



## **Cool Things on the Horizon & Creative Coping, San Juan Islands Style**

### **On the Horizon**

#### ***Outstanding in the Field*** (date may be subject to change)

Ursa Minor is very excited to announce that Chef Nick Coffey will be participating in another Outstanding in the Field dinner event this July, this time on his home turf of Lopez Island. The dinner will be at nearby Flint Beach Ohana Farm, which is keeping the agricultural history of San Juan County alive with their large flocks of pastured sheep for meat and wool and free-range laying hens. Prepare for a feast of uniquely Lopez-local ingredients – from oysters, blackberries and salmon, to cattails and reindeer moss. Plus plenty of Flint Beach pastured lamb, of course. Tickets and event updates: <https://outstandinginthefield.com/event-details/2020-flint-beach-ohana-farm-2/>

#### ***Emerald Isle's Dining Style***

The extremely talented chef Mary Wills will be tantalizing passengers' palates aboard the *Nawalak* this season, Emerald Isle Sailing Charters' vessel. Mary is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute in Manhattan, and she's studied extensively in Italy with Michelin star chefs. Mary has cooked at a few of the top restaurants in the world, including the famed Le Cirque, and she's excited to share her galley artistry with Emerald Isle guests. Find out more: <http://www.emeraldislesailing.com/index.html>

#### ***African Twilight***

Trailblazing photographers & adventurers Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher record a disappearing culture of Africa before it is too late. The photographs, seen for the first time at the [San Juan Islands Museum of Art](#), cover 15 years of pioneering work that brings us the dazzling diversity of African ceremonies, rituals & culture. Bringing the personal connections and meaningful understanding for which they are renown, the women capture the broad cultural diversity of the sacred rituals of birth, death, courtship, leadership, healing and more. The landmark [exhibition](#), running June 4th--April 8th, transports us to a world of connections between individual and community, body and soul, land and people. Watch for *A Conversation with Beckwith and Fisher* – They are coming to Friday Harbor – come meet and hear them! <https://sjima.org/shop/art-as-a-voice-a-conversation-with-beckwith-fisher/>

### **Food, Wine and Chefs**

#### ***Fermented Love***

Lopez favorite Ursa Minor has introduced a line of fermented pantry items for anyone wanting a taste of the Islands at home. The restaurant menu is well known for evolving with the changes in the seasons, but during the height of each season, staff are hard at work preserving the extra bounty that is available to them. The lineup for this first offering includes house-made vinegar and fermented/pickled veggies. These products are available alongside take-out meals and selections from their wine cellar for pick-up on Lopez while the dining room is temporarily closed. <https://ursaminorlopez.square.site/>

### ***New Owners for Orcas Hotel***

The Orcas Hotel has been a welcome beacon at the Orcas ferry landing for around a century, and was love at first sight for chefs John Cox and Julia Felder. Cox writes, "As the inn's most recent custodians, we hope to preserve the history of the property and at the same time, add our own fingerprints to its legacy. Despite both being trained chefs with a background in fine dining, we have no intention of 'rebuilding the wheel.'" Cox and Felder purchased the hotel in early 2020, and had only been open a few weeks when Inslee issued Washington's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, shuttering many businesses. So they created the Sunday Supper Series. For a fixed price you will get a chef-prepared dinner with beverage pairing delivered right to your doorstep. They are offering the service as a four week subscription. Each delivery includes a family style dinner for two and beverage pairing. The cafe remains open for curbside pickup, including take-and-bake pot pies. Find the details here: [www.orcashotel.com/](http://www.orcashotel.com/)

## **Arts and Artists**

### ***Clay for Connection***

Alchemy Art Center's studios are temporarily closed to classes and membership, but they are introducing a series of free art opportunities via live Zoom classes. **Zoom Clay Club** for kids will be every Tuesday afternoon, and each week will feature a new technique using clay that can be picked up from Alchemy and other supplies that can be found around the home. **Zoom Sip 'n' Sculpt** will be on Friday evenings - a creative and social clay class for adults looking for connection during social distancing. These classes are free thanks to a grant from the San Juan Community Foundation, but donations are appreciated. To learn more and register: <https://www.alchemyartcenter.com/virtual-classes-and-workshops>

### ***Kits for Kids***

Art for Orcas Kids is offering free weekly age-appropriate art packs to help parents keep boredom at bay during social distancing. Local teaching artist Brook Meinhardt and her son Henry recently picked out random recycled items from the Orcas Exchange to include in the kits. Kits include exercises, activities, and at least one project, plus links to art fun websites. Older kids (10-18) have a graphic novel (novella) comic option. Kits can be ordered by emailing [aokartfororcaskids@gmail.com](mailto:aokartfororcaskids@gmail.com).

### ***Wine and Soul***

Orcas Island Winery has put out a call for artists, musicians and poets “to spread your incredible LIGHT and take over our Instagram and Facebook and new YouTube channel for Orcas Island Winery ... if the people can't come enjoy wine, music and art; let's bring wine & soul to the people!!!” Contact: Tera Landman [hello@orcasislandwinery.com](mailto:hello@orcasislandwinery.com) [www.orcasislandwinery.com](http://www.orcasislandwinery.com)

## **Activities & Exhibits**

### ***Legacy Goes Live***

Maya's Legacy Whale and Wildlife Tours may not be able to take passengers on tours, but anyone can join them from their homes on livestreamed tours via Instagram or Facebook. The owners expressed, “our hope is that this real time experience will continue giving folks at home the chance to replace the stress and anxiety of current daily life with a few moments of the natural beauty of the San Juan Islands.” Follow them on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for the most current details on what they are seeing and when they will be out next.

## **Products & Services**

### ***Island Indulgence***

Practice self-care island-style with [bath and kitchen items](#) from the San Juan Island Inn Collection. Everything from cookbooks, robes and blended teas to bubble bath and the house-made fresh granola. A perfect recipe for indulgence!

### ***Wine for a Week (or more...)***

Wine makes for an excellent antidote to all the coronavirus news, and Doe Bay Wine Company can help with their new Weekly Wine Club. Each week they will email out a list of favorite wines that focus on small producers, sustainable practices and excellent values. Owner Cole Sisson says, “We will highlight regions, winemakers and wineries that we've interacted with on our journey. We will encourage you to step outside your comfort zone. Drinking can be an adventure in your glass. And we love adventures.” For more information, and to order wine to be shipped regionally or delivered locally, email Cole [cole@doebaywinecompany.com](mailto:cole@doebaywinecompany.com) or visit [/www.doebaywinecompany.com/](http://www.doebaywinecompany.com/).

### ***Lavender Lends a Hand***

When you think of hand sanitizers, we're willing to bet your mind immediately jumps to something that's clinical (found in a doctor's office), smells terrible and dries your hands out (ouch). Consider instead this sanitizer from Orcasong Farm using farm-grown lavender, Vitamin E, and aloe vera along with isopropyl alcohol and hydrogen peroxide. Use with abandon. Order [sanitizer from Orcasong](#).

### ***Sweet Island Comfort***

Orcas Island's Girl Meets Dirt is still shipping while social distancing and is happy to keep sharing some of that sweet island flavor. It's time for comfort: top-notch PB&J's, [Shrub Hot Toddy's](#), and the [perfect cheese + jam pairing](#), though a spoon is perfectly acceptable too. For the month of April, for every ten cases they sell wholesale, they'll donate a case to a regional food bank. As

owner Audra Lawlor says, “Because *everyone* deserves comfort in these times. We appreciate your support – we’re in this together.” [You can view their wholesale guide here.](#)

### ***Spirits into Sanitizer***

Orcas Island Distillery, makers of the award-winning West Island Whiskey, has halted their usual production to distill hand sanitizer instead. With the assistance and cooperation of partners like Island Hoppin’ Brewery, Ray’s Pharmacy, Island Market, Boathouse CiderWorks, and Anacortes Brewery, the sanitizer will be donated to first responder government services, public works, and essential businesses. For Charles West, it is the personal impact of COVID-19 as well as the public need that motivates this response. His son, an Incident Manager and National Guard Flight Medic, and daughter-in-law, an Emergency Department physician, are working on the front lines. As a result, Charles and his wife are caring for their grandchildren as their children are helping the rest of us. For more information, email [oidistillerysanitizer@gmail.com](mailto:oidistillerysanitizer@gmail.com).

### ***Virtual Weddings***

Orcas Island officiant Didier Gincig is offering couples the opportunity to still say ‘I do’ with social distancing by performing weddings via Skype, Zoom, or Facetime. The requirements are that the witnesses observe the couple signing the marriage certificate, and that they sign the certificate saying that they did so. That means that the witnesses must observe – potentially, electronically – the couple signing; and that the certificate would need to be mailed to the witnesses and/or officiant, whoever is participating in a location other than where the couple are, for signing. Don’t let COVID-19 get in the way of starting a new life. Contact: Didier Gincig [orcasdidier@gmail.com](mailto:orcasdidier@gmail.com) or (360)298-0362; [www.orcasweddingsofficiant.com](http://www.orcasweddingsofficiant.com)

## **Nature and Stewardship**

### ***Junior SeaDoctors***

SeaDoc Society, a nonprofit focused on the health of the Salish Sea, has organized their resources for parents trying to handle their kids’ education at home. Games, videos, and activities cover a range of subjects from birds and mammals to the intertidal zone and local geology. Explore the depths of the Salish Sea from the comfort of your living room. Start your journey [here](#).

### ***Wild Images for Wolf Hollow***

To celebrate the beauty of spring, Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehabilitation Center invites you to share your photos of local wildlife. Whether you’re out for a walk, working in your yard, or watching from your window, take a moment to enjoy the antics of your local wild creatures, then take a photo and email it to [wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org](mailto:wolfhollow@wolfhollowwildlife.org). Don’t forget your name and where you took the shot. They’ll share the best and funniest on Facebook and its website.

### ***Just an Island Minute***

The “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order from Governor Inslee might have postponed the guided walks and other events from the San Juan Preservation Trust, but they’ve found a way to reach

out and share the beauty of the San Juans. “Just a Minute in the Islands” is a series of vignettes made by staff members sharing nature in their own backyards. Watch here: <https://sjpt.org/just-a-minute-video-series/>. Have ideas for the next one, or want to share your own? Email Sierra O’Connell [sierra@sjpt.org](mailto:sierra@sjpt.org).

### ***Fresh from the Salish Sea***

The Northwest Straits Foundation is proud to present "Salish SeaFresh – From Tide to Table," a video series exploring the relationships among habitat restoration, sustainable seafood and local businesses. In the premier episode, they visit with Tele Aadsen, of Nerka Sea-Frozen Salmon, and Jake Hacker, of Aslan Brewing Co., as they share their passion for marine conservation and a vibrant seafood industry in Bellingham, WA. Watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F3wy8GVng&feature=youtu.be>

### ***The Islands Go Electric***

Island E Cars on Orcas Island is San Juan County’s newest car dealership and the only “exclusively EV” dealer in the region. Their goal is to provide area residents with a relaxed and easy shopping experience when considering buying a clean late model pre-owned electric vehicle. Serving all of San Juan County and beyond. Contact: David and Kim Griffin (360) 375-5423; [islandecars@gmail.com](mailto:islandecars@gmail.com).