



“We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

The tourists are coming! The tourists are coming! Either you are blowing trumpets of joy or running for the hills (AKA taking back streets). Whichever front you choose, it's inevitable – the cruise ships are coming to Sitka. (Yay!) I am thrilled! With this fluctuation in population, it allows me to assist travelers glued to the corner trying to figure out which way the map should go and muse over those aimlessly wandering around our beautiful town, attempting to blend in. This past September, as the last cruise ship sailed away, I had filled these touristy shoes, but now no more! I finally blend with the official blanket of this town – I consider myself a local, even better – a Sitkan! (Yay!) After a mild winter and a bustling spring, summer holds the promise of fresh entertainment filled with a cool source of inspiration hidden in every nook and cranny (you just have to find it).

I try to be inspired by something different each day – today I am inspired by the typical tourist: camera always ready, pre-fashioned poses complete with whimsical smiles waiting for the flash. A cluster was forming around the giant bear on the

corner near the Sitka Bazaar, everyone waiting their turn for a picture with this great "Alaskan legacy"; it made me giggle. We all can be intrigued by such simple things. That bear hadn't been there all winter (not that they knew that), it actually startled me walking by the first time – the message . . . small changes can make such a big difference, especially to those who seek it.

In other news:

- 1. Great news for Sitka non-profits! Jim Dinley announced at the assembly meeting that municipal governments and school districts will receive additional funding from the state. This money was hoped for—but very unexpected. The City is receiving an amount that is nearly enough to cover the city's budget deficit!**
- 2. The next Caregiver Education and Support Services group is coming up: At NOON on May 25 at the Pioneer Home manager's house. Klaudia Leccese will be presenting information about Advanced Directives and Living Wills. Please call BHV to let us know if you are interested in attending.**
- 3. A hospital bed has become available. If anyone is in need of this, please call 747-4600 for more information.**
- 4. Brave Heart Volunteers is creating our first ever cookbook! There are few instruments as powerful as food in brining a family together. Over the years we received so many requests for the soup recipes served at our Brave Heart Bowls events, that we decided to create a cookbook for all to enjoy. Our cookbook will include not just recipes, but short stories and pictures. We invite you to send in your recipes (soup, salad, main course or dessert) and also include a picture and story (a paragraph or two) in memory of a loved one. We want to hear about the person who made this recipe so important to you. The cookbook pages will be printed in black and white. The**

cookbook will be on sale at the Farmer's Market this summer. We hope you will share your recipes and the amazing people that inspired them. Please call with any questions.

BHV's Being "Green" Tip of the Week: [Write a Letter](#)

Chris Giller, President of Grist.org, encourages everyone to write a letter to their state representatives to thank them for the work they are doing making the state a "greener" and more efficient place to live (and/or encourage them to get more involved)!

I hope you are inspired this weekend; I hear it's going to be beautiful!

Have a happy weekend,

Amanda

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