

COLUMBIA GRANGE NEWS

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A Most Wonderful Time of the Year *by Jill Carlson*

As per our Benevolence Policy, Columbia Grange 267 “fosters” two families in the Corbett community who are a bit down on their luck. This year, we started our process before Thanksgiving and finished in time to deliver the gifts the week before Christmas. We began by identifying families to assist and proceeded to compile their wish lists. Three Grange families donated \$1,400 cash and five other families looked at the wish lists and offered to buy and donate numerous items!!

We had our first English as a Second Language family this year and give many thanks to Eliza Miller for volunteering as our translator! One family does a lot of outside work and each family member needed a warm heavy-duty coat and pair of boots. Done! The youngest daughter really wanted a bicycle. Since so much funding went into acquiring the coats and boots, Grange members Steve and Lori Moening helped find a used bike, cleaned and repaired it, and fulfilled her dream! She was totally beaming when she saw it! The Mother of this family admitted she had told her children that there would be no Christmas this year. What a turnaround!

Just when we were about done with our planning and shopping for both families, we received a call about a third family who was really suffering. Within three days we had heard about two more families troubled with lack of employment, and children hoping for visits from Santa. We collaborated with Corbett COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters) who had received a \$1,000 donation and all five families received enough cash, gifts, and food to make their holidays bright. This never could have been accomplished without the Grange annual program, the CCOAD, the team of wrappers and the GENEROUS families who gave from their hearts to help our neighbors. It truly was the most wonderful time of the year!



Stories Upon Stories Sequel

After a few months’ break, Dawn Robbins is excited to launch another series of Stories Upon Stories memoir writing classes to help you tell your life story two pages at a time. As a veteran of the first course, the second round of class is designed for you. Due to the pandemic, classes are physically distanced/socially connected through Zoom.

Check in with yourself and your calendar, have a look at the Stories Upon Stories website, and consider signing up for a class this winter. Let Dawn know if you need a scholarship. This winter, half of all class fees will be donated to The Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center.

Expand your Memoir: With the positive momentum of the first session, we consider how to craft compelling stories and knit them together as a lasting memento. <https://storiesuponstories.com/class/expand-your-memoir/> Five sessions: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesdays February 17 through March 17. \$160.

Community Resources

East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a **Farm Transition Workshop Series** (<https://emswcd.org/upcoming-ftp-workshops/>):

1. January 27: The Estate Planning Process and Options;
2. February 10: Strategies for Having Difficult Conversations
3. February 24: Organizing your Finances and Business Structure
4. March 10: Preparing your Operation and Heirs for Transition

Grange member, Clair Klock is available If you would like to talk to someone who has completed the course. Call Clair Klock at 503.695.5882. It is never to early to plan your farm transition goals.

Our January (ZOOM) Grange Membership Meeting is on Tuesday, January 5th. Please join us to “vision” what’s ahead for Columbia Grange 267 in 2021!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86309093863?pwd=L21mWndZRU1jV1NtdkN1MWh6WmthQT09>

Password: Charity