



Aromas Community Grange

#361 - A Designated "Action Grange"

2008 Year-End Newsletter www.aromasgrange.org



Bunco is easy to learn, wild and crazy, fun to play

Bunco: The best "FUN"raiser around

November 15th Gala Bunco evening was our biggest yet. Everyone had a wonderful time and we raised \$880—that brings the Bunco total for the year to \$1,680! Bunco is a really fun, easy way to bring people into the Hall and raise money for our upcoming remodel projects. The ladies of the Bunco Squad organized a fabulous spread of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and sumptuous desserts. There were a dozen cash prizes, plus door prizes and raffle prizes that included tickets to Disneyland the Discovery Museum in San Jose. The next Bunco Night is April 4: if we sell all 60 tickets we can bring in over \$1,000 in one night. Be sure to get your tickets early so you don't miss the fun—our plan is to sell this game out!

Don't Miss Movie Night!

Once a month, usually on the third Friday, we're having Movie Night at the Grange Hall. A wide variety of films have been shown so far this year, from the Cub Scouts' presentation of "Old Yeller" to Chick Flick night, when the Grange girlfriends gathered in PJs to watch "Holiday" and "27 Dresses". Any group that would like to organize a Movie Night around a favorite movie is welcome to contact Loren Jones at 726-7025. Movie Nights are free and open to the whole community—everyone is welcome. Popcorn, sodas and snacks are available by donation.



Watch for Grange Movie Night signs – call 726-2349 for info

Grangers get in shape

Jazzercise is back by popular demand. Members of the Aromas community are coming to the Hall to get into shape at Wauhaillau Erbe's renewed Jazzercise class, Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:30. Come on down and check it out! And if you'd like some help avoiding those extra holiday calories that are lurking out there, join WeightWatchers. There will be weekly meetings at the hall from noon to 1 pm on Wednesdays, beginning on December 9th.

Another Eagle Scout graduates through the "Court of Honor" ceremony at the Aromas Community Grange

Andrew Jones, son of Grange President Loren Jones and his wife Crystal, the most recent in a long line of exceptional Eagle Scouts, celebrated his Eagle Court of Honor on 11/22. Be sure to check out the new lighted cabinet in the dining room, which was Andrew's Eagle project, the next time you're down at the Hall. Over the last few years the Grange has been the beneficiary of many great Eagle projects—the new men's restroom, the carts for our folding tables that slide under the stage, the stage lights and the redwood pergola. Currently we have a life scout working on designing & building the new barbeque out back.



The Eagle Scout Court of Honor is an impressive ceremony

The Hall got (most of) its new roof!

Aromas Grange Hall renovation continued in 2008 with a new roof going over most of the building. After the rains of last winter started leaking into the dining room, reroofing the hall moved to the top of the project list. We now have a beautiful new copper cricket in the valley that will outlast our new 50-year shingles.



The copper cricket meets up with a beautiful copper downspout

The section of the roof that covers the kitchen needs replacing as well. That whole roof section will be rebuilt when we push the back wall out to add a little more elbow room and upgrade the plumbing in the kitchen. Phase one of the roof project cost \$22,000. Bringing the kitchen up to commercial standards and redoing the kitchen roof to accommodate future solar panels is going to cost at least \$40,000 more. Just in time for this big fund raising push, we are happy to report...

...Some great grant news!

The Aromas Community Grange just received a \$4,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Monterey County to help us put together a fund development plan. The first round of this grant will pay for the services of a professional consultant who will work with our leadership team to put together a fund raising plan. If our plan is accepted in the next round of grants, the Foundation will fund some of the costs of putting our plan into action. Either way, we are going to learn a lot! Call Rich Saxe at 726-3609 to get involved.



Los Destacados and Fans

Youth Concert Series 2008

We've had several great youth concerts this year, organized by Alex Rayburn with support from Grange Musician Bill Hunter. Local bands performed and kids from both North Monterey County High school and Anzar High attended and a great time was had by all. The Grange adults on site were very impressed by the young people who attended. They were polite, kind and respectful of the Hall. We are looking forward to continuing this popular series in 2009.



The 10th Avenue Band really swings!

Fantastic Monthly Live Music & Dancing

The Grange now features a monthly Swing Dance on the last Sunday of the month from 2 to 4:30 pm. Jazz, Big Band and hot Salsa are just some of the musical styles provided by the 10th Avenue Band for just a \$5 donation. Instructors are on hand to help you learn. Come on down and check out this new regular event. **AND** the second Saturday evening of every month the Grange hosts a Contra Dance, with live music and an experienced caller at 7:30pm. Bring a friend or bring yourself, the dances are easy to learn and fun to do!



Sherry Austin at the Utah Phillips Benefit Concert

Grange Concert Series Benefits a Music Legend

The Utah Phillips benefit concert was one of the last times Utah's voice was heard in public. Grange Musician Bill Hunter organized a benefit concert for ailing folk legend Utah Phillips and created a live conference call between Utah and the excited Aromas audience with his cell phone and the stage microphone. The Grange raised \$3,000 to help Utah; we were proud to have this moment to acknowledge him and the wonderful wit, wisdom, humor and gift for storytelling that he shared with us during his lifetime.

Aromas Live! continues to be a big hit. This fun, biannual Aromas Community Grange variety show brings in new talent from our community, giving them a place to share their enthusiasm and make new artistic connections. The show is free, and it comes around on the last Saturday in April and October at 7 pm. Be sure to get it on your calendars now!



Anzar scholarship recipients

Teressie White had a very good year

The T.W.M.S.F gave out seven \$1,000 scholarships in 2008, setting a new record. This year produced a crop of graduating seniors in our District—all of them from Aromas—that was almost beyond belief. Grade point averages soared above 4.0 with page after page of stellar community service. We awarded a scholarship to every applicant this year because they were all equally, unbelievably outstanding. Now our foundation board is gearing up for the task of raising the funds to be able to match this year's generous awards in the future. We are counting on all of the residents of our School District to support us in helping our kids achieve their higher educational goals.

Movement & Meditation for Inner Peace

Want to loosen up and relax? Try Yoga! Keshore Forson helps folks wind down and stretch out every Thursday evening from 6 to 7:30 pm. Or try Tai Chi, with instructor Gail Mutoza at the Grange Hall every Monday and Wednesday morning from 8:45 to 9:45 am. Aromas residents are finding that these are two programs that really help them deal with the demands of our busy 21st Century lifestyles.



The Aromas Day Breakfast is always the biggest of the year

Aromas Day was pretty cool !!

Sponsored by the Aromas Eagles and supported by virtually every other Non-profit group in Aromas – the 2008 Aromas Day was the best yet. The Grange served over 500 breakfasts and made over \$1500 for our Teressie White Memorial Scholarship Foundation with the annual Breakfast Silent Auction.

Thanks to Community Foundation

We really appreciate the support of the Community Foundation for Monterey County. The Grange will be hosting the Foundation's monthly breakfast meeting on Dec.10th. Call Rich at 726-3609 if you want to come help make and serve breakfast. It's a great networking opportunity.

Looking for a Few Good Members

The Grange partners with Aromas individuals and organizations to bring our community together in lots of different ways. We partner with the Aromas Hills Artisans on Autumn Art Festival and many other arts events during the year. The Aromas/San Juan Community Schools Foundation and the Aromas Eagles hold their annual fundraising dinners at the hall. If you have a friend or neighbor who cares about the community, why not ask them to join? They can leave a message for Joan Miller at 726-2349 or email joanjigger2@aol.com to become a Grange member.