



ILLINOIS GRANGER

Volume 105

February 2021

No. 1

**IN ESSENTIALS...UNITY
IN NON-ESSENTIALS...LIBERTY
IN ALL THINGS...CHARITY**



Lynette Schaeffer President Illinois State Grange

Lynette's Visions and Wisdoms January 21, 2021

Just read a FaceBook post that was neat "At 21:21 today it will be the 21st minute of the 21st hour of the 21st day of the 21st year of the 21st century." Wow that is really something to think about as we start this new year. Hopefully the upcoming year will be more back to 'normal'. I am looking forward to getting out to visit Granges in IL.

Thanks to all those that sent donations to the IL State Grange Scholarship Fund in honor of my dad Lavern Lang. It was heart warming to see and 'feel the love'. Students that want an application need to contact Robin Kindberg.

The IL State Grange is starting to work on the 150th Anniversary celebrations. Anyone with information that you believe would / should be shared please let Beverly Smith or me know. We are working on a collection of Grange information for a book. September 10-12, Doubletree, Collinsville, IL information should be coming in the next few months.

Thanks to all those who 'attended' the virtual GRIT conference. The budget

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 30 – Emerald Mound Take-out Breakfast 7:30-11 am
Feb 17 – Bonding Forms due to State Secretary – see article
Feb 18 – Deadline for articles for the March Illinois Granger
Mar 19 – 9 PM Deadline for Illinois State Grange Scholarship to State Secretary
Apr 11 – Flora Roast Beef Dinner – details coming soon
Aug 10-15 – Boone County Fair

I have no other entries for the Calendar at this time. We are on restrictions from the governor again.

2021
July 20-25 – Grange Revival - Sturgis, SD

NOTE: At this time all items on calendar are subject to cancellation. Check with the hosting Grange.

Donations to the Illinois Granger:

Melinda Schiefer	Emerald Mound Grange	\$25
Ed/Sheri Cosman	County Line Grange	\$10
Barb Mulholland	Leroy Comm Grange	\$10

Donations to the Honor Memorial Scholarship fund:

\$25	in honor of Darlene Henninger	Prairie Grange
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Please send me any important dates, obituaries, donations for your Grange.

Ruth Blasingame
illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com
815-299-7884
8711 Deer Run Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008-905

information has been sent to all the Master/President as well as the Bonding information. Sorry that it was not sent to you earlier, the delay was all my fault – too much on my plate right now. I hope that you have all checked the website illinoisstategrange.org for the program information. I believe that all the contests are listed under resources.

The Grange Foundation has a new logo. We, the Foundation, are starting to work on a Strategic Plan. Anyone wanting to work on this plan contact me and I'll help point you in the direction we need help.

Grange Revival July 20 – 25 in Sturgis, South Dakota at Days End Campground. Registration is now open. Check the

nationalgrange.org, or grangerevival.org or Grange Revival 2021 Facebook page. Don and I will be going.

Plans are being discussed for virtual March Leadership training sessions. Please watch email, social media and USPS mailbox for information when dates have been chosen.

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Turkey Hill Grange News

We have not been able to meet in person since November. At that meeting we welcomed Stephanie Williams as a new member and her two sons, ages 8 and 10 as new Jr. Grange members. Paulette Hill was installed as new Program Director. She presented a very interesting program on the history of Thanksgiving and Pumpkin Pie. Members also shared Favorite Recipes as part of the program. Marlene Frazer was appointed as Membership Chairman for 2021. Joyce Meyer was presented her 60 Year membership pin and seal by Jane Helms, President. Joyce shared some of her memories of local, Pomona and State Grange and her years as Lecturer. She won many honors during her terms as Lecturer, especially the year she won “Lecturer of the Year” at National Grange. Following Covid restrictions, we were able to serve over 400 Wurstmarkt dinners as a pre-order, drive-by, pick-up meal. Our Community service project for December was donations of blankets and warm clothing to the Chamber of Commerce drive for the homeless in our community. The Junior Grange Community Service was collecting non-perishable food for a local food pantry and a neighboring church who were giving away food boxes for Thanksgiving. Four of the Juniors and their two leaders made 20 apple and pumpkin pies to be given with each food box. Due to increased Covid restrictions our December meeting and Christmas Party were cancelled. Our new year is not starting too well either. January meeting was held via Phone Conference Call to take care of business since we can have only 10 persons in the Grange Hall. Activities and meetings will depend on Covid restrictions during the coming months. Our plans at present are for a fund-raiser Chicken

Dinner Sunday March 9, 2021. It is being planned as a pre-order, drive-by, pick-up meal unless Covid restrictions change. Hopefully we will be able to have in-person meetings soon to conduct our business and enjoy “Good Grange Fellowship” once again. Submitted by Mary Beth Lee

Flora Grange News January 2021

By *Lindakay F. Ebel*

The January 2021 meeting of Flora Grange was held as a free conference call with some 15 members. This form of meeting was held due to the COVID-19 pandemic of social distancing, wearing of masks and a limit of participants when meetings are held.

Jack Ratcliffe welcomed members and conducted the meeting, followed by Chaplain Emalee Colver offering a prayer including concerns for our country as well as our Flora Grange membership. Secretary, Laurel Ratcliffe read the minutes of the last official meeting of October 2020, and they were accepted as written.

Buildings and Grounds chairman Jack Ratcliffe reported the settings of the heat on the furnaces has been lower, and some of the refrigerators have been unplugged, as they are not beings used at this time, which lowered our electric bill some \$50 this last month.

Ratcliffe also reported the Boone County Fair gave Flora Grange \$15 for each member (131), totaling \$1965.00, which will cover the cost of our membership dues for the first quarter to the Illinois State Grange.

Secretary Laurel Ratcliffe sent out thank you notes to the seventeen individuals that gave memorial gifts in memory of Theo Hildebrand, age 102, an 80-year member of Flora Grange that passed away on December 7, 2020.

Deb Silvers reported on Hometown Christmas. She stated that due to the pandemic everything was virtual, therefore their Christmas tree was left outside the family’s home as well as the ornaments which were made by the committee members and the Flora Grange quilters group. Laurel reported that the Hometown Christmas drive thru at the Park District had set up was quite receptive and Flora Grange participated with a display wishing season greetings to the viewers.

Emalee Colver reported the quilter’s group has gotten so large that it needed to be divided and due to the icy conditions at the Flora Grange hall, the next quilting session would be held at her home.

Laurel Ratcliffe stated that the Community Service Book for last year received 3rd place but as of yet, no monetary recognition has been received. Laurel also stated that Flora Grange’s booklets are available, and she will be distributing them as fast as she can. There will be some at quilting for those individuals to pick up. Please let her know that you received one.

Chaplain Emalee Colver gave a report on whom she sent get well and sympathy cards to, and Flora Grange lost another member, Craig Woosley.

Jack Ratcliffe and Robert Scherer reported on the Boone County Fair, and stated they are preparing contracts and contacting participants for entertainment for the 2021 fair. Jack announced there will be a Draft Horse event in June conducted by the Hagemanns. There will be a fair board meeting on January 26th for fair board members only.

New Business:

Dinner: Flora Grange has set the date of April 11, 2021 for a roast beef dinner at the Flora Grange Hall, and at this time we do not know if it will be set-down or drive-thru dinner. More details will be shared as the time gets closer.

Treasurer Lindakay Ebel received an annual statement from the Belvidere Chamber of Commerce for our 2021 dues. A motion was made that Flora Grange join the chamber again this year and she pay the statement, motion carried.

Kathy Spears spoke about the Girl Scouts cookie sale and how the COVID-19 has affected the sales. Discussion of suggestions of how to secure orders was held. It was suggested that Laurel include the cookie sale information in Flora Grange newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned due to time limitations, and everyone was thanked for being a part of it, and it is hoped to have a real meeting in February at the Flora Grange Hall.

Emerald Mound Grange News

By *Lori Henrichs*

During 2020 and the COVID 19 pandemic, things have been a little quieter at the Emerald Mound Grange. But just like the Energizer Bunny, we keep on going. November 2020 was our last in person meeting with masks. We had a new member join, Stephen Silvey-Alltop. Members of the Shiloh Valley Grange filled in some officer positions so we could give the obligation to our new member. Then during the meeting, we voted to donate to the local food pantry in Lebanon.

Because of the restrictions during the holidays in our area, we sadly decided to forgo our December meeting and our New Year’s Eve party. Since we were unable to meet, we decided it might be fun to share some recipes by email. Sophia Treser shared her mother’s Cranberry Salad recipe. She said their family had this only 3 times a year at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Here is the recipe:

Ingredients:
1 pkg cranberries, chopped
(Mother used an old-fashioned food grinder, I use a food processor.)
2 cups sugar
STIR TOGETHER and let sit all day, overnight, or until sugar is melted.
MIX IN
2 cups mini-marshmallows
2 cups pecans, chopped
2 Delicious apples, chopped fine
1 pint whipping cream whipped
FREEZE
Use as a dessert, a sweet salad or a side dish.
We will be having our annual Breakfast at the Grange at Emerald Mound Grange on Saturday, January 30 from 7:30 – 11:00 am. It will be Takeout Only with a menu of 2 Biscuits & Gravy, sausage, hash browns, fruit and coffee. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children ages 3 through 12, and free for children under 3 years old. We hope to have a good turnout to help pay for Grange Hall expenses.

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Lynette Schaeffer, Editor

10041 Rieder Rd.

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RUTH BLASINGAME,

News Editor

8711 Deer Run Dr.,

Belvidere, IL 61008

815-299-7884

COPY DEADLINE FOR NEWS AND

PICTURES: 4th Thursday OF EACH MONTH

Please send all news and

pictures to:

RUTH BLASINGAME

8711 Deer Run Drive

Belvidere, IL 61008

illinoisgranger2017@gmail.com

DONATIONS: \$10.00 PER YEAR

For correction of addresses mail

to: The Illinois Granger

8711 Deer Run Drive

Belvidere, IL 61008

2018 Farm Bill Explained: Part 2

By: Mary Brubach

As we dive deeper into the 2018 Farm Bill- this month we will be taking a look at the area that encompasses the largest amount of the Farm Bill. This area is known as Nutrition.

This Title of the Farm Bill reauthorizes numerous Nutrition and Domestic Food Assistance programs that are used throughout the Country.

The programs that were reauthorized in 2018 are as Follows, and these programs have been reauthorized until September 30th, 2023.

SNAP and related grant programs (e.g., SNAP Employment & Training)- forming known as Food Stamps

Programs in lieu of SNAP: Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), grants for certain territories

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Community Food Projects

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)- also known as Farm Market WIC checks

Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grants.

Of these Programs SNAP is the largest one, utilizing the most of the funding for the Nutrition Section of the Farm Bill. 95% of SNAP spending is actually used for the benefits themselves which are 100% federally funded. Since SNAP is federally funded, amending the eligibility, benefits and other program rules can have a budgetary impact. At the same time the availability of appropriated funding can also affect the operation of SNAP and SNAP Ed. The amount of spending in SNAP is driven by participation in the program, which can change at any given moment due to economic conditions and program rules. 2020 has seen an uptick in SNAP usage largely due in part of the Covoid-29 Pandemic.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) was developed to help supplement the diets of low-income Americans by providing them with emergency food assistance at no cost. USDA provides 100% American-grown USDA Foods and administrative funds to states to operate TEFAP.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) goal is to help improve the health of low-income persons who are at least 60 years of age by helping them add nutritious USDA Foods. The USDA distributes both the food and the administrative funds needed to all participating states and Indian Tribal Organizations.

The Community Food Projects (CFP) competitive grants program awards grants to eligible nonprofits, tribal organizations, and food program service providers to promote self-sufficiency and increase food security in low-income communities by developing comprehensive, community-based solutions.

At our 2019 State Session, a resolution was discussed dealing with Farm Market WIC checks, as you can see, SFMNP (Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program) is one of the program funded in the Nutrition Title of the Farm Bill. The goal of SFMNP is to provide funds for Senior Citizens to use on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables at Farmers Market. This does a couple things, supports our local farmers, and gives our low income Senior Citizens the

availability to purchase fresh fruits and veggies.

The Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentives (FINI) Program provides grants on a competitive basis to projects that help low-income consumers participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) purchase more fresh fruits and vegetables through cash incentives that increase their purchasing power at locations like farmers markets. Some of us know this Program as LINK Up or LINK Match. These can be seen at Farmers Market that accept SNAP benefits. Usually most produce found at a Local Farmers Market maybe higher price than a regular grocery store. This Link Up/Link Match grants allows Farmers Markets to match a certain amount of snap funds. So, if a person wants to spend \$10 of SNAP funds at a market, that market may be able to match that \$10 allowing that customer \$20 to spend instead of \$10.

As you can see feeding our citizens is a priority and always has been a priority of the American Farmer. This is why the Nutrition Title makes up a huge portion of the farm bill.

Please if you have any question, reach out to Justin Schaeffer or myself.



*American Values.
Hometown Roots.*





Marisa O'Dell



Brian O'Dell



American Values.
Hometown Roots.



25 Year Members of Beaver Valley Grange
Donald L Paulson & Margaret Paulson;
Brian O'Dell, and Micah Schlie.



**Brad Blake receiving his
60 Year Grange Member Seal!
Congratulations Brad!**

Beaver Valley Grange #1791

At our October meeting it was reported that Beaver Valley Grange had planned to give out the 60 Year Seal to Brad Blake; and 25-Year certificates to 4 members Micah Schlie, Brian O'Dell, and Donald and Margaret Paulson at Fair time. However, with the COVID-19 guidelines, we were not able to so Brad's Seal was delivered and a staff person took his picture receiving the Seal! Congratulations Brad Blake! Micah and Brian's were hand delivered and Donald and Margaret Paulson's were mailed. Not quite how we wanted to celebrate them but congratulations to our 25 Year Members!

At our November meeting we all met by Zoom. Our guest was Ruth Blasingame and she presented the Quilt of Valor to Brian and Marisa O'Dell. Very beautiful quilts. Marisa and Brian were in the U.S. Navy; Marisa from 1999-2005 and Brian 1999-2009. Thank you for your service. Thank you also, to Ruth Blasingame who pieced and bound the quilts, and Marlene & Kent Williams who quilted them. Plans are in the works to do a Christmas Grange Party by Zoom. Wear your most colorful Christmas garment and we will try songs and merriment! Merry Christmas to all our Granger friends and family.

Dayle Paulson, Publicity

Community Service Granger of the Year 2020

Three very deserving individuals were recognized as the 2020 Illinois State Grange Community Service Granger of the Year. We will continue to highlight winners in the next several Grangers...stay tuned!

Mary Beth Lee 2020 Community Service Granger of the Year

As adapted from Turkey Hill Grange's Nomination of Mary Beth Lee for Community Service Granger of the Year.

Looking for a member who eats, lives and breathes Grange? Look no further than Mary Beth Lee. Essentially, her entire life has been connected to the Grange, but since this nomination is to be based only on her involvement this past year - there is still plenty to share.

At the start of this year, after observing the impact of the Quilts of Valor, Mary Beth immediately volunteered to involve her Grange and its members in the program. Through motivation and excitement, she almost instantly recruited six-member quilters to assist. As a result of her love of Country and its Armed Forces, 12 quilts were made. (At the time of nomination, the delivery has been delayed due to COVID-19).

Early in the year, her Grange's membership team leader became ill and was unable to carry out the recognition of long-time members and our community citizens, leaving a great membership recognition program and dinner in danger of being cancelled. As soon as Mary Beth heard of the situation, she sprang into action. She contacted the Grange Secretary to learn of the individuals who should be recognized and, on short notice, contacted a caterer to prepare an impressive dinner rather than trying to convince some members to organize a less impressive potluck meal. To have a greater impact on our area, the caterer whom she obtained was a Church that donates all the proceeds of the dinner to children's missionary work in the US and Central America. (At the time of nomination, the delivery has been delayed due to COVID-19).

Come dues paying time at the beginning of 2020, dues paying was unusually slow. Mary Beth contacted the secretary requesting the names of those who had not paid their dues after two months. She contacted some dozen families about their value to Grange and why their dues were needed. As a result, all delinquent dues were collected. She also obtained many corrections to the membership roster, such as phone numbers, email, and mailing addresses.

Due to COVID-19, all major fundraising activities were cancelled. One of those caught Mary Beth's attention, so she quickly concluded that a quilt raffle could be conducted by delaying the date of the raffle. This raffle is but one of the ways she has inspired members to participate in fundraising activities by her active involvement and excitement about the potential use of the proceeds to improve her community. She was always the first to volunteer for that job, shunned by many members such as being a cashier and ticket taker. Her efforts during her Grange's Thursday afternoon summer BBQ in late 2019 was especially noteworthy. Anytime she worked, meals were processed and delivered in about one-half the normal time.

When it was time for the annual election of officers, Mary Beth asked if she could be her Grange's Chaplain. Of course, she was elected without question. In that position, she personally has contacted all members who are sick or hospitalized as well as sending them cards of sympathy. As Chaplain, her prayers are original, personable, and timely rather than the standard printed prayer used by many. Additionally, she interjects appropriate moral and ethical suggestions in meetings - especially when issues pertaining to members are being discussed.

Being a longtime Grange member, Mary Beth was a stabilizing member of Turkey Hill's Executive Board this past year on Grange issues. She made tactful and compassionate comments concerning the reason certain procedures are employed and practiced. She is on hundred percent support of the Grange at all levels.

As a registered nurse, she assists neighbors with medical issues, especially during the COVID-19 conditionals. Her actions in this



Mary Beth Lee

capacity have been a calming influence to many neighbors. Additionally, she is an active member of her community's Neighborhood Watch Program - in a specific case, she notified a neighbor of a suspicious moving van in the areas - eliminating a potential burglary.

Mary Beth is most active in her church - a leader in the church's women's activities and an advocate for supporting a children's home and nearby

community's group providing assistance to less fortunate families in the area. She is also a supporter and participant in her church's sack lunch program to serve the area's homeless and disadvantaged.

It is difficult to find a Granger that has made more contributions to the Grange than Mary Beth Lee during the past 12 months. She has definitely earned and deserves the title of Granger of the Year for the Illinois State Grange.

JOIN US FOR

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

All are welcomed to join us as we focus on different topics related to Junior Grange Activities and provide resources for our leaders

WHEN: 3rd Sundays of Odd Number Months
9 p.m. Eastern (6 p.m. Pacific)

WHERE: ZOOM!
Meeting ID: 833 7712 0738
Passcode: 969128

BEGINNING IN MARCH 2021!

FIND MORE INFO ON JUNIOR GRANGE
CONTESTS AND PROGRAMS
WWW.NATIONALJUNIORGRANGE.ORG



Ron Kennon of Belleville is a US Marine who served in Vietnam from 1966 to 1969. At a family Thanksgiving gathering, he was awarded a “Quilt of Valor” by his mother-in-law, Edith Robinson. Edth belongs to Turkey Hill Grange. Quilters and made Ron’s quilt. sent by Mary Beth Lee - Turkey Hill Grange



Terry Foerste of Belleville was awarded a Quilt of Valor over the Christmas holidays by Bob and Joyce Dintelmann who are members of Turkey Hill Grange and longtime family friends of the Foerste’s. Chris Bersett, a member of Turkey Hill Grange made his quilt. Terry Foerste was in the US Army from 1966 until 1975 and served in Vietnam. Submitted by Mary Beth Lee - Turkey Hill Grange

Youth Hammerings

JOIN US ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVEN NUMBERED MONTHS AT 9 PM EST/ 8 PM CST/ 7 PM MST/ 6 PM PST

GET MORE INFORMATION ON YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT RELATED TOPICS.

JOIN WITH THE DIRECT LINK:
BIT.LY/NATIONALGRANGE.YOUTH.YAMMERINGS
OR CALL 1-346-248-7799
MEETING ID: 697 859 421



Illinois State Grange Youth News

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and have started the year off great. At the end of last month we had our first Illinois State Grange Youth monthly zoom meeting. We had a good turnout, but there is always room for more! We discussed Illinois State Grange projects and programs within other departments that the youth can participate in. We discussed creating new programs for youth to participate in within the youth department itself.

One of the contests we discussed is a tik tok video contest. We are trying to get more youth involved.

Many other ideas were presented and we are looking into them.

As a youth member of the grange what would you like to see happen?

These monthly zoom meetings are held the fourth Monday at 7:30p.m. January meeting is going to be about National Grange youth programs. We are looking for a topic for February. What are your ideas?? The National Grange Youth department has started bimonthly “youth yammering” starting February 21st 8 p.m. central standard time via zoom. If you would like to get involved with “Youth Yammerings” contact Karie Blasingame or look on the National Grange Youth Facebook page.

The State Grange Youth scholarship is available now. Contact Robin Kinberg for the application and more information. Make sure you get it in before the deadline of March 19th. National Grange Grow Club scholarship application is available on the national grange youth website. There was only ONE entry for our Illinois State Grange Youth Facebook cover photo contest that was due on January 1st. Mindy Schieffer won the \$25 prize and I will be sending her the winnings. We will be hosting the Midwest Grange Leadership Conference the last weekend in June. We are still waiting to hear from National Grange if it will be virtual or in person. Keep that weekend open on your calendars so we can all be together in fellowship and learning.

Karie Blasingame
Illinois State Grange Youth

Illinois State Grange Secretary Notes For Feb Granger 2021

Hope this finds everyone safe and healthy. Not to much this month but it is important.

1. Grange Paperwork – it will be coming out this week. But also keep in mind ALL Secretary Forms are available on the Illinois State Grange website – Please be sure to utilize it.
[https:// www.Illinoisstategrange.org](https://www.Illinoisstategrange.org)
2. Scholarship Applications are available for anyone who has been a Granger for at least a year, is a full-time student and is attending a college or University.
If interested please email me robinkindberg5@gmail.com or text me and I will either send it to you via email or in the US mail.
The completed applications must be back to me by 9:00 PM on Friday, March 19, 2021.
3. Dues are due the 15th of the month after the quarter ends (4th quarter dues ended December 30 dues are due by January 15th. Please try to get them in on time. We have a deadline to National Grange too.
4. BONDING – The forms were sent to the Masters for their signature and the form if you are purchasing insurance from National Grange or if your Grange is Self-Bonding I need the signed form back to me by February 17, 2021. Mail it to:
Illinois State Grange Secretary
Robin Kindberg
12971 Olson Road
Caledonia, IL 61011

Watch for your packets to be coming soon. They have lots of information in them.

Fraternally,
Robin Kindberg
ISG Secretary



Darlene Henninger 1929-2020 Prairie Grange

Darlene and Al Henninger celebrated 72 years of marriage on November 19, 2020. She passed on December 15, 2020. She was a 75 year member of Prairie Grange. She was also a member of Big Thunder Grange, Boone County Pomona Grange and the Illinois State Grange. She was a former leader of the Junior Grange and earned many awards at the National level. She served in several offices in the Illinois State Grange; she was Lady Assisant Steward for eight years, Chaplain for six years and Host First Lady to the National Grange at Peoria in 1994. She also served on a National Committee for seven years.

Darlene was Superintendent of Concessions for the Boone County Fair for twenty-two years. She received the Friends of County Fairs award at the State Fair in 2012 and 2013. She won many other awards during her lifetime.

Theo Lucille Hildebrand – Age 102

09-01-1918 – 12-07-2020

Born to Albert and Daisy Belle (Heywood) Blachford
Married to Ralph Hildebrand May 1, 1937

Looking Up

By Lindakay Ebel

When I was three years of age, I first met Theo Hildebrand, a kind-hearted, loving, caring lady who I loved the first time I met her. No, it was not because she gave me several of her delicious homemade sugar cookies she was baking, there was just something special about her that other friends of my mother’s did not seem to have.

Theo would ask my Mom to drop me off at her farm when my Mom was going shopping, or when she had to help my Dad in the field all day, and I was delighted. Yes, we lived on a farm, on the corner of Irene and Cherry Valley Road, and Theo and her husband, Ralph lived on their family farm not too far away on Stone Quarry Road. But you know how kids are, they liked going to other farms, but it was not only that, it was Theo’s farm, and she had animals, and she let me help her feed them, I helped her water her beautiful flowers and she showed me her garden, (without a weed), and when she did canning, she would pull up a chair for me to stand on, and let me help her put the teaspoon of salt in the canning jar, when she was canning. Boy, I thought I was big help, I even told Ralph about that! Theo canned pickles and red beets for many of Flora Granges

Continued from page 8

NATIONAL GRANGE
YOUTH AND JUNIOR
Pura Vida Bracelets

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bit.ly/YouthandJuniorPuraVidaBracelet

Each bracelet
\$10

LIMITED QUANTITY AVAILABLE

8 February 2021 Illinois Granger

Chaplain's Corner

Charlotte Mehrtens



Welcome to 2021, has anything changed since the New Year began at your house, not at our house it hasn't. I know that many people were of the mindset that the virus is just really a bad dream we have been living in since last February and as soon as the clock hit midnight on New Year's Eve that the whole world would be back to normal as it was before the virus set in, but that is not happening. We still all sit on the edge of our chairs because we don't know what will happen next. The other morning I was making oatmeal for breakfast and had put raisins in the boiling water before I added the oatmeal. Remember the old saying a watch pot never boils well I stood and watched those raisins bobbing up and down in the water thinking to myself isn't that what is going on in our life right now, the raisins at the top is how we feel when life is great and we have no problems to contend with, the ones that have come to the top and then returned to the bottom those are our low times in life when we do not know what to do and we are at our lowest in life. Yes those raisins bobbing up and down shows us the highs and lows in our life. Do we trust in the Lord to lift us up when we hit the bottom or do we just get mad and walk away and forget that our Lord really is carrying us until we hit the high in our life and we stand back to praise Him. Let us remember that we all are bobbing raisins in this world. Do you trust that the Lord will carry you regardless where we are?

Trust in our Lord for He is with us always. Know that He says I am with you always follow me.

Many praises to our Lord for carrying us during these times our great loss in our families who have lost their loved ones, our prayers are with you during this time. May peace and comfort follow you always?

Many of us were not able to be with loved ones during the Christmas Holidays, but we are all hoping what when everyone is well and the vaccines have been given we can be with our families and loved ones. Enjoy your times together I know I sure will. May the Joy, Peace, and Love surround each of you.



American Values.
Hometown Roots.



Wilbur Hugh Reid
1925-2020
Guilford Hope
Grange

Guilford Hope Grange #6 is saddened to report of the passing of Brother Wilbur Reid. Our Charter will be draped in black at the next Zoom meeting, where we will hear the echo of Wilbur's typical "I move that we adjourn!"



Norris Roy Walley
1927 – 2021
Leroy Community Grange



Janice E. Randolph
1938 – 2020
Perryville Grange

Hildebrand *Continued from page 7*

dinners, and people enjoyed them.

Theo had many beautiful flowers in her garden, at one time she worked at Sunnyside Florist, and her home was full of beautiful arrangements, whatever the season. Theo also was employed by the Boone County Shopper and Belvidere Daily Republican at one time in her life.

Theo and Ralph were a big part of Flora Grange. They loved to go to the dances, the picnics, the gatherings and game nights. They both held offices within the Grange in their early years and would never miss a meeting. (Ralph passed away on January 5, 1995.) Theo was an 80-year member and when Master Albert Q. Ebel presented Theo with her certificate, her face beamed, she was so proud to have been a member for so many years. When Flora Grange had their Applebee's Flap Jack pancake breakfast, it was nothing for Theo to sell fifty tickets for Flora Grange, and she and all her friends would come and eat and have a great time.

After every Flora Grange meeting, the following morning Theo would call me to see what went on at the meeting, if we had any fundraisers coming up, if anyone were ill, etc. She also looked forward to the Illinois State Granger each month and would read each article to see what each Grange was doing; she showed great interest in each Grange, as she knew so many people, especially in Boone County. She was also interested what happened at the ISG sessions each year.

Theo celebrated her 100th birthday with a party held at Flora Grange and she was sure no one would attend, and we were afraid we would run out of food, as there was over 120 people in attendance, she was so happy. She made a statement that day "When you get that old, all your friends are dead". Well, she still had a lot left.

Al and I, along with her special friend and neighbor, Julie Anderson played cards with Theo a lot, and Al was Theo's partner, and we had so much fun, however, this is one-time Al had to toe-the-mark. Theo was boss, and you better pay attention!! We had so much fun, times we will never forget. She was a tough opponent to beat.

Theo never had any children, but she mothered many children, and I was so happy to have known her for so many years, back on their farm, at her home in Belvidere, most recent at Maple Crest Care Centre. If I got busy and did not call her at least twice a week, she would call me and let me know about it, now I feel really bad. One should never be too busy for another person who is alone.

I still look UP, I look up to the heavens, as Theo is there, organizing a Grange or playing cards, or maybe she and Ralph are dancing together. Theo was one special lady I will never forget; one I will always look up to and still am today.

Theo is survived by her sisters Bernietta Kays, Margaret Karrienan and her brother Donald Blachford and numerous nieces and nephews and many special friends.

The funeral service was held on December 11, 2020 at the Belvidere Funeral Home and Interment at Highland Garden of Memories in Belvidere.

Theo asked memorials to be made to Flora Grange #1762.

Craig Woosley
1963-2021
Flora Grange