



# The Tome of Lummi Island

April 2026 - Volume 61 No. 4



## Calendar of Events

### April Events - Up to date information at [OurLummiIsland.org](http://OurLummiIsland.org)

April	Ingrid McGarry Art Exhibition, Mon-Thurs, LIH&W Resource Center	9:00 - 12:00 am
April 2, Thur	Senior Services at the Health & Wellness Center, By Appointment, <b>See Pg. 9</b>	
April 5, Sun.	Easter Egg Hunt, Congregational Church, <b>See Pg. 6</b>	11:30 am
April 6 - 10	Beach School Spring Break	
April 7, Tue	Improv, The Gathering Place	6:00 pm
April 10, Fri	Kids Dance, Congregational Church Social Hall	10:00 am
April 12, Sun	Curry Preserve Tree Planting Party, Upper Preserve, <b>See Pg. 10</b>	12:00 - 3:00 pm
April 16, Thur	Kids' All About Gardening, Island Library, <b>See Pg. 9</b>	3:00 - 4:00 pm
	Renewable Energy through PSE, The Gathering Place, <b>See Pg. 7</b>	5:00 pm
April 19, Sun	Sound Bath Meditation, The Gathering Place	4:00 pm
	Personal Preserve Program, LIHT Resource Center, <b>See Pg. 10</b>	2:00 - 3:30 pm
April 21, Tue	Improv, The Gathering Place	6:00 pm
	Foot Care, LIH&W Resource Center By Appointment Only	
April 22, Wed	Earth Day	
April 24, Fri	Kids Dance, Congregational Church Social Hall	10:00 am
April 25, Sat	Whatcom Chief Ferry Dry Dock Starts - No Car Service until May 17th	
April 29, Wed	LICA, General Meeting, Grange Hall, <b>See Pg. 8</b>	6:00 pm
May 2, Sat	Civic Club Plant Sale & Gift Shop, Grange Hall	11:00 am - 1:00

### Weekly

Recycling: Mondays April 13 & 27		
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: April 16 - 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
	WCFAC Meeting, The Gathering Place	6:00 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

The LICA board hopes that all of you on Lummi are ready for Spring. The LICA general meeting is all set for Wednesday April 29th at the Grange. There will be an island wide pot luck at 6PM. This will be followed by a presentation by the Beach School laying out the issues our school is facing. There will also be a ferry report.

The island road clean up is set for June 13th. We hope you can join us for this important island event. It will be at the Grange 9 am.

The LICA board will be having a retreat in April. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns, please put them in writing and leave them for us in the LICA drop box by 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	1.95	💧	💧	💧	💧
North Tuttle Lane - Nancy Simmerman	4.10	1.90	💧	💧	💧	💧
South Nugent - Jerry Brown	4.90	2.51	💧	💧	💧	💧
Scenic Estates - Leslie Dempsey	5.21	3.02	💧	💧	💧	💧
Granger Way - Scott Josiah	3.82	2.34	💧	💧	💧	💧
Scenic Estates - Crawford	4.50	2.78	💧	💧	💧	💧

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**Swing Into Spring with Lummi Island Grange!** May we all finally have a chance to dry out the moss and mold that's grown between our toes during this VERY wet season. With Spring officially here and warmer (hopefully drier) weather, we can look forward to longer days to enjoy our beautiful Island.

Lummi Island Grange has several fun activities planned and welcome all Islanders to join us. Our Grange is an Action Grange, one that is progressive, non-partisan, and inclusive. We continue a proud tradition of supporting rural life and have been the instigators of legislation that brought electricity, mail delivery and internet access to rural communities across our nation. Something you may not know, the Grange initiated action that resulted in all school buses being painted yellow, for high visibility and safety. The Grange continues to support the needs of rural communities and even though we are not primarily a farming community, the goals, values and needs are the same.

The Grange now has a phone number, so if you need to reach us, please call **360-483-3951**

The new container that is shared by LICA and Red Cross is now in place behind the Alf's Place container. This provides additional space for the Grange, LICA and Red Cross.

On behalf of the Grange, Tara Bock submitted a Grange Rural Living Initiative grant request to the National Grange for money to provide an opportunity for our Island teens to provide a special event. The grant was approved, so stay tuned for more information as plans come together for a fun community event.

With graduations on the horizon, a reminder to Grange members.... If you have a close family member who is going on to a trade school or university, you can have them submit a scholarship application to Lummi Island Grange.

### Up Coming Events:

- April 25 ~ May 17 – Dry Dock
- May 2 – Civic Club Plant Sale and Gift Shop.
- May 16 – Annual 'End of Dry Dock Party'. Starting at 5pm, there will be music, beer, wine and soft drinks. Bring a finger food to share and join friends and neighbors as we celebrate the End of Dry Dock. There will be prizes for unique dry dock vehicles, so if it runs, bring your mossy, rusty, doorless, windowless, colorful vehicles down to the Grange.
- May 30 – Grange Honky-Tonk. Practice your two-step and join in the fun.

**LANGABEER & TRAXLER, P.S.**

**DANNON C. TRAXLER**  
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## Island Artists & Crafters

By Gayle Mitterer

April 25 is the deadline to sign up for the Memorial Day Artists' Studio Tour, May 23 & 24. Place a \$30 check payable to Sierra Montoya in an envelope with her name on the outside and leave it at The Islander Store. If you are paying with cash, be sure to write your name on the outside of the envelope. Include a short description of your work, where you are showing an any other pertinent information (website, email, etc.) as you would like it to appear on the tour map.

Questions? Call Gayle Mitterer (214) 354-4460, Ria Harboe (360) 317-5807 or Lynn Dee (360) 758-2815.

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Michael Darrel Skehan passed into his next adventure on March 10, 2026. After a boyhood growing up in the golden 1950s in the San Francisco Bay area, loving flying and surviving being a small plane pilot in Vietnam, then a Bay Area air traffic controller before the Reagan strike, followed by pursuing multiple very different careers including building a steel plant in Arkansas and driving a trolley in downtown Seattle, surviving months in the Harborview burn unit and a heart attack and open heart surgery, he reveled in traveling in Europe, Canada, and all over America with his happiest memories the wandering trips when each day decided where to go next. He ended where he wanted to be, leaving this life in his living room on Lummi Island with his wife Diane by his side, and with hopes of seeing his beloved father and first grandson in the Lord's grace.

His proudest legacy is two happy children, Paul and Donna, and seven beautiful grandchildren and their spouses and children. One of his joys was sharing the hikes and beaches and incredible natural beauty surrounding the island with his grandchildren, and they have many happy memories of visiting "Camp Lummi" with Grandpa as camp director. He bequeathed the house to them, so that his great grandchildren can have those experiences, and in hope that his children and grandchildren will be active members of the island community which he loved, and that they will continue his practice of making wherever he lived a better and kinder place. He also is survived by his brother Bruce Skehan in California, other family, and greatly loved friends near and far.

Memorials may be given to the Lummi Island Congregational Church, The Gathering Place on Lummi Island, or any organization working to ameliorate climate change. Mike really wanted to reach 80 years on this earth, and regretted not making it. So we will celebrate his life on what would have been his 80th birthday, this June 28th, at The Gathering Place and island cemetery. Those who knew him will miss his zest for projects, his warmth and kindness, and the stories he loved to tell.

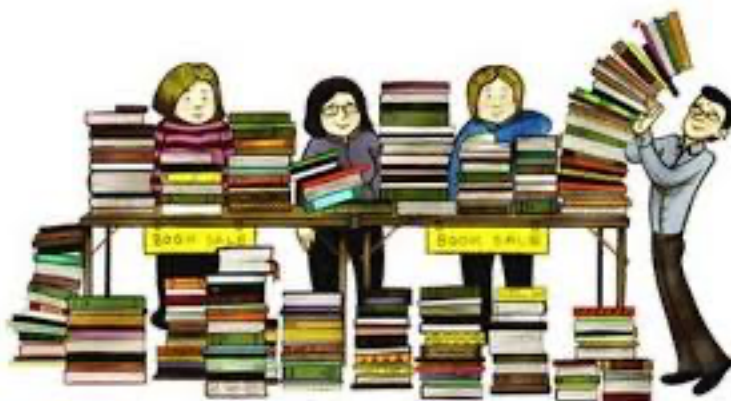


**Friends of Island Library (FOIL)**

*By Barbara King*

**FOIL BOOK SALE!** We are now shelving books for the annual FOIL book sale which will open in late June. Bring your books to the library book barn posthaste, but exclude any encyclopedias, dictionaries, textbooks and old travel guides. To carry your books to and from the library and sale, a new supply of book totes will be available for sale in the library in April.

- Friends of Island Library (Barbara King, 505-660-3026)





**We're Listening**, Lummi Island: Shaping the Next Chapter of Lummi Island Health & Wellness.

From the very beginning, listening has been at the heart of Lummi Island Health & Wellness. In 2026, Lummi Island Health & Wellness will be launching a new community survey. Your feedback will help guide the next chapter of our work as we continue building health and wellness resources for our island community.

Before our organization officially launched, we partnered with PeaceHealth and public health students from Western Washington University to conduct a comprehensive community needs assessment. The goal was simple: to understand what island residents felt was most important for staying healthy, connected, and safe while living here.

The response from our island neighbors was thoughtful and generous. Many of you shared your experiences, concerns, and hopes for the future. You asked about access to health services, echoed the challenges of transportation, and the desire for resources that support aging safely at home. Just as importantly, neighbors spoke about the value of connection, neighbors helping neighbors, and the strength that comes from living in a community that looks out for one another.

Many of you will remember the community gathering we hosted at The Gathering Place, where island residents came together over dinner to review the results. That evening gave us the chance to ask an important question: Did we hear you correctly? Your feedback and conversations from that gathering helped refine the priorities that now guide our work.

Since then, LIH&W has gone into action, responding to the needs our neighbors identified, and we've been working to expand programs that support the well-being of our community. We now offer preventive wellness classes, home safety initiatives, opportunities for social connection, and many resources that are helping people remain safe and supported in their homes. We are grateful for early grant support and the dedication of our partners and board members that helped these plans take shape so quickly.

We are proud of the progress that has been made, and we also know that communities evolve, needs change, and new challenges arise. What worked yesterday can be improved tomorrow.

### **That's why we believe it's time to listen again.**

In 2026, with anticipated support from Peace Health and the Chuckanut Health Foundation, Lummi Island Health & Wellness plans to conduct a new community survey. The goal is not only to understand what services people value most, but also to learn what could be improved and what barriers might be preventing some neighbors from participating.

***We want to know: How are we doing? What could we do better? What is missing that would make a difference in your life or the life of someone you care about?***

The LIH&W mission remains to create a system of health and wellness resources that helps Lummi Island residents of all ages thrive and build resilience as they navigate life's changes and challenges. The only way we can do that well is by continuing to listen.

When the survey arrives within the next few months, we hope you'll take part. Let's join together, because your voice helps shape the programs, partnerships, and priorities that support a healthier, more connected Lummi Island.

In the meantime, we are listening. You can send us your thoughts online anytime: <http://bit.ly/4rUkiQa>



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Make sure this month's drydock dates are on your calendar, April 25 – May 17. The last day of car service will be at midnight on Friday, April 24. Passenger runs will commence on Saturday, April 25, once the floats are in place. On Sunday, April 26, there will be a short outage to install the pedestrian ramps. It is anticipated that car ferry service will resume on Sunday, May 17. There will also be a short ferry outage on Saturday, May 16, to remove the pedestrian ramps. This year's annual ferry maintenance will be done at the Lake Union Shipyard.

The Washington State Legislature recently passed HB 2588, which allows counties to establish a county-wide Ferry Taxing District. Two of our District 42 legislators, Representative Joe Timmons, and Senator Sharon Shewmake were important proponents of this bill. Important support came from the three other counties in Washington State that also have county-financed ferries. Also, thanks to Whatcom County officials and citizens who testified at committee hearings. Enacting a Whatcom County Ferry Tax District will require a majority vote from our County Council. At stake is procuring a more reliable and secure funding source for future ferry maintenance and operations, and a means to relieve pressure on the County Road Fund. Importantly, having a ferry taxing district would directly affect long-term county financial planning to fund a new ferry, and allow the county to use the awarded \$25 million RAISE grant. This federal grant would pay a significant portion of the cost of ferry replacement, but can be used ONLY if adequate financial planning is in place to fund the rest of the project.

If you want to be more involved with this and other issues surrounding the ferry, the WCFAC Committee will be needing a Lummi Island resident to become a member. Many thanks to Tess Winds-Johnson for serving on the committee for the last few years, but she is currently unable to continue.

Please remember that the Public Works Lummi Island Ferry Website (<https://www.whatcomcounty.us/382/Lummi-Island-Ferry>), along with the accompanying WCFAC page, both contain useful ferry updates, and information. There should be a 2025 Ferry Financial Report forthcoming soon, as well as current and past WCFAC meeting agendas and minutes. The next WCFAC meeting will be Weds, April 22, at 6 pm, at the Gathering Place. All are welcome to attend.



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

Join us as we celebrate Easter Sunday, April 5th. Song, prayer, and flowers at 10:30am in the sanctuary. The all-island Easter Egg Hunt follows in the cemetery, starting promptly at 11:30am! Yes, there will be a toddler's section where they can find eggs at their own pace. Then join together for the Easter potluck lunch at Noon in The Gathering Place. Ham is provided, and feel free to bring something to share.

After the Easter Egg Hunt 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.

No Parish Dinner in April, but Coffee continues every Friday at 10AM at The Gathering Place. And Elderberries meets every Wednesday with hot lunch at Noon and three different game tables and coffee from 11-2 pm.

**What's Ahead?** .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 Hatha Yoga all continue. Find details at [www.lummichurch.org](http://www.lummichurch.org), [www.ligatheringplace.com](http://www.ligatheringplace.com), and [www.lummihw.org](http://www.lummihw.org). Email us at [office@lummichurch.com](mailto: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.*



## Here Comes the Sun!

Resilient Lummi will present a speaker and discussion "Here Comes the Sun!" on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 5:00 pm at The Gathering Place.

We will hear an informative presentation by Puget Sound Energy about renewable energy options for solar and green energy on Lummi Island, including discounts and low-income programs. You can even access solar energy on the island without purchasing solar panels. Join us for a fresh take on renewable energy with a PSE representative to answer our questions. We have the power to protect this beautiful place we call home.

**Earth Day** is April 22, 2026. Let's shed some light and love on the world around us.

**The Island Seed Library.** The Island Seed Library is a community work in progress. It is informed by our local horticulturalist and member of Resilient Lummi, Robin Richardson, who recently attended a workshop called "Seed Libraries across the US and Canada". Explore the current seed inventory in the Hanson room of the Island Library. Seeds are free and there are containers and labels for your convenience.

Seeds are sourced from our community. Please consider donating seeds from your own garden. You can also grow plants this season for next year's seed crop. "How-To" resources include [SeedLibraryNetwork.org](https://SeedLibraryNetwork.org) and Salish Seed Guild at [SalishSeed.org](https://SalishSeed.org). Island Library has a book about seed collection and of course our librarians can help you locate other resources. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Seed Library so we can coordinate with our volunteers.



## Ferry Currents - Tips from your Crew

By Michele Morrissey

Whether you love it, hate it, or are indifferent — Dry Dock is coming! This year's outage is scheduled for April 25–May 17, and now is the time to make a few preparations to help things go a little more smoothly.

### Here are a few tips from the crew:

- **Plan ahead for deliveries.** If you rely on mail-order supplies, try to place those orders now and avoid deliveries during Dry Dock — especially large or heavy items like pet food or cat litter. Our USPS, UPS, and FedEx staff work hard to keep things moving, and a little planning can go a long way in helping them out.
- **Be ready to lend a hand.** If you do end up needing to order something heavy, consider meeting the ferry your delivery is arriving on and helping move it. If you can't make it, see if a friend or neighbor can step in.
- **Give yourself extra time.** Plan to arrive 5–10 minutes earlier than usual, especially if you're carrying groceries or other supplies. Give yourself time to park and walk. And if you're running late, it's okay — just catch the next boat. It's not worth risking an injury trying to rush.
- **Use the tools available.** There is one pull cart available to help transport goods — feel free to use it! The crew is also glad to help when we can. If you regularly carry heavier loads, you might consider bringing your own cart.
- **Keep space in mind.** There is limited room on the passenger ferry. If there's too much cargo, some items may need to wait for the next run.
- **Pets:** If you're bringing your dog onboard, please bring a "poop bag" just in case. We don't have bags onboard.
- **Stay informed.** Sign up for alerts from Public Works: <https://www.whatcomcounty.us//CivicAlerts.aspx>
- **Check the schedule.** Ferry service operates on a different schedule during Dry Dock, and fueling days may also shift. Updated schedules will be posted on the county website, at the docks, and available as paper copies on the passenger ferry.

Thanks for helping us help you. We're all on this boat together!



One of the goals of the Historical Society is to have a space where people could come for programs, do research and view curated displays. We envision a space where people can bring items, stories, and photos to be scanned, donated, and shared. We are reaching out to the community for help finding such an available space. If you have any ideas, please contact us at [info@LIHS.us](mailto:info@LIHS.us)

We continue to update our website <https://lihs.us> The Reflections section has small history stories and information related to the Island. If you have a Lummi Island story you would like to share, please send it to us as well. Fishing tales are allowed.

The LIHS Archives contain letters, newspaper clippings, previous TOMES, photographs, audio recordings, and digital records. Interested in researching the archive, contact our Archivist Jackie Marshall (603-801-8062) to set up a time.

The Historical Society meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Island Library, 6:00 – 7:30 pm. Next meeting: Apr. 22. We welcome new people.

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 Jane Phillips at 360-389-6697 or our email at [info@LIHS.us](mailto:info@LIHS.us)

## The Lummi Island Story by Frank M. Taft, continued

**A Bear Tale.** Another story around the island ran, told by a Granger, his name was Chan, about a bear, one of the many here, that caused the settlers much worry and fear. When Chan was quite small it was his lot, to look for the cows, to see where they got. He climbed up a stump that was hollow inside, high enough to see round the country side. Now the inside of the stump was black as coal; he made a misstep, fell down in the hole. Down, down he went, on the bottom he lit, on a nest of cub bears that lived in the pit. The top was so high, and the bottom so low, he couldn't climb out nor dig out below. He was just about to give up in despair, when down tail first came the Mama Bear. He pulled out his knife to fight for his life, determined to win the result of the strife. When closer and closer in her backward descend – till he grabbed her tail, jabbed the knife at her end. Up they both went, and so scared was the mother, that she jumped one way, while Chan jumped the other.

This is the story, and as truth will prevail; its title?--"Saved by a tail!"

Coming next – OUR FIRST PIONEERS



## LICA General Meeting

By David Thorn

The LICA quarterly General Meeting open to all islanders is scheduled for April 29th at the Grange Hall. Come here about the issues facing beach school in a program following a short business meeting.

- 6 pm Potluck Dinner - bring a dish to share and meet fellow islanders for some social time.
- 6:50 - LICA Business Meeting
- 7:00 - Program on Beach School



## The Island Library - It Belongs to You

By Erin Suda

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

**Island Storytime** - For ages 2-6, 30 minutes. The 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:

- April 23rd ~ *Turning to Stone: Discovering the Subtle Wisdom of Rocks* by Marcia Bjornerud
- May 28th ~ *All the Sinners Bleed* by S.A. Cosby

**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](http://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. Thursdays, April 2nd and May 7th, 2 – 4 pm, The Gathering Place

**Kids' All About Gardening** - Learn all about the simple wonders of gardening and plant seeds that will grow into yummy veggies or beautiful flowers to take home with you. All supplies will be provided. For preschool and elementary-aged kids. Drop in on Thursday, April 16th from 3 - 4 pm, Island Library

**Self-Publishing Success with Jill Flores In-Person** - Are you ready to turn your manuscript into a finished book? Self-Publishing Success is an inspiring and practical workshop designed for aspiring authors who are ready to bring their book to life. Jill shares insider tips from years of experience in book design and production, guiding participants through every stage of the publishing process—from manuscript editing and cover design to printing and self-publishing options. You'll learn how to avoid common mistakes, gain confidence in navigating the self-publishing world, and leave with a clear, actionable roadmap to get your book into readers' hands. Registration is recommended to ensure a spot. Saturday, May 2nd, 1 - 2:30 pm, Island Library





**Happy Spring!** LIHT is excited to make the most of this season with our community, starting with two events this April: the Curry Preserve Tree Planting Party and the re-launch of our Personal Preserve Program. We hope to see you there!

### Curry Preserve Tree Planting Party

- Sunday April 12th, 12pm - 3pm
- The Curry Preserve Upper Field
- Parking is available at the North Nugent and Tuttle Lane entrances

Please join LIHT for a hands-on volunteer day helping improve the Curry Preserve! We're looking for volunteers to assist with planting approximately 200 trees and shrubs, installing protective cages, and laying weed-barrier fabric to help the plants thrive. Please bring sturdy shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and extra shovels if available. Snacks and refreshments will be provided! For questions or to RSVP, email [skylar@liht.org](mailto:skylar@liht.org) or call 360-758-7997.

### Introducing the Personal Preserve Program

- April 19th, 2026, 2:00 - 3:30 PM
- LIHT Resource Center at the Otto Preserve - 3560 Sunrise Rd

LIHT is excited to announce the launch of the Personal Preserve Program (PPP): a simple, practical way for more of us to support our natural environment. The PPP educates and empowers our community to manage their properties for both habitat preservation and personal enjoyment. You can broaden your environmental impact in your own backyard by focusing on wildlife stewardship, water management, and native plants. Join us for our launch party on April 19th to learn more about re-wilding your land.

### What a personal preserve is (and isn't):

- Is a voluntary commitment
- Is using some or all of your land to support habitat
- Is part of a shared, island-wide effort
- Not a legal designation
- Not a conservation easement
- Not a restriction on how you use your property

### What it can look like:

- Removing invasive species
- Planting native plants
- Reducing lawn
- Letting parts of your yard be less managed
- Paying attention to what's already working and building on it

### Why join?

The goal is a more connected, healthy habitat across Lummi Island. Benefits to creating a personal preserve include:

- More birds, pollinators, and wildlife in your yard
- Fewer invasives spreading across the island over time
- Lower maintenance over time (less mowing and watering)
- Better soil and water health on your property
- More resilience to drought and changing conditions
- A way to be part of a coordinated, island-wide effort
- Healthier soil through deeper root systems and natural nutrient cycles
- Improved water retention and less runoff
- Connected habitat across properties, which wildlife depends on
- Creates green corridors, a safe way for wildlife to travel throughout the island

You don't need a large property, and you don't need to do everything at once. A small area counts; especially when we work together.

For questions or to RSVP, email [ashli@liht.org](mailto:ashli@liht.org) or call 360-758-7997.



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**TGP is now booking weddings for 2026 & 2027!**

Did you know that you can book both the Lummi Island Congregational Church and TGP for your wedding? Everything you need for your special day in one location! Visit our website at <http://ligatheringplace.com> or contact [info@ligatheringplace.com](mailto:info@ligatheringplace.com) for more information.

For those planning other private events, TGP offers competitive pricing for meetings, retreats and fundraisers, 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!!

TGP would also like to promote a "Lummi Island Preferred Vendor List" for those who offer on-island event services. For example: event planning, catering and other food services, photography, accommodations, flower arrangements, personal beauty care, transportation coordination, childcare, dressmaking/alterations, etc. If you offer any of these – or if you think your service is a fit for this list – contact us at [info@ligatheringplace.com](mailto:info@ligatheringplace.com) – and we'll contact you about being added to the list.

In other news: The Superbowl LX Watch Party was so well-attended that TGP will be hosting a FIFA World Cup Final Watch Party, July 19th (Sun) on our big screen TV. Our doors will open at 11:00, and kickoff is at 12:00. Stay tuned for more details as the date gets closer.

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](mailto: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

**FIFA World Cup Final Watch Party:** July 19th, (Sun) Doors open at 11:00 a.m., kickoff is at noon

**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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The Beach School Math Olympiad team performed exceptionally well on March 12th. Furthermore, three of our Olympians participated in the County math competition, and their respective teams placed. We are immensely proud of **Amiirah James, Benjamin Justice-Specht, Troy Kawakone, Ellie Bettis, Jayden Justice-Specht, and Ramón Escalante** for their dedication

and hard work. Congratulations, Eagles!

**Beach Happenings:** Our 3rd - 5th grade students successfully released 200 Salmon that were hatched at the school. What a great experience! Our storytelling unit will conclude with students sharing their own stories with an audience. The Leadership team has another BINGO under their belt as they raised funds for their Legacy Project. Students also participated in the Iditaread and read all March for a total of 1,000 miles each. What a feat!

**Spring Break** will be observed from April 6th to 10th, after which we will be actively engaged in a garden enrichment program in preparation for Earth Day and May Day. We have a pottery enrichment class facilitated by Joanie Roteman for 3 weeks with exciting projects in store. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Lummi Island Community for their continued support of Beach School. We cannot do this without you all!

**Kindergarten & New Student Registration** as well as Transfer paperwork is available at Ferndalesd.org. We need students!



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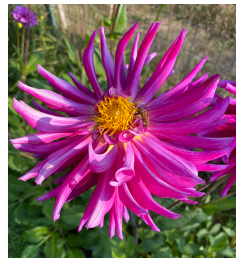
# Ramblings on the Rock

**Dahlias!** Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties have numerous dahlia growers — and there are many people on the island who have been growing dahlias for years! You can often find them at roadside stands around the island. Molly Harmony has an amazing dahlia collection that you can enjoy while waiting for the ferry, and Brittany Swaen is growing so many beauties outside The Islander and Bock's Box. It would be great to see dahlias all over the island, the same way there are apple trees from remnant orchards all over the island. Perhaps the newest growers are Anne Helen Petersen, Beth Randall, and Britta Hudson who have come together to create a business, [Lummi Island Dahlias](#), growing these colorful blooms on the island.

**But, why dahlias?** Anne had this to say: "Dahlias absolutely love our mild summers, and usually reach peak bloom during our glorious Septembers. Roses are lovely, but they're also a little more cranky — and unlike sunflowers, which typically offer just a few blooms, dahlias are "cut and come again flowers," meaning that the more you harvest, the more they produce. Including being well suited to the island climate, dahlias are also octoploids, which means they have eight sets of chromosomes — and also means the breeding combinations are nearly endless. There are dahlias the size of a child's head and dahlias the size of a quarter. They come in every color save green and blue (there's even a dahlia that's as close to black as a flower can get) and in so many forms. They're also very easy to propagate: if you plant a tuber in the spring, and dig it up in the late Fall, you'll have anywhere from three to twenty five additional tubers."

**Anne added,** "Perhaps there could be a future island-focused event where others can bring their blooms — including ones they haven't yet identified, or that they've been growing for years — and we can compare growing tips and demonstrate tuber dividing and storing. Hopefully this will come to fruition this year or next."

Let's hope that dahlia fans hear about Lummi Island Dahlias, learn that they can purchase blooms we sell our blooms at our Saturday Market, and it sparks a desire to come visit the island (and enjoy much more than dahlias). For those interested in growing their own tubers are on sale through the [Lummi Island Dahlia](#) website. Unfortunately in a last minute update tubers are all sold out. For those interested in growing their own dahlias, but they will be offering started plants for sale at the Saturday Market.



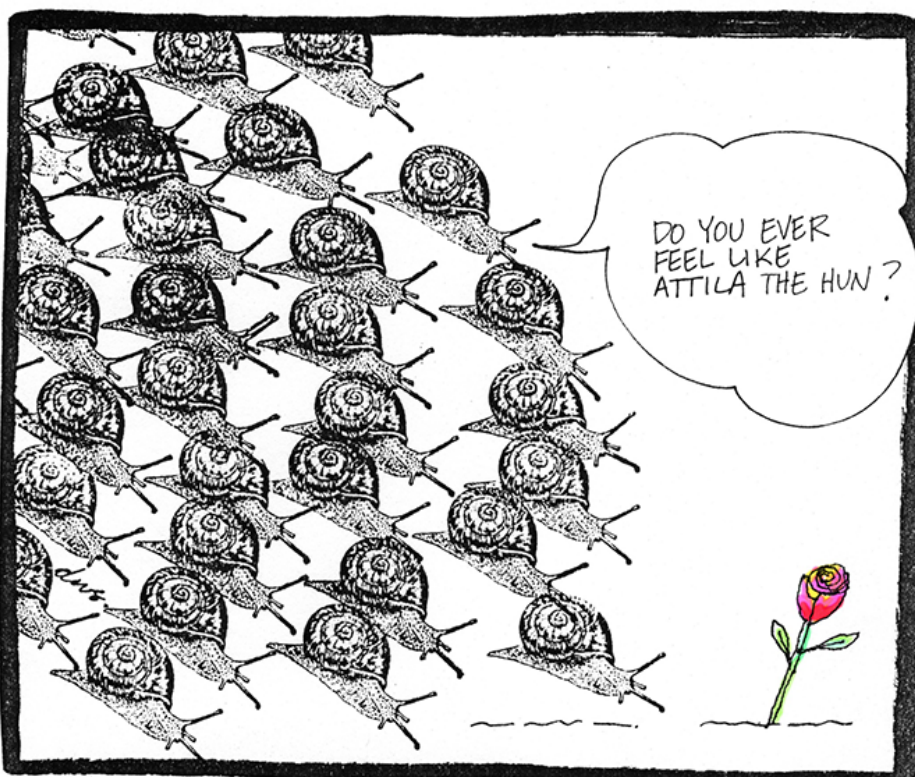
To truly enjoy these pictures check out the eTome in full color, available at no cost. Go to [MC.LICA.us](#)

## Helpful Numbers

<b>Aluminum Cans</b>	<b>360-483-3951</b> <i>Recycle Bins Located in Grange Parking Lot</i>
<b>Church Rental</b>	<b>360-758-2060</b> Church <a href="mailto:office@LummiChurch.com">office@LummiChurch.com</a>
<b>Free Notary Service</b>	<b>360-758-2559</b> Call David Thorn
<b>Gathering Place</b>	<b>360-758-2060</b> <a href="mailto:info@ligatheringplace.com">info@ligatheringplace.com</a>
<b>Grange Rental</b>	<b>360-483-3951</b>
<b>Hazardous Waste</b>	<b>360-380-4640</b> For Info & Questions. Open 9am-4pm Mon-Fri & 1st Sat of the month
<b>Library</b>	<b>360-758-7145</b> Tuesday 1:00-7:00pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10:00am-5:00pm
<b>Parish Health Ministry</b>	<b>Ingrid: 360 220-5860; Joan: 360 739-0228; Lisa: 360 201-0830 and Jane: 360 389-6697</b> 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.
<b>Post Office</b>	<b>360-298-7584</b> Mon. - Fri.: 10:45am - 2:45pm, Sat.: 10:30am - 12:30pm, Lobby 24 Hours

# The Tome

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