



MICHIGAN GRANGE NEWS



Volume XXVII NO. 1

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JAN-FEB., 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GROWTH THROUGH ACTION WORKSHOP FOR MICHIGAN GRANGES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16
1:00 - 3:00 P.M. (one break will be taken)

VIA ZOOM

USEFUL INFORMATION WILL BE PRESENTED BY
JOE STEFENONI, NG MEMBERSHIP & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

See additional information on how to connect to this on page 8 under Membership

PLAN TO ATTEND

Membership

**2020-2021 PROGRAM BOOK INSIDE
PLEASE PULL OUT AND KEEP !!**

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www.michiganstategrange.org



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Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Jan. 17	Ditch the New Year's Resolution day
Jan. 18	Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 2	Groundhog Day
Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day
Feb. 15	President's Day
Feb. 16	Mardi Gras
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday



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Chaplain

Best is Yet to Come

Jeff Swainston P.O. Box 77, Manton, MI 49663 Tel: 616-405-6921 revjeff82@gmail.com

The Best Is Yet To Come

Are the best days of your life in front of you? Our outlook in life, and our answer to that question can change with time. When we are younger, we look ahead. Once we are older, we yearn for the past. But when we walk with God, whatever our age, we know the best is yet to come!

Over the course of his long life, Moses witnessed the amazing things that God did, many of which happened when he was no longer young. Moses was eighty when he confronted Pharaoh and saw God miraculously set his people free from slavery. Moses saw the Red Sea part, saw manna fall from heaven, and even spoke with God.

Moses lived expectantly, looking ahead to what God would do. Even when he was one hundred and twenty years old, he understood that his life with God was just getting started and that he would never see an end to God's greatness and love.

Regardless of our age, God's "everlasting arms" faithfully carry us securely through each new day.

~James Banks~

FROM THE MSG FILES...

Oceana Center Grange

by Ester Chesness

Still stands the Grange through many years
Since Nineteen hundred and three,
A symbol of life that's fine and clean,
A guide for humanity.

It filled a need for young and old
To learn through recreations,
Of parties, games and dances too,
Through plays and recitations.

The farmers came from far and near
In every kind of weather,
To share the fun and hear the news,
When they were all together.

The Grangers gave a helping hand
Where there was loss or sorrow,
They shared their time and gave their love,
To make a bright tomorrow.

The Grange still carries on it's work
With boys and girls today
It guides them through a changing world,
With strength along the way.

Let's keep the Grange in our lives
For finer, cleaner living,
To all the Granges in the land,
"My praise and my thanksgiving!"

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Tel: 989-634-9350 (H) 989-666-6648 (C) E-mail msgprez19@yahoo.comVeru

Welcome to 2021!!!!!!

May this new year be ever so much better than the last.

While I am skeptical of a vaccine that has been produced in a very short period of time, I am signed up to receive mine. Several years ago on a tour with the delegates of National Grange we visited a Pfizer facility in Connecticut, it was explained to us how a new pill takes roughly 20 years to be developed from inception to trials and then to FDA approval. I also know that the individuals responsible for developing a vaccine are a lot smarter than I am in that field. I also know that this type of a vaccine has been in research and in the works for several years. So in my honest opinion, doing as you believe is best for you and your body, but I believe that by getting this vaccine and wearing a mask will lead to a return of some sense of normalcy. I look forward to the idea of meeting with all who wish to join us in October, and hopefully with fewer restrictions.

Learn from Past to know the future

In the Seventh Degree we are taught to learn from the annals of the past that we know of the future. Let's start this new year by learning from the past year, and knowing what we need to do to be prepared in the future. We need to prepare our pantries to ensure we have supplies for our families and our friends. We need to prepare our cleaning supplies to make sure we are able to clean and sanitize our homes and our bodies. From what I have learned is that as with the flu and common cold, cleanliness is the best defense against the spread of infection. While it may be hard to do, limit your exposure to those outside your close group of friends and family. In this, and as a reminder the Michigan State Grange has a Zoom account and can allow Granges to host meetings and special events via zoom. Contact Connie or myself to reserve your meeting time. I would like to say, this is the time of year when we plan our events for the rest of the year. However, our meetings are on hold until our Governor and her team of advisors agree that we can start to meet inside in groups, with the understanding of social distancing and mask wearing. There is not a lot that can be

planned properly over the phone, email, or even snail mail. Therefore I leave you with what little advice I can, whether it be useful or not, do your best!! NO one can expect more from you than your best. Plan as if we will be able to do all the things we have in years past, hope for the best, and pray for a healing in this country.

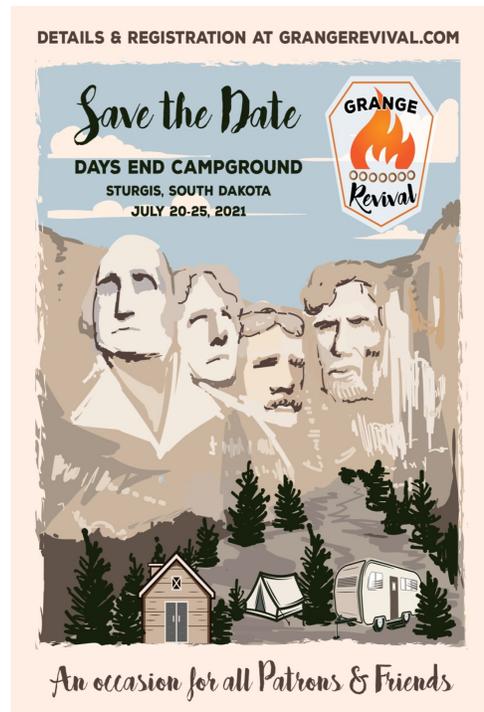
Until next time!!!!!!!!!!!!

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE

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.



Luanna Swainston, Director 965-108th Street, SW Byron Center, MI 49315
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This is going to be a really different article from me this issue. Usually you see pictures of the students at the Christmas party at the Michigan School for the Deaf in the Adopt-a-Child Program "listening" to a Christmas story interpreted for the students and the



Grange guests. They would have pizza and all the goodies for them. They would then be really excited about the presents that were wrapped for them by Grangers. What a great experience it was to see this. Pictures were taken of all the students and the activities they had at that time and published in the Michigan Grange News. I really missed doing this for the students. In some cases, this was about all the gifts these students received for Christmas. Hopefully we will be able to return doing this at Christmas time next year.

I have checked with Susanne Middlewood, my contact person at the school as to when the students would possibly return to school and I am sure they would like to be back. I will also check with her to see if there would be something we could do for the teachers and students at that time. At this time I have not heard from her so hopefully I can have this information in my next Deaf Awareness Bulletin.

*You wish me a "Happy New Year" as a toast
 And a hearty good wish it appears;
 But when you perceive I'm as deaf as a post,
 You should wish me "two happy new ears".*

I wish each of you and your families a Happy and Healthy New Year!

You Have to be deaf to understand the deaf

What is it like to "hear" a hand?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to be a small child,
 In a school, in a room void of sound --
 With a teacher who talks and talks and talks;
 And then when she does come around to you,
 She expects you to know what she's said?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

Or the teacher thinks that to make you smart,
 You must first learn how to talk with your voice;
 So mumbo-jumbo with hands on your face
 For hours and hours without patience or end,
 Until out comes a faint resembling sound?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to be curious,
 To thirst for knowledge you can call your own,
 With an inner desire that's set on fire --
 And you ask a brother, sister, or friend
 Who looks in answer and says, "Never Mind"?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What it is like in a corner to stand,
 Though there's nothing you've done really wrong,
 Other than try to make use of your hands
 To a silent peer to communicate
 A thought that comes to your mind all at once?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to be shouted at
 When one thinks that will help you to hear;
 Or misunderstand the words of a friend
 Who is trying to make a joke clear,
 And you don't get the point because he's failed?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to be laughed in the face
 When you try to repeat what is said;
 Just to make sure that you've understood,
 And you find that the words were misread --
 And you want to cry out, "Please help me, friend"?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to have to depend
 Upon one who can hear to phone a friend;
 Or place a call to a business firm
 And be forced to share what's personal, and,
 Then find that your message wasn't made clear?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to be deaf and alone
 In the company of those who can hear --
 And you only guess as you go along,
 Continued on Page 5

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 Barbara Johnston, Co-Director 2028 Robbins Road, Tipton, MI 49287 Tel: 517-431-2546 tnjohnston@pc.com

Are we all glad 2020 is gone, relegated to the history books? Between the pandemic, the economy and oh yes an election like no other and talk of 2024 beginning. Here's hoping that one is a little more civil and adult like.

With our mini-convention in 2020 with no entries in the department, the Family Activities committee decided to use 2020 contests in 2021. That means with all of the work you did in 20, you still have time to do more for this October.

The full program book for all departments is included in this issue of the Grange News. Hang on to it, so it is readily available to look up something. And even if you are not a crafty person (like me) still hang on to the paper as someone else in your Grange might need it at a later date. If anyone has any questions please get in touch with Barb or me (Tom) and we'll try to help you.

Do people still make New Years Resolutions like we used to. I was thinking a few weeks ago just how important it is to say "please" and "thank you" where it's call for. That was to be my resolution for myself to express gratitude a little more freely from now on. You know like thanking a waitress when your food comes to you or the pharmacy for promptly filling your prescription or the neighbor who keeps your walk clear of snow. I'm sure they'd appreciate it.

After thinking about this I found this clipping about gratitude. Some great thoughts are in it if we practice them daily and often each day.



Get a Gratitude attitude

A thankful heart is a happy heart — it may sound cliché, but scientific research says it's true. Making gratitude a regular habit boosts positive emotions and helps you be more

resilient when dealing with life's challenges. The following exercises in gratitude can lead to a happier you.

Keep a journal. A dedicated journal, in which you write down a few things you are thankful for each day, is a simple and effective tool for cultivating gratitude. Rereading past entries can offer a healthy perspective when you need an emotional boost.

Create a collage. Hang a bulletin board where you'll see it every day, and pin photos of friends and family members, as well as other items that bring you joy, such as a meaningful postcard or a wise saying from a fortune cookie. This inspiration board serves as a visual reminder of the good things in your life.

Say "thank you", Express your thanks when interacting with food servers, store clerks, medical staff and customer service employees. Send personal thank-you notes to people who've left lasting impressions.

Give back. Studies show that people who volun-

teer have a more positive outlook. Donating your time, skills or money to those in need gives you the chance to reflect on things you may take for granted. Helping others also increases your sense of purpose.

Deaf Awareness Poem continued from page 4...

For no one's there with a helping hand,
 As you try to keep up with words and song?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like on the road of life
 To meet with a stranger who opens his
 mouth --
 And speaks out a line at a rapid pace;
 And you can't understand the look in his
 face
 Because it is new and you're lost in the
 race?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to comprehend
 Some nimble fingers that paint the
 scene,
 And make you smile and feel serene,
 With the "spoken word" of the moving
 hand
 That makes you part of the word at large?
 You have to be deaf to understand.

What is it like to "hear" a hand?
 Yes, you have to be deaf to understand.
*Written by Willard J. Madsen,
 Professor of Journalism, Gallaudet University*

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Happy New Year!

Like everyone else, I am looking forward to 2021 being a year somewhat different than 2020. January is typically a time to look forward to the coming year, but this year even more so. The Program Book is included in this edition of Michigan Grange News, and I will be highlighting different portions of the Lecturer's program as the year evolves. I hope that you will look at some of the changes. I have tried to simplify a couple things this year, as well as add a couple different approaches. Check it out!

Before we move on to 2021, I would like to report that **Kathryn Hsu-Bishop won first place in the National Grange 2020 Virtual Photography Contest in the Scenes Division. She will receive a ribbon and a \$50 check.** This contest evolved as a result of the COVID Pandemic. This National Grange contest will continue in 2021, and I have included the National Grange categories in our Michigan photography contest. Each person entering may submit up to three photos in the National Grange contest with an online form at the nationalgrange.org website. At least five additional people in Michigan submitted entries this year. I hope that more persons will enter in 2021.

Before the pandemic, one would hear people complain about not having enough time to do things. With the pandemic, there has been somewhat of a reversal where people have had more time and needed to adjust to that new scenario. It seems to me that perhaps the pandemic has helped each one of us to adjust to some new ways of viewing what is important for us to spend time on. Since many of us will not be receiving the vaccine right away, January might be a great time to brainstorm for ourselves what kinds of things we would like to accomplish in the coming year – first just generally, and then maybe more specifically as we think through. You might want to list like family, organizations, personal accomplishments.... Then, under each of those areas what are some specific goals.



If the pandemic has made some old things you used to spend time on become less important in your life, make sure your plans for the coming year are not just mirror images of 2019. Some people like lots of detail in planning, while others like “general ideas” – whatever works for you is good. I do believe that once you have your list, it is helpful to add some possible timelines to when you plan your accomplishments to occur. Some might be regular daily, weekly, or monthly happenings, while others might be a month you would like to have completed something. I have found that setting specific timeframes helps me accomplish more.

A word about the Lecturer's Program Book items. I suspect some wonder what is included as a “three-dimensional art object” in the art contest. This is stated this way to be very general and to allow a lot of different kinds of entries and to differentiate it from the two-dimensional (flat) items of paintings or drawings class. A couple examples include ceramics, wood carvings or wood lathe objects, sculptures with any kind of medium, or perhaps 3-D wall art.

I have been a bit disappointed in low numbers of creative writing entries. I know that there's a lot of members who enjoy writing, so hope this year's topics will encourage more entries. The poem topic is “My Grange Experience”, and only need be 3-26 lines written in stanza form (need not rhyme). This is a class where humor might be employed to describe some kind of Grange experience. The story topics are “Holiday Traditions” and “Recalling My School Days”. These stories need to be a minimum of 400 words and no more than 600 words. To give you an idea of how short that is, this article is now 693 words long – so less than a typed page in length.

Have a wonderful year ahead, and enjoy your abundance of time early in the year by completing an entry early for one of the Lecturer's Program contests!

The Three B's of Leadership

- ◆ Be slow to criticize and quick to commend,
- ◆ Be more concerned with what you can do for others, than with what they can do for you.
- ◆ Be more concerned with getting ahead than getting even.

Mary Ann Rocco, Director 145 Beadle Lake Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49014
 Tel: 269-209-6640 Email: roccomaryann@yahoo.com

Happy New Year!!! I hope you all had a safe and wonderful Christmas season. Lets hope the New Year brings our communities safe and free of COVID 19.

Many of our Granges are still on hold with restrictions about meeting and doing our regular community services in our communities.

Many of our activities have taken on a new look. Our sewing group has taken to sewing our quilts at home. Each person does her specific job at home and then she passed it on to the person doing the next step. Usually doing multiple quilts at one time. We miss getting together but we are still making quilts for the community.

Here a couple of areas that you might consider for Community Service:

- Donating snacks to local hospitals and front line worker

- Collect food for the local food bank

- Develop "Operation Warm Coats" for children in your community

- Call a homebound neighbor; a call can make all the difference in their day.

- Plan and organize a Community Garden in the Spring

- Participate in the Spring Community Cleanup

Here is a brief description of what your Community Service report should include.

Community Service Report Rules and Suggestions.

Program Date: September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021

Community Service Report Due:

September 10th, 2021. This means that your book needs to be delivered to the State Community Service Director on or before that date.

Mary Ann Rocco
 145 Beadle Lake Drive
 Battle Creek, MI 49014

Divisions:

Granges are divided into two categories, small Granges with 40 members or less and large Granges with more than 40 members. Membership numbers are determined by the second quarter (June 30) membership report to the State Secretary. Granges will compete within their own category.

Summary Report:

A Summary report form will be supplied to each Community Service Chairman. A report may be submitted alone or with a notebook to receive full credit as an entry. Reports may be typed or nearly hand written.

Notebook Report:

Notebook reports MUST contain the Summary Report as the first pages of the report. Materials should be organized and indexed in a manner that effectively tells the story of your Grange's Community Service work. Some choose to arrange projects from large to small and others choose to arrange materials in chronological order. You might also want to include newspaper articles, flyers and or pictures of your events. Remember if a couple of pictures cover the event it isn't necessary to use a couple of pages of materials.

Awards:

Our Granges have several ways to honor its members. You can nominate them for the VIP Award or the Dedicated Person Award. We also have the privilege of honoring a Firefighter/EMT, A Law Enforcement Officer or Teacher of the Year Award in your area. These individuals deserves special recognition for services in your area, helping with Grange service projects or very special projects/service they do.

More in depth information will be coming in the next months. If you have something happening in your grange you would like to share in the Michigan Grange News Community Service Report please let me know.

If I can do anything to help you, please contact me.

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Happy New Year everyone! Wow, 2020 is in the books thank goodness and 2021 has just started! Well I am sure everyone is starting to think about Spring and winter is not even half over! I know it is important to have snow during the winter months as that helps to add moisture to our farm fields and also helps to protect the winter wheat during the cold months. So far, we haven't had any snow in my area of Michigan which seems weird as it is Dec 13th as I sit writing this article. I haven't heard the extended forecast yet so I do not even know if we will see snow for Christmas! I am sure we will pay for it in January and February!

Yes, snow is a part of everyday life during winter in our community. And don't we often wish we didn't have to live with it, but we couldn't live without it.

So while you sit and look at the snow float from the sky, think about what you might want to plant in your gardens or yards this coming spring. Now is a great time to be looking through the seed catalogs and plant books for those special favorites you might want to plant and then share the crops with friends and neighbors.

Here is a good reason to be planning early. Be sure to check out the Agriculture Department in the Program Book. I left all the classes that we were to have in 2020 in the program book for 2021 as we were not able to do any classes at the 2020 convention. I hope all will really look at entering something for 2021 as we need to try and get back to a little normalcy whatever that may look like for 2021. If our State Session was during the late Summer or early Fall months, we could do more classes to deal with fruits, vegetables and flowers. But, it is kind of hard to do tomatoes or raspberries in late October.

Here is a part of a clipping from the October 2015 Tennessee Granger dealing with Honey Bees. Bees of all kinds have been declining in numbers over the past few years. The reasons are many, but one of the most important is the lack of suitable plants from which bees can collect nectar and pollen all season long. About 1/3 of the food eaten by Americans come from crops pollinated by honey bees, including fruits, vegetables and nuts.

You can help honey bees and native pollinators by planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. Here is a list of perennials to help get a bee garden started: Crocus, White Sweet Clover, Catnip, Russian Sage, Mountain Mint, Snowdrops, Thyme, Purple Cone Flower,

Anise Hyssop, Goldenrod and Autumn Joy Sedum. Well that is all for now. Here is hoping 2021 is a great Grange year and way better than 2020 for all and brings bounty to our Agriculture Neighbors and Friends! I know many of our friends and family and maybe even ourselves have dealt with COVID-19 first hand as did myself. I had a mild case of the virus during the week of Nov 23rd and I am so thankful I was able to get back to my "normal" for 2020 fairly quick. Please continue to do your part no matter if you like the restrictions that could be put in place, they are for our community's safety.

MEMBERSHIP

On line Workshop

Tricia Eidsmoe 1451 Grey Road, Midland, MI 48640
 Tel: 989-631-0079 E-mail: tennisbums@charter.net

A new year. A better year. A new time to re-evaluate your Grange.



It's 2021 and things should be a lot better than 2020! Now is the time to make a plan to get new members!

The membership program for this year will be simple. It will revolve around a Growth thru Action workshop. The Growth thru Action workshop for MI Granges will be Saturday, January 16 at 1:00 ET via Zoom. Make a plan to attend! It will require about 2 hours of your time. We will take 1 break. There is a lot of useful information that will be presented by Joe Stefenoni, Director of Membership & Leadership Development for The National Grange.

To join the Zoom meeting via a link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85162761171?pwd=R3NvOENFRnNaUkFwKzBzM0R2dGIYZz09>

Meeting ID: 851 6276 1171
 Passcode: Growth

To call into the Zoom meeting:
 One tap mobile
 +13017158592,,85162761171#,,,,,0#,,948377# US
 (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 851 6276 1171
 Passcode: 948377

PLEASE contact me if Zoom is new to you! I would like as many Granges to attend as possible! Check out the Program Book for further information about the membership program for this year. Have a safe & warm winter!