



# MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVII NO. 3

USPS 345-580

MAY-JUNE, 2021

**BETTER HEARING & SPEECH MONTH**

**HELPING PEOPLE COMMUNICATE**

Order a few posters from “Luanna Swainston” and place them in various locations around your area. Help the Deaf Awareness Department to get these posters in our areas and work to make everyone aware of them and the Granges involvement.

**STOP Do You See the Signs?**

It didn't feel like in the detection and treatment of hearing loss is an adult, young adult. Do you see the signs of hearing loss?

**12 months to 12 months**  
 In this age a child responds to their own name, understands simple words, babbles to see words and gestures to indicate needs, use their eye to a object, try to make sounds, copy, sing, sing stories and books.

**12 months to 2 years**  
 In this age a child responds to their own name, understands simple words, babbles to see words and gestures to indicate needs, use their eye to a object, try to make sounds, copy, sing, sing stories and books.

**2 years to 4 years**  
 In this age a child responds to their own name, understands simple words, babbles to see words and gestures to indicate needs, use their eye to a object, try to make sounds, copy, sing, sing stories and books.

**5 years**  
 In this age a child can replace the child's words, speaks in full sentences, uses the full range of voice, answers the question, use their eye to a object, try to make sounds, copy, sing, sing stories and books.

**Grange Deaf Awareness**

**Awareness**  
 Education is the key to awareness. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss.

**Education**  
 Education is the key to awareness. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss.

**Prevention**  
 Education is the key to awareness. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss. It is the first step in the process of hearing loss.

**Your Hearing Could GET SILENT**

Common household sounds such as appliances and entertainment equipment can be potential hearing hazards. The loudness of sound (decibel level) combined with the length of exposure to sound can create a permanent hearing loss.

10 prevent a noise-induced hearing loss:  
 1. Turn the noise down  
 2. Limit your length of exposure  
 3. Wear ear protection such as earplugs or acoustic earmuffs.

**The Pledge Of Allegiance**

I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG  
 OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND  
 TO THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH  
 IT STANDS ONE BELIEF ONE FAITH  
 AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Contact Luanna Swainston at [plswainston1@gmail.com](mailto:plswainston1@gmail.com) or 616-262-3516 OR Peggy at the MSG Office at [msgrange1873@yahoo.com](mailto:msgrange1873@yahoo.com) or 989-288-4546

Page 2 Mother's /Father's Day CS Project	Page 3 Grange Revival 2021	Page 4 & 5 Better Hearing & Speech Month/ Identity Theft	Page 6 & 7 Lect. Responsibilities Congratulations Roland	Page 8 & 9 CS Ideas In Memory of Harry Massey	Page 10 Crazy Spring Weather June 30 membership deadline
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# Michigan Grange News

(USPS 345-580)

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May 1	May Day
May 5	Cinco de Mayo
May 9	Mother's Day
May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	1st day of Summer
June 20	Father's Day



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## Mother's Day and Father's Day Two Very Important Day's of the Year

### Her Hands

Her hands held me gently from the day I took my first breath.

Her hands helped to guide me as I took my first step.

Her hands held me close when the tears would start to fall.

Her hands were quick to show me that she would take care of it all.

Her hands were there to brush my hair, or straighten a wayward bow.

Her hands were often there to comfort the hurts that didn't always show.

Her hands helped hold the stars in place, and encouraged me to reach.

Her hands would clap and cheer and praise when I captured them at length

Her hands would also push me, through not down or in harm's way.

Her hands would punctuate the words, just do what I say.

Her hands sometimes had to discipline, to help bend this young tree.

Her hands would shape and mold me into all she knew I could be.

Her hands are now twisting with age and years of work.

Her hand now needs my gentle touch to rub away the hurt.

Her hands are more beautiful than anything can be.

Her hands are the reason I am me.

### One And Only Dad

You have given me  
The best I know you've had,  
So I wish you the best this Father's  
Day,  
My one and only Dad.

### Grateful To Have You As My Dad

I hope you know I'm grateful,  
And my heart is truly glad,  
That today and every single day,  
I have you as my Dad.



### St. Joseph-Cass-Kalamazoo Pomona Grange #4.

We have been very active of late. Each month, we do a special collection for one of the counties and their members then deliver the articles to who they feel could use them. We've collected mittens, gloves, hats, canned goods, & other food articles and persona hygiene products.

The March collection was canned goods and even with a not so big crowd, well over 50 articles will be delivered in St.

Joseph County.

Another new project we are just getting started with is assisting Tri County Pomona Grange (Indiana) with a collection. They are saving box tops, UPC labels, plastic bread & bun wrappers and many other things. Money raised from this project has enabled them to purchase various articles for local schools.

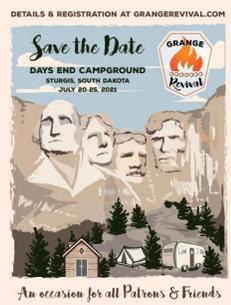
Our members are enthusiastically behind this idea, we even have a restaurant saving bread wrappers for us.

Granges helping Granges helping others. What a great concept!

Christopher D. Johnston, Master 6241 Grand River Road, Bancroft, MI 48414  
Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.comVeru

**Grange Revival 2021**

If you are planning or even thinking about going to South Dakota this summer with fellow Grangers from across the country, now is the time to register and get your sites reserved. July 20-25 are the dates for when Sturgis, South Dakota won't know what hit them. There will be Grange members just like you and me from all across the country converging on their town, and having a good time. In the plans is of course food (can't have a Grange function without food), fishing, cards, campfires, and a lighting ceremony at Mt. Rushmore. Some of you remember the days of the Michigan Camping Patrons, this is similar only on a much bigger scale. Consider making the journey, and making new friends. If you don't have a camper or a tent, they do have cabins available or there are a few hotels near the campground. Go to [www.grangerevival.com](http://www.grangerevival.com) for more information such as the campground, cost, and registration information.



**150th Celebration in Michigan**

In just 2 short years Michigan State Grange will be celebrating its 150th annual session. We will be in the host region 5 that year and the plans for our celebration will be coming together in the near future. I have asked Brother Rich Hazen to chair the committee, and he will most likely be asking for some assistance in one form or another.

**State Session**

Michigan State Grange session is only 6 months away and we will be (restrictions permitting) meeting in Bay City at Bay Valley Resort. Keep your eye on future editions of the Michigan Grange News for further information.

**During the Pandemic**

While we are continuing to struggle with this pandemic, remember our elderly members who are unable to get out. Maybe send them a card or a phone call to see if they need anything. Many times

we get so wrapped up in what we are doing we forget about those who really need the help. We as Grangers have always been known for helping the less fortunate and sometimes we forget that some of those people are our Brothers and Sisters.

Remember our motto:

**In essentials; Unity,**

**In non-essentials: Liberty.**

**In all things; Charity**

Be safe, enjoy the Springtime, have some fun, live life to the fullest.

Until next time.....

**HELPING THE MSG FOUNDATION**

How many of you order from Amazon.com? Did you know if you go under AmazonSmile.com or smile.amazon.com (the same as Amazon.com only different??!!) you can select the Michigan State Grange Foundation as your charity and 0.5% of all eligible purchases will be added to the Foundation.

- Sign-in to smile.amazon.com or amazon-smile.com on your computer or mobile phone browser. If you don not already have an account, follow their easy directions/prompts for creating a new account.
- After logged in, go to your Account and select the option to change your charity. Select "change your charity" from the options at the bottom of the page.
- Select a new charitable organization to support, i.e. Michigan State Grange Foundation.
- Each time you shop on Amazon you must go to Smile.Amazon.com for the Foundation to receive a donation as a result of your purchase(s).

Every little bit helps!!!

## **May is Better Hearing and Speech Month**

Each May, Better Hearing and Speech Month (BHSM) provides an opportunity to raise awareness about communication disorders and the role of ASHA (American Speech-Language-Hearing Association) members in providing life-altering treatment. The 2021 theme is “Building Connections.”

At least 46 million people in the United States have a hearing or other communications disorder. For these individuals, the basic components of communication – sensing, interpreting, and responding to people and things in their environment – can be challenging. To raise awareness about disorders related to hearing, voice, speech, or language, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD) joins the ASHA and other organizations in observing Better Hearing and Speech Month.

People need to communicate to perform tasks in many aspects of their lives: at school, at work, in health care settings, and during special and leisure activities. Safety might depend on your ability to hear potential dangers in your environment, and productivity might rely on your ability to clearly communicate your plans, progress and concerns with others. With the increased use of technology to work and communicate at a safe distance during the pandemic, overcoming communication challenges is more important now than ever before.

Millions of Americans experience a hearing disorder at some point in their life, especially as they grow older. Having trouble hearing can make it hard to understand and follow instructions, respond to alarms and other warnings, and to hear doorbells and phones. It can complicate conversations with family and friends. People who work in noisy environments – such as factory or construction workers, road crews, musicians, and fitness instructors – can develop noise induced hearing loss. A number of devices, including hearing aids and cochlear implants can help.

In the U.S., an estimated 17.9 million adults report having a voice problem. Problems with your voice can significantly affect your ability to perform your job. Rest your voice when you can. Avoid screaming or whispering. Other voice and speech conditions can also affect your verbal expression and therefore your ability to communicate.

If you experience problems with your hearing, voice speech and language problems you have options. You can reach out to your primary care doctor or qualified health professions such as a speech -language pathologist, an ear, nose and throat doctor, or audiologist for early and appropriate care.

## **DEAF AWARENESS FUND APPEAL LETTERS**

By now you should have received your Appeals Letter for the Deaf Awareness Fund. Please contribute what you are able whether it be a large or small contribution. Every contribution helps. We are still involved with the Michigan School for the Deaf, the Alexander Graham Bell’s Camp Fund and other projects in the State. Thank you for your contributions! They are greatly appreciated!

## **POSTERS**

If you have locations that you can donate any of the Deaf Awareness Posters, please be sure to let me know and I will do my best to get them to you. Suggested locations are doctors offices, day cares, church nurseries, hospitals, libraries, etc. Another way to make people aware of not only the deaf people but of the Grange as well.

“What language do pigs speak?”  
“Swine Language.”

Tom Smith, Co-Director      215 River Drive, Apt. A-4 Three Rivers, MI 49093      Tel: 269-858-8305  
 Barbara Johnston, Co-Director      2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287      Tel: 517-442-4555      tnbjohnston@gmail.com

Greetings from the south-west corner of our great state. Seems as though when you watch or read the news, there's a lot of craziness out there. But, I'll still take our state easily over any other.

Has everyone still got their 2021 Program book? Hope so, because my co-director and committee as well as the judges want to be busy with tables covered with articles made by our talented Michigan Grangers.

I've said it for ten years as your State Lecturer and the last 5 with Family activities, if you have any questions or concerns don't be afraid to get a hold of Barb, Russ or myself so we can help avoid any misunderstandings later.

One of the pharmacies I use (a well "security was breached...nationwide. It was another firm who does file transfers for or financial information was impacted.



known national chain) sent a letter that their no fault of the pharmacy themselves, but by them. The good news is that no debit or credit

But they do have names, phone numbers, history and many more.

E-mail addresses, prescription info, medical

You never really think about these things until it impacts you.

Anyway, it's getting worked out (slowly). Here are some tips from a flyer I picked up at my local bank, with some good common sense ideas to help protect you and your family from this bit, worrisome headache.

**Identity Theft...**

Identity theft is a crime in which an impostor obtains key pieces of information, such as a social security or drivers license number to obtain credit, merchandise, and service in the name of the victim. They may obtain this information by:

- ◆ Stealing wallets that contain personal identification information and credit cards.
- ◆ Stealing bank statements from the mail.
- ◆ Diverting mail from its intended recipients by submitting a change of address form.
- ◆ Rummaging through trash for personal data.
- ◆ Stealing personal identification information from workplace records.
- ◆ Intercepting or otherwise obtaining information transmitted electronically.

The victim is left with a ruined credit history and the time consuming and complicated task of regaining financial health. Failing to shred banking and credit information is just one of the ways you increase your risk of being a victim of identity theft.

**Tips to Prevent Identity Theft...**

- ⇒ Guard your mail box from theft. Consider setting up electronic statements from your bank and others who may send personal information via mail.
- ⇒ Be suspicious of telephone solicitors, never

provide information unless you initiated the call.

- ⇒ Carefully destroy papers you throw out especially those with sensitive or identifying information.
- ⇒ Check credit reports from all three credit reporting agencies once a year.
- ⇒ Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if your bills don't arrive on time. Consider online bill payment to better monitor your bills.
- ⇒ Check account statements carefully to ensure all charges, checks or withdrawals were authorized.
- ⇒ Guard your social security number. Don't carry it with you and never give it to anyone unless they have a good reason for needing it. Don't put this number or your driver's license number on your checks.
- ⇒ Before you reveal any personally identifying information, find out how it will be used and whether it will be shared with others Watch for people who may try to or overhear information you give out orally.



Till next time,  
Happy Granging!

Jackie Bishop, Lecturer 479 Tuscany Drive  
Tel: 269-365-0401 jacqueline\_bishop@hotmail.com



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is li-

means for society, especially as it might relate to immigration issues.

It is my belief that most Grangers would say “I’m not racist! All Lives Matter!” However, it is also my experience in the Grange that diversity is not to be found at our Grange meetings or in our membership. I would like to challenge every Granger to step back and think about these topics. It is extremely hard to find unbiased media posts in places like Facebook, so “stepping back” probably means checking out media that we may disagree with vehemently. This may also mean paying attention and listening to those that we are not like in race, religion, sexual orientation and/or gender identity. How can one make a decision on how they feel about these issues, with limited experience and knowledge? We need to consider if our behaviors are truly related to our values.

As part of the learning process for each of us, one might read fiction and/or non-fiction books written by those of a different race in order to get the idea of what issues are important, and what we are missing when we only see the world through our own personal lens. Some of the books currently available are hard to read, as they are quite graphic in their descriptions of scenarios that others have experienced. It is important to push through this discomfort so that we are not ignoring others’ realities. “Tears We Cannot Stop” by Michael Eric Dyson is an example. Several churches in our area have sponsored study groups to read and discuss this book. I learned a lot when reading this book, and it opened my eyes with regard to everyday treatment of the Black community in the United States. Dr. Dyson is a professor at George Washington University, and has written other books as well – “Long Time Coming” is another example. He writes of his experiences growing up and living as a Black male. I also like to read about women and their accomplishments. A book that I enjoyed and learned from is “The Three Mothers”, by a young Black woman, Anna Malaika Tubbs. The book tells the story of the mothers of James Baldwin, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. For those that might like fiction, reading/re-reading “Uncle Tom’s Cabin” might be an option. “The Indigo Girl: A Novel”, by Natahsa Boyd, is another fiction book that takes place in the early days of enslavement in the South.

Although I have not read “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents”, this is another non-fiction book that explores our society. Its description on Amazon: “In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.”

After we individually become more knowledgeable about these key issues, what actions might we take? In the Grange, this could mean cultivating new connections (to build off the National Grange theme). This could mean considering new community service activities for/in non-white communities near us by collaborating with organizations already working there. It could mean having a brainstorming activity as part of a Lecturer’s program to consider what opportunities your Grange has with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion. It could mean a book report during the Lecturer’s program, followed by discussion.



### 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE PINS

2023 will be the year! We will be having a celebration in honor of 150 years of Grange in Michigan.

With every celebration (party) comes extra expenses. We have developed a Michigan State Grange Pin in honor of our 150 years and they are for sale!

We are selling these pins for \$5.00 each. If you are interested in one or two or more, please contact the State Grange office. If they can easily be delivered to you they will be...if not there will also be a charge for postage.

**Congratulations!**

## **Roland Winter recognized for 80 years of membership and service to the Grange**

One of the ways that Home Grange celebrates the annual April Grange month is by recognizing members who have served the Grange over a period of time. This year, this recognition was done via a Zoom meeting on April 24. It is hoped that a recep-

tion and in-person celebration can be done later this summer.

Roland Winter was recognized for 80 years of continuous membership. This is the longest for any member in the history of Home Grange that dates back over 145 years. Roland has an active history in leadership positions within the Grange, so many that they cannot all be listed here. He has held a Grange office for nearly every year of his membership. He was first elected President of Home Grange in 1954 at age 27, and has held this position for over 30 nonconsecutive years. He currently serves as Vice President of Home Grange. Over the years, Roland also served as President, Overseer, and Treasurer of the Calhoun County Pomona Grange. Roland served as President of Michigan State Grange from 1980 through 1996, and has also held offices of Vice President, Executive Committee member, and Steward of Michigan State Grange. In 1995, he was one of the founders of the Michigan Barn Preservation organization. Roland was instrumental in establishing the Michigan State Grange Foundation; he currently serves on the Board of Directors. Roland previously served the Grange at the National Grange level as well, as an Executive Committee member, and as Priest Messenger in the Assembly of Demeter for 21 years.

In addition to the leadership positions Roland has held, he also has been a “doer” throughout his membership, participating in many community service programs and activities. In the late 1950s, Roland promoted the idea of creation of the Newton Township Fire Department and worked on the many dinners that were held to raise money for that cause. He served on the Home Grange Building Committee for the “new” Grange hall and put in many hours on construction of the hall in the early 1970s. Roland helped assemble many baby quilts that were made and given to hospitals through the early 2000s. One of his favorite activities was overall organization of the Annual Fourth of July Parade, which he led while on roller blades into his 70s. Roland also chaired the Home Grange Pancake Tent held at the Calhoun County Fair during the 1990s.

In addition, Roland has a love for the history of the Grange. He has created a database of information from State Grange records, many of which have been scanned. The database includes charter membership information for Granges in Michigan, photos of Granges, and much more. Roland currently serves as Historian of the Michigan State Grange, where he is also responsible for sorting and delivering documents from Michigan Granges to Michigan and Bentley Library at He has assembled a basement as well, which and documents. He has a being in a public place be able to view it.

In addition to recognizing **Flanders** was recognized for 50 years of membership and service, **Diana** and **Jackie Bishop** for 60 years of service to the Grange.



State University Archives  
University of Michigan.  
Grange Museum in his  
includes both artifacts  
dream of this museum  
where more people may

tion for Roland, **Dennis**  
for 50 years of member-  
**Wagner** for 55 years,  
years of membership and

Mary Ann Rocco, Director  
49014

145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI



HELLO SPRING!!!! Hopefully sunshine and warmer temperatures will be arriving soon.

Many of us are just getting back to regular Grange meetings. Fredonia had its first in-person meeting in over a year the first of April. Sadly they had the

Draping Ceremony for eight members who had passed since their last in-person meeting. Home Grange has been holding their meeting virtually.

Many Granges have been able to complete the Dictionary Project this year. Fredonia Grange has reconvened its Wednesday night Music program. Hopefully you all have an activity you are now able to hold.

The VA again has called on the Fredonia's Sewing Ladies. They were asked to make 39 Baby Quilts for the Annual Baby shower for veterans and or their wives who are pregnant. They were happy to fill this request.

As the weather breaks more and more opportunities will arise to help out in our communities. Our Community Services are a way to help each other and to help in our community.

### **Have you thought of doing any of these community services?**

- \*Collect unused makeup and perfume to donate to a center for abuse women.
- \*Collect grocery coupons for local food pantries to help with cost.
- \*Put together first aid kits for local shelters.
- \*Send cards to soldiers serving overseas.
- \*Help Seniors make appointments to get vaccinated or provide transportation.

Our Community Services can be as big or as personal as you want.

### **GRANGE AWARDS**

Lets review the awards that are available to our Granges We would like to encourage Granges to nominate a person in their community for the Dedicated Worker Award, a Grange member for the VIP (Very Important Patron) and The National Grange Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Awards.

### **DEDICATED WORKER AWARD**

This award has its importance to the Granges presenting the award. This award will no longer be judged at the state level. We hope that Granges will continue to present this award to people in their community.

The purpose of the Dedicated Worker Award is to honor someone in your community that has made a difference. Giving public recognitions to those who have given outstanding effort is important. This recognition is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done.

### **VIP –VERY IMPORTANT PERSON**

The purpose of the VIP Award is for each Grange to honor a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Grange.

#### **Submission:**

Only one entry from a Grange may be submitted to the State Grange per year. Submit a biography and a summary of the contribution the VIP nominee has made to the Grange. If possible also submit a photograph of your VIP. The submission shall be sent to the State Community Service Director postmarked by September 10<sup>th</sup>

### **National Grange Firefighter/EMT, Law Enforcement Officer and Teacher of the Year Award**

The purpose in nominating an individual, in one of these categories, gives public recognition to those who have made an outstanding effort, is important in your various community service projects, that include honoring these hometown hero's. National Grange encourages your Grange to honor these well deserving individuals.

#### **Submission:**

Each State Grange may submit one nominee for each category. Submit your nomination form, and any other supporting paper work, for possible National Grange recognition, to the State Community Director, the same time, as your Community Service report is due.

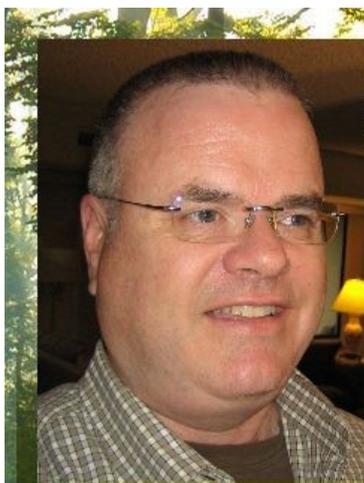
The National Grange website has information on the Do's and Don'ts for your Community Service Report.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Stay Safe, Get Vaccinated,  
And we'll all be together soon!!!!

"The world's favorite season is the spring.  
All things seem possible in May."  
—Edwin Way Teale

**In Memory of Harry Massey**  
A friend to the Michigan State Grange for many years.



**Harry Massey**  
**Past National Grange Staff**  
**Leadership/Membership Director**  
**Sunrise: September 17, 1955**  
**Sunset: April 2, 2021**

HARRY MASSEY CLUB SONG *October 1983 Session Three Rivers*

Intro-(vamp) Har-ry Mas-sey, Har-ry Mas-sey.

1. Whose the head of membership  
who works for you and me  
H-A-R- RY, M-A- SS-E-Y.  
We welcome you to Michigan  
We hope you love us all.  
H-A-R- RY, M-A- SS-E-Y.

Harry Massey, Harry Massey  
Forever may he make our numbers grow, grow, grow, fantastic  
1-2-3, 4-5-6  
Millions on the roll  
H-A-R- RY, M-A- SS-E-Y.

Intro-(vamp) Har-ry Mas-sey, Har-ry Mas-sey.

2. (We) promise you we'll work real hard  
To make our granges grow,  
Knock and ask, knock and ask,  
(We'll) do our best you know.

(We'll) try to make your stay with us  
as pleasant as can be  
we cream cones, pizza pie,  
(and) maybe a kiss from me.

Grange Pride, Grange Pride  
Forever let us wave our banners high, high, high, fantastic  
(we're) going to do our very best  
To build our order true.  
You're the one, you're the one, (for) this we're thanking you.

(vamp out: Har-ry Mas-sey, Har-ry Massey.)

**A Song for Harry...**

This song was written for Harry Massey in 1983 by several Michiganders. Harry was our National Grange Representative for our Convention in Three Rivers that year.

He was a friend to all of us.

Everything was "Fantastic" to him and he was "Fantastic" to us.

What great memories we have.

Harry was born on September 17, 1955 and passed on April 2, 2021.

He was the Past Grange Leadership/Membership Director. He passed away at the Friends Homes-Guildford, in Greensboro NC.

He was the son of the late Lloyd Massey and Eunice Overman Massey.

He was a lifelong Quaker.

He is survived by two brothers, Macon and Frank, nieces, nephews and grand nephews.

**Well done good and faithful servant.**

Kevin Young, Director 60822 Creek Road, Niles, MI 49120  
 Tel: 269-684-3870 E-mail: Kevin60822@sbcglobal.net

Is it Spring, Summer, Winter?!? This spring has been very crazy for weather so far. I wonder what Summer will be like here in Michigan this year. Hoping Summer will be nice and not too hot but I don't think people will care after the previous summer we had in 2020! As I sit here writing this article on April 20<sup>th</sup>, we are having record cold temperatures that will cause a killing freeze! This isn't good for the fruit farmers and anyone that has plants that are up out of the ground already. We need to say a few prayers for these farmers as they will lose their whole year's income in just 2 nights of frigid weather.

How many of you have planted anything in your gardens yet? Things that could have been planted by now would be seed potatoes, onion sets, cold crops (cabbages, etc) and I even think carrots but not sure so please check before you plant them! When planning your garden spots, keep in mind the Ag Classes that you can enter at this year's Annual State Grange Session. Each class is open to Junior members on up to Subordinate members. There are plenty of different classes for all ages and you do not have to live in the Country to do them. I can't wait to see what Unique containers with plantings come to State Session. Please check the Program Booklet for more details. Be sure to check out the Family Activities section as they put in a neat class in their Department having to do with Antique Agriculture items.

We are running behind at getting things done around the little farm this spring due to the crazy things going on in our World right now. I have yet to get the chicken coop cleaned but that is because when I have the time it is either not nice weather or I am too tired and need to just rest! The pigs for my nephews and niece are on the farm already and so are the market goats. Chores are in full swing here besides having the chickens to gather eggs from. We are getting at least 9 eggs a day on the average. We still have our "garage" cats even though Baby (the



momma cat) after having yet another litter of 6 kittens in August of 2020 disappeared on her own never to be seen. But we have been graced with 6 cats which 2 of them gave us a total of 8 kittens within 3 weeks of each other. Oh brother!?! We can't keep them all, but they are so much fun to watch grow up and play in the yard with each other.

Please be mindful that this is the time that the country roads and some State Highways will have slow moving



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Now is the time...

To get new members.

The Grange year for the membership department ends June 30. Which means there is not much time to get new members on your membership roll. Remember these new members need to receive the obligation!

To get input from your members about the Growth through Action packet.

Take this information and form a plan for your Grange!

To complete the Growth through Action participant packet.

Once completed for your Grange, send me a photo or email of it for credit towards the membership program.

Just a reminder there are five parts to the Growth through Action membership program. The first item was the workshop in January. There is still time to complete the remaining four items and help your Grange succeed this year. These items are:

- Show that the program has been completed.
- Take in a new member (or more).
- The new member receives the obligation or degree work.
- Complete and submit the annual membership report.

Hopefully your Grange has been able to either meet in person or via Zoom. Take advantage of the Michigan State Grange Zoom link. Studley Grange has been using it monthly since November.

I wish everyone a Happy Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day – the unofficial start to summer!

Tricia

farm vehicles on them. If it wasn't for those farmers and their employees we wouldn't have the opportunity to go to farmers' markets or the grocery stores to get the needed foods to feed our families. Please give those big vehicles and tractors as much room as you can without causing problems for yourself or others.

Well, that is all for now. Please remember whenever possible to buy Local or Locally Grown / Made products! You are helping small farm families most of the time. Good luck with your garden planning and happy growing until later!