

**Copake Grange
has the best
entertainment
in town!**

COPAKE GRANGE REVEALS ITS SECRETS

Celebrates its 120th Anniversary and is better than ever!

Some community organizations come and go but the Copake Grange has maintained its vitality and has been the place to be since 1903. Find out how we did it!

June 25
3rd Annual
Cupcake Celebration
11 am–2 pm

July 7
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

July 22
120th Anniversary Dinner
5 pm

August 4
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

September 1
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

September 9
3rd Annual Ice Cream Social
and Square Dance

Sept. 23
Garrin Benfield,
singer/songwriter, 5 pm

September 30
Open Poetry Night

October 6
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

October 28
Movie and Pizza Night

November 3
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

November 10–12, 17–19
Blithe Spirit (TTOUP)

December 1
Open Mic Night, 7 pm

Dec. 2
Open House at the Grange

Coming in 2024

January
Chili Cook-off

January and March
Movie & Dinner Nights

Check online for
additional details

www.copakegrange.org/events



Secret #1

Build Strong and Last Long

Without a doubt, the first thing Copake Grangers wanted to do in 1903 was to build a hall for their Grange. The challenge was where to locate it. In spite of the fact that no location for the building had been decided upon, construction plans were moving full-steam ahead. Fortunately, Mrs. Carrie Langdon offered to sell the Grange property that she and Mrs. Charity Ann Snyder owned. The price was right—one dollar. Unsurprisingly, her offer was unanimously accepted by the members.



EXPLORE THE HIDDEN WORLD OF THE COPAKE GRANGE

Have you driven down Empire Road and passed the Copake Grange? What do you know about it? This issue of The Changing Granger will take you behind the scenes to explore the past, present, and future of the Copake Grange.

Then and now, Grange leaders have had much in common. They discovered the "lost art" of listening and used its magic. Their goal has always been to build consensus and embark on projects that are to the benefit of the Grange and the community. The mystery is how they were able to do it.

Secret #2 The Best Leaders Lead by Listening



1903
Frank Sherman
Master

Frank Sherman was the first master (current title is president) of the Copake Grange. He came to Copake in 1870 when he was four years old to live with his grandparents on the Sweet family farm. When he was only 23, he inherited the farm and through "scientific farming" he became a successful farmer. He helped to spur the growth of the dairy industry in Columbia County. At one point in time, he had over fifty head of purebred Holsteins. This was quite an accomplishment in the early 1900s.

Above all else, Frank was civic-minded and generous in spirit. He was the heart and soul of the Copake Grange, nursing it through its early years. He was a popular lecturer, an effective master, and had an unbridled spirit of optimism. Among his many abilities, Frank was a singer who harmonized with a Grange quartet. Continued on Page 3



2023
Roberta Roll
President

Roberta Roll is the current president of the Copake Grange. She relocated to Copake in 1991 because it was a good place to raise her son and she loved its rural charm. Roberta may not be a "scientific farmer" like Frank but she is a wise gardener. Her education has made her knowledgeable in nutrition and herbal medicine. In addition, she has helped many through bodywork, movement therapy, and yoga.

Roberta's commitment to the Grange began in 2017, joining to help the Grange become a vital part of the community again. She has always been civic-minded—she writes the town's monthly newsletter, chaired the Hamlet Revitalization Task Force, and is a member of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Like her 1903 predecessor, Roberta is a gifted singer but beyond that she is also an extraordinary dancer. Continued on Page 3



On stairs, top to bottom, Chris Quinby, Marcia Becker, Glenn Pupa, and Andy Fisher. On left, Jeanne Mettler.

Secret #3 Find your heroes

Even the best of organizations have times when the situation looks perilous. Such was the case for the Copake Grange in the early 2000s. For several years, membership had been declining and attendance at meetings was as low as four or five, too few to make a quorum. Bill Newcomb, Marcia Becker, Bernice O'Connell, and Chris Quinby, along with Ingrid Cain, Joanne Delamater, Mibs Zelley, Brian Boom, and Leslie Wood, had heroically held the fort for years but they needed help. In 2017, new people came on board. These newcomers were

Jeanne Mettler, Roberta Roll, Glenn Pupa, and Tom Goldsworthy. Together, these long-time and new members got the ball rolling again. Membership increased, fundraising improved and exciting programs were created. The Grange was back! The leadership team in 2018 included Chris Quinby, president; Marcia Becker, treasurer; Glenn Pupa, vice president; Andy Fisher, member-at-large; and Jeanne Mettler, secretary. Today, the Grange is on the lookout for new heroes—maybe you?



Paraphrased from a neatly typed note in the archives of the Copake Grange

There are three types
of people:

The ZEROs who do nothing

The NEROs who tell others
what to do

The HEROES who are always
there when you need them



Become a Part of Grange History Dedicate a Seat

Why dedicate a seat? The Copake Grange is proud of its history as the oldest, continuously operating cultural institution in the Roe Jan area. Since 1903, the Grange has hosted countless theater productions, musical programs, lectures, fun presentations, and community activities. Now, it's your chance to support the Copake Grange in a meaningful and special way—by dedicating a theater seat to a friend, loved one, organization, or just for you. With your help the show will go on!

When you buy a "ticket" for \$120, you will be able to choose the wording for a plaque that will go on the armrest. Maybe a quote, a poem, a few meaningful words, or just a name? All are possible. The limit is 5 lines of no more than 40 characters.

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<https://www.friendsofcopakegrange.org/seat-dedication>



Roberta Roll
President

Janet Mackin
Vice President

Rita Jakubowski
Recording Secretary

Noel Fair
Treasurer



Harry Hussey
Steward
Grange Musician

Tom Goldsworthy
Lecturer

Diane Valden
Assistant
Steward

Chris Quinby
Chaplain



Mark Fischweicher
Grange Poet

Vicki Sander
Flora

Jeanne Mettler
Pomona

Carol Gansowski
Ceres



Tom Goldsworthy

June Makela

Paulette Bonanno

Alan Friedman
Fin. Secretary

Bill Newcomb
Gatekeeper

Executive Committee

Friends of Copake



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President

June Makela
Treasurer

Paulette Bonanno
Secretary

Andy Fisher
Director

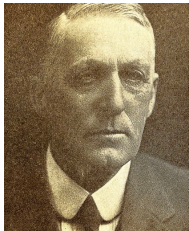
Janet Mackin
Director

Secret #2

Continued from Page 1

Secret #2

Continued from Page 1



1903

John W. Scott
Secretary

John W. Scott was arguably the best Grange secretary in the early 1900s. He took on this responsibility because others wouldn't. John was always willing to help when called upon. He and his wife hosted the first fundraiser for the newly established Grange at their home. The "sociable" was a great success and raised \$28.91 (equivalent to almost \$1000 in 2023 buying power).

As secretary, his minutes were always carefully handwritten in a script that was broad, generous in style, and easy to read. The details of meetings were recorded with precision and because of him, there is a good picture of the first years of the Copake Grange.

After several years as secretary, John became the master. Unsurprisingly, filling the secretary position was a problem. When no volunteer came forward, the situation was resolved by deciding to pay the secretary one dollar a month, a small price to pay (approximately equivalent to \$35 today) for the service.

John was a farmer, businessman, and justice of the peace. He also dabbled in real estate and was elected as a "farmer" representative to the New York State Assembly. He was a modest man, always willing to stand behind his colleague, Frank Sherman and work hard for the good of the Grange.



2023

Rita Jakubowski
Secretary

There's no doubt about it—Rita Jakubowski is in the running for best Grange secretary of the 21st century. Although only 23 years into the century, it is hard to believe anyone could be better. Like John Scott, Rita took on the secretary position when no one else would volunteer. In many ways, Rita is better suited for membership development than secretary (fortunately, she does both). She holds the record for recruiting the most new members.

Although the minutes are no longer handwritten (all the better since many people cannot read cursive), they are just as detailed as those from the 1900s. Her minutes are destined to be a treasure for Grange historians of the 22nd century.

Rita is a winner in more ways than one. In 2019, she was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. The prize was \$5000. Rita immediately announced she would be donating the winnings to the Grange. Her generosity also comes in the form of cakes and plants which she donates for Grange events.

Rita has had a successful career in finance and has also been involved in real estate in NYC. Her credentials far exceed the requirements for her Grange "jobs." She is modest to a fault which is why she was given no choice about being featured in this issue.

19032023

COPAKE GRANGE

- 120 YEARS -

Save the Date!

We'll be celebrating our 120th Anniversary all year long!
Join us for these events and more!

★ June 25th, 11 am - 2 pm - Our 3rd Annual Cupcake Celebration
Featuring some history-making cupcakes.

★ July 22nd, 6 pm - 120th Anniversary Dinner
Grangers are famous for their great dinners and this is going to be the best of all time.

★ September 9th, 5 pm - Our 3rd Annual Square Dance and Ice Cream Social
Enjoy this fun, friendly gathering with dancing, great chili, and ice cream.

Copake Grange: <https://www.copakegrange.org/> 628 Empire Road, Copake, NY 12516
Questions? Email: friendsofcopakegrange@gmail.com or call 917-270-5989



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Secret #4

Find people who know how to get things done.

A 120-year old building is always in need of tender, loving care, i.e. repairs, maintenance, and upgrades. The Grange is fortunate to have a talented Building Committee to handle day-to-day things. Do-it-yourself projects are one thing; hiring skilled personnel is another. As many readers know, it is sometimes a thankless task to find and supervise tradespeople and to make sure your project doesn't fall off their to-do list. Thanks go to all the members of the Building Committee (pictured on right) The outside of the Grange still needs a lot of work. The windows have peeling paint and the handicap ramp looks shabby. Are there improvement plans? These projects are high on the priority list but right now the Grange's motto is first things first. In 1920, Grange Hall was wired for electricity. Now, more than 100 years later, it is essential to upgrade the wiring and install some new light fixtures. In addition, the furnace needs to be replaced. The changes inside the Grange are virtually invisible to the casual observer but they are the most important.



Top photo (l to r) Bob Callahan, Catherine Mikic, Ben Gedamanski, Steve Sanborn (missing June Makela and Amy Clifford)
Bottom photo (l to r) Dave Pells and Al Fair

With the support of generous donors (see listing on page 11), grants from community organizations such as the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Hudson River Bank and Trust, Bank of Greene County, and the advertisers in this issue, the Grange is on its way to getting the building back to its 1903 condition.

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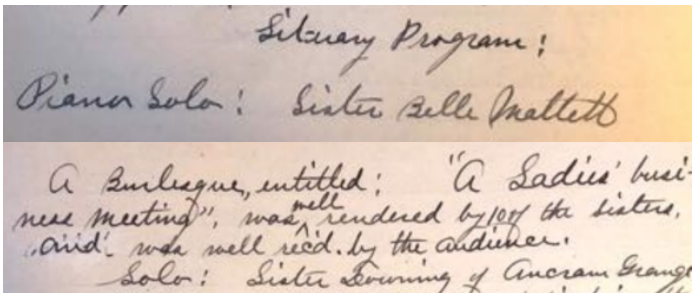
Tom Goldsworthy
Lecturer and Webmaster

Secret #5 Follow tradition but ...

When the National Grange was established in 1867, a position titled "lecturer" was created. Oliver Kelley, the founder, knew that rural farmers and their wives had little access to cultural activities and felt it essential to include entertainment and educational programs into the activities of local Granges. It was the responsibility of the lecturer to arrange for such activities at the end of meetings. It could be recitations, readings, contests or telling jokes (there was a lot of joke telling).

Tom Goldsworthy is the current lecturer but things have changed. Members no longer crave entertainment in the same way. With busy lives, people rush out after meetings to do other things.

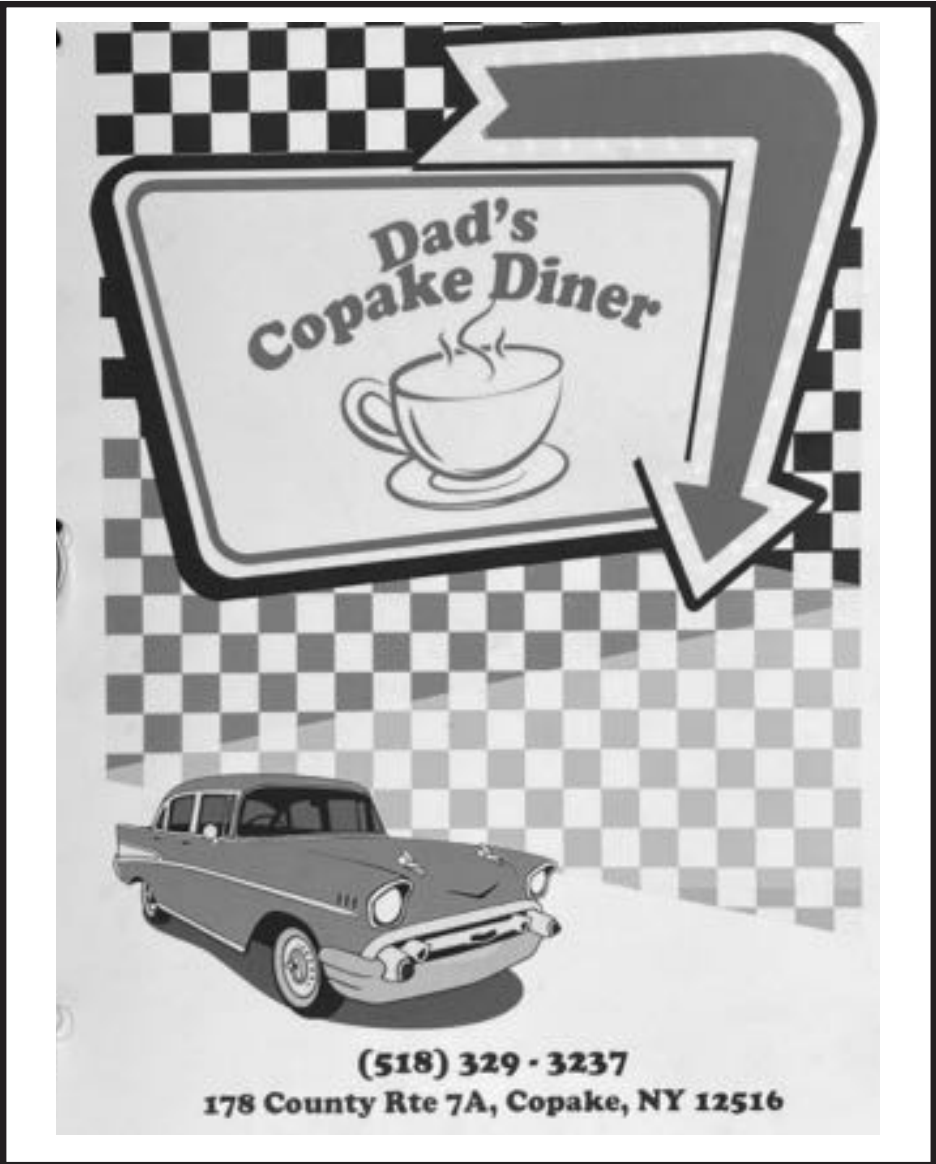
Tom has been called on to manage a much more modern-day role—he is the webmaster of the Copake Grange website, a role never envisioned in the 1800s. Want to know what's happening at the Grange? It is on the website thanks to Tom.



An example of a lecturer's presentation in 1904. In 2023, would members stay for such entertainment—a piano solo, a burlesque, a singer from Ancram? Could today's members even read the cursive writing?



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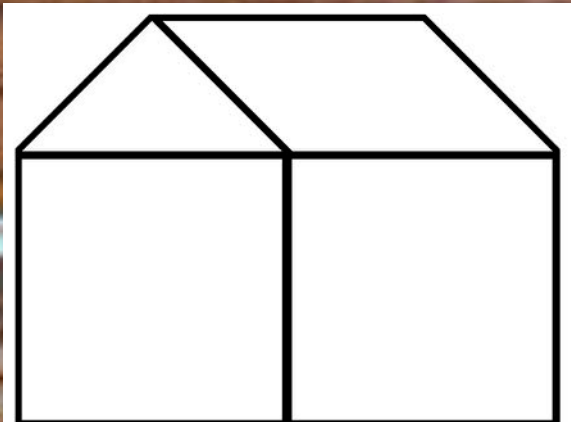
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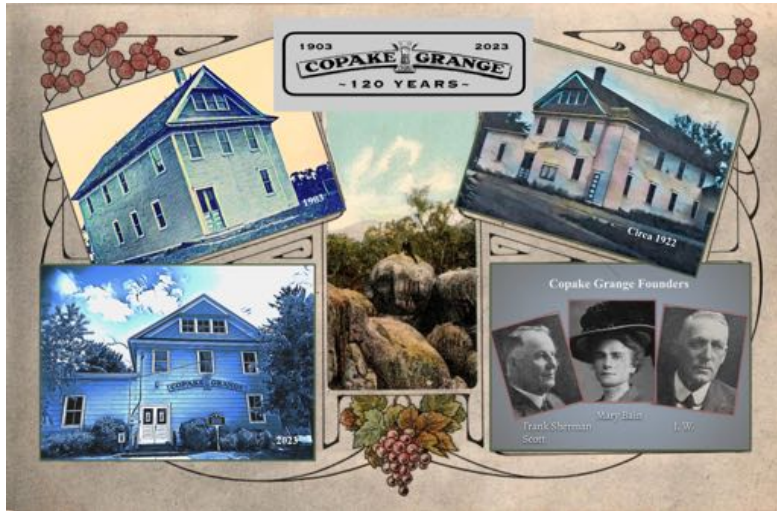
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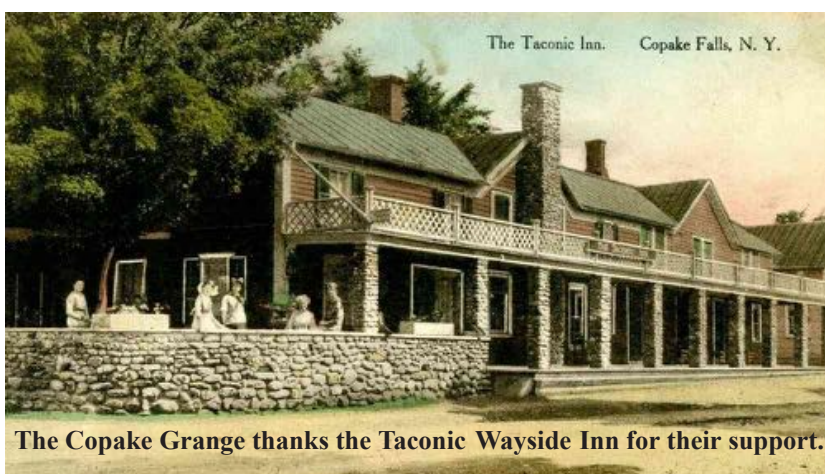


above, top, 120th Anniversary postcard; middle, original minutes books; bottom photo, Bernice O'Connell (l) Janet Mackin (r) Grange Historian

Secret #6 Honor your history

"It's a treasure trove!" is what Janet Mackin said when she saw the books and books of Copake Grange minutes. In addition to being vice president, Janet is also the Grange historian. She has spent the last two years submerged in Grange history. "There are photos, loose scraps of notes, memorabilia, regalia, and even some pages of jokes to read through. I feel like a detective." She is currently working on a book covering the first twenty years of Copake Grange's history which should be available by early next year. For those who can't wait to find out what went on at the earliest meetings, the minutes are available online at www.copakegrange.org. Janet with the help of Liz Fenamore, has scanned the minutes from 1902–1942 and more are in process.

"We owe so much to those who kept the Grange going during the most difficult years." Bernice O'Connell is one of those people—she has been a member of the Grange for more than 25 years and is still active.



The Copake Grange thanks the Taconic Wayside Inn for their support.

Secret #7 Listen to the stories

Bill Newcomb probably knows more about the Copake Grange than anyone. He is a past president and can tell stories about the Grange through the years. Now, he is happy to see how others are pitching in and he helps in different ways. His specialty is flyfishing and he offers a program at the Grange on how to tie flies for lures. Some may call him "the reel cowboy" but others think him more a "raconteur flytier." Bill talks as he demonstrates and "lures" in even those who thought they had no interest in fishing. If you are lucky, he will give you one of his handmade flies. Perfect for any wall in your home.

NOTES FROM A GRANGE NEWBIE

SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE WORD COVID WAS INVENTED, MY HUSBAND BILL AND I SIGNED A CONTRACT ON WHAT IS NOW OUR HOUSE IN COPAKE. BY THE TIME WE WERE ACTUALLY ABLE TO MOVE, A WORLD-WIDE LOCKDOWN WAS IN PLACE. WE HAD A FEW FRIENDS UP HERE; WE ALSO ZOOMED A GREAT DEAL AND, LIKE MANY OTHERS, VASTLY IMPROVED OUR COOKING SKILLS. BUT EVERYTHING WAS PRETTY MUCH CLOSED-UP TIGHT.

IT IS SAID THAT SOME OF THE MAJOR LINCHPINS OF A HAPPY LIFE ARE FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND AN INTEREST IN SOCIAL INTERACTION. WANTING TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEWLY ADOPTED COMMUNITY, I LOOKED AROUND FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE AND CONTRIBUTE TO LIFE HERE. HAPPILY, I CAME UPON THE GRANGE. I WAS IMMEDIATELY WELCOMED AND, EVEN THOUGH I AM A SOMEWHAT SHY PERSON, FOUND MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUT WITH AND PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE GRANGE—ACTIVITIES THAT BENEFIT EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY, AND TO WHICH ALL ARE INVITED.

EARLY LAST SUMMER, I BROKE MY ARM. IT WAS PAINFUL AND RECOVERY WAS LONG, FORCING ME INTO AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF UNWANTED COUCH POTATHOOD. BILL, AN ACTIVE GUY, WAS UNEASY ABOUT EXERCISING IN CASE HE GOT INJURED AS WELL, WHICH WOULD RENDER US BOTH UNABLE TO DRIVE. WE DO HAVE FRIENDS UP HERE, BUT I TOLD BILL I FELT SURE THAT, EVEN THOUGH I WAS A VERY NEW MEMBER AND DIDN'T KNOW MANY PEOPLE, FELLOW GRANGE MEMBERS WOULD HELP US OUT IF NEEDED. AND I WAS PROVED RIGHT!

SO PLEASE INVESTIGATE THE GRANGE AND CONSIDER JOINING. YOU CAN PARTICIPATE ON ANY LEVEL AND IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF AMONG A GROUP OF FUN, COMMITTED AND HELPFUL PEOPLE. TO COIN A PHRASE, YOU'LL BE HOME, HOME ON THE GRANGE!

ANN STROHMEIER



Ann Strohmeier (I) no longer needs her sling. She is back to normal and her wit is better than ever. You might get to meet her when she reads one for her stories at Open Mic Night.



Open Mic Nights are held on the first Friday of every month at 7pm.

Mail this application to:
Copake Grange
PO Box 33
Copake, NY 12516



Apply online:
www.copakegrange.org/join



NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

LOCAL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____

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I hereby apply for membership in The Copake Grange #935, with interest in participating as an active member of the Copake Grange and supporting its mission to assist individuals, families, and communities through grassroots action, service, education, advocacy, cultural activities, entertainment, and agriculture awareness. The Copake Grange is a part of the National Grange, which welcomes people of all races, creeds, religions and nationalities.

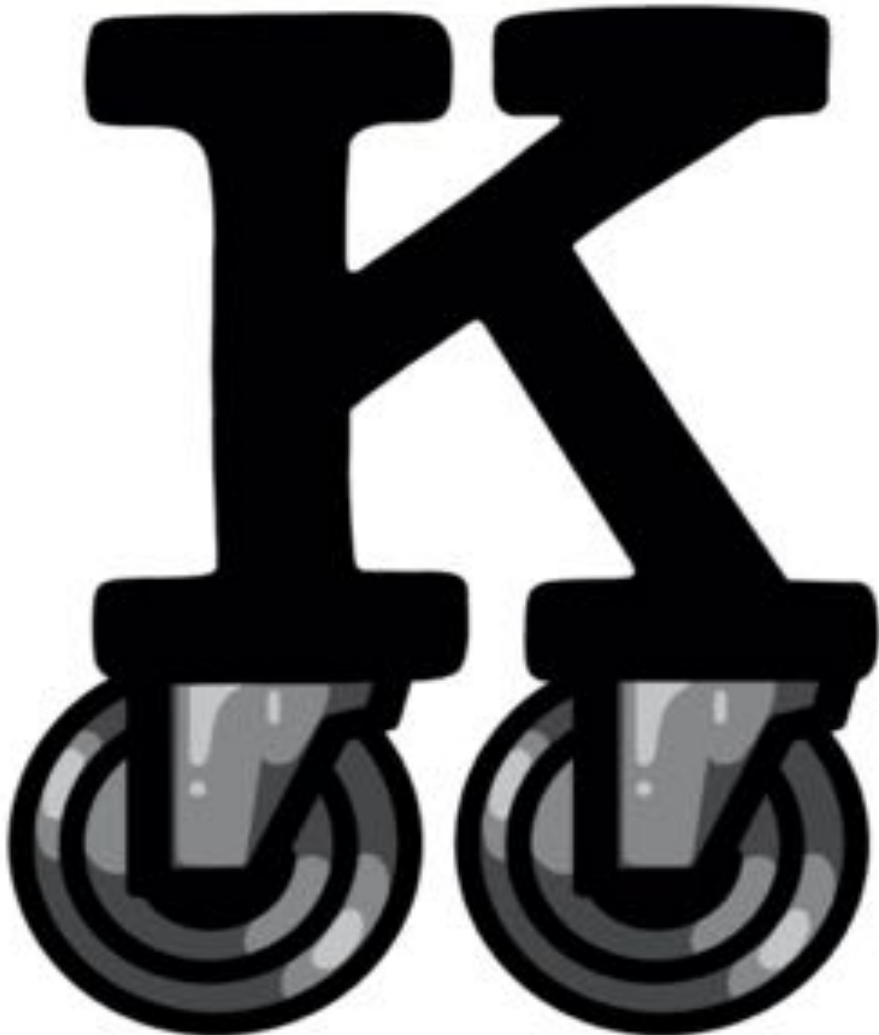
Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

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How did you learn about Copake Grange? _____

Please submit a separate application for each new member. Mail to: Copake Grange, P.O. Box 33, Copake New York 12516. Applications will be honored for a period of one year from date received. Upon receipt, the Grange Secretary will contact you with details regarding the process for membership acceptance. Email copakegrange@gmail.com with any questions



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We are The Friends

In 2019, a small group of Grange members came together and established a 501c3 with the sole purpose of supporting the Copake Grange.

We take immense pride in our achievements over the past four years. Through a combination of grants and fundraising events, we have successfully secured essential funding.

Thanks to these funds, we have been able to make significant improvements to the Grange including major electrical rewiring, new gutters and exterior doors, a new stove, and many other smaller but important upgrades. In addition, funds were earmarked for kids' programs and events. As we look to the future, we will be installing a new handicap ramp and we have plans for additional exterior projects. While these infrastructure upgrades may not be glamorous, they remain our top priority. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members, local businesses, and the grant providers who have supported us. You are our heroes!

Veronica McTiernan, President
Paulette Bonanno, Secretary
June Makela, Treasurer
Andy Fisher, Director
Janet Mackin, Director



Want to help the Copake Grange?

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Thanks to the Fundraising Team

Paulette Bonanno
Brian Boom
Bruce Darling
Liz Fenemore
Janet Mackin
Veronica McTiernan
Vicki Sander
Gabrielle Tessler
Richard Wolf

Every fundraising activity, whether grant-writing, planning fundraisers, or the inglorious, behind-the-scenes assignments, requires time and effort but there is no job more difficult than the direct "ask." Vicki Sander and Gabrielle Tessler deserve special acknowledgement for being the "askers." They have the resilience to accept the "no's" and the courage to walk the fine line between asking too often or for too much.

Bravo and a big thanks to all the local businesses who supported us by saying "YES!" Every penny is crucial, and we couldn't be more grateful. Together, we are helping to shape a vibrant community in Copake.



711 Co Rd 3, Ancramdale, NY 12503

Hours:

Monday Closed
Tuesday Closed
Wednesday 4:30–8 PM
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Friday 4:30–8 PM
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PLANNING A WEDDING?



CONSIDER RENTING THE COPAKE GRANGE

The historic Copake Grange is equipped with a 90-seat theater, upright piano, movie screen and mounted projector, sound system, kitchen, equipment, a reception area, tables and chairs. It is available for performances, parties, workshops and other events.

Rental Rates

Parties/Events \$100 per day for use of the common room, kitchen (excluding the use of the stove) and rest rooms
\$125 per day with use of kitchen for cooking

For information regarding rentals for performances, arts, educational or other events contact:

Roberta Roll, copakegrange@gmail.com or call (518) 329-0384

For rentals for parties or kitchen only, call Marcia Becker at (518) 610-1673.

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the community.

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