



Aromas Grange 361

A Designated "Action Grange" 2006 Year-End Newsletter

Dear Grange Family, Friends and Neighbors,

We wanted to take this opportunity to fill everyone in on all the wonderful things that the Grange has done this past year.

First of all, we want to acknowledge the efforts of Jennifer Colby, who, along with the Monterey Bay Women's Caucus for Art, coordinated a successful application for a grant from the Community Foundation of Monterey 'Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative'. The shared grant was divided between the Friends of the Aromas Library, the Aromas Eagles, the Aromas Hills Artisans and the Aromas Community Grange to promote fine and performance arts and support working artists in our little town.

We used part of our share to buy a special cord that allowed us to move our sound mixing board out into the hall, so that Doug can hear the results of his excellent sound work and provide the best possible sound for our many musical events. We also installed more and better lighting for the artwork on the walls and above the chair cabinet in the dining room. Grant money also helped to bring more concerts to the hall and wonderful local Storyteller Linda Yamane who shared with us myths, games, songs and stories from the Ohlone people of the central coast. It was a wonderful time for young and old alike.



Linda Yamane captivates her audience

We are proud to be a part of this collaboration and look forward to partnering with these groups in the future. The coalition of four organizations has applied again for next year, we will let you know how it turns out!

Contra Dance is Alive and Well in Aromas

Our monthly Contra Dance series is going strong, and featured three extra special dances this year: a candlelight dance on February 11th, a Summer Kickoff Ice Cream Social dance on June 10th, and an incredible Contra Dance/Concert featuring the nationally renowned Celtic band Crowfoot playing to a packed house on November 5th.



Crowfoot lays it down for the dancers

Our dance coordinator Doug Clark has been doing an exceptional job of getting top-notch talent for our dances. Our goal for the coming year is to get more local Aromas folks out to enjoy this great music and fun community-building exercise. Come early for a short instruction session if you've never Contra'd before, and you'll be swinging and laughing in no time. Dancers contribute \$8 to support the live music (\$10 for some special events). No experience is needed, each dance is taught to the group as the dance begins. No need to bring a partner – there's plenty of folks to dance with.

Aromas Live! is an ongoing success



The Aromas Community Grange's own *Aromas Live!* has become a community tradition. With six great shows under our belts, we are delighted with our twice yearly commitment to pull more local talent out of the woodwork and get them up on stage. We are gearing up for the next performance of this great, unscripted variety show series on April 28, 2007. On the last Saturday in April (the night before the Grange Breakfast) we will all come together again for a wonderful evening of homegrown Aromas fun and musical entertainment. Polish up your act and tune up those instruments, and call to get in the line up. These free live shows bring people out to enjoy all that our community and the Aromas Community Grange have to offer. If you want to help with the show or have an act for the line up call Rich or Jan at 726-3609.

The Grange Concert Series Takes Off

The 2006 Aromas Grange Concert series started off with a wonderful Mother's Day concert on May 14th. It was a great show and it raised money for the Grange Scholarship Foundation. Alisa & Kimball played traditional folksongs and new original works to an appreciative audience of Moms, friends and family.



Aromas' own Alisa Fineman & Kimball Hurd

Then on September 30th we hosted Juan Sanchez. Originally from Spain, Juan's original songs and poetry inspired and moved us. He writes music from the heart,

with a global perspective that reflects his acute awareness of the contrasts in our modern life.



On October 14th singer/songwriter Bill Staines came to Aromas. Bill has been writing, picking and singing back and forth across the country for over thirty years. His mix of music and wit was a 'slice of Americana' that felt right at home in our Hall.

The Concert Series will start off big in 2007 with Mary McCaslin, with Lou and Peter Berryman opening, on Thursday, January 25th. For ticket information and to learn more about upcoming shows and for tickets call Doug at 726-2322.

Other Good Stuff

On March 12th the Grange, in conjunction with the Eagles and the Community Foundation of Monterey County, co-sponsored the Aromas Library's Celtic Festival fundraiser.

People from all around came to try their hand at the Haggis Toss, eat homemade corned beef and cabbage, and see the parades of faeries and leprechauns. There were harpists and pipers and Irish dancers and a good time was had by all.



The Grange co-sponsored the Aromas San Juan Community Schools Foundation's dinner and live auction fundraiser on February 25th and over \$13,000 was raised for local schools and students. This wonderful annual event is yet another great way to visit with your neighbors, enjoy fantastic food, and help support our schools all at the same time! Tickets for the next dinner/auction on February 24th 2007 will go on sale soon. Call 623-4500 ext.902 for information.



It was an election year, and the Grange is committed to getting out the vote, and getting voters the information they need. We had a Candidates' Forum in October for our local school and water board candidates.

On June 24st the Grange hosted it's first ever Summer Solstice Swing dance featuring fantastic local musicians the Dominguez Jazz Ensemble. We all had a great time, but we were so busy dancing we didn't get any pictures!



The Grange Breakfast moved to the LAST Sunday of every month starting with the fifth Sunday in July of 2006. Much confusion ensued but our Aromas Day breakfast on August 27th broke all previous records and raised nearly \$2,000 for our scholarship Foundation at the Aromas Day silent auction (below).



The Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Foundation

gave away five scholarships this year to deserving students. Amy Knight and Amber Rigor were both awarded \$750 scholarships. Danielle Mello, Lorraine Lopez and Maritza Yoes all received \$500 scholarships. The local community is always wonderfully generous with auction donations to support our graduating high school seniors.

The Annual Grange Holiday Potluck

on Friday, December 8th broke all records for attendance, at least in recent memory. We had to set up two additional tables to seat everyone for dinner! The Grange provided roast turkey, vegetarian nut loaf and mashed potatoes with mushroom gravy. Our wonderful Aromas community provided the rest—fabulous desserts, delicious side dishes and appetizers, and heart-warming entertainment with Native American and folk stories and songs.



Doug Clark sang "Christmas in the Trenches" at last year's Holiday Potluck and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. This year Jay Smith led us all singing George Harrison's "Give Me Love" and "Imagine."

Got membership? Call Steve Johnson at 726-7199 or email saltydog@happydogfood.com to join the Grange.