

Activities and Programs

The Ausable Valley Grange strives to provide a variety of activities for its membership and the general public that celebrate and explore rural community life. Programs and activities include: a monthly business meeting, where all members are encouraged to participate in Grange business; a monthly pot-luck dinner; the Grange Fiber Club; and a lecture series.

The Grange sponsors performances, various entertainment events, and fundraisers throughout the year. This includes a very active music and contradance series that has featured fine performances by Roy Hurd, Three Doug Knight, Crossing North, Too Tall String Band, Yannig & Friends, Tame Rutabaga, and Shaker Creek.

The Grange also hosts the monthly meetings of the Foodshed Coalition, a discussion group interesting in promoting locally grown agricultural products, organic farming and gardening, and better land stewardship.

Best of all, if you have special interests, the Grange is the place to make them happen.



The first 100 years and a new century of the Grange in the community

The Ausable Valley Grange was part of a national movement that began after the Civil War to bring the family farm out of rural isolation. In addition to helping farmers get better prices for their products and advocating on rural issues, the Grange served as gathering places for people to meet and engage each other in discussion and debate, to celebrate births and morn the passing for friends, to console each other in loss as well as to celebrate collectively their successes.

The Ausable Valley Grange was organized on March 23, 1903, with 17 charter members. The official charter was given to the Grange on April 3, 1903, and the building in which the Grange now resides was purchased in February 1914 for \$500.

During those early years, the Ausable Valley Grange was organized as an agricultural fraternal organization and held its first Agricultural Exhibition in the fall of 1916. Other activities included Harvest Dinners, auctions and the "organization of a good choir, who were ever at the ready to aid on all occasions with good music, which added much to the enthusiasm of the meetings." Grange members have also served the community by assisting with food baskets for the needy and have helped the sick and invalids of the area. Supporting the community was always the Grange's most important function.

The Grange, like everything else, has changed greatly in the span of a century. Today the Grange is an organization for all rural and small town folks, not just farmers. We want to celebrate and enrich rural community life through our activities and fellowship.

What has not changed is the Grange's intense commitment to community. In a world that emphasizes the individual and the material, we recognize the need for strong bonds with each other and community interdependence. Grange members are concerned about knowing their neighbors, about helping out and reaching out. When it comes to supporting the community, the Grange's attitude has not wavered for 100 years and we have no plans to change anytime soon. We will remain like that choir of the early Grange, "ever at the ready".

If this sounds like the organization for you, we invite you to join us by filling out the enrollment form on the inside of this brochure.

Ausable Valley Grange

Family, Community, and a Better Way of Life



Join the Grange

for great fun, fellowship, and an enriched community life

Ausable Valley Grange No. 973

1749 Main Street
Keeseville, NY 12944
(518) 834-5245
(518) 834-7306

Everyone is at Home in the Grange

The Ausable Valley Grange recognizes that one of the greatest needs of young families is a place to be together – where children are welcome. That place is our Grange. Members' children are always welcome at meetings and events. Their presence brings a light-heartedness to everyday activities that we serious grownups, sometimes forget is a necessary part of living.



Through affiliation with the State Grange, our local Grange has

available Junior Grange programs designed to provide a basis for training young members to take leadership roles in their community. They learn to be part of a group, part of a community, and have fun at the same time.

The Grange Hall, a handsome ca. 1840 stone building in the middle of Keeseville's historic district, provides a perfect space for meetings, music, dinners, lectures, and the Grange's other activities.

WELCOME

You can become a part of America's foremost family, volunteer, and grassroots organization. The Ausable Valley Grange is comprised of families and individuals who share a common interest in community life, gardening, small farming, rural enterprise, self-sufficiency, education, country skills, crafts; as well as working together for a better family environment for everyone.

Our programs, projects, and activities reflect the interests and talents of our members with a special focus on family events. Like any organization, our Grange is only as effective as the people who belong want it to be.

People are attracted to the Grange because everyone is welcome regardless of age, sex, race, religion, or political position. The Grange community fosters a deep appreciation of rural life and a sense of belonging.



Ausable Valley Grange MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I desire to join with others in celebrating and advancing the interest of community and family life. I understand the Grange is non-denominational and non-partisan. I pledge to abide by the rules and regulations of the Grange, and that I will not oppose the admission of anyone solely on the grounds of personal prejudice. I will endeavor to be a true and faithful Grange member. I am at least 14 years old.

Applicant's signature

Date

Recommended by

Annual dues are \$25.00, plus a 3.00 application fee, payable with this application.

Make check out to Ausable Valley Grange and mail to: Denise Hendren, 458 Mace Chasm Road, Keeseville, NY 12944