LIVINGSTON COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

(Navana Ahrends, Editor)

Final Edition for 2020
October 28, 2020

ALL ABOUT FALL

FEATURING

Memory Page
Musings Recipes
Decorating Tip Poetry
Halloween Remembrance

A Special Thank You to Our Contributors

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PLEASE NOTE: Even though this is our last official newsletter for this year, don't forget that if you have any news or other information that needs to be shared at any time, please let me know and I will gladly see that it is distributed to our membership.

ALSO NOTE: You will be receiving your dues letter in the mail sometime within a week. Please look it over. Remit those fees that are due and return with form to address given as soon as possible. Be sure to include your local dues. They are important for us to maintain the various things that we offer you, including the newsletter. You can contribute to the scholarship fund using this form, too. It is also important that you update any personal information, such as phone number, address, email, etc. Use your purple membership book to see information we have for you. This form is going out later than usual this year so it is even more important that the monies due are hopefully remitted before the end of the year so our books can reflect that during the audit. Our fiscal year ends December 31. 2020. Thanks you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

If you have not received a dues letter by November 6, please let me know.

This page is dedicated to the memory of those LCRTA members who have passed away since October 2019

Wilda Kennedy November 21, 2019
Mary Lou Besgrove February 5, 2020
Donald Patterson May 6, 2020
Ruth Psaute August 13, 2020
Doris Brown September 11, 2020

A TEACHER

The dictionary defines a teacher as someone who teaches;
But that hardly does justice to a profession that reaches
Far beyond just conveying some knowledge or skill;
For there are so many roles that a teacher must fill.

Counselor, entertainer, motivational leader;
Disciplinarian, comforter, accomplished mind reader;
A guardian who needs to be constantly aware;
A mediator who must be unbiased and fair.

By whatever means necessary, teachers find a way
To meet the needs of all their students, each and every day.
And their work does not end with the ring of a bell;
For teaching's not just a job, it's a calling as well.

Teachers are a model of heartfelt dedication;
Their hope is that their efforts will provide a firm foundation.
And they know that if they've properly played their parts,
Their success can be found in their students' minds and hearts.

(Copied from Pinterest)



Welcome To

ALL ABOUT FALL

Anne Erickson

Fall is such a great time of our farming year. All year long we have watched our crops grow from seeds to mature crops. We count on Heavenly blessings like sun and rain to help our crops grow and thrive.

I love harvest...from helping get equipment ready, moving equipment, and taking meals to the field. Each day has long work hours but seem to go by quickly. Special times happen when extra family come to help, and we gather in the field for a pizza party at supper time. There are often 3 generations working together to harvest the crops.

Often while sitting and waiting in a tractor or truck...there is time to reflect on the many blessings on our life. Witnessing some of the more beautiful sunsets are definitely a bonus of pure joy!!

Joann Van Antwerp

The cooler temperatures of fall make taking a walk enjoyable. Walking also lets a person enjoy the changing colors of the trees. October is especially enjoyable because of the quality of the light. It seems unlike any other month. Another really enjoyable thing about fall is raking leaves and smell of the leaves burning. That is always fun.

Karen Harms

HAPPY FALL TO ALL!!! The colors in the trees are so beautiful and I love to look at them in our yard and at the timber across the field. The farmers are really busy and have had some nice weather to get a lot of harvesting done. I would like to share a book that I so enjoyed reading to my Kindergarten and First Grade Students, and the Sunday School Students at church – The Pumpkin Patch Parable by Liz Curtis Higg. Liz states in the introduction that this is not a Halloween book, but that this parable will fill your heart with the light of God's love. "Let yourself glow!"

Here is a recipe of my mom's. DREAM BARS- ½ cup butter, ½ cup brown sugar, 1 cup flour. Mix and spread in 9 by 9 pan and bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Mix 2 eggs, I cup brown sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, ½ tsp. baking powder, 2 Tbls. Flour, 1 cup coconut. Combine and pour over bottom. Bake 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Enjoy!

Norma Harms

I taught Family and Consumer Science at Prairie Central Junior High for 29 years and Chatsworth High School for five years. These are a few of my students favorite recipes. Fall is also a time when many families rather spend their times outside enjoying the weather. Fall is also a time for comfort foods. Recipes do not need to be difficult or require many ingredients. These were found to be ready to eat in a forty-minute class period.

Chicken Casserole

One rotisserie chicken. Remove all chicken and cut up into serving size pieces, or one large can of chicken.
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 can cheddar cheese soup
1 package wide noodles (boil until tender, drain, reserve liquid to add back into the Casserole if needed, if it tends to be to dry)

Add chicken, soups, and noodles. Stir until blended, add some of the liquid if needed. Serve or put in 9 by 13 pan put in 350 degree oven. Add shredded cheddar cheese the last 5 minutes.

This recipe can be changed in several ways. You may add ham, turkey, tuna or browned hamburger. Soups can be changed also. I have made it with cream of mushroom soups, cream of celery soups or any other. Vegetables can be added too. I usually add peas and sometimes peas and carrots. This recipe is very versatile.



Easy Candy Bar Cake

1 Cake mix any flavor. We like chocolate
1 can "Thank You" pudding to match cake mix. (chocolate, vanilla, lemon)
3 eggs

Topping:
6 ounce chocolate chips (butterscotch, lemon, or vanilla chips)
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup nuts (pecans, walnuts or etc.)

Easy Candy Bar Cake Recipe (continued)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease pan. Mix together cake mix, eggs and pudding. Pour into 9 by 13 pan. Sprinkle on the topping evenly. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. No frosting is needed.

We also like :
white cake mix, with butterscotch pudding. Butterscotch chips
Lemon cake mix, lemon pudding, Lemon chips.
White cake mix, coconut pudding, shredded coconut, white chocolate chips

These recipes are also a favorite of my family. I also found I usually always have the ingredients on hand.

Enjoy 

Arlene Martell

Old home ec. teachers should contribute a recipe so here is one I discovered & tried recently from an old Long Point Methodist Church Cookbook (1973, I think).

Baked Apples
6-7 apples (Jonathan are best)
2/3 C. sugar
2 T flour
Whipping cream or half & half (milk works, too)
cinnamon
1/2 C. water
Mix sugar and flour and enough cream to moisten into a thick mixture. Place halves of cored unpeeled apples in a baking dish. Spoon cream mixture on apples; sprinkle with cinnamon and pour 1/2 c. water in the bottom of the pan. Bake at 350 degrees until apples are tender. Good served warm with cream. I think you could cook these in the microwave, too, but haven't tried it.

Marge Lucht

When I decorate I try to keep it simple. For an example, for Fall I put a wreath on the door. Then I might add a mum plant or two. For Halloween I put a strand of colored lights around the door. I add some pumpkins next to the mum plants. Or I put the pumpkins on the other side if I think it looks better.
You can keep the lights up through Thanksgiving.
There really isn't a right or wrong way.
Decorate the way you feel and enjoy! Others will too!



Bob McKenzie

The Poet of 16th Street

Betty M. (Ennenbach) Fitzgerald (June 14, 1927--August 28, 2020), was born, educated, married, and died in Mendota, LaSalle Co., IL. She first lived on 15th street in that community until her marriage to William Fitzgerald in November of 1946, and they eventually purchased a home on the south side of 16th street, one block north from her birth residence, where she remained the balance of her life.

We (the McKenzie's) lived diagonally across from them on the north side of 16th street, and my earliest memories of her are that I was welcome to come over to their yard to play with her first-born son Stephen, who was three years younger than I, but she did not want him to run across the road to our yard. We had a fairly high hedge of bushes framing our front yard, and she would not be able to see him if he was playing in our yard.

My parents relocated to near Sterling, IL in July of 1956. My mother told my sister and me that since Mrs. Fitzgerald was fairly close to having a new child in their family, we each might want to give her one of our toys for the new baby to play with during the next few years. I don't recall what I took over, but my sister gave her a stuffed giraffe that she thought both a boy and girl would like. Mrs. Fitzgerald thanked us for our thoughtfulness, and we assumed we'd probably never see that family again.

Throughout the years, I would stop to say hello to her at their retail business, Lakeside Liquors, in Mendota, but it was not terribly often.

In August of 2016, sixty years later, I attended the Mendota Sweet Corn Festival with friends. As I was returning to Pontiac, I decided to drive down 16th street to see whether or not I might find her and her second son Mark available for a short visit. Both were outside, she on the riding lawn mower, and he trimming bushes. I introduced myself to Mark, who then took me over to see his mother. Of course, she was astonished to see me, and in that brief period of time, she asked her son to give me a copy of her only published book of poems entitled STRAWBERRIES by Betsy (her true name) M. Fitzgerald. She also related that for all those 60 years, she had kept the giraffe my sister gave to her, and she would be happy to find it and return it to one or the other of us! Unbelievable! She still had a toy given by my sister 60 years earlier.

My sister returned to the area for a visit in 2018, and we had a reunion with Betty and Mark on 16th street! Betty returned the giraffe to my sister, who was speechless! However, she knew she would be giving it to her only granddaughter once she returned to Washington state! And thus we re-connected with people we had not known for over a half century!

After having taught British, American, and even Greek literature, I wasn't certain what I might expect in Betty's collection of verse! What a find! Her small collection of poems is a tiny treasure of exploring and celebrating fundamental issues all mankind experiences. "The Harvest" is a good example of a process we're all familiar with. But the seeds she plants and cultivates provide a completely different result! Truly refreshing!

I am so pleased to celebrate Mrs. Fitzgerald in such a personal fashion. And I never tire of reading and reflecting on her insightful look at life through her poems!

The Harvest

You asked me how my garden grows, I will try to explain
With lots of work, a little love but not without some pain
Warmed with a smile for sunshine, a tear or two for rain
Hoed with understanding, a good friend add to its gain
Mix kindness through in quantity, leave laughter in the air
Use a gentle hand upon the plow, a song will lighten care
Weed with perseverance all the things that take their toll
Of beauty and abundance, which is every gardener's goal
If in understanding all of this, a garden you do sow
Your harvest will be multiplied as the seasons come and go.

From STRAWBERRIES by Betsy Ennenbach Fitzgerald, Copyright 2016

FOND MEMORIES OF HALLOWEENS PAST



Navana Ahrends

Go back in time about 70 years ago.



I was raised in my grandparents' home in the small town of Roodhouse, IL along with my mother and aunt whose name was Yuelletta, but I called her Tetta. Tetta taught school for 48 years – all at the fifth-grade level, except for one year when she taught third grade. The first half of her career she taught in Roodhouse and the second half she taught in Galesburg, IL.

My aunt had several traditions that she adhered to every year and Halloween was one of them. Each year she hosted a Halloween event for her fifth-grade students. This was no ordinary event. Our house had a living room and an adjoining sitting room. There was a small bedroom on one side of the living room. I tell you this because it sets the stage for what happened on Halloween.

Each year all the furniture was moved out of the living room and sitting room. Corn stalks, pumpkins and other decorations were brought in to be placed around the room or hung from the ceiling. Boards were brought in to be placed on tiles to be used for seating. The small bedroom was turned into a fortune teller's area. Downstairs the basement was set up so it became a haunted house area with curtains strung in such a manner as to be able to follow the mysterious paths for exploration of what would be next.

As the kids arrived, friendly ghosts would greet them on the street. (These were our neighborhood men who did this each year.) Inside, the fortune teller, dressed in her finest witch's costume would take turns talking the with kids, calling them by name, while others explored the haunted house. (She was the neighbor lady from across the street. The kids could never figure out how she knew all of them.) In that respect they never realized who the ghosts were either.

Games were played, with bobbing for apples being the most popular. Halloween stories were told, and it was fun to guess who was behind the masks. Most of the costumes were homemade, but very creative. (No swords or guns, etc., or even gruesome masks, -- just fun to look at and talk about.)

To end the evening a wiener roast was held. Our yard along the street was lined with leaves raked up and placed there -- it was about a half block long. Sticks were used to roast the wieners

and kids took turns using them. Roasting marshmallows was also popular. Hot chocolate was usually the drink for the evening. Of course, many adults were supervising with rakes, etc.

What a fun, safe way to spend Halloween! Our family looked forward to it, even though it was a lot of work, and I think the neighbors enjoyed being a part of it, too. I know the fifth-grade kids did!

Such fond memories of this holiday as it was celebrated at this time even after all these years.

Over the River and Through the Woods

Thanksgiving Song

Over the river and through the woods,
To grandfather's* house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh,
Thru the white and drifted snow, oh!

Over the river and thru the woods,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes and bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and thru the wood,
To have a first-rate play;
Oh, hear the bell ring, "Ting-a-ling-ling!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day-ay!

Over the river and thru the woods,
Trot fast my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground like a hunting hound,
For this is Thanksgiving Day!

Over the river and through the woods,
And straight through the barnyard gate.
We seem to go extremely slow,
It is so hard to wait!

Over the river and through the woods,
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!
Hurrah for fun! Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!