

What's New and Cool in the San Juans

Winter/Spring 2024

On the Food and Farm Front

The Nectar of Orcas Island

Since Girl Meets Dirt launched a decade ago, they've won *nine* Good Food Awards for eight different products, with the irresistible Shiro Plum with Mint spoon preserves earning the coveted title twice! Fan favorites Greengage Plum and Grapefruit Preserve and the Apricot Shrub are finalists for 2024. Though they're best known for their small-batch fruit preserves, they expanded into winemaking in the spring of 2022. The latest, Nectar, will mark their very first venture into the realm of still wines. Nectar drinks like a wild, orchard driven floral rosé – combining apple, quince, and blackberry into one exquisite libation. Contact: Audra Lawlor (360) 375-6269, info@girlmeetsdirt.com; www.girlmeetsdirt.com.

Bread for Life

Inspired by the belief that bread should be the foundation of every community, a team of enthusiastic Orcas islanders are opening a co-op bakery in Eastsound. The effort is being facilitated by Pi and Darryl Duke, co-owners of Matia and Monti. Orcas Island has long been a haven for artists and artisans, and they hope to add to that abundance of creativity through baking. Our food celebrates our local growers, respects our bakers and staff, and sustains our community. They thoughtfully source ingredients from the San Juan Islands, nearby Skagit Valley, and the Pacific Northwest. They ferment slowly using wild yeast and flavor-yielding microorganisms, prioritizing organic, sustainable, and regenerative ingredients to be the best stewards for our community's future. The co-op will provide wholesale bread to grocery stores and restaurants as well as offer a retail spot for patrons to purchase a variety of baked goods and coffee. Contact: Pi Duke eat@orcasbakery.com; www.orcasbakery.com

Arts & Culture

A Luminous Spring

For Lisa Lamoreaux, painter, and Dana Alkebu-Lan, weaver, LUMINOUS Gallery | Studio evolved out of a mutual desire to showcase their art and to create a studio/gallery experience that exudes the comforts and beauty of home. A working studio and gallery space along with lounge spaces where collectors can be witness and interact with the creative process. A place where one can pause, reflect, and experience the making of art. LUMINOUS is defined as the energy and light from within or to glow from an internal source of energy. This quality is something that Lisa and Dana hold true as they create their art and lives. Lisa and Dana's upcoming art show starting on April 20th at Luminous Gallery | Studio is Spring Reveal: The Nature of Growth, which will explore the lifecycle of growth as experienced in nature within their own personal journeys. Contact: Lisa Lamoreaux lisa@creative-legacy.com; www.luminousgallerystudio.com

A Friendly Fish

The Friendship Fish mosaic was designed by San Juan Island artist and Alchemy Art Center co-director Maria Michaelson and created by hundreds of visitors of all ages to the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park

in the summer of 2022. Each visitor made their own clay tile which was then fired and glazed at Alchemy. The two-sided sculpture, a king salmon affectionately known as “Sammie” by Sculpture Park staff, is constructed of over 500 individual tiles. This sculpture is the final iteration of a community art project called Greater than the Sum of Our Parks, which was created by Maria and Alchemy in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic as a way to foster community even while under an island-wide quarantine.

Contact: Maria Michaelson alchemyartcenter@gmail.com; <https://sjisculpturepark.com/>

Island Made Online

MadeintheSanJuans.com is a new website that serves as a gateway to distinctive products and visitor experiences inspired by the San Juan Islands. The website aims to promote and connect the world with the best the San Juans have to offer. Shopping from afar or planning a trip? Enjoy the unique handmade goods and delicious local cuisine, check out island musicians and authors, go on an artist studio tour, and get to know our wedding venues and family tours. Come explore the heart and soul of the San Juans and bring the island lifestyle home, wherever you may live. Contact: Marcy Montgomery support@sanjuanmakersguild.com; <https://madeinthesanjuans.com/>

New Products & Services

Harbors to Harbor

Coming soon! Kenmore Air has announced the launch of new direct seaplane flights between Friday Harbor Marina and Victoria’s Inner Harbour, starting March 1, 2024. This new route signifies an important expansion of Kenmore Air's seaplane flight network, providing travelers with a convenient and scenic connection between two iconic destinations. The seaplane flights will operate daily through November 1 of this year, offering a quick and enjoyable 30-minute journey. Kenmore Air is also expanding their partnership with the Puyallup Tribe by launching seaplane flights out of a new terminal at Point Ruston in Tacoma up to San Juan Island with stops at Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor. Flights are bookable already with Thurs-Mon service, 9:30am and 4pm departures out of Ruston Way and departures from Friday Harbor at 10:25am and 4:55pm. Flight time up to the island is 55 min. For more information, contact Scott Meis scottm@shgllc.com or visit KenmoreAir.com

New Events and Exhibits

First Fridays in Friday Harbor

The San Juan Islands have been attracting artists for decades. Now visitors to Friday Harbor can meet these creative souls during the monthly Friday Harbor ArtWalks. Businesses and galleries will be open from 4-7pm every first Friday of the month for a special reception featuring our art, perhaps also a guest artist or even a musician. Nine locations have joined, including Luminous Gallery and Studio, Ogle Fine Art Studio, Friday Harbor Atelier, and the San Juan Islands Museum of Art. ArtWalks are a wonderful way to build artist/community relationships and support local businesses. Follow the Friday Harbor First Friday ArtWalk Facebook page for current event details. Contact: Lisa Lamoreaux lisa@creative-legacy.com

Lopez Loves Art

Like Friday Harbor, Lopez Island is a haven for artists, and they're showing it off on the first Saturdays of the month. The Lopez Art Walks will kick off at the Lopez library with an artist talk or reception at 5:00 p.m., followed by one at Chimera Gallery at 6:00 p.m. Local shop Skarpari, a company providing beautiful and functional tools for the home or field, will feature handmade knives and jewelry by Krista and Chris Stovall, paintings by Lily Stovall, photography by Yvonne Israel O'hare, and Jeff Huntington's jade carvings. At nearby Old Hand Lane, Nichols has handmade jewelry, art, ceramics, and clothing. Blue Heron Bistro will have specialty cocktails and A Pizza Pie pizza truck will be open for anyone who needs a bite. Right now, it's mainly visual arts, but the goal is to include performance artists and musicians in the future. They will also be adding live art, live portrait drawing, or photography in the future. Each month will have a theme, like A Green World in March and Unicorns and Magic in April. Contact: Krista Stovall krista@skarpari.com; <https://lopezlibrary.org/1st-saturdays-art-walk/>