

February 6, 2026 - February 12, 2026

FREE

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WHIDBEY

GARDENING

WORKSHOP



MARCH 21, 2026

Celebrate
the PROMISES of
Spring



Gardening Classes
Make-n-Takes
Demonstrations
Marketplace

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
John Christianson, owner
Christianson's Nursery

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

WhidbeyGardening.org

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Whidbey Gardening Workshop Celebrates the Promises of Spring!



Registration is now open for the 37th annual Whidbey Gardening Workshop, to be held at Oak Harbor High School Saturday, March 21, beginning at 8:30 a.m. This one-day gardening extravaganza, put on by the Island County Master Gardener Foundation, will include 40 different in-person classes, a Garden Marketplace, plant clinic, demonstrations, keynote speaker and more. Registration includes the keynote address, a class in each of the four scheduled sessions and the Garden Marketplace. Cost is \$70 for those who register before midnight on Sunday, February 8 and \$85 thereafter. All proceeds benefit the Island County Master Gardener Foundation and help to support their mission.

The theme this year is "Celebrate the Promises of Spring". The workshop falls on the second full day of spring; a time when all gardeners are excited for the promise of longer days, warmer weather, and when early blooming plants are in flower and leaves are beginning to emerge. The classes will focus on the Washington State University Extension Master Gardener Local Food Priority. Through this priority Master Gardeners teach sustainable techniques for growing local food to improve individual and community health and wellness. A Local Food Priority series of classes and a panel discussion will provide ample opportunity for workshop attendees to learn more about growing their own food or how to obtain local food grown by others.

The Whidbey Gardening Workshop won the 2025 David Gibby Search for Excellence Award, named after Dr. David Gibby, the founder of the Master Gardener program. This award recognizes outstanding volunteer work by Extension Master Gardeners carried out by Extension Master Gardener (EMG) volunteers across the United States, Canada, and South Korea. These awards celebrate innovative and impactful gardening projects that contribute significantly to their communities. You can be assured that if you attend the workshop, you will receive a high-quality collection of classes and experience.

The Whidbey Gardening Workshop Committee noted the public's interest

in a more locally grown, organic and sustainable food supply and set this as a focus of the 2026 workshop. The Content Development team took on the task of finding instructors who are knowledgeable in topics such as growing your own vegetables, managing fruit trees, creating and maintaining healthy soil, and composting. In addition to topics that support the workshop's focus, classes on integrated pest management, ornamental plants, climate-wise gardening practices, and native plants will be offered. A returning workshop favorite are the hands-on Make-n-Take classes where participants can learn about a topic while creating a project to take home. Four new Make-n-Take classes including "Air Plants" and "Growing the Sweetest Strawberries" are offered.

The keynote speaker, John Christianson, is the owner of Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse. John is a certified Nurseryman with the Washington State Nursery Association and owner of Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse in the Skagit Valley. He is an expert in roses and rose gardens and has won numerous awards at the Northwest Flower and Garden Festival for his display gardens. Over their 35 years owning the nursery, John and Toni Christianson have created a gardener's haven with vintage greenhouses filled with roses, perennials, unusual plants, artwork and the gentle cooing of doves in ornate cages. On-staff

horticulturists, educational seminars, and classes provide help for gardeners to solve their gardening challenges. Well known for his informative local weekly radio show on home gardening, the keynote address will be the form of a mock radio show. Attendees will be able to ask John questions as part of the registration process and may hear him respond to their question during the "show".

The workshop strives to provide a broad range of classes to attract experienced and novice gardeners and everyone in between. Gardening can be a life-long learning experience as there are always new plants, new gardening practices, and new ideas. Over the years, the Workshop Committee has made connections with the top instructors and horticulturists in the area, and every year Island County Master Gardener members attend and review the programs of other gardening events, reach out to other organizers, and comb the internet for new instructors and topics.

The Garden Marketplace is another popular feature of the workshop. The Marketplace will have local vendors selling gardening supplies, garden art, and gifts, as well as nonprofit groups such as Island County Noxious Weed Control providing useful information for gardeners. The Marketplace will also feature the Master Gardener Bookstore, with book signings by our instructor authors. A plant clinic staffed with experienced Master Gardeners will gladly answer your gardening questions. And again, we will have the popular free demonstrations on gardening techniques, our raffle with all kinds of items from local businesses, and the local 4-H group who will be serving coffee and homemade snacks. The Marketplace is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For those not registered for classes, a \$5 admission donation is suggested. Since this is a full-day event, the workshop will offer lunches provided by Whidbey Provisions in Coupeville. Lunch can be purchased during the online registration process.

The Whidbey Gardening Workshop is produced by the Island County Master Gardener Foundation in affiliation with Washington State University Extension. We hope to spur interest among those attending to join the Master Gardener program in Island County or their home county. Many Master Gardener

volunteers are available at the workshop to help attendees navigate the venue. Any of them can answer questions about the Master Gardener program and will happily tell you about the wonderful experiences they have had being a Master Gardener. You can also learn more about the program online at: <https://extension.wsu.edu/island/gardening/mg/> to learn more.

Island County Master Gardeners work throughout Island County on both Whidbey and Camano Islands. Through their numerous community services and activities, they help provide food to local food banks through gardens managed by Master Gardeners, conduct plant clinics to answer gardening questions, teach gardeners of all ages about best gardening practices, and maintain an education garden at Greenbank Farm that demonstrates several garden types that are possible on the islands." For workshop registration and more information, go to whidbeygardening.org.



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Joanne Sales, Executive Director, BroomBusters (Vancouver Island, BC) to Speak on Effective Scotch Broom Eradication on Sunday, March 1, 3 pm, at St. Hubert Catholic Church

Sponsored by the St. Hubert Catholic Church Green Team and Goosefoot Community Fund, Joanne Sales, executive director of BroomBusters (Vancouver Island, BC) will speak on how their organization has built a community of over 600 volunteers who gather each spring to contain and eradicate scotch broom in their neighborhoods.

“Cut Broom in Bloom” takes place on Sunday, March 1, 3 pm at St. Hubert Church, 804-3rd Street in Langley, WA. The BroomBuster slogan is 'Cut Broom in Bloom' and speaks to what the group has learned leads to success. Sales will speak about how the group got started, what they have learned, and what results they are achieving—for earth, soil, and community.

Joining in via Zoom, Sales will also discuss the myths surrounding scotch broom and provide detailed instruction for an easier and more effective method of eradicating this dangerous invasive species.

This talk will kick off the 2nd year of organized community work parties on South Whidbey to eradicate scotch broom on public lands, to happen in April in conjunction with Whidbey Earth & Ocean Month. “Goosefoot was pleased to participate in last year’s test run as both a property owner and a non-profit concerned with the responsible stewardship and conservation of all open lands,” according to Marian Myszkowski, Program Director, Goosefoot.

Elizabeth Guss, St. Hubert Church parishioner and Green Team member, used the techniques lauded by BroomBusters in the work parties she organized last year on Goosefoot’s property. “For over two decades, Vancouver Island residents have been coming together as a community to get rid of scotch broom,” she explains. “We look forward to bringing our own community together to learn how to achieve this level of success to Whidbey Island.”

The talk is free and open to the public; registration is not required. Attendance via Zoom will not be an option as community connection and discussion will be encouraged. For questions, contact Elizabeth Guss at cohesion@whidbey.com

For more information:
BroomBusters: broombusters.org
Goosefoot Community Fund: goosefoot.org
St. Hubert Catholic Church: sthubertchurch.org

Salish Sea Early Music Festival Opens 2026 Season with French and Italian Baroque Trios

The Salish Sea Early Music Festival opens its 2026 Whidbey Island series on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. with France and Italy: Pardessus, Gamba, Flute and Harpsichord at Coupeville United Methodist Church, 608 N. Main St., Coupeville.

This season-opening concert brings together an international ensemble of acclaimed period-instrument performers to explore the striking contrasts between French and Italian Baroque styles during the early 18th century. Featured artists include Ukrainian harpsichordist Olena Zhukova, Montreal-based viola da gambists Susie Napper and Mélisande Corriveau, and festival artistic director Jeffrey Cohan on Baroque flute.

The program features music by Louis-Antoine Dornel, Louis and François Couperin, Archangelo Corelli, André Chéron, and Marin Marais, highlighting the stylistic divide that once sparked intense debate in France between proponents of Italian virtuosity and the refined elegance of the French court tradition.

A rare highlight of the evening is the pardessus de viole, the highest-pitched member of the viol family, historically popular in France and seldom heard today. Played alongside the viola da gamba, harpsichord, and transverse flute, the ensemble recreates the intimate chamber sound world of early 18th-century Europe.

Harpsichordist Olena Zhukova joins the festival directly from Kyiv, where she is a leading performer and educator specializing in repertoire spanning five centuries. Violists Susie Napper and Mélisande Corriveau perform as the renowned duo Les Voix Humaines, celebrated internationally for their expressive performances on historic instruments. Flutist Jeffrey Cohan has performed in more than 25 countries and is recognized as one of the foremost specialists on historical flutes from the Renaissance through the early Romantic era.

The February 9 concert launches a six-concert 2026 series on Whidbey Island, with additional performances scheduled for February 22, March 22, April 28, May 17, June 7, and June 28, presented in Coupeville and Freeland. Programs throughout the season will feature music by Bach, Handel, Telemann, and other masters, performed by guest artists from Europe, Canada, and the United States.

The concert is presented in collaboration with Coupeville United Methodist Church. Admission is by suggested donation of \$20–\$30, with free admission for those 18 and under. All are welcome regardless of donation.

For more information and a complete schedule, visit www.salishseafestival.org/whidbey

Come join the Whidbey Island Maritime Heritage Foundation

We’re looking for people interested in *Maritime Heritage and Historical Preservation*, folks to be Docents on our boat, as well as Sailing Crew for the upcoming 2026 season.

Free Information Presentation at the Coupeville Library Saturday, February 21st at 6:00pm.

For more information: <https://www.whidbeyislandmaritimeheritagefoundation.org/>

And our ticketing website at: <https://www.schoonersuva.org>



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What's Going On!

RENT

Now through Feb. 22
730 SE Midway Blvd., Oak Harbor
Whidbey Playhouse presents the groundbreaking rock musical following a group of artists in New York's East Village as they pursue love, creativity and connection in the face of uncertainty. Contains mature themes and is recommended for adult audiences. Tickets \$25.

FLYING FINGER DEAF & H-O-H

Friday, Feb. 6, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Langley United Methodist Church, 3rd St. & Anthes Ave., Fireside Room
Fun sign language learning event for all using ASL, featuring Valentine signs this month followed by a snack-and-share potluck. Group typically meets first Fridays; follow church posters to the Fireside Room.

SOUND WATERS UNIVERSITY

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Coupeville High School, 501 S. Main St.
Sound Waters University returns with a full day of classes, keynote speakers and exhibits exploring "Tracing Life through the Salish Sea." The 32nd annual program of Sound Water Stewards offers expert-led sessions on regional wildlife, climate and conservation, plus optional field trips Feb. 8 around Whidbey and Camano islands.

COUPEVILLE CHOCOLATE WALK

Saturday, Feb. 7, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Downtown Coupeville, check-in at Coupeville Chamber of Commerce, 905 NW Alexander St.
Explore Coupeville's restaurants, coffee shops and retailers while collecting unique chocolate treats on a self-guided walk. Check in for your bag and map between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

LUNAR NEW YEAR 2026 – ALL AGES WELCOME

Saturday, Feb. 7, 2:30–5:30 p.m.
Bayview Community Hall, 5642 Bayview Road, Langley
Celebrate Lunar New Year with a free, family-friendly community event welcoming the Year of the Horse. Hosted by WILASC, this afternoon celebration invites families of all backgrounds to experience Lunar New Year traditions through hands-on activities and cultural sharing. Festivities include a dragon dance, dumpling making, calligraphy, crafts, traditional games, storytime, a lucky draw and more. Food vendors will be onsite. The event is volunteer-led and donation-based, with donations appreciated. Families are encouraged to RSVP so organizers can prepare enough treats and supplies.

NORTH WHIDBEY HEARTS & HAMMERS 2026 COMMUNITY DINNER

Saturday, Feb. 7, 6–11 p.m.
Living Word Church, 490 NW Crosby Road, Oak Harbor
Join neighbors for an evening of food, connection and community impact at the annual Hearts & Hammers Community Dinner. This donation-based dinner is open to all and offers a chance to hear meaningful stories, learn about local service projects, and explore ways to get involved, including opportunities to become a House Captain—volunteer leaders who guide Hearts & Hammers projects. Come for the meal, stay for the connection, and leave inspired to make a difference close to home.

LANGLEY: FIRST SATURDAY ART WALK

Saturday, Feb. 7, 5-7 p.m.
Downtown Langley, 1st & Anthes
Stroll through downtown Langley as local galleries stay open late every first Saturday, featuring new exhibits and opportunities to meet the artists. Enjoy a festive evening walk while visiting multiple gallery destinations showcasing fresh work.

HOW DO I... FIND HOUSING?

Monday, Feb. 9, 4–5:30 p.m.
Oak Harbor Library, 1000 SE Regatta
Finding a place to live can be confusing. This free, practical workshop brings in housing experts from the Opportunity Council to walk participants through apartment searches, understanding leases, renter's insurance, security deposits, budgeting for rent and utilities, and knowing your rights as a renter. Part of the library's "How Do I..." life-skills series designed for teens, young adults, and anyone navigating housing for the first time.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING: MAKE YOUR WISHES KNOWN!

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Langley Library, 104 Second St..
Learn about Advance Care Planning (ACP) with a multidisciplinary team from Whidbey Health. This informational session covers how to express your goals of care at any stage of life and includes a brief presentation, Q&A, and optional one-on-one conversations with a social worker, provider, or registered nurse. Part of the library's End of Life program series. No medical care will be provided.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Thursday, Feb. 12–Saturday, Feb. 21, 7–8 p.m.
(opening night Thursday, Feb. 12)
Oak Harbor High School, 1 Wildcat Way
Oak Harbor High School's Choir, Drama, Band and Art clubs join forces to present Between the Lines, a musical about writing your own story. Rated PG-13 for adult humor, the production features alternating student casts throughout its run. Performances include Charlie Montoya and Lizzy McDaniel on Feb. 12, 14 and 20, and Logan Hendricks and Edyn Marriott on Feb. 13, 19 and 21. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

SWEETHEART OF GEMS SHOW (WHIDBEY ISLAND GEM CLUB)

Sat.–Sun., Feb. 14–15, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
The Center, 51 SE Jerome St., Oak Harbor
The Whidbey Island Gem Club celebrates its 60th annual show with a weekend of lapidary fun. Enjoy live demonstrations, educational displays, rock identification, handmade jewelry, door prizes, vendors, games, and—of course—lots and lots of rocks for sale. Free admission.

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REWILDING

By Auston Reisman
Parent, Farmer, Builder, Artist, Environmental Steward

During a recent exploration of a small fishing village in Mexico, I found myself smiling at how easy-going, calm, and self-assured the children were. I strive in my own parenting to raise independent, emotionally secure children who spend time rambling and roaming outdoors every day. Their direct experience and deep connection to nature are evident in listening to their observations and comments; however, it seemed to me as though the local kids were naturally ahead of us by leaps and bounds.

I met an 11-year-old European boy who moved to this village with his mom when he was two. Long, sun-bleached hair down his back framed a confident smile as he enthusiastically greeted my children. He was taking his sister to the market on a 4-wheeler, wearing neither shoes nor a helmet. I asked him if he was comfortable riding in this fashion, and he chuckled. We crossed paths at the beach later that evening. I was dragging my two laughing boys around in the sand by their feet. There was only one of me, and it was so tough for them to wait for a turn! The boy immediately noticed this and, without asking, jumped in, grabbed my 1-year-old's legs, swung him around, and mimicked the game. I was thrilled at the sounds of my children's laughter and their carefree, uninhibited engagement. I was admittedly a bit intimidated by his wildness and confidence at this young age, but I realized that it was not unusual around these parts; it was normal.

For me, this stimulated a deeper awareness of the other children in the area during our stay, what they were doing, and how they were behaving. There was no whining, fussing, crying, or screaming (except that of our own children, who our friends often tell us are very mature). What is the trick, I wondered? It became glaringly apparent as I noticed the lack of technology, screens, and the wild, pure state of their engagement in this untamed nature. Untouched by the greedy fingers of industrialization, the land thrives within its own locally based community, and the children reap the enormous benefits of this ecosystem.

The more society is elevated with technology and our imagined 'growth',

the faster it may actually be undermining what is valuable, critical even, for our children. To break free from this system, we need to become wild again. Rewilding is an act of reclamation, a reawakening even, to our own lost connection to the free, wild children we were, that we are born to be, and which I am discovering can be a gateway to serve our own children better. By listening, rather than providing instruction and taking the lead from our children, we embrace this collaboration. Everything in nature is accomplished, but nothing is ever rushed. Why wouldn't I have time to watch a group of ants wrestle a dead bug into their nest with my children? Even this small act may be the portal to the unfettered sense of playfulness, curiosity, and joy that is embodied within all of us. By intuitive listening and collaborating with nature as our guide, we may honor the indigenous intuition embedded in our DNA and reclaim this vision.

Rewilding is a way of supporting the land and sea to return to a better sense of balance, giving the land space to recover, and standing back to let nature heal itself. Rewilding is a way of relinquishing human control, of repositioning ourselves so that we are part of, not apart from, nature. Rewilding is a way to help nature thrive and, in doing so, thrive ourselves. Nature serves as a universal teacher offering lessons in resilience, patience, and interconnectedness through its cycles and growth. By observing the natural world, individuals learn to adapt to change, find balance, practice selflessness, and cultivate mindfulness. May we all foster this well-being, promoting peace and creativity while learning from this innate connection and, in doing so, becoming teachers ourselves.

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Friday, Feb. 6 - Saturday, Feb. 7

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On Shopping & Aging

by Charles LaFond ISLAND FUNDRAISER, POTTER, AUTHOR, AND ESSAYIST

It occurred to me today that whatever I buy, from now on, is for use in the final phase of my life.

It was a sobering, but in no way an unpleasant thought. I don't fear aging, nor do I fear death. It will come when it comes, perhaps in 30 years, perhaps in 15, or perhaps tomorrow. I don't welcome death. I quite like it here. There are nice snacks, lots of Netflix still to watch, and Sugar, my dog, is here. But neither do I drink the Kool-Aid-Lies about living forever.

As I look around my home, I see my great-grandmother's possessions, my grandmother's and great uncle's possessions, and the possessions left to me by my aunt, uncle, mother, and father. And I see that all of these things will one day, after my last breath, be sorted by my friends into a pile to pass along and a pile to bring to the Senior Thrift Store. Perhaps you think this morbid, but you would be projecting. It's not morbid to me. It's just facing reality, which helps me live in each present moment.

Fear, clarity, power, and extreme old age –these are humanity's great enemies. They always have been, and they always will be.

Every year and every month, I write down the answer to one question: "What do I want?"

And then, I ask myself, "Are my behaviors getting me what I want or not?"

I mean, for example, I will say I am "brutally honest," but does that get in the way of things I actually want? Because I actually want things like peaceful relationships, gentle days, harmonious meetings, a reputation for kindness, for laughter, and



Charles LaFond and Sugar-the-Dog (Photo by Dennis Browne)

a humility that acknowledges that I really know so very little - for sure, I mean.

I say I want "simplicity" in my life, but then I go shopping for things I will not really need in my final 30 years or so. I shop to feel a tiny surge of power. Or I shop to make the stage set I call my home. What if, at 62, I just stopped it all? What if I just started giving things and money away so that the day I die ...be in tomorrow or in 2056 AD... so that the day I die, my family and friends can spend only 2 hours cleaning out the house and 8 hours laughing and drinking toasts to my memory with good scotch –sitting on my floor, the remaining two chairs, and on the bed, passing the bottle?

WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 20)

Momentum builds through teamwork and shared goals. A conversation with friends or colleagues sparks motivation. Stay flexible—new ideas improve existing plans.

TAURUS (Apr 21 – May 21)

Professional matters remain front and center. Your steady approach earns quiet respect. Midweek brings clarity about next steps or a long-term direction.

GEMINI (May 22 – Jun 21)

Curiosity leads the way. Learning, planning, or exploring something new refreshes your outlook. A change in perspective helps you see opportunities you'd overlooked.

CANCER (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Emotional and financial themes deepen. Addressing shared responsibilities brings relief. Trust your instincts—they guide you toward greater balance and security.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Relationships call for patience and understanding. Cooperation strengthens bonds, while listening proves just as powerful as leading. A supportive moment stands out.

VIRGO (Aug 24 – Sept 22)

Organization improves both productivity and peace of mind. Focus on routines that support your well-being. Small adjustments now lead to smoother days ahead.

LIBRA (Sept 23 – Oct 23)

Creativity and enjoyment return. Make time for hobbies or social plans that lift your spirits. A lighthearted exchange restores emotional balance.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 – Nov 22)

Home and family matters benefit from attention. Creating comfort in your space brings grounding energy. An honest discussion clears lingering tension.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 – Dec 21)

Communication flows easily. Writing, meetings, or short trips are favored. An unexpected message brings useful insight or encouragement.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 20)

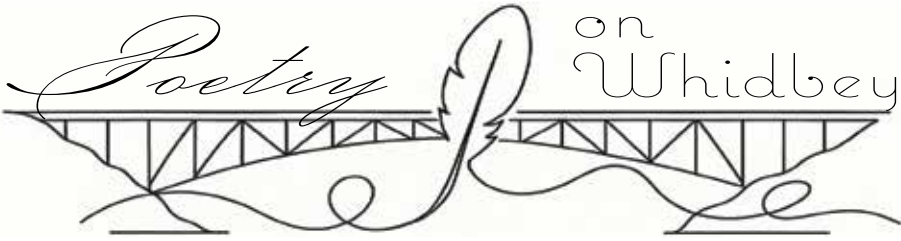
Finances and priorities come into focus. Practical choices now support long-term stability. Trust your judgment—it's stronger than you think.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

Confidence grows as personal goals take shape. Your individuality shines, and others respond positively. This is a good week to stand by your ideas.

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

Rest and reflection help restore energy. Pay attention to intuition and subtle signals. By the weekend, motivation begins to rise again.



CHOOSING A VALENTINE FOR THE BOYS

Back when I was a very young girl
In elementary school,
In giving out Valentines
The teachers had a rule;

Everyone got a card
Which was signed by you;
And every boy you didn't like
Well, they got one, too.

You had to write out their name
Legibly, of course
Right there on the envelope,
There really was no choice.

Some of those boys appeared to be mean,
Their actions really dumb;
Some didn't show a "lick of sense"
Not sure where they "came from."

Looking at the cards to be picked
It took me many hours,
Trying to decide between
The wording and the flowers.

Talk about judgmental -
There were many girlish fears
Of what I didn't understand
About my masculine peers.

They probably suffered even more
In thinking about us girls -
In grade school all the kids back then
Lived in two different worlds.

And I'm sure today's no different
When you're trying to express
And choose the card with words and flowers
The Valentine that's best.

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weekly ads for the year



VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE:

*love
notes*



*we're here
to help!*

something special



sweet stuff



the key to their heart



let them choose



LINDT

On Beautiful Whidbey Island

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Newsletter

Readings by Noa

Astrology for February 6 - 12 2026

Mercury and Venus Enter Pisces

On **February 6**, Mercury enters Pisces until April 14, a very long stay for Mercury due to it stationing retrograde on February 26. Mercury in Pisces is known for connecting the mental with the intuitive. It is a long period of time where details can become fuzzy or unclear, but intuition and creativity heightens. Mercury will enter its pre shadow period on February 11, so it is very likely that whatever occurs this month, we will be reconsidering and reframing our involvement with it in some way until mid April. Pay attention, maybe take note in a journal, as receipts and linear memory will be more difficult to reference during this period of time. This is an amazing time period for artists and dreamers, energy workers and healers.

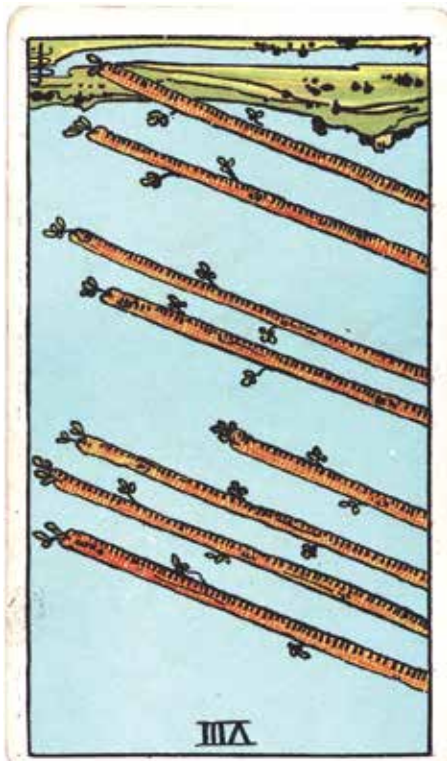
On **February 8**, Venus in Aquarius squares Uranus in Taurus at 27°. This transit will likely hit us financially, relationally or both. In this position, Venus in Aquarius is ruled by Uranus in Taurus, and Uranus in Taurus is ruled by Venus in Aquarius - the planets are in what is known as mutual reception. Planets that would otherwise have different goals, (Venus usually wants connection and Uranus usually wants freedom) in this condition aid in achieving each other's aims. The aspect is still a square, creating some sort of challenge or confrontation in matters of love or money, but solutions are easier to find due to this helpful mutual reception circumstance. Sudden romantic encounters, new opportunities, disruptions, unconventional pursuits, etc. are likely to interrupt plans, but could open doors to new possibilities. Stay open to pivoting. Changes can be surprising. In mutual reception, these changes can prove to be a welcome blessing for seemingly unrelated reasons. Where are you holding on too tight?

On **February 10**, Venus enters Pisces until March 6. This is a lovely transit, as Venus is exalted in Pisces, a sign she highly favors. Pisces represents the dream realms, fantasy, spirituality, the muses, etc. and Venus is the planet of love, beauty, money, and relationships. We are more inclined to indulge in pleasure and daydreaming. Our relationships can become more whimsical, fantastical and romantic - and so can our yearning, longing, and desire to find a 'higher' love. Creativity levels rise. We sway toward empathy and noticing the beauty of life itself in all of its interconnectedness. The shadow of Venus in Pisces lends itself to escape through pleasure. Intoxication or daydreaming so as to avoid reality, boundaries, or presence. Tune into the elements of universal love, spirituality, oneness, etc. that you connect personally with, that bring you joy and pleasure most in order to channel this transit effectively and with balance - because this is a welcome and juicy energy during an overall very astrologically chaotic time.

On **February 12**, Mercury conjuncts the North Node in Pisces at 9°. Important messages and information can land today. This transit can illuminate ideas and update strategies on how to move forward towards our goals. Downloads, significant communications and the appearance of propositions and agreements. Updating terms. The mental plane is activated and sharp. A great day for research. A solid day to keep a pen an pad handy or the notes or voice memo apps open on your phone. The universe is sending important signals and clues. Are you picking them up?

Enjoy the weeklies?
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<https://buymeacoffee.com/readingsbynoa>

Want a personal reading?
Visit readingsbynoa.com to book your session or gift a friend.
Follow me on Instagram: @readingsby_NOA



February 6th - February 12th : the Eight of Wands Reversed.

It's okay if you cannot see the solutions just yet; if you can't yet see what's coming, or how the pieces come together, or even the pieces themselves for some. They come. Endeavor to let that be enough at this time.

There is alignment and clarity rushing toward you, and you won't miss it; like a homing beacon, they know just where to light, and in sequence. The coding is not yet finished, but will become more clear to hand, once in hand.

They do not arrive yet, but will approach in a prescribed order. Prepare to remind yourself not to err by presuming you should rearrange the succession to a uniformity that may seem to make more sense to your mind or way of seeing things. There is intention and purpose to how the folios arrive.

Should you proceed to shuffle nonetheless before realizing your fumble, give yourself grace. We are only human, after all. Close your eyes, take a breath, and in that breath forgive yourself for any misstep, and then feel what task, project, puzzle piece, folio tugs at you hardest in the moment.

In this centering, you will help the staffs find their place yet again. As you notch along, whack-a-moling each as they present, the coding will fill itself in, and the abacus will continue tallying and balancing behind the scenes.

We each have our work, part of which is not to take the job of another. This tableauing is not your stress or responsibility to bear, and so let the doing of such be placed on another's shoulders so you can tend to your aligned tasks.

It is for you to take in stride working at each calling that tugs at your attention until another tugs in turn. It is for you to breathe into balanced center so you can feel the tugs as they pull.

It is for you to give yourself grace and to strengthen your trust not only in yourself to feel what calls, but also in the trust of the callings, the solutions, and trust what is next indeed comes.

And before their arrival, in this quiet, unsettling time where the compass spins wildly and it feels equilibrium will never materialize again, witness and release the fear that you're lost, never to find your way forward again.

It comes. And knowing, trusting it comes, focus on clearing space and wrapping up the old, the outdated.

Feel the truth and the way of these words, even as the veil's poetry seems potentially elusive. Trust in yourself now is of unseen importance.

Cards are drawn from the classic Rider Waite Smith tarot deck.

Personalized alchemy available at: <https://linktr.ee/tiffanyfitzpatrick>

~Xo, Tiffany

WHIDBEY
GARDENING
WORKSHOP
MARCH 21, 2026

Join us at Oak Harbor High School

Celebrate
the PROMISES of Spring

Gardening Classes • Make-n-Takes
Demos & Marketplace

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION JAN 30 - FEB 8
WhidbeyGardening.org

PRESENTED BY
Island Co. Master Gardener Foundation
in affiliation with WSU Extension

Imagination Cove
Children's Museum
WHERE PLAY & LEARNING THRIVE

Mala Sooknanan
PARTY
POPS

Jaylynn Sybrant
Whidbey
Yard Cards

INDOOR PLAY - PARTY SUPPLIES - YARD CARDS - BALLOON BAR
CRAFTS - STEM KITS - USBORNE BOOKS - CUSTOM APPAREL & DECOR
230 SE Pioneer Way, Oak Harbor, WA 98277 360-246-4676

Coupeville
Chocolate
Walk
Feb. 7, 2026
get your tickets today
coupevillechamber.com

360-675-5944
rppmaintenance.com
Need a Plumber?
Your trusted plumbing and handyman
service for all of Whidbey Island & Anacortes.

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CLUES ACROSS

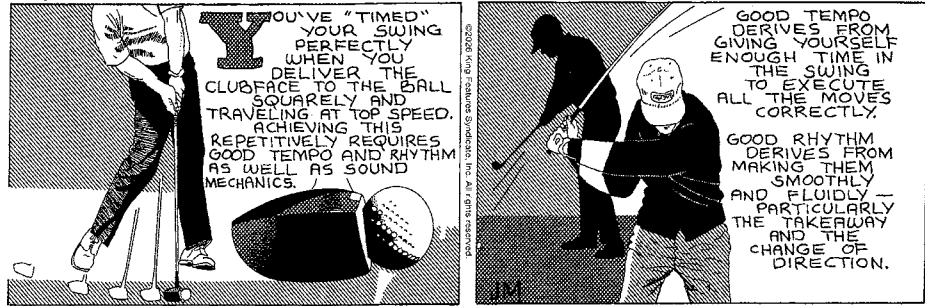
- 1 Table support
- 4 Mosque leader
- 8 Island near Java
- 12 Terre Haute sch.
- 13 Terse denial
- 14 Poetic tributes
- 15 Ecol. watchdog
- 16 Faints
- 18 Word list, for short
- 20 Japanese pond carp
- 21 Sty chow
- 24 Rebuffs
- 28 Review in detail
- 32 Pesky insect
- 33 Friendly leader?
- 34 Albacore and yellowfin
- 36 Playwright Levin
- 37 Finn's floater
- 39 Revamp
- 41 Vampire, by nature
- 43 Nobelist Walesa
- 44 Bar bill
- 46 Savory taste
- 50 Begin anew, as on January 1
- 55 -- Angeles
- 56 California valley
- 57 Egyptian river
- 58 Book-spine abbr.
- 59 Afternoon affairs
- 60 Darkens
- 61 Oklahoma city

CLUES DOWN

- 1 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
- 2 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- 3 Avocado dip, for short
- 4 Rorschach pattern
- 5 Curly's brother
- 6 Devoured
- 7 Moo juice
- 8 Fan disapproval
- 9 Pt. of speech
- 10 Author Harper
- 11 Leb. neighbor
- 17 "Mayday!"
- 19 Bat wood
- 22 Egg
- 23 Prison-related
- 25 Rice or Auburn (Abbr.)
- 26 Naked
- 27 Rating unit
- 28 Basil or thyme
- 29 Smoothie berry
- 30 Cushy
- 31 Yard tool
- 35 Locks down
- 38 Block-dropping video game
- 40 Resistance unit
- 42 Scoundrel
- 45 Connection
- 47 Edison's middle name
- 48 Disposition
- 49 Actress Fisher
- 50 Retired jet
- 51 Dead heat
- 52 "I -- Rock"
- 53 Half of XIV
- 54 Shade tree

Answer on page11

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS OURS WEATHER FORECAST						
Fri, Feb 6	Sat, Feb 7	Sun, Feb 8	Mon, Feb 9	Tues, Feb 10	Wed, Feb 11	Thurs, Feb 12
North Isle H-52°/L-40°	North Isle H-51°/L-43°	North Isle H-49°/L-41°	North Isle H-48°/L-40°	North Isle H-47°/L-38°	North Isle H-47°/L-38°	North Isle H-48°/L-39°
South Isle H-51°/L-46°	South Isle H-51°/L-46°	South Isle H-48°/L-44°	South Isle H-47°/L-41°	South Isle H-47°/L-40°	South Isle H-48°/L-40°	South Isle H-48°/L-42°

OUR Community An Upbeat Question of the week
with Helen Mosbrooker

What experience would you recommend to a first time visitor to Oak Harbor?



Mayor Ronnie Wright, Oak Harbor

I always suggest starting at the Chamber of Commerce or Main Street Association. They will point you toward local favorites and help you map out your days. Oak Harbor has so many great places to see like museums, things to do, and hidden adventures. It helps to have a plan.

Oak Harbor is also very dog-friendly, so I always encourage visitors to bring their furry family members. One of my favorite things to do is walk my dogs along the water at Windjammer Park, Catalina Park and Oak Harbor Marina. Our views never get old.

After a waterfront walk, I recommend lunch at Lotus Tea Bar. Maria's homemade chicken soup is truly one of a kind! Our charming local shops and taking home a little piece of Oak Harbor would be on my to-do list as well, then end the day at Frasers with a glass of wine before a beautiful sunset. These are just a few of my favorite experiences that remind me of how fortunate we all are to call Oak Harbor home.



Janis Powell, Oak Harbor

First time visitors to Oak Harbor will want to plan for a boat ride under Deception Pass bridge. During the summer when the weather is warmer you can book an excursion on the Island Whaler, a jet boat catamaran, leaving out of Cornet bay. It's an adventure not to be missed. I love the detailed history stories of the area.

Captain Brett, U.S. Coast Guard Certified and crew will regale you with tales of smugglers who navigated these treacherous waters, and an abandoned prison camp. You will see wildlife such as bald eagles, porpoises, Humpback, Minke, and Orca whales. On one trip we saw pelicans and then sealions playing king of the buoy. If you would like more information, just Google Deception Pass Tours! My husband and I recommend this fun for families and friends. Kids love it, so will you.



Jennifer Juniper, Oak Harbor

I recommend that a first-time visitor to Oak Harbor take a walking tour of our beautiful beachside parks and downtown. I would have them start at Windjammer Park for a stroll along the waterfront, then detour into downtown to explore our fabulous boutiques and stop somewhere for a snack, coffee, or drinks. Then I would direct them back to the waterfront path to continue on toward the city marina, keeping an eye out along the way for wildlife such as fancy ducks, shorebirds, and raptors

like bald eagles and osprey. If they are lucky, they might even spot river otters! Once they are at the marina, they can walk to the end of F dock to view the interesting boats, adorable harbor seals on the log boom, and get a great view of our wonderful little city by the bay!

Joyful Saying:

"Joy in looking and comprehending is nature's most beautiful gift."
- Albert Einstein

Weekly SUDOKU		8	1				7	3	6
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			7						

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answer on page11

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

To place an ad, email classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY

FIREWOOD

Firewood
(360) 320-4316
Cut, Split, Delivered
and Ready to Burn

NEED HELP?

Have a project to complete and need an extra hand? Room clean out? Cleaning or organizing? Hauling to the dump or elsewhere? Junk Removal?
Call Jacob:
360-499-9157

Your ad here.

\$12
For any sales
or business
listings.

IN SEARCH OF

Art, Antiques & Collectibles.
Cash paid for quality items.
Call or text 360-661-7298
Was your Dad or Gramps in Japan or Germany? I collect old 35 mm cameras and lenses. Oak Harbor.
Call 970-823-0002

RESOURCES

Family Resource Center

723 Camano Ave, Langley. 360-221-6808 ext 4321
School supplies, coats, warm clothing, resource connections. Mon-Wed 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thurs 9 a.m. - 12 noon, or by appt. readinesstolearn.org

Mother Mentors

360-321-1484 · info@whidbeymothermentors.org
Carregiving mentoring and play support, mothermentors.org

I Support the Girls

360-678-2090 · isupportthegirls.org/affiliates/whidbey-island
Essential health and hygiene items for women and girls.

Island Senior Resources

360-321-1600
14594 SR 525, Langley
Multiple 50+ programs and services. Mon-Fri, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. senior-resources.org

Pamoja Place

pamojaplace.org
721 Camano Ave, Langley
Safe space for BIPOC people and allies to connect, collaborate, and celebrate.

Veterans Resource Center

360-331-2496
723 Camano Ave, Langley
Events, Support, and Benefits help
Monday 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Tues - Thurs 1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday by Appointment.
whibeyvrc.org

Veterans Services

360-632-2496
105 NW 1st, Coupeville
Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

RESOURCES

Basic Food Benefits Community Services Office

275 Pioneer Way #201, Oak Harbor 877-501-2233
Food Banks:
-Gifts From the Heart:
108 SW Terry Road
Monetary donations, they should be sent to:
PO Box 155, Coupeville 98239
Distribution on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m.
-Good Cheer:
2812 Grimm Rd., Langley 360-221-4868
Mon-Fri, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
-North Whidbey Help House:
1091 SE Hathaway St. Oak Harbor 360-675-0681
Mon-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (5 p.m. on Tues)
Closed 12-1 p.m. for lunch
Island Church of Whidbey
Soup Kitchen: 503 Cascade Ave., Langley 360-221-0969
Tues & Thurs 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
SPiN Café: 1241 SW Barlow St., Oak Harbor
Daily, 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
St. Hubert's Catholic Church
Wednesday Soup Kitchen
All are Welcome!
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
804 3rd St., Langley 360-221-5303
Ask about our Thursday Dinner
HUB After School: 301 Anthes Ave., Langley 360-221-0969
Food and activities for middle and high school youth. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 2-6 p.m., Wed 1-6 p.m.
Ryans House for Youth:
Food, fun, support, 19777 SR 20, Coupeville 360-331-4575
Drop-in center for adults ages 18-24; Daily 6 a.m.- 8:30 p.m., 35 SE Ely St., Oak Harbor 360-682-5098
Drop-in center for youth ages 12-21; Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Women, Infants & Children (WIC): -Oak Harbor/North Whidbey: 1791 NE 1st Ave. Mon-Thurs 360-240-5554 Text: 360-544-2239

CRISIS LINES

9-1-1: Call for threats to life, fire, accident or crime

-Non-emergency lines:
Oak Harbor Police Department-360-279-4600
-Island Communications Dispatch (ICOM) - 360-679-9567
9-8-8: Suicide and crisis lifeline, free & confidential
- 741-741: 24/7 Crisis Text Line
-800-584-3578:
24/7 Northwest Washington Crisis Services
- 360-678-7880: Island County Behavioral Health
866-488-7386 Trevor Project:
24/7 support for LGBTQIA2S+

SHELTERS/HOUSING

CADA Emergency Shelter

- Confidential crisis shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking. This is NOT a homeless shelter. Office: 360-675-7057 Crisis Line: 360-675-2232 Toll Free: 800-215-5669

Island County Housing Support

- 105 NW 1st St., Coupeville 360-678-8284
For homeless or at risk of losing housing. Mon-Thurs, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Ryan's House for Youth

- 19777 SR 20, Coupeville 360-331-4575
For at-risk adults ages 18-24

Whidbey Homeless Coalition

- Serving Island County 360-900-3077

The Haven Overnight Shelter

is a night-to-night shelter for up to 30 individuals. Must follow check in rules and must register daily between 4:00 and 4:30pm Mon. thru Fri. and 3:45 pm to 4:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays at the SPiN Café, 1241 SW Barlow St., Oak Harbor.

House of Hope Emergency Housing

Langley, 360-708-4533. Transitional housing for families and adults at severe risk of homelessness; to apply, contact the Housing Support Center or call the number above.

Oxford Houses

- Recovery housing oxfordhouse.org
-Men:360-246-4101
- Women & Children: 360-682-5773

MONTHLY MEETING

Monthly Meeting for Mental Health Hosted by NAMI

for All Adult Individuals who have a family or friend suffering from depression, anxiety, bi-polar disorder, or other mental health conditions. Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland, Lower Building Closest to the Highway 18341 WA-525, Freeland 3rd Wednesday of the Month 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Email for more Information: karens@nami-sno-isle.org

WEEKLY MEETINGS

MEMORY CAFÉ

Every 1st and 3rd Tues of the Month 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church 1050 SE Ireland Street Oak Harbor, WA. Join our bi-monthly gathering for people with memory loss and their family to enjoy a time of fun, conversation, music and laughing (and snacks). This is a dementia friendly setting. For information: 360-720-4535

SOUTH WHIDBEY NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP

meets every Wednesday at 6pm at the Langley Methodist Church, 301 Anthes in Langley. We meet in the Fireside Room, rear of church. Karol:360 914 7695.
Have a problem with drinking? It doesn't cost anything to attend A.A. meetings. Local Meetings are in Coupeville, Freeland, Langley, Clinton, and Oak Harbor. There are no age or education requirements to participate. Membership is open to anyone who wants to do something about their drinking problem. A.A.'s primary purpose is to help alcoholics to achieve sobriety. We're here to help. For local meetings search aa.org or call 888-360-1564
Have you ever been affected by someone else's drinking? Al-Anon may be for you. AL-ANON: Tuesdays at 5:30-6:30 Oak Harbor Lutheran Church Library 1253 NW 2nd Ave. There is help and hope: Contact for more info: Rebecca 425-773-6937
Bothered by someone's drinking? AlAnon can help! Langley Family AlAnon Group, Wednesdays 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM, Langley Methodist Church, 301 Anthes Ave, Langley. Fireside room Information: (206) 898-2771.

Gamblers Anonymous Meeting

Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Senior Center. Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave, Mount Vernon Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542, or visit <https://gawashington.org/>

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Tuesdays 7 PM to 8 PM Langley United Methodist Church 301 Anthes Ave. Room 224 Langley, Washington 98260
For local meeting information and support call: Kevin 206-395-9622
Adult Children of Alcoholic and Dysfunctional Families meeting, Tuesdays 2-3 pm, Langley Methodist Church - 301 Anthes Ave, Langley - Fireside room. Contact: acawhidbey@gmail.com

No Cheating!

How'd you do?

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CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

US Postal Mail

Whidbey Weekly
Classified Department
PO Box 1098
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

E-Mail classifieds@whidbeyweekly.com
Telephone 360-682-8283

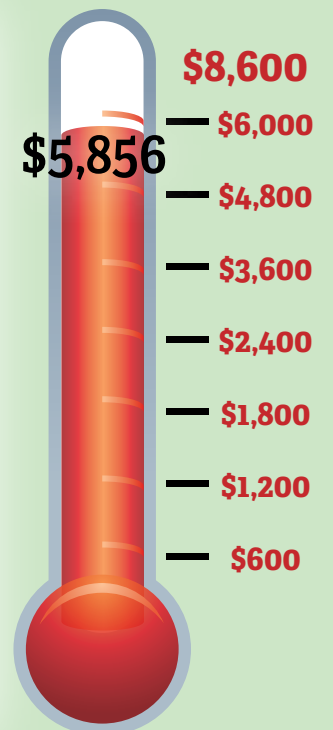
PLEASE CALL WHEN YOUR ITEMS HAVE SOLD.

Please try to limit your classified to 30 words or less, (amounts and phone numbers are counted as words) we will help edit if necessary. We charge \$12/week for Vehicles, Boats, Motorcycles, RVs, Real Estate Rental/Sales, Business Classifieds and any items selling \$1,000 and above. We do charge \$25 to include a photo. The FREE classified space is not for business use. No classified is accepted without phone number. We reserve the right to not publish classifieds that are in bad taste or of questionable content. All free classifieds will be published twice consecutively. If you would like your ad to be published more often, you must resubmit it. Deadline for all submissions is one week prior to issue date.

THANK YOU FOR READING WHIDBEY WEEKLY | REDUCE → REUSE → RECYCLE

FINAL STRETCH!

KEEP IT UP FOR WHIDBEY!



At Whidbey Weekly, we believe in recycling — and that includes our delivery van. If the frame is sound, we believe a vehicle deserves to be reconditioned and kept on the road for as long as possible.

It's time for a new engine on our faithful 2003 Oldsmobile Silhouette. The cost of parts and labor is estimated at \$8,600 out the door.

This purchase is essential to keeping our local news in print across Whidbey. Thousands of readers pick up their free copies every week from locations across the island — and this van makes that possible.

We're asking for financial support from all who are able to contribute:

Send checks or money orders to:
Whidbey Weekly
P.O. Box 1098, Oak Harbor, WA, 98277

Or donate through our ongoing GoFundMe by scanning the QR code.

