

## Berks Heim Report

by: Lorrie Wesner

The upcoming Berks Heim Fest will be held on September 12th, 2009 11am.-4 pm. It seems like a long time away but we all know how fast time flies. Put the date on your calendar, It's a day to have fun, eat great food and spend some time with the patients of Berks Heim. We all know how much they enjoy having visitors.

The Heim Fest is the biggest money maker sponsored by the Volunteer Service Board. Many wonderful things are done with the money from this event—all to the benefit of the patients to make their stay at Berks Heim more comfortable and enjoyable.

We will again be selling Berks Heim raffle tickets for lots of prizes. All the Berks County Granges will get tickets to sell. So when the tickets are in your hands remember to sell, sell, sell! The more we sell, the more money we make for a very worthwhile cause.

Volunteer your time. This is something that is needed very much at the Heim. There are so many events that go on at the Heim that volunteers can help with. Volunteering is one of the best things you can do. You put a smile on the residents faces and it leaves you with a good feeling in your heart.

**VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME!**

## HAUS TOURNAMENT AND GAME NIGHT

- Who:** Grangers, Families and Friends  
**What:** An organized Haus Tournament and games  
**When:** **September 12, 2009**  
**Where:** To Be Announced  
**Why:** Fun and Fellowship

Please bring a game of your liking if you are not playing Haus. Prizes will be awarded.

Refreshments will be available.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

By Barbara Schroeder, 610.207.8488

I would like to thank everyone for your suggestions and ideas during the March Pomona meeting. I didn't really know what I was getting myself into and I really still don't. I just know that as a newer member of the Grange, I think we have a wonderful opportunity to serve the community and others should know about this.

I have heard several times since I have joined the Grange that a Granger met someone who had no idea what the Grange was. Most of the time this comes with a feeling of shock by the Granger. "How could they not know? But we have always been here." I was one of those people that didn't know a single thing about the Grange. I grew up in Hamburg, which didn't have a Grange of it's own, but people in Hamburg joined other Granges. The most contact I had with the Grange was attending a friend's surprise birthday party at Virgenville's Grange hall (in 1995). I think at that time I thought it was just the name of the building. I didn't know it was also a group. No one ever made an effort to teach me about the Grange and the things that the Grange does that might have been interesting to me. Junior camp and various youth events would have been so much fun, but I didn't know about them. No one asked me if I would like to go with them to a Grange event and no one ever told me you didn't have to be a farmer to join.

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## ALL-GRANGER PICNIC

**Sunday, June 21, 2009**

**Edenburg Park, Hamburg**

**12:30 p.m.—?**

There will be children's games, softball, basketball and BINGO. Weather permitting, water games, also. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish to share with your fellow Grangers. You might also want to bring lawn chairs.

Come out for a day of fun and fellowship!

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

By Denise Claire

Spring has sprung! Hello, I am the new Family Activities chair for Pomona. Thank you to Laura Wike for her service to this department.

Pre-Pomona will be held on May 18 at 8 PM. Kutztown Grange will be hosting and be assisted by Virgenville Grange.

The 2009 Pomona Sale will be held August 22. Help is needed to prepare and sell food on August 21-22. Baked goods will also be needed (please, nothing that requires refrigeration!). The following Granges will be responsible to supply 2 gallons of beef vegetable soup for the sale: Kutztown, Marion, Fleetwood, Alleghenyville and Pioneer. Thank you to all in advance for your help with this annual event/fundraiser.

Knitting/crocheting: In the past, State Grange has asked for certain items and collects them at State Session. After that, we are to continue making them (and put them on our annual reports) but may not have places to go with them. I have joined a group that will take these items (given out in Berks County). Please contact your subordinate FA chair to get a list of items, get more information or to donate items.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

## CONSIGNMENT SALE

By Feryl Treichler

The sale committee is in countdown mode to August 22, 2009 sale time.

Check your Grange calendar for pre-sale meetings and workshop dates.

We are counting on each and everyone to do their little part to make the sale a successful event.

We could use the help of someone with a loader and tractor for set up days and especially Saturday afternoon when the rush is on to load heavy equipment. There would be some compensation. For more sale information contact:

Feryl Treichler, 610-683-8200  
Ken Kerschner, 717-484-4209

## DID YOU KNOW?

...Desira Kunkle and Carlene Heck attended the Winter Youth Retreat in March at Camp Hebron!

...Desira Kunkle was on the court for Youth Ambassador and was the first runner-up for Female Ambassador!

...Carlene Heck, Karen and Ashley Mohn, Lindsay Schroeder, and Derek and Barbara Schroeder attended Eastern Regional Youth Conference in New Jersey in April!

## POMONA GO-TO-CHURCH SUNDAY

**May 24, 2009**

**St. Michael's Church  
529 St. Michaels Road  
Hamburg PA 19526**

**10:30 a.m.**

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS (continued)**

I would like to see us get the Grange name out there more. I want us to BRAG

**B**e  
**R**evealing  
**A**bout  
**G**range

Each of our Granges does great things, both big and small, but we don't tell anyone outside of Grange about those things. We need to show the broader community that the Grange is a great organization doing great things for the entire community. Let people know what your Grange has to offer that may meet someone's personal needs. I joined because I wanted to be a part of a volunteer organization with a broad array of activities and causes to support (getting a husband was just an added bonus!) and there are many people out there looking for the same thing. Please get out there and brag about the Grange. Whenever you talk to someone about the Grange or about an activity of the Grange remember to BRAG!

## **HEFFNER FAMILY SAYS "THANKS"**

*"I would thank you from the bottom of my heart, but for you my heart has no bottom."*

*~Author Unknown*

One thing I remember about my father, Roy Heffner, was his dedication to Hamburg. This community was very dear to him and he demonstrated this through his involvement with such groups as the Hamburg Borough Council, the Hamburg Grange, and the Our Town Foundation. Even when his health started to fail and he had to stop working, these were activities that he kept doing. When my father died on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007, I had no idea how much kindness would be shown and in so many different ways. Some days the kindness of friends and strangers alike can surprise you.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the community for the outpouring of support in the days following my father's death. So many flowers and cards were sent and so many kind words were said. It was a very difficult time for us, and the love and support helped us immensely.

Soon after his death, the Hamburg Grange decided to honor my father by raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). My father was diagnosed several years ago with Limb-Girdle Muscular Dystrophy and had received a great deal of assistance through their Harrisburg office and the staff at the Hershey Medical Center. The fundraiser was a chicken pot pie supper held at the Hamburg Area High School. This was really a four part fundraiser with a bake sale, "Chinese Auction," and quilted wall hanging raffle that was donated by my father's sister, Helen (Heffner) Carroll. We decided that all of the proceeds from this event would go to the MDA. Donations of items and gift baskets for the auction were provided by many businesses and residents of Hamburg and the surrounding areas. Several hundred people came out to enjoy the food and company at the supper, or to take pot pie home with them. We continued the quilt raffle throughout 2008 and drew the winner during our pot pie supper in November. It took many people many hours for this fundraising to be successful and in our opinion it was a big success. On February 2009, the culmination of these activities occurred when Hamburg Grange donated \$3,500 to the MDA.

The Hamburg Grange and the family of Roy Heffner would like to thank everyone who helped with this fundraiser. The family would also like to thank the Hamburg Grange and all the local Granges. We thank you for the support you provided to Roy, both before and after his death. He loved being a part of the Grange and was proud to be a founding member and to serve as vice president for Hamburg Grange. We only wish he had found this wonderfully supportive group of people earlier in his life, so that you could have known the vibrant and active person Roy was before his illness.

## Youth/Young Adults Report

By Derek Schroeder  
610.698.3999

March brought the first major Youth/Young Adults event for the year. **The Winter Youth Retreat**, which had a theme of “Do you know what I know,” was very educational. In fact, because many of the attendees were younger youth, many of the workshops were about the basics of Grange. Along with Grange 101, there was a seminar on public speaking and how youth can be involved with legislation. A more comprehensive summary can be found in the April. The Berks County youth that attended were Desira Kunkle and Carlene Heck. If you have any questions regarding the retreat, I am sure Desira and Carlene would be more than happy to speak with you.

Unfortunately the overall turnout wasn't very good and there were only about 20 people in attendance, only half of which were “youth.” Martha Ebersole, the State Youth Director is looking for suggestions of alternate weekends that may work out better for the Youth Retreat. Hopefully, if we can find a weekend that works better overall, we can have a better turnout for next year's retreat. If anyone has any ideas about what should be done in the future to help turnout, please let me know or contact Martha Ebersole.

This summer there are two major youth events. The first is **Young Adults/Young Marrieds Weekend**. This year it is going to be held during Family Festival. The theme of family festival this year will be “The Grange Circus.” Our group will have our own area of tents, and will have some of our own activities. The new Young Couple will be chosen as a part of that weekend and coronation will occur there. I hope we have a good turnout, and I hope we have several couples who are interested in becoming the new Young Couple. There is a registration form in the April Advocate and registrations need to be in by June 17<sup>th</sup> to our own Faye Heckman. If you are a Youth/Young Adult/Young Couple and would like to participate in the special activities, please make sure you mark that on the registration. If you have any questions regarding that weekend, please contact me.



The second event this summer is the French Fries stand at the **Pomona Sale**. I will need help setting up on Friday evening and all day Saturday to help prepare and sell as well as clean up after the sale. Don't forget that volunteering in the youth stand will get you a ticket for the volunteer appreciation banquet in January. Please let me know if you would be interested in volunteering part or all of the day.

I am still looking for **suggestions regarding both local and state activities**. I would like to start having more activities for youth at the local level and would definitely like to start seeing better attendance for the statewide events for youth.

Don't Forget! It's never too early to be thinking about **State Session**. This year it is in Johnstown and as always, the youth will be presenting a drill to close the first day of session. Please let me know if you plan on attending session and would be interested in serving on the drill team, so that I can get your contact information to Martha Ebersole.