

san juan island
LIBRARY

POSSIBILITIES

WINTER 2025



LOCAL BRILLIANCE

As we rang out the old year and began the new, I spent some time reflecting on mushrooms. Having moved from a dry and hot suburbia, most mushrooms I previously encountered were already sliced and diced into something delicious on my dinner plate. The island has given me many new things to learn, and dipping my toe into mycology revealed the delightful variety of common names for mushrooms: fairy's fingers, varnished conk, and witch's butter, to name only a few. When I take my daily walks, I take particular pleasure when I find a strange and wondrous mushroom in a place I've walked hundreds of times before. The fungus has been preparing unseen, nurturing and growing beneath the ground, and something about this moment, the perfect combination of nutrition, temperature, moisture, and timing resulted in a new and delightful surprise.

This reminds me of something I've seen at our library. Because the library is a center of community, innovation, and access, I am a frequent witness to the powerful convergence of people and place, culture and care, which bring unexpected and

delightful results. As I watch, read, and view the creative output of islanders, the phrase that keeps occurring to me is 'local brilliance.' This organization encourages and celebrates the local brilliance around us.

In partnership with many community organizations, we work to inspire, feature, and collect the works of our island's creative people. Featured in this newsletter is a service called Biblioboard, a service that helps us continue and enhance our work to nurture local brilliance. Check it out!

In this season of long nights and dim light, I invite you to come to the library to nurture and discover the local brilliance within yourself. In our programs, you can meet locals excited to share their knowledge and their expertise. In our book clubs, you can meet and discuss timely ideas. In our collections, you can find inspiration on your own creative journey. You can take a class or enjoy a program. On the back page of this newsletter, you can learn how to contribute a piece to Ferry Tales, a new digital collection we are creating at the library. We look forward to seeing you soon!

- Anthony
Assistant Director



WRITER'S CORNER

Become a published author! Local authors and poets can use Pressbooks to create, edit, format, and generate print-ready and eBook formats for your books and instantly publish to the Indie Author Project. No design experience is necessary to create professional quality eBook and print-ready book files, at no cost to you.

CREATE



SHARE



Authors can submit their books to the Indie Author Project and share their works with readers on San Juan Island and throughout Washington. If your book is selected by Library Journal, it will be available to readers across the US and Canada.

Access BiblioBoard Library on our website or download the app and enjoy digital books from libraries, artists, authors and others from your community and around the world right now. Browse Indie Washington to see books and more from self-published authors all over the state. Everything is instantly accessible, so no holds lists and no returns required.

DISCOVER



LEARN MORE & GET STARTED



GO TO [SJLIB.ORG/WRITERS-CORNER/](https://sjlib.org/writers-corner/)

Those new to Biblioboard will need to create an account, first using their library card number and password to gain access.

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EXPLORE & CREATE

NEW DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

You can view local art and book collections (mentioned below) by going to sjlib.biblioboard.com or by using this QR code. Those new to Biblioboard will need to create an account, first using their library card number and password to gain access.



MINI ART SHOW 2024

Each year in November, local residents pick up a mini canvas at the library front desk, decorate it any way they choose, then bring it back by month's end for display throughout December. In 2024 we digitized the collection so that the art can be enjoyed from the comfort of your home!

MAKERSPACE

Join fellow creators and use equipment including sewing & embroidery machines at our weekly Makerspace. See the programs calendar for times.

BOOK CLUBS

There are book clubs for all ages available at the library! Join discussions of interesting topics with neighbors and friends.

PROGRAMS

Check the library calendar for a cornucopia of events! Enjoy conversations with friends and neighbors in one of our book clubs, or attend a program featuring local speakers. Visit the library's website or use this QR code:



READ LOCAL AUTHORS

Read books—fiction, nonfiction, and poetry—from local authors! Local authors who submitted to the Indie Author Project are featured on our Biblioboard homepage, using the above link. Local authors—you can add your book to this list by following the instructions at sjlib.org/writers-corner/

LIBRARY NEWS

Tired of missing the latest news from the library? Sign up for our monthly email using this QR code:



POSSIBILITIES POSTERS

In late 2023, the Library began working on a new project: a series of images that would invite wonder and imagination, but not ask or require anything from library users. Because so much content on social media demands our attention, the Library wanted to provide a moment to enjoy an image to remind us that adventure, wonder, and fun, are available to everyone. The outcome was a set of imaginative posters that were displayed in the library and on social media throughout 2024, and are gathered in the digital collection you can access by using the link above.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Announcing the Library's first call for submissions of a new local digital collection: FERRY TALES

Ferry Tales collects stories and art surrounding our experiences riding the ferry. Sometimes happy, sometimes sad, sometimes hilarious, everyone has a tale about riding the Washington State Ferries. We want to hear yours! Submit a short essay, poem, recording, picture, painting, or any other creative submission that narrates your experiences with the ferries. Submit at sjlib.librariesshare.com/ferrytales or use this QR code (right).

