vacation rentals far more tightly than what's being proposed here. Hornby has been the exception for a long time, but that can't continue.

To minimize hardship, I'd like to see a path that allows those who've long relied on renting out their homes to continue doing so. But no new ones. That loophole needs to be closed. No more permits for new owners planning to finance homes they can't afford through rentals that harm our island's ecosystem.

Is that fair? It's not about fair. It's about what's sustainable for our land, our water, and our future. It's about recognizing the hard limits imposed by nature, and learning to live within them, together, as a community.



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Imagine If Gaza Was Jewish And The People Bombing It Were Muslims

By Caitlin Johnstone

May 5th, 2025

OPINION

Gaza just endured one of its worst days of bombing since the beginning of Israel's genocidal onslaught, with the IDF ramping up aggressions as it prepares for the full military capture of the enclave.

On Thursday the United Nations rejected the US-Israeli plan for delivering aid to the besieged Palestinian territory. The plan has been slammed as a transparent attempt to use food to lure Gaza's starving population southward into a concentrated area to prepare them for deportation, i.e. ethnic

cleansing.

If Gaza was populated by Jews and the people massacring its inhabitants were Muslims, nobody would have any trouble calling this thing what it is. The words "genocide" and "Holocaust" would've been appearing in the news every single day for the last 19 months.

Except we all know it wouldn't have gone on for 19 months. In the eyes of the western empire, there are some people who may be murdered with mass military violence, and others who may not be. There are some types of children who can be photographed with their ribcages sticking out because of deliberately inflicted starvation without causing much of a stir, and there are other types of children for whom such photographs would shake the earth.

In the eyes of the western empire, Jews are considered fully human, while Muslims and Arabs are not. A massacre of Jews is a terrible, unforgivable atrocity which cries out to the heavens for limitless vengeance, while Israel's daily massacres of Palestinians merit nothing more than a footnote.

If Gaza was populated by Jews and the people conducting these daily massacres were Muslims, the western empire would have long ago intervened to stop this. Instead we get swamp monsters like Steve Witkoff recycling the bogus Biden administration line that "the Israeli government is a sovereign government; they can't tell us what to do and we can't tell them what to do," and Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying he's "concerned" about the humanitarian situation in Gaza but doesn't see any alternatives—just like his predecessor Antony Blinken constantly did.

It's so glaringly, painfully obvious what we're looking at. So completely blatant and undisguised. The only thing keeping people from seeing this genocide for what it is and calling a spade a spade is the fact that its victims happen to belong to a religion and an ethnicity that has been systematically dehumanized for decades in order to justify the acts of mass military violence that have been aggressively normalized in our collective psychology. Westerners have been indoctrinated by domestic propaganda into seeing Arabs and Muslims as less than human, in much the same way Israelis themselves have been.

It's so gross and uncomfortable to have to keep finding new ways to say "Imagine if this was happening to a population you actually care about," but it seems like that's the only way a lot of people are going to open their eyes and look at this thing. Until you begin to entertain the possibility that the people suffering in Gaza might actually be similar to you and the people you consider human, it's just going to be a big blind spot for you.

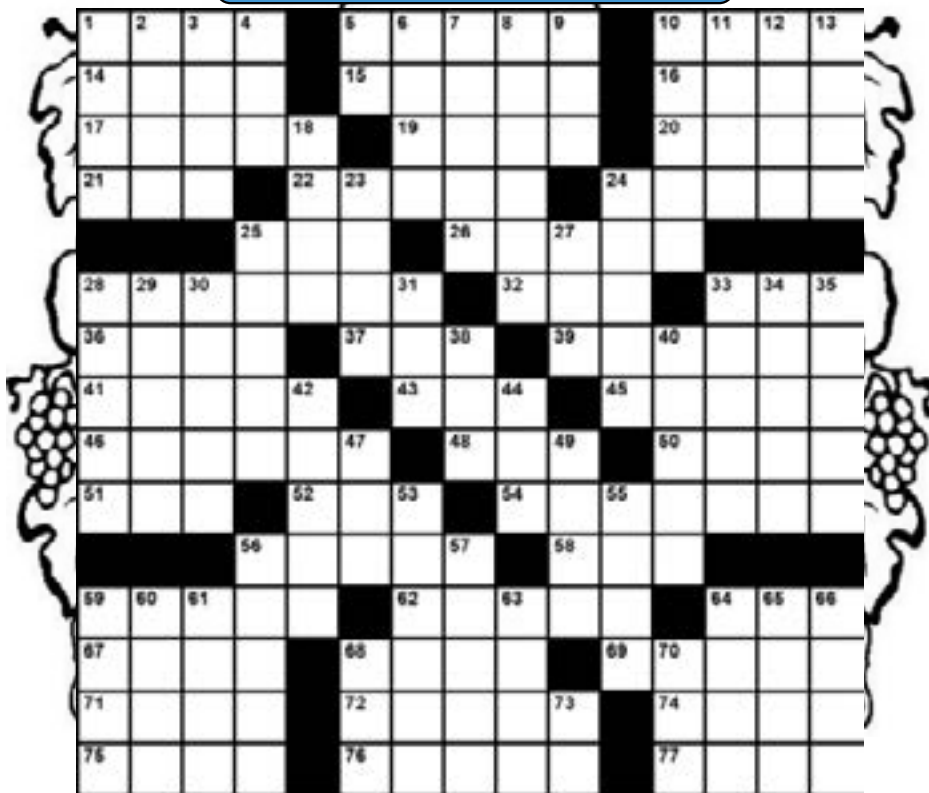
It should not be necessary to do this. It should be obvious to all of us that humans are humans regardless of their race or religion or any other way they might show up as a bit different from us. We should all have been taught this as young children.

But that's where we're at as a civilization right now. A genocide happening right in front of us, and people like me going "Imagine if they belonged to a religion that you HAVEN'T been trained to fear and despise!"

It's undignified, and it says ugly things about our society that this is still one of the most effective ways to get this message across. But we can only begin the journey toward a healthy world from where we are standing here and now.



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Pleads
5. Be in unity
10. Begged
14. Charisma
15. Without conclusion
16. Canter leisurely
17. Sell for
19. Preposition
20. Extra seed coating
21. Over there
22. Cow part
24. Chop finely
25. Worldwide labor org.
26. Chuck's follower
28. Embarrassing situations
32. Actor O'Brien
33. Govt. cops
36. Frost creation
37. Alcoholic drink
39. Crab walks
41. Fine steeds
43. Bard's before
45. Something unessential
46. Describe
48. Blue above
50. At some prior time
51. Ar chaser
52. Uris novel, with The
54. Flint implements
56. French love
58. Barnyard tyke
59. Cable arts channel

62. Defiant reply
64. Cultural collection
67. Ascetic practice
68. Exemplify
69. A plant hormone
71. Spelling on TV
72. Big vessel
74. Mud deposit
75. Abbr. after a list
76. Halloween ride
77. Being, in philosophy

• DOWN •

1. One on the bottle
2. Continental coin
3. Broad beam
4. Bernardino beginner
5. Only
6. Adjective for no news
7. Avoid expiration
8. Catch in a setup
9. Ancient Tokyo
10. Ordinary
11. Desolate, once
12. Big story
13. Editor's order
18. Big swallow
23. Busy fellow
24. Artistic feature
25. Metrical unit
27. Ammonia, e.g.
28. Dig
29. Apple leftovers
30. Gathers, as crops
31. Writer Grafton
33. Lighter need
34. Gush forth
35. Atolls
38. Bridal title
40. R2-d2 or C-3PO, e.g.
42. Sad sack
44. Barely manage
47. Ultimate principle of the universe
49. Garment piece
53. Family namesake

55. Ankara dollar
56. Be of profit
57. Fashionable again
59. Computer unit
60. Act like a fan
61. Pearl Mosque city
63. D.C. denial
64. Bygone alliance
65. Musician Lofgren
66. Add to the pot
68. Airport sight
70. Avail oneself of
73. Be

• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

	6		9					3
3	5			1			9	8
8			3					
9								
	4	3	2		8	5	7	
								2
					2			6
2	1			5			3	7
7					6		8	

• Last Week's Answers •

5	1	2	6	7	9	8	4	3
8	9	6	2	4	3	7	1	5
4	7	3	8	1	5	6	2	9
3	8	7	9	6	1	4	5	2
6	4	5	3	2	7	9	8	1
1	2	9	5	8	4	3	6	7
2	5	8	7	9	6	1	3	4
9	3	1	4	5	8	2	7	6
7	6	4	1	3	2	5	9	8

GRUMPISM

“We must all do our part for the planet. The other day I unplugged a row of electric cars that no one was using.”

Thank you
Robert TRAHAN

• Last Week's ANSWERS •

H	A	V	O	C		C	L	O	G	S		E	R	G
A	B	A	S	H		E	A	T	E	N		M	A	R
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V	E	E		A	D	D	L	E		I	A	M	B	I
E	S	T		D	E	S	K	S		A	L	T	O	S

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*Opinions expressed in the Grapevine do not necessarily reflect that of the Publisher.
Inciting violence, hate speech and pejorative language will not be tolerated.*

Whether covering events that entertain us, presenting issues that concern and affect us or highlighting the many interesting and gifted people we call neighbour, the Grapevine celebrates the diversity and inclusivity of our shared island life. The following is our policy on content:

- Profiles of individuals, history, reviews and op ed are published free of charge.
- Literary content including poetry, stories, belle lettres are published free of charge.
- Promotional content for products, services, programs, and events will be published at going advertising rates.
- Public service announcements, notices of meetings, and news releases will be published for a fee. Exceptions will be made for emergencies where the public is immediately endangered.
- With regret, no exceptions can be made for non-profit status.
- Letters to the Editor are published free of charge.

The Grapevine is happy to provide an open, public forum for all islanders to speak and be heard. We are steadfast in our commitment to uphold freedom of expression.

As the record of our times, every issue of the Grapevine is a compilation of that week's submissions. We do not editorialize content, nor do we censor. We ask that writers moderate their own content. The Grapevine reserves the right to edit for brevity.

We are open to contributions from all Denman & Hornby Islanders. If you've something to say, send it our way! No copy and paste submissions. In your own words, please!



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FORTNIGHT EVENTS

THURSDAY 22

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm

FRIDAY 23

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- FACEHEATER 7pm Back Hall

SATURDAY 24

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30

SUNDAY 25

MONDAY 26

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

TUESDAY 27

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 28

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm

THURSDAY 29

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm

FRIDAY 30

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- FILM: The Encampments 5-8pm D.I. Comm Hall

SATURDAY 31

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 9:30am-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 9:30am-5pm
- FARMERS MARKET Old School 9:30-12:30
- FREE STORE 9-12:30pm

SUNDAY 1

- Conscious Dying 1-3pm Back Hall
- Calling All People The Story of TemPest Grace Gale
2 Shows 12pm D.I. Community Hall
7pm D.I. Community Hall

MONDAY 2

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

TUESDAY 3

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm

WEDNESDAY 4

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm

THURSDAY 5

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 2-5pm
- CAP SITE Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 4-7pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm

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Grapevine
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