

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Connecticut Granger



Vol. 50, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

FEBRUARY 2010

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Most of the schools of instruction have been completed. The dates for the remaining three should be on this page. If you missed the one in your Pomona there is still a chance to catch one. I hope the information that was presented helped you to better understand the workings and goals of the Grange. As always the question and answer period was the most active and informative, even to me.

All Granges should now have several copies of the state directory, blue books and a copy of the state legislative policies. This should be given to the Legislative Chairman.

Please use these books. The information in them is invaluable. One comment I have heard is "my phone no. in the directory is wrong and it was wrong last year to". My response is did you notify the State Secretary so it can be corrected? If you didn't it will still be wrong next year.

When I mentioned to use the books I hope the Master will bring the pink book, he received at the State Session last year, to some meetings to discuss some of the resolutions and other activities that take place at the session. Information will keep your members interested.

Another activity that took place in January was the North East Leaders Conference, which was held in Brattleboro, Vt. Any news, ideas or information from that conference will be discussed in the March edition. Later this month Sister Marge and I will be on our way to Orlando,



Connecticut Grangers attending the Northeast Leaders' Conference in Brattleboro, Vermont included: Seated - Joanne Cipriano, Membership Director; Marge Sendewicz, First Lady; Betty Jane Gardiner, CWA Director; Front Row - Ernie Finch, Agriculture-Conservation; Bob Sendewicz, Master; Maureen Prelli; Carl Bernhardt, Publicity Director; Marge Bernhardt, Lecturer; Jodi Ann Cameron, Pomona; and, Back Row - Don Lanoue, Youth Director; Gordon Gibson, Executive Committee and Legislative Director; Bob Brocket; Phil Prelli, Executive Committee and National Grange Executive Committee Secretary; and Joan Perry, Junior Director.

Fl. for the State Master's Conference. It will be nice to get out of this weather for a few days. I'm a little nervous though because of the flying experiences I've had the last two times we went to the Master's Conference.

Besides that the weather is not that great. We will see what happens.

There is a lot happening this time of year but all these conferences have valuable leadership workshops and useful instructions to better prepare us to avoid or handle problems in our State Grange. We in Connecticut have received much training from National Grange and we will start using what

we have learned to aid our Community Granges to improve themselves and we will continue to use the National program to train more leaders.

All of the information and news that is acquired at these meetings will be passed on to you, probably through this our fine newspaper. If you do not receive the paper subscribe now.

"Short" Session underway



Gordon Gibson
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

As you are reading this, the General Assembly will be in the early days of its 2010 regular session. This year is a so called "short session" when only bills that are introduced by a committee and bills that have a financial impact can be considered. Most everything has a fiscal impact today, so that a lot of room for individual

legislators to introduce new. Normally there is enough talk around the capitol that everyone has some idea of the major bills that will be introduced, but this has been an unusually quiet year. There are still major deficits in the 2010 - 2011 budget and all the legislators will be up for reelection this fall, so no one wants to stick their neck out very far. Governor Rell called the General Assembly into a special session in December, but all they did was formally open and close because no one had any good solutions for the financial problems. I anticipate most of the legislative session will be taken up with adjustments to the budget.

Several State agencies have said they will run out of money before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. No one is talking about laying off any state employees yet, but what will happen if a State agency does not have enough money to meet its payroll? I doubt the employees will work if they are not being paid. Some agencies are talking about furlough days when their employees will have to take time off without pay, but if the employees have to take a week without pay they will qualify for unemployment benefits just as though they were laid off. If the employees qualify for unemployment benefits,

... continued on page 2

2010 SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION


Feb. 7 (Sun)	Excelsior Pomona Prospect Grange, 2:00 P.M.
Feb. 21 (Sun)	Central Pomona Hemlock Grange, 1:00 P.M.
Feb. 28 (Sun)	New Haven County Pomona Wallingford Grange, 3:00 P.M.

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Deadline for the MARCH issue: FEBRUARY 5

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Trumbull No. 134
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

REDDING GRANGE #15
Corr: Marge Sendewicz
Feb. 8: Be My Valentine-6:30 Supper
Feb. 22: About all the other Presidents
Mar. 8: Honor Grange night

We will start February off with a supper meeting then we will have our Valentine program. Love is always an interesting and timely topic. Let's see how many different ways we can present it both seriously and comically.

Do you know who or anything about some of the other presidents? Well, come to Redding Grange on the 22nd. and learn. There is a wealth of information on these men, there hasn't been any women yet but some have had interesting wives.

March 8 will be sort of a ritualistic program for us and you if you wish to attend. It may even include investigating the Honor Grange report to up our score. Either way each night is a fun night at Redding Grange. Because of the weather we are having now you may want to check with us if you are planning to attend one or all of our meetings.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133
Corr: Dennis Rich
Feb. 21: "President's Days," 2 P.M., Meeting

December brought us a few good snowfalls. We are hoping for better weather for our next few meetings!

Our February meeting will feature agriculture history with emphasis on the impact of American presidents on conservation and rural matters. Bring your ideas about Grange activities. All of our Grange friends are welcome!

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134
Corr: Susan Sulier

Hi, fellow Grangers and welcome to February, the month associated with love.

Now onto the Grange stuff – In December we

had our Annual Christmas Party at the Blue Goose in Stratford. Our celebration included; a wonderful meal with good service, a holiday sing-along and a surprise visit from Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal. We extend special thanks to Val Barrachina for organizing the terrific party, to Louise Malatesta for sharing her delicious homemade cookies and to Barbara Standley for sponsoring our raffle and for the holiday goodies she and Sherryl Fairchild donated.

Many Trumbull Grangers miss and enjoyed participating in Grange/ community related projects and have a desire to again be active in them. We hope to re-commit to and focus on keeping our Grange (actually all Granges) active, fun, informative, in the loop, progressive, social and community orientated.

On a positive note - Our Henry Barrachina who previously suffered a fall and health issues appears to be on the mend. Keep it up "Brother" Henry - we love you!

Featured CT AARP Column #7 - This year's state budget adds a cost-sharing requirement for seniors using the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders (CHCPE). The CHCPE program pays for medical and non-medical support services to help keep frail individuals ages 65+ out of nursing homes. Under the new cost-sharing requirement, seniors using the state-funded portion of the program may have to pay 15% of the cost, in addition to any Applied Income. The change will impact approximately 5,200 clients. Legislators agreed to the 15% cost sharing requirement in exchange for keeping the program open to all seniors that qualify. To learn more about the CHCPE call the DSS Alternate Care Unit at 860-424-4904.

I wish all Grangers

(especially my wonderful husband Tom) a very "Happy Valentine's Day"

NORFIELD GRANGE #146
Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
Feb. 9: Be My Valentine, CWA Baking Contest
Mar. 9: St. Patrick's Day

This is the season for holidays! Valentine's Day is practically here (don't forget the CWA Baking contest), and St. Patrick's Day follows in March. Come celebrate with us at the Grange.

Before anything else, of course, came our Holiday Party. Our Christmas tree never looked more festive, and thanks to the Burtsches the table decorations were delightful. Audrey should get a patent for those Cremora snowmen! Santa Bob Sendewicz and Mrs. Santa Marge blew in from the North Pole (somewhere up there in Danbury), and there were grab bag gifts for all. In a very poignant moment, Ted Coley stood up and offered a heartfelt prayer that God take care of two of our most valuable grangers: Sue Sulla and Olive Phillips.

Sue had been either in the hospital or Honey Hill Care Center from September to December1!Sheisnowhome, much to her dog Nina's joy, and with the help of others she is definitely making her way back. Perhaps by this reading she will be there at her Lecturer's table, making us laugh again.

God had other plans for Ollie. She slipped away later in December, leaving behind an extraordinary life that had been filled with service and love for others. She joined the Grange in 1937. A graduate of Drexel University, she majored in Home Economics and even earned a pilot's license in the mid '40s! A quiet thinker who read voraciously, she had a deadpan sense of humor that kept right on going through nursing

homes and emergency rooms. But most of all, Ollie will be remembered for her humility and her dedication to anyone who needed help. A whole slate of people considered her their second mother. She was real mother to George, Emerson, and Betsy. Ollie died at home, where she had been born, and her last breath came peacefully, as she gazed out at the horses in her pasture.

CANNON GRANGE #152
Corr: Don Offinger
Feb 4: Business Meeting and program "Working together"
Mar 4: Business Meeting and program "Away We Go"
Mar 18: Business Meeting and program "Agricultural Program - Preparing a Garden"
Apr 1: Business Meeting and program "Wilton EMS"

Our CFA, headed up by Michelle McDonald and Doug Shepherd, presented a cheerful holiday party for our members and neighbors to conclude 2009. A great variety of delicious food was provided, and we were very fortunate to gain a new member as a result! We extend a warm welcome to Katy Curtis. Our

musical entertainment was provided by the Brilliant Brass, a brass quintet from the Congregational Church, playing a number of familiar holiday tunes and carols. One of our own members, Don Offinger, is a performer in the quintet. Can't beat local talent!

During the cold winter months, we will be holding only one meeting a month to help conserve fuel oil. If the weather is inclement on the night of the meeting, the meeting will be canceled. If you're planning to attend, please use good judgement as to the weather, or call ahead.

Sue Sulla has returned home following an extended stay in hospital and the assisted care facility. She is anxious to get back to her regular activities.

Our meeting and program schedule is posted above. Please circle a date on the calendar and come by. We begin with supper at 6 PM and begin our meeting by 7 PM, and are on our way home by 8:30 at the latest.

Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Creatures of Habit



Edith Schoell
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

Are you a creature of habit? Most of us are, but some things must change. Please make a note that the Central Office mailing address is P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Some still send mail to Patrons and it may be weeks or a month before they let me know mail is sitting there. In the meantime you claim it's in the mail, and I wonder where

it went.

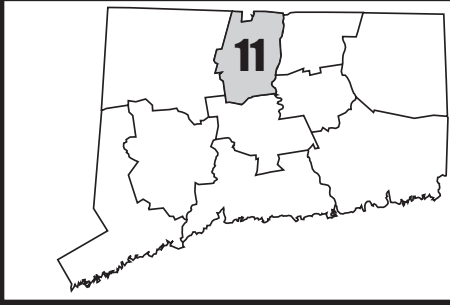
Several Granges have not submitted their membership list to the Central Office. National Grange is asking that all states have a complete membership list. Believe it or not, I have them on the computer!

Again, file the 990N form on the computer with the IRS. I have had a question or two and will help if I can. Hopefully there will be no "hitches" this year.

There are a couple of Schools of Instruction scheduled for February. Plan to attend since you may have a question or two, and some new ideas may be forthcoming.

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Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Tunxis No. 13
- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Simsbury No. 197
- ✓ West Suffield No. 199
- ✓ Cherry Brook No. 210

FARMINGTON VALLEY
POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner
Feb. 15: “Hearts and Candy Time”

We were not happy to have to cancel our Pomona Christmas meeting and program, and at this writing are hoping to be able to have it sometime in January.

Several of our people attended the Leader’s Conference in Vermont. The exchange of plans and ideas among the states is always enjoyable and helpful.

Due to the unforeseen problem of having to close Simsbury Grange Hall for the winter, our printed schedule of meetings is not accurate in the Farmington Valley Pomona Handbok. Check with any of the officers to find out where the meetings listed for Simsbury will be held. We hope you will come out and visit with us.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian C. Shaw
Feb. 12: Presidents
Feb. 6, 13, 20: Cabin Fever Tag Sales
Feb. 22: Bloodmobile at S. Congregational Church, sponsored by Granby Grange

Christmas Party Potluck Supper, Food Bank Items, grab bag Vivian missed the party because heavy snow was difficult for a wheelchair. Christmas card greetings were sent to her from all. Bruce & Bobbie Sullivan, Lila & Charles Innes, Ron, Janet, Alissa Bumstead, Charlie, Joe, Fran & Bob, Carol, Shirley, Lucian, Virginia & J.D., Lyall.

Virginiagave“AWoman’s Version of the Night Before Christmas.”

Quiz based on “Twas the Night Before Christmas.”

Christmas carol quiz.
Dec. 28 there were 51 donors at S. Congregational Church sponsored by Granby Grange.

TUNXIS GRANGE #13

Corr: Pam Covington
Feb. 2: Roses and Love

Lecturer Al Forster was able to be back with us and it was good to have him well enough to attend.

We enjoyed the program very much, and the hit of it was that everyone brought in something that was either old or something that meant something special to them. The things that were brought in were either old, interesting or sentimental. It was a lot of fun. Sister Doris brought refreshments, and they were delicious.

If you want to visit at our meeting, please check with Sister Doris to be sure we are meeting. We love visitors.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner
Feb. 10: Amour and Presidents

We are meeting in the Simsbury Library for the winter months on the 2nd Wednesday at 1:00.

January was the CWA program- so we had fun with some catty remarks and activities.

We encourage our folks to take advantage of the winter shut-in evenings to work on entries for the Grange contests and to think ahead to September and make items for the Grange Country Store at the Big E.

Community Service projects are on going and we do our best to keep up with the usual projects as well as things with a new twist.

Hope you can get to some Grange events during the cold times and if that isn’t possible keep warm and snug by the fire and look forward to better days ahead.

WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199

Corr: Pam Covington
Feb. 9: Presidents Day-Junior & Youth Night

West Suffield had a nice Christmastime. We had a lot of fun on our Grab Bag Game with our “Left and

Right” game. Everyone found it fascinating to see the give they received. They are always different and everyone enjoys seeing what

Continued from page one... the State will have to pay those benefits just like any private employer, but where will the State get the funds to pay those benefits? The State will also have to pay for heat, lights and other utilities in its buildings, but if the agencies do not have enough money in their budgets to cover these items, where will it come from? The State has already shut down one prison building and crowded the inmates other buildings to save money, but how many other buildings can be completely shut down? Unfortunately no one has any good answers for these questions

I try to vary the topics in my articles, but lately most of them have been related to the State’s financial problems because that is the main topic around the capitol. Everyone has questions

the other person got!
We are meeting at the WestSuffieldCongregational Church with Lunch at 12:00 and the meeting at 1:00. If

you can join us, we would love to have you! We furnish the beverage and dessert.
We look forward to seeing you.

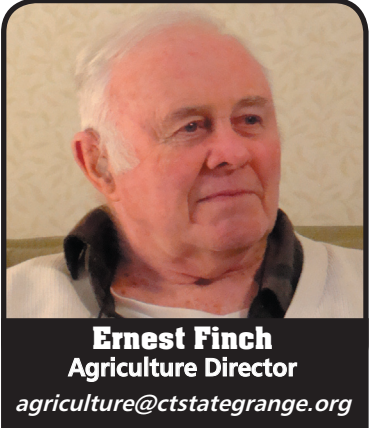
Short Session

and no one has answers. I predict that the 2010 session of the General Assembly will spend most of its time on the budget.

This year also promises to be an interesting year for election campaigns. Four of the State’s six elected officials will not be running for the offices they now hold, Senator Dodd has announced that he is giving up his seat in the United States Senate and all of the seats in the Connecticut General Assembly will be up for election. Some senators and representatives will for reelection to their present seats while others will run for other offices or decide they do not want to run for office again, leaving their seats open to new candidates from both major parties and possibly from independent and minor party candidates. The Grange has a

cherished history of debating issues, but staying out of partisan politics. A Grange may have a program where candidates discuss the issues, but all candidates for any particular office must be invited to participate on an equal basis. The Grange may ask the candidates for their views on whatever topics are of interest to that Grange, but all candidates should be given equal time to express their views. Individual Grange members may lobby for the candidates of their choice outside the Grange, but the Grange itself may not lobby for or endorse any candidate or group of candidates. The Grange encourages everyone, both members and non members, to be informed voters, but at Grange meetings and all other Grange activities they must be nonpartisan voters.

AgNews



Dan Mutchler,
State Agriculture Committee

People have been drinking raw milk for thousands of years. By ‘raw’ we mean to say milk which has not been pasteurized. The news media thrives on sensationalism and lately has made the term raw milk something to be afraid of and considered dangerous. Let us consider some of the factual information on this controversial topic.

In general, non-pasteurized or raw milk from animals such as sheep, goats, cows, donkeys and even reindeer has been a reliable and safe vitamin and nutrient-laden food

for a long time. Cultures all around the world have relied on milk for good health and sustenance long before the French chemist, Louis Pasteur’s process was developed (first tested in 1864), and those cultures still exist today. They did not get wiped out because they consumed raw milk. It is easy to see that raw milk is not a deadly food. One of the negatives about pasteurization is that there are many good naturally occurring bacteria which get destroyed in the process, along with any potentially dangerous bacteria there might be. Pasteurization is a process which slows microbial growth in food. As a result the chemistry of the milk is altered. Raw milk contains beneficial live bacteria similar to yogurt, which have the amazing ability to actually crowd out bad bacteria and also give the milk some amazing natural preservative qualities.

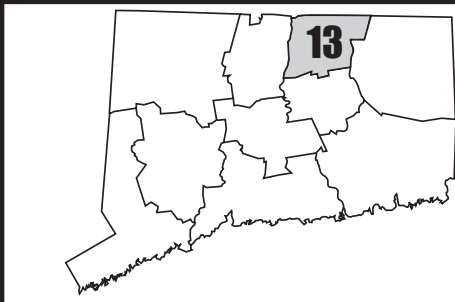
Much of the illness and

death associated with raw milk in the past was a direct result of animals that were confined to filthy, manure-filled pens combined with sick workers with dirty hands, and any number of contaminants in unsanitary milk pails.

We live in more enlightened times with much more advanced biology, and a much better understanding of the importance of adhering to stringent sanitation practices in agricultural operations. There must be a way we, as a modern society can return to utilizing this amazing food product, which God created and intended for the preservation of life.

This is an ongoing discussion and there are several farms in Connecticut where this incredible food can be obtained. However, it is under constant legal attacks and I hope we do not have to see it legally banned beforethoroughlyexamining the possibilities of producing and marketing this product in a safe healthful way.

North Central Pomona No. 13



- ✓ Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Enfield No. 151

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Edward Festi

Feb. 16: President's Month, 7 P.M.

Mar. 16: Irish Poetry, 7 P.M.

At our December 15th meeting we enjoyed the young music students from Studio 85. We got to join in singing Christmas carols something we had not done since our grammar school days.

On Jan. 19th we will play bingo and eat hot dogs.

Our Feb. 16th meeting we will celebrate President's month. Please bring canned goods to be donated to the local food bank.

Our March 16th meeting will be a program on Irish poetry.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Feb. 2: Be Mine?

Hasn't this winter been something??? As I write this column it is again snowing and cold and windy. I guess this is the price we pay for living in the East.

Be sure to call Worthy Master Robert West if you plan to attend one of our meetings.

With the snow, we may not be meeting at our hall so we wouldn't want you to miss us.

We hope you are all well and enjoying the start of the new year.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Feb. 5: Let's Write a Resolution!

State Legislative Director and Vernon Grange's own Gordon Gibson is going to help us all write a resolution at our February meeting. Members are asked to come with an idea for a resolution and we will discuss it and then he will advise us on how to write a resolution.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 13: McIntosh..Preheat the oven; Meeting at Dawn's house.

December found us with an icy parking lot so the meeting was held at my home. We were very pleasantly surprised with a visit from Dan Muchler and Ron Purington. Their music added greatly to our program. Thank you both. Although we were a little

crowded a regular meeting worked out well. Everyone brought cookies for our cookie exchange and literally my table runnith over, and the bag for the food shelf was filled.

This was to be the last

meeting in the hall until April as we close it down for the winter months.

We are still waiting for an answer from the Town regarding the disposition of the hall. I will keep you all informed as soon as we do

hear. If you are planning to attend one of our meetings please call Master Brian Carpenter for the location.

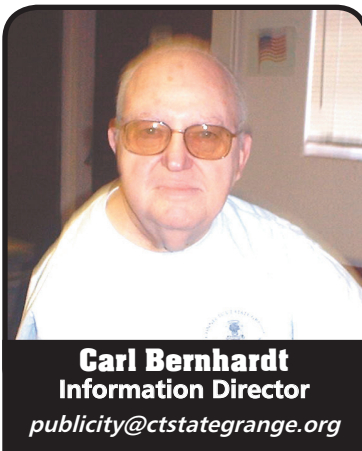
Get well wishes go out to Edna Clark, hope to hear you're on the road to recovery.

Joe Smith celebrates 100



Enfield Grange member Joe Smith celebrates his 100th birthday with members of the Grange at a local restaurant. Pictured with Brother Smith are (left) his sister Louise Kamay and Julianna Ballard.

Who, what, where, when, why



Carl Bernhardt
Information Director
publicity@ctstategrange.org

When you are planning your special event, you should remember to prepare a news

release on the coming event. This news release should be sent to the local newspaper at least one to two weeks before the event. The news release should include these four items: WHO is sponsoring the event; WHAT is the event; WHEN is the event being held; and WHERE is the event taking place.

If you are preparing posters to announce the event, the same information should appear on the poster. The posters should be distributed at least two weeks before the

event and remember to take them down after the event has taken place.

Many people have asked us the address of the daily or weekly newspaper that serves their area. There is a complete listing of newspapers in the Connecticut State Register and Manual, published by the Secretary of the State. This Blue Book is available in your public library. It is also available on the Internet at the Secretary of the States website: <http://www.sots.state.ct.us>.

Vernon's 80 year member



Vernon Grange No. 52 member Faith Lyman, receiving a certificate in recognition of 80 years of continuous membership and service to the Grange. The presentation was made by Vernon Master Nancy Strong.

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since 1833.*

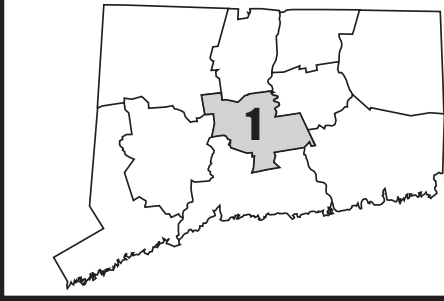
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Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Westfield No. 50
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

CENTRAL POMONA #1
Corr: Dianna Clark
Feb. 11: Youth, CWA Program, 7:30 P.M.-Hemlock

In Hemlock Grange Hall, Feb. 14, a youth program will be presented by Murray Newton, and the CWA program will be presented by Cynthia Charbonneau.

The meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. at Hemlock and co-hosted by Meriden. All Subordinate Granges are asked to bring three items for the CWA table on Valentine’s Sweets.

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25
Corr: Lisa Lamoureux
Feb. 8: Business Meeting/ Valentines Day

Greetings from Southington Grange. It is with a sad heart that I announce the passing our sister, Carolyn Magnuson. Carolyn passed away on December 26, 2009.

She was a Granger for many years and was always at our Fair with her husband, Russell, taking care of the Bakery Department. We always knew the Bakery Department was in good hands with Carolyn and Russell. We will miss seeing her smiling face and the goodies that they both baked up. Southington Grange sends our condolences to the entire Magnuson family. Carolyn will be missed.

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (EXCEPT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY – 2ND MONDAY ONLY UNLESS IT IS SNOWING. THEN MEETING IS CANCELLED AND RESCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH MONDAY OF THAT MONTH) at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Street and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29
Corr: Dianna Clark
Feb. 12: Be My Valentine-Whose baby picture?
Mar. 12: St. Patrick’s Day
Mar. 26: Youth, CWA-Neighbor’s Night

We had a nice Christmas party, exchanging gifts and Christmas story to tell of Jesus.

On Dec. 12th we had a nice breakfast for the public, and turnout was very good.

Jan. 8th we had committee reports. On Valentine’s Day we ask everyone to bring a baby picture of yourself and Grangers to guess who the baby picture is, and name your sweetheart.

We are happy with our new members Linda, Michael, and Jim and always are looking for new members.

On March 26th we ask neighbors to join us for youth night and CWA night. We would love to have you join us in a fun time.

WESTFIELD GRANGE #50
Corr: Phyllis Redford
Feb. 4: When George Washington came to Connecticut

The December program at #50 examined the stories behind three of the most popular Christmas carols of all time. “Silent Night,” or in the original German, “Stille Nacht.” This, known universally as “A Christmas EveBlessing”, was composed in 1818 by Father Joseph Mohr, Assistant Priest of the Church of St. Nicholas in the little town of Oberndorf, Austria. Grangers sang this and other familiar hymns without accompaniment.

“Joy to the World”, known also as “A Joyful Celebration” was published in 1719, the work of Isaac Watts, an English poet and hymn writer. The words come from Psalm 98, verses four through nine.

Phillips Brooks, author of “O Little Town of Bethlehem” was an American preacher, pastor and teacher of

oustanding ability, born in Boston on December 13, 1835. In December 1865, the young Episcopal minister rode, on horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem where he was present for the Christmas Eve service at the Ancient Basilica, built over the traditional site of the nativity. So impressed was he with this service in Bethlehem, that a few years

Consumer Considerations: Valentine’s Day

by Jerry Farrell, Jr.
Commissioner, Dept. of Consumer Protection

With Valentine’s Day fast approaching, retailers and scammers are getting ready to romance you into parting with some of your hard earned money. Whether you’re planning on going all out or keeping things low key this Valentine’s Day, here are a few things to consider.

Marketing pitches and eCards related to Valentine’s Day are sure to be coming to your email account. Crooks are actively out to trick the unwary into passing along personal and financial information. One particular scheme involves an email indicating that the flowers you ordered for your sweetie won’t be delivered unless you log in and re-enter your credit card. Be on guard! Even if you think a message like this is real, go directly to the florist’s website or call them on the phone.

Along the same lines, be careful opening eCards! Only if you have very good antivirus software, and are up to date on all of your security updates should you feel that your computer is reasonably safe. But even then, watch out for any message telling you that you need to update your Flash player if you want to view the eCard. Even if you really think this is an actual eCard from a friend, go to www.get.adobe.com/flashplayer/ and download the update from there. Don’t click on the link provided by the sender, since it may install spyware or other software that allows access to your computer and your data.

It’s best to immediately delete suspicious or anonymous emails or e-cards. Open emails or e-cards only from known, trusted sources, and don’t click on links or attachments if you’re not absolutely sure who sent it. Never give out personal information in response to any email or e-card. Contact your local police and the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov if you believe you are a victim of a phishing scam.

A romantic dinner is always a nice choice, as long as you pick a place that you’re comfortable with in terms of food and expense. A busy holiday is usually not the best time to try out an unfamiliar restaurant.

Many singles will turn to online dating websites to find true love, and this has its risks as well. Scam artists often create fake profiles designed to match a certain kind of person whom they think will fall for their ploy. If you happen to be chosen by a scammer, at first it will seem that this new person you’ve met is perfect for you in every way. So far, so good!

later, the Pastor wrote our beloved hymns as a gift to the children of his parish. P.S. It is amazing how living creatures survive freezing weather. We will discuss that in the January program.

Did you know that George Washington, as President-elect, wore a brown wool suit to his first inauguration... and that suit

was made in Hartford, CT!
HEMLOCK GRANGE #182
Corr: Maureen Sanborn
Feb. 12: Young at Heart (Youth program, Murray Newton is in charge)
Feb. 26: Omit (unless first meeting of the month is cancelled)
Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

But as your relationship grows, the criminal is slowly grooming you, building enough trust that you won’t suspect them when they start to bilk you out of your money. Often, the first grab at your finances will come when it’s time to finally meet. Your true love won’t have enough money for the trip and need you to wire funds for a plane ticket. Or your online paramour becomes sick or has a relative or child that needs medical attention. This works well because the money is needed quickly and you won’t have time to think about it. Time is of the essence, you’re told. You may even be warned that if you can’t help, someone might die.

Be careful of this tried and true scam. If you fall for it you may be dealing with heartache, financial loss, and wounded pride.

Because jewelry is one of the more expensive items purchased for Valentine’s Day, be sure to shop around and compare quality, price and service. If you’re not familiar with jewelers in your area, ask trusted friends or family members for recommendations.

Don’t fall for promises of huge discounts offered by some retailers! Visit a number of jewelry stores to get a realistic range of prices.

Ask for the store’s refund and return policy before you buy. Have the jeweler write on the sales slip any special information about your purchase, such as the gemstone’s weight, size, or grade.

Online jewelers often offer lower prices, but the disadvantage is not being able to inspect and touch the jewelry before buying it in order to gauge its quality and appeal. Read the fine print, because mounting and sizing could cost extra. Deal with only well-known, reputable online sellers, confirm return policies and keep printouts with details about the item, the transaction, and the refund and return policies.

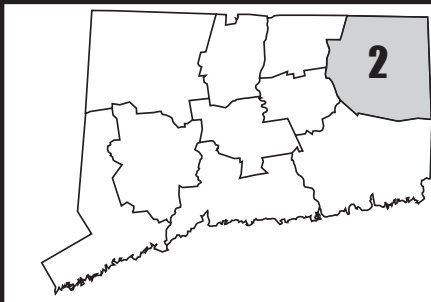
Pay for jewelry and other costly purchases with a major credit card if possible. It may give you recourse if problems arise later.

Flowers are a traditional Valentine’s gift, but they too can bring headaches for the unsuspecting consumer. Don’t randomly choose any florist that advertises at this busy time of year. Again, ask trusted neighbors, family and friends for names of quality local florists. Avoid doing business with florists that don’t list a street address with their phone number. When ordering, ask the florist to itemize the charges for you.

Hopefully, these tips help ensure that your Valentine’s Day brings you and yours only happiness.

Jerry Farrell, Jr., appointed in 2006 by Governor Rell as Connecticut’s Commissioner of Consumer Protection, is an attorney with fifteen years experience. Important information about consumer affairs can be found on the Department’s website: www.ct.gov/dcp.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



Senexet No. 40
✓ Brooklyn No. 43
✓ Wolf Den No. 61
✓ Ekonk No. 89
Ashford No. 90
Putnam No. 97
Killingly No. 112
Echo No. 180

BROOKLYN GRANGE #43

Corr: Louise Salmon

We received a warm welcome when third grade dictionaries were delivered to Rectory School students by Master Lyndall Berry, Treasurer Loretta Wood and Secretary Louise Salmon.

At a planned program for our arrival, the children sang "This Land is Your Land" and we were presented with handmade thank you cards. The program was delightful and a wonderful surprise.

On November 10, Master Lyndall Berry presented Minnie Halbach with her Past Master's pin. Congratulations and thank you, Minnie, for being our Master for eight years.

Our Thanksgiving program included a skit about Pilgrims and Indians greeting each other before their big dinner, performed by several members.

On December 8, we met at Hank's Restaurant for our Christmas Dinner Outing. Members and guests all enjoyed a dinner of their choice and time to socialize. Our program ended with

all singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie M. Johnson

Jan. 13: A New Beginning

Feb. 10: Presidents & Hearts, Ref. Everyone- Valentine Cookies

Winter is here- dropped in with some snow. Hope it cleared the air. We are back in our Grange Hall. Still have some fixing here and there. But nice.

Wild animals are more prevalent. Now it's rabid skunks. What next? Master John Carter and Sybil Williams gave out 48 dictionaries to the third graders at Pomfret Community School and kids happy to get them. Got a lot of thank you notes. Now to get on with our many projects. Time for all that knitting, crocheting and sewing.

Don't forget the shut-ins. Happy new year to all.

EKONK GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Feb. 7: Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. \$6.00

Feb. 13: Valentine Dinner Dance 6-11

Feb. 21: Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. \$6.00

Mar. 13: Corn Beef & Cabbage Supper 5-7 pm \$10.00

We welcomed another third generation Ekonk Granger into membership in Jan. when Marie Exley watched her granddaughter and Janet St. Jean watched her daughter, Shelley St. Jean, join our Grange! Marie and Janet both made donations to help our Grange on that special evening, when Sarah Phaiah presented the State Contest entry, "As American As Apple Pie"! Even the refreshments lent to the theme with Sue Gray making Barbara Cameron's "Chocolate Chip Apple

Cake" & Apple crisp and apple cider to drink topped it off! Everyone left with an apple...remember "an apple a day keeps the Dr. away"! It was a cold, slippery night but we had a good attendance and all stayed warm from fellowship.

We have donated more dictionaries and thesaurus to Sterling & Voluntown Elementary Schools, per their request. The schools now approach our Grange with their needs.

Our Grangers stepped up to the plate and bought gifts for 8 needy students from Sterling School at Christmastime and brought sunshine to two families in addition, with food baskets. Our Grange sent a resolution to the

Sterling Board of Selectmen to establish a Sterling AGVocate Commission. At this writing, the Town Attorney is looking over the information and if approved, it will go to Town Meeting for approval. Many of our members continue busily working as volunteers on the Sterling Family Day Committee.

Special hellos to Barbara Cameron, Henry and Evelyn Pelletier, Dave & Carolyn Orr, Silvia Burdick & Sandy Eggers. Our Chaplain, Jody Cameron, is doing a great job at sending out cards-contact him at 564-7614 if you know of a member in need of a card...and lastly, find your way to scenic Ekonk Hill, just like Motel 6, we will leave the light on for YOU!

Words for Thirds



Wolf Den Grange No. 61 Master John Carter handing out dictionaries to the third graders at Pomfret Community School on December 7th.

Brooklyn Past Master



Brooklyn Grange Master Lyndall Berry presents Minnie Halbach with her Past Master's pin at the November 10th meeting. Minnie served as Master for eight years.

Mark your calendars

What a paycheck! Friends and helping hands. That's what the Grange means to me.

Mark your calendar. The 95th Annual North East Grange Lecturer's Conference will be held August 2-5, 2010, at Vermont Tech, Randolph Center, Vermont. The directions are easy - right up I91 to I89. You take exit 4 and go right and are less than a mile from the school. I will be making a trip to the school in May for a Lecturers meeting and can get answers to any questions you have. I will also be getting the answers to questions discussed at our last meeting in a few days and will include all the information in the March-April newsletter.

Both our new National Lecturer, Pete Pompper,

and National Leadership Membership Director, Rusty Hunt have been invited to attend. Each will be doing two workshops with the schedule arranged so that everyone will be able to attend at least one of their workshops and get to know them.

The theme of the Conference is "A Vacation to..." We will visit The Golden Gate, Nevada, Alaska, The Thousand Islands, North Dakota, Florida and Connecticut's program will be on Texas. As always I need your help. Remember this is your program. Connecticut always works so well together that I know I can count on you.

I hope to be able to see you around the State real soon.




Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

What The Grange Means To Me by Helene Forrest, Hillstown

The Grange means WORK - WORK - and more WORK. I work to keep the Grange growing - finding new members and keeping our Junior Grangers active. I like my work because I get a terrific paycheck - Friends and doing this job with a smile I get a bonus Helping Hands. Where else could you get a job like this? What a Job!

East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3
Corr: John Waterhouse

Feb: No meeting
Mar. 6: Meeting
East Central Pomona #3 does not hold a meeting in February. Our next meeting will be on March 6 at 7:30 P.M. at Good Will Grange Hall.

Happy Valentine’s Day, Lincoln and Washington’s birthdays. Also Groundhog Day is February 2nd- will we have six more weeks of winter?

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26
Corr: Kay Ruff
Feb. 4: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Agriculture Night
Feb. 13: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.
Mar. 4: Meeting 7:30 P.M., Evaluation Night

Looking back Glastonbury had a great Christmas Party. I thank all those that were able to participate. I hope everyone had a very enjoyable holiday season. As I am writing this New Year’s is 2 days away and another storm is predicted. They have just updated it and said it is expected to be more rain than snow. I hope so.

Before Christmas, Norma DePietro and I presented table favors to the residents of Gilmore Manor. They were very happy to receive them and also enjoyed having their pictures taken, receiving them.

Part of the Lecturer’s Program is writing to soldiers overseas. I have received 4 names of soldiers that are overseas. Two Glastonbury members have begun writing to them. I have written to all four and also sent packages to the 4 of them. I have received a reply from one of them so far. If anyone would like to join us in writing to a soldier, just call me.

Our next meeting is Feb. 4th and it is our annual Agriculture Night. Try to make the meeting and see what the Agriculture

Committee will have for the program.

Remember the card party Feb. 13th. Remember this is one of our fundraisers during the year. Your attendance is most welcome. It is a fun evening with plenty of refreshments and door prizes. I look forward to seeing you there.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31
Corr: Diane Small
Feb. 3: Cupid’s Arrows (publicity)
Feb. 17: Meet the President
Mar. 3: MARCHing On
Mar. 17: Follow the Rainbow

Welcome to the year 2010. I wonder what this new year will have for us. With all the changes they want to do for the medical coverages we have, who knows what will be. The upsetting scenario in all of this, our representatives really aren’t listening. We all should have the coverage that is given to these folks, top of the line. Winter has decided to come to us with avengance. With the snow and winds, it really does feel like January in New England. I hope the holidays were kind and wonderful. Two of my favorite goodies were warm fuzzy slippers and really nice warm boots.

For our Christmas meeting, we went to lunch at Zest’s in Tolland. It was a great get-together for us. The food was yummy, a nice change of pace.

The holiday season sparks the coming together of friends and family.

February meetings are cupid’s arrow -- Happy Valentine’s Day -- and meet the president. Remember in school when you gave a valentine to everyone in your class. Each desk had a box on it that was made by the person sitting there. A box of chocolates, flowers and a surprise gift are a part of the holiday. Are ready to meet the president?? What would you say, what

questions would you ask??
A reminder that the school of instruction for ECP is January 23, 1:30 pm at HILLSTOWN GRANGE. Hope everyone can attend. Maybe the weather will be cooperative. At these meetings, there is always something to learn.

As this crispy weather has us pretty much confined, now is the time to start your CWA projects. As I’ve stated before, do something extra for the Big E. Everything that is donated helps to keep that beautiful building working. So many of you are more than generous with your time and talents. One of my pet projects is making those foolish catnip fish. The kitties sure do like them.

Again, wishing one and all a grand new year.. Call someone you haven’t talked to in a while, bake some cookies, go for a walk in the snow. Don’t forget the hat, gloves, scarf and warm boots.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75
Corr: Ethel Harris
Feb. 4: Bingo

Happy New Year already!
Our winter programs are as scheduled but it’s best that you call ahead to see if or where it might be held. Our hall is still a “work in progress” and a lot depends on old man winter.

We draped our charter once again in memory of golden sheaf member Carl Snow who passed away in November in Florida.

Our Master Lucy Haloburdo has resigned as Master due to her health problems.

Our grab bag gift exchange was fun as usual. Happy new year to all.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87
Corr: Rita J. Schaefer
Feb. 11: “How Sweet It Is” Youth Night
Feb. 25: “Everyone Has Talent”

Well, the holidays have come and gone. Now to start putting our homes back to normal but I guess it’s worth it. Meeting old friends and family members.

If this weather comes in nasty every day the farmers will not be able to get their farms started for planting, especially if it stays cold.

They probably are looking at starting seeds for planting.
We did have our regular Christmas party with joy and laughter. We haven’t had a regular meeting since Thanksgiving and it keeps snowing and bad weather we will not have any meetings in January, February or March.

We all wish a speedy recovery to Sister Jacobs who fell and broke her nose and Jean Hauser who had several strokes and has lost much of her eyesight. Our thoughts are also with others who have been on the sick list. And a Healthy New Year to our members in other states. Bet it will not be long before the snowbirds will be heading home and we can start our activities for the coming year.

There really is not much to write as we don’t meet in January or February, weather permitting.
A happy and healthy new year to all Grangers from our Grange.

MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205
Corr: Ruth Posuniak
Feb. 4: Valentine Story or a Meeting of Hearts- 11:00 A.M., Meeting Place- Marlborough Cong. Church Youth Room, Ref. Laura Combs

The Grange is seeking nominations for our Citizen of the year 2009. A Scholarship is to be given to a deserving High School Senior or student presently in college who is seeking a career in an agriculture related field. For further information call Laura Combs, President at #860-228-3668. The Scholarship award this year is \$2,000.

Marlborough Grange has taken for their Community Service Project for 2009-2010 to donate a sign for the Historical Andover Animal Pound where the Town of Andover erected the pound in 1837. The Grange donated the bronze on granite plaque to honor the history of this site.

Membership

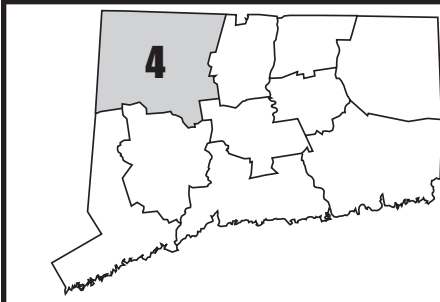
Cindy Charbonneau, State Membership Comm.

Now that we are now in 2010, we have started a new year. It is cold outside, and definitely a difficult time to be thinking about membership. However, membership should be continuous throughout the year. As a membership chairman, or as a member of your local or district Grange, it’s sometimes difficult to perceive the need to get new members as a continuous process. It may seem complacent to just rely on the members you already have. Your Grange may still have enough members to keep your Grange running ... right? It’s probably logical to assume you have a few or one strong leader. How did those leaders gain their experience? Some leaders would say they got their experience from all the different offices and Grange activities they worked at. Why did they join the Grange? When they joined, were their family also asked to join the Grange. How were they utilized when they joined? Were they selected to help in a committee? Were they asked to work on a Community Service project? What I’m trying to put forth is this - members given responsibilities can be encouraged to gain experience and eventually become your future leaders.

In the National Membership Director’s Leadership & Membership January Membership Tip of the Month, Rusty Hunt talks about time. Finding new members and convincing them to take time out of their busy schedule and join the Grange was one of his items he touched on. How can that be accomplished. In one example, Rusty explains having a conversations with a friend or acquaintance – finding out what they have in common with you, and finding their strengths – working into the conversation about that you belong to the Grange, what the Grange has to offer for programs and activities, and how their strengths could be utilized if they joined the Grange.

As Rusty talked about time, he also said with the New Year, it’s also a time to enjoy our accomplishments from the past year, but also consider making new plans for how Grange can get new members. This way we have more members to get involved to help out “in our projects, activities, programs and meetings.” This way, as a Grange, we can continue to: improve membership, expand our experience base, and gain the potential for developing new leaders.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Whigville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
✓ Winchester No. 74
✓ Taghhannuck No. 100
✓ Litchfield No. 107
Beacon No. 118
✓ Riverton No. 169

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4

Corr: T. Gelineau

Feb. 8: Celebrate Friendship, **LITCHFIELD GRANGE HALL**, 7:30 P.M.

Please take note that the next meeting of Mountain County Pomona WILL NOT be held at Whigville Grange Hall. Unfortunately due to a plumbing problem at the hall, the meeting had to be moved to Litchfield Grange Hall. We hope Whigville is able to resolve the problem quickly and with a minimum of expense and also hope we are able to meet there again in the not too distant future. We thank Litchfield Grange for being so willing to open their doors to us for this meeting.

Over 50 members attended the January School of Instruction for the Pomona at Litchfield Grange Hall. It was easily the best attended School

thus far. We thank all of the Grange members for coming out on a cold winter's night for this important meeting. We hope everyone gained valuable information about our Grange work.

Looking ahead, we remind everyone of our upcoming Day Meeting on Wednesday, March 24 at Riverton Grange Hall. The meeting will begin at 11:00 A.M. The start time was changed last year to allow for the lighter amount of business conducted at this meeting. Lunch will be served at noon by the members of Riverton Grange at a cost of \$5.00 per person. The closing of the business meeting and the Lecturer's program entitled "Celebrate Spring" will be held following lunch. Please try to join us. The Day Meeting is always much more relaxed than our regular evening

meetings.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: T. Gelineau

Feb. 9: "Everything," Ref. Shirley Lemieux

Feb. 23: "Right or Wrong," Ref. Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M., Sue Addison in charge

Mar. 9: "Glorious Collections," Country Store, Ref. Rod & Sherri LeBlanc

This winter has thankfully been kind to Winchester Grange. In past years, storms have seemed to hover around our Tuesday

evenings - thankfully not this year. We have been able to meet on all scheduled meeting nights.

We remind all members that dues are now, well, due! Sisters Addison and Beecher sent out the Grange's annual long letter updating all on the highlights of the last year along with the dues notice for the year. Please send your dues payments along as soon as possible.

Our meeting on Feb. 9 is entitled "Everything." Without advance notice from

the Lecturer, this program could be about a great many things. We'll have to wait and see!

The Feb. 23 program is entitled "Right or Wrong." This meeting will include information about ritual and should be a lot of fun. Usually potlucks at Winchester are attached to Degree meetings. Not this time. We will have a potluck supper beginning at 6:30 P.M. We welcome everyone to this and all of our meetings.

Taghhannuck kicks up its heels



Ruth Epstein, Waterbury Republican-American, 1/20/10

Lively music and dancing stirred the quiet hamlet of Ellsworth Saturday night. Inside the Taghhannuck (pronounced Taconic) Grange Hall, caller David Kaynor led 30 people in contra dancing, to music by Home Grown Band.

Grange Master Barbara B. Prindle described contra dancing as square dancing in a line. The crowd ranged from children to seniors who declared, "I can't dance, but I'll sit and watch."

Prindle said the event was not a fundraiser, but a fun

way to spend an evening, as well as an opportunity to introduce people to the Grange. The effort proved successful with four people submitting applications for membership.

The National Grange was established in December 1867 just after the Civil War to unite citizen in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farmers. Its focus is on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors and legislative design to ensure a strong and viable rural community. Over the years, its mission has expanded to

take in non-farm and rural families and communities.

As with many longtime civic organizations, membership has dwindled. While the Taghhannuck Grange once served Sharon, it now takes in Cornwall and Warren as well. Prindle estimates the roster numbers between 40 and 50. Its legislative committee follows issues on the state and national level dealing with agriculture. The group has a dictionary project, providing copies to all third graders in the three towns. Dinners are held periodically and one in the spring recognizes a citizen of the year. Members meet twice a month, a little less during the winter, at their Grange Hall, which is a former Methodist church. Lectures are often part of the program. Those interested in joining or receiving information should contact Prindle at 860-364-5373.



**Deadline
for the
Next Issue:
Feb. 5!**



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www.CTStateGrange.org**

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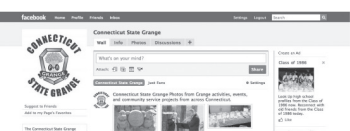
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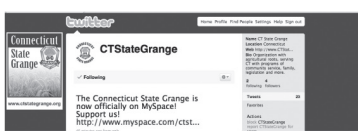
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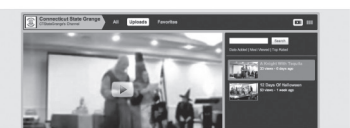
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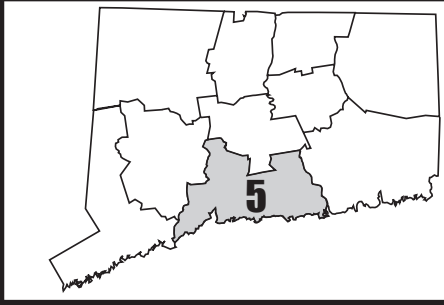
Organic Farm Assoc. Meeting

Sustaining Connecticut: Growing Local, Eating Healthier, Living Smarter.? CT NOFA will hold its 28th Annual Winter Conference in partnership with Manchester Community College's "Team Green," on Saturday, March 6, 2010. CT NOFA (The Northeastern Organic Farm Association of Connecticut) has promoted local organic agriculture through education and advocacy since 1982. Its members are a growing community of farmers, gardeners, land care professionals, businesses and consumers. The conference is open to anyone. The CT NOFA educational conference will be held at Manchester Com-

munity College, Manchester, CT from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The featured keynote speaker will be the celebrated green entrepreneur Michael Shuman, author of The Small Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses Are Beating the Global Competition. See December 2009 Business Week's mention of Michael Shuman's study on the rising success of the local food movement, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation - <http://bit.ly/6MgsRy> This year's conference will also offer over thirty sustainable lifestyle workshops for the gardener, cook, farmer and land care professional. Classes ranging from beekeeping, cheese

making, hands on bread making, beer brewing thru permaculture. For all persons interested in local organic food and agriculture. There will be cooking demonstrations such as Organic Home Wine Making, expert panel discussion on Connecticut Organic Food Businesses, Local Vendors and exhibits focusing on food, gardening, farming, sustainable lifestyles and much more. Child care is free for ages 3-12. Lunch will be the famous NOFA organic potluck. For more info or to register: www.ctnofa.org or 203-888-5146

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



✓ Cheshire No. 23
Wallingford No. 33
North Haven No. 35
Totoket No. 83
✓ Old Lyme No. 162

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Mar. 8: Pomona Talent Runoff at Wallingford
May 10: Fifth Degree at Wallingford

It's not too early to be honing your Subordinate's talent for the talent runoff in March and for seeking members for the 5th degree in May.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Charleen Dimmick
Feb. 3: 6pm-- Box Supper. Open meeting. Program:

Cupid
Feb. 17: Flag Program
Mar. 3: Honoring Our Youth
Mar. 17: It's St. Patrick's Day

We had our annual Christmas party with a card exchange, gift exchange, and wonderful eats.

In January, we were visited by our state representative, Elizabeth Esty, who talked about the problems facing CT.

Master Ruel Miller reported that he had visited with Brother David Boland

and presented him with his 50-year certificate.

Brother Richard Bernhardt was presented with his 25-year certificate. His mother, Sister Marge Bernhardt, did the presentation. Brother Bernhardt is a 4th generation Granger.

Congratulations to our Master Ruel Miller, who has been awarded the Community Service Award by the Cheshire Chamber Of Commerce.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch
Feb. 12: Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 26: Snow date for February 12th

Our December meeting found us draping the charter for Edith MacDonald, a 74 year member, who in her earlier years help with the Degree Work & raised her

six daughters in the Juvenile Grange where they were very active!

Our December "Wish List" for our children was a huge success & they were very thrilled with all we send to them. We are in hopes of hearing a speaker from the School & hopefully they will bring along some of the pets they rescue as well. We look forward to learn more about our Community Service project!

We also had a Country Store that netted \$35.00 that was donated to the Shoreline Food Kitchen where we found out that \$1.00 can by

4 meals.

We finally have a great contractor who has gone before the Historic Board to get a ramp put up by spring & he is also working on a handicapped bathroom right inside our Grange hall in the storage unit. We surely hope that they will be happy that we are building a wooden ramp that will go along with the Historic District Society!

January is National Hobby Month. I wonder how many of us brought our hobbies to the January meeting?

Our door is always open so do come on down!

Off and running



Betty Jane Gardiner
Women's Activities Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

We are off and running for the new year of CWA work! Materials and instructions were given out at each of the four regional meetings in the late fall.

There are a few changes in our programs, but we keep the basic things pretty much the same.

Needlework Contest- The contest for the Northeastern area is the same as it has been.

It was the State Director's choice not to make any changes. These entries go on to Eastern States for the regional contest. Printed pamphlets with the rules may be obtained from your Subordinate or Pomona chairperson or from the State Committee members. Just ask for them. Judging for the state level will be held just ahead of "Let's Celebrate" day in July at Cheshire Grange Hall. We are working on some special features. We will also have a separate contest for a "Dress A Doll" category for the second year.

Craft Contest- The entries for the craft contest are in keeping with the theme for the new year- "Catnip Capers." You may make anything that pertains to cats. Let's strive for creativity and be original. There are adult and youth categories in each of two classes - needlework or any other media. All entries come directly to the State judging and are retained by the State Committee to be used for the good of the Order.

The Scrapbook Contest will be held for the third year. Entries are returned to the maker.

Baking Contest - The recipe calls for pineapple, carrots, and raisins (yellow, orange and black). Does that give you a clue as to why we are calling them Calico Muffins? Really pretty! Really tasty! All CWA people have copies of the recipe. Give them a try- it can be a good practice run for your entry.

In the months ahead Jean, Ruth, Anne and Jane of our committee will be writing this column with each of them giving details of one of the contests.


Projects - Our projects will be donations to the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund, the Student Loan Fund and to the maintenance fund of Camp Berger.

Covenant to Care- Get ready to send (with your delegates to State Session) items for babies (infants to toddlers). These may be things for little ones and can cover just about anything from bibs to blankets and beyond.

Foster Families- Hope you will be as generous as you have always been with things for Foster Folks. We will be happy to receive the same kinds of items we have given to this group in the past. Each Grange may select the things we have done before or combination of things such as comfy covers, Christmas stockings, gift cards, toys, school supplies, etc.


Eastern States - Each year you seem to give us handmade articles which help us to top the sales figures from the previous year in the Country Store. Can we do it again? Anything you make will be most welcome. You are a purr-fect group of great Grangers and we know this is a labor of love for many! Keep going and remember we still think you are the Cat's Meow!!!

Mystery Meeting Place




For our February Mystery Picture, we would like to know what Grange meets in this building? If you know or have any idea, please let your Information Director know by telephone, postcard or e-mail. Just mail your answers to: Carl H. Bernhardt; 424 Cedar Lane; Cheshire, CT 06410, or call (203) 272-4620. Our e-mail address is: mbc76@cox.net. We would like your answers by March 1st. The names of everyone who gives us the correct answer will be printed in the April issue of the CONNECTICUT GRANGER.

The Mystery Picture shown in the November issue of the Granger is Eureka Grange Hall. The following individual correctly identified the hall: Barbara Steeves of Eureka Grange.



Eureka Grange No. 62

New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21

✓ Colchester No. 78

Pachaug No. 96

Preston City No. 110

✓ N. Stonington No. 138

✓ Lyme No. 147

✓ Stonington No. 168

Norwich No. 172

NEW LONDON CTY. POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Feb. 6: Movie Night and Potluck, 6:30 P.M., Norwich Grange
Feb. 7: Snow Date, 1:30 P.M., Norwich Grange
Mar. 13: Talent and “A Number” Run-Off - North Stonington Grange

Start pulling out the recipe books and deciding what to bring to the potluck on the 6th. Hmmm, wansn’t that the date of the blizzard of ‘78? We had a great crowd last year. Let’s see if we can do even better this year.

We spent a delightful evening at Colchester Grange in December. Walter Brown was at the piano and everyone was in a holiday mood.

We were honored to welcome High Priest of Demeter Emeritus Woody Tucker and his wife Marge, State Overseer Jody Cameron and his wife State Pomona Jodi Ann Cameron, Deputy of East Central Pomona Walter Forrest, and State Membership Comm. member Ted Beebe. Debbie’s program gave us insight into the backgrounds of Santa’s nine reindeer, and facts and figures on his toy delivery.

We learned about sled dogs, Jeff showed us the best?? way to bake a Christmas cake, and several members tried their luck at snowball throwing. On reflection, we realized what the writer forgot when discussing Santa’s difficulties in making his deliveries. Santa is magic! And with Magic, all things are possible.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78
Feb. 8: 6:30 P.M., Soup’s On- Tonight- Polly Leonard Cooks; 7:00 Seeing Eyes

We’ve had quite a winter and it’s not over yet. I always begin to feel better

once February arrives. We can still get a lot of snow but the days are getting longer, we have more sun and I envision light at the end of the tunnel. I begin to think of seed orders and planting and I feel so good. Come out to Colchester for Polly’s soup (it’s always special) crusty bread, homemade cake or pie, Sharon’s fruit and hot coffee. See what seeing eyes are about. Happy Groundhog Day!

On March 8 at 6:30 Soup’s On for the last time this year. At 7:00 we will have CWA night- Cathy’s Crafty & Thoreau’s Walden.

Well you are stuck with me for soup in March - I’ll surprise you! At least the bread, pie and coffee will be tasty spring’s around the corner, soon we will be planting lettuce, peas and radishes. The birds continue to eat at our feeders and soon robins from down south will return. God is so good and we are grateful to Him.

NORTH STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Feb. 12: An Interview-President’s Day- also judging for talent and “A Number” contest.

Feb. 26: Agriculture Committee in Charge

From the glittering Christmas tree on the stage to the silver garlands looped overhead, our hall, snug and warm under its newly shingled roof (thanks, Charlie), was just bursting with holiday spirit on Dec. 11. Even the caribou over the stage sported a sparkling collar and a big red nose. The thirty-six people in attendance learned the history behind several Christmas carols (and sang them), enjoyed tableaux, received gifts from three handsome Wise Men and tasted figgy pudding. (Have you ever tasted figgy

pudding?) Santa arrived with gifts, after which we enjoyed a veritable feast downstairs.

Our mitten trees is blooming with many hats and pairs of gloves; we have made the holidays happier for our adopted family; and we have sung and delivered fruit baskets to many of our long-time members. This year we enjoyed the warmth and camaraderie of riding in a school bus to the various homes, ending up at a local pizza restaurant for dinner.

It’s time to start practicing for the talent and “A Number” program. The Pomona run-offs will be at our hall in March. And if those eighteen inches of snow waiting for me to shovel outside don’t do me in, next time I’ll tell you about jolly January.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Dick Chapman
Feb. 4: Color Us Red, Lovers, Past and Present
Mar. 4: Color Us Aparagus; Agricultural Program

It was the FFA on New Year’s Day! We were sure delighted and proud to see the first ever FFA Rose Parade float along with the FFA marchers on RFD-TV. Sure was extraordinary! We are also proud to salute the Boy Scouts of America as they celebrate their 100th Anniversary on Feb. 8. The Cub Scouts will have their turn to celebrate on April 1 as Cub Scouting began 80 years ago (we sponsor the local pack).

We hope to have an historical program on our hall through the efforts of our W.A. Committee and the fair committee already is working hard planning their August Fair.

Interesting to note that according to the list of America’s favorite colors, red ranks #12 and Asparagus (new in 1993) ranks #26. Also deliciously interesting is that Feb. 23 is National Banana Bread Day. Hope your bananas are ready!

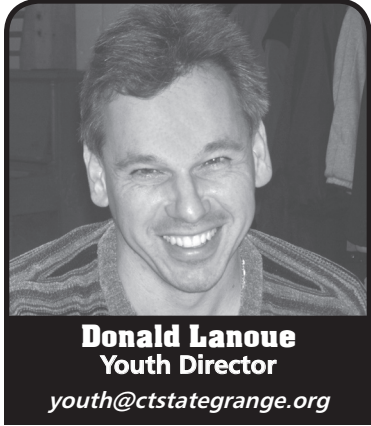
Wise words: See everything, overlook a great deal, change a little. Pope John XXIII.

North Stonington



Helen Apicelli, 98, is a member of North Stonington Community Grange No.138, P.of H., and enjoys doing afghans. she is shown here with a afghan which received a blue ribbon at the July,2009; North Stonington Agricultural Fair. Helen has made many afghans to be donated through the Grange for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, the latest being 23 afghans this past November. Helen’s daughter “Flo” and her husband North Stonington First Selectman “Nick” Mullane, are also members of the Grange in North Stonington. “Flo” is Lady Assistant Steward.

Youth Report



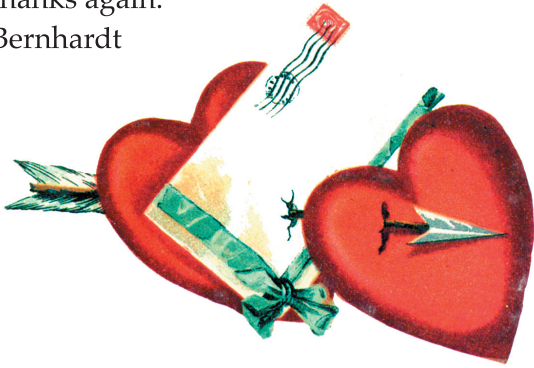
Hi everyone though it has been a busy winter for me I hope that everyone has been working on contests and getting ready for the Bowl-a-Thon in March.

I do not have much to report this month. I would just like to remind everyone of the Bowl-a-Thon on March 27, 2010. Oh ya the scavenger hunt is ready give me a call and I will get it to you.

Thank you!

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and e-mails I have received over the last few weeks in reference to my heart attack and supsequent by-pass surgery. Until you are in this position, you don’t realize just how much they mean. Thanks again.

Carl Bernhardt

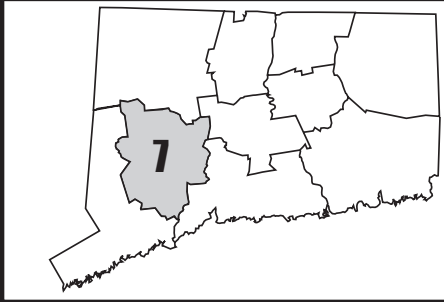


New Member

We welcome
Jodi Rodiger
as a new member of Vernon Grange No. 52.

We encourage all Granges to send in the names of new members to be printed here in the Connecticut Granger.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7
Corr: Mary Dubay

Excelsior Pomona No. 7 does not meet in the month of February. The next meeting will be on March 17, 2010 and will be the Talent and A Number Run-Offs. This gives everyone time to work on a number for the program. To be held at Wolcott Grange at 7:30 P.M. Lecturer Jean would like each Grange to participate. Visiting Pomona members are always welcome.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103
Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our Christmas Party in December was very enjoyable. We had a catered supper, short meeting and program. The members agreed that they would rather have the party at the Grange than at a restaurant. Much more relaxing.

Our Feb. 12th meeting is entitled "Chickens." Joanne Cipriano will be in charge of the refreshments.

We continue to sponsor Bingo once a month on a Sunday afternoon at Paradigm Convalescent Home in Prospect. We could always use some volunteers. Check with Joanne.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121
Corr: Linda Coad

Feb. 28: Sunday Meeting, 2:00 P.M., Program: Hearts & Presidents. Ref. Buzz and Linda

Mar. 22: Back to our regular meeting time. Program: Daffodils and Tulips. Ref: Faith Korpalski.

It's not too early to think about the Bethlehem Fair. Last September only two Granges participated. This year I hope more will make the effort. It's publicity for the Grange plus the possibility of winning prize money. More information will be in the next Connecticut Granger. I hope a theme will be used instead of whatever individual Granges put together. I would like some

feedback on this. Call me at 203-264-8151 or E-Mail: BuzzandLinda@aol.com.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122
Corr: Mary Dubay

Feb. 5: Legislative

Feb. 19: Cooking Up a Storm

The month of February bring us Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and Presidents Day as we honor Abe and George.

The program for the first meeting in February is in the charge of the Legislative Committee, Fred Fairchild, Chairman. He does an interesting program and holds our attention. Checks us out after to see if we paid attention with twenty questions.

Our second meeting is called Cooking Up a Storm by the Lecturer Diane. Should be interesting.

As part of our Community Service we gave monetary donations to Salvation Army, St. Vincent De Paul who feeds the homeless and to the FFA.

Our Committees continue to do the work assigned to them and report at each meeting. It is an interesting part of the evening to hear what has been done. Good work one and all.

We wish a Happy New Year to friends Dorothy Parker in South Carolina and Lorraine and Ray Cook in North Carolina. Happy Valentine's Day to all.

OXFORD GRANGE #194
Corr: Phil Rowland

Feb. 5: Better Gardens Seminar

Feb. 19: Alternate Date for February meeting in event of inclement weather Feb. 5.

Our series of gardening seminars continues with interest increasing at each session. Covered so far are soil preparation and fertilization, hydroponic techniques, and cold frame construction. Maggie Buck and her son Mark are conducting this interesting

program. Anyone planning to attend our meeting should call ahead if weather is questionable, since postponements are frequent in wintertime. Looking back, we enjoyed a marvelous Christmas party with several guests present. Santa never made it but gifts arrived miraculously anyhow. Apparently we all were good boys and girls.

Louise Johnson, a 75 yr. member



Louise Johnson of Bethlehem Grange No. 121 receives a certificate for 75 years of continuous membership in the Grange. The certificate was presented by State Master Robert Sendewicz.

Membership tip of the month

Rusty Hunt, National Grange Leadership/ Membership Director

planned for at the Grange, asking them to join and help the Grange get involved with their cause is easy.

Time is a funny thing. I can still picture that old Christmas cartoon that showed the New Year baby crawling in with the sash of the new year, chasing away Father Time, with his long white beard, cane, and sash of the past year walking away. Each year people make resolutions for the up and coming year and those resolutions are like the New Year's baby. They have all the potential ahead of them, but at the end of the year folks look back and see which of the resolutions came to be and which ones didn't. This is called experience and is the essence of Father Time. As you dream and plan for the year ahead, don't forget your experiences and be smart about your resolutions. Make some easy to obtain, others that you make should require some effort, and don't forget to challenge yourself with one or two that will stretch your abilities and force you to make some changes so that you grow as an individual.

Was your Grange time well spent in 2009? What will we do differently with our time in 2010? How will we spend time at meetings? How much time will we spend doing community service? Do we need to spend time fund raising? Does the Grange need to spend more time on legislation? Maybe we need to spend more time having fun? We definitely love spending time eating!

Thanks for taking some time to read this tip of the month. How much time does it take to ask someone to join the Grange? Not much more than the time it took to read this tip. I think the time we spend in the Grange doing all the many good things the Grange does is time well spent! So, ask someone to join, so they too can get that same feeling of time well spent!



Joan Perry
Junior Director

juniors@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita J. Schaefer
Feb. 19: "Be Mine"

The Juniors met in December for their Christmas gathering.

They are looking into having a speaker come to tell the story of wool. They also are looking to do a day trip on their spring vacation.

Danger+Opportunity≠Crisis

Editor's Note: Last month the Granger published an article entitled "Will You Freak Out or Hunker Down?" by Robert Wilson, a motivational speaker. In that article, Mr. Wilson used the Chinese symbol for Crisis and Opportunity to back up his advice to find opportunities in our next crisis. As it turns out-- The Chinese symbol for these two words are not the same. Brother Charles Dimmick of Cheshire Grange brought this fact to our attention along with a link to the following article (shortened for publication here). While Mr. Wilson's translation of the Chinese characters was flawed, his advice is worth considering.

From the web article by Victor H. Mair: There is a widespread public misperception, particularly among the New Age sector, that the Chinese word for "crisis" is composed of elements that signify "danger" and "opportunity." I first encountered this curious specimen of oriental wisdom about ten years ago at an altitude of 35,000 feet sitting next to an American executive. He was intently studying a bound volume that had adopted this notorious formulation as the basic premise of its method for making increased profits even when the market is falling. At that moment, I didn't have the heart to disappoint my gullible neighbor who was blissfully imbibing what he assumed were the gems of Far Eastern

Junior Grange

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

Wow! The hall was nearly filled with families at our Christmas program, "Twas the Night Before Christmas"! We had juniors and "future Juniors" taking part in the delightful musical presentation!

Santa made his appearance and each child left with a gift especially selected for him/her. It was a night that will long be remembered by all who attended! Picture sent is of the youngest in attendance and Brianna Sue Gervais, age 1, walked right up to Santa by herself to receive

her special gift! Jan. 22 the Juniors always love to participate in Casino / Game Night.

The auction at the end brings screams of delight as the kids "bid" with play money on items brought to especially bring them joy! Feb. will find some Juniors helping on Grange breakfasts and in March on the Corned Beef Supper!

The Juniors also took their musical Christmas program to Orchard Grove Convalescent Home in Uncasville and delighted the residents there, including Granger, Carolyn Orr!

sagacity enshrined within the pages of his workbook. Now, however, the damage from this kind of pseudo-profundity has reached such gross proportions that I feel obliged, as a responsible Sinologist, to take counteraction.

A whole industry of pundits and therapists has grown up around this one grossly inaccurate formulation. A casual search of the Web turns up more than a million references to this spurious proverb. It appears, often complete with Chinese characters, on the covers of books, on advertisements for seminars, on expensive courses for "thinking outside the box," and practically everywhere

one turns in the world of quick-buck business, pop psychology, and orientalist hocus-pocus. This catchy expression (Crisis = Danger + Opportunity) has rapidly become nearly as ubiquitous as The Tao of Pooh and Sun Zi's Art of War for the Board / Bed / Bath / Whichever Room.

Professor Victor H. Mair's explanation of why the interpretation of Crisis + Danger = Opportunity is incorrect is available on the website: <http://pinyin.info.chinese/crisis.html>. It is far too long to print in this issue. Professor Mair teaches Chinese Language and Literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ekonk Christmas



Brianna Sue Gervais, age 1, walks by herself to meet Santa at Ekonk Jr. Grange's Christmas program.

In Memoriam

Florence O'Hare	Southington #25
Carolyn Magnuson	Southington #25
Olive Phillips	Norfield #146
Edith MacDonald, G.S.	Old Lyme #162
Dorothy O'Connor, G.S.	Riverton #169
Donald Jespersen, G.S.	Riverton #169
Janet Coleman	Riverton #169

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on page 2 of this issue. Thank you.

Chaplain's Message



Amy Whitcomb
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

As we look forward to the coming of milder weather and the reawakening of our lives, let us consider Heaven's Banquet. Honoring the sacredness of our body temple is the best thing we can do for ourselves during this season. If health and happiness were on your

wish list perhaps this can help.

Like all of nature, our bodies experience a subtle, but certain shift in energy. Mother Nature provides a perfect example of how best to care for our bodies, the very temples of God. As the trees, shed their leaves and the shrubs their droopy blooms, our bodies also begin to shift into release mode. An innate desire to rest, to clear out the old and prepare for the new, sets in as those primeval tugs deepen. This may feel like a restless urge to ready then den, often mistaken in our culture as fear, stress or worry. But if we pay closer attention to the tugs and urges, we will realize they are simply nudges of nature encouraging us to prepare for the next step in our spiritual journey.

To best honor our modern bodies, minds and spirits in this Winter season, it is most helpful to join in the natural rhythm of nature by letting go of that which no longer serves us. A good way to begin is to clear out clutter, so that spiritual and physical will have ample room to shine, and to treat ourselves to some extra pampering which will allow the greatest benefits and blessings. It is in letting go and letting God that we experience the greatest fruits of the journey.

Grange membership benefit with

T-Mobile

Any Grange member who activates a NEW voice and data service with T-Mobile on an Even More 2 year agreement will receive a \$50 credit for each new line.

Any device is eligible as long as it has voice/data.

ACT NOW.. ACT FAST! This promotion is only available through December 31, 2010

Crediting will be done within 90 days