



# Columbia Grange 267

CORBETT, OREGON 97019

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## LECTURER'S PROGRAM

Member meeting April 2, 2024

**APRIL:** Icicles have melted, the snow has fled, and it is nest building time for the robin. We are teased with a taste of spring with warm weather and budding trees. The green of summer is returning again. April brings with it the hopes of renewed life. But not too soon! Rain and cold weather is still happening! April is derived from the Latin meaning “to open”—which could be a reference to the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees, a common occurrence throughout the month of April in the Northern Hemisphere.

### A few interesting dates:

- **April 8** is the total solar eclipse. Weather permitting, the first location in continental North America to experience totality is Mexico’s coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT. [Learn more here!](#)
- **April 22** is the start of Passover, which begins at sundown. Passover is an annual weeklong festival commemorating the emancipation of Jewish peoples from slavery in ancient Egypt. The Hebrew name, Pesach, means “to passover” because the plague that killed all firstborns passed over the Israelites’ homes, sparing the lives of their children. [Learn more here!](#)
- **April 22** is Earth Day, an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth’s natural resources for future generations. It started on April 22nd, 1970. What activities will you do to celebrate Earth Day? [Learn more here](#) and find an initiative to support [here!](#)
- **April 28** is National Arbor Day. Founded by Julius Sterling Morton on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, NE, who had a passion for planting all kinds of trees. It’s estimated that nearly one million trees were planted on this day. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees. [Learn more here!](#) If you find yourself over in West Linn, check out [Bosky Dell Natives](#) or visit Portland Nursery to find a native tree to plant in April!
- **April 23** is April’s full Pink Moon, reaching peak illumination at 8:32 PST. The name of the full moon has to do with the early springtime blooms of a certain wildflower native to eastern North America: *Phlox subulata*—commonly called creeping phlox or moss phlox—which also went by the name “moss pink.” Thanks to this seasonal association, this full Moon came to be called the “Pink” Moon! [Learn more here!](#)

## FLOWER/PLANT/FUNGI FEATURE



### TALL OREGON GRAPE

*Mahonia aquifolium*

Tall Oregon grape is the state flower of Oregon. The plant is not related to grapes, but gets the name from the purple clusters of berries it produces every fall. Its sharply pointed leaves resemble holly. The bright yellow clusters of flowers in April and May are both a lovely sign of spring, and a welcome source of nectar for early pollinators including mason bees and bumblebees. It is well suited for low-maintenance plantings or loose evergreen hedges. It grows 5-8 feet tall depending on conditions ... tolerates poor soils and summer drought, especially if it has some shade.

Source: <https://emswcd.org/tall-oregon-grape>

### Time To Plan Your Graden

Below are some resources to get you dreaming and scheming!

- [Portland Nursery Veggie Calendar](#) / [Farmers Almanac's Planting Calendar for 97019](#)
- [Gardeners Planning Tools](#)
- [Uprising Organic Seeds](#) / [Siskiyou Seeds](#)
- [Oregon Flora Native Plant Selection Tool](#)
- [Farmers Almanac's Interactive Last Freeze Dates Map](#) (looks like ours was late Mar)

## GRANGE GUIDING LIGHTS & CONTEMPLATIONS

The Grange is:

- a community center for an area. The one spot where people of common concern and interest from nearby homes can come together as a group
- a recreational center in a much larger sense. It depends upon its community, and we hope that the community can come to depend on the grange.
- a public forum, a debating place on any or all issues; a legislative action center with candidates really seeking an invitation to be interviewed; a center where major local problems will be talked about and solved by local people in a democratic way.
- a place where those who are in need can find support and the forgotten will be remembered.

The Grange is in service to the rural area of Corbett and will continue to strive to strengthen individuals, families and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy and agriculture awareness.

## GRANGE MONTHLY MESSAGE

*supporting individuals in times of need makes for a strong community*

**Check in on friends and neighbors.** Texting, phone calls, or video chats are wonderful ways to help everyone feel connected and cared for. You would be amazed how much this would matter to someone! Maybe even stop by with a batch of freshly baked cookies or to chat over tea!

**Give children an outlet for their energy and emotions.** Children look for guidance from not just their parents but other adults as well! Find activities you can do together, both inside and outside of the house. Listen to children when they express frustration and validate their feelings. Keep an eye out for youth programming here in Corbett through [Peace Village Global](#), or email Lizzie Wilson at [elizabeth@peacevillageinc.org](mailto:elizabeth@peacevillageinc.org) to find out more.

**Order from your favorite local restaurant or shop at your neighborhood establishment.** Many of our neighborhood establishments in Corbett, Springdale and Troutdale make great food that is available for pick-up or delivery. Think about eating out and supporting these small businesses! Don't forget about our amazing farm CSA programs! See the list below.

**Connect with yourself and others.** Keep a gratitude journal of the things you appreciate, especially during hard times or engage in the things you love to do that keep you centered! Connect with others by going to the [Grange events/classes](#) with a friend - we have yoga, ThiChi, philosophy cafe, line dancing, quilting, game night and more!!

**Connect with nature.** Help someone who needs support connect with nature. Sometimes, it is just as easy as walking through the grass barefoot, sitting outside in the sun, or going on a walk or hike together! There are so many trails on Larch Mountain to enjoy!

**Donate your time or money.** Here are a few ways: [Columbia Gorge Helping Hands](#) always needs volunteers, and the [Grange Benevolence Committee](#) is always accepting donations to disperse to various community causes. [Help support Tony Lopez, a local self-employed farmer and landscaper](#) from the Corbett community who needs help covering expenses as he recovers from emergency surgery!

## QUIPS/QUOTES/FOLKLORE Source: <https://www.farmersalmanac.com/april-weather-lore>

Spring is a crazy time for weather, especially in April! Check out these April weather lore sayings.

- If it thunders on All Fool's Day, it brings good crops of corn and hay.
- A cold May and a windy April, a full barn.
- The louder the frog, the more the rain.
- If the oak is out before the ash, we are in for a splash, but if the ash is out before the oak, we are in for a soak.
- Sounds traveling far and wide; a rainy day will betide
- March'll search ye, April try ye; May'll tell, whether live or die ye.
- Rain before seven, fine before eleven.
- A cold and moist April fills the cellar and fattens the cow.
- April showers bring May flowers

## **FARMERS CORNER** *If you know of a farm I am missing, let me know!*

[Bates Lavender Farm](#) - U-cut lavender or shop the website for homemade lavender products! The Farm Stand is closed for the summer and will open again in June 2024.

[Blue Raven Farm](#) - Keep an eye out for their Soil Ecology Workshops for 2024, and in the meantime, hire Jennifer to consult on your small-scale vegetable farming practices.

[Fiddlehead Farm](#) - It looks like potatoes are going in the group this week, and there are plenty of things to fix to get ready for the season based on their Instagram posts!! Winter CSA is going strong, but subscriptions are closed. In the meantime, you can find them at the [Montavilla Farmers Market](#) on Sundays from 10am-2pm on Apr 14 & 28

[Growers Grange](#) Now is the time to sign up for their [2024 summer vegetable subscriptions!](#) They have a lot of options and [also take SNAP benefits!](#)

[Klock Blueberry Farm](#) - Closed for the season, but keep an eye out for their “you pick” dates next year! In the meantime, sign up for their [U-pick membership!](#) Also, their website features berry care videos by our very own Grange Member, Clair Klock! His berry knowledge is deep!

[Mudbone Grown](#) - They are preparing for this year's growing season by getting the “kinks” out of equipment and planting Portuguese kale, cabbage, collards, onions, and more! Follow them on [Instagram](#) to see what they are up to! You can also [Donate Here](#) “Your contribution supports our work as land stewards while keeping the food and love flowing into our Black community. - With Gratitude. Mudbone Grown” Sign up for their newsletter [here](#).

[Old McDonlad's Farm](#) - May 18th, 2024, from 10 am - 2 pm is the Spring Open House - Sign up [here](#), \$20 a carload! Check out this long list of [Summer workshops!](#) Workshops on Pyrenees Dogs, Soay Sheep, Raising Chicks, Donkey Brey, Baby Goats Kid Programs and more!

[Second Chance Ranch and Plants](#) - Planting is happening! I see their field every time I drive up Littlepage towards the Grange! Keep an eye out for updates closer to summer.

[Tanager Farm](#)—Tanager Farm is run by Brindley and Spencer, who have been farming together for many seasons in Oregon. We are a first-generation farm. Their 2024 [CSA](#) sign-up is OPEN!

[Terra Farma](#) - check out their [Meat CSA](#). There are quite a few to pick from!

[Waddle Woods Farm](#) - Whole and half hog orders! Get them while you can.

[Worthy Jacob Farm](#) - Updates from Michelle! *The grass is growing, the sheep are mowing, and the humans are still picking up sticks and felling dangerous trees. Sold some leg roasts for Easter feasting and one of our young rams, Tony Bennett, has moved on to live and breed with his own bevy of ewes in Shelton, Washington. Pelts are finally dry enough to ship to the tannery, and although we are getting into the zone with several expectant ewes, there are no new lambs as of this missive.*

## **BOOK RECOMMENDATION**

[This Long Thread: Women Of Color On Craft, Community, And Connection](#) By Jen Hewett

In early 2019, the craft community experienced a reckoning when crafters of color began sharing personal stories about exclusion and racial injustice in their field, pointing out the inequity and lack of visible diversity within the crafting world. Author Jen Hewett, who is one of a few prominent women of color in the fiber crafts community, now brings together this book as a direct response to the need to highlight the diverse voices of artists working in fiber arts and crafts.

## MOVIE/PODCAST/PUBLIC TALK RECOMMENDATION

[Supporting People with Disabilities in Rural Communities](#) with Rayna Sage and Catherine Ipsen  
Listen to this episode on the [Exploring Rural Health Podcast](#): A monthly podcast featuring leaders and experts working to address current issues in rural healthcare and population health.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH



### LEMON POUND CAKE

#### Ingredients

Baking spray with flour  
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar  
3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened  
3 large eggs at room temperature  
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted  
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking powder  
1/4 cup whole milk  
2 tbsp grated lemon zest  
8 to 9 tablespoons fresh juice, divided  
2 cups powdered sugar

#### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325°F. Coat a 9- x 5-inch loaf pan with baking spray. Line the loaf pan with parchment paper; coat it with baking spray.
2. Beat granulated sugar and butter with a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment on medium-high speed until very fluffy, 5 to 6 minutes, stopping to scrape the sides of the bowl. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well at medium speed after each addition.
3. Stir together sifted flour, salt, and baking powder. Gradually add the flour mixture to the butter mixture in a mixer at low speed, alternately with milk and 1/4 cup of the lemon juice, beginning and ending with the flour mixture, and beat just until combined after each addition. Stir in 1 tablespoon lemon zest. Beat at high speed until fluffy, for about 1 minute. Spoon batter into prepared loaf pan.
4. Bake in a preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean, about 1 hr and 5 mins. Remove from oven and let stand for 10 minutes. Remove cake from loaf pan and let cool completely on a wire rack for about 2 hours.
5. Place powdered sugar and the remaining 1 tablespoon lemon zest in a medium bowl. Whisk in the remaining 4 to 5 tablespoons of lemon juice as needed to reach the desired consistency until smooth. Drizzle over the cooled cake.

Source: <https://www.foodandwine.com/lemon-pound-cake-7255088>

**MONTHLY LECTURER CONTEST** [submission information & requirements](#)

**LECTURER PROGRAM IDEAS OR RECOMMENDATIONS?** email [sahuston@gmail.com](mailto:sahuston@gmail.com)