



Utsalady Ladies Aid

October 1, 2026

OCTOBER 2026 Newsletter

Embrace Autumn

Topics

- Big Leaf Maples
- Upcoming Meetings
- Pancakes
- New Officers
- ULA Artifact
- Wreaths

Happy Birthday!



Heather Birchman
Raphael

Chubelashuili
Diane Hampson
Polly Hopkins
Linda Johnson
Jody Metzger
Tiffany Nelson
Linda Nieuwenhuis
Mary Rauch
Bethel Spagnolo

Big Leaf Maples

Maple syrup, produced from maple tree sap, is one of North America's oldest sweeteners. All maples plus a few additional tree species like birch, walnut and beech produce sugary, dormant season sap that can be reduced to syrup by evaporating off water through boiling. This includes big leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), the most prevalent maple in the Pacific Northwest. The sap is collected by tapping a spile (a specialized spout) in to the trunk of a maple tree. And here's some sobering news: you need between 30 and 40 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of syrup. And, under good conditions, it takes about 24 hours to get 1 gallon of sap. All maple sugaring was developed first by indigenous people, who taught the art to colonists and settlers along the East and West Coasts. Big leaf syrup, boiled longer and tasting stronger, tends to be rich and dark, with tinges of caramel, corn, and molasses flavors. Big leaf sap flow is less predictable, but more ongoing. They are learning all the time while working with these admirable trees. There are new sugaring developments in Oregon and Washington including Neil McLeod's commercial operation, along with research and outreach at major universities. A 5 ounce bottle of Washington big leaf Maple syrup costs \$19.95.



Upcoming Meetings

Our next **Membership meeting** will be **Wednesday, October 14th**, at 11:30am for socializing and business meeting at 1:00pm. The **Board meeting** will be on **Monday, October 12th**, from 11:00am to 1:00pm. **ULA Fun Day** will be on **Wednesday, October 28th** at 10:00am.

Pancake Breakfast

Our next fundraiser will be a pancake breakfast on **Saturday, October 3rd**. A hot breakfast of pancakes, sausage, orange slices, juice and coffee will be served from 8am to 11am. Of course our adorable historic building on the bay is always a delightful place to dine.



MORE NEWS

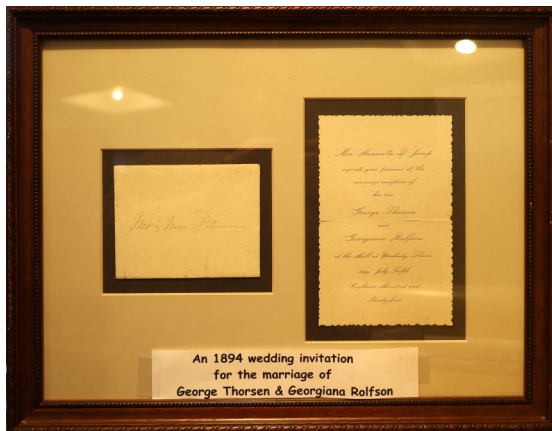
2027 Slate of Officers

President...Valerie Spagnolo
Vice President..Kristi Kaufman
Treasurer..Wanda Hill
Recording Secretary.. Tricia Bourdeau
Corresponding Secretary..Cheri Bloomquist

The president selects 3 trustees of her choice and previous President serves on the board. In October we will take nominations from the floor if a members wants to run for any of these positions. In the event someone wants to run for one of these Executive positions we need to know. Then in November we would be voting for that position. We are grateful for the love you each share for others and for the famous Utsalady Ladies Aid.

Nominating committee: Lucy Armstrong & Jeni Bottin

Utsalady Ladies Aid Artifact



Georgiana Rolfson came to Utsalady in 1890 with her brother when she was 16 years old. She met and married George Thorsen in 1894. He was the stepson of Peter D'Jorup and the manager of the Utsalady Hotel.

By 1894, earlier inventions like engraving (1642) and lithography (1798) made wedding invitations accessible to middle class rather than being restricted to nobility. Because letterpress ink took a long time to dry, a thin sheet of tissue paper was often placed over the ink to prevent smudging and that practice remained a staple of formal stationery. The

Victorian era (1837-1901) marked the commercial boom of wedding announcements.

George and Georgiana "Jennie" Thorsen had two children but George died in 1898 leaving her as the proprietor of the hotel in the 1900 census. In 1902 she married Ole Mellum and they had five children including Burwell "Babe" Mellum who is Jeni Bottin's father.

Wreaths Across America

Ladies Aid supports the Wreaths Across America program every year by purchasing and placing wreaths at Camano Pioneer Cemetery. This year the VWF Post #12228 will sponsor the Stanwood/Camano area. The wreath-laying event will take place on **December 19th at 10:00am** at Anderson, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Camano Lutheran and Pioneer Cemeteries. A round up is scheduled for the month of October at both ACE Hardware stores and IGA. Another great way to help support getting a wreath on every veteran's grave in the future.

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach

