



visual

GALLERIES & OPENINGS & PROFILES

BY AMY KEPFERLE

Buy Local

DOWNSIZING SANTA

DEAR SANTA,

It is with regret we must inform you that your gift-giving services won't be required this year, after all. We know you've got your list of all the boys and girls throughout the land of Bellingham and its outlying areas who are likely looking forward to seeing what wonderful things you put under the tree while they slept unaware, but that doesn't change our decision.

Don't get us wrong, Mr. Claus, we really appreciate everything you've done for us over the years. We know it's not easy for you to get your rotund frame in and out of every fireplace in the world in one night. Perhaps crossing us off your list will give you a well-needed respite. This way, you'll have time for a nap, giving those thousands of pounds of milk and cookies you ingest each Christmas time to digest before you continue on your way.

The thing is, SC, we're trying really hard to support the local artists and craftspeople that make our burg special. Here in Bellingham, in addition to the annual art-centered events that happen every holiday, we're offering up a little something called "Buy Local Week." Your elves do a great job of building cool toys, and we really appreciated all those Playstations and iPod Nanos you stuffed under the tree last year, but we're trying to help out those close to home by purchasing and appreciating *their* wares.

Through events such as the **Holiday Tour d'Art** in Fairhaven Nov. 28-29, the 36th annual **Holiday Arts & Crafts Sale** finishing up Nov. 28-30 at the venerable Roeder Home, the **Pacific Arts Holiday Market** opening Nov. 28 at the old Fountain Drug building, Allied Arts' **Festival of the Arts** in downtown Bellingham, Bison Bookbinding's **Holiday Handmade Bazaar** at its One of One gallery—see the listings on the next page for more details—and a plethora of craft and art sales at local churches, schools and community buildings, we're making our dream a reality. We've got our own lists, you see, and we're pretty sure we can find just about everything we need to



ATTEND

WHAT: 6th Annual Buy Local Week
WHEN: Dec. 1-7, 2008
WHERE: Throughout Bellingham
INFO: 647-7093 or sconnect.org



check off names while managing to keep it local.

You may be feeling bummed about our decision, Santa, but we hope you don't take it personally. We're simply trying to do what's good for our citizens in these oh-so-difficult economic times. By buying local, we're reducing our environmental impact—which means less habitat loss and pollution—as well as creating more fiscal opportunities for those who actually live and work here. We've even got a "Where the Locals Go!" guide to help folks find their way to purchasing presents without visiting big-box chains or relying on you to help us.

Yes, dear sir, we know it's not always possible to find what we need locally, and in those instances we may call upon your fine services. But we're trying to be better about making our Christmas purchases local and unique, and would appreciate your understanding. You're not a bad guy, Big Red, but we can't always depend upon you being there. Thanks for everything you've done for us over the years, and have yourself a merry little Christmas. ☺

