

SPRING 2024

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Resilience Mystery Dinner & Auction

Letter from JBCP Executive Director, Kaye Kennish

As Spring brings its sense of hope and thoughts of growth and the future, the participants, volunteers, donors and staff of the James Bay Community Project bring their usual positivity to all their plans, activities and contributions to their community.

I am grateful to the many people who are a part of JBCP for their focus on what they can do to make things better for others. Our volunteers and staff work hard to make our services, such as our programs in the Family Centre or the Digital Dive-In program for seniors, ever more enjoyable and helpful to those who participate. Our donors give generously to help JBCP continue to support as many people as possible, and our participants show kindness and camaraderie.

Thank you to all of you for bringing “Spring” to JBCP year-round.

Letter from JBCP Board Chair, Rory McAlpine

Spring has been slow to arrive in Victoria but it is finally here! For the Board of Directors it is a time to review our 2024-25 budget plans, get ready for some exciting fundraising events and bring on some new board members to be confirmed at the AGM in June. Recently we have been able to raise the profile of JBCP through meetings with government ministers, collaboration with community partners on affordable housing solutions and by hosting an important announcement by the Minister of Health regarding increased funding for the Better at Home Program that JBCP delivers in Victoria and Oak Bay.

Spring gardeners know that it takes active nurturing to create a flourishing, resilient garden. Communities are like that too. Every day JBCP staff and volunteers nurture the lives of many community members, from the very young to the very old. Please support this work through our spring fundraising campaign. And if you or a family member could use some nurturing, please stop by to learn about the programs we offer.

Tales of Resiliency: How An International Artist Uses Everyday Technology For Caregiving

*By Elissa Bergman, Fundraiser at the James Bay Community Project
Note: names have been changed for privacy.*

“Life-changing” means different things for different people and experiences.

Often, we go through life with expectations based on our own unique assumptions informed by our prior life experiences with the future yet unknown.

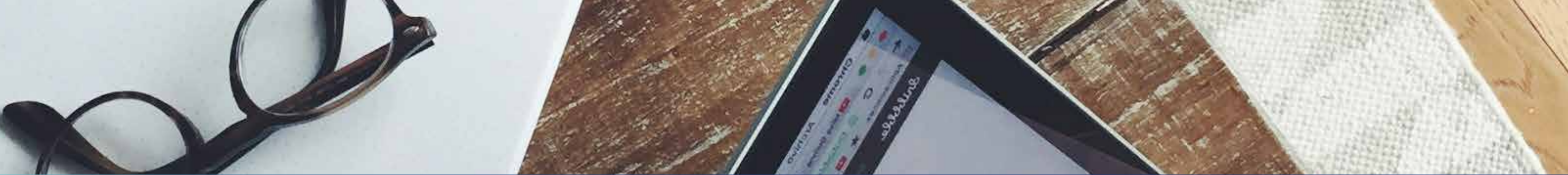
But what happens when the unknown arrives, challenging us to a possible breaking point because it is a situation that is so foreign?

Meet Kathy – a renowned painter from Seoul, Korea with a Masters in Western Painting who has lived here in Victoria since the early 2000’s.

While still based in Korea, she lectured and taught at a Seoul university in their Fine Arts department. Meanwhile, her work in the Oriental style of painting began to take off in Canada with over 20 solo exhibitions from Toronto to Victoria. A number of her works belong to private collectors including the wife of the South Korean President.

Then life changed for Kathy. Having already lived in Canada with her husband Denis for several years, her aging parents and parents-in-law in Korea needed her to help them. So she spent a lot of time between Korea and Canada, devoting much of her life to care for others.

But then the unthinkable happened. Her husband Denis became ill in 2013.



He needed a kidney transplant and was on dialysis here in Canada. She needed to be here full-time.

As a person whose first language is Korean, it was very difficult for Kathy – it was hard to be a caregiver and translate the medical information.

Kathy shared moments of the fear she experienced at the time, “Usually the kidney transplant age limit is seventy. A transplant couldn’t be done here in Victoria but in Vancouver. And Denis had problems and complications that did not allow the transplant.” She also shared moments of gratitude: “The doctor did not give up and did more tests. Suddenly the doctor told me to think about preparing a travel bag and then my husband was on the top of the list for surgery.”

It was a February evening when they got the call to go to Vancouver for the transplant. Lucky to get across from the Island because the weather was poor and very windy, they arrived just as the ferries closed.

The transplant was successful, but there were complications which kept Denis in hospital for over two months. Kathy did not know anyone in Vancouver. She prepared to be a full-time caregiver trying to understand the complicated world of medical terminology, prescriptions, and procedures as a person whose first language is not English.

Over the last five years, Kathy has attended programs at the James Bay Community Project for support. Most recently, she has been a regular participant in the Project’s Digital Dive-In Program, where another life-changing aspect of this story takes place.

Digital Dive-In is a program tailored to seniors who have questions about portable technology. This program offers seniors the opportunity to learn how to use a smart phone, tablet or laptop to improve their quality of life. In addition to group sessions, individual sessions

are available for individuals who need a little extra help. Volunteers are also trained to support program participants.

Kathy said, “I want to work on my skills a little at a time and then I have confidence. I find that Jim the instructor is very patient. In the first year I learned how to use an iPad.” The following year she kept building up her digital literacy skills, just by coming to the program once or twice a month and meeting with her volunteer Jeanette once a week. Kathy then learned how to use her iPad and iPhone to translate from English to Korean – this made it much easier to read medical information on the internet as well as printed materials such as books, magazines and prescription info.

Denis is now recovered from the kidney transplant; however, he will face lifelong health issues. Kathy continues as his primary caregiver and is much more at ease now that she can use translation tools and technology to support his healthcare.

Kathy’s story is one of the many life-changing moments that happen at the James Bay Community Project. As the use of technology continues to grow in our world, this kind of support will be crucial for seniors to maintain their resiliency.

The Project is currently fundraising to be able to run the Digital Dive-In program again, as well as for its other essential programs and services. With your support, we can help more people experience life-changing moments to help them thrive.

Learn more about how to give by contacting Elissa Bergman by phone at 250-388-7844, Ext 366, email fundraising@jbcp.bc.ca or visit our website at: <https://jbcp.bc.ca/donate>.

You're invited!



We hope you will attend!

THE JAMES BAY COMMUNITY PROJECT'S 1ST

Resilience

MYSTERY DINNER & AUCTION FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

5:00 PM TO 9:30 PM

547 MICHIGAN ST.

VICTORIA, BC

*The James Bay Community Project
& Surprise Restaurant Venues*

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE AT:
<https://jbcpc.bc.ca/mystery-dinner-auction/>

Full Event Ticket Price:
\$100/Person or
\$600/Table of 6

Reception/Silent
Auction ONLY Tickets:
\$40/Person



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