



# Plumsteadville Grange #1738

A good patron places FAITH in God, nurtures HOPE,  
dispenses CHARITY, and is noted for FIDELITY



Box 335, 5901 Easton Road (Rte 611), Plumsteadville, PA 18949 – [www.plumsteadvillegrange.org](http://www.plumsteadvillegrange.org)

## GRANGE MEETINGS

### June 2, 2010 – Bucks County Pomona Grange

Meeting at 8:00 p.m. at Plumsteadville Grange.

- A memorial service will recognize members who have passed away during the past year.
- Election of Officers will be held

### June 11, 2010 – Plumsteadville Grange

Monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

- The program will be presented by Natalie Crooke who will share her experiences during her recent mission trip to South Africa.
- 4H/Grange Scholarships. Ethan Crooke and Alex Stepnoski will attend the meeting to receive the scholarships the Grange has awarded to them.

### July 9, 2010 – Plumsteadville Grange

Monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Grange Hall.

## MAY MEETING UPDATE

Francis Ole Sakuda and Sarah Senewa of the Maasai tribe in Kenya presented a very interesting program detailing the lives of their native people and the efforts to drill wells (often up to 1,000 feet deep) to provide clean water to this very remote area of Africa. There were 42 people in attendance and a total of \$170.00 was collected in the "water bucket" to apply towards drilling a new water well.

Mr. Sakuda surprised Dr. Jim Diamond with a Kenyan cow bell to add to his collection of animal bells from throughout the world. Thank you to Meg Lomax for entertaining us with traditional song and tunes from her Melodeon. No minutes were taken as there was no business meeting.

## MEETING NIGHT SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 36 responses were received (25% of the membership). The following results were submitted to the Executive Committee by Jim Diamond on

May 15, 2010. Discussion will be held at the June Grange meeting.

| Meeting Day    | Responses | Percentage |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Monday         | 4         | 11%        |
| Tuesday        | 4         | 11%        |
| Wednesday      | 18        | 50%        |
| Thursday       | 8         | 22%        |
| Friday         | 13        | 36%        |
| Not applicable | 5         | 14%        |

27 respondents (75%) favored to keep the meeting time at 7:30 pm, 2 chose 7:00 pm, and the remainder did not respond to this question.

## FARM MARKET NEWS

The Farm Market opened on Saturday May 29<sup>th</sup> – a beautiful day to kick off the 10<sup>th</sup> season.

This year we have 25 vendors. We lost one vendor but have 4 new ones, so the Market is evolving all the time. Look out for special events each week. So far we have cookery and pottery demonstrations planned as well as musical entertainment.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> the 4H Gardening club will be selling HANGING BASKETS which they have made. Please come out to support them, and all the other vendors. If you would like to participate as a vendor or have special skills to offer for workshops please contact Meg Lomax the Market Manager at 215 766 9801.

The Market continues each Saturday, 9 am till noon, rain or shine, through October.

## THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR IN DISTRESS

Dr. Diamond is pleased to report:

- Myron Cressman's surgery was a success and he is home recuperating and will be back to work on his farm in the not too distant future.
- Ruth Peters' surgery was a success and she is at Pine Run for therapy for a couple weeks before she returns home.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

The **AmpleHarvest.org** campaign diminishes hunger in America by helping backyard gardeners share their excess garden produce with neighborhood food pantries. Visit this website for more information about contributing your surplus produce to local food pantries: <http://ampleharvest.org>

Please continue to remember our ongoing service projects. Bring non-perishable food items for **Our Lord's Food Pantry** and items to send to local service members for the **Armed Services Project** to the next Grange meeting. You may drop off old **Cell Phones for Soldiers** at the Grange or Farm Market.

## FROM THE GRANGE ARCHIVES

**DID YOU KNOW?** – Over the years Plumsteadville Grange members were very active in legislative matters at the local, state and national levels.



More recently, their legislative interests focused on working and supporting the passing of agriculture land preservation; agriculture security areas; and Clean and Green acts. They also worked to obtaining funds for vocational education, especially in horticulture and agriculture, and the agricultural research at both University of Pennsylvania and Penn State University.



## GET TO KNOW A

### 50+ YEAR GRANGER

By Dr. Jim Diamond

RAYMOND GROSS joined the Plumsteadville Grange #1738 as a Junior Grange member and has been a member for more than seventy years. Raymond has held offices including Master of Plumsteadville Grange and served on various committees.

Both Raymond and his late wife Rachael with their five daughters enjoyed supporting Grange projects over the years and were very active in State Grange. Rachael for many years wrote the Plumsteadville Grange Newsletter. She sent it to us in Chad, Africa and one does not know how we appreciated

receiving that little touch of home when that Newsletter arrived.

Raymond's late father was once Overseer of the Pennsylvania State Grange and the first master of Plumsteadville Grange. Raymond and his late wife were dairy farmers and the Grange had been a very important component of their daily lives. He continues to live at his farm and his five daughters are all members of Plumsteadville Grange.

## FROM THE DESK OF MARGUERITE QUINN, STATE REPRESENTATIVE 143RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

At this time, many of Pennsylvania's non-profit agencies, schools and individuals who rely on state assistance programs are anticipating the outcome of state budget negotiations. Agriculture, as the state's number one industry, is a big part of those negotiations so I want to update Bucks County's producers on the status of the budget process.

As in years past, agriculture unfortunately took another substantial hit in the governor's budget proposal for the 2010-11 fiscal year. The budget bill that passed the House in March, House Bill 2279, would cut the Department of Agriculture's budget by \$5.4 million and would cut or eliminate many of the department's programs. Pennsylvania is facing another challenging budget season and there are many difficult choices to make. Revenue collections have not met projections, leaving us with a more than \$1 billion deficit for the year.

Therefore, difficult decisions will have to be made among many diverse priorities within the budget, but I am hopeful that agriculture does not encounter further cuts. I voted against the governor's proposed budget because I believe it was not an accurate representation of the realities our families and farmers are facing in this difficult economy. I cannot support a budget with spending that could again outpace revenue collections and lead to future tax increases. The Senate has called on the governor to amend his spending request, as it is out of balance. I am hopeful the Legislature and the governor will be able to reach an agreement on a responsible budget before the June 30 deadline. Contact Rep. Quinn at [mquinn@pahousegop.com](mailto:mquinn@pahousegop.com) or call (215) 489-2126.

## *PA. LAWMAKERS PASS BILL TO LEGALIZE BAKE SALES*



By Amy Worden

INQUIRER HARRISBURG BUREAU (May 26, 2010)

HARRISBURG – Church ladies of Pennsylvania, prepare to start your mixers. It may soon be safe to go back in the kitchen.

Pie is no longer a "potentially hazardous substance" under a bill that passed the General Assembly and now awaits Gov. Rendell's signature. It took a year of lard-laden lobbying by bakers who plied lawmakers with plates of cookies, but the General Assembly finally passed what has come to be known as "the pie bill" to restore the tradition of bake sales at churches, fire halls, and other civic spaces.

The kerfluffle began in early 2009 when a Department of Agriculture inspector noticed baked goods for sale at an annual Lenten fundraiser for St. Cecilia's Catholic Church in Rochester, northwest of Pittsburgh. The inspector halted the bake sale and issued the cooks a warning for selling food items made in a non-state-inspected kitchen at a state-licensed facility.

"They couldn't sell pieces at fish fries like they'd been doing for 40 years," said Sen. Elder Vogel (R., Beaver) who counts St. Cecilia's parishioners among his constituents. The newly elected lawmaker said he thought state inspectors should have more important things to worry about. He set to work amending the state law governing "public eating and drinking places." "It was clear this would affect any organization that sold baked goods, soccer team or Little League," Vogel said.

Word of the illegal bake sale spread throughout the non-profit world – and across the country – putting a chill on fundraisers from Beaver County to Bristol Township.

Lent is to Christian churches what black Friday is to retailers. Lucrative fish fries and bake sales help keep church coffers filled. "These fundraisers are our survival," said Father Mike Greb, pastor of St. Cecilia's, an institution in this old steel town, the birthplace of former NFL star running back Tony Dorsett and the childhood home of pop star

Christina Aguilera. "In tough economic times, they keep the doors open and the lights on."

Greb said after the state busted the bake sale, his church got donations from local bakeries calls of support from as far away as California. "People saw it as an interference in people's lives," he said. "It was so unnecessary."

Among those who showed up May 4 to lobby lawmakers were Harold and Ruth Steeley, retired dairy farmers from Tinicum Township in Bucks County. They were among the members of the Pennsylvania Grange, formed in 1867 to help farmers restore their land after the Civil War.

Ruth Steeley said she and her husband have long been active in the Plumstead Grange – which has its own Twitter account – and she brought her coconut oatmeal cookies to Harrisburg to win support of local lawmakers (the bill passed unanimously in the House that day). "I think that when you have small communities, bake sales are great way to help with funds," she said.

The bill, which allows nonprofits to sell homemade food items that do not require refrigeration, won final Senate passage Wednesday. The vote was again unanimous. Doug Kilgore, deputy secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, which is responsible for inspecting 22,000 restaurants and other food service operations, says his agency supported the bill with a few modifications, such as notifying consumers that the baked goods are made at someone's home.

Rendell, who often eagerly announces his intention to sign bills, is noncommittal on the pie bill. His spokesman says state lawyers need to study it. "The governor supports the concept behind the bill," said Gary Tuma. "Until that review is complete, there will not be a firm decision on if or when he will sign it.

No matter. Father Greb is confident the ladies of St. Cecilia's will be back in the baking business next spring. "Bake sales really build community," he said. "And, you know, everybody likes pie."

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/news\\_brea king/20100526\\_Pa\\_\\_lawmakers\\_pass\\_bill\\_to\\_legalize \\_bake\\_sales.html#ixzz0p5V0NP00](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/news_brea king/20100526_Pa__lawmakers_pass_bill_to_legalize _bake_sales.html#ixzz0p5V0NP00)

*DISCOVER PLUMSTEAD –  
AN AMAZING SCAVENGER HUNT*

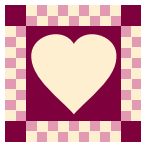
**Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> (noon – 4:00 p.m.)** – Volunteers will be needed to be at the Grange to host the “hunters” and answer questions.

This event is for all members of our community ages 3 – 99. It will feature a little bit of history, a little bit of community and a whole lot of fun. The Grange will be one of the 10 sites that participants will visit.

Plan to be a part of a fantastic event that will showcase all there is to Discover in Plumstead.

*QUILTERS’ CORNER*

Connie Coleman reports that the Plumsteadville Grange Quilters contributed seven pieced quilts to the ABC Quilt Project organized by Trinity Episcopal Church Buckingham over Mothers’ Day. The quilts will be delivered to the Philadelphia Police Department and used for ‘at risk’ and AIDS babies.



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Box 335, 5901 Easton Rd.  
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*JUNE & JULY – DATES TO REMEMBER*

June 11 – Plumsteadville Grange Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

June 13 – Discover Plumstead Scavenger Hunt

June 14 – Flag Day – Remember to fly your flag!

June 20 – Fathers Day

June 21 –Summer begins– Longest day of the Year

July 4 – Independence Day – Celebrate Freedom!

July 9 – Plumsteadville Grange Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

*MIDDLETOWN GRANGE FAIR*

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fair** – Wednesday, August 18 through Sunday, August 22. For more information visit <http://www.grangefair.org/>. Plumsteadville Grange will operate the snack bar again this year.

*NEWSLETTER*

If you have items of interest to the membership, contact Newsletter Editor Jane Birk at 610-866-0852 or [jdbirk\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jdbirk_2000@yahoo.com).