



**For Immediate Release
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**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
THURSDAY, MAY 8
A Great Time for a Good Cause**

Ladies, mark your calendars. Local businesses are gearing up with special promotions and in-store events to celebrate the sixth annual Girls' Night Out on Thursday, May 8. This year, downtown merchants expect approximately 300 women to take part in the event which will involve over 30 participating businesses.

While the main intent of Girls' Night Out is to encourage women to shop locally and enjoy a night out with friends, the event also raises money and awareness for a good cause. This year, the proceeds from the sale of goody bags will go to support the projects of the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association.

BIDA Executive Director, Ashley Armstrong, is looking forward to her first year of involvement with the event, "Girls' Night Out is one of our merchants' favorite events. It is a wonderful opportunity for the community to come downtown and see what's new, spend time with friends, and reinforce community connections. The event officially kicks off spring downtown, and boosts sales for our downtown businesses." Regarding the decision to use proceeds from the sale of goody bags to benefit the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association, Armstrong says, "At first we were reluctant, but the more we discussed it, the more it made sense. Our mission to *build community through a vibrant downtown* fits perfectly with the event, and we look forward to reinvesting the proceeds into our downtown community over the coming months."

Shoppers begin the event by purchasing a \$10 goody bag at one of these five sponsoring stores: *A is for Artists Gallery, Adam and Eve Clothing Co., Churchmouse Yarns and Teas, Lollipops Children's Boutique, and Rancho Winslow.*

Each goody bag contains one free prize drawing ticket for the evening reception, an event itinerary listing what each participating business is offering that day, a coupon book loaded with special offers from Island businesses, and assorted goodies donated by downtown merchants.

Shoppers armed with goody bags can expect to be treated to discount offers and coupons, trunk shows, special demonstrations or pampering services, refreshments, and gifts with purchase at participating merchants.

Girls' Night Out shopping concludes with a wine and dessert reception at Winslow Mall from 8:00 to 9:00 pm. Shoppers collect one prize ticket for every \$10 spent at participating merchants throughout the day, and all prize tickets will be entered into a prize drawing at the reception featuring fabulous items donated by downtown merchants.

New this year is an after-hours event hosted by local restaurants, wine bars, and coffee shops. Look for after-hours offerings on the event itinerary.

For more information, call 206-842-2982 or visit www.bainbridgedowntown.org.

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