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Business News

(Excerpt from Business News section)

SUSTAINABILITY PRACTICES LEAD TO BUSINESS AWARDS

Sustainable Connections awarded four Whatcom County businesses as sustainability champions at the organization's annual All Members Meeting & Potluck on Jan. 13.

"This was the first year we bestowed these special awards on our members, and we look forward to continuing the tradition of honoring the Sustainability Champions all around us," said Abby Hade Terpstra, membership assistant at Sustainable Connections.

The winners, by category, were:

- **Leader in promoting Strong Community** – Elie Samuel of Samuel's Furniture. Elie Samuel works to make his business as sustainable as possible by reducing waste, taking the watershed pledge, using green power and participating in the Community Energy Challenge. He has gone the extra mile with his employees from giving them seeds to grow their own food to offering yoga classes.
- **Leader in promoting Healthy Environment** – Dave Hansen of Lummi Island Wild. Lummi Island Wild is a local partnership of reefnet fishermen, fishing with reefnet gear off Lummi Island, Whatcom County. In addition to direct marketing their own products, they operate an extremely environmentally friendly salmon fishery. In 2007, they launched their pilot solar powered reefnet boat, making Lummi Island Wild the first solar powered wild salmon fishery in the world. Reefnetting has almost zero bycatch mortality – meaning for every 200 non-targeted or protected wild salmon caught and released, one will die.
- **Leader in promoting Meaningful Employment** – Keith Carpenter of Wood Stone. Wood Stone is a local manufacturer of state-of-the-art wood fire ovens for restaurants and businesses around the world. Employees get treated well with great benefits, birthdays off, days off for bike commuting and ping pong tables in the break areas. Wood Stone also makes the decision to keep jobs here in Whatcom County instead of overseas.

• **Leader in promoting Buying Local First** – Anna Rankin, Katie Hinton and Nikki Williamson of The Table/Bellingham Pasta Co. The ladies of Bellingham Pasta Co. and The Table live their values by delivering their handmade pasta by bicycle, source a large number of ingredients locally and display the names of the farms and local vendors they do business with prominently in the restaurant.

• **Lifetime Achievement Award** – Fred and Lynn Berman, previous owners of Pastazza in Barkley Village, for their many years of service taking action for a healthy community. Before Pastazza, the Bermans owned Innisfree, a garden-to-table restaurant in the Maple Falls/Glacier area and have been leaders in the local food movement for years. Fred was one of the early board members of Sustainable Connections and helped it grow into what it is today.