

Environmentally conscious laundry services on OI

BY COLLEEN SMITH
Editor/Publisher

Daniela Wagner has done well around the globe starting businesses that meet a critical need.

"I have a knack for getting things off the ground and pulling them out of thin air and making them a success," said Wagner, owner and operator of Eco Cleaners Orcas Island. "For this, I wanted techniques that were as pure and harmless as possible."

Now in her second year of operation, she provides laundry and dry cleaning services using only

environmentally conscious products and practices.

"It feels really rewarding because I have so many people who come in here and the first words out of their mouth are 'thank you so much for being here,'" Wagner said.

She uses a fleet of high-efficiency household washers and dryers and handwashes more delicate items.

"It's as gentle as we possibly can be while achieving best possible results. There us no need to compromise quality for eco-friendliness — quite the contrary," she said. "The power cost and water

usage are low because household machines are a lower voltage than industrial machines."

Wagner doesn't use any chemicals in her dry cleaning, instead opting for high-end professional steaming machines. Rather than detergent, she uses magnets that go into the water, which changes the surface tension.

"It's the same thing soap does," she said. "If I have to use detergent, it's biodegradable. I use an enzyme for stain treatment ... these techniques go back thousands of years. I put a lot of research to find the perfect mix of technology and tried and true processes. This is going back to what is normal but it's with better technology."

Currently, Wagner is doing all of the work herself, although she looks forward to hiring an employee or two. Although it fluctuates, her clientele is usually split evenly down the middle between lodging establishments and island residents.

"We have a water problem on Orcas Island and there were laundry services needed for hotels and b&b's and for private customers.

This laundry is going to be done on Orcas anyway, and I might as do it with less water, electricity and less soap. It's really important to me what goes into the wastewater," she said.

Originally from Germany, where she opened a cafe and bar that is still in existence today, Wagner's background is in designing high-end evening wear and wedding dresses. She also offers alterations and sewing at Eco Cleaners.

"I like textiles and I am used to working with silk and luxurious materials," she said.

While living in Vermont for eight years, Wagner designed for Sajen jewelry. Prior to moving to Orcas in 2018, she lived in South America where she opened an organic skincare line in Ecuador and Uruguay.

"We made biodegradable laundry detergent for that line. It was very successful! It was half of my sales," she laughs.

Wagner was visiting friends in Bellingham when she took a detour to Orcas Island.

"I was thinking of leaving South America, and it was either going to be



COLLEEN SMITH/STAFF PHOTO

Above: Daniela Wagner in her storefront in Eastsound.

the pacific northwest or Germany," she said. "When I visited, Orcas Island informed me I would be moving here. It wielded its magic."

In her spare time, Wagner hugs trees, meditates, spends as much time in nature as she can, creates art and designs dresses (<http://www.dani-wagner.com/>). After her many years of being an entrepreneur, Wagner says she has learned patience and perseverance.

"Hold to your vision

and do what you have to do," she said. "It's 2020. It's about any little thing we can do to help nature, especially in an environment like this, which is still pristine and we need to preserve as much as possible."

Eco Cleaners is located in the Airport Office Center, Suite A5 and A6, 1286 Mt Baker Road. Call 360-202 6226 or visit www.ecocleanersinc.com for more information.

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While we move through this pandemic and the 2020-21 school year, we see our team of **SHEROES** as parents, grandparents and other family members rallying to help each other with, meals, chores, zoomclasses, and some who don't even use zoom, help carry the weight! We are coming together to learn this new "way of life"....and while we hold down the fort here (so to speak) at our office, we will juggle all that we are thrown and hope you understand!! This is how we remain strong, connected and support each other as well, our community. We support ALL Small Businesses and the WOMEN (& MEN/PARTNERS who are beside them)!

Thank you for your patience and your ongoing support!

Kami Griffin, Alexis Beckley, and Judi Madan, licensed independent agents

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Traveling display at Orcas Library

BY DIANE CRAIG
Staff reporter

A common mistake many make in talking about the American woman's right to vote is confusing the term "given the right" to vote with "fought for and earned the right." A new exhibition at the Orcas Island Library aims to put an end to that confusion.

"Votes for Women: A Story of Persistence," is a traveling display of historical posters that chronicle the long slog that ensured women's right to cast a ballot and how that right was inextricably linked to the fight for women's equality. The display is one of several exhibitions

the Smithsonian Institute makes available through the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibitions program.

Thanks to a generous donation by a charter member of the SITES board and former Orcas Islander Valerie Anders, a pictorial history recounting the story of the American woman's fight for the right to vote will be visible through the library's south windows through the end of November.

Anders, who lived many years on Orcas, hopes many women will visit the exhibition to learn about the historical and often painful struggle to get the right to vote.

"Since 2020 is the 100th anniversary

of women's suffrage it's more important than ever to understand and emphasize the power of our vote.

"I'm hopeful every person who sees the exhibit will come away with a deep appreciation for what women went through to claim a right that belongs to every American."

For more information about the Smithsonian and its traveling exhibits, visit www.sites.si.edu.

Orcas Library remains closed to the public with online reservations and curbside pickup. Visit www.orcaslibrary.org to stay up to date with the library's offerings and hours of availability.

Rachel Newcombe, L.I.C.S.W.

Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis

"And where the words of women are crying to be heard, we must each of us recognize our responsibility to seek those words out, to read them and share them and examine them in their pertinence to our lives.

- Audre Lorde

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The women of Orcas Fire and Rescue

** This photo was taken pre-COVID.*

Back Row, Left to Right
Micki Nichols, Hilary Canty, Rita Harvey, Shawn Simpson, Judy Madan, Molly Roberts

Front Row, Left to Right
Kat Barnard, Kim Kimple, Maria Nutt, Libby Garcia, Roz Montgomery

Not shown: Pat Ayers, Jennifer Carbin, LaRen Gevaart-Rossie, Jane Gray, Janet Marlow, Jill Sherman, Lisa Steckley, Monique Turner, Kasey Jo Weigley, Janice Weyemer, Betsy Wilson, and Caroline Wiltz

Siren Boutique

Thank you to all of our customers who stayed home and stayed safe this spring! And to all of our customers who came out and supported us once safety guidelines were established and in place, your support is keeping us open.

As many of you know I have taken on the management of our local food bank during this pandemic in efforts to keep equitable food access available to those who need it in our community. Obviously I cannot handle both alone, so I am thrilled to announce my partnership with Sara Harlow. Sara will manage the shop and oversee the buying for the majority of our boutique lines.

Sara and I are two mermaids in a boat with family from the same small town in Maine. I couldn't be more thrilled to have her on board! This winter will be particularly hard on small business so please shop where you live and donate to the Orcas Island Food Bank.

Siren will offer 10% off all non-sale items now through December with the donation of 5 or more shelf stable food items. Be safe, wear a mask, and see you soon!

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