



The Tome of Lummi Island

March 2026 - Volume 61 No. 3



Calendar of Events

March Events - Up to date information at OurLummiIsland.org

March - all month	Art Exhibition by Ingrid McGarry, LIH&W Resource Center	9:00 - 12:00 am
Mar 5, Thu	Senior Services, The Gathering Place, by appointment, See Pg. 10	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Mar 6, Fri	Wanna Be a Dungeon Master? Island Library, See Pg. 10	12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
	LIHT Annual Meeting, Grange Hall, See Pg. 11	7:00 pm
Mar 14, Sat	Fundraiser Concert, Island Library, See Pg. 10	6:30 - 8:30 pm
Mar 15, Sun	Community Healing Song Circle, The Gathering Place	2:00 - 4:00 pm
Mar 17, Tue	Foot Care, LIHW Resource Center	By Appointment
	Improv, The Gathering Place	6:00 pm
Mar 19, Thu	Kids All About Space, Island Library, See Pg. 10	3:00 - 4:00
Mar 20, Fri	Bingo Night & Silent Auction, Beach School, See Pg. 3	4:30 - 7:30 pm
Mar 21, Sat	Parade Organization Meeting, Grange Hall, See Pg. 13	7:00 - 8:00 pm
	Water Rights Adjudication Help Session, Island Library, See Pg. 10	10:00 - 1:00 pm
Mar 22, Sun	Community Forest Walk, Otto Preserve, See Pg. 11	4:00 - 5:30 pm
	Greening Your Finances, Island Library, See Pg. 6	4:30 pm
Mar 25, Wed	WCFAC Meeting NOTE Location Change Public Works Building See Pg. 3	6:00 pm
Mar 27, Fri	Kids Dance, LI Congregational Church Social Hall	10:00 am

Weekly

Recycling: Mondays March 2, 16, 30		
Sunday	Island Chapel – Grange Main Building	9:30 - 10:30 am
	Worship Service – Congregational Church Sanctuary	10:30 - 11:30 am
Monday	Meditation, Congregational Church, Social Hall	9:00 am
Tuesday	Island Chapel Ladies' Bible Study – 1759 Joans Ln / Zoom	7:00 pm
	Wellness Yoga, The Gathering Place	9:00 am
Wednesday	Tai Chi, The Gathering Place	9:00 am
	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	Chair Yoga, The Gathering Place,	10:00 am
	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	Hatha Yoga, The Gathering Place	10:00 am
	Preschool Story Time at the Library Until May 16th	10:30 - 11:00 am
	Dance For Life, The Gathering Place	1:00 pm
Ferry Refueling: March 5, 19 - 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
4th Tue.	Cemetery Commission Meeting - Grange Hall	4:00 - 5:00 pm
1st Wed.	Grange Meeting - Grange Hall	6:30 pm
4th Wed.	Historical Society, Island Library	6:00 - 7:30 pm
2nd Thur.	Civic Club - Grange Hall	10:00 am
	Resilient Lummi - Library, Hanson Meeting Room	5:00 pm
4th Thur	Library Book Club - Library, Hanson Room	11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Spring is coming and all of us on the LICA Board are preparing for a busy 2026. LICA, with the help of the Grange, has placed a new storage unit at the Grange. It will be used by the Red Cross to have a safe storage spot for the Island emergency supplies with easy access. LICA will use part of the unit to store our records and supplies.

The **All Island Road Cleanup will be Saturday April 11th**. Please join us at the Grange 9AM for pastries and a barbecue to follow the cleanup. Always a great time!

LICA publishes the monthly Tome delivered to all island addresses. If you would like to see the full color version please remember that the eTome in full color is available at no cost. Go to MC.LICA.us

The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month 7PM at the Library. All are welcome to join us. We need your comments and questions. Please leave them in our drop box outside the Grange.

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Past Rainfall Totals	2025					
Location	January	February	March	April	May	June
Westshore - Hutton/Byers	2.93	2.62	4.31	1.72	1.14	1.22
North Tuttle Lane - Nancy Simmerman	2.78	3.32	3.70	1.75	1.66	0.92
South Nugent - Jerry Brown	2.82	3.34	4.47	1.73	1.45	0.80
Scenic Estates - Leslie Dempsey	2.45	3.37	5.04	1.72	1.69	1.16
Granger Way - Scott Josiah	2.65	3.27	4.17	1.75	1.46	0.80
Scenic Estates - Crawford	1.94	3.09	4.82	1.76	1.28	1.10

Current Rainfall Totals	2026					
Location	January	February	March	April	May	June
Westshore - Hutton/Byers	3.32	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
North Tuttle Lane - Nancy Simmerman	4.10	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
South Nugent - Jerry Brown	4.90	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
Scenic Estates - Leslie Dempsey	5.21	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
Granger Way - Scott Josiah	3.82	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧
Scenic Estates - Crawford	4.50	💧	💧	💧	💧	💧

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In case you haven't heard, dates are set for this year's **Drydock: Saturday, April 18 - Saturday, May 10**. That's 21 days, so plan accordingly! In the more distant future, the county is anticipating extensive work on the docking infrastructure. There will be a number of short vehicle service outages in 2027 and 2028, followed by a continuous 12-week outage in the time frame of 8/28 - 10/28. To help ameliorate the 12-week extended outage, an ad hoc Service Alternative Committee has been formed to address that situation. Also, the New Ferry and Docks Committee has been re-formed, to keep a close look on upcoming developments. If you are interested in joining either of these committees, please contact WCFAC.

Regarding financing plans for the new ferry and mounting capital and operating costs, a proposed funding source through creating a countywide "Ferry Taxing District" is currently moving through the state legislature. If passed at the state level (a vote is scheduled for Feb. 27), the Whatcom County Council will have to approve such a measure.

The March WCFAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 pm. Please Note change in Meeting Location - this meeting will take place in Bellingham, at the Public Works Building Garden Room. In attendance will be representatives from KPFF, the engineering group designing our new ferry and dock features. It should be a very informative meeting, and as usual, all are welcome to attend.

Last, we encourage islanders to keep an eye toward the official Whatcom County Lummi Island Ferry website (<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/382/Lummi-Island-Ferry>). Public Works is making an effort to continually update information and helpful links, including info about general ferry operations, and items such as the WCFAC meeting minutes, the recently posted quarterly ridership data, and the upcoming 2025 ferry financial report.

Beach School

By Tammy Immer



On behalf Beach Elementary had its 100th day of school on February 10, and we're now on the short ride to summer! Afterschool enrichments continue after our winter break, with upcoming engineering, felting/fabrics, and pottery. We are thankful for our community for making themselves available.

TIME TO ENROLL FOR 2026-27 KINDERGARTEN: Online enrollment open for Ferndale School District. We need to up our Beach School enrollment so please spread the word and register online TODAY! Go to www.ferndalesd.org. We thank LIFE BEPTO, and our community for all their love they have poured our School.

Beach Happenings: Breakfast with Books popped in at the end of February with an out of this world space theme. The students are starting their storytelling unit by writing, reading, and sharing stories with others. We start the Iditaroad March 2 and are excited to see how much the kids read during the month of March. Our 3rd to 5th grade students are raising 200 salmon to release into the Nooksack on March 31.

On March 12, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Beach School's Math Olympians will face their competition at Cascadia, putting into practice everything they've learned in their afterschool training.

Since January's Bingo night was a huge success, and everyone had such a great time, 5th Grade Leadership is putting on another **Community Bingo/Silent Auction on March 20**, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are accepting donations for the silent auction if you would like to participate – just drop off at the school. We can't do it without you! Thank you for all you do for Beach Elementary.



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Lummi Island Congregational Church - Here Comes Easter! *By Rhayma Blake*

It's a time of Lent, for many of us a time of reflection. We are gathering at 9:30 Sunday mornings to share our thoughts as we read this year's Lent Devotional entitled "Outgrow". Where have we been and how can we best explore what could be? All are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall to ponder these possibilities together. And then you are welcome to gather for worship at 10:30 to enjoy Cindy Minkler at the piano, the music of our guitar group, and hear Pastor Jamie's reflections. Refreshments follow in the Fellowship Hall.


On Maundy Thursday, 6:00pm April 2, we gather in the Fellowship Hall to share a simple soup supper and commemorate the Last Supper. And please join us, Sunday, April 5th at 10:30 as we gather in song, prayer, and flowers to celebrate Easter in the sanctuary. At 11:30 (yes, mark that time for the second most important rope drop of the year) we will host the annual Easter Egg Hunt in the island cemetery. There will again be a toddler section for those small ones who need just a little more time to find their treasures. Please remember to return your plastic eggs in the tub in front of The Gathering Place door to be recycled for next year's event. And then join us in The Gathering Place for an informal potluck Easter Brunch starting around Noon. We'll be providing the ham. Please bring a side dish (or not) as we celebrate Easter together around the tables.

Please note, there will be no Parish Dinner in March, but Friday Coffee continues every Friday at 10:00 at The Gathering Place.

And looking forward...the All-Island Rummage Sale rope drop is 4pm, July 3rd. Meditation, Wellness Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Chair Yoga, Island Improv, Tai Chi, Kid's Dance, and Dance for Life all continue. Find details at www.lummichurch.org, www.ligatheringplace.com, and www.lummihw.org. Email us at office@lummichurch.com or call (360) 758-2060 with questions.

And remember, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

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Grange Matters

By Carolyn Jewell-Jenkins

Gear Up for a Season of Grange Fun. March 20 is the official start of Spring, and after a long, wet, gray Winter, we are all ready to get outside and have fun. This Winter was a season of renewal for the venerable Grange building, and now we are ready to fill it with great meetings, social events, and activities.

As a community organization, the Grange is available to rent for weddings, receptions, parties, dances, lunches, dinners, meetings, and other activities. A reminder for those who live on Lummi Island, the Grange is available at no cost for celebrating the life of a family member who has passed on.

We are excited to announce the new AV system, one that allows inputs from Bands & DJ's / Phones via Bluetooth / USB drives with music files, 8 wireless microphones, links to multiple cameras & projector, and speakers inside and outside. This will permit better visual and audio performance for meetings and events. Thank you to Alan Krum for setting up this new system. Training for it will be available.

In partnership with LICA, the grange made space for a storage container behind the 'Alf's Place' container. This will allow for LICA storage, as well as better access to Red Cross Disaster supplies. When community organizations work together, our whole community benefits.

Looking Ahead there are numerous events for you to enjoy.

Annual Dry Dock will be April 18 to May 10 this year. To celebrate, the Grange will sponsor an **'End of Dry Dock Party.'** Starting at 5 pm on Saturday May 9th, Islanders can bring finger foods to share, and a beer keg will be available. This is a family-friendly event, with music, shared food and fun with friends and neighbors. There will be prizes for unique dry dock vehicles...such as... oldest, rustiest, mossiest, fewest doors... so if you have a funky dry dock vehicle, bring it on down! More details to come in April, so start planning now.

May 2 – Annual Civic Club Plant Sale and Gift Shop. This delightful event helps kick off the growing season and is a fantastic opportunity to acquire local plants that do well on our Island.

May 30 – Put on your boots and start practicing your Two-Step, because the Boot Stomping, Skirt Swishing Honky Tonk returns for another evening of great music, dance, and amazing times with friends old...new... and waiting to be met.



Staying Connected, Staying Home: How Telehealth and Home Care Advocacy Are Growing Health & Wellness on Lummi Island.

Living on Lummi Island means choosing community, beauty, and an island-pace of living. It also means navigating real challenges when it comes to health care that include ferry schedules, long travel days, and systems that don't always feel designed for island living. At Lummi Island Health & Wellness, our work begins by listening closely to islanders and building practical, neighbor-centered solutions that enable us to age in place, and help us all stay healthy right here at home, on the island we love.

This month, we're highlighting two programs that are becoming key parts of that effort: Telehealth and Home Care Advocacy. While they serve different needs, both share the same purpose—making health care easier to access and easier to understand.



Telehealth: Brings Care Closer Telehealth allows islanders to meet with medical providers through video visits instead of traveling off-island. For many, this can mean fewer ferry trips, less physical strain, and more timely care. But we also know that technology itself can sometimes feel like a barrier. LIH&W's Telehealth program is designed to bridge that gap. At the LIH&W Resource Center located in The Gathering Place, we provide a private, welcoming telehealth space where islanders can attend online appointments with confidence. Trained volunteers are available to help with setting up patient portals like MyChart, logging into appointments, and navigating basic connections with health care providers.

This support can not only reduce the need to take a ferry into town, but can make the difference between postponing care and actually receiving it. Telehealth is especially useful for follow-up visits, specialty consultations, some therapies, mental health services, and routine check-ins that don't require a hands-on exam.

Home Care Advocacy: Navigating Together

Health challenges don't stop when an appointment ends. Many islanders are living alone, or caring for aging partners, or quietly wondering what help will be available as daily tasks become harder. The health care system is not always helpful for a small rural location, and can feel complicated and overwhelming, especially when you're trying to figure things out on your own.

Home Care Advocacy exists to meet people right there. This program focuses on helping islanders understand their options and connect with reliable information about in-home care services available on and off the island. LIH&W is working to gather and share up-to-date resources, including caregiver listings and regional supports that can help islanders age in place safely and comfortably. Advocacy is about more than information. Trained health and wellness advocates are important resources to help us think through next steps, and clarify what matters most to us when we make healthcare decisions. Lummi Island Health & Wellness hopes to bring island caregivers together to better understand their needs and explore how LIH&W can support them through connection, professional resources, and potential training opportunities. This benefits everyone.

Growing Together as a Community Telehealth and Home Care Advocacy are growing through partnerships, volunteers, and steady planning shaped by island voices. These programs don't replace in-person care; they fill gaps, reduce barriers, and expand options.

At the heart of LIH&W is a shared belief: living on an island should not mean having less support. By strengthening these programs, we are continuing Lummi Island's long tradition of neighbors helping neighbors—so we can all stay connected, supported, and at home.

Want to Learn More or Get Involved?

Telehealth and Home Care Advocacy are just two of the many ways Lummi Island Health & Wellness supports our island community. To explore all of our programs, upcoming activities, and volunteer opportunities, visit www.lummihw.org.



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Bennet Charles (Bear) Smith 11/6/47 - 1/26/26

By Maddie Smith



It is with deep sorrow and love that I mourn the sudden death of my husband, Bennett Charles (Bear) Smith. Bear was born in Fairbanks, Alaska to Beatrice and Raymond Smith. He was raised in Houghton, Michigan and left to go to school at Michigan State where he graduated with a degree in Industrial Negotiations. After graduating from Michigan State, he worked for General Motors. He then moved to Marquette, Michigan and worked for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Range where he was Director of Safety. When Cleveland Cliff closed, he was employed by Dupont and became an explosive specialist. In 1989 he accepted a position in Australia continuing his career in explosives. When he returned from Australia, Bear decided on a career change. He pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and worked for the Veterans Hospital in Charleston, NC. At the Veterans Hospital, Bear learned that he loved to teach. He also learned to accept alternative treatments, such as Message Therapy. He became a certified Massage Therapist.

Bear leaves his wife, Margaret (Maddie) Hodge Smith. His son Erik Smith, brother Martin Smith and three grandchildren, Mason, Mila, and Eli Smith. He also leaves three cousins Sandra Andrews, Janie Smith, and Charlene Oba. His cousin Tony Smith preceded him in death. He leaves a close friend and caregiver Diane Tanner. Bear lived on Lummi Island for 22 years and called the island home. He loved the ocean and was an avid sailor and enjoyed canoeing and kayaking. Bear will truly be missed by his family and many close friends.



Resilient Lummi

By Lori Lash

Resilient Lummi presents Webinar and Discussion "Greening Your Finances"

Resilient Lummi will present a webinar and discussion "Greening Your Finances" at 4:30 PM on Sunday, March 22, 2026, at Island Library. Learn about financial choices to better protect this beautiful planet we call home. We will hear a panel of national experts explaining how our financial choices can direct meaningful change. They will guide us through actions we can take – and pitfalls to avoid. You don't have to be a player in the stock market to influence outcomes – even your choice of bank matters!

Following this informative webinar, we will bring it home with a discussion about local Whatcom County resources. We can never be too informed about our finances. There is something here for everyone! Join us to see how we can each be part of this solution.



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CIVIC CLUB NEWS AND PLANT EXPO SUPPORT NEEDED



The recent Civic Club Meeting was held on Thursday February 12th with a Valentine celebration of the heart by our hostesses Erin Deinzer, Linda Smith and Carolyn Jewell-Jenkins. Our meeting focused on planning for our upcoming Plant Expo and we enjoyed a program that allowed us to better appreciate our Civic Club members and learned about events in each of our lives that were memorable to each of us.

The **Civic Club Plant Expo** date has been set for Saturday May 2nd, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Lummi Island Grange. Please note this is during dry dock. We look forward to another successful event with help from our island community.

Plant Expo donations are Requested for these departments. We would like to ask all islanders, especially all gardeners, farmers, artists, and all you gorgeous and generous people to help us fill our sale offerings! Our needs include:

Plant Sale - Think of us as you prepare your plant starts for this growing season; think vegetables, fruits, herbs, spices, flowers, etc. We need your thinned out plantings, including bulbs, tubers, hostas, flowers, shrubs, trees, bushes, etc. If you need pots to transfer them to, please let one of us know and we can get you some! Feedback has reached us that attendees love what we have offered in the past and would love us to enhance our vegetable starts offerings. Feel free to contact Carolyn Jewell-Jenkins (360) 303-7070 or Molly Forman (206) 310-4809 with questions or offerings about the plant department.

Gift Shoppe - Please start to put aside any new or lightly used gift items that could be donated to us to sell in our gardening gift shoppe. Think of your re-giftings, decor items, nic-nacs, especially if there is a garden, nature or plant based theme to them (not required). We love indoor and outdoor gift items that are in good condition. Plus any gardening tools and supplies are great. Erin Deinzer is the Gift Shoppe Manager this year.

Prize Raffle - We will announce our island beneficiary soon! In the interim, we would love valuable donations that would be worthy prizes to win in our Fund Raising raffle. We would love our various island artists, businesses, farms and generous community members to provide a lovely gift to be a part of this opportunity to help an island worthy cause. We already received a donation pledge for a Funghi Focused Gift Package! Please contact our raffle coordinators, Carol McKinney (603) 547-5143 or Sandra Clavero (360) 935-2036, if you have items to donate or any questions about the raffle. We will ensure your business is recognized for its contribution!

The Plant Sale and Gift Shoppe donations can be given to us in advance or you can bring them to the L.I. Grange the day prior to the sale for drop off. Drop off details to come. And as in the past, our Plant Expo will include a snack cafe with coffee and treats. The best part of the Expo will be seeing all of our island folks out to buy plants, flowers, gifts, gardening supplies, and a snack! Please mark your calendars now!

As a reminder, your Lummi Island Civic Club is available for Grant requests. Our past Grant funds have been used to support many island organizations including: the L.I. Grange, Parish Nurses, Beach School Leadership Program, L.I. Health and Wellness Programs, Reimbursement of any member's Food Handlers Permits. We have also sponsored a school supply drive for the Beech School. We spend our time doing many volunteering activities including the Beach School's PI Day, Veteran's Day Brunch, and PTO Halloween event and cake walk fundraiser. Plus we support the Elderberries Lunches on the 5th Wednesday of any Month, the FOIL Auction and the Lummi Island Blood Drive. If your organization is in need of some Grant funds, please contact any of us to let us know what you need.

Our next Civic Club meeting will be the evening of Thursday, March 12th at 4:00 p.m. at the L.I. Grange Hall. This will be a tropical themed meeting, so come dressed in your best "island" attire! Yes - this is a late afternoon meeting start to allow those women that work during the day to attend! Our goal is to be available at the times that allow more inclusion of our islander women population. Our evening meeting will include light snacks and refreshments including wine. There is no membership fee and our goal is to meet new friends and to support our island's charitable, education and cultural needs. Simple!





LIHS Archives – The Archives contain records of human experience and records of enduring value. There are letters, newspaper clippings, photographs, sound recording, and digital records. Interested in perusing the archives - just curious or have a specific Lummi Island topic you would like to explore, contact our Archivist Jackie Marshall (1-603-801-8062).

We continue to update LIHS.us. The Reflections section has small history stories and information related to the Island. Paul Davis's Digital Archive is there and other articles. Check it out.

The Historical Society meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Island Library, 6:00 – 7:30 PM. Next meeting: Mar, 25th. Meetings are open to all.

We are currently looking for a secretary. If you have skills or experience you'd like to share or would like to be part of establishing a museum on the Island, 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 continued

INDUSTRIES

John Riefsnyder drove traps all over the Sound, wherever a salmon could be found. Those were the days, so the story goes, they could steal your location from under your nose. They were the ones they say struck it rich, though the owners would light them to the very last ditch. Pile-driver men then were thick as thieves, when the weather was fine, they were lousy with fleas, but let the wind whistle, and roar, they'd start the worst cussing ever heard before. Joe Shire was one no one else could beat; he could swear in four languages and not once repeat. On the wanagan deck and during a blow, he'd jump on his hat, then away he would go; and the rest of the crew, the envious lunks, in jealous rage would hide in their bunks.

The Lummi Bay store was run by Claude Wade; he came on a visit, but all summer he stayed. He, for a long time before the war, worked for Wilson, Nobles, and Barr. I remember the Mike Christinsons and the I. N. Cones; Billy Peacock towed logs for Barney Jones, who used to scale for the Morrison mill, belonging to Edward, Archie, and Will.

I remember the Pavillion built by Ed Hayes, who had to sell, some money to raise. Everyone danced there who could make the grade; they had wonderful music when Boyd Spees played. I remember Ole Hill, Bessie Van Glider too, Ron Wales, Ab Davis and the lady called Lou; Mrs. Layman, a widow, Nellie and Paul, in her little red wagon her spices she'd haul.

A man named Bowden started to mine. The rocks on the beach showed a very good sign that coal could be dug, and a fortune made, if they could get down where the strata laid—so he dug a pit about forty feet down, with hopes that wealth his efforts would crown. But alas! and alack! I'm sorry to say, it just did not turn out that way, for the only strike from the venture in coal was when Tatt's Jersey cow fell into the hole.

Carlisle Cannery was built by Mr. Al Friend— he also made money and much he did spend. He guaranteed, so the story ran, that his white salmon would not turn red in the can.

I remember Ed Lowry and John McGill; I think Ed lives in Bellingham still. Jackson, Rush, the Conner twins, two young fellows alike as two pins: Mrs. Fosser's daughters, Lily and Rose, they came too early for buttons and bows.

From Jeffcott's Nooksack Tales and Trails, and from others who lived in the hills and dales—Lynden, Ferndale, Mountain View, Whatcom, Blaine, Marietta, too, I've learned that many I'm glad to relate, were friends of our "Pearl of Rosario Strait." Mohrman, Peabody, Plaster, McCombs, Judson, Goodell, Slater, at Lynden had homes. Eldridge, Roeder, Shields and Mayhew, a great many others, these are a few. Eighteen twenty-seven, was a tragic year, five whites were murdered over here. They were camped for the night, I've heard folks tell, massacred by Indians from Hoods Canal. In seventeen hundred and ninety- two, Galiano and Valdez, sailing through, were the first white men our Island to see. They chartered it Isla de Pachakee. The name still stuck, twenty years hence, but from then Lummi its been ever since.

Coming next – A Bare Tale



Malcolm Victor Hutchings 1935-2026



Born June 1935 to Cyril Victor and Dorothy Anne Hutchings, nee Chappell, Malcolm was raised in the small village Portskewett, Monmouthshire, Wales with his two sisters Carol and Wendy. After completing his education at Chepstow Grammar School,

Malcolm took an engineering apprenticeship with the Bristol Aeroplane Company, ultimately contributing to the design of the first commercial supersonic transport airliner, Concorde.

In 1962 Malcolm married Roberta, "Bobbie" Stenner, beginning a 64 year life journey that spanned the globe. Six years later, with two small sons, Jonathon and Robert, Malcolm and Bobbie emigrated to the United States to begin a five year commitment with the Boeing Company as a mechanical design engineer supporting the Super Sonic Transport project (SST).

Taking up residence on Mercer Island and adding their third son, Richard, to the family they embraced the opportunities of their adopted Pacific Northwest home. Malcolm enjoyed family camping trips to the Oregon Coast, hiking the Cascades with his boys, fishing in the San Juan's, refereeing soccer games and, of course, his garden.

Despite the vagaries of the airplane business and threats of lay offs, Malcolm nurtured a strong relationship with the Boeing Company, raising their three sons to adulthood before accepting an over seas posting in Beijing, China, in 1989. This marked an inflection from which Malcolm and Bobbie never looked back. As a principal Boeing representative in China, their lives together were enriched by new surroundings, different cultures, a lively expat community and the opportunity to travel throughout Asia and the South Pacific. From China, transferring to Prague, Czechoslovakia, they experienced the country transitioning from communism and explored Europe before returning to the U.S. in 1998.

With that experience behind them, Malcolm retired from Boeing, moved north to Lummi Island where Malcolm and Bobbie forged a new circle of friends and experiences. Lummi Island proved a perfect environment to age gracefully and productively among a vibrant community with meaningful philanthropies to support. Among them, The Lummi Island Heritage Trust, Disaster Preparedness, Friends of Island Library (FOIL), Hilltop Water Association and the Historical Society.

As chairman of Hilltop Water Association Malcolm championed a recapitalization campaign to replace failing distribution lines, expand service to bring new customers on line, and research the systems arsenic issues.

Malcolm aged well on the Island, welcoming grandchildren, enjoying boating, crabbing and his greatest passions, gardening and reading history. Time with Malcolm was about vegetables and a covert lesson in world history. A perfect situation amongst good friends, neighbors and lots to do.



Parish Health Ministry

By Jane Phillips

The new We're still here loaning durable medical equipment like commodes, walkers, shower stools, and wheelchairs.

If you need a ride to a medical appointment (and you give us several days head's up) we can probably find you a ride. Plus the LICA grant lets us purchase ferry passes for this, to use for both car/driver and pedestrian!

If you have a food emergency we can help out with a voucher to the Islander. If you just want your blood pressure checked we can help with that too (360 389-6697), Call Ingrid 360 220-5860 or Joan 360 739-0228 or Lisa 360 201-0830 or Jane (360) 389-6697. Thanks.

You are welcome here.
Lummi Island Congregational Church

Sunday Service 10:30 am

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(360) 758-2060

lummichurch.org

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Hours: Tuesday: 1:00 - 7:00 pm; Thursday & Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Island Storytime - For ages 2-6, 30 minutes. The winter/spring Storytime series continues! It's an open program that includes stories, rhymes, and songs with opportunities for movement and interactive participation. Meets every Saturday at 10:30 am from January 24th – May 16th, Island Library

Island Library Book Club - Everyone's welcome to Island Library's book club, which meets at 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month in the Hanson Room. We read a mix of fiction and nonfiction with an emphasis on well-developed characters, rich settings, and relevant themes. Copies of the titles in multiple formats are provided by the library. Library manager, Erin Suda, facilitates. Upcoming Books:

- **March 26th** ~ James by Percival Everett (2025 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction)
- **April 23rd** ~ Turning to Stone: Discovering the Subtle Wisdom of Rocks by Marcia Bjornerud

Secrets of Dying Well - Join local end-of-life planning consultants for an open, honest conversation about what it means to die well—and live with intention. You will be guided through the tools, decisions, and discussions that help ensure your values are honored, your affairs are in order, and your loved ones are supported. Whether you're planning ahead or supporting someone else, this session offers practical insight and emotional clarity for one of life's most important transitions. Presenters: Hilary Walker is a licensed Occupational Therapist with more than 25 years of experience helping people maintain quality of life at every stage. Hilary Walker will be joined by Jennifer Carlson, Hospice RN and ACP facilitator, and Brian Flowers, funeral director and owner of Wildflower Funeral Concepts. Please register for this event online at wcls.org or by calling the library during open hours. Tuesday, March 3rd from 2 – 3:30 pm in the Hanson Room at Island Library

Senior Services at the Health & Wellness Center - Sign up for a one-on-one meeting with Stacy Malone Miller or one of her associates from Northwest Regional Council to discuss your eligibility for in-home care, caregiver support, non-emergency health care transportation, and other senior services. Meetings will be held in the Health & Wellness Center on the east side of The Gathering Place on the first Thursday of March, April & May between 2:00 and 4:00 pm. Register at wcls.org or at the library front counter for a half hour appointment. Drop-ins will be accommodated if space is available. This event is co-sponsored by Island Library and the Lummi Island Health and Wellness Committee. Thursday, March 5th and April 2nd, 2 – 4 pm, The Gathering Place

Wanna Be a Dungeon Master? - Are you ready to launch your own tabletop role-playing adventure? Join us for a free four-hour workshop with an experienced dungeon master to learn the basics of running your own game with your friends. They will cover the following concepts and give you a chance to practice being a Dungeon Master for the first time:

- Session 0
- Different types of games
- Creating characters
- Safety tools
- Rules
- Prep

Space is limited; register online at wcls.org or call Island Library during open hours. Refreshments will be provided. Saturday, March 7th, 12 – 4 pm, Island Library

Island Library Fundraiser Concert - Join us for the Second Annual Lummi Island Library Fundraiser Concert where an eclectic gathering of island musicians will share their gifts of music. All musicians' tips and refreshment donations go to FOIL to support the library! Don't miss out on this family-friendly, amazing evening of local talent and delicious desserts. Saturday, March 14th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Island Library

Kids' All About Space - The moon, the stars, and more! We'll discover, create, and explore the mysteries of the universe at this out-of-this-world program. For preschool and elementary-aged kids. Drop in on Thursday, March 19th from 3 - 4 pm, Island Library

WRIA 1 Water Rights Adjudication Help Sessions - Get filing assistance and join the 1,575+ people who have filed their court claim form. Bring your court claim form and receive one-on-one support from Department of Ecology staff. You'll be able to speak directly with a technical expert and get answers to your specific questions. There will be 12 30-minute time slots available between 10 am and 1 pm. Reserve your spot by calling Island library at (360)758-7145 or registering online. Please register for the waiting list if necessary, and we may be able to open up more slots. The last hour from 1-2 pm will be open to walk-in patrons so no registration is needed. If this date and these times do not work for your schedule, inquire about signing up for an hour-long 1:1 in person or online appointment with Ecology at other times. Saturday, March 21st , 10 am – 2 pm, Island Library



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Lummi Island Heritage Trust

By LIHT Staff



The LIHT Annual Meeting: Friday March 6th, 7 pm at The Grange Hall

Join us as we celebrate the continuing accomplishments of the Trust in 2025. Welcome our new Executive Director, Ashli McVey and recognize the contributions of our outgoing ED Alike Herreshoff. Our featured speaker for the evening will be Seattle Times journalist and nature writer, Lynda V. Mapes, author of the 2025 book, *The Trees Are Speaking: Dispatches from the Salmon Forest*. Explore the vital connection between old-growth forests and salmon, blending science, Indigenous knowledge, and personal narrative to advocate for a new relationship with forests everywhere.

Celebrate the Spring Equinox Sunday March 22nd 1:00 -2:30 pm at the Otto Preserve. As the days lengthen and the first buds of spring begin to emerge, join Elizabeth Thomson and Jennifer Martin from Lummi Island Health and Wellness for a gentle, 90-minute replenishing forest walk. As we stroll along the trail through the awakening preserve, we will explore springtime themes of new beginnings, balance, and hope—both within ourselves and in the forest around us. No experience needed — just wear comfortable shoes, bring water, and an open heart. Suggested Donation \$20

Coming in April, the Launch of the renewed Personal Preserve Program, a community initiative to help islanders to re-wild outdoor spaces and create diverse habitats in their own yards. Open to all gardeners — beginners, balcony growers, small or large-space gardeners to experienced master gardeners — the program will share resources and education to help you create thriving island ecosystems and peaceful oases while building connection and joy.

Why join? Re-wilding even a small area supports local wildlife, reduces maintenance, and helps conserve water and soil. The program emphasizes practical, small-scale actions anyone can take to make a measurable difference.

Key elements:

- Shrink your Lawn — Less lawn = more life; reduces mowing, increases biodiversity.
- Incorporate Native Plants — Provides food and shelter for local pollinators, insects, and birds.
- Remove Invasive Plants — Helps native species recover and supports biodiversity.
- Use Water Wisely — Mulch, group plants by water need, and choose local natives to conserve water.

Start small: Remove a small patch of grass and plant native flowers; add native plants to existing beds or containers; pot pollinator host plants on your deck or in window boxes; design an insect garden with a child or create a bird-friendly corner.

Community and events: The PPP will host regular social occasions for gardeners to meet, share projects, and post before-and-after photos. Expect speaker presentations, films, online resources, summer garden tours, and informal happy hour chats. More dates and details coming soon.



The Gathering Place hosted the February 8th, Superbowl LX Watch Party this year. The event was well-attended, and the reviews gave it a big thumbs up! Discussion at February's board meeting suggested that this become an annual TGP event. Once confirmed, we'll add it to the 2027 and subsequent years' calendars.

It was also discussed that having a monthly posting in The Tome is a great way to keep Islanders informed of what's coming up at TGP, so you can now check The Tome monthly for current TGP news and upcoming events. As more of us look to participate in Island public events, and those considering using the facility for private events, having monthly reminders with our monthly 'Save the Date' section will be a great way to keep the Island community informed.

For those planning private events, TGP offers competitive pricing for meetings, retreats and fundraisers, as well as weddings, baby showers, birthday parties, family reunions, memorials and other celebrations. With its large main hall, state-of-the-art kitchen, restrooms, ample parking, and beautiful outdoor patio and access to the beach, we've got you covered!

For information or questions, ask one of our friendly board members (Barbara Boulanger, Julie Bredy, Sahara Burson, Robert Keller, Judy Olsen, Tom Philpot, Rebecca Rettmer, Kjell Rye, Hans Trieselmann) or visit our website at <http://ligatheringplace.com> and/or email info@ligatheringplace.com for answers to your question TGP Events - Save the Date

Memorial Day Artist's Tour: May 23rd and 24th (Sat/Sun) 10 - 5

Labor Day Artist's Tour: September 5th and 6th (Sat/Sun) 10 - 5

Oktoberfest: October 3rd (Sat) 5 - 8

November Artist's Tour: November 7 & 8th, Saturday, 10 - 5; Sunday, 10 - 3

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LICA Blood Drive

By Molly Forman

Lummi Island Blood Drive - From donation chair to beach chair—Maui awaits!



A trip to the Lummi Island Bloodworks NW Blood Drive could be your ticket to paradise! Sign up to give blood this March and you can enter to win a trip for two to Maui, with airfare and three-night luxury hotel stay Resort. Schedule your appointment today! For more details, please visit <https://www.bloodworksnw.org/win>

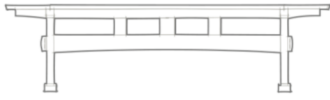
Follow this link https://donate.bloodworksnw.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/97349 or call Molly Forman at 206-310-4809 to schedule an appointment. Email works too! mlforman@comcast.net or call 206-310-4809.

Appointments are required for the best possible donation experience. Same-day appointments available at most locations. Photo ID required. For safety, we kindly request no visitors under 16 at our donation sites. Eat a hearty meal and drink plenty of fluids prior to donation.

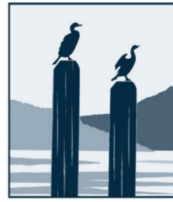


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Angie Dixon, Serena Dabney
Colleen McCrory

Who Loves a Parade!

By Leslie Dempsey

A few parade enthusiasts (Cassa, Wendi & Leslie) are hosting a get together to share ideas and inspiration for the September (date tbd) Lummi Island Parade. We'll show a short video and slideshow to get you in the mood, and then brainstorm ideas about how folks can participate and help make this year's parade the most fun ever!

Please join us on Saturday March 21st from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Grange!



Helpful Numbers

Aluminum Cans	360-483-3951 <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 Thorn
Gathering Place	360-758-2060 info@ligatheringplace.com
Grange Rental	360-483-3951
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 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

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The Tome of Lummi Island

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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.

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