

PUG Times



The newsletter of the Pittsfield Union Grange

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August 2022

Message from the President

Ruth has moved to Sacramento, CA, and thus has retired as PUG President. Richard will take over in September. This is Ruth's final message as outgoing president.

I miss Ann Arbor, and after moving away in May I already miss the Pittsfield Grange. I am now in an upscale condo development that is perfect in many ways. They somehow managed to put in a dense development while keeping mature trees everywhere. It is typical of such places in being very suburban, with twisting streets, no commercial activity, but it is surrounded on three sides by busy streets, and there is shopping on two of them—I can walk or bike to two supermarkets and a drugstore. The west side has a very quiet street of office buildings, and beyond it the American River. There is a bike/pedestrian bridge to Sacramento State University. Very near my place is an unheated swimming pool that is exactly what you need on summer evenings in the Central Valley. The Sunday morning Farmers' Market is astonishing, even in this drought. The stone fruit is incomparable—I have never seen so many varieties of plum. But it will be a long time before I have a community like the one of which I was part in Ann Arbor, a community to which the Grange contributes so much. The Grange is all about working together to sustain a shared good, and I miss being part of it.

Events

Saturday, August 20 - Contra Dance

Marlin Whitaker and Carol Jacobs call to music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick and friends. Proof of vaccination and masks required. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested. 7:30 pm

Tue - Sat, Aug 23 -27 – Chelsea Fair

Wed - Sun, Aug 31 - Sep 4 - Saline Fair

PUG has a booth in the Merchants' Building at both fairs. Helen (Chelsea) and Joan (both fairs) always appreciate company at the booth. We're there afternoons and evenings. The animal auction is Thursday night at both fairs; there are free tickets available to bidders. Ladies' Day is on Friday - morning in Chelsea, and afternoon in Saline. It's fun to enter various contests - baking, canning, photography, antiques, etc - and the premium books with all the rules and entry times are online.

Wednesday, Sep 14 - Grange Meeting

Granger Jan Gerson, lecturer emerita in economics, will speak about "What Micro-economic Policies Can and Can't Accomplish" - an introduction to market forces, examining demand, supply, and microeconomic policies, with a focus on taxes and price controls. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15. Free

Saturday, September 17 - Contra Dance

Maeve Devlin and TBD call to music by Stouthearted String Band. Proof of vaccination and masks required. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested. 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 8 - Apple Day

Come and make your own apple cider. Bring up to one bushel of apples from your own tree or buy some onsite. Bake sale, and other apple-y fun. Free, except for apples and baked goods. 10:00 am - 4:00-ish

Wednesday, October 12 - Grange Meeting

Mutual Aid in the Unhoused Community: Mae Wilson will speak on her experiences working in the homeless community in Ann Arbor. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15. Free

Saturday, October 15 - Contra Dance

Martha Vander Kolk and TBD call to music by Michael Bean, V Cieri, and friends. Proof of vaccination and masks required. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested. 7:30 pm

Wednesday, November 9 - Grange Meeting

Sheila Graziano will tell us about the history of the Marley Dances - a form of clogging - with examples. Potluck at 6:30, program at 7:15. Free

Saturday, November 19 - Contra Dance

Peter Baker and Reuven Anafshalom call to music by Pearl Street String Band. Proof of vaccination and masks required. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested. 7:30 pm

Friday, December 16 - Holiday Party (probable)

We haven't discussed it yet, but the third Friday in December is the usual date for a holiday potluck and grab bag gift exchange.

Saturday, December 17 - Contra Dance

Maeve Devlin and TBD call to music by Michael Bean, V Cieri, and friends. Proof of vaccination and masks required. Pay what you can; \$10 suggested. 7:30 pm

Contra Dances Started Again

Grange contra dances resumed on July 16. We had hoped to resume in summer 2021, and held one barbeque - with some dancing - then, but rising covid rates meant than we didn't continue. Now, a year later, we are hopeful that the season outlined in the Upcoming Events will come off without difficulty.

We again had a barbeque/potluck, with PUG providing burgers and brats. The weather cooperated, and we could eat outside. About 30 people came.

Dancers must provide proof of vaccination, and wear masks indoors. It is hot to dance in a mask, and we are extra glad that the Grange is air conditioned.

Words for Thirds and Ice Cream Social

We had not been able to distribute dictionaries at Pittsfield School in the previous two academic years. In spring, Robin brought enough for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to the school office. Maybe next year we'll be able to hand them out in person.

Richard and Joan were able to resume our duties popping popcorn to sell at the PTO Ice Cream Social in June.

Longer PUG Times?

This is the first PUG Times that is only two pages. Would you like to see more news in the PUG Times? We need people to write summaries of programs and other articles of general interest to Grangers. An easy way to become a bit more involved!

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