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**ABOUT TOWN**

**Holistic beauty topic of book talk at library**

The Friends of the Jamestown Library will host a talk on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m., by Susan West Kurz, who will talk about her book "Awakening Beauty."

Susan Kurz nurtured Dr. Hauschka Skin Care, Inc. from a modest import business to the U.S. supplier of the industry's premiere holistic skin care brand. She is renowned as an expert on holistic beauty, a subject she's studied since 1972 when she was first introduced to Dr. Hauschka Skin Care products and treatment

methods. Susan divides her time between Amherst, Mass. and Jamestown. She is married to Clifford Kurz, co-founder of Dr. Hauschka Skin Care, Inc.

The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

**Mittens, hats collected for women's center**

With the expectation of a cold and long winter ahead, the staff at the Town Hall will start collecting mittens, scarves, hats and gloves for the annual holiday Mitten Basket.

Items for the basket will be accepted as of today. Donations can be made Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will benefit the Newport County Women's Resource Center. Donations must be brand new or hand-made and left unwrapped. Place them in the basket at the Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Ave. The donations will be accepted until Friday, Dec. 12, at 4 p.m.

If there are any questions regarding basket donations, call Deputy Town Clerk Heather Lopes at 423-7282.

**Youth basketball league at rec center**

The Jamestown Recreation Department will offer youth basketball programs starting in January 2009.

There will be a Youth Instructional League for kindergarten and first graders every Monday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and a Youth Instructional League for second graders every Monday night from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., both sessions beginning on Jan. 5.

For those in grades 3 to 8, there will be Youth League Basketball every Saturday, beginning Jan. 10.

The cost for all the leagues will be \$25 per child, and \$15 for each additional child in the same family. Sign up at the Recreation Center, 41 Conanicus Ave., call Jill at 423-7260, or email jgoldstein@jamestownri.net.

**MURPHY'S LAW**

In Rhode Island, there are thirty-nine separate municipal jurisdictions, thirty-nine Probate Courts, and thirty-nine places for recording of deeds. Given the budgetary strains being experienced by governments and taxpayers, some consolidation would seem to be prudent. Significant cost savings might be achieved by assigning these functions to our five counties.

The Town of Jamestown consists of three islands: Conanicut, Gould, and Dutch. Taking into account the state parks on these islands, the bridges, the cross-island parkway, and the RITBA facilities, a significant portion of our Town is given over to state uses. What does the Town get for all this hospitality?

Exeter is the largest town in the state in terms of land area. It has more people than Jamestown, and many more miles of roads. It has no town police department, but rather is protected by a small team of Rhode Island State Troopers. Such an arrangement saves the taxpayers of Exeter a substantial sum every year.

Libertarians believe that instead of passing more laws, governments should eliminate non-essential laws. Experience and common sense clearly demonstrate that many laws have been adopted over the years merely as a posturing and placating exercise. Rather than advancing a fair and just society, these laws may actually create serious problems.

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