



Darlene Gait

Darlene Gait Cover Artwork: *Canada*

Darlene Gait is a member of the Esquimalt Nation of Vancouver Island and began painting as a child. Darlene's paintings and poetry celebrate her love for her West Coast Salish Culture and people. Her images bring to life the rich traditions and oral

history of the First People of Canada and the United States.

Her art also reflects her passion for protecting the environment and wildlife, as well as her Bahai beliefs in the oneness of humanity and the beauty of its diversity. Her work is unique in that it is created with emotions that allow the viewer to connect and relate to the stories told through her brush.

Darlene is recognized internationally and her art is exhibited and held in private, corporate and public collections worldwide. These include American Indian casinos such as Pechanga Resort in California. Her art is published by Rizvan Fine Arts, Island Art as well as Orca Publishing. Darlene has completed many commissions as a book illustrator of Native and environmental stories for children, including *The Secret of the Dance*, which takes readers back to a time when the potlatch was banned in Canada.

Darlene's paintings are often inspired by her vivid dreams.

She believes her dreams must be captured by her brush and poetry and then shared. Darlene feels bound by the responsibility to depict all her images with scientific and historical accuracy, as she considers her art to be part of the oral history of her culture. She is self-taught and has studied commercial illustration, graphic design and multimedia.

Darlene has received many awards including The Book Illustrator of the Year Award, Verse and Vision Peoples Choice Award and the Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Award, to name a few. Her exhibitions have received wide press and television coverage.

Darlene lives on Vancouver Island, British Columbia with her family. She paints and manages her art gallery, One Moon Gallery, located on her reserve in Esquimalt, BC. She also supports many non-profit organizations through volunteering and through her donations of art. She is an active member of Partners for Prosperity as well as on the Board of Art for Development Foundation. ♣

Darlene Gait can be reached by calling One Moon Gallery at (250) 294-6388 or email darlene@dgait.com. To view more of her artwork, visit www.onemoon.ca.

AL JOHNSON – MAY'S EXTRAORDINARY EMPLOYEE



Al Johnson

Indian Gaming magazine has named Al Johnson Extraordinary Employee for the month of May 2010. Al is the Receiving Supervisor at Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel in Williamsburg, MI where he not only manages the entire department, but also undertakes a hands-on role in its operation.

"Al is an all-around team player," said Krista Marklin, Marketing Administrative Assistant for Turtle

Creek. "Through the years, Al has stepped up to the plate and kept the receiving department at the highest level of production."

Al is an enrolled member of the Sioux Tribe and has worked for the property since 2001. He started as a receiving clerk, then took over the supervisory position. "From A to Z, we pretty much do everything from receiving cards and dice to daily UPS and FedEx deliveries," said Al. His department has even taken on additional responsibilities in various other departments. "I have an extraordinary staff that accounts for probably three times the normal workload."

Al enjoys the level of freedom that he's allowed in managing

the department, which enables him to accomplish projects and address issues much more effectively. "The management team backs me up on what we do in the department," he said. When Al first started, the receiving department was lacking some basic equipment, such as a forklift, which he was able to work with management to acquire. "It's always a good thing to be able to say that you can accomplish the needs of the department."

Al also enjoys being on his feet, moving around the property, and the resulting interaction with his coworkers. "It's good to come to work and interact with different people," he said. Receiving serves every department, including tribal government, so Al coordinates with each of them to ensure everything runs smoothly. "It gives the job a special meaning for me. Every day I come in and something different is happening."

Having been raised with a strong work ethic, Al assists every department, without hesitation, whenever he's asked. He also credits the success of receiving to his staff members, who he says display the same reliable work ethic that he does. "My staff makes my job a lot easier," Al said. "Every department between gaming and government comes to us to get something done. I actually need about ten people, but I have three. And those three do the work of about thirty people, so they deserve a lot of credit!" ♣