

SJI GRANGE #966

GROWERS, MAKERS, AND KEEPERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR
MUTUAL BENEFIT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Holiday Cheer!

**WHAT: Cookie Swap,
Tea Party, and Christmas
Tree Lighting**

**WHEN: All afternoon on
Sunday, December 18th**

**12 pm: Cookie
Decorating and Baking**

Share your favorite Christmas cookie with the community! Bake at home and bring to share, or bring your pre-made dough, decorations, and cookie cutters to bake in the Grange kitchen! Share the fun of prepping your cookies with fellow community members at our cookie decorating station.

**2:00 pm : Cookie Swap,
Tea Party, and Christmas
Tree Lighting**

Let the cookie eating begin! Hot cider and tea will be provided, with live music for the holiday season. Bring an ornament, create one, or use ours to help decorate the Christmas tree!

Pressing Matters at the Grange

On November 6, San Juan Island 4-H members kicked off this year's 4-H program with a cider pressing party,



Photo: Bruce Robinson

hosted by the Grange. Over 15 young people joined in the fun, cutting, washing, grinding, and pressing apples for cider. Not only did they learn about cider making, but they found how working together can be productive, rewarding, and fun! They pressed over 20 gallons of cider—more than enough to quench the thirst of all. 4-H coordinator Jennifer Krembs concluded the evening by saying, “This was a fun way to start the year’s program—really celebratory. Can we do it again next year?”



SAN JUAN ISLAND GRANGE #966

San Juan Island Grange #966 is a grassroots, non-partisan advocacy group supporting a resilient community on San Juan Island.

The Grange serves San Juan Islanders with legislative programs and community activities, such as talent and craft contests, scholarships, and more. You don't have to be a farmer to belong, though many are. Our elected officers are volunteers, and our "work" is done through committees. The heart of our mission is fostering community well-being, and we enjoy gathering to celebrate this.

We are a 501(c)(8) organization, accepting donations towards our programs and to maintain Grange Hall, in downtown Friday Harbor.

Officers of San Juan Island Grange #966 may be found at sanjuangrange.org/officers.html

Our bylaws and resolutions may be found at sanjuangrange.org/structure.html

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The Grange Exchange

The Exchange is the "Classified" section of the newsletter. Contact Deirdre Morris to post anything you would like to buy, sell, borrow, trade, or give away at d2morris@gmail.com

Wanted: steamer. I can buy it or borrow it. Or let me know what you want to trade. Contact Deirdre at d2morris@gmail.com

I am looking for folks who want to learn sensory Natureness activities that help us strengthen the dance of nature's peace, justice and sanity in, around and as us. Contact Mike Cohen at www.ProjectNatureConnect.com

Wanted: door expert for fancy adjustable exterior double doors– they're wonderful when they work, frustrating when they won't. Experts only, please. Recommendations welcome. Contact Alison Longley at alongley_2000@yahoo.com

Free for the hauling: Portable chicken coop with indoor and outdoor spaces, two nest boxes, and room for 3 or 4 chickens. Dimensions: 97" L x 37 1/2" W x 45" H. Contact Deirdre at d2morris@gmail.com or (619) 203 4313

Letter from the President

Ah, December! The alders, maples and willows are now bare, sweaters have come out of closets, winter fires have been lit. And the first seed catalogs have arrived, with their promise of renewal and harvests to come.

December is renewal time at our Grange, as well, when each member is asked, in essence, to sow the seed of membership for another year, in anticipation of a harvest of fellowship and cooperation.

There are several ways to renew your membership. You can do it online at sanjuangrange.org or, in person, at the Grange booth at the San Juan Island Farmers Market on December 3 and 17. Or better yet, you can do it at the Membership Renewal Fair on December 21 at Grange Hall. In addition to our traditional Solstice Observance and Welcome Ceremony that evening, we will set up recruiting stations, where work groups and committees will make pitches for new members and take input on projects.

There are three committees that could use extra energy right now. Our Grange is founded on a bedrock of membership, and the Membership Committee needs help to strengthen that foundation. If you want to help fortify your Grange in this way, please contact Val at wwpval@gmail.com. The Grange Hall Building Committee is in charge of the physical structure of our Grange. The hall is the public face of our organization and conveys our values and strengths to the community. With the election of Bill Severson to the Executive Committee, the Building Committee needs a new leader. Please contact me at roger.thornbush@gmail.com if you can serve on the Building Team. Lastly, we can thank the Agricultural Support Committee for the apple press, the dehydrators, the poultry equipment, and several successful public workshops. Ag Support meets weekly via Zoom and gets lots of stuff done. If you want to join, contact Bruce at brobinson@rockisland.com.

Roger Ellison, 2022 President

GROWERS' CIRCLE COFFEE HOUR

AT THE GRANGE HALL

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 8AM



Currently via Zoom. Email roger.ellison@gmail.com for the link.

OPEN TO ALL WHO INTERESTED IN LOCAL FOOD AND LOCAL FIBER. TEA PROVIDED. TEA AS WELL, SOMETIMES.

FREE!



SAN JUAN ISLAND GRANGE #966

THE GRANGE IS NONPARTISAN AND SO IS THIS EVENT. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Notice Board



Name the newsletter!

Names proposed so far:

The Dirt

Roots

The Press

The Gleaner

The Grange Gleaner

Keep those suggestions coming!

Renew your Grange membership now!

Renewal is easy on the Grange website. Just go to <https://sanjuangrange.org/membership.html>

The Ag Support Report

By Bruce Robinson

In the spirit of the opening lines of the Grange mission statement: “To support a resilient community of growers, makers and keepers,” the Agricultural Support Committee has had a busy year.

We have worked on many projects to help farmers and gardeners. And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank our committee members: Lois Moore, Candace Jagel, Nancy Best, Bill Severson, Patty Garcia, Roger Ellison, and Elaine Kendall. Each has contributed in mighty ways.

The synergy among our committee members has led to a delightful dilemma: too many project ideas for too few people. As mentioned in Roger’s *Letter from the President*, above, on December 21, at the Solstice Observance, Member Welcome Ceremony and Renewal Fair, we will be looking for new members to help with this important work.

Stay tuned! We’ll be getting the word out about upcoming projects. You might even be interested in joining us!



Upcoming events

December 7 at 7pm: Regular Grange meeting with installation of officers

December 9-11: Grange at the Old-Fashioned Christmas Market at Brickworks

December 18: Cookie Day at Grange Hall

December 21: Solstice Observance, Member Welcome Ceremony, and Renewal Fair. Fair starts at 6pm, Observance and Ceremony at 7pm



Bee Aware!

The pollination workshop was a great success.

Pollination resource material compiled by the Washington State University Small Fruit Horticulture Team may be found online at

<https://linktr.ee/wsupollination>

The link to the recording of the workshop will be posted on the WSU website for one year at

https://wsu.zoom.us/rec/share/MzBA2JckLqwPXF_pgMUI-mZgSaZUtcuKpODnRlvpXICjDO4erLhkKNGD_E9Lb5l.ZcF_5NaWT9tQWjS6

The Grange Is Going to Seed!

By Nancy Best



A Seed Bank, Seed Library, and Seed Exchange—there is lots of seed-related action in the works for the Grange!

A **Seed Bank** of non-hybrid seeds, enough for gardens for 50 families should the need arise, is already in place. Seeds vary by variety in their viability. Every year there will be

seeds reaching the last year of their maximum viability, for which new seeds will be bought and the older seeds made available for exchange.

Seed Exchanges are planned for February 19 and March 19. As well as moving out seeds from the seed bank that are in their last year of maximum viability, we will be exchanging seeds that have been harvested from local gardens, featuring seed lines potentially adapted to our island growing conditions. Also, we will exchange starts from perennials.



A **Seed Library** is still in the planning stage. There are complex where/how/when issues that need to be thought out so that the program will run smoothly once started. Anyone with ideas/energy for this, please let me know at nancyb113@gmail.com!