



The Tome of Lummi Island

2026 - Volume 61 No. 1



Calendar of Events

Weekly

Sunday	Island Chapel – Grange Main Building	9:30 - 10:30 am
	Worship Service – Congregational Church Sanctuary	10:30 - 11:30 am
Tuesday	Island Chapel Ladies' Bible Study – 1759 Joans Ln / Zoom	7:00 pm
Wednesday	Elderberries Lunch (12pm), Games, and Coffee – The Gathering Place	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
	Island Chapel Family Bible Study – 1759 Joans Ln / Zoom	6:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursday	LIFD Volunteer Firefighting Training (except holidays)	6:30 - 9:00 pm
Friday	Coffee Shop and Games – The Gathering Place	10:00 - 11:30 am
	Qigong, Grange Hall	9:00 - 10:00 am
Saturday	Preschool Story Time at the Library Beginning January 24th	10:30 - 11:00 am

Ferry Refueling: January 8, 22 - 12:10 pm Gooseberry & 1:00 pm Lummi Island Runs Delayed

Monthly

1st Mon.	Emergency Siren Test - <i>Do not call 911</i>	12:00 pm
3rd Mon.	FOIL Board Meeting – Library, Hanson Meeting Room	6:00 pm
1st Tue	LICA Board Meeting - Library, Hanson Meeting Room	7:00 pm
2nd Tue.	WCFD 11 Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting - Fire Hall	7:00 pm
3rd Tue.	Resilient Lummi - Library, Hanson Meeting Room	6:30–7:45 pm
4th Tue.	Cemetery Commission Meeting - Grange Hall	4:00 - 5:00 pm
1st Wed.	Grange Meeting - Grange Hall	6:30 pm
4th Wed.	WCFAC Meeting - The Gathering Place	6:00 pm
2nd Thur.	Civic Club - Grange Hall	10:00 am
4th Thur	Library Book Club - Library, Hanson Room	11:00 am - 12:00 pm
4th Fri	Historical Society, Island Library	4:00 - 5:30 pm

Recycling: Mondays January 5, 19

January Events

Jan 2, Friday	Blood Drive, Grange Hall, See Pg. 6	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Jan 3, Sat	Wildlife and Birds of the Nordic Countries, Island Library, See Pg. 4	6 pm
Jan 25, Sun	Documentary Water is Love, The Gathering Place, See Pg. 7	4:30 pm
Jan 30, Fri	Bingo Night/Silent Auction, Beach School, See Pg. 3	TBD

Upcoming Events

Feb 10, Tue	Parish Dinner, Congregational Church, See Pg. 5	5:30 pm
Feb 22, Sun	Community Discussion on Water Resilience, The Gathering Place, See Pg. 7	2:30 pm
March 3, Tue	Blood Drive, Grange Hall, See Pg. 6	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
March 7, Sat	LIHT Annual Meeting, Grange Hall, See Pg. 4	6:30 pm

Check the Online Community Calendar for the most up to date information at OurLummiIsland.org

Now that the holidays are past, we can look forward to a positive 2026. The LICA General Meeting will be January 21 at the Grange. There will be an island wide potluck beginning at 6 pm. The Board will provide a fun main dish. Please bring a side dish/dessert, but not necessary to attend.

There will be a business meeting at 6:50 where all of you will consider the proposed budget for 2026 and the potential grants from LICA to various island organizations. You will also be asked to consider joining the LICA Board (2 openings on the board). We need tech savvy people willing to volunteer and help on technical issues as we have no paid staff. There will be a vote on board members for 2026. The program will begin at 7pm with a series of 5 minute presentations from several the island organizations about who they are and their plans for 2026.

Many thanks to all of you for your generous donations to support LICA and the Tome. We encourage you to contact us with any questions or suggestions to keep LICA moving ahead in 2026.



Ken Swanson, Island Resident Realtor®, Broker

Helping neighbors find homes in Whatcom County for over 19 years.



www.KenSwansonHomes.com
 Cell/Text: 360-961-6066
 Email: KenSwanson@Windermere.com



CLEANING WITH CARE

Licensed, Bonded & Insured

- ✓ Move out Cleaning
- ✓ Residential Cleaning
- ✓ Commercial Cleaning
- ✓ Air BNB Turn Overs

CALL OR EMAIL TO BOOK NOW

360-306-7078
 1415 Undine St, Bellingham Wa
 Cleaningwithcarebymichele@gmail.com



Past Rainfall Totals		2024				
Location	June	July	August	September	October	November
Westshore - Hutton/Byers	1.30	0.75	3.30	2.18	6.60	5.67
North Tuttle Lane - Nancy Simmerman	1.49	0.83	3.26	2.14	5.96	5.21
South Nugent - Jerry Brown	1.60	0.94	3.56	1.82	7.81	5.65
Scenic Estates - Leslie Dempsey	1.95	0.95	3.46	2.00	8.28	5.28
Granger Way - Scott Josiah	1.52	0.84	3.09	1.89	5.96	5.06
Scenic Estates - Crawford	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Current Rainfall Totals		2025				
Location	June	July	August	September	October	November
Westshore - Hutton/Byers	1.22	0.16	1.27	1.00	5.95	6.30
North Tuttle Lane - Nancy Simmerman	0.92	0.17	1.17	1.03	3.97	6.10
South Nugent - Jerry Brown	0.80	0.10	1.26	1.08	6.44	5.04
Scenic Estates - Leslie Dempsey	1.16	0.12	1.72	1.43	4.52	6.52
Granger Way - Scott Josiah	0.80	0.13	1.02	1.02	4.41	5.42
Scenic Estates - Crawford	1.10	0.15	1.59	1.15	4.29	6.14

Presidents Annual Report for 2025

By David Thorn

The LICA Board thanks our fellow islanders for a productive and positive 2025. We are all facing difficult island issues and need to work together even more for our mutual benefit in the new year. We hope you will contact us with any concerns and suggestions at info@LICA.us. To all the islanders and visitors we had a chance to talk with at the Farmers Market, thank you, we look forward to doing it again next year.

The LICA Board meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the library and you are most welcome to join in the conversation. These and all Community Events are on the calendar at: OurLummiIsland.org

With all your help and financial donations, the Board had a busy 2025. Publishing the Tome each month electronically and in print – was funded by your donations last year combined with our very important Tome advertisers who we need - and encourage you to support. Your generosity also enabled LICA to grant \$4,691 in financial support to several organizations' projects, while still covering our budgeted core services.

The annual island road cleanup was well attended, folks had fun while tidying up the Island. Of course, the camaraderie and good food after is always enjoyed. Teams of volunteers again maintained Paul Davis Park, and improvements including updating the fencing around the orchard trees were made. Our hope is that the Park will be used for some fun events next year.

The quarterly potlucks with our neighbors and friends had many timely topics afterwards, and we thank the LI Historical Society for a great Tome 60th Anniversary presentation. 2026 will bring more of these events, with your ideas for topics and presentations encouraged.

The Board says goodbye to Dan Deshpande and Julia Lowe whose time on island is changing. Also, Erin Deinzer is now going to focus her many talents on helping the Civic Club. Their efforts and hard work on the board are greatly appreciated. We are happy to report that John Berry, Sandi Fukumoto, and Joan Moye have joined the Board. Their experience, perspectives, and work on the board will help bring a new year of progress.

The new Lummi Island Directory is in the planning stages, and we will be starting to find Advertisers to cover the production and mailing costs. We are looking for new color cover art for this edition, so grab those cameras or paintbrushes, and submit your artistic vision for it. Look forward to more details in February

We thank all of you on Lummi Island who make this such a great place to be!



PEGGY HASSAN

HAIRCUTTING • HIGHLIGHTING
COLOR & PERM SERVICES AT YOUR HOME
971.322.4479 • Portlandcitygirl@yahoo.com



Mary Sews Many Designs

Mary Barstow
360-758-2021 h.
360-927-3651 c.
Lummi Island, WA

Quilting, Home Decor and Embroidery

Beach School

By Tammy Immer



On behalf We would like to give a shout out to our hard-working students practicing for the **Math Olympiad** Competition this year as well as for their teacher, Arria Merrill. Our students are gearing up for this exciting competition that will take place on March 12th at Cascadia. Go Eagles!

Micha Camarillo is working with our 5th grade Leadership Action Team this year. This team is looking for ways to serve and improve our school as well as being community minded. Look for details to come out for **Bingo night/silent auction January 30th!** Stay tuned for their upcoming coin drive for LIMA (Lummi Island Mutual Aid).

Stu Robertson is not only our awesome bus driver but is also in charge of the school garden. He just put in a new greenhouse and is looking for volunteers for winter clean up and garden work. If you are interested, please let us know.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Beach School Talent Show in February - more to come! We want to thank Beach Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (BEPTO); Lummi Island Foundation for Education (LIFE); and our Island community for your support of Beach School. We cannot do it without you!



Heading into 2026, Lummi Island Heritage Trust is proud to share our resolutions for the new year. Our primary resolution is to refocus on our core mission: To create a legacy of abundant open space, native habitat, and natural resources on Lummi Island by inspiring people to protect and care for the island's farms, forests, wetlands, and shorelines forever. This year, we are also committed to getting to know our community more deeply. We recognize that our greatest strength lies in the collective wisdom of the island residents, LIHT former board members, committee members, and volunteers. By honoring the history and legacy of the Trust, we ensure that our stewardship remains a true reflection of island values. With over 1,100 acres in conservation and hopes to preserve even more, we have much to be proud of as a community.

Our Executive Director, staff members and our ten esteemed board members have deep respect for the groundwork laid before them. Three of the staff joined LIHT in 2025 and are enthusiastic students of the history of the organization and people who have championed this land. This balance of fresh energy and respect for tradition allows us to focus on what matters most to you. From our recent land use and accessibility survey, trail maintenance, clear signage & more educational programming were identified as areas of importance to you. LIHT hopes to serve you by focusing on our mission, these key areas and more in the next year.

We invite you to our **Annual Meeting on Saturday March 7, 2026, at 6:30pm**, which will be held at The Grange Hall and open to all islanders. The Annual Meeting will offer a review of 2025 by Executive Director Ashli McVey, followed by a presentation by our keynote speaker, Lynda V. Mapes, an award-winning environmental journalist and author of the newly released *The Trees Are Speaking: Dispatches from the Salmon Forests*, which explores the vital link between old-growth forests and local ecosystems. Please save the date! We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends at the Annual Meeting. Your involvement and passion are what make our work possible.

LIHT wishes you and your loved ones a wonderful New Year!



Friends of Island Library (FOIL)

By Barbara King

"Wildlife and Birds of the Nordic Countries"- Sat. January 3 at 6 pm A presentation by visiting wildlife photographer Peter Berquist at the Island Library. Lite refreshments will be served.

Thank you to the many members of our community who supported the Island Library in 2025 with their time, talents and treasure The Friends of Island Library(FOIL) is a local non-profit that owns the Island Library property; supports the Library through fundraising and promoting the purposes and activities of the Island Library and its community. The FOIL Board meets monthly on the third Monday of the month. If you would like to support FOIL's work, financial donations can be sent to PO Box 204, Lummi Island, WA 98262

Advertisement for Langabeer & Traxler, P.S. featuring Dannon C. Traxler, Attorney at Law, with contact information for 2701 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA.

Advertisement for Island Veterinary Service featuring William T. Bazlen, D.V.M., with contact information for Lummi Island, WA.



*Designer * Craftsman
of Fine Furniture*

Designing and building
fine furniture &
wood work since 1972.

(360) 758-7452

www.alanrosenfurniture.com



Emergency Evacuation Planning Continues

By Michael Lish

Western Washington University and the Lummi Island Fire Department continue to work on island evacuation planning. On November 14th, we hosted a community meeting where Western Washington faculty and students presented the results of the Lummi Island Preparedness Survey conducted last summer. Some of the key findings were:

- Residents have a high prevalence of self-sufficiency. Many households have propane tanks, generators, private wells, wood heat, food, water, heat, and medication. However, islanders depend on the public grid for electricity.
- In a large-scale disaster, most survey participants expected the LIFD to respond to their personal emergency needs in 24 hours or less, which is likely unrealistic. Given LIFD's limited resources, actual response times are likely to be much longer in a regional disaster where many Lummi Island households are impacted at once.
- If an on-island evacuation were necessary, most residents have supplies -- shovels and buckets, first aid kits, chainsaws, tents, sunshades, camp stoves, and weather radios -- and many have response skills -- CPR, basic first aid, food preparation, construction, small boat operation and other emergency support skills.
- Over half of the respondents plan to evacuate with one or more small animal, mostly dogs and cats.
- If all households independently evacuated by motor vehicle, the island roads would be quickly gridlocked; under the best scenario, it would take nearly a full day to evacuate one car per household.

If you would like to read the full report or view the presentation, you can find both on the LIFD website at <https://lummiislandfire.com/disaster-preparedness>. Those who cannot access a digital copy may request a physical copy of the report from Dr. Rebekah Paci-Green, greenr21@wwu.edu

In January, WWU and LIFD will start the next phase of evacuation planning. The WWU Research Team are seeking volunteers for two working groups: 1) an evacuation plan working group and 2) a community outreach working group. The evacuation plan working group will meet virtually or in person at the fire station two evenings a month; the community outreach group will seek input from neighbors and social networks about once a month.



We especially need volunteers for the community outreach group from Legoe Bay and Lane Spit, two areas with no representation currently! If you did not already sign up to volunteer at the November 14th meeting and would like to participate, please provide your contact information at this google form, which you can access from the QR code or web link: <https://forms.gle/eAh2vgrjy71bzGpe7>

Lummi Island Congregational Church - Let's Gather!

By Rhayma Blake

Settle into these wintertime days with us on Wednesdays for **Elderberries**, 11am-2pm. Most days, the fireplace will be going. We are adding a few new games, like Scrabble. And of course, our volunteer cooks continue to serve up that hot lunch at Noon. Thank you!

It's also a great time of year to gather for **Coffee with friends on Fridays**, 10am-11:30am. Meet a new neighbor or just catch up with an old friend. Many thanks to those who bring treats to share...a bonus.

Our next **Parish Dinner on Tuesday, February 10th** at 5pm will feature Beef Bourguignon and yes, carrot cake for dessert.

Sunday worship at 10:30am in the church sanctuary is followed by coffee and refreshments downstairs. It is a regular opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives and connection to community.

Keep up with the church at www.lummichurch.org, with The Gathering Place at www.ligatheringplace.com, with Health and Wellness offerings at www.lummihw.org.

And email us at office@lummichurch.com or call (360) 758-2060. *Remember, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

One of the questions we hear most often is: Why is the ferry running late? There are many factors that can affect ferry timing, including traffic volume, weather, tides, and how long it takes to safely load and unload the boat. Other things can also add time, such as walk-on passengers arriving after vehicles have loaded, a high number of bicycles or walk-on passengers, stalled vehicles, or certain vehicle types that require ramp adjustments.

Each of these things may only take a short amount of time on its own, but over the course of several trips, those seconds add up. This can result in the ferry running a few, or sometimes many, minutes behind. We do our best to begin loading about five minutes before the scheduled departure time. If you are planning to walk on, please arrive early and be ready to board before vehicle loading begins. We may also be delayed for reasons outside our control. For example, we may need to wait for an ambulance or other emergency response. Our priorities are always safety, efficiency, and courtesy.

As a follow-up to last month, we want to remind drivers again to set their parking brake. This is especially important for crew safety during the rougher fall and winter months. Another way you can help the crew is to be ready to pay as soon as you board the ferry at Gooseberry Point. Depending on wind and weather conditions, fares may be collected before leaving the dock. Having your punch card or credit card ready when we come to your window helps keep things moving smoothly.

Thanks for reading. We are all on this boat together. Please help us help you!



Your modern, accessible, community venue for island events, meetings, fundraisers, receptions, retreats. Main hall, outdoor patio, commercial kitchen.

3913 Legoe Bay Rd.
P.O. Box 6
Lummi Island, WA 98262



www.ligatheringplace.com
360-758-2060
info@ligatheringplace.com



"We had a great experience with the Western Solar team. I recommend them without reservation!" David B., Lummi Island

360-746-0859 • westernsolarinc.com

LICA Blood Drive

By Molly Forman

Start the Year Saving Lives. Donate Blood in January. It's a new year, new day, and first day of National Blood Donor Month! Coincidence? We think not! It only takes an hour to make a difference. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to commit to your next donation and set a goal to donate every time you're eligible! Make your donation appointment today in celebration of National Blood Donor Month!

Kick off the new year with an act that truly matters. Donating blood is a simple, powerful way to bring hope to patients facing cancer treatments, surgeries, and trauma. January is National Blood Donor Month, and there's no better time to make a difference. Just one donation can help strengthen our community blood supply and save lives. Blood Donors Make a Lifesaving Difference. Did you know blood is always needed? It's easy for you to make a difference this January during National Blood Donor Month.

Reasons to donate:

- It takes 1,000 donors a day to maintain a safe and reliable blood supply in the Pacific Northwest.
- It's the blood already on the shelves that saves lives.
- If all eligible individuals donated two or more times a year, blood shortages would be alleviated.

Our next Lummi Island blood drive is on Friday January 2nd at the Lummi Island Grange. Please make an appointment directly with me or please use this link https://donate.bloodworksnw.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/97345. Or, if you are reading the Tome after January 2nd and want to donate, please feel free to sign up for our next island Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 3rd at: https://donate.bloodworksnw.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/97349



FULL BLOOM FARM

The Farm Stand re-opens April, 2026

Join our Spring Flower Club to receive a beautiful weekly bouquet of farm fresh flowers!

fullbloomfarm.com/flowerclub

Island Healing Arts
Michele Morrissey, LMT



Massage for:
Relaxation
Wellness
Injuries

Deep Tissue
Lomi Lomi
Hot Stones
Medical Massage

(360) 201-4765
www.lummiislandmassage.com



Neighbors Caring for Neighbors: Building a Healthier Lummi Island Together

Living on Lummi Island offers something rare: a strong sense of connection, beauty at our doorstep, and neighbors who look out for one another. At Lummi Island Health & Wellness (LIH&W), our work begins right here—with the belief that community itself is a powerful form of preventative medicine.

As we launch ahead into 2026, LIH&W is focused on expanding practical, accessible programs that help islanders of all ages stay healthy, resilient, and connected—right here at home.

At the heart of this vision is the LIH&W Resource Center, open weekday mornings, and The Gathering Place, which continues to serve as a welcoming hub for health and wellness. In 2026, the Resource Center offers you information and wellness support: daily classes, monthly events, telehealth assistance, non-medical foot care, and more. These offerings reduce the need for off-island travel while keeping health and wellness close to home.

Wellness Classes that Fit Island Life

Movement, mindfulness, creativity, and connection all play a role in long-term health. LIH&W will continue offering weekly classes and seasonal programs, including a variety of yoga options, tai chi, fitness, meditation, art & music, kids' dance, forest walks, and classes that support mental health and grief care.

These programs are made possible through partnerships with island-based instructors, the YMCA, Lummi Island Heritage Trust, the Fire Department, the Library, Senior Services, LICA, Scenic Estates, the Congregational Church, and the LIH&W Board, along with grant support from organizations like the Whatcom Community Foundation, AARP, PeaceHealth, and other regional health funders. We're deeply grateful for how these collaborations weave wellness into island life.

Many islanders share the hope of aging safely and comfortably at home. In 2026, LIH&W will continue its HomeFit program, funded in part by AARP and the Lummi Island Fire Department, offering home safety educational materials, volunteer assessments, and simple modifications such as grab bars.

Responding to community interest, LIH&W is also launching a Health & Wellness Advocate program in 2026. Making it easier for islanders to age in place, navigate health systems, appointments, and care decisions, supported by trained island volunteers and partnerships with Opportunity Council, Area Council on Aging, Health Ministries Network, and local colleges.

None of this happens alone. LIH&W's work is powered by partnerships, volunteers, and neighbors like you. As we move into 2026, we're grateful to walk this path together—building a healthier Lummi Island, neighbor to neighbor. Learn more, sign up to volunteer, attend a class, or share your ideas with us at www.lummihw.org.

Looking forward to seeing you at the LIH&W January classes and events! The LIH&W Team

Resilient Lummi

By Lori Lash


Resilient Lummi Presents Fresh Insights About Our Water. Resilient Lummi will screen the documentary entitled "Water Is Love" on Sunday, Jan 25, 2026 at 4:30 pm at The Gathering Place. This is a fresh and uplifting perspective on Earth's ever-changing ecosystem and mankind's role in our environmental future.

We often see climate disruption as being caused by greenhouse gas emissions, but the answer may not be that simple. This film considers a broader perspective, including the decline of ecosystems and water cycles around the world. It helps us make sense of climate change with new insight and encourages us to take action in profoundly new ways.

Join us for an afternoon of exploration of water and climate. Learn about solutions to promote a sustainable world. This first presentation will leave you with an appreciation of the ebb and flow of water cycles and the regenerative potential of nature.

Then on Sunday, Feb 22, 2026 at 2:30 pm, join us to continue the conversation at the Gathering Place. We will be screening video clips about community projects to build water resilience. Bring your insights and questions, and get ready to rock. Let's be part of the solution for this beautiful place we call home.

Baker Mt. Ranch, Inc.
founded in 1938



Charles Baker
bonded contractor
WA State Lic #BAKERMR023DD

Charles 360-961-3014
Tom Kennedy 360-758-2285

road building • land/lot clearing + development
tree work • stumping + grading

Law Office of
Karl E. Malling, PS



Representing those seriously injured by:

- car accidents
- medical negligence
- slip & falls and trip & falls
- nursing home negligence
- product liability
- construction site injuries
- other injury accidents

Estate planning including:

- trusts and wills
- directives to physicians (living will)
- powers of attorney

phone: 206-214-6815 email: karl@mallinglaw.com

2025 Brings a Historic Change for the Lummi Island Grange.

The National Grange is not a religious organization; it is a nonpartisan, farm-based fraternal organization focused on community service, rural advocacy, and fostering family and community development. While its historical “rituals” have Christian origins and the organization acknowledges faith, it is open to people of all religions and explicitly strives to express faith, hope, charity and fidelity within a non-denominational framework.

At a recent meeting the Lummi Island Grange was visited by the Washington State Grange President, Tom Gwin, who provided illuminating context for the values listed in the Grange’s historical opening prayer which were focused on the needs of a rural, agricultural community:

- Faith – that the harvest will be bountiful,
- Hope – that the rains will come and the seeds will germinate,
- Charity – that community resources will be shared,
- Fidelity – that with loyalty and support the community will thrive.

The Grange meeting opening prayer was written in 1867 at the time of the founding of the National Grange following the Civil War. It now seems to many to be a bit archaic, and verbose. It asks that all officers and members of the highest to the lowest degree be granted prosperity. The Lummi Island Grange is an Action Grange (foregoing historic rituals since the 1970s) and does not distinguish degrees of membership, nor wish to differentiate between “officers” and members of the Grange or community.

At our November meeting members voted to make a historic change and replace the 1867 opening prayer with a meeting blessing that better reflects the Lummi Island community that we serve. Here is the text of our new Grange Opening Blessing:

"We are thankful for the opportunity to gather, and we trust this meeting will be a source of inspiration and shared understanding. Let us take a moment to honor the skills and perspectives each member brings, and the connections we share. Let us reflect and connect with our personal faith, as we are guided in support of our community."

The Lummi Island Grange meets at the Grange Hall (across from the island post office) on the first Wednesday of each month with a dessert social at 6:30 and a business meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, please come and visit!

🌟 Lummi Island Grange Remodel Complete 🌟

As of Tuesday December 9th, the Washington State Legislature Grant funded renovations at the Grange Hall are complete! Sexton Construction did an incredible job; excellent quality work by Cody, Edmond & Mark and they brought it in on budget and on schedule.

A job like this is tricky because there are so many unknowns at the start; like “what’s under that 100 year-old shingle siding?” The Sexton Construction crew encountered a few surprises and creatively and graciously rolled with it. They even leveled those two crooked windows on either side of the fireplace! We are so appreciative of the care they took with this beloved old building!

Thank you Lummi Islanders for your support and encouragement during a busy 2025, here’s to many more years of fun, food and friendship on this beautiful rock! To paraphrase the words attributed to Gandhi: Let’s create the world we want to live in.



LUMMI ISLAND REALTY LLC

- * A team of resident real estate specialists serving all Lummi Island buyers and sellers
- * Exceptional internet presence, accessibility and success
- * Visit our website: www.lummiislandrealty.com
- * Call 360-758-2094 for property information, or a Free Market Analysis

Angie Dixon, Serena Dabney
Colleen McCrory



THOMAS LUTZ FURNITURE
DISTINCTIVE WOODWORK SINCE 1994



www.thomaslutzfurniture.com
tom@heartwoodjoinery.com
360.220.5324

Happy 2026 from the Lummi Island Civic Club!!



What a great year we had with lots of productive and fun activities. The club celebrated the holidays at the last meeting of the year on December 11th with a gift exchange and scrumptious potluck with wine. Our meeting hostesses, Carol McKinney, Becky Crawford and Molly Forman with help from Linda Smith, set up a festive room and all members who attended enjoyed each other and the delicious food offerings.

It is important to reflect on our many accomplishments of the past year and to celebrate the many successful and fun activities in 2025. These included fund raising and support of the various island organizations through volunteering and financial Grants.

Our key fund raising events in 2025: Spring Plant Expo with plants, gift shoppe, raffle and café
Fall Twice Loved Sale with gathering of items for sale and ultimate donation to various local charities

Thank you to all islanders and non-islanders near and far that come and support these events either through their time or by buying our wares. And a special thank you goes to our volunteer event coordinators and club members who make these events happen each year! Through these events, we are able to support our charitable, education and cultural island activities in 2026. Here are some of our accomplishments from the year:

Charitable Grants

L.I. Grange
Parish Nurses
Beach School Leadership Program
L.I. Health and Wellness Programs
Reimbursement of any member's Food Handlers Permits

Volunteerism

Beach School PI Day
Elderberries Lunches on the 5th Wednesday of any Month
Beach School Veteran's Day Brunch
Beach School PTO Halloween event and cake walk fundraiser
FOIL Action support
L.I. Blood Drive

And a new event we added this last year was a school supply drive for the Beach School. Watch for that again this Spring and Fall!

We learned a lot in 2025 through our various meeting program speakers & activities. Thank you to our 2025 Program Presenters who kept us educated:

Victoria Souze, Marine Mammal Stranding Network updates
Carolyn Jenkins, on a Guide for Communication Partnerships
Victor Place, an avid photographer and the beauty he sees in the world
Willie Kelly, on the Power of Giving through Humor
Kellie Shepherd-Moeller on her artistry in calligraphy, photography and mix-media art
LIHW Improv Team - thank you Jenn Varno and Holly Giffin for an introduction to improv
And of course, Jan Granger's famous Island Scavenger Hunt!

Our meetings occur on the second Thursday of each month, except July and August. All island women are welcome to join us at the Lummi Island Grange for coffee, snacks and fun conversation and educational programs at 10:00 a.m. each month. We always look forward to seeing new faces at our meetings and volunteer activities.

Now we look forward to what we can do in 2026! We will be busy soon with announcements about our 2026 Plant Expo, school supply drive, our fall Twice Loved Sale and our ideas for new opportunities. We hope to see you on Thursday January 8th, 10:00 a.m. at the Lummi Island Grange!



**SEXTON
CONSTRUCTION**
New construction, remodels & repairs
Mark Sexton
General Contractor
1253 Jamison Street
Lummi Island, WA 98262
(360) 305-9390
Licensed - Bonded - Insured
Lic. #SEXTOC*965M8

HAVE KNOT WANT NOT
Massage by the Sea
Sarah Powell
360-224-8549



LIHS News – Our new website LIHS.us is now available to the public as we continue to load it with information. It has a Reflections section which has small history stories and information related to the Island. Of course Paul Davis's Digital Archive is there and articles are being added as we can. In the future we will also have a catalogue of our Physical Assets (one is the Archive banner, can you guess what it is?). Along with that will be an Island map displaying where places are now, and back in the day.

You will also see all About the Historical Society, our 501(c)(3) status and eventually more details as we grow the organization to serve the our important mission: To connect and enrich the community to the past by collecting, preserving, and sharing Lummi Island artifacts and stories in order to educate the public and heighten understanding and appreciation of the past. The Historical Society meets the fourth Friday of the month at the Island Library, 4:00 – 5:30 pm. Next meeting: Jan. 26th.

If you have Lummi Island history you would like to share ,would like to help us in our mission, or have something you would like to donate, please contact: Joan Keiper- 360 739-0146 or joan@keiper.us or Jane Phillips at 360 389 6697 or thorndale2phillips@gmail.com

The Lummi Island Story by Frank M. Taft

Frank M Taft his wife Ruby and daughter Maureen moved to Lummi Island in 1903. They bought the 40 acre Sicklesteel Homestead (Isle Aire and the Willows area) and began building the Willows Resort from logs milled on the property. Frank and his family fixed up an old shed on the property and that was their living quarters until the Willow was completed- around 1910. Starting with this month's edition of the TOME, The "Lummi Island Story" by Frank M. Taft will be reprinted section by section through the kind permission of Ms. Victoria Taft Flynn (grand daughter).

I REMEMBER WHEN

Because I have lived here a very long time, some people asked me to write all in rhyme — about our Island, and the people as well, and of their happenings, they want me to tell. So this is the reason, good one you'll allow, that I'll tell where they came from, when, why, and how: Of the many gone on through the Pearly Gate, and those who are scattered over the State, I remember when those here on the ground worked for Old Puget when he dug the Sound; of days of depression when cupboards were bare, when fish, crabs, and clams were the chief bill of fare— three times a day, not much besides—“till their stomachs world rise and fall with the tides.” This story of Lummi and of those held dear, I trust their descendants may like to hear; and I make no excuse for my frivolous acts, for I'm not a writer, just a teller of fact. So to those who in memory live over again, I dedicate this,“I REMEMBER WHEN”

PIONEERS

Of those who came here early to stay, many descendants live here today. Tuttle arrived around sixty-nine, farming took up the most of their time. Mr. Tuttle was known as a kindly man, but lost his temper (so the story ran), when Indians his sheep would steal from his lot—it was then at them he would take a pot shot. When the Grangers came, there started a race with kids of both families all over the place. Tuttle lived up near Carlisle, and families of Grangers—one every mile.

A true pioneer from Boston came, built a home on the beach, and married a dame from the Canadian reservation, around sixty-nine, where their many descendants still live there fine. The spit of our light- house still bears his name, was first tended by him, Frederick F. Lane. Others came early, I've heard of each, Norman, Harper, Taylor, and Beach. The latter, Beach, was quite a lad—became Post Master, first one we had. Peter B. Smith bought a piece of ground just above Carlisle overlooking the Sound; his sons, George and Al, they lived here too, George was a character, equalled by few. He was a fiddler, of the hill-billy type he could sing, whistle, and fiddle, while smoking his pipe. He built a log house, it took him ten years

Jack Melcher now lives there, he raises fat steers. Then come Knuttenburg, Barrett, and the McMurchees—they were loggers, and they cut the big trees. Fulton and Allen came along then; Fulton started an addition, then sold it again. The Twillegars came in a big canoe—it had a paddle wheel astern, on both sides, too. On Pt. Migley Melzer Granger homesteaded a range; it became a resort—they called it “The Grange.” From a town in Michigan (Bad Axe) he came where he'd worked with Paul Bunyan, a logger of fame, who (by the way) now logs on the coast with his blue ox, Babe, woodsmen here boast. The Grangers came with one daughter, six sons—they brought with them some Daniel Boone guns; and as food was scarce here, when they came, the guns came in handy to shoot wild game. Adventures aplenty they had at that time, when chances of living were not worth a dime. For about this date, around '83, wild beasts were thick as they could be—there were cougars, panthers, and big pack rats, coons and racoons, bears, and bear cats. It was of those days I've heard the Grange boys tell, of those perilous experiences which to them befell. In all seriousness, and with a flare for details, they would awe the young kids with hair- raising tales.

Coming next month - “A Bare-Faced Adventure”

At Library Entrance: A place for folks to advertise their skills for Islanders to contact for jobs. There are currently four categories: Caregiving, Trades (i.e. carpentry, plumbing, electrical, handyman, etc.), Yard Work and Cleaning. 3X5 cards are at the Library desk and if you are interested, you just fill one out and leave it at the Library desk and it will be posted in the locked cabinet.

An example might be:

- **Under Yard Work:** Lawn Mowing, Weed Whacking, Pruning Services Experienced, References Provided. Call for Estimates John Brown. 360 758-0000
- **Or under Caregiving:** Experienced In-Home Caregiver, HCA Certification and Current with Criminal Background Check. 10 years of experience on Lummi Is. References upon request. Jane Doe 360 758-0000.

It is suggested that we use the NWRC guidelines for listing Caregiving skills. There is a copy of the criteria in the bulletin board case.

Thank you to LICA for funding this bulletin board and to FOIL for donating the space and facilitating the installation. Call Erin at 360 758-7145 or Jane 360 389-6697 with questions

The Gathering Place

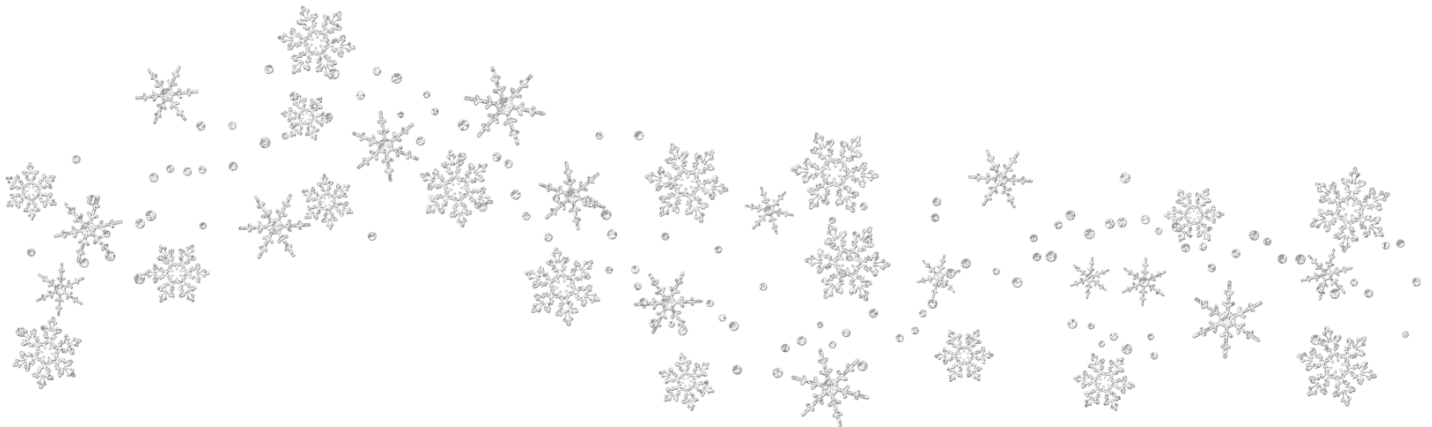
By Rebecca Rettmer

Happy New Year from The Gathering Place!

We are very grateful and honored that The Gathering Place and its commercial kitchen was so busy this past year! With the success of our local food establishments and Health and Wellness activities, The Gathering Place is hopping with all kinds of weekly events. But never fear, there is flexibility in the schedule and still plenty of open dates for your private event, meeting, fundraiser, retreat or reception in the new year. Visit our website <https://ligatheringplace.com/rentals/> or contact us at info@ligatheringplace.com to learn about scheduling for events.

A big thank you to The Gathering Place Board members who gave their time and talents in 2025. The Board is responsible for developing guidelines and evaluating effective plans for ongoing scheduling, maintenance, operations management, and fundraising for The Gathering Place. The Board ensures The Gathering Place is effectively managed as a resource to connect, celebrate and serve the Island community and beyond.

Thank you to Julie Bredy, Sahara Burson, Robert Keller, Michele Morrissey, Judy Olsen, Dave Parker, Tom Philpot, Rebecca Rettmer and Kjell Rye. Hans Trieselmann will join the Board in 2026, and we have one vacancy to fill. Would you like to join The Gathering Place board? Email info@ligatheringplace.com if you are interested.



Lummi Island Congregational Church

est. 1905

~ No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here ~

Sunday Service 10:30 am



P.O. Box 6
3913 Legoe Bay Rd.
Lummi Island, WA 98262
360-758-2060
office@lummichurch.com
www.lummichurch.org



JENNIFER JANELLE

Holistic, Compassionate Care
Grief | Death | Emotional Healing
www.JenniferJanelle.com
support@jenniferjanelle.com

Jean Kershner October 22, 1930 - November 23, 2025



Jean Walden Kershner, remembered for her kindness, her generous spirit, and her sincere interest in the lives of others, “went on her journey”—her own phrase for passing on—at her home on Lummi Island. She was a loving and devoted mother who recently celebrated her 95th birthday with family. A steadfast advocate for peace and environmental protection, with a deep connection to nature, she sought to make the world a better place.

The daughter of Walden Herreshoff Staude and Gustave Gentil Staude, she was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania just after the start of the Great Depression. She spent part of her childhood in “The South,” where she witnessed racism, which sparked her lifelong support for civil liberties and racial equality.

The family then moved north to the small town of Briarcliff Manor, New York, where she attended the nearby Scarborough School. Despite being described as “sweet and quiet” in her high school yearbook, she served as feature editor of the school newspaper and captain of the field hockey team. She went on to study at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Sorbonne in Paris, and the University of California, Los Angeles, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education in 1954.

Soon after, Jean was hired by the UCLA Elementary School as a special needs teacher, working with students with various challenges. There she met Maxie Bentzen, a fellow educator who asked her one day, “Do you want to meet the only old genius I know?” That old genius was the young documentary filmmaker, Irvin Kershner, known as “Kersh.” Jean and Kersh soon married, had two sons together, and remained close friends following their 22-year marriage.

Maxie and her husband Connie introduced Jean and Kersh to Lummi Island, where the two couples bought a summer home together in the early 1960s. In 1986, after purchasing a property of her own with the help of her parents, she hired two local builders to construct a house on the land. It was then that she became a full-time resident of the island. With the eye of an artist, she made her home into a tribute to art and culture. She hosted fundraisers there and gave generously to many organizations doing work she believed in, especially those focused on slowing climate change.

Jean shared her sons’ passion for preserving Lummi Island’s rural character and enthusiastically supported their work to conserve land on the island. She was one of the first islanders to donate a conservation easement, protecting 47 acres in 2001. She later purchased and donated land that is now part of the Otto Preserve.

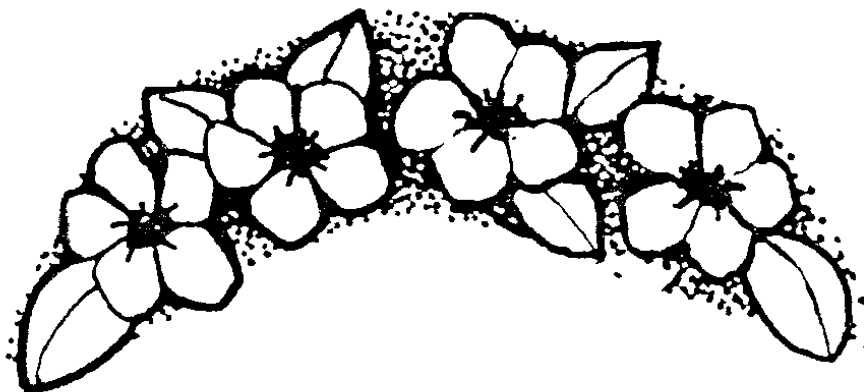
She was reluctant to be in the spotlight, but she was always ready to protest injustice, inequality, or destruction of the natural world. An admirer of the late anti-apartheid activist Desmond Tutu and young climate activist Greta Thunberg, she believed one person could make a difference.

A dear friend recalled her purchasing copies of all kinds of books that inspired her, giving them as gifts, beautifully wrapped and decorated with rosemary sprigs from her garden. Her friend added: “I remember two of her protest signs, so gentle and wise and loving and so Jean. One read ‘Be the Change’ (Mahatma Gandhi) and the other ‘Kindness and Truth Make A Better World’ (her own words).

She will be remembered for her kindness, her warmth, her strength, and her striking red hair. She did indeed make the world a better place.

Jean is survived by her sons Dana and David, both of Lummi Island, as well as loving family that includes many cousins and three grandnieces, along with beloved friends who were also family to her.

Donations in memory of Jean may be made to the climate protection organization 350.org or, with gratitude, to the Lummi Island Fire Department.



Thanks from the Family of Andrei Brewer

We want to send special thanks all those who joined us in September to celebrate the Life of Andrei Brewer in your special ways. Your joyful community made this a very meaningful time and memory for us. Best wishes to all of you from the family of Andrei.

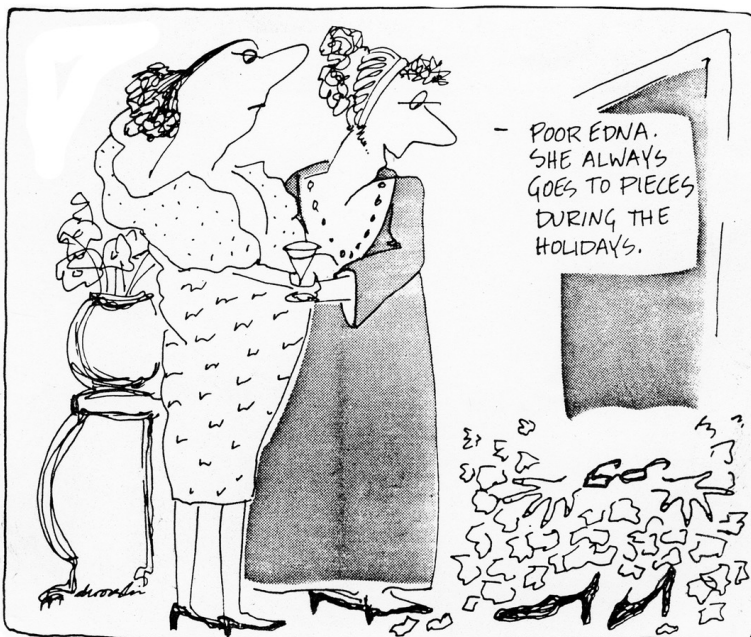
Helpful Numbers

Aluminum Cans	360-223-6225 Contact Leslie Dempsey. <i>Recycle Bins Located in Grange Parking Lot</i>
Church Rental	360-758-2060 Church office@LummiChurch.com
Free Notary Service	360-758-2559 Call David Thom
Gathering Place	360-758-2060 info@ligatheringplace.com
Grange Rental	360-223-6225 Leslie Dempsey
Hazardous Waste	360-380-4640 For Info & Questions. Open 9am-4pm Mon-Fri & 1st Sat of the month
Library	360-758-7145 Tuesday 1:00-7:00pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm
Parish Health Ministry	Ingrid: 360 220-5860; Joan: 360 739-0228; Lisa: 360 201-0830 and Jane: 360 389-6697 Durable medical equipment to borrow; food vouchers to the Islander for food emergencies; blood pressure checks upon request; rides to your doctor appointment if you need it (Please give a a week's notice if you can). Call our team for help.
Post Office	360-298-7584 Mon. - Fri.: 10:45am - 2:45pm, Sat.: 10:30am - 12:30pm, Lobby 24 Hours



The Tome

***** ECWSS**R-014
POSTAL CUSTOMER
LUMMI ISLAND, WA 98262



The Tome of Lummi Island

Lummi Island Community Association
LICA, P.O. Box 163, Lummi Island WA 98262

LICA does not endorse advertisements that appear in any of our publications. Opinions of contributors to **The Tome/eTome** or other LICA publications do not necessarily reflect those of the Officers, Directors, Editors or Volunteers of the Lummi Island Community Association. LICA reserves the right to edit admissions and to publish as space allows.

President: David Thorn Vice President:
Secretary: Treasurer: Jonathan Atwood

Members at Large:

Jon Berry, Erin Deinzer, Sandi Fukumoto
Danit Fried, Jim McCaughan

Provided by & Copyright © 1966 - 2025 Lummi Island Community Association (LICA), All Rights Reserved. Est. Circulation: 1,050

Lummi Island Community Association (LICA) is a non-profit community service.



We rely on generous donations from islanders to help cover our operating costs and community grants. To Donate, go to [Donate.LICA.us](https://www.donate.lica.us) or printed forms are available at the Island Library.

The Tome, The eTome and Brown Betty

The Tome is mailed via a USPS Bulk Mail list (any address and PO Box on the Island). You may request one sent to your off-island address as well via the Donation form.

Request the eTome and/or Brown Betty, or Publications Updates (Deadlines & Instructions on submitting to us) at [MC.LICA.us](https://www.mc.lica.us)

For information, advertising, comments & suggestions and submission of articles to the Tome/eTome, contact:

Publisher@LICA.us