

Zion News

"Brighten the corner where you are." - Ina Duley Ogdon

Ina Duley Ogdon was born in 1872 in Rossville, Illinois and studied at Greer College in Hoopeston. From 1892 to 1900 she taught school in Illinois.

Mrs. Ogdon wrote the words to about 3,000 hymns, anthems and cantatas.

Her best-known hymn, for which Charles H. Gabriel wrote the music, was "Brighten the Corner Where You Are" written in 1912. It became immediately popular after it was recorded in 1915 and was sung around the world.

Billy Sunday, who began his career as a baseball player for the Chicago White Stockings, became one of the country's best known evangelists. He used several of Mrs. Ogdon's hymns during his tours across America.

She also wrote another hymn in 1912 called "What Would Jesus Do?" but that's a whole other story.

The sentiment of her hymn "Brighten the Corner" was inspired by the words of Christ in Matthew 5:14 when he says, "You are the light of the world." These are certainly words to live by and perhaps the best way to cope with the woes of this world today.

We may sing about the beauty of the earth and God's creation of all things bright and good, but humans can make things pretty ugly.

Russia is making advances on the Ukraine in its unprovoked war against civilians, political division seems to be growing, there have been more than one-a-day mass shooting

in the United States so far this year, and environmental issues plague communities and the planet. Indications suggest that things will get worse, not better.

This may seem like an extremely pessimistic viewpoint, and one Christians should not yield to. Christians should remain eternal optimists with faith that God has the whole world in his hands. God needs our help, though.

None of us can single-handedly end war, or stop mass shootings, or save the environment, but we can control where we are mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We can brighten the corners of our lives and the lives of people who are near.

Can you imagine the effect of more and more people brightening their areas of influence and then coming together to make larger and larger areas of positive influence? That's how we can best cope with the darkness around us and help our communities, society, and the world find the light.

"Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do. Do not wait to shed your light afar. To the many duties ever near you now be true. Brighten the corner where you are." - Ina Duley Ogdon

Celebrating March birthdays: Mar 9-Paul Knobloch, Mar 10-Aidan Drake, Mar 10-Lane Drake, and Mar 13-Jean White.

If you would like to receive our monthly Good News email, send a request to ramonacarlyle@yahoo.com.

Zion's Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Sesquicentennial Essay Contest

District #305 Education Foundation is holding a Sesquicentennial Essay Contest.

The four communities of Arthur, Atwood, Hammond, and Lovington are all celebrating the 150th Anniversary of their founding in 1873.

7th grade through high school students of the District

are invited to write an essay about: *What does my town's Sesquicentennial mean to me?*

Three prizes of \$100 each will be awarded to the best 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school student essay.

Return your essay of 500 words or less to your principal's office by March 31, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids for mowing grass, mulching leaves and string and chemical trimming for the Arthur Park District, Arthur, Illinois, will be received at: Attn: JJ Carter, 500 Eberhardt Drive Arthur, IL 61911 until 2:30 o'clock p.m. on Friday, March 10th, 2023. The bids will be opened and read at regular meeting of the Board on Monday, March 13th, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Arthur Community Building.

Separate bids must be made for 1. Brad-O-Clen and 2. Eberhardt Park, Jurgens Park.

The independent contractor shall be required to pay the general prevailing rate of wages in the locality.

The independent contractor shall provide all needed equipment to perform the Contract and shall be required to have a valid Illinois Chemical Applicator's License and provide proof thereof prior to beginning work under the Contract. The work shall be performed as follows:

a. Brad-O-Clen: Mow and trim every 10 days; including upkeep of ditch area on property. Remove branches and limbs if needed.

b. Eberhardt and Jurgens Parks: Mow at least once a week or as needed, including Jurgens Hill. Mow ball diamonds and soccer fields twice a week during Little League and soccer league; trim and remove limbs and sticks as needed. Ball diamonds

and soccer fields also need to put on a yearly fertilization plan. Eberhardt Park needs to be put on a twice a year fertilization plan.

c. Otherwise maintain a neat and professional appearance in Jurgens Park, Eberhardt Park and Brad-O-Clen, with special attention to Eberhardt Park. Grass should generally be kept approximately 2.5" in height and chemical trimming should not exceed a distance of 6" of any structure or sidewalk. Eberhardt Park must be mowed in the morning hours and later in the week.

d. Other work as detailed.

The successful bidder shall be required to comply with all bid specifications and requirements including a satisfactory performance bond in the amount of 10% of the bid or proposal, and no bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after bid closing date without the consent of the Arthur Community Park District.

The said Board of Park Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informality in bidding. For additional information or explanation or bidding specifications, contact JJ Carter at 217-549-0153.

President and Board of Park Commissioners,
Arthur Community Park District,
Arthur, Illinois
published 03/01, 03/08/2023

Lots of activities this weekend in our area

BUSY WEEKEND

Starting with the ALAH FFA alumni biscuits and gravy breakfast on Saturday, March 11 from 6-9 a.m. at the Arthur United Methodist Church. There will also be a silent auction. Donations welcome!

From the facebook page: "The 2023 Arthur Home & Garden Expo will be held on March 10-11th at the Otto Center. The Expo opens at 10 a.m. and runs until 8 p.m. on Friday. Booths open on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. and will be open until the Expo closes at 4 p.m. You will not want to miss this year's show! Many vendors are running Show Specials and will have drawings at their booths and you won't want to miss registering for the grand prize drawing at the end of the show on Saturday. (Need not be present to win)." I believe there are over 60 vendors. This is always one of my favorite shows of the year.

The high school's drama club's presentation of 'Ken Ludwig's The Three Musketeers' can also be seen this coming weekend. Head to the high school on Friday, March 10th at 7 p.m. or Saturday, March 11th at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and they are sold at the door.

And as an extra added attraction to be viewed anytime, the annual production of "Winter Follies" can be viewed online. Link can be found on the school webpage.

SPORTS REPORT

Kind of a quiet time of year. The 8th grade girls are participating in volleyball regionals this week and there is a track meet in Mt. Zion on Wednesday. Good luck Knights!

BLOOD DRIVE

The Lions Club along with the ministerial association will be hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, March 16 from 1-6 p.m. at the Arthur United Methodist Church.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK

Is March 13-19. The University of Illinois extension office shares this about Brain Awareness Week. "It is the global campaign to foster public enthusiasm and support for brain science. Some ideas offered to help with improving brain function are 1) relax; 2) slow down, pay attention, stay focused; 3) repeat it (repetition strengthens connections); 4) write it down; 5) visualize (create an image); 6) make associations; 7) stay organized; 8) plan and prioritize. Don't forget that the local extension office on Progress Street offers a brain fitness class each month on the third Monday. Next class is March 20.

MAKING BIG NEWS

McKenna Blaudow, daughter of Jared and Cara Blaudow and granddaughter of Jerry and Margo Blaudow, is an 8th grader at Arthur Grade School. She plays basketball and volleyball. McKenna recently made the news with her very enterprising idea of painting old bas-

Lovington

Blood Drive

The Lovington First Christian Church is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday March 9 from Noon - 5:30.

Walk Ins are Welcome!

To register for an available time slot, go to Red Cross Blood.org.

Thank You For Your Support!

LEGAL NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, February 16, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Douglas County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: EVERGREEN LANE PUPPIES, 275 N CR 200 EAST, ARTHUR, IL 61911.

Dated this 16th day of February, 2023.

No. DBA-001985

Judi Pollock
County Clerk
published 02/22, 03/01, 03/08/2023

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

ketball hoops and stringing beads to make chandeliers. She and brother Nate, with Mom's help, started doing this during the pandemic and then went on to sell them on Etsy. One of her latest creations was recently shown at an NBA All-star event. The buyer messaged the family that Shaquille O'Neal loved it! Don't be surprised to see McKenna and family coming up with more ideas like this one. They are very much a sports loving family. The clip of the story can be found on the WAND news site.

THE SON OF AN ALWAYS ARTHURITE

Jeff Rohrer graduated from Arthur High School in 1978 and years ago moved to Indiana but he is still a huge Illini fan and I'm guessing a big fan of high school basketball too as it seems his son, Mark and the team he coaches, the Gibson Southern Titans, just won their first sectional championship since 2002. Evidently Mark has been coaching for 14 years as an assistant or head coach. This was his 4th attempt at a sectional championship as a head coach. If I am reading the posts right, they now move on to the regional championship game. Evidently they do things backward in Indiana! Well at least backward to Illinois in the case of high school basketball. Good luck to Coach Rohrer and

his team!

NEVER SAY NEVER

Throughout this journey I have had many people tell me to take care of myself and I assure them that I have been. However, the thought crossed my mind the other day that through all the ins and outs of being in different places I had managed to stay healthy. Well, we all know better than to even think that. Came down with a cold earlier this week. Not bad and mostly just a stuffy nose and an annoying little cough. I swear somebody was listening!

FAIR HAVEN

I haven't written a lot in this column about the three month journey we have been on. At some point I do plan to devote a whole column or maybe a separate article about dealing with a serious health issue. But for now I just want to share with you a story about a wonderful place I was fortunate to have found even though it wasn't until late into our stay in Indianapolis. When Delano first went into the hospital over there I asked if there were any places to stay. I was given a list of hotels that supposedly offered discounts. I soon learned I could find better deals on my own. It wasn't until about two weeks ago when a new social worker asked me about Fair Haven. He was appalled to learn that nobody had told me

about it. Fair Haven definitely offers a home way from home. Started by a mother and daughter as a place for families to stay when they have loved ones in the hospital, it is a beautiful facility run by Christian people who are some of the most compassionate, caring people I have ever met. There is no charge as it is run completely on donations. The place is fully equipped with a kitchen and laundry and there are kitchenettes in the rooms. In this 'home' people feel comfortable sharing their stories and believe me, while you may be feeling bad for your loved one, you find there are others struggling with so much more. The lady whose husband was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The woman who was taking care of her cousin who has cancer and, as I learned, the cousin is also homeless. The man from Danville who was waiting on news of approval from insurance for his wife's double lung transplant. Or the young man from Georgia who has been dealing for two years with a multitude of problems that resulted in the need for a small intestine transplant. Obviously people come from all over the country to seek help at Indiana University Hospital and if they are lucky they can at least find some comfort at a place that is very aptly named, Fair Haven. I only spent about seven nights there and, as I told them, the peace of mind they offer is priceless.

And that's -30- for continued improvement!

MANNEQUINS

Image: Wedge made of plaster by Ariana Chambers

by Ariana & Don S.Chambers



In Our Community

Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale
Kick-off Banquet
Sat. Mar. 25, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM
at Yoder's Kitchen
Rt. 133 E. Arthur, IL

featuring
Andrew Geddert



Andrew Geddert and his wife Katherine, served with MCC in Ukraine as Peace Resource Person (2015-2017) and then as Country Representative (2017-2020). Andrew currently works as a psychologist in a center that provides services to immigrants and asylum-seekers. Andrew and Katie are actively involved at Living Water Community Church in Chicago, a church in which four language groups worship together every week. They have two children - Micah (age 9) and Layla (age 5). Since June 2022 Andrew has been working remotely for the MCC Ukraine program as Trauma Support and Resourcing Specialist.

An offering will be taken to defray the start-up expenses for the 2023 Arthur Relief Sale

Les Gustafson-Zook



Les Gustafson-Zook is a storyteller, musician, long time Mennonite Central Committee worker from Goshen, Indiana. His experiences have taken he and his wife, Gwen, around the country with MCC to start the DOOR program in Denver, CO. the PLOW program in Portland, work in Atlanta and Jamaica and now to represent MCC to churches in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and NW Ohio.

Les frequently visits congregations and Amish schools taking a variety of home-made musical instruments to share songs and stories of the work of MCC around the world. When not doing MCC work, he teaches and performs at music festivals across the country and plays whatever disc golf courses he can in his travels.

Reservations required by Mon. Mar. 19

Contact Glen Rhodes ~ 217-273-5026 or Cliff Yoder ~ 217-246-4890

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Ask us about our 2023 Christmas Club Savings!



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NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

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