



The Foundation Connection

A monthly e-newsletter from the Master Gardener Foundation of King County

Ellen A'Key Grant Winner: *Grant/Adams County*

...by Master Gardener Bob Connor

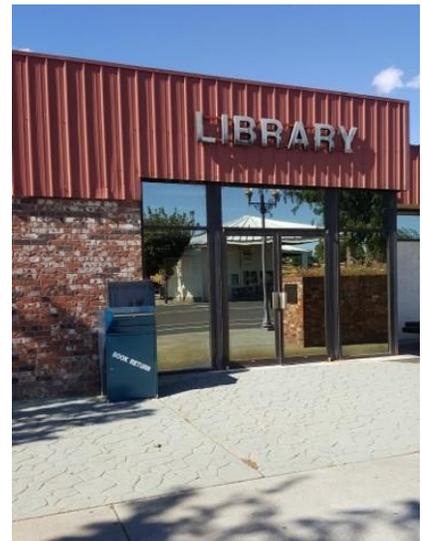


Future Demo Garden

We were fortunate this year to receive a number of excellent submissions. By a narrow vote, our committee of four chose the Grant/Adams application. This group of Master Gardeners proposed establishing a Seed Library to be located in the Ephrata Community Library. This will ensure that a diverse seed selection will be available to local gardeners at no cost. Eventually these Master Gardeners want to make the Seed Library self-supporting by encouraging those seed borrowers to return viable seeds to the Library. Master Gardeners will offer classes on seed saving techniques, growing plants from seed and basic vegetable gardening practices. Many of the residents rely on local food banks; the Seed Library will provide the residents an opportunity to grow their own fresh produce. A Seed-Saving Demonstration Garden will be established that will allow plants to go to seed for use in the following year.

The project has the potential to be an aid to local gardeners and a community resource. The Seed Library will serve as a pilot site for the North Central Regional Library in the hope that additional seed libraries will be established through the NCRL system.

The Grant was established in 2009 to honor Ellen A'Key, a passionate Master Gardener who loved Demonstration Gardens. The Master Gardener Foundation set up a reserve fund from a bequest made by Mrs. A'Key to fund the Grant. The Grant has several objectives: foster innovation and creativity; stimulate problem-solving and creative solutions; encourage a sense of unity and community among MGs in the state; make possible programs that otherwise might struggle or never get beyond the planning stage. The Grants support WSU Master Gardener projects in non-urban counties of Washington. Past Grant winners include Asotin County and Pend Oreille County Master Gardener Programs.



Ephrata Community Library