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Cover image: Night Shift

by Mark Prior

facebook.com/markprior.images

THE ISLANDS GRAPEVINE

- DENMAN: 825 • HORNBY: 525 •
- E-SUBSCRIPTIONS: 105 •

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

SPECIAL INTEREST

Denman ART Studio Tour August 15 & 16 • 10 am–5 pm A Weekend of Creativity, Community, and Discovery

By DenmanArtStudioTour

The Denman ART Studio Tour offers a rare chance to meet artists in their working environments, learn about their creative processes, and experience the island's vibrant artistic spirit firsthand. Studios range from cozy cabins and woodland workshops to ocean-view spaces and long-established professional studios.

This year's tour features 27 artists across 20 studios, showcasing an impressive range of mediums — clay, wood, textiles, photography, painting, metalwork, mixed media, and more. There truly is something for everyone.

Event Details

- Dates: August 15 & 16
- Time: 10 am – 5 pm
- Location: Studios across Denman Island
- Tour Map: Available on our blog, at the Denman Island Arts Centre during the weekend of the tour, and at the Hornby Farmers' Market info booth.

Learn More

Visit our blog for artist profiles, studio previews, map and updates:
denmanstudiotour.blogspot.com

Community Support Makes the Tour Possible

The Denman ART Studio Tour extends heartfelt thanks to its 2026 supporters: Denman WORKS!, Arts Denman, 97.3 The Eagle, First Credit Union, Sure Copy Courtenay, Jordan McDonald - RE/MAX Ocean Pacific, BC Ferries, Hairpins Boutique Salon, Terry Lynn Hemmerling Yoga, Beech & Cedar Homes, Denman Island Chocolate, Seaside Electric, Jenessa and Donna Tuele at the Tuele Real Estate Group, Lora's truck services, Keep Floral, Denman Island Tea, Denman Island Hardware Store, Denman Craft Store, Friesen Family Construction, Denman Water, Eden Therapy Clinic Studio, Corlan Vineyard & Farm.

**Denman
ART
Studio Tour**
ESTD. 2009
2026
August 15 & 16
10-5pm

Kaimerata Summer Chamber Music Festival 2026 on Denman Island "Schubert Meets Beethoven!"

By Kai Gleusteen

We are back this summer for our 12th season with three concerts of musical masterpieces. Ludwig van Beethoven and Franz Schubert lived in Vienna at the same time and despite Schubert's enormous admiration for Beethoven, they never met. We wish to right this wrong this summer, on Denman Island, for you! To be performed are some of the greatest chamber music works ever written: the **Schubert's** Trout Quintet, the Arpeggione Sonata, the Cello Quintet and **Beethoven's** Archduke Trio, the Spring Sonata, the Opus 111 Piano Sonata and one of the great late String Quartets.

For those who don't know about the Kaimerata Chamber Music Festival on Denman Island, here is your chance to have a little taste of yet another hidden gem of our island. The core of the Kaimerata ensemble is a European-based internationally acclaimed violin/piano team, Kai Gleusteen and Catherine Ordronneau. They will be joined by a Kaimerata regular: Beth Root Sandvoss on cello and her two incredibly talented children, Tilman and Sabina Sandvoss, both at the beginning of their exciting careers.

The summer festival, with three concerts programmed for August 7th, 8th, and 9th. The mission of the Kaimerata Concert Series, which originated in Barcelona, Spain is to increase the understanding and appreciation of one great composer at a time. This year's festival combines two! In a friendly, accessible, and spontaneous fashion, Kai will present the works, talk about Beethoven's and Schubert's lives, and have his colleagues join him in world-class interpretations of this exquisite music.



Tickets and information for the summer festival on www.kaimerata.com. Tickets also available at the door. Adults \$30. Students \$15.

August 7th at 7:00 p.m. Trout Quintet and Archduke Trio

August 8th at 4:00 p.m. Arpeggione Sonata and Beethoven's Opus 132 String Quartet

August 9th at 2:30 p.m. Opus 111 Piano Sonata and Schubert's Cello Quintet



TIDE TABLE

• Secondary Tidal Station Ford Cove •
• Source: tides.gc.ca •

2026-07-23 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
07:17	1.382	4.5
15:48	4.011	13.2
19:04	3.852	12.6
23:23	4.190	13.7
2026-07-24 (Fri)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
08:10	1.288	4.2
16:45	4.247	13.9
20:58	3.935	12.9
23:58	4.040	13.3
2026-07-25 (Sat)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
09:00	1.203	3.9
17:24	4.394	14.4
22:23	3.878	12.7
2026-07-26 (Sun)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
01:00	3.945	12.9
09:45	1.108	3.6
17:54	4.473	14.7
23:05	3.791	12.4
2026-07-27 (Mon)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
02:12	3.927	12.9
10:25	1.004	3.3
18:20	4.520	14.8
23:32	3.695	12.1
2026-07-28 (Tue)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
03:11	3.966	13.0
11:00	0.905	3.0
18:44	4.560	15.0
23:58	3.580	11.7
2026-07-29 (Wed)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
04:01	4.020	13.2
11:33	0.842	2.8
19:06	4.604	15.1
2026-07-30 (Thu)		
Time	PST (m)	(ft)
00:27	3.435	11.3
04:47	4.050	13.3
12:04	0.852	2.8
19:28	4.646	15.2



Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club granted six month injunction against eviction

By VCBC

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Monday July 20, 2026

Victoria, B.C.:

After being handed an eviction at 1625 Quadra Street, the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club has filed for an injunction against the landlord. This is an attempt to remain open until a judicial review can determine if the federal medical cannabis regulations continue to violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The hearing for the injunction is set for today at 9:45 am. There is no date set yet for the next step in the judicial review.

The VCBC will be shut down on today so staff can witness the proceedings. Depending on what the judge decides, the VCBC may be able to open sooner, but to be safe the club is only able to commit to opening at 5 pm and staying open an extra hour until 7 pm.

Since legalization in 2018, the VCBC has been raided 4 times, with the last raid a few months ago on April 21. After the first two raids, the club was fined \$3.2 million. As a result, VCBC board member, Clea Maclean, has recently had a lien placed against her property in Cowichan Bay by the province in an effort to collect some of the money. After the recent raid, the province also filed for Civil Forfeiture to take the building from the landlord, accusing them of accepting proceeds of crime for accepting rent money from us.

After the raid, the VCBC once again approached Victoria City Council for assistance. While the city is not able to intervene directly, they have written to the B.C. Solicitor General, Nina Krieger and B.C. Attorney General, Niki Sharma, to request that no further enforcement actions are taken until a judicial review can take place. In the letter, Mayor Alto is blunt.

“The latest efforts by the Province to attack and defeat the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club threatens the

existence of a long-standing community service that has a history of supporting the health care needs of patients who have neither the financial nor systemic capacity to find that care elsewhere. I urge you to halt your persecution of VCBC at least until their judicial review has been resolved.”

The letter, along with an email from MLA Grace Lore, can be found at:

<https://cannabisdigest.ca/elementor-14014/>

The judicial review will focus on the failures of the federal medical cannabis program. Though there has been a federal medical cannabis program since 2001, it has been completely inadequate from the beginning, with many courts striking down various areas of the regulations. While some improvements have been made over time as a result of these court decisions, the program remains a dismal failure for most Canadians using cannabis as a medicine.

For more information contact Ted Smith at 250-415-1063 or hellovcbc@gmail.com.



Protecting Local Land & Culture

By Leif LeBaron

Denman and Hornby islands remain special places, even after already losing much of what distinguished them. Naturally, change is inevitable but the form it takes remains open to input, much as time inevitably wrinkles the skin but remains bound to reflect the way it was used. I'm writing here to raise awareness of one simple and direct way to protect land and culture in rural areas like our dear islands.

Sweden has similar small islands in an archipelago around Stockholm. Some of those islands are home to long-established rural communities, remarkably undisturbed by affluent development. While visiting one such island and recognising the similarity with our own, I asked my host how they resist the invasion of vacation homes, resorts, etc. The answer was simple: if you own land, you must live on it most of the year. Such laws do not apply on other islands where there were no such established communities, and some of those have indeed been developed for tourism and affluence.

This basic approach could be adapted to our local circumstance by giving concession to the established presence of modest vacation homes, perhaps by threshold considering building footprints, land area, etc. In any case, I encourage thought and discussion of how to protect these special islands we call home while we still can. Otherwise, as should be painfully obvious to everyone, it is merely a matter of time until all the land is owned by those with the most money. Time relentlessly imprints its wrinkles, and our choices inherently inform their pattern.



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SCULPTURE TOURS

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Aaron Richmond

Artist-Scholar Resident

Thu **July 16** 12pm

Borealis String Quartet

Tue **July 21** 12pm

Wed **July 22** 10am *

Thu **July 23** 8pm **

Fri **July 24** 12pm ***

Zoe Jordan

Plastic : Elastic

Tue **July 28** 7:30pm

Dance film premiere & photo exhibition
On for remainder of openings

* July 22 Gaia: Theatre of Fire dress rehearsal.
Audience researchers wanted, admission by
registration only (see website)

** July 23 premiere of Gaia: Theatre of Fire, the
inaugural Borealis Lab. Limited indoor seating

*** July 24 world premiere of 'Island Portraits:
Cuban Scenes' by Victor García

Visit our website for details on the
summer openings & events

www.rubinooffsculpturepark.org

Free Admission

Shucking Oysters: The World is Burning

By Alex Allen

If you looked at any of the footage of the wildfires burning globally it's beyond apocalyptic. In northern Ontario, the images are haunting. The sky with an eerie orange glow, as if the sun was setting in the middle of the day. Ash falling like snowflakes. The horizon thick with a growing cloud of smoke, curling upward and blotting out the blue sky. It was like looking at a towering, radioactive mushroom cloud. Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, South America, no country is immune. The world is indeed burning or maybe Mother Earth has had enough with our stupid, ignorant ways.

More than 150 million hectares of land has burned worldwide between January and April 2026, the highest figure on record. Africa had the largest burnt area, while Asia saw extensive wildfire outbreaks in India, China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. In Africa, fires burned about 85 million hectares in the early months of the year. All are linked to severe drought, with warming and climate change playing an obvious role.

"These figures are yet more clear evidence that global heating – driven by pollution from coal, oil and gas – is burning up a staggering proportion of nations' landmasses," said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

France, Portugal and Spain have each been torched by a record-breaking number of wildfires. The UK had 19 separate wildfires last week, leading experts to warn of a "firewave" more widespread than ever before.

Firefighters backed by 30 aircraft struggled over the weekend to contain a wildfire in northeastern Spain that ripped through an area the size of San Francisco, forcing the evacuation of more than 1,000 people. Scientists said there were thousands more fatalities recorded than normal during the heatwave that swept through Europe and Britain at the end of June.

Southern parts of Portugal could reach a staggering 50°C next week, which would be the hottest temperature ever recorded in Europe. Spain could also see its

record temperature potentially reaching 49°C. Several areas of France could hit 47°C, just inland from the Atlantic coast, including Bordeaux.

Wildfires are threatening Turkey, forcing 1,700 evacuations, with 84 separate blazes over the weekend. Turkey just recorded its highest ever temperature of 50°C in the southeastern Sirnak province. The blazes have threatened to cross borders into Turkey's neighbouring countries of Greece and Bulgaria.



Professor Bill McGuire, Emeritus Professor of Geophysical and Climate Hazards at UCL, warned we could see 50°C in Europe before the end of this year. McGuire said: "It would be no surprise if 50°C was exceeded, either later this summer or next year, when the heating impact of the unprecedented El Niño building in the Pacific will be at its greatest."

He added that there was "no

continued on P.7...

Deadly wildfires have engulfed western Europe.

...continued from P.6

doubt whatsoever” climate change was driving the extreme heat, explaining: “Europe is heating faster than any other continent as we continue to add more than 40 billion tonnes of CO₂ to the atmosphere every year – equivalent to the weight of 800,000 Titanics.”

“Nearly 10,000 excess deaths and the summer is not yet over,” said Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, criticizing governments for “still treating heat as a weather event rather than a health emergency,” despite existing tools and WHO guidance to prevent most of these deaths.

The latest data from France’s Ministry of Agriculture says nine out of 10 wildfires are caused by people. Often it’s campfires, discarded cigarettes or similar stupid human negligence. The causes of fires in the US are quite similar to those in France. According to data from the National Interagency Fire Center and the US Forest Service, 85% of fires are caused by people. But, in the US lightning-caused fires tend to burn more land because they often strike in remote, hard-to-reach areas.

In Canada, smoke from the wildfires made Toronto the most polluted city in the world last week before it crossed the US border to choke New York. More than 930 fires were burning across Canada on Monday. Many blazes continue to threaten communities in their path, especially in Ontario where evacuations have displaced over 1,800 people. The Northwest Territories reports more than 200 active wildfires burning in the region, with 194 out of control. Seven new fires were reported on Monday. The BC Wildfire Service says about 180 fires started over the weekend when storms swept over the province, releasing 33,380 lightning strikes.

There are many causes. One is basic mismanagement. Generations of logging, counter-intuitively, has produced forests far more susceptible to wildfires. The toothpick forests burn hot and fast. The forest canopy is sparser, meaning that brush dries to flammable crisp in the summer. This allows wildfires to spread into areas – in forests, but also in cities, parks and gardens – that were not as vulnerable before, increasing the danger at what researchers call the “wildland-ur-

And now, because of Canada’s wildfire smoke, Trump is imposing 50% tariffs on a range of items, including wine, hockey sticks, and cement. “We are holding Canada responsible for the fact that they are not properly maintaining their Forests, and Brush therein, and the United States is being unnecessarily invaded by filthy, polluted, and unhealthy air, the quality of which is dangerous, and totally unacceptable!” Trump wrote on Truth Social on weekend. “This is Willful Negligence, and becoming a yearly occurrence, costing the United States Billions of Dollars, which cost of this pollution must of necessity be added to the TARIFFS Canada is currently paying.”

As Lord Rump threatens us with tariffs over wildfire smoke, Senator Adam Schiff of California said states should be stepping up to help Canada. “When California was burning, Canada sent firefighters, planes and assistance – not insults,” Schiff posted. “As California and other states step up to repay the [favour], we should do so without the threats and ramblings of a failing leader. We should show some humanity.” Smoke from the Ontario wildfires have triggered air quality warnings across Ontario and in multiple states, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, New York and Indiana.

Even the day after Trump cock-blocked the Spanish football team’s winning moment he continued his rant: “I told them. I mean, you got to stop these fires from coming in and you know poisoning our air. Our air has been poisoned.”

“In the end, the response capacity is limited,” said Juan Caamaño, the head of training at the Pau Costa Foundation, a nonprofit that is helping Northern Ireland and other cold regions in northern Europe prepare for worsening wildfires. “When we face these huge fires, these extreme events, it’s like trying to put firefighters on a beach to stop a tsunami.”



**Watch for the preview of
Sally Campbell's book, "A Mediator's Eye"
in next week's issue.**

The Book Report

By A Bae Hel

Tender is the Night

F. Scott Fitzgerald

There are some books in life that hold a position of absolute blessing. For me *The Great Gatsby* is the one. It was my emotional support book, my safe place, my comfort during The Troubles of 2022. *Tender is the Night* would be a contender should I ever grow bored of *Gatsby*. We have no writers today like him I suspect. He uses words like magic – “But women marry their husbands’ talents and naturally, afterwards, are not so impressed with them as they may keep up the pretense of being” Wow, the impression of marriage he conveys is full of disappointment and longing. The Divers are, like Daisy and Tom Buchanan, modeled after Fitzgerald’s real life and times. The post WWI gestalt was a period of trying to drown the horrors with enough money and gaiety. If you are charming and surround yourself with entertaining people you can build a façade of success. Dick, like *Gatsby*, in search for the American Dream, finds it ultimately where it has been hiding, drunk in a burning dumpster. Fitzgerald was a keen observer of Americans abroad 100 years ago and their desperate attempts to become something akin to royalty. Entertainment was the venue to that status. Then as now. The cast of characters wander the lands of the Mediterranean in search of something to distract them from themselves. At a time before hordes to tourists could



afford to travel and before the massive tourism industry offering cheap hotels and bus tours, the wealthy took up residence in countries with warm water and sunshine where they could build an enclave of like minded and financially secure individuals.

The Divers drift languidly through their privilege as their marriage comes apart, their friends die and their affairs become tedious. Worst of all, Dick becomes no longer entertaining. Simply a drunken bore. Reader warning if you decide to read this book. It is a product of the 1920. It conveys words and characterizations that would be seen as offensive to today’s delicate sensibilities. If such language and imagery get you upset, offended and outraged and determined to see a book banned, please don’t read it. Stay away and leave it for those who can understand context and history.

I, Medusa

Ayana Gray

I was so disappointed, I had read another Medusa book last year, and the myth has always captivated me, but the was not that.

To be fair, I think it was a book targeting a much younger audience, like about 12-year-old girls. I am weary of girl children who are so naively portrayed. So, I moved on.



Apply Now!

Septic System Maintenance Rebate Program

The Comox Valley Regional District has launched a Septic System Maintenance Rebate Program. This program will help homeowners protect public health, extend the life of their septic systems, and reduce environmental impacts. Homeowners can get up to \$700 back for septic system maintenance done through a qualified professional.

Protect your home, health, and the environment! Apply early as funding is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit:
comoxvalleyrd.ca/rebates



In Praise of Intentional Community

By *thomas p. hunterson*

History has been one long, tragic procession of humanity accidentally living near one another. For millennia, people have stumbled into villages through such embarrassingly primitive mechanisms as geography, employment, family ties, rivers, fertile soil, or simply because they happened to stop walking. These unintentional communities are clearly a catastrophic design flaw. How can one expect social harmony when neighbors have not first completed a values alignment questionnaire and attended a consensus circle on permaculture? This is intentional progressivism.

Thankfully, Intentional Community™ has arrived to rescue civilization. Why tolerate the horrifying uncertainty of discovering that your next-door neighbor enjoys different music when you could instead spend time in meetings determining the precise emotional protocol for borrowing a ukulele?

Critics point out that intentional communities often devote astonishing amounts of time to governance. Governance is the community. Growing vegetables is merely a side quest undertaken between emergency discussions about whether the community deer are respecting sufficient consent before eating the lavender. Meanwhile, ordinary neighborhoods remain hopelessly inefficient. Residents recklessly exchange brief pleasantries, tend to their chores without forming Facilitation Working Groups, and occasionally help each other shovel snow without first establishing a Conflict Transformation Framework. Barbaric!

A truly intentional community courageously schedules facilitated dialogues, forms Exploratory Committees, and emerges weeks later with a deeply transformative agreement to revisit the issue after everyone has processed their feelings. An intentional community is diverse and inclusive, except for the diversity of ideas. The beauty of intentional community lies in its breathtaking confidence that all human complexity can be conquered with enough flip charts. Disagreement? Circle. Awkwardness? Circle. Someone broke from approved protocols? Emergency circle. Meteor strike? First, a circle.

Contrast this with the depressing spontaneity of

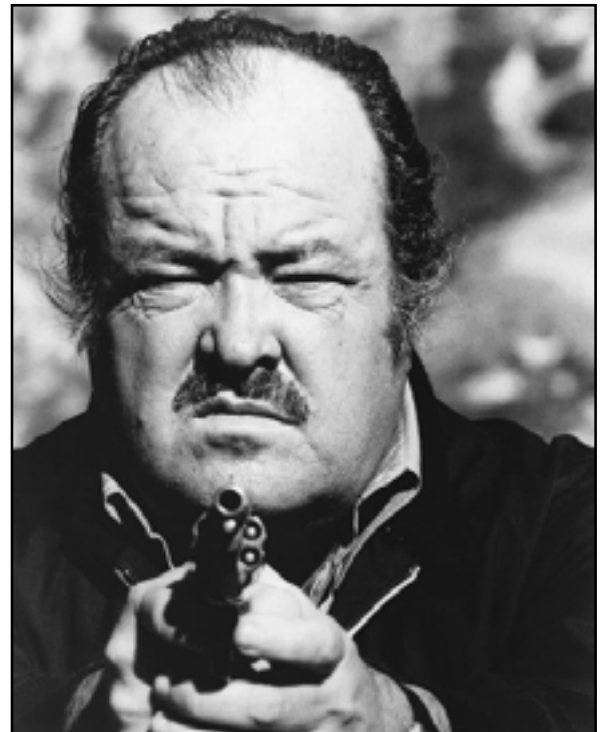
unintentional communities, where friendships emerge unpredictably through shared experience rather than carefully curated compatibility matrices. What kind of reckless system allows people to become friends simply because their children attend the same school?

Intentional Community knows better. Authentic connection can only occur after trust exercises, a retreat, and a mandatory workshop entitled Reimagining Presence Through Radical Listening, while building consensus on the meaning of "authentic."

Some cynics claim that intentional communities occasionally fracture into two separate intentional communities over irreconcilable philosophical differences regarding shared maintenance responsibilities. This is malicious misinformation. Sometimes it's about fonts. In the end, the superiority of intentional community is undeniable. Why settle for the random miracle of ordinary human coexistence when you can deliberately engineer a social ecosystem so exquisitely optimized that re-scheduling Tuesday's potluck requires a constitutional amendment?

Civilization has wandered blindly for thousands of years. At last, humanity has discovered its highest calling; living with people who voluntarily attended the same orientation weekend and unanimously agree that the minutes from the previous meeting failed to capture the deeper spirit of the discussion.

Surely this is what evolution intended. Or, at the very least, what the Facilitation Committee intends. 🍷



The Divine Yo-Yos of
Carlos Castaneda
A Surrealist Account of the Great
American Trickster

Gabriel Jeroschewitz, July 4th, 2026
*inspired by the book, American Trickster:
The Hidden Lives of Carlos Castaneda*

LITERARY

In the beginning there was the cactus - and the cactus was a yo-yo - and the yo-yo was divine. This is how the story begins - though "beginning" is very generous indeed - the narrative of Carlos Castaneda exists outside of time in that particular void where American optimism decomposes. The observer sees all this from a great distance - as one sees a caravan of flamingos traversing a shopping mall or seeing one's own hand write a letter that one has never read. Let us speak of the year 1968 - in California this was somewhere between April and November, depending upon which substance one was indulging. The University of California Press - that acclaimed institution of peer review and academic rigour - published a book concerning the Yaqui shaman Don Juan Matus and how he had initiated graduate student Carlos Castaneda into the knowledge of the desert. The book duly sold. Oh, how it sold! It sold like prayers at a televangelist's bedside table.

The anthropologists of UCLA nod wisely among themselves, stroking their beards in the manner of men who have never encountered an Indigenous person but who think themselves well-placed to pontificate upon Indigenous epistemologies. Fascinating. Groundbreaking. One wonders what they were smoking, but one already knows - it was the same substance that makes all academics believe they understand anything. The substance is tenure, and its effects are long-lasting and largely fictional. John Lennon purchased a copy. So did Joni Mitchell. Federico Fellini, master of surreal imagery and meaning, wrote a fan letter that read: "The cactus is the door." One cannot argue with this - one can only nod and move on, like a duck accepting rain.

Now enters that family who wrote The Book of Lists whose names appear in the text like an ensemble of Greek tragedians who found themselves in the wrong play. They take delight in making lists - lists of lists -

in trying to order the universe and existence as it unfolds. The observer finds this charming - in the same way that one finds a child playing with scissors - charming until the cutting begins.

Susie Bright's father - linguist at UCLA - says something that will remain for decades as the dial tone of some conversation no longer dialled. He speaks of language as performance, of meaning between people, of truth emerging through negotiation. The observer takes notes - though they make no sense - though they never do. Agnes enters the scene - though again "appears" as generous since she was always there - emerging as the camera turned towards them. She would later be seen framed by Chase Joynt and Morgan M. Page, but in this story she remains in becoming and in the emergence from her fabrications. The observer tips an imaginary hat. Barbara Meyerhoff materializes from the feminist movement of the 1980s as a spectre who in some way forgot how to haunt anything properly. She bears the weight of questions no one asked and answers no one desired. The observer respects her stamina - though perhaps the more appropriate word is stubbornness or the distinct American disease of believing that one can fix something that was never truly broken.

But we have forgotten the main performer. Let us return to Castaneda - that most exquisite of liars - that master of mendacious utterances. He was a fraudster's fraud, a liar who lied to liars - a con man who conned con men. Such an achievement demands admiration - as the observer makes it - in the way one admires a Ponzi scheme of great elegance yet truly brass-capped in execution.

The academic types - white, male and mostly ignorant of what lies outside their footnotes - had some reason to legitimize him. They needed this Native voice to say what they desired to hear, this shaman who would confirm their theories or this indigenous wisdom that would support academic careers. When Castaneda offered this - they did not ask questions. They could not afford to. The observer sees this machinery in operation - thinks of others throughout history and society.

And the women! The observer must speak of the women - though "speak" is perhaps too gentle a word - perhaps "inscribe" or "lament." The young and dew-eyed women approached him, drawn by knowledge with no other place to be found and the certainty of being chosen - special and destined. They surrounded this man like satellites orbiting a planet entirely of ego. Some men were here along with some children, but *continued on P.11...*

...continued from P.10

it was the women who made the center the center of their lives - as women always do in such stories and as they always have.

The observer now journeys backwards in time - or forwards into the future since time is merely a suggestion here - to gaze upon the deeper currents.

The American penchant for offering extra-realist explanations is the nation's true native gift - older than the nation itself and deeply rooted in the soil of that which was colonized by those with manifest destinies and invisible friends. These come to Plymouth with their theology and their diseases. Within a century, they have produced Mary Baker Eddy and her notion of illness as imagination - imagine that! Then the Yogis came. Christopher Isherwood would learn to say "om" with the correct vowel. Timothy Leary would experience a turning on to the world and dropping out of the old ways, while Baba Ram Dass would become "be here now," and Jim Jones would offer a drink that was also a destination. Charles Manson would whisper words that sounded like songs until those songs became bodies.

All of this swirls within this great American stew - the gumbo of spiritual seeking and psychological damage. The

observer stirs the pot - tastes nothing because the pot is empty - because it was always empty.

The final third of this narrative attempts what is essentially impossible - making others' psychoses legible. This effort is like trying to read Braille through boxing gloves or hearing colours through a door without a handle. Castaneda, diagnosed with liver cancer, told his followers that he would not die but burn within himself to reach another realm - he invited those who wished to join him. The observer takes note of the specific grammar of such an invita- *continued on P.12...*



Simple Ways to Reduce your Water Consumption

As we continue to see reduced rain and higher average temperatures in the summer, fresh water becomes an even more limited and precious resource. Water conservation is extremely important to ensure supply for domestic use and emergency fire protection.



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...continued from P.11

tion - never a question but an offer that could not be refused without refusing oneself and one's very being. After he died in 1998, five of Castaneda's closest female followers vanished. The observer does not use the word "vanished" lightly. They are widely believed to have taken their own lives - though again the words "believed" and "widely" are doing an enormous amount of work within that sentence - the observer chooses not to distribute that work evenly.

The cactus was a yo-yo. It hung upon the strings of the universe descending into the hand of those who stretched forth - ascending only when released. This is the trick: you must let go to bring it back; you must release to retrieve truly. The observer has seen this motion so many times in so many costumes in so many rooms - some well lit, others not so much.

The book - this book - about the book and the man who might have truly existed - comes from Or Books - excellent but small press. The observer does not

know if anyone will find it. The observer suspects not. But the observer has learned in these long years of such observation that the act of throwing is the point - the message, the transmission - the bottle, the message, and we are all, each of us, drowning in the ocean pretending that it is merely a swimming pool.

The divine yo-yo descends. The observer catches it - then releases it - only to find it once again in his possession. Om.

Or something like o m.

The observer now rests - having said what could not properly be said and having written what could not be written - having finished this non-task but truly a document of surrender. The cactus is not a cactus. The yo-yo is not a yo-yo. The liar is not a liar. The observer is not an observer.

And yet - the words remain floating upon the surface of a pond that has no bottom.

Fin de lecture



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Revolutionary Optimism Takes Practice

By Caitlin Johnstone

July 20th, 2026

OPINION



Revolutionary optimism is a skill that you learn over time. Like any other skill, it takes practice to get good at it. Like any other skill, it can seem very difficult when you first start trying.

Before you're well-practiced in the skill of revolutionary optimism, things can look pretty hopeless. The doors to revolutionary change seem to be closed and bolted shut on every front. Electoral politics delivers disappointment after disappointment. Our society is full of selfish, sedentary, propaganda-addled bootlickers who will defend the status quo even when it goes against their own material interests. The bread and circuses remain effective at keeping everyone just full enough and distracted enough to keep them turning the gears of the empire for their masters.

Nobody comes out of the box knowing how to maintain their optimism when all their efforts continue to fail. Nobody is born with the skill of keeping hope alive even as the planet dies, as everything gets shittier and shittier, and as our civilization gets more and more dystopian.

It takes practice. Like anything else, until you have practiced, you're probably going to suck at it.

But as Jake the Dog says, sucking at something is the first step towards being sorta good at something.

And you're going to have to get sorta good at it, because the alternative is to lie down and let the bastards get their way.

They want us to believe resistance is futile. They want us to believe that change is impossible, that the fight is unwinnable, that the machine is unbeatable, that the AI surveillance data centers are inevitable, that the wars and genocides will continue no matter what we do. The easiest battle is one your enemy never attempts to wage.

We can't just hand that to them. We've got to keep

trying to find ways to win. And we're not going to keep trying to find ways to win if we have been successfully seduced by the siren's song of pessimism.

And its song can be seductive. Being pessimistic is pleasing to the ego because it lets you feel cool and right about everything, since things do tend to go the way of the ones currently holding the power. Being the dark, brooding know-it-all who holds all the correct opinions while scoffing at everyone's efforts to win this thing is a lot easier than being the bright-eyed hope fiend who faces loss after loss and disappointment after disappointment. It's egoically comfortable, like choosing to support the team you know will always win.

But all the best things in life sit on the other side of discomfort. This is true whether you're talking about revolution, romance, healing, art, or enlightenment.

If you are feeling hopeless, that's a skill issue. You just need to work to improve your skillfulness.

So practice optimism.

Refuse to be deflated.

Find reasons to hope.

Study history and learn about the many times revolution has succeeded and ruling power structures have been overthrown.

Study current events and learn about the many ways in which our rulers are losing their grip.

Find that spark within you that can keep pushing onward no matter what happens.

Discover that burning defiance which knows you fight fascists not because you will win but because they are fascists.

Do your inner work until you have enough spaciousness to maintain persistent effort.

Create internal stability so you can continue without collapsing when things get hard.

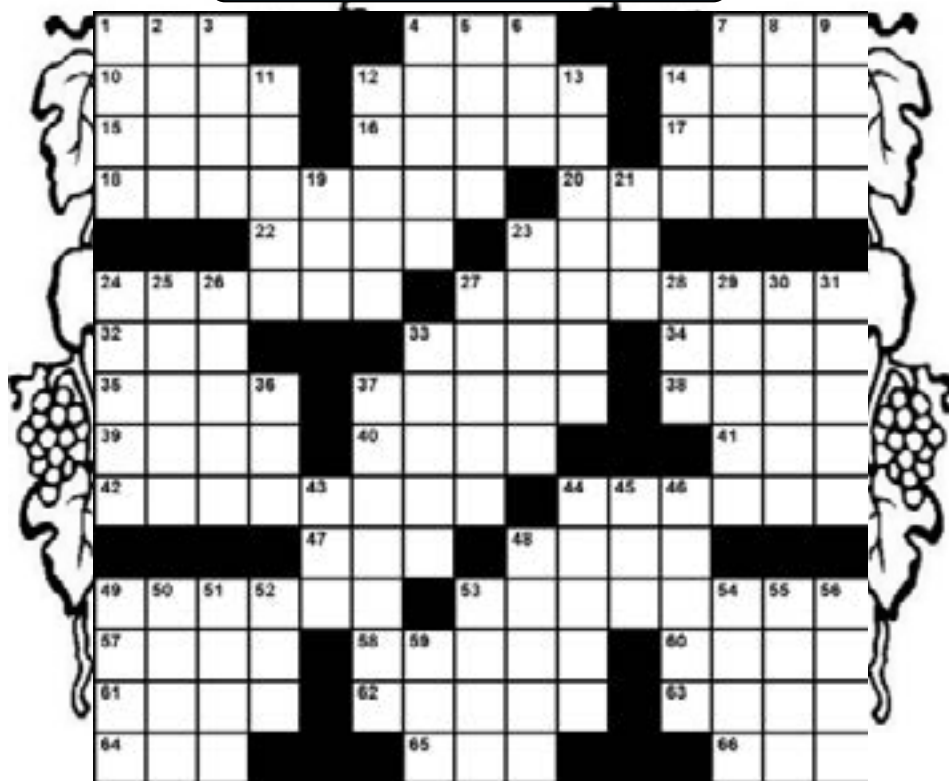
Set your intention to cultivate optimism, and then practice it every day.

The world depends on it.

No pressure.



• GRAPEVINE CROSSWORD •



• ACROSS •

1. Atom fragment
4. Adriatic, e.g.
7. Bend down
10. Batch
12. Natural knack
14. Chalky cheese
15. Big heads
16. Altar lane
17. Co-fighter
18. Powerful explosive
20. Moving readily
22. Auction buys
23. Horrendous
24. Affection
27. Fish spears
32. Artificial language
33. Blue hue
34. Actress Miles
35. Mocking comment
37. Date palm locale
38. Bad deed
39. Estate recipient

40. Current with
41. Absorb, as costs
42. 74th element
44. Guitar sounds
47. Archaic
48. Stylish
49. Sushi
- condiment
53. Move across
57. Bump free
58. Kepi part
60. Galactic time period
61. Bird food
62. Big antelope
63. Fiddler and pianist
64. Cookbook meas.
65. Bauxite
- bonanza
66. A neighbor of Pa.

• DOWN •

1. Hit a puck too far
2. Immoderate revelry
3. Hands up time
4. Long openings
5. Alleviate
6. Afflict
7. Cold cut place
8. ---- be a pleasure!
9. British withholding tax
11. Biblical hymn
12. Kind of healer
13. Leftovers
14. Early Beatles describer
19. Bon word
21. Anomalous
23. Scarecrow's desire
24. British isle
25. Au revoir
26. Batman's pal
27. Mike and Cicely Arden

29. Defiant reply
30. Musical chord
31. Epsom and the like
33. Like Superman
36. Dyne-centimeter
37. Survive longer
43. Cry out loud
44. Beet variety
45. Virus that causes AIDS
46. Globe feature
48. Old battle-ax
49. Dame Rebecca
50. Forum greetings
51. Leak out
52. Additionally
53. Autocrat of yore
54. Bamboo like grass
55. Aching
56. Certain organic compound
59. Worldwide labor org.



• TEST YOUR MATH SKILLS •

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

• Last Issue's Answers •

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

GRUMPISM

“ My friend wouldn't stop going on about how to make his folder smaller. I told him to zip it. ”



• Last Issues's ANSWERS •

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

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- 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 23

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall

FRIDAY 24

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

SATURDAY 25

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

SUNDAY 26

MONDAY 27

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Volleyball 6:30-8pm School Gym
- Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

TUESDAY 28

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

WEDNESDAY 29

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place

THURSDAY 30

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall

FRIDAY 31

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

SATURDAY 1

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

SUNDAY 2

MONDAY 3

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- AA Meeting DIUC Gathering Place 7pm
- Volleyball 6:30-8pm School Gym
- Songwriter's Workshop 7pm Hornby Arts Centre

TUESDAY 4

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Employment Services 9am-3pm DAC

WEDNESDAY 5

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- Choose to Move 11:30-12:30 Gathering Place

THURSDAY 6

- Dora Drinkwater Library 1:30pm-3:30pm
- RECYCLING CENTRE 1-5pm
- BOTTLE DEPOT 1-5pm
- FREE STORE 3-5pm
- FOOD BANK Hub Comm. Hall 3:30-6:30pm
- Community Choir 2:30pm Back Hall



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