

# Happy spring!

I'm writing to you all with lots of news!

## We're in the news!

1. Our seed library was recently featured in the Times Union this past Sunday! Read about us in the [article](#).

## New seeds!

2. Our newest batch of seed donations have arrived, thanks to the generosity of [Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds](#). If you're buying seeds, please consider patronizing this family-owned seed company that looks for unusual seeds from around the world! Some of our more interesting and exciting new seeds:

- two kinds of sunflowers: Mongolian Giant and Titan. Mongolian Giant sunflowers (yes, from Mongolia!) are reliably over 14 feet tall with heads up to 18" in diameter. Titan are a bit shorter (9-10 feet tall) with heads 2 feet in diameter! So go for height or massively wide heads!
- Swiss chard "five color silver beet" from Australia with five beautiful rainbow-colored hues.
- an Italian radish that grows 2" in diameter and stays nice and crispy - Giant of Sicily, and a Chinese radish that grows green and is used in China as a fruit - Chinese shawo
- a lovely purple bok choy "purple lady"
- one of my favorite shallots (shallots are in the onion family but are sweeter with a more complex flavor) - Zebrune. They should be planted now!
- red brussel sprouts - "Red rubine"
- back by popular demand, various types of Thai and Chinese long beans in various colors
- and lots more!

These seeds will be available in the seed library by Saturday!

## Volunteers needed!

3. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to grow the "gete-okosomin" squash to augment next year's collection of seeds in the seed library. We could still use a few more people to volunteer to grow this special squash. This is the squash that grew from 800-year-old seeds that were found in a clay pot a few years ago, and we're lucky to get our hands on a few seeds!

4. We'd also like to augment our seed collection of "fagiolo luna" beans. These seeds were donated to us by someone who brought them over from Italy. They grow about a foot long and can be boiled with spaghetti. They'll twist around your fork just as pasta does and is a delightful complement to pasta. Unfortunately, these plants are not high producers, so we don't have a good stock of seeds going forward, so we could use a few volunteers to grow these for seeds.

**FREE TOMATO SEEDLINGS!!**

At our May 20 meeting Monday at 7pm at the library, we will be giving away tomato seedlings fostered by members of the seed library! Be there if you'd like some seedlings. All seedlings being fostered are unusual heirloom tomatoes!

Thank you for being part of our community!  
Sharon Miller, Seed library coordinator