Earth Day: the earth needs your help

CHRISTOPHER PARTIN
REPORTER

When I first set out to write about the Earth Day discussion that took place at Clatsop Community College, I was expecting to hear about the speakers, their presentations, and the audience. Instead, I was planning on having a rather unusual piece on who, what, where, when, and why. But then something changed. When I looked around the room that day, seeing only a handful of people attending such an important event, I knew what I had to say.

We must have a better turnout next year. We must. We must have a greater number of people interested in, if not volunteering, then at least learning and educating themselves about the environment. We must, as a collective, do what we can to get as many students and faculty attending. We must. We must. Why? Well, not to sound like an environment tribally speaking, but we kind of have only one planet, at least that I’m aware of, and so far we’ve done a real fine job of showing it. Many people believe individuals can’t affect anything, but those are the only people who ever do in the first place.

Often people will get angry when others try to sweep problems under the rug, and yet here we are, generation after generation after generation, each promising a new frontier of energy resources, an ending to our barbaric dependency on oil, and yet nothing ever changes. Nixon promised it. Ford promised it. Both Bushes promised it. Obama recently promised it. I’m still waiting.

I don’t want to wait forever. I don’t want to be an old man, watching back at the promising days of my childhood, and glancing forward to the end of days, seeing not only a world that’s largely worse than it was before, but a planet.

See EARTH DAY on page 2

Chinook power board unveiled

AUGUST FRAME
REPORTER

This spring, change is in the air as April showers bring May flowers. That’s not all that’s happening as Clatsop has a new piece of significant artwork on display. With twenty-eight people in attendance, the crunch of crackers and muffins filled the upper Columbia seating area as an old but new piece of cultural art was unveiled.

“Shiwigq Pi Mum” (Frog and Moon) is a power board made of red and yellow cedar created by Greg Robinson. Power boards were originally created by the Clatsop tribe, and served as a means of greeting the beginner. Greg displayed his piece at the Native American Seating.

A member of the CCC Board of Directors stood beside the mound and described the art. “Long ago the moon was controlled by Frog, who kept theShiwigq in his mouth. The panel shows frog at the top, with Shiwigq in his mouth, and the human form of the moon below, with two snakes along the sides.”

Thirty-four community members who saw the art a year ago felt the piece belonged at Clatsop Community College and helped raise enough money to purchase Robinson’s work as a way to honor the Chinook Nation that included the Clatsop Tribe. They were some of the earliest inhabitants of the Lower Columbia Basin and still maintain a tribal presence here with a local tribal office in Hay Center, Washington.

Photos by Patricia Warren

(Top Photo) CCC tree planted by volunteers.
(Left Photo) Earth Day volunteer planting tree on CCC main campus.

Photos by Katie Schuurbosch

(Top Photo) Frog and Moon on CCC main campus.

AN INSIDE LOOK...

History Lesson: A reporter looks at colonists and Native Americans PAGE 3

Tribute To Ebert: Well-known film critic works to the very end PAGE 4

Reenactment: One-woman performance captures spirit of reform PAGE 5

Transitioning: Film and diversity panel discuss trans-gender issues PAGE 5

The Arts: Crane Crow ceramic exhibition at CCC gallery PAGE 8
world that still doesn’t care, still doesn’t get it. Take Kari Vonne-get, who spent most of his life making jokes about depression, but after the Iraq war finally opened upon a real, visceral depression. “Dear future generations: Please accept our apologies. We were rolling drunk on petroleum.”

It’s true, the Earth Day Celebration was pretty melancholy. Hearing about the dying sea turtles, the endangered birds, the plastics strewn about the ocean in seemingly infinite gyres (ought as well be infinite for what our technology can do), which is doodley squat, about how the best way to fix most of our problems is to just stop reproducing. Isn’t the biggest pick-me-up.

But the most depressing thing of all was just how few people showed up at all, how little people cared.

Mark Ward, the founder of the Seaside based organization “Sea Turtles Forever,” was adament and clearly aggrieved by the lack of a turnout.

Michael Bunch was disappointed, even going as far as to say that teachers should go one day without class in order to participate in something as imperative as the health of our planet.

Mark Ward told me that “Cannon Beach, such a small town, has twelve days of Earth Day, where each day they do something different for the environment and local ecosystems. Twelve days, and yet we can’t even pull off one day without embarrassing results? It’s maddening.

So instead of beating ourselves up, let’s prepare for next year. What can we do now? What can we do for the future?

Well, first of all, you can volunteer, donate, or at least educate yourself.

Mark Ward’s “Sea Turtles Forever” has a wonderful website, www.seaturtlesforever.com, and getting a hold of Sharnelle Fee, Executive Director of the “Wildlife Center of the North Coast,” is as simple as picking up the phone or going to their website, www.coast-wildlife.org.

You can help prepare next year’s celebration, or at least show up. Sit in a chair, have some free popcorn, listen for a couple of hours.

As a teacher, you can bring your class in, or if you don’t have class during that time, you can at least offer extra credit to those students who do attend.

You can not only do the usual three R’s (Reuse, Reduce, Recy-cle), but you can add a fourth R, as per request from Mark Ward. Refuse. Do your part in reducing the amount of plastics that end up in the forgoing of marine life. Most of all, you can care, if only a little bit.

Of course there was some good that came out of it. Each speaker was wonderful, enter-taining, and informative, and they deserve a round of applause for their moral work and deter-minations.

The students who did show up were courteous, listened, asked questions, and genuinely wanted to be a part of the cause, many of whom signed up on the volunteer sheets. The birds that were brought in by Sharnelle Fee—a gorgeous California Brown Pelican, two Common Murres, and a Northern Fulmar—were delightful and wonderful to watch.

Our very own Pat Keeffe and Michael Bunch both gave fantastic talks on the horrors of our Earth, but also what we can do to help it. The entire thing, from the PowerPoint presentations, to the showing of the birds, to the planting of the tree, was set up beautifully.

Gina Brown and every- one else involved did a great job preparing the first Earth Day celebration Clatsop Com-munity College has had. And although there was such a low attendance, the audience that did show up was great. The tree...
Colonists and Native Americans, and what went wrong

May 2013 | THE BANDIT

Remember interaction toll to 1644, grated. This was still considered frees. Pilgrims the became the were the transporta have two to watch two neigh Jamestown.

TECHNICAL EDITOR
group disease. survivors was retal iate her to England for med

d to 1644, the was quickly a time of peace. Unfortunately, grazed. This was still considered tives' crops being trampled and resulted in the natives' angry.

The settlements often occurred over hunt with more tribes. With more tribes, the relations between the two groups was difficult. This led to a lot of issues for the natives. They were often fenced within small areas, which was impossible. Additionally, livestock was allowed to roam around the natives' lands, which caused the natives' crops to be trampled and destroyed the natives' way of life.

In 1620, Powhatan's brother Opuchancum led an attack on the English settlers. The attack was successful and the death toll was three hundred settlers. After the massacre in Jamestown, the English requested supplies from the empire, and they began slaughtering the natives with superior weaponry.

When Virginia became a royal colony in 1647, the main two thousand natives were forced to sign a treaty allowing them to live in reservations west of Virginia. Now a lot of you may be thinking, "What about the Mayflower and the Pilgrims who landed in Massachusetts? Didn't they have Thanksgiving?"; they was well and dandy?" Yes, it's practically the same relationship that the Virginia colony had with Powhatan's tribe. The difference seems to be seeking religious freedom, so, their perspective of the natives were heathens and savages. Pilgrims were initially grateful for the natives since they had starved to death off the boat. With such hospitality, the natives brought food to the Pilgrims. Whether or not this was the commonly recognized facts is up for debate.

However, this needs emphasis: the Pilgrims just like the Virginia colonists began encroaching on native land. We all know how this impacted the native way of life. A group of natives from the Pequot tribe killed a trader; afterward, the English settlers rallied soldiers to massacre a Pequot settlement. This was compared to five hundred Pequots. This was practically how most battles went. The natives didn't have the tools to retaliate during Metacomet's War. The end of the conflict was the Pequot War ended with the Dutch settlers losing eight percent of their male settlers while most of the Pequot tribe were either shipped to Bermuda as slaves, or they surrendered and began trading with the English traders. The natives of the 17th century were good people. Savages. We should have watched the Pilgrims starve, and it seems like the colonists didn't want any peace in their life. Farewell to the Native Americans out of history.

Earth Day

Dear Aunt Blabby,

What's up with the no smoking on campus? No smoking anywhere. What do you think?

Signed,

Front Row Seats

Dear Front Row,

Yes, it is illegal, but it's tricky. According to the D.A. Stated that Oregon's 467 deals with private indecency; however, the law requires you prove his intent was to humiliate or other. The key word is intent. You should call the police, but they might hesitate to do something initially. Personally, before I did that, I would leave a note for the guy about this. We would be glad to see them, and we don't expect anyone else to fine them. We are the ones who have to do it, and it starts by attending a two-hour presentation, starts by spreading your ideas, and it starts by caring. That's all that I ask of you.

To do what we can make to Earth Day here on campus a real thing for the community of Clatsop County. Because, all animals need it, our Earth needs it, we need it.

And maybe together, we can do something to change the world. Watch it. TTY/Teletypewriter mode at a time.

Remember Earth Day!

April 22, 2014

Not Coffee in the Library

Earth Day

Continued from page 2

we planted, a skinny but tough Cascara, was beautiful and will probably outlive us.

All that we're asked to do is from anyone who's allowed and still there is remember the Earth is only the planet we have, and we can't expect anyone else to use it.

We are the ones who have to do it, and it starts by attending a two-hour presentation, starts by spreading your ideas, and it starts by caring. That's all that I ask of you.

To do what we can make to Earth Day here on campus a real thing for the community of Clatsop County. Because, all animals need it, our Earth needs it, we need it.

And maybe together, we can do something to change the world. Watch it. TTY/Teletypewriter mode at a time.

Remember Earth Day!

April 22, 2014
The truth is, I am afraid of death. Death makes me tremble, which means I am afraid of it. "It is going to get me some kind of fear of it. A different kind, a kind that is a part of understanding of that browbeats us all into submission. Trying to make sense of it, trying to die, and then, nothing., means is trying to understand, but also to accept the possibility of a living, breathing state, to a person who is going to be annihilating sun, your leaves withering away and your whole life is nothing, nothing. How can one possibly understand that! How can one possibly understand that the sun wasn't even trying to do anything! He didn't seem to have any more answers than the rest of us, he just faced it as far as he could, even that he had no fear, that there wasn't anything to be scared of after all. In the view of his writing, he never did come to conquer the dreadness so he faced it. And was able to die. The cancer had retreated for as it had realized it was worse than a hero, a hero of film advocates and literary enthusiasts alike. The Bogeyman had finally met defeat, he was without a doubt. Upon April 3, 2014, nearly before I wrote this, Roger died. Although he was written as a hero for his inspiring admiration for others, his passing was not just a personal loss. It was his own self-inspiring admiration for others. His paddes passed away. He faced his death in some ways soul crushing, it also passed way for something beau- tiful.

something to that. I think we can conquer death, but we can't conquer fear. Fear is an absolute, either literal or metaphorically. And if not then you've been wrong. If "I died suddenly right now" his mind came through the wall and blew me to pieces, and was given the chance to look at moment and all moments before it, would I be happy with how I spent them? I'm sure it's im- possible. To "yes", I am hap- py with how I spend every mo- ment of my life, thank you very much, but striving for it is the only way to do that.

In 1975, Roger Ebert was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his film criticism, as a critic to win the award. He was a television icon along with other film critics, he also reviewed, wrote reviews, essays on film and life. On the view review said "Miyazaki S & Ebert. He has written count- less reviews, shorter stories, essays on film and life. When he died, Derek Ebert, the President of the United States, made a statement, where he praised him. He was a great critic of film, there is a greater sentence to de- scribe Ebert's dedication, I don't think there is a greater statement.

Ebert was prolific, brilliant, outstanding, but he didn't lead you apart or portray block- ing films simply because it was the status quo to do so. People could trust him and people

Or his dissatisfaction of the "mystery" behind M. Night Shyamalan's "The Happening." "To call it an anticlimax would be an insult not only to its dialogue and acting, but to a crummy secret, about one stop short of a cop-out, about the plot's identity from It Was All a Dream. It's so, with, in fact, that when you realize what it is, you'd want to rewrit the film so we don't know the secret anymore. And then keep on rewinding, and rewinding, until we re back at the beginning, and can get up from our seats and walk back- ward out of the theater and go down the up escalator and watch the money spring from the cash register into our pockets."

As it was, though possibly more known for the above and many, many other against theridge in the Hollywood, he also showed, on countless occasions, why he becam e a movie critic instead of any other kind of journalist. The following is an excerpt from his review on Hayao Miyazaki's brilliant film, "Spirted Away," of his? The only thing unanswerable, almost childlike, wonder of the film, the anima- tion. Miyazaki says he made the film specifically for ten-year-olds. That is why we play it for our kids. Miyazaki Movies made for 'everybody'

Schneider, he said, "Some- thing when I write a negative review, 'Miyazaki" let you can't wait to bun the next film." Not true. I would make my approach to see if this show that I maintained an open mind."

He was active with the community—blogging, tweet- ing, keeping himself up to date. After his diagnosis with poten- tial tumours, he rambled along on his blog, asking himself and others about the meaning of life, of what happens after death, be fore life, what lies beyond the universe, what predicated the Big Bang, and what or who he is, anyway.

And through it all, it's easy to too nd how to head in recognition. He's done the best he could. Maybe he should have looked at his life, if he's doing the right road, to now- look down some as spiritual incan- tation from the icom —I found it hard to believe he wouldn't be satisfied with what he's ac- complished. He had plans for the future, of course he did, I think most of us will until the very end, but life is very finite and he didn't want to spend forever more do we care. We want him to be happy. And the last stand of his friends was supposed to go down and stay down, wasn't an unhappy one.

Our, his Chaz came out with a statement shortly af- ter he died. "We're getting ready to go home today for his pic care, when he looked at us, and the last days and the next, no struggle, no pain, just a quiet, dignified transition." so to me it doesn't sound like the thing of a man in the wake of the in- exorable thing. I sound like he knew of the new "open arms. Was it a hor- rible thing? Yes, in a way, it was, but it was also beautiful, almost as if it was scripted in one of the movies he loved himself, he or him, or hated, depended on the many movies of execution, on his own conscious.

He will be dearly missed. The only thing we can do is make sure he doesn't go in vain. Follow his example and keep on to the very end.

---

"I am grateful for the gifts of intelligence, love, and laughter. You can't say it wasn't interesting." - Roger Ebert
A child, no older than five, sat with her mother in a dairy shop about the size of a commu-
nity library. She was surrounded by other women and their children who were packed in tight, 
flushed by the closeness. Scarcely a hair was visible, and the faces, these were the prisoners 
of London's Newgate Prison of the 18th century.

"A Visit with Elizabeth Fry," a special showing of a film based on the life of Elizabeth Fry, recently 
costumed Roena Oesting acting the role of Elizabeth Fry, 19th century Quaker and prison re-
former. When Oesting donned her costume, she brought the au-thority of the character, the 
spirit and the heart of the character, to the lives of the women in the prison, the prisoners.

"It's been a long journey for me," said Oesting. "I've been relating the story of a woman 
who helped to change a country, the lives of hundreds of women who were imprisoned.

After her visit, the audience learned the story of Elizabeth Fry's life, her crimes, and her 
journey to change the way women's lives were treated in prison. Fry was a Quaker, a religious 
figure who believed in the power of love and compassion. She was the first female prison re-
former, and her work laid the foundation for modern prison reform.

The film, "A Visit with Elizabeth Fry," was a powerful reminder of the power of one 
person to change the course of history. It is a story of love, compassion, and the power of 
individual action. The film reminded us that we all have the power to make a difference in the 
world, to change the lives of others, and to make the world a better place.

---

**CCC Presents Annual Art Student Show**

The CCC Art Student Show will be on display at the CCC Center Gallery from Thursday, May 16th to Friday, June 7th. An opening reception for the student artists is scheduled for Thursday, May 16th, from 5-7 p.m. The show will run through June 7th or until the pieces are collected.

The Art Student Show is an annual event that celebrates the creative talents of CCC students. It features a wide range of artwork, including paintings, sculptures, prints, and other forms of visual art. The show is open to all current CCC students and is juried by professional artists.

The CCC Art Student Show provides a platform for student artists to showcase their work and gain valuable experience in the art world. It also offers the community a chance to appreciate the beauty and diversity of student art.

---

**Art Student Show Dates**

- **May 16th to June 7th**
- **Opening Reception: Thursday, May 16th, from 5-7 p.m.**
- **Juried by professional artists**
- **Free and open to the public**

---

**Student Council Notes**

The Student Council is an organization that represents the interests of student body of CCC.

The Student Council is responsible for advocating for the needs and concerns of students, as well as organizing events and activities to enhance the student experience at CCC.

---

**Art Student Show Contact Information**

For more information about the CCC Art Student Show, please contact the CCC Art Department at 503-338-2472 or visit the CCC Center Gallery.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.

---

**Art Student Show Media Information**

If you are interested in covering the CCC Art Student Show, please contact Shauck, CCC's Communications Coordinator, at 503-338-2472 ext. 255 or Shauck@ccc.edu.

---

**Art Student Show Social Media Information**

Follow CCC on social media for updates on the Art Student Show and other events. Use the hashtag #CCCArtShow to join the conversation.

---

**Art Student Show Audience**

The CCC Art Student Show is open to the public and is free of charge.
Carlos Fuentes, escritor mexicano y del mundo

PATRÍCIO MORRISEY COLUMNISTA

Carlos Fuentes, escritor mexicano y del mundo del primer ministro de la muerte del gran escritor mexicano Carlos Fuentes nació en el 11 de diciembre de 1928 y falleció en la Ciudad de México el 15 de mayo del 2012. Ya que su legado es de épocas. Fuentes vivió en Washington D.C., Quito, Montevideo, Santiago de Chile y Río de Janeiro. A los 16 años regresó a México para terminar sus estudios y eventualmente graduarse de abogado en la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Fuentes fue también economista habilitado en el Instituto de Estudios Superiores de México.

Cuando Fuentes tenía 29 años. La muerte de Antonio Cruz, considerada una de sus mejores novelas, fue publicada en 1962. El prólogo, Antonio Cruz, revivía su vida desde el lecho de muerte. Esta novela abarca desde los años de la Revolución Mexicana hasta los años cincuenta. El libro cienfuegos, publicado en 1985, es una de las mejores novelas del siglo, donde se habla de la vida y la obra de su abuelo. Fuentes también escribió novelas como "La rosa y la muerte" y "El hechizo del tambor". En 1992, Fuentes fue premiado con el Premio Nobel de Literatura.

Fuentes fue el primero en la literatura en México que logró fusionar elementos de la narrativa y la poesía. Su estilo fue definido como "el surrealismo en el realismo". Fuentes fue también un defensor de los derechos humanos y una figura activa en la lucha por la paz y la justicia social.

Fuentes fue reconocido en todo el mundo y recibió varios premios internacionales, incluyendo el Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1992 y el Premio Cervantes en 1996.

Fuentes dejó una huella en la literatura mexicana y en la literatura mundial. Su legado continúa siendo una inspiración para los escritores contemporáneos.
College Announces 2013 All-Oregon Academic Team Scholars

Clatsop Community College students Jennifer Challis and Thomas Stewart have been selected as the CCC 2013 All-Oregon Academic Team Scholars. Academic Team Scholars are selected annually from each community college in Oregon based on excellence in the classroom, intellectual curiosity, service to the college and community, and their ability to share their talents with others.

Mr. Challis is a resident of Long Beach, Washington. She started attending CCC when she was 16, and earned her first associate’s degree at 18, graduating with High Honors. She is currently working toward a second associate’s degree with the intention of transferring to a technical school and pursuing a bachelor’s degree in engineering with a focus in renewable energy.

Mr. Stewart was a U.S. Active Duty Veteran who participated in search and rescue missions and law enforcement operations on the Columbia River Bar. Following active duty, he began his college education at CCC pursuing an Associate of General Studies degree in order to begin a career in allied health.

Both students will be honored with a trip to Salem in April where they will attend a brunch with other All-Oregon Academic Team Scholars, and meet Governor John Kitzhaber, who will present the scholars with medallions recognizing their achievements. The students will be accompanied by CCC President Lawrence Galizio.

All-Oregon Academic Team Scholars receive a $1,000 Oregon transfer scholarship, and are also nominated for national recognition as a member of the “All-USA Today Academic Team” and the “Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team.”

CCC Math Instructor Liz Hylton coordinates the All-Oregon Academic Team selection process, which is sponsored by the Oregon Community College Association. Please direct inquiries to: Liz Hylton, 503-338-2507, bylton@clatsopcc.edu.
into had of a inspiring Sanchez for women to incorporating form with their surroundings."

The evening opened slowly with a fair amount of visitors who enjoyed visiting with both the artists as they graciously worked the room. Then came a steady stream of guests over the next hour which clearly, filled the entire art gallery.

Both women come from very different backgrounds: Inokuma is of direct Japanese descent while Sanchez grew up in South Arkansas, yet her mother was Japanese. They both found a unique way to unite their past experiences together through their individual artistic talents. Sanchez and Inokuma seemed to make an amazing team together and were clearly passionate about their healing abilities in a variety of ways right down to the tasty buffet style of appetizer foods from both cultures. Most of us can relate to the healing power of food and comfort this brings.

It seemed they put a great deal of thought into their presentation which was adequately delivered throughout the evening. This created a very warm and inviting atmosphere for the visitors to truly enjoy themselves.

We took a journey through their past experiences that included cultural foods, beautiful singing bowls, and thought-provoking pictures, which seemed to have a life of their own.

Sanchez showcased a collection of beautiful paintings that included a variety of collages that I found fascinating to view. She shared in her profile that “The results of being raised with this sense of being the outsider, has allowed for an ability to create from a more observational aspect.”

This was only part of her message as Sanchez also included another perspective where she shared: “In a sense it gives one the feeling of being in the world, but not of the world.” All of her pieces appeared to tell a story that was easily understood and yet left plenty of room for our own interpretations.

Inokuma also showcased her creative singing bowls, with each having a story of its own to share. I found my own story in many of them and watched as the guests enjoyed playing the amazing pottery bowls to hear their own songs and stories as well. She shared that “Singing bowls are used in rituals and ceremonies marking the beginning and the end of a meditation, evoking tranquility in humans with their surroundings.

Inokuma also stated that she makes these pots for people to incorporate into their own daily routines, hoping the pots will stop them momentarily, long enough to give a nod to the earth and everyone who lives on it. I especially enjoyed this idea as I have put a great deal of effort into incorporating a form of meditation in my daily life of gratitude and appreciation to our earth and those within as well.

I had a moment to share my gratitude with both amazing women for their inspiring works of art that brought amazing beauty to my heart. I was reminded that no matter where we come from or what our past and the past of our ancestors hold, we can all come together and unite in many poetic ways every day.

The evening opened my eyes once again to endless possibilities and filled my heart deeply with a great deal of compassion. I was grateful for the invitation to share my own thoughts and tightly wrap my hidden message on their tree filled with hope that still sit in the window on their showroom floor today.

Inokuma and Sanchez offered this magnificent tree for all to become part of their art exhibit as well and to share their own stories of inspiration and hope throughout the evening as well. This night touched my heart in very profound ways, and I am grateful to both of them.