

# Plant a Seed to Read Dinner and Dance at Literacy Fundraiser

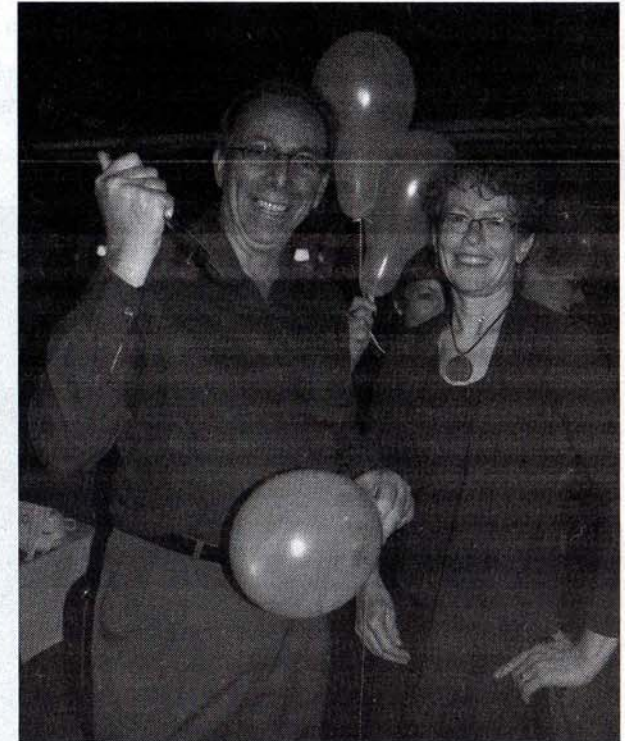
*Brennan Storr*

*Diversity Reporter Staff*

The Rotary Club of Saanich and the READ Society hosted the “Plant a Seed to Read” gala fundraiser on October 23 at the UVIC University Club. The evening began with cocktails and the commencement of the silent auction, with musical accompaniment by the Esquimalt Jazz Band. Over \$20,000 in donated items were up for auction, including golf lessons, artisan giftware and a variety of gift certificates, ranging from restaurant discounts to hotel stays.

After dinner and dessert, guests were treated to a series of performances by students from Pearson College, including an African “gumboot dance”, belly dancers and singers. The acts were part of the college’s “One World” show, presented each year at the Royal Theatre. Following the students’ performance was the “Balloon Pop”, where diners were given the opportunity to purchase and then pop inflated balloons in search of prizes. The Victoria-based dance band “Loose Change” then took the stage.

It was the first time that the READ Society had partnered with the Rotary Club of Saanich and the groups approached it with a common goal: helping literacy cross economic and cultural barriers. “Literacy is so very important for both children and adults in our world,” said Graeme Kirby, chairman of the READ Society. “Education, like anything, costs money and tonight’s event will provide funds to help subsidize those who cannot afford it.”



(Above) Nino Liberatore & Lois Theaker prepare to pop a balloon for charity. Photo by Brennan Storr/Diversity Reporter Staff

(Left) Pearson College students presented acts from their “One World” show. Photo by Brennan Storr/Diversity Reporter Staff