

SJI GRANGE #966

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

San Juan Island Repair Fair

By Marc Santos

Come learn and maybe make some repairs at a Repair Fair! SJI Grange #966, Alchemy Arts Center, and the Fellow Shop will be setting up repair workstations at **Grange Hall on February 12, noon-4pm.**

The fair is free. Some hand tools and sewing implements will be provided, but BYOS (bring your own supplies). Attendees will have a chance to mend clothing, make art, or repair simple/small household items (like a lamp!) at each workstation. Each organization will have folks on hand to help.



The Repair Fair is a collaborative effort of the Grange, Alchemy Arts Center, the Fellow Shop, Transition San Juan, and others. We will be coordinating repair, mending, and upcycle events year-round on San Juan Island, where attendees can find space, community, and resources to help themselves and each other become more resourceful.

The next Repair Fair event is scheduled for March 13 at Alchemy Arts Center. Details for the March event and future events will be shared on the Grange Facebook page as they are planned.

Seedy Sundays, Soon!

By Nancy Best

What: Free seeds—vegetables, herbs, flowers. All are invited to come share and receive seeds within our community. If you grew seeds last year, bring some to pass along. If you ordered more seeds than you need, this is a chance to give them a good home. Or you can come “seed free” to get seeds from your neighbors, as well seeds from our seed bank.



When: Sunday, February 19 and Sunday, March 19, 2 to 4pm

Where: Your Grange Hall

Who: Everybody (not just Grangers!)



Bringin' Back
the Potluck!

Third Thursdays
6-9pm @ The Grange
For Grangers & Guests

Local dishes & drinks encouraged
Starts January 19th!



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

San Juan Island Grange #966
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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 To re-list an item, contact Candace at snowberryfarm@rockisland.com

For sale: Tandem-axle utility trailer, rated at 12,000 lbs. New wiring for the lights. Heavy duty tailgate. \$5,000 obo. Contact Amy at (360) 317 3752.



Horse tack for sale. If interested, please text Sarah Severn at (503) 807 4765.

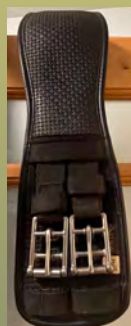
Hunter Classic girth. 54-inch. Dark brown. \$40



Lettia Memory Foam Klik girth. All purpose. 50-inch. Brown. \$30



Dressage Girth. Ovation Airform. 22-inch. Black. \$20.



Letter from the President

Congratulations, San Juan Island Grange! We have the most members of any grange in Washington State, according to State Grange President Tom Gwin. He delivered that news at a fireside chat in our hall on Sunday,



SJI Grange #966 is commended for having the most members of any grange in the state

January 22. The National Grange has seen a membership gain for the first time in 50 years, and most of that gain is in the West. He told us that other granges in Washington are growing quickly, so we must not slack off!

But perhaps we grew so fast in 2022 that we left a few loose ends in the process. Our members are not being served as well as I think they could be. It is not easy, for instance, for a new member to find a home in a committee, workgroup, or project. Growers and Makers join for many reasons, not least because they want to be involved in our mission. So let's welcome them better!

For example, let's create a team that reviews applications in order to recommend mentors and guide applicants to committees based on their interests. Let's create rules for a new Family Membership option and consider a Junior Grange in our future. And let's adjust our dues structure to keep more of our money on the island and perhaps make membership renewal automatic.

This work will require a range of experience and expertise, so the more people working on it, the better. I will be convening a special focus group in February to improve our membership system. Please email me at roger.thornbush@gmail.com if you want to be included. BTW, it is currently renewal time for membership, which you can do [on our website](#). Yes, we take credit cards!

With your help, we can keep growing!

Roger Ellison, 2023 President

GROWERS' CIRCLE COFFEE HOUR

AT THE GRANGE HALL
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 8AM

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

OPEN TO ALL WHO ARE 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 

Save the Date!

Seedy Sundays
Sunday, February 19
Sunday, March 19
2-4pm at Grange Hall

Bring your vegetable and flower seeds and starts/divisions to swap, fill in your seed stock with your neighbors seeds that have been grown in the islands. Everybody wins!

Renew your Grange membership now!

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



Grange Grain Growing Group

By Bruce Robinson

The Agricultural Support Committee has formed a new group with a focus on growing grains and supplements to feed local livestock. We will break ground on this project later in the spring, but there's lots to do to get ready.

Mission To assist in the production of components for farm animal feed

Goals

- Assist local grain growers in their production of grains
- Grow a variety of supplements to complement grain in animal feed
- Assist in the sales of feed at the farmers market and at farm stands



Questions? Ideas? Volunteer? Contact Bruce Robinson at (360) 622 8028 (cell/text) or brobinson@rockisland.com



Growing Grain in 2023

Goose Hollow Farm is making plans to grow grain in 2023. We would be interested in hearing from Grangers who might be interested in locally grown grain for animal feed and/or personal use. This year we sold all we were able to produce and are now looking forward to next year. Barley? Wheat? Hullless oats? Spelt? Text Court at (360) 317-5096 to start a dialogue about what you are thinking or might need.



Bee aware!

Pollination resource material compiled by the Washington State University Small Fruit Horticulture Team may be found online at <https://linktr.ee/wsupollination>

A link to the recording of the recent workshop on pollinators, sponsored by Grange #966, the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, and WSU, will be posted on online through November 2023 at https://wsu.zoom.us/rec/share/MzBA2JckLqwPXF_pgMUI-mcZgSaZUtcuKpODnRlvpXICjDO4erLhkkNGD_E9Lb5l.ZcF_5NaWT9tQWjS6



Reach for the Summit!

The San Juan Islands Agriculture Summit is a **valued annual event** that provides a unique opportunity for the food and agricultural community from across the islands, and beyond, to gather. Designed as a space for inspiration, education, and camaraderie, the **Ag Summit features keynotes, hands-on workshops, presentations by farmers**

and regional specialists, panel discussions, meals and social events.

The theme this year—The Changing Tides of Island Agriculture—honors the intersection of water and agriculture in the islands, the challenges and opportunities for water use and conservation, as well as the rapidly evolving landscape of our local food system. **Summit programming is oriented around four tracks: Plants, Animals, Water and People.** The Summit this year will be held at the Friday Harbor UW Labs on San Juan Island.

For more information and to register:
<https://extension.wsu.edu/sanjuan/ag-summit/>

Follow us!

Facebook: [@sjcwsexextension](https://www.facebook.com/sjcwsexextension) and on Instagram: [@wsueextension_sjc](https://www.instagram.com/wsueextension_sjc)

Leadership and Renewal

By Bill Severson

Sunday, January 22 was a big day at Grange Hall. A group from the State Grange was here for a leadership meeting, followed by a Renewal Fair for our members. The team from Olympia included Tom Gwin, President; Helen Berg, Family Living; and Heather Ferguson, representing the Lecturer. San Juan Island Grange was well represented, with most of our leaders present.

We all sat around the fireplace, and Roger kept the fire roaring. He needed to because we later found out the heat pump was covered with ice. Chill aside, Roger accepted awards and praise for our Grange being the largest chapter in the state. Helen and Heather gave us several program ideas, including quilting and the Eyeglasses for Third World program. Tom touched on many topics, including the new Grange Family Membership option; most interesting, however, was the upcoming legislative session.



There is a reason why the State Grange office is located within walking distance from the capitol. The State Grange’s primary legislative objective is to represent rural residents and the agricultural community. This sometimes puts us at odds with Grange chapters in Eastern Washington on subjects such as the Snake River dams, for example. Tom’s advice was to keep chipping away at our objectives, pile into a van to Olympia, and talk with our legislators on March 2.



The leadership adjourned as Grange members arrived for the Renewal Fair. Cookies and local hot cider were served, as over 20 members milled around tables displaying project info—sipping cider, asking questions, and learning how they can join in.



Bruce Robinson told us about current and potential agriculture projects. Deb Nolan introduced herself as the Food Processing lead and told us about exciting learning opportunities in the kitchen. Ally Ruge described her role as Family Living Chair and her focus on members helping members. Bill Severson asked folks to stop by the Grange Hall booth to learn about two bathroom remodel concepts and to write down ideas for future hall improvement projects. What began as a gathering in a chilly Grange Hall became a warm moment of exchange.

