

Marys River Messenger

The Marys River Grange Newsletter



Vol. 6, Issue 3

January/February 2024

New Beginnings, Fresh Energy

Marys River Grange Happenings

Country Dance, 1st Friday – Jan. 5, Feb. 2, 7-10 pm,
\$5 adults/\$4 under 18; DJ Luke Coomber
New: Dances on following Mondays

Bluegrass Jam/Workshop, 2nd Weds. – Jan. 10, Feb.
14, 7 pm, \$7 adult/\$5 youth

BINGO, Jan. 18, Feb. 9, 6-8:30 pm,
\$10 for 10 games (3 cards each), \$1 blackout tickets

Yoga at the Grange – Tuesdays starting Feb. 6, 6-7
pm. \$10 (\$5 for Grange members)

**Marys River Grange #685 regularly meets on the first
Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at 24707 Grange
Hall Road in Philomath and via Zoom. Potluck at 6:30.
Contact marysrivergrange@gmail.com or
541-829-2907. See also: marysrivergrange.org
facebook.com/Marys-River-Grange-Hall-288171007887164/
To rent the Grange Hall, see Rental at marysrivergrange.org**



MRG's email address is a new addition to the Grange Hall sign, thanks to member/volunteer Ron Paddock.

- photo by Camille Hall

From the Secretary's Desk

Membership dues are going up! Please renew your membership at the new rate: \$55 per adult or \$110 for a family (a single adult with children is \$55 plus \$2 per child). Note that in the Grange, anyone over 14 is considered an adult. Make checks to "Marys River Grange" and send to PO Box 1301, Philomath OR 97370. All memberships renew January 1, so please be kind to our new Secretary and send in your renewal promptly!

Lastly: thank you everyone for all your support and help during my tenure as Secretary. Please join me in welcoming Jon Woo as the new Marys River Grange Secretary and give him all the assistance you've so generously given me.

- Barbara Carter

It's time to plan and prepare for a spring plant sale!

Volunteer of the Year 2023

The 2023 Volunteer of the Year serves to showcase what can happen when a member is inspired to share their talents and passion for something with the community. This relatively new member has, within a few short years, served a need within our community for socializing and the musical arts, as well as heightened the visibility of the Grange in our area. From large events such as the Christmas Sing-along and Talk Like a Pirate Day to monthly dances, jams, and Bingo, she has brought people, music and laughter to Marys River Grange Hall. Despite a challenging year that has required focus on family, she has continued to promote the Grange and events, host events, and work tirelessly. Yvonne McMillan is a real inspiration, and the Volunteer of the Year for 2023.

Q and A with Marys River Grange President Mike Terry

Newly elected President of Marys River Grange Mike Terry was asked the following questions by Judy Hays-Eberts:

What brought you to the Grange?

My wife Amanda and I moved to Oregon from California in 2021 so that I could attend OSU for my masters. Wanting to know the Philomath community better, I started researching local community organizations in the area when I came across MRG. I had known about the Grange as a historic agricultural organization but had never really interacted with any subordinate Granges. On a whim, I reached out and was invited to a business meeting.

Why did you decide to join?

I joined the Grange as an opportunity for community service through the nonsectarian, nonpartisan nature of the Grange. Few organizations nowadays can claim those traits. In such a hyper-politicized era we live in, it is refreshing and invigorating to belong to this community of fellow citizens who espouse respect.

What would you like to share about yourself and your background?

I come from a long line of rice farmers in the Northern Sacramento Valley of California where my family is still farming today. My wife's family too. Although my own career trajectory has taken me away from farming towards higher education administration, I still miss being on a tractor which I hope to do again someday. Currently, I work for the OSU School of Public Policy as a graduate program assistant, helping the administration run and formulate its programs while advising graduate students on their courses and degrees. I hope to leverage my connections with OSU for Granger opportunities, resources, and knowledge.

Do you have any particular goals?

I hope to see growth in MRG resources and membership. Although these are my goals, the true goals of the Grange lie with the membership and where they see the future of MRG. I encourage everybody to share their ideas. No idea is too small or too large. Where there's a will, there's a way.

What are the challenges that you see?

Community organizations in the United States have been on the decline for decades, regardless of their purpose or affiliations. Churches, fraternal organizations, even bowling leagues. I think the book *Bowling Alone* does well to blame the individualization of entertainment and the continually restrictive economy for this decline. Most people ask themselves "why go out when I can stay at home with my TV and my internet?" The challenge, therefore, is the resocialization of community, to show people that organizations like ours are mutually beneficial. It's a monumental task, shifting culture like that, but we are the little Grange that can.

What do you especially like about being part of the Grange?

The Grange is an anchor for the Philomath community. It is the place where people can go to socialize, to contribute, and to learn. The values of the Grange, meanwhile, closely

resemble my own philosophy, which drew me to the Grange in the first place.

How has it changed you so far?

Frequently I say to myself "the hour of labor has arrived". Although it is a short line in our opening ceremony, it has become a mantra for myself, a reminder that work, whatever it may be, pays dividends. In this way, the Grange has motivated me for the better.

How are you supported in your work?

Grangers are a wealth of knowledge who are always willing to help out their fellow Granger. From past presidents to new members, something new is always brought to the table for myself and others to learn. The greatest ask I have of Grangers is to be active members and continue to share your experiences, your knowledge, and your wonderful company with your fellow patrons.

Marys River Grange Officers 2024

President: Mike Terry

Vice President: Yadira Ruiz

Lecturer: Ron Paddock and Jackie Weiner

Chaplain: Marilyn McGettigan

Steward: Kurt Wiedenmann

Secretary: Jon Woo

Treasurer: Nancy Wiedenmann

Assistant Steward: Nate Johnson

Lady Assistant Steward: Barbara Carter

Greeter (Gatekeeper): Caroline Choquette, co-greeter Mark Fine

Executive Committee 1: Kurt Wiedenmann

Executive Committee 2: Jim Rouff

Executive Committee 3: Greg Mickenham

The Three Graces:

Flora: Laura Coen

Ceres (bread): Susan Foley

Pomona (fruit): Suzy Johanson

Grange Musician: Sonny Hays-Eberts (which also revives this dormant position)

Granger dog Kona, general assistant.





“How well do you know Philomath?” challenge.

What is this spot and where is it located?

[The answer is on another page.]

Lecturer’s Corner

Ron Paddock and I are looking forward to being the 2024 Lecturer team for the Marys Rivers Grange! Just so you know, suggestions for topic ideas are always welcome as well as leads for guest speakers, so please feel free to contact us. jackieweiner@hotmail.com

To begin with, we are asking you to answer the following question. The answer will be revealed at the January and February monthly Grange meetings. No internet used please, we aim to think for ourselves!

Positively, Jackie McDougall Weiner (y-ner)

Who Am I ?

I am your constant companion.
 I am your greatest helper or your heaviest burden.
 I will push you onward or drag you down to failure.
 I am completely at your command.
 Half the things you do, you might just as well turn over to me, and I will be able to do them quickly and correctly.
 I am easily managed; you must merely be firm with me.
 Show me exactly how you want something done, and after a few lessons I will do it automatically.

I am the servant of all great men.
 And, alas, of all failures as well.
 Those who are great, I have made great.
 Those who are failures, I have made failures.
 I am not a machine, though I work with all the precision of a machine.
 Plus, the intelligence of a man.
 You may run me for profit, or run me for ruin; it makes no difference to me.
 Take me, train me, be firm with me and I will put the world at your feet.
 Be easy with me, and I will destroy you.
 Who am I?

Women of the Grange

The WoftheG enjoyed an outing down Bellfountain road to the William L Finley Wildlife Refuge on a beautiful Fall afternoon. We walked the Woodpecker Trail, scuffling through deep leaves, and took in the Willamette valley views from the shelter platform while absorbing abundant information from our outdoor enthusiast. While we sat still, many birds resumed their close activities. The new walking bridge and kiosks describing flora and fauna are marvelous. At the gift shop entrance there are numerous pamphlets that include the Willamette Birding Trail and our local National Wildlife Refuge Complex. From there we strolled to the nearby viewing gazebo near a pond to conclude our visit. The refuge offers many learning opportunities for people of all ages. We all look forward to another adventure and sharing time with new friends!

Our aim is to enhance all of our membership experiences and grow our community. You are invited to join us. The WoftheG meet on the third Sunday of each month, 1-3pm, and everyone's welcome. For more information, please call/text Suzy 541-908-0283.



Windy Hill Farm will be welcoming a new livestock guardian puppy in early 2024, to help watch over the herd of dairy goats.

Windy Hill Farm

Eggs - Honey - Nigerian Dwarf Goats - Flowers - Produce
www.windyhill-familyfarm.com
 Philomath, Oregon

Read more local news at philomathnews.com

Check out the **National Grange** website and sign up for updates at www.nationalgrange.org

Marys River Junior Grange Hall Remodel 2024

Membership has given the okay to release the building funds allocated for this project and the grant money will be received in January. The Building Committee will soon form a more defined plan that also meets the needs of the medical clinic and the Junior Grange.

We currently have \$12,000 for this project.

The current plan includes the following:

Exterior building wrap.

New HardiePlank (or equivalent) siding to match the west face of main hall.

Addition of 1 or 2 awning windows on west side of Junior Grange Hall. The intent is to allow for security (in the past these windows were used to break into the hall, being out of sight) and better ventilation.

Rewiring the room for grounded outlets, and expanded electrical service.

Replacing the lighting with thin-profile LED lights.

Ceiling and wall insulation.

Using shiplap and plywood instead of sheetrock for interior.

Paint.

The preliminary costing of this came out around \$14,000.

This would provide an insulated shell of a room that would be more useful, and better for the seasonal temps; however, it could still use some other additions to be truly useful.

Other suggestions have included:

French doors and porch on east side of the Junior Grange Hall. This is a pretty expensive option.

Converting to a heat pump for heat. This is also potentially expensive, and we may decide to plan for it, without the conversion at this time.

Storage. The medical clinic requires some secure storage, and it would be helpful for Junior Grange supplies, too. Cabinets along the south wall, to the west of the door? Upper and lower, with a countertop?

Besides further planning, the Building Committee will start to accumulate necessary materials.

Watch for more info about this as the year unfolds.

- Sonny Hays-Eberts, MRG Building Committee

Health Care for Farm Workers

Farm Clinic is expanding services to uninsured & underinsured agricultural workers in Benton, Linn, & Lincoln Counties.

Any small-scale & family-run farms (vineyards, tree farms, dairy, ranching, etc.)

Contact: Lisa Quick, Community Outreach & Farm Clinic,
541-758-3000

If you or someone you know who works in agriculture, forestry or the fishing industry is struggling, call or text **833-897-2474** for help. The Agristress Helpline is free, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and has trained counselors with experience in those industries who can take phone calls in 160 languages, with English, Spanish and Vietnamese professionals available to respond by text.

Thanksgiving at the Grange 2023



MRG's 2nd annual Thanksgiving gathering was held on Friday Nov. 24th and enjoyed by many members and friends.

- photo by Suzan Foley



Logan and other young guests and parents made their own turkeys in the Junior Grange Hall during the potluck.

Community Meal, Every Tuesday: 6 PM at College United Methodist Church (1123 Main St). Everyone welcome—FREE to all! Live Music after Meal. (Tax deductible donations accepted.)

Your support for the **Philomath Food Bank** is greatly appreciated. Please drop off your donations (either food or \$) at the PCS facility on Tues. 3-7 PM or Thurs. 9 AM-12 PM, 360 S. 9th St., Philomath.

More info: philomathcommunityservices.org
or call 541-929-2499. Mail your donation to:
PCS, PO Box 1334, Philomath OR 97370.

It's Happening at Marys River Grange!



Falcons and other raptors visited Marys River Grange at the November meeting, in preparation for the Oregon Falconers Association Field Meet at MRG in January.



Granger Maisie holds a hefty Coulter pinecone after Forest Ranger Jackie Weiner's presentation at the Junior Grange meeting in December.



Reyna Evans shared her birthday cake made by Peggy Hendrix, during Bingo at MRG on December 8th. Delicious!



Jackie and Suzy and all had a wonderful time together at the first annual Christmas Singalong on December 9th.

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Newly elected MRG President Mike Terry joined in the annual wreath making at the Grange Hall on December 10th.



Pianist Ray Drapek gifted wreath makers with an impressive range of selections, while Karen Canan turned pages.



Wreaths were also assembled to share with residents of Stoneybrook Assisted Living.



Residents of Stoneybrook were delighted to receive wreaths made for them from MRG. - photo by Stacy Moore

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2024 is off to an amazing start, we received notice that the OFB grant is being offered to us once again! The grant funds will be prioritized to help marginalized populations such as single parents, people of color, English language learners, immigrants, rural community members, elderly, LGBTQA+ and people living in poverty but we can also use the funds to give people a boost who are living paycheck to paycheck but don't qualify for aid such as SNAP or housing assistance. If you or someone you know would like to participate in our free food program in 2024, please send us an email.

Friday Film Nights at the Independent Community Center begin January 12th at 31615 Fern Rd, Philomath.

Coffee with City Councilors: Casual conversation 3rd Sat. of the month, 9-10:30am, Timber Towne Coffee, Philomath.

Willamette Grange #52

2024 Event Dates:

Feb. 10 Valentine's Benefit Dance & Silent Auction 7 - 9:30
 April 20 Grange Earth Day Recycle Sale 9 - 4
 May 11 Mother's Day Flower Festival 10 - 2
 June 2 Bees and Trees 10 - 2
 July 14 Blueberry Bash 10 - 2
 Sept 14 Back To School 10 - 2
 Oct 5 Cider Day Saturday 10 - 2
 Nov 2 Pumpkin Palooza! 10 - 2
 Nov 30 Holiday Fair with Gnome Making with donation 10 - 4
 ** Monthly BINGO at the Grange * 3rd Fridays * 6:30 to 8:30 **

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Susan Stogsdill, Owner

Local Livestock Conservancy

Livestock producer Annie Tuttle of Everfree Farm in Philomath was recently featured in an article on December 21st in the Capital Press about farmers and ranchers revitalizing heritage livestock breeds and why it's important. Read it here:

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/comeback-trail-farmers-ranchers-revitalize-americas-heritage-livestock-breeds/article_619df010-9b8d-11ee-8b65-c381e91f1351.html

- Camille Hall



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Answer to "How well do you know Philomath?" challenge:



One of 70 entries in the 1st annual City of Philomath Parade of Lights. – photos by Suzan Foley

Send items for the *Messenger* to Judy Hays-Eberts at marysrivergrange@gmail.com or mail to Marys River Grange, PO Box 1301, Philomath, OR 97370. No fee for business card-sized advertisements from members of MRG. Deadline for March/April *Messenger*: Feb. 24th



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IN STORE: CORVALLIS MUSEUM

**A GIFT TO BE
 REMEMBERED BY**

Marys River Grange #685
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FAITH

“We believe in man, in his slow ascendant progress, in the autonomy of his spirit, and in the primacy of his claims over all forms of human organization.

“We believe in freedom—the fullest measure of freedom compatible with the fullest measure of responsibility.

“We believe in reason and consent.

“We believe that the chief tools of social progress are education, experimentation, and cooperation.

“We believe that to be well governed is not so important as to be self-governed.

“We believe that truth is made manifest through the contact and clash of diverse opinions.

“We believe in convictions, but not in obsessions.

“We believe in independence, but not in isolation.

“We believe in conflict, but not in hate.”

- Abba Hillel Silver,
as printed in the Oregon State Grange Home Economics
Committee manual, Jan. 1954