

SJI GRANGE #966

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

PLANTED!



On May 21st, Nirmela and Harold Arsem joined Jeremy Jennings and Bruce Robinson to plant field peas and buckwheat at Goose Hollow Farm, owned by Granger Court Bell. The aim is to produce supplements for grain grown by Court to make high-protein animal feed. This project will promote island food security and resilience. Nirmela and Harold pose, in full San Juan Gothic, in front of the 3000-square-foot plot of peas that they patiently raked into the soil. The Grange grain growers hope to harvest and thresh peas later in the summer to be sold with Court's grain for animal feed.

Coming Up!—Winter Seed Swap and Seed Give-Away followed by Round-Table Discussion

Save the Date: June 18, 2-4 pm

Though it may be a cringe-worthy thought, once the summer garden is planted, filling our winter pantry is the next order of business. When spring-planted greens and peas are done, planting vegetables that crave cold and stand up well in rain and snow means we will be able to eat our own fresh veggies beside the wood stove (or ductless heat pump) and when the daffodils come up next spring.

A seed swap to support winter gardening will be held on June 18. If you have fall/winter seeds to share, please bring them!

There will also be free winter veggie seeds available, including lettuce, cabbage, collards, broccoli, beets, and Brussel sprouts, provided by your Grange. We are



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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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hoping that those who take seeds to grow out will consider returning with "spares to share" at the Winter Plant Sale on September 10.

Planting seeds for winter gardens has its own challenges.

A round-table discussion will follow

the seed swap at 3pm and will be an opportunity to share our experiences and successful strategies for getting starts going.

As an island community, we realize that the vast majority of our vegetables comes a long way to feed us. This is particularly true in winter and spring. Those of us who garden or farm can help alleviate our reliance on a precarious supply chain.

Though we may yet be producing only a small percentage of food to meet our needs on San Juan Island, the more we build our self reliance, the stronger our community will be in times of supply-chain disruption.



Letter from the President

The litany of woes is large and well-known: worldwide pandemics, weird weather from a changing climate, the collapse of fossil fuels before renewables are ready, and of course ferry breakdowns. But we are not without hope. We remind ourselves at every Grange monthly meeting that there is a path through these troubles as spelled out in the **Grange Salutation: A good Patron or Matron Places Faith in God, Nurtures Hope, Dispenses Charity, and is Noted for Fidelity**

The sowing of seeds is an act of **Faith** in the laws of the universe. Distributing seeds at Seedy Sundays, loaning incubators and brooders for chicks, and encouraging new gardeners are acts of Faith.

The growing of crops is an act of **Hope** for a good harvest. Distributing plants at our Plant Sales, buying truckloads of water storage tanks together, finding land for growers, growing more winter crops, sharing knowledge through the Growers Circle, and starting the Grain Project are acts of Hope.

Sharing the harvest is an act of **Charity**. Bringing food to the Third Thursday Potluck, supplying local food to the Food Bank through Share our Bounty and offering seeds through our Seed Library are acts of Charity.

Preserving food and saving seeds are acts of **Fidelity**. Presenting Food Preservation Workshops, loaning out dehydrators, hosting public apple pressings, and maintaining our Seed Bank are acts of Fidelity.

San Juan Island Grange is engaged in creating a resilient future for our island based on having more growers on more land; sharing knowledge, labor, land, and equipment; and cooking and eating local food together. Creating this Resilient Community of Growers, Makers and Keepers on San Juan Island requires acts of **Faith, Hope, Charity, and Fidelity**. Let's keep up the good work.

Roger Ellison, 2023 President



Friday Harbor Film Festival's FREE "Best of the Fest" series will feature the Short Films Showcase: four films about the Salish Sea and San Juan Island, at San Juan Island Grange on Friday, June 23 at 7pm.

Following the film, Dr. Deborah Giles from Wild Orca will lead the filmmakers' Q&A. Filmmakers will appear in person and by livestream to speak about the films and answer audience questions. For those who can't attend in person, the movies will be live-streamed free. Start the film between 7 and 8pm on the website fnff.org.

Grange Seed Library at the SJI Food Bank!

By Nancy Best

The Seed Library got its start at the Food Bank on May 17 and was met with great enthusiasm.

We filled a cooler with many small packs of seeds (from the Seed Bank and Seed Swap) and took it to the Friday Harbor Food Bank,



where Rachelle Radonski, Food Bank manager, was happy to set it out during food bank hours. Rachelle said participants were excited by this offering, and

the cooler certainly emptied out! Seeds thus went out into the community to be planted along with all the vegetable starts donated by the Master Gardeners and those left over from our Grange plant sale. The cooler will be replenished once more with seeds for summer gardening.

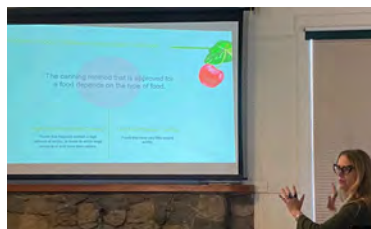
The idea for a Seed Library has been germinating for a while, alongside the Seed Bank and Seed Exchange. Starting small and soon seemed a good plan, to see if we could find a place for it during the spring growing season. Would the community embrace it? The answer seems to be: Heck YES!

We plan a more permanent, easily accessible Seed Library in the future, with support for beginning gardeners, but we are happy to get a start this year.

Preserving Our Harvest

By John Latimer

Washington State University (WSU) San Juan County Extension and San Juan Island Grange hosted WSU Food Preservation Instructor Jennie Goforth on May 10th for an educational workshop on preserving our home-grown food. About 20 of us enjoyed the full-day workshop that was loaded with helpful information to preserve our harvest safely and effectively. There were four different sections on topics such as the basics of water-bath canning; pressure canning; pickling and fermentation; and freezing, drying, and microclimate store. A big thank you to Jennie for all of the insights into food preservation. If you have questions for Jennie about food preservation, her email is j.bryan-goforth@wsu.edu.

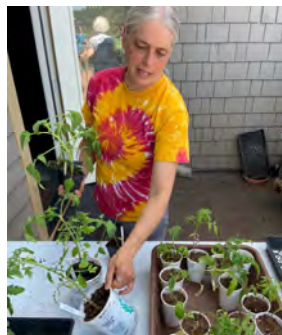


Plant Sale Success!

By Lois Moore

The second annual Spring Plant Sale at the Grange was a triumph, thanks to Grange members who generously donated healthy young plants and perennials to the sale. And thanks to those who gave their time and help before, during, and after the sale.

Highlighting the day was Amanda Zee's presentation on *Soil Microbes & Soil Health*. It broadened everyone's knowledge about the magical world beneath the soil surface and what plants need beyond the basic NPK.



Vegetable starts that did not sell at the plant sale were donated to the Food Bank (see page 4), as we did last year. We understand that plants were gratefully received and quickly went to new homes. It felt good to get these plants into the hands of even more growers and perhaps to inspire new gardeners.

The funds raised at the plant sale have already been put to good use, and new seeds have



been ordered to restock the Grange Seed Bank. Additional funds are earmarked for a permanent Seed Library next spring, and some seeds will be grown out for the upcoming Winter Vegetable Seed Swap (see page 1).

We are also planning a Winter Plant Sale in September, asking Grangers for donated plants meant for winter gardens, grown from seeds given out at the June Seed Swap.

As always, the Grange Agricultural Support Committee will use the funds raised at these events to benefit Grange members, but also for projects aimed at supporting a sustainable food network for our wider island community.