



Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

APRIL 2011

Be Grange Proud!



Jody A. Cameron
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Perhaps you have heard April is Grange Month, this is an excellent opportunity for each Grange and member to show your PRIDE.

Reach deep and high as you set your goals for yourself and your Grange. Accept the challenge and ask one person to join

the Grange, helping your Grange secure one new member per month.

Open your halls to the community make them warm and inviting; hold an open house, special program or public dinner.

Urge your fellow members to join you in growing your Grange, remember, many hands makes lighter work, and you'll have more fun as well.

Dedicate this time for putting energy into building our membership, bringing greater awareness to our Granges and outstanding Community Service.

I am sure by now you have figured out the theme to this column. We MUST

show our PRIDE in our Grange and exhibit it daily to those in our communities; we must be PROUD of our accomplishment and not be afraid to tell everyone about them. This PRIDE can be felt at every meeting I attend, from every article I read, from every member I speak with. Your PRIDE in your Grange gives other energy and creates a synergy that will soon become contagious making our future opportunities and achievements boundless.

I look forward to attending many Grange Month events with PRIDE, will you join me at some?

Be Grange PROUD!

Several bills on our watch list



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2011 Legislative session is in full swing with many bills now being heard by the different committees. Gordon Gibson has been busy following the activities and has testified on behalf of the State Grange on a number of bills. The testimonies have all been posted on the State Grange web site under the Legislative page – www.ctstategrange.org. I encourage you to check out our web site as we are adding new testimonies as they occur. The Legislative Committee is also on twitter. Check us out at @CSGLegislative. We

will post our testimonies or actions required on the bills as they occur.

We have been watching several bills. One of the most important bills is HB 6262, An Act Concerning The Community Investment Program. There is a sunset provision of July 2011 which would terminate a portion of the program. This bill would continue the present distribution of funds generated from the Community Investment Act. These funds help correct the complicated federal milk pricing system which does not take into account the high cost of producing milk in Connecticut. Without it we would be in danger of losing many of Connecticut's dairy farms. The dairy industry provides many jobs and contributes approximately \$1.1 billion annually to Connecticut economy. This program also helps develop and sustain new farm

developments.

Another bill is HB 5203, An Act Authorizing an Agricultural Easement on the lands of the Southbury Training School. This bill would preserve more than 1300 acres of farmland at the Southbury Training School. The state already owns the land so it would not cost anything.

Also, HB 6263, An Act Concerning The Transition From The Ten Mill Program protects owners of forest land enrolled in the "10 mill" program from having their land assessed at its highest and best use value over the next ten years. Private owners of forest land moved it over to this program and after 50 years, the land would

... Continued on page 3

Camp Berger needs you!



Linda Coad, Director- Camp Berger Trustees
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Camp Maud Isbell Berger is a most important part of our Connecticut State Grange. It has not been on everyone's front burner the last few years, and many repairs were not done or set to one side. Now it's front and center! We want everyone to see this as the great asset it is.

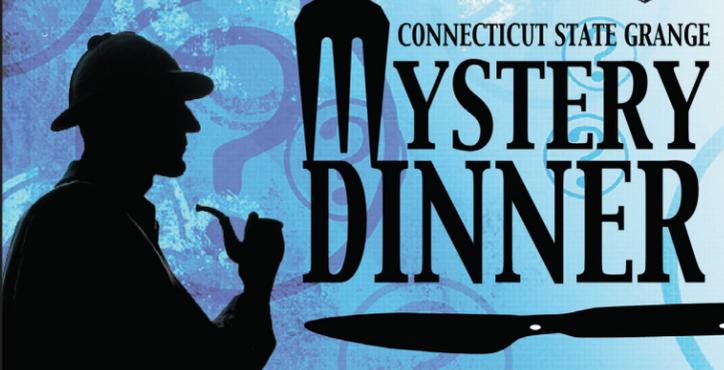
This is the place many of your grandchildren, children or you yourself may have gone for a wonderful experience. Please help bring it back to the property everyone remembers. The camp needs more campers. We are paying for more advertising this year but we need your help!

We realize not every Grange can support a full campership but could you do a half campership?

Our clean up day, April 23rd will not be raking leaves. Rich, the caretaker has a leaf blower and will hire a truck to vacuum and move them. We will be doing some of the other things that need to be done for this season. Scrubbing mattresses, sweeping the floors staining the cabins and whatever Rich comes up with that is compatible with the talents of the volunteers. We will start at 9 A.M. and if enough helpers come, we will be through at noon. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the afternoon.

Please let me know what you can do to help, and of course bring your own tools, rags, cleaning supplies. Again this is your camp, it's time for everyone to step up, and make it a camp we all can be proud of again.

Saturday, April 30
Cheshire Grange Hall
6:30 P.M.

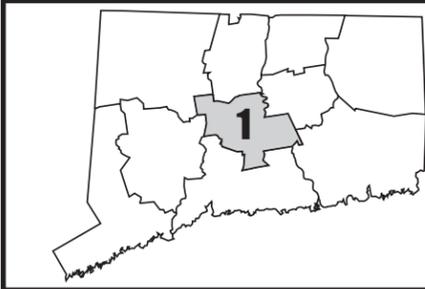


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Deadline for the MAY 2011 issue of the Connecticut Granger: APRIL 5

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

Apr. 10: Fifth Degree Rehearsal, Meriden, 2 P.M.

Apr. 14: Fifth Degree, Inspection, Meriden, 7:30 P.M.

On April 10th, Sunday at 2:00, Fifth Degree Rehearsal will be held at Meriden Grange.

On April 14 on Thursday at 7:30 P.M. we are having inspection at Meriden Grange, 540 Broad St., Meriden. Co-Host is the Exec. Comm. There will be no CWA table at this meeting.

Have your records and books in order for inspection!

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25

Corr: Lisa Lamoureux

April 11: School of Instruction.

April 25: Business Meeting

You are never too old to learn new things. With

being said, on April 11th, Southington Grange will have its School of Instruction. This should be a very enlightening time. Everyone can always learn new things.

On April 25th we will hold our regular business meeting.

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 7:00 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

Apr. 8: Third & Fourth Degrees, Inspection, Southington- Meriden

May 13: May Day

June 10: Summer Fun

June 24: Show & Tell

On March 28, the first and second degrees were held at Southington and on April 8 Meriden will host the Third and Fourth Degrees for Inspection.

Spring is finally here and the robins are here and flowers are blooming and we will be planting gardens now indoor and outdoor. May Day will be the program to consider birds and flowers of spring. We will learn how to plant our gardens and share our experience in planting.

In June we plan summer fun games and fun time activities to share with our neighbors and then have a show and tell and share our talents.

We plan some spring suppers at Grange, and making crafts and visiting a nursing home from Meriden Grange.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara R. Smith

We welcome Spring with open arms. Hope that grangers have started their seedlings in anticipation

of the warm weather approaching us. Higganum grange members have been busy sprucing up their kitchen and meeting area. In February homemade valentine baskets were filled with items for the shut-ins and homebound residents of Haddam to perk up their day. Work has begun on celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Haddam. If you have any suggestions, please see

one of the members. Our meetings are held on the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Higganum Grange Building.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 8: Over the Rainbow

Apr. 22: Omit for Good Friday

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

State Secretary



Edith Schoell
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

If you came to Good Will Grange Hall for the Grange Growth meeting you may remember we had considerable snow and ice. Thanks to Noel Miller, Master of East Central Pomona, and his Executive Committee, a canopy was erected over the steps. It has kept things dry and clear of ice and snow. Thanks to

the Brothers for all their hard work. (At this writing we still have plenty of ice and snow at the rear of the hall.)

There are many activities scheduled for the next few months. I hope you have marked your calendar for April 3rd- Rally Day at Cheshire Grange, 1:30 P.M. Tickets are a must for Mystery Night on April 30th. This will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall as well. Tickets are available from the Social Connection Committee: Joanne Cipriano, Betty Jane Gardiner and Barbara Roberts.

Let's Celebrate on June 12th will commence with a display of the winners in the various contests. Grange Sunday Service will be held at 11:00 A.M. followed by lunch at noon and a program at 1:00 P.M. A full day, but filled with fun and fellowship. Plan to attend.



Do You Remember?



JOE BELL

by Marion W. Beecher

Which officer in the state line-up in the 1970's and 80's most often wore an apron? Who sweated the most over a hot fire? Whose project earned the most? You guessed it --- Joe Bell and the chicken barbecues! Those chicken barbecues were famous throughout the state – served as great fundraisers by Mildred and Joe and had excellent cooperation.

Joe - always a happy smile, a firm handshake, joke (some good, some bad) a guitar which appeared on many Grange programs around the state. Joe was a friend to many –

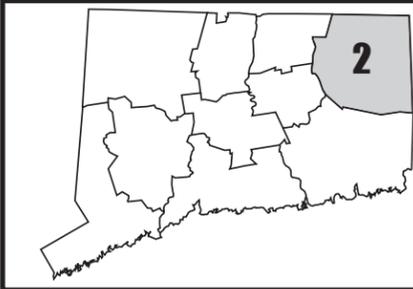
Unfortunately, Joe struggled with poor health, but he was a fighter with a smile. Joe and Mildred did much for the Grange on all levels.

Do remember them.

Marion

Editor's Note: Marion completed this last article before her passing in late February. We are pleased to announce Marion's column will continue on with her life-long friend Betty Jane Gardiner picking up the pen.

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

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: *Elsie Johnson*

Apr. 2: Annual Bake Sale
Apr. 13: CWA Program, Ref. All

Apr. 27: Potluck, 6:30, Entertainment

Snow, ice, rain, wind, mud, thunderstorms- What Next?... Spring, I hope! I've got my seeds and am ready for gardening. With 2-4 feet of snow we did not have a meeting in January. So February is catch-up. We had J. Allen Cameron, Quinebaug Pomona Deputy for our School of Instruction along with State Master Jody Cameron. We draped the charter for our dear departed Sister Antoinette (Toni) Kent. Tabs are still coming in- about 200 lbs. went to the Shriners. Save those Campbell's labels too. Still getting dues in- some still due. Get well wishes to Sybil and Mimi too. We made a donation to Pomfret Food Pantry. We have a team taking part in Senior Center Wii Bowling Contest in April. Also our annual bake sale is on Saturday, April 2- can use help. Stay well. Happy birthday to all.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: *Sue Gray*

Apr. 8th-15th & 22: Chowder n' clamcakes 5-7 pm \$8.00

Apr. 16: Square Dance 7:30pm

May 14: Roast Beef Supper 5-7 pm \$12.00

We met on March 7th

and "Had a Ball" with our entry in the Complete Program on Presidents! We learned from Robin (our Program Director), among other things, that "Old Man Eloquent" said "Duty is ours, result's are God's" (John Quincy Adams our 6th President). We voted to partner with the Killingly FFA on their care package drive for our troops with monetary donations as well as gifts for our soldiers and letters. We wrote Congressman Joe Courtney requesting his aid to restore funding for the "Home for the Homeless" (Veterans home proposed in Jewett City); our Grange in ready to assist with a fundraiser!

We were visited by Deputy, Jim Palmer and his wife Pat, who led us in School of Instruction. Our Grange is sponsoring the annual Earth Day poster/essay contest for Sterling & Voluntown Schools. The biggest news is that our youth have organized their own Drill Team and plan to compete at the New England level in Maine!

The Killingly FFA "AG Issues" team will present their views on "Preservation of the Last Green Valley" at our April meeting. We set the Awards luncheon for our twelve recipients for Sunday, July 17th: more details later on... We are especially proud of Katrina Sebastian, who won a tremendous National

Scholarship to help her with college: congratulations!

Our Grange/Junior Grange will partner with the Sterling Historical Society May 14th & 15th from 10-2 to "spruce up" two small Sterling cemeteries. We are a busy group of

happy Grangers!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: *Gloria John*

Apr 12: Community Service

Apr 26: Evaluation Inspection

The winter had not been very good to us. It always

seems to snow on Tuesdays. We can only hope Srings will come early this year.

We are preparing for our 100th Anniversay this year. More information will come later.

We have to get busy on our projects now.

Several bills on our watch list

Continued from page one...

be reassessed at its then current market value. The fifty year end date will be occurring soon for some of the forest land owners. This bill would allow those involved in the 10 Mill program to convert over to the "490 program" which was conceived after the "ten mill" program was created. The "490 program" mandates that farm, forestry and open space be assessed and taxed at its current rate rather than best use rate.

Another bill is, HB 6386, An Act Establishing The Department Of Energy and Environmental Protection. This bill was proposed by Governor Malloy and will combine the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Utility Control into one agency.

Following the footsteps of the previous bill is HB 5363 An Act Transferring The Conservation Functions Of The

Department Of Environmental Protection To The Department Of Agriculture. This would transfer the Conservation and Preservation side of the Department of Environmental Protection back to the Department of Agriculture and restore the name Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It would enlarge the Department of Agriculture and move the parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries, land acquisition and conservation officers out of DEP.

The Connecticut State Grange Legislative Guide has been published and copies were delivered to all of the General Assembly members. We also passed some out at the Agricultural Day at the Capitol. The deputies have been given copies for all of the Granges in their jurisdiction. If your Grange has not received your copy yet, please contact your deputy.

Spring brings new activity



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

It's Spring. This has been a long, hard winter and hopefully the worst of it is over. With spring comes new growth on our plants and vines and new energy to all of us who have felt trapped this winter. Several things we were to do got cancelled and I'm sure you have had the same

experience.

Now we have to make up for lost time. Our Contests are getting closer. Please mark June 11 and 12 on your calendar. The photo contest entries have to be to me by June 11 at 10:00 a.m. You can bring them to the hall that morning between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m., mail them to me or bring them to the State office by June 8th. Don't forget that we will be sending a best in show entry to Oklahoma in November for a National Judging. My thanks go to our National Lecturer, Pete Pompper, for bringing a National Judging back for this contest.

Some of the National rules will be different than our, so if you want your photo to be considered for the National contest please keep the following in mind: Minimum size 4x6 inches; Maximum size 11x14 inches. These sizes include a backing or matting. No frame is allowed, but all photos must have some type of ridged backing. First prize at National is \$100; 2nd is \$75; and,

3rd prize is \$50. "The National Grange Lecturer/Program Director retains the right to disqualify any photo that depicts a scene or image that is contrary to the Organizations core values with the approval of the National Master." Let's hope we have a good turnout for this contest.

I continue to see some excellent programs as I travel around the State. We have a lot of excellent Lecturers in Connecticut and to you I say thank you. You will play a big part in making our organization grow.

Is your Grange entering the "Deputies' Ritual Challenge"? I understand I am going to be putting on a program for the winner of that Flag Presentation Contest. If your Lecturer needs a break, all you have to do is enter and win the contest and I'll be seeing you for a night of fun.

Please, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than willing to help you in any way I can.

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

(USPS 563-220)

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **5th Day** of each month except July and should be sent to:

Connecticut State Grange

P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

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Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

East Central Pomona No. 3



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

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Diane Small

Apr. 6: Smiles

Apr. 19: Evaluation (date Change)

May 4: May Baskets and May Poles

Please note the change of date for the second April meeting. For this meeting only, it will be on TUESDAY instead of EnjoyWednesday.

The Easter holiday will be with us at the end of the month. Remember the new outfits that we would get as kids. The girls would get new dresses, black patent leather shoes, lace trimmed socks, a new hat, purse

and the addition of white gloves. We just looked beautiful in brand new finery. The boys would be dressed in a new suit and vest with a shirt and tie and they too would have new shoes. Some of them would also wear a hat.

The Easter Bunny is an important part of the holiday. There was a belief by German settlers a white hare would leave brightly colored eggs for all the good children on Easter morning. Originally early American children made nests of sticks and leaves in the garden so that the Easter hare could fill

them with colored eggs. Early in 19th century America the Eastser Hare became the Easter Bunny. Delighted children found baskets filled with eggs, chocolate, candy chicks, jelly beans and other gifts on Easter morning. The Easter eggs were originally painted with bright colors representing the sunlight of spring and were used in egg-rolling contests or given as gifts.

Manchester Grange wishes every one a very happy Easter holiday. Enjoy the family and, of course, your traditional holiday dinner whatever it may be.

As this is being read, spring is officially here. With April traditionally a rainy month, we sure have had and will have plenty of moisture. On the bright side, lawns are becoming green, trees are budding with leaves to follow and

the flower gardens will also soon have bloom. With more and more sunlight, don't you just feel regenerated.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita J. Schaefer

Apr. 14: April Showers

Apr. 28: Yankee Blue Grass, Open Meeting

Well, I hope everyone has had their fun with all of this snow. Now I hope we can think about spring. The farmers I guess must be dreaming of getting started. Fruits and vegetables will be late and expensive. That's mother nature.

We haven't been very

active during these first months of the year. With the weather conditions no one wanted to venture out. But we'll get started real soon to do things, I hope.

A couple of our members did help delivering Christmas dinners and will do the same when Easter arrives. Our food bank here is low on supplies as we will be collecting extra supplies as our food bank is open daily.

Our shut-ins are staying close to home until this snow and ice disappear. There's nothing else to write about except to dry and visit with us on Western Night. It's an open meeting!

Ekonk youth wins national award

Katrina Sebastian, an active member of Ekonk Community Grange, has been named one of 104 High School Seniors across the United States to receive the prestigious Horatio Alger Scholarship.

Horatio Alger was author to over 100 books for youths. His usual theme was rising from a humble background to success, through hard work, determination, courage and honesty. He also wrote under five pen names. Alger himself came from a humble New England childhood and through hard work graduated Harvard eighth in his class.

Katrina is an accomplished singer, musician and actress; she has achieved academic success. She sang to the National Grange delegates at Ekonk Community Grange in 2006 when the delegates, on their tour, stopped from lunch. For several years she has opened the ceremonies at the town of Sterling, CT annual "Family Day" by singing the National Anthem. She has starring roles in each Plainfield High School production; is active in the band (playing the French horn and violin); is a member of the Tri M (National Honor Society Band). She is a member of the Plainfield High School "Chamber Choir"; is a member of the National Honor Society and at this writing in the top 5% of her class.

Katrina and her family are active in the Park Congregational Church in Norwich, CT, where Katrina sings in the choir every Sunday. She teaches voice at Sterling Community School every Friday afternoon and it was she who established the Sterling Community School Friday voice and instrumental lesson program, which is free to all interested students.

On Mondays, after school, Katrina teaches students at Plainfield Central School how to play the French horn.

Katrina was extremely active in Ekonk Community Junior Grange and when a Junior, placed first in the State Grange Talent Contest.

July 17th, Katrina will entertain at the Ekonk Community Grange Awards Luncheon, when twelve membership awards will be presented, ranging from 25 to 75 years and totaling 625 years of Grange membership. Among those given out will be to Past Voting Delegate, Russell M. Gray, who will receive his Golden Sheaf certificate (as will his sister) and each of their daughters will receive their 25 year certificates at the same time.

Katrina plans a career in Musical Theatre and at this writing is still in the midst of the selection process for the college of her choice.

Katrina and the other recipients will be sent, all expenses paid, to Washington, D. C., from April 6th to 10th. They will attend college preparation seminars; listen to esteemed speakers; participate in ceremonies at the United States Supreme Court, the Department of State and the DAR Constitution Hall. Each recipient will receive a total of \$20,000.00 over the four years that they are in college.

Katrina Sebastian is an exceptional young woman and a real asset as a Grange member and a friend.

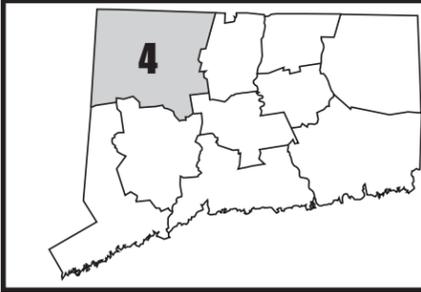
WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of the faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing submissions@ctstategrange.org.



Sue Gray of Ekonk Grange sent this answer to last month's picture: The picture was taken December 7th, 1981 at the dedication of Ekonk Grange Hall (the original hall was destroyed by fire Jan. 1981). Mike Molodich was Master/President and he is at the Master's station. I (Sue Gray) am at his left (in charge of the program); then starting far left the Fundraising & Building Committee members: Josephine Meisse (dec.); Helen Molodich (GS)-Mike's mother; Marlene Cook; Chuck Ward (dec.); Virginia Ward (dec.); John Molodich, Chm Building Committee (dec.)-Mike's dad; Howard Hopps; Duane Button and Russell Gray. note (dec. means deceased now).

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



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

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: T. Gelineau

May 8: Degree Rehearsal, Winchester Grange Hall, 7:00 P.M.

May 9: Fifth Degree & Inspection. Dinner at 6:30 (\$5.00), Meeting at 7:30

The annual Day Meeting of Mountain County Pomona was scheduled for March 23 at Riverton Grange. Unfortunately, winter weather threatened early in the week and it was decided to cancel the meeting rather than running the risk of having to cancel on the day of the meeting. We thank the members of Riverton Grange and hope you had enough time to cancel the meal plans for the day. We hope this is the last time we have a weather related cancellation this year!

Moving ahead to our spring calendar... the rehearsal of the Fifth Degree will be held on Sunday, May 8 at Winchester Grange Hall at 7 P.M. The Degree will be conferred the following evening at 7:30 P.M. The meeting will be preceded by a dinner prepared by the ladies of Winchester Grange. Cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 per person (guests and candidates are free).

The annual Spring Gift Drawing tickets will be distributed on or before this meeting. We ask all officers to contribute a prize for the drawing which will be held at the June 27 meeting of the Pomona. This is the only fundraiser for the year, so we hope all will participate and buy LOTS of tickets!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: T. Gelineau

Apr. 12: 1st & 2nd Degrees, Ref. Joan & Dom Campi
Apr. 26: 3rd & 4th Degrees, Harvest Potluck Supper at 6:30 P.M.

The month of March began with a Memorial

Service Reception for Marion Beecher on the 6th. Wethank all of the members who pitched in to help make the reception possible. There was enough food to feed an army. Winchester members always rise to the call when needed. Thank you so much.

Just hours after the reception, the Grange Master received a call from the Winchester Center Fire Chief and Grange member Peter Marchand reporting a flood in the lower hall. So at 2:30 in the morning the Master and Secretary rushed to the hall to get all of the furniture upstairs to avoid damaging both the furniture and the carpeting. Fortunately Cerruto's Carpet Cleaning was able to come to our rescue. After removing two truck loads of water and cleaning and disinfecting the carpeting the hall was in even better shape than it was before the flood. Our thanks go to the anonymous member who contributed the \$700 to cover the cleaning costs. The Waterbury Republican-American even included this event in a story about flooding around Litchfield County! Not the publicity we would prefer, but it's still publicity about an active Grange.

A photographer from the Republican attended our March 22 meeting to take pictures of the Charter Draping for Marion Beecher. We did not permit him to photograph the actual ceremony, but did pose a couple of shots for him which did appear in the Litchfield County section of the next day's paper.

April will be degree month at Winchester Grange. All Granges who have candidates in need of degrees are encouraged to contact Master Todd Gelineau (860) 626-0326. We would love to have you with us for the Degrees.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Susan Belle-Isle

The first January meetings scheduled in 2011 were cancelled due to the snow storms that blanketed the state of Connecticut. The last meeting held by Riverton Grange was on December 17, 2010.

The first February meeting at the Riverton Grange was held on the 4th with a program that was presented by George Russell of the Agricultural Committee and refreshments under the direction of Rujo & Shirley Moore. Mr. Russell discussed what the State Legislature is considering that would affect Connecticut farmers.

Victor Salazar, new Deputy of the Mountain County Pomona, presented a School of Instruction to the Riverton members on the Connecticut State Grange Honor Community Grange Program, Deputies' Ritual Challenge and the Distinguished Grange Program.

The next meeting was held on February 18, starting with a potluck supper under the direction of Robert O'Connor and Susan Belle-Isle. The program was based on US presidents and Valentine's Day.

The March dates for Riverton Grange are:

-March 4 at 7:30 p.m. with a program on Aquamarines (the March gemstone) and refreshments provided by Sally Dewey, Virginia Butler and Grace Jones.

- March 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck supper under the direction of Matthew & Theresa Freund. A short program will follow the supper.

In addition, on March 8 there will be a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Riverton Congregational Church, to be held at the Riverton Grange. Riverton Grangers will help with this supper. While there is no set cost, donations to the Church to cover the costs of the dinner would be welcome.

The Grange's CWA reminds anyone attending the grange meetings to bring non-perishable items

to be distributed to local food banks or soup kitchens. A box will be available for donations at the hall.

Riverton Grange will be doing Degrees during the April 1 and April 15 meeting.

Riverton goes to School



Victor Salazar, Deputy of Mountain County Pomona No. 4, presents the School of Instruction to members of Riverton Grange No. 169 at a recent meeting.

Family Activities



Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

It now appears that maybe Spring has finally begun to arrive and everything in nature is "Taking Flight" which hopefully will fuel your imaginations and your creativity for your projects for judging in June. I am looking forward to seeing all that you have

accomplished.

We all hopefully will be able to get out and do more visiting with Granges now that the weather is improving. Also, remember that many of the projects are open to non-members of the Grange so get your family and neighbors involved. Who knows they might decide to join. And, don't forget the Juniors - I'm sure that they would love to have some guidance from the "older", more experienced knitters, crocheters, and crafters among the Grange to help with their projects.

As always, feel free to call me or any of the committee if you have questions regarding any of the programs.

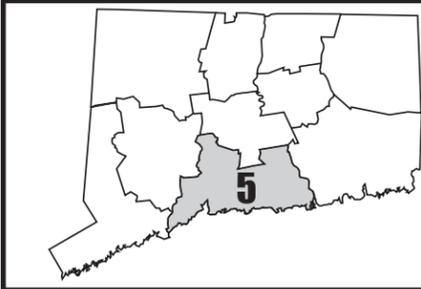
Bowl-A-Thon 2011



The Bowl-A-Thon will take place on Saturday, April 9th from 1:00 to 3:00 at Highland Bowl located at 1211 Highland Avenue, Cheshire. The price to bowl is \$20.00 per person which includes two (2) games of bowling and shoe rental. Something new this year...

this is duckpin bowling. It is a lot of fun. Letters should have arrived in all of the Granges with donation forms. If anyone has any questions they can contact Lisa Lamoureux, Jr./Youth Director at 203-868-8712.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Donald Lanoue

May 9: Wallingford Fifth Degree

Our March meeting was our School of Instruction though this report was sent on before the school was held I feel that our State Master and General Deputy will do a great job. We also had our talent run offs at this meeting. I am not a predictor of the future t announce the winners you will just have to wait until the next granger.

On a much sadder note lost a long time member Helen Ripley. I will always remember her as the specter in the fifth degree and that voice she had fit the part perfectly. She will be missed.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Apr. 6: Ballroom Fever

Apr. 20: Open Meeting - CWA night with a Tea Cup Auction

With the rough winter we all have been experiencing, we have had to cancel two of our meetings. Deputy Kay Ruff conducted our school of instruction which was very informative. Our State Master, Jody Cameron was with us that evening along with our General Deputy, Todd Gelineau.

Our Monday night craft sessions have started up making items for our local convalescent homes. Plans for our 2011 fair are underway as well as for the two hiking club dinners we do in March and April, both of which will enhance our treasury.

Our meetings are the first and third Wednesdays of the month, and with the improving weather, we invite you to join us.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Apr. 14: "Grange Month" Ref: Dan

Apr. 28: "CWA" Janet in charge of program. Ref:

CWA

We had cancelled our first meeting in February because of the ice and snow that had accumulated around the hall and parking lot that made it treacherous to get around.

We had our second meeting on February 24th but again Mother Nature continued to conspire against us. Hail and snow kept some members from attending and attendance was light.

A short program titled Presidents Day was done and the first was on Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address speech on the nineteenth of November 1863. Edward Everett, the great orator of the day gave the longest speech of that day; but it was Lincoln's 10 sentence, 275 word speech that was remembered.

The second was on Theodore Roosevelt's tribute to Abraham Lincoln on the 100th anniversary of Lincoln's birth on the 12th of February 1909. This tribute wasn't as short as the Gettysburg's Address, but it was short enough considering the subject. It did convey the understated greatness and humbleness that was Lincoln.

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35

Corr: A. Tolette

Apr. 5: Hat Night

May 3: Memories

I am finally out from under those snow drifts that surrounded my house. They were so high that I couldn't find the mailbox to send the Grange news last month. We had a good turnout for our March meeting and those who wore green were rewarded by our Lecturer. Hat night in April sounds as if it will be fun. We expect to have our Deputy come soon for his official visit. We wonder when the "unannounced" one will be.

Toobad we can't preserve

some of this snow and let it out in July or August when it could do some good.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162

Corr: Barbara Kulisch

Apr. 8: CWA is in charge with Bake-Off, Visitors

Apr. 22: Omit- Good Friday

May 13: Let's Welcome the Deputy

Old Man Winter was finally good to us on Friday

the 11th of February, as we welcomed our Deputy Carl Bernhardt for the annual School of Instruction. We also welcomed the State Lecturer, Marge Bernhardt who enjoyed the Lecturer's program. She said that it was good to see everyone bringing in a number for the program and sharing their assigned month.

We continue to hold our "Country Stores" to

help out with our CWA monetary projects. We will have held our "Bag It" food drive, to help with our food donations for the Local Pantry at the Church in Old Lyme.

For the months of April and May, we will be only meeting once a month due to the Easter and Memorial Day holidays! Our doors are always open and we look forward to your visits!

What's in a name?

Edith Schoell, State Historian

Have you ever given any thought about the names of various Granges?

Cherry Brook Grange #210 was named after the brook that flows through the area, as well as for the many wild cherry blossoms blooming in the area (Canton).

Wolf Den #61 was taken from the cave made famous by its connection with the wolf killing exploits of Israel Putnam.

Senexet and Tunxis were Indian names. Taghannuck #100 was taken from the Indian name for a range of mountains.

Beacon Valley #103 was from "A Light

in the Valley," located in the village of Straightsville in the Town of Naugatuck.

Echo Grange #180 was named after the lake in town. When one calls from one shore the echo returns plainly (Village of Mansfield Center).

Many of our Granges adopted the name of the town in which they were organized.

The above Granges are still operating and have contributed to their locales through many community service projects over the years.

(Information taken from "The Grange in Connecticut" by Lida S. Ives.)



News from the Deputy Team

Inspections • Code Reading • Ritual • Ritual Challenge • Support • Instruction

Todd Gelineau, General Deputy

The Schools of Instruction are finally wrapping up after long delay from the hard winter. The dedication of the Deputy force is greatly appreciated. We have asked a lot of this new team and they have gone above and beyond to carry out their responsibilities. Each Deputy is required to visit each Grange at least 2 or 3 times during the year... multiplied by the number of Granges in their Pomonas... this is a major commitment in addition to their responsibilities to their own Community & Pomona Granges. Thank you all!

Inspections are now getting underway. This is also a new process for Granges. We hope you will

let us know your opinions (both positive and negative). Please contact your Deputy if you need any assistance with ritual. We are hearing some members questioning why ritual was not covered in Pomona Schools. The Deputies are always available to Community Granges for instruction on all aspects of the ritual. They are a resource... please utilize their expertise.

We hope all Granges are entering the Ritual Challenge... try it even if you don't think you can win... you might be surprised!

Hirst visits with National Leg. Director



Scott Bill Hirst, Legislative Committee Chairman and Past Master of both North Stonington Community Grange No. 138, P.of H., and New London County Pomona Grange No.6, visited National Grange Headquarters and met and visited with Nicole Palya Wood, new Legislative Director of the National Grange on Wednesday, February 9th.

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

N. L. COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 14: Conferral of the Fifth Degree, N. Stonington #138

On Feb. 19th we held our annual potluck/movie night at Norwich Grange. Although the frigid winds caused us to have a little smaller crowd than usual, we had a good variety of food. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Arlie Chapman, whose birthday was on the 22nd. The big white wall between the windows turned into a movie screen and we all enjoyed "The Greatest Show on Earth" in large and living color. The popcorn and candy, provided by Jeff and Debbie, were delicious; "and a good time was had by all!"

We will confer the Fifth Degree on May 14th, so if you have candidates, be sure to bring them to North Stonington. This is a change in schedule necessitated by the change in command at State. This will be discussed at our March meeting.

The winter is soon to be over,

And springtime will be here 'ere long.

So get all your candidates ready,

And help keep Pomona Grange strong.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 8: "I'd like to visit... the Old South"

Apr. 28: "I'd like to visit... with my Heroes"

Apr. 29: 2, 4, 5 Club with Country Store, Meets at N. Stonington

On February 11, G. Michael Colt gave an interesting talk on the building of model ships. He displayed many beautiful models he had built from kits and from scratch.

On February 25 Markham Starr presented a talk on his new book, *Down on the Farm, The Last Dairy Farms of North Stonington*. Our Master Robert Miner's farm is featured in the book.

We were proud to host a special workshop on February 12. Sixty-four Grangers from Rhode Island and Connecticut gathered at our Grange to attend the workshop that featured Rusty Hunt, National Membership/Leadership Director. We provided coffee and goodies for the coffee breaks, and

a luncheon of homemade soup, sandwiches, pasta and desserts. A big thank you goes to Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm for donating the delicious black raspberry ice cream, and Jeff and Debbie Barnes for donating the brownies. Flo Mullane and Sue Pianka headed the kitchen crew.

We look forward to our April programs. Who will our Community Citizen be this year? We will honor our longtime members with seals and certificates that evening, also. And if those daffodils that are trying desperately to poke through the food of snow in the front garden will just get a little help from the sun, next time, I'll tell you about marvelous March.

LYME GRANGE #147

Apr. 7: Will we have company?

May 5: How About those Graces & Chaplain! Ahhhhh! "Dirt"

I never thought I'd be happy to see dirt. And the frosting on the cake is the little green sprouts coming up. We "Will" have daffodils and spring flowers soon.

We postponed our Feb. meeting one week due to the mountain of snow surrounding our hall. The Master's son, Steven, came with heavy equipment and lifted it away.

The Lecturer did her complete program in Feb. and we draped our charter for Elizabeth York.

March brought the State Master to conduct the School of Instruction. He brought Jodi Ann for company on his long drive. We draped our charter for Gloria Maddocks, a 65 year member.

We learned the State Master's plans, goals and expectations for the future. Our musicians are traveling- but we had music!

Skip Beebe and his wife Nancy came. They are non-members. He played his guitar for draping the charter and flag presentation. He also played and sang Ashes- in honor of Ash Wednesday coming soon.

We voted to help two children attend Scout Camp. Our Secretary is

back from Texas. Charlotte Beers has done a wonderful job filling in for her during her absence.

Hopefully the rest of the year will bring fair weather so everyone will be able to get out, socialize and attend meetings.

STONINGTON GRANGE #168

Corr: Jeff Barnes

The excellent February reports from our standing committees were a wealth of information, and we all learned a lot as they shared their knowledge with us.

From the Legislative Committee we learned about the huge financial cost of imposing the death sentence on crimes in Connecticut and why the legal process keeps it from being carried out in most cases. Also the use of outdoor wood burning furnaces in other states and how they are viewed there.

The Ag Committee explained the natural benefit of mulching with snow and why it really is "poor man's fertilizer." We learned the value of saving seeds left over from last year's planting and using them next year. Seeds of most varieties last more than a year in storage and are still good. It is especially important to save heirloom varieties that are not readily available from seed companies.

From our Consumer Safety and Ecology Committee we learned how useful a flashlight can be in unexpected situations,

why outdoor temperatures affects the speed of a pendulum clock hung on an outside wall, and in what direction draining water spins on opposite sides of the Equator.

Our Community Service Committee is looking for photos of members doing their individual community service work. If you missed this at the last meeting you have read it here.

Our CWA Committee continues collecting canned foods for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food pantry. All were reminded of the various contests as well as a reminder that handmade items are needed for the Country Store at the Grange Building at the Big E..

Debbie presented her Lecturer's Complete program and we enjoyed a real variety of games, music and entertainment. The things that happened when he was President!

After much thought and discussion it was decided that after 103 -1/2 years of meeting at 8 PM we would try 7:30 PM for a while. This is only a trial for the next four meetings in the hopes of boosting attendance. If it is successful a By-Laws committee will be appointed as needed. So please note our new meeting time.

Our snow birds have checked in from Florida and will be back home in April. And as the days begin to lengthen the rest of us look forward to Spring in Connecticut.

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Colchester installs sign



Joan Toomey & Jeff Watson install a new informational sign in Colchester promoting Grange activity in their town.

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 #7 does not meet in the month of April, so the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at Beacon Valley Grange Hall for the conferral of the Fifth Degree and Inspection. Time 7:30 P.M.

On Tuesday, May 17, 2011 there will be a rehearsal of the Degree at Beacon Valley Grange Hall at 7:00 P.M. All Officers and members of the Court are urged to attend.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

On April 8 we will welcome Deputy Eloise Osuch for our annual inspection. Refreshments will be provided by the officers.

To our members who have not paid their dues, they are now past due as our year starts in October. While you are reading this why not send it now.

Looking ahead- we will be celebrating our 122nd anniversary on Friday, June 10th. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Linda Coad

Apr. 25: 7:30pm, Evaluation or is it Inspection, Country Store, Ref: Ellen & John Samoska

May 23: 7:30 pm, Memorial Program & Baking Contest; Ref: Eloise Osuch

In the past few weeks we have been busy setting up the 120th anniversary program to be held in June.

Several Bethlehem Members met up with Litchfield Grange for lunch at the Painted Pony. A great time was had by all.

We also entertained a program to educate people in working with us to grow Butternut Squash for the

food banks. If you were unable to attend and receive seeds, any butternut seeds can be used. Call if you need instructions.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Mary Dubay

Apr. 1: Spring Fling

Apr. 15: Inspection

April Showers bring May Flowers!

The program for our first meeting in April is called Spring Fling. After all the snow and ice and cold weather we had this winter it is nice to hear the word spring.

Our second meeting is inspection by the Deputy and will be in the charge of the Past Lecturers. The theme is Easter Bonnet. A reminder for the Past Lecturers. The theme is Easter Bonnet. A reminder- the deputy will not require written reports from the committees this year.

We had to cancel a few meetings because it seemed to snow on the nights that we meet. Our annual Winter Tag Sale that we have in February never came to pass because of all the snow, so we had one in March. Can't give up our Tag Sales.

Watertown Grange wishes all our Grange friends a Happy Easter. Come and join us when you can, our door is always open.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

A memorial service will be held in honor of Richard Kuhn, a Past State Deputy, on May 14, 2011 at the Prospect Congregational Church next to the Grange Hall on Center St., in Prospect. If you wish to make a doantion, donations can be sent to the Prospect Senior Center in memory of Richard Kuhn.

Many of our members have been on the sick list this winter. At this writing, our Overseer, Inez

Bramhall is in the hospital with heart problems. Our Treasurer Beatrice Meehan spent several weeks in the hospital, and our Master, Timothy Meehan had his right arm operated on. Our Ceres, Tisa-Lynn Wilson, spent a couple of days in the hospital and our Secretary Jean Meehan had a heart operation. Lecturer, Frances Maxwell, had a new elbow put in and our Pomona, Bella Berdan has been ill for several months with the shingles. All are doing better and we still continue to meet as usual except the month of January, where we had to have a special meeting at the home of our Master as the Senior Center where we meet was not open due to the amount of snow and ice we had during the month.

We continue to help with collecting items for the veterans at the hospitals and GI stationed in the middle east. We also collected story books and donated them to the Region 16 grammar school libraries.

Our next meeting will be the judging of the CWA baking contest. The recipes have been passed out to the members. Our March meeting was School of Instruction and the April 14 meeting will be inspection. Hope our members are all better by then.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

Apr. 1: Movie Night- Astronomy Program

Apr. 15: Open House / Community Citizen Award Presentation. Refreshments- Everyone

We got plenty of exercise shoveling snow during the winter, but April should be different.

Obviously, attendance has been down this winter but at least we've managed to hold meetings regularly. At one point the heating system quit because snow drifts blocked the oil delivery man's access to the tank filler pipe. Unfortunately we were not warned.

But Spring is here now. An effort will be made to follow the calendar listed above. One change is possible- adding a program

about growing squash especially since it is a largely charitable effort. Therefore, the programs listed above may be changed.

Come and see us!

Membership

Springtime greetings fellow Grangers and friends!

Last month I was commenting on how nice it was to finally see our driveway and sidewalks. Today I can actually see our lawn for the first time since late December. Thoughts of snow shovels and ice melt



James Lamoureux
Membership Director

Membership@ctstategrange.org

will soon be turning to seed packets and starter plants. It is a good feeling to get a little dirty and work the soil in the Spring.

This time of year our Granges are slowly emerging from winter hibernation. I see dinners and breakfast's being scheduled. These events that are open to the public present a great opportunity to tell prospective members about our organization. Does your Grange have copies of the new brochures and material for your next public event? Did you know you can easily download material from our website?

We have some fun events planned for April including Rally Day, the Bowl-A-Thon, and the Connecticut State Grange Mystery Dinner. Perhaps you can invite a new member to join you for one of these activities?

I hope that all of your Granges get off to a great start en route to a prosperous and growth filled year in 2011!



Connecticut State Grange

Online Chat

Wed., April 27 • 7:00 PM

All aspects of the Grange will be discussed including: ritual, agricultural and legislative initiatives, Grange events, community interaction and more.

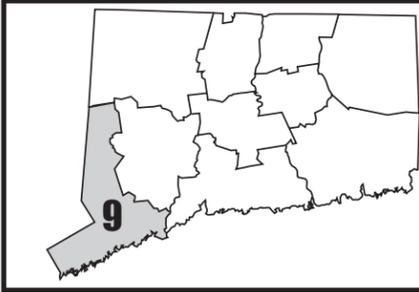
State President Jody Cameron, Gen. Deputy Todd Gelineau and committee representatives will be there to answer all of your questions.

www.CTStateGrange.org/GrangeChat

Guests can sign-in using their real names or anonymously.



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9

Corr: Bob Sendewicz

Apr. 6: Conferral of the Fifth Degree

Fairfield County Pomona will confer the Fifth Degree at Redding Grange hall at 7:30 P.M. Any Grange wishing to bring candidates please contact the Pomona secretary, Robert Sendewicz. Refreshments will be served after the conferral.

On May 14, 2011 Fairfield County Pomona will have a tag sale including baked goods and plants at Harmony grange Hall, junction of routes 110 & 111 in Monroe, Ct. from 9:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. Come and enjoy the day and pick up a bargain.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Apr. 11: Easter Ideas

Apr. 25: 1st & 2nd Degree

May 7: Spring Fair

It appears that I was so engrossed in getting ready for our trip to Florida that I forgot to send in an article for Redding Grange last month. Well I'm back now and I apologize for that.

Spring is finally here and it's time to enjoy it, so we have put together some great events. We will appropriately have an Easter program at our first meeting. Then keeping up with our Grange duties we will be conferring the First and Second Degrees. We will welcome anyone that has candidates to our hall on that night. Please check with our secretary, Marge Sendewicz, before hand.

You can really enjoy spring in Fairfield County by attending our Spring Fair on May 7th. It will run from 10:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M. and will have plants and flowers, baked goods, books and of course our famous white elephant sale. There will also be refreshments. So, shake off you winter blues and join us for a sunny spring day.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

Apr. 18: "Salute to the Grange", Meeting at 7 P.M.

Our February meeting was our first evening event in some time. In spite of a morning snowfall, the attendance was better than expected. Plans were announced for the Penny Lane Players and another group was approved for the use of the hall for the play that they are developing.

In April, our program will feature the Grange and its role not only in history but also its current accomplishments and potential in the future. All of our Grange friends are welcome at our meetings and events. Come visit!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Apr. 12: Open House and Neighbor's Night- 6:30, Recruitment Party, Hors d'oeuvres and Goodies

May 7: Kentucky Derby Viewing and Party- Mid-Afternoon

May 10: Blooming of Spring and The Garden Talent Evening

Our Grange Hall's facelift is becoming a full-body makeover! After two painting party projects in late February we now have a bright, clean front hall, entry way and closet area. Many thanks to the Grange House Committee! There's still the kitchen to be tackled, so stay tuned.

A lot happened at our February meeting, icy roads notwithstanding. We voted to support the Westport CROP Walk, plus a \$50 donation, and to give \$25 each to the Granger Trust Fund, State Grange Student Loan Fund, small gift cards for children, and the Heifer International. We will also be awarding two \$350 Camp Berger scholarships.

Visiting Deputy Joan

Ziegler then brought us up to date on the newest emphasis of the National and State Granges, which is on growth and membership. She presented in impressive list of new Grange tools and activities that have been fashioned to help all Granges reach a four-year goal. Lyn Kimberly added one caveat: Norfield Grange, in its less agricultural Fairfield County environment, will probably need to use a different approach in its attempt to draw new members. By Social Hour time, Sue Sulla had us all enthralled with thoughts about Valentine's Day- a subject that Grangers have enjoyed no matter what the environment.

With sadness we report the death of Edith Hilpman, a longtime Granger and close neighbor. Her family reported that "Edith was a force of nature balanced with extraordinary generosity and caring for others." They suggested that donations be made in her memory to the Norfield Grange.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

May 5: Business meeting

May 7: Neighbor's Night Dinner - 6 PM

May 19: Learning to make Jams & Jellies

June 2: Business Meeting with Election of Officers

June 16: Nature Around Us

After a long and cold winter of mountains of snow and ice, we are delighted to see the harbingers of Springtime: longer days, swelling leaf buds on trees and the return of the many songbirds. We held our annual evening of Silent Movies to a sell-out crowd of neighbors and area residents. Our own member, John Mucci, is the force behind the movies: he brings the films and provides a dazzling piano accompaniment to the sotryline and screenplay. This is grange entertainment at its best!

Our Fair committee is back at work currently brainstorming new ideas for attractions and entertainment at the Fair, and planning a meaningful

and effective layout on the grounds. For those marking calendars, please circle the date of Sunday, August 21st to come to our 79th Fair.

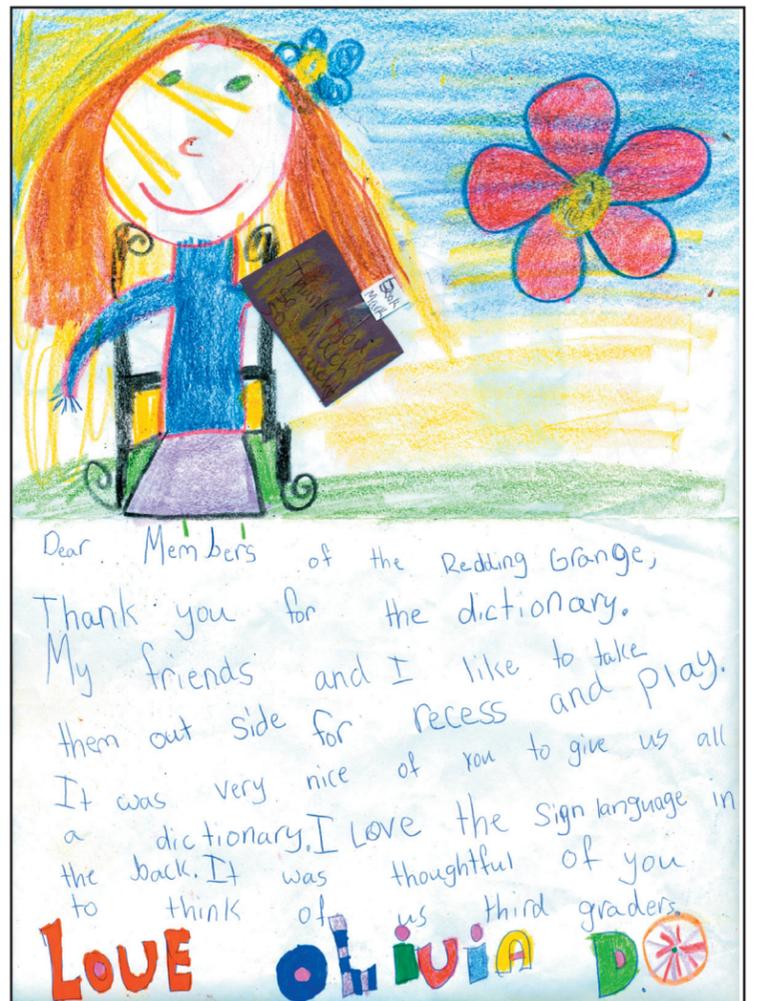
As part of our community outreach initiative, we are providing use of our Grange Hall to the Wilton EMS to hold a free training program to local residents to learn "Friends & Family" CPR. Also, in June the Wilton Chamber of Commerce (we're a member of the chamber) is using our Grange Hall as the venue for "A Taste of Wilton" when area restaurants and caterers will gather to present a tasting session of their culinary skills for the public. It makes for a great way for people to come into our

Hall and see what we do.

Coming on May 1, our Grange is participating as a business partner with the Wilton Go-Green council's townwide fair on sustainability. we're hosting a booth that will provide a packet of free bean seeds to grown in a garden (to reduce one's carbon footprint), and will include directions for sowing and growing, along with information about joining the Grange.

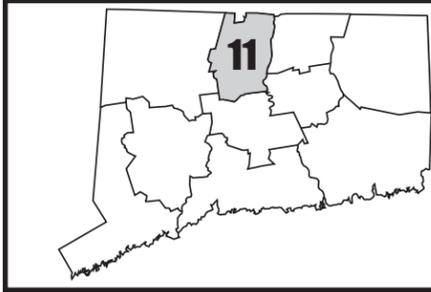
As you can see we're busy at Cannon GRange, and doing things that involve our community. Come by and see us (our schedule is noted above), plus you can "see" us on FaceBook, Twitter and on the internet at our website.

Kids say thanks!



Olivia D. thanked Redding Grange members for her new dictionary with the above card. This card was selected by Grange members as one of their favorites. Her note reads: "Dear Members of the Redding Grange, Thank you for the dictionary. My friends and I like to take them out side for recess and play. It was very nice of you to give us all a dictionary. I love the sign language in the back. It was thoughtful of you to think of us third graders."

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



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

FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner
Apr. 18: "Coloring Eggs"

State President Jody Cameron, State General Deputy Todd Gelineau and Pomona Deputy West Donald Lanoue were with us at our last meeting and presented a School of Instruction. They gave us much food for thought as we face the future of Farmington Valley Pomona.

We met in the church across the road from Granby Grange where access was much easier to the hall.

It was nice to have Jane Wendell back with us. Her broken arm is well on the mend.

We are all looking ahead to the Grange events of spring and summer.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian Shaw

Apr. 15: Deputy Visit, 7:30 P.M.

Apr. 23: Public Setback Card Party, Open to Public, 7:00 P.M.

On Feb. 11 we met at the Master's house to hear from our Deputy and review our financial condition with

two new Grange transfers present.

On Feb. 24 Granby Grange hosted the Red Cross Blood Bank with an over quota number of pints of blood collected.

On March 11 we had a review of the Granby Grange cash flow and discussed possible future activities in the hall to help the cash flow.

Member Mary Cook went on to the Great Grange Above in January and Granby Grange conducted a Grange service during calling hours on March 4 for Golden Sheaf member Grace Ayer.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner

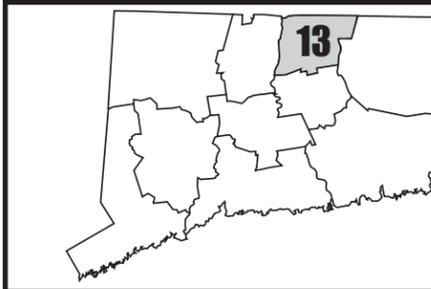
Apr. 13: April Showers

The weather has played havoc with our meetings, but we've talked about it long enough and are more than anxious to see signs of spring.

We continue to carry on with our community service and projects we are making for the various Grange departments.

It is our hope to be back in our hall for the May meeting.

North Central Pomona No. 13



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

N. CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan

North Central Pomona No. 13 does not meet in April.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan

Apr. 5: Pennsylvania

We will continue our visit to another "neighboring" state. Find out some interesting facts about Pennsylvania.

Join us for our meeting starting at 7:30 P.M. at St.

Matthew's Church Hall on the Green in Tolland.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

Apr. 1: April Fools Day

At the March meeting everyone enjoyed the program on Maple Syrup - we had readings from Vermont about Sugar on Snow dinners at Vermont Granges. The best part of the program was refreshments of pancakes... with (of course) maple

syrup!

A discussion was held about using free telecommunications software that allows virtual meetings with both visual and audio of members on the computer. It's a way of reaching out to members who are home bound and would love to be at meetings.

We will have a fun April Fools Day program

on fooling around. Our meetings are still at 8.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 14: When - ? - was President

I have not seen a single crocus yet! Mother Nature was hard on us this past winter and I am disappointed by the lack of the appearance of my favorite harbinger of

spring. Such is life. Heart health in February and luncheon at Appleby's in March to celebrate our 112th birthday were well attended. Who will be the president we learn about this month?? As Lecturer, I have decided to keep that a secret till the meeting. Curious?? Come visit and find out who he is. We love company.

Tolland honors Elsie LaBonte



Elsie LaBonte receives her 75 year certificate from Tolland Grange Master Robert West.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

Can't believe it is time for our first event - our Mystery Dinner. From all reports members have been talking about it and advertising it for us.

We thank the Connecticut Granger for all their help. As of this writing is too early to tell

how many tickets have been sold. Returns are not due back to me until April 16th.

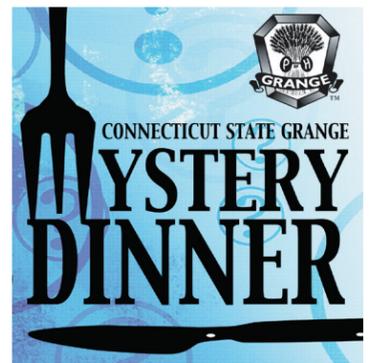
Applications for the "Granger of the Year" Contest have been mailed. We hope every Grange will nominate someone. We all have a Granger that we are proud and happy that they are a member of our Grange.

PARTY TIP OF THE MONTH

Easter Egg Basket Cake - Make you favorite or box mix and divide it in two round pans. Cook and cool. Cut the center from one of

the cakes. Put together with some frosting. Now frost the whole cake except the center. Color some Coconut with some green coloring and put in the center for Easter grass. Fill with jelly beans or some colorful candies or whatever you like. For a handle use a licorice stick or rolled foil.

Enjoy.



Past Master's Assoc. Meeting

Past Masters of Southwestern Connecticut is looking for new members. Grange Masters, past and present, and their wives, are urged to join. But, did you know, you can also join even if you haven't been a Master?

Our meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month with a potluck dinner at 6:30 P.M., followed by a short business meeting at 8 P.M. We finish the evening with a program which varies each month but is sure to please. The atmosphere of

the evening is more social in nature than regular Grange meetings- so why not join us?

We are looking for other Granges to host our meetings. If you are interested, contact current President Randy Miller at 203-979-9934 as soon as possible for we will be writing up our new schedule soon for the 2011-2012 year. Our remaining meeting will be on April 9 at Southington Grange.

One Dollar's Worth

National Public Radio's "Marketplace" program recently featured the story of photographer/journalist Jonathan Blaustein, who photographs food to illustrate the contrast between what corporations advertise as their product and the stark reality of what is actually served or sold to the consumer. In an interview with Kai Ryssdal, Mr. Blaustein stated, "I started shooting in the spring of 2008, but in the fall of 2007, the ideas started percolating about fast food, actually. And the way, my medium, my method of expression -- photography -- is used by advertising, the industry and by corporations to sort of sell an image that doesn't exist. So I was thinking primarily about fast food hamburgers, Big Macs, and the images that we see on billboards. Everybody in America knows that the burger doesn't look like that. So the thought I had as an artist and a thinker was, wouldn't it be interesting to see what it actually looks like? To just go to the store, buy it, set it down on my table -- which happens to be white -- in my studio -- which happens to be white -- and just look at it. And then photograph it."

RYSSDAL: You did more than just meat and flour and all those. You did some price-point comparison; you got, I think there's one shot of 10 blueberries -- 10 organic blueberries -- which I read some place in a comment that you had made that the resonance of a dime for every blueberry kind of struck you.

BLAUSTEIN: Yeah, well a lot of this project was really about shopping. It was about consuming. Shopping is the American way. So six weeks before I bought these California, early-season, first-of-the-year June blueberries for \$1, I bought 17 organic blueberries from Chile for \$1. Chile's 6,000 miles away. So the blueberries, they're a super food -- anyone will tell you that there are few things you can eat that are better for you than a perfect blueberry. But they're not affordable for so many people. It's like a luxury item. The fact that healthy food has become the luxury item in many ways, I think is something I'm trying to draw people's attention to.

RYSSDAL: You know, it's funny because a couple of clicks down from those blueberries, you've got a stack of ramen noodles. There's seven of them, sitting there in a pile, and it's there. It's a dollar worth of ramen noodles, which is a lot of ramen noodles.

BLAUSTEIN: It is. And you know, ramen noodles are about as calorie-dense a food as there is. When I showed those pictures, everyone laughs and said, "Oh man, I got through college on that." And I met somebody recently that told me that she -- a single mom who raised four kids by herself -- and she told me that was how she did it. Because ramen noodles had that much energy in them, per price, she just fed her kids ramen all the time, because that's all she could afford. And ironically, I went back to Super Save the other day to buy a pack of ramen noodles -- I brought 'em back to New York with me, just because I thought we'd end up talking about it -- and they were five for \$1. The same story in 2010. So even ramen had become more expensive in just a couple of years.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

I went to several events last year with the expectation of someone taking photographs of their event. I saw several folks with their iPhones showing photos, talking on the phone ... yak-idée-yak ... ad nauseum. Not once did I see anyone taking photos of said event. There were several photo rich opportunities where it could have represented the essence of that event's theme or activity. Opportunity lost. Photography can be taken to two extremes: staged, or "I just received a spy camera from 'Q,' and I'm taking everything and everyone." Finding somewhere in between, where it's comfortable for you, is where you'll probably find your best success. When I refer to "staged," I refer to every photo ends up with people staring at the camera. No action! The wax dummies were brought in to replace the actual person! I have a tendency of going to an

event and take candid photos. There's action in the frame, people are smiling and there may be a humorous moment to catch. I'm doing this all with the flash turned off. For the most part, this works great.

Although, people do know I'm using a camera, not everyone likes to have their picture taken. Just be aware of that and be prepared to ask permission to take some shots. Especially, since you're trying to capture an event at your Grange, and it may occur during your Grange meeting.

Framing a photograph, or grouping your foreground and background subjects where it tells a story is not that easy. It may take some practice. If your camera has the capacity to zoom, it may help out with taking establishing shot. The action is in the shot, but there's more background showing -- it helps with showing depth of shot and there may be other action to

show as well. Zooming in, then you can take tighter shots of action. Another way to handle these photo events is to crop the shots afterward to emphasize the action.

Possibly the hardest part of taking photos is selecting the best photo, or photos to send in to your local media outlet, with an article, which shows the essence of the event.

Give the newspaper a number of photos to choose from. This gives them the chance to choose what they think is the most attention getting. In the case of Meriden Grange Fair last year, the most intriguing photo was not the one with Doris Shaw and Mildred Bell judging the Needlework contest, but a wooden pink Flamingo/eyeglass holder in the foreground along with a colorful doll.

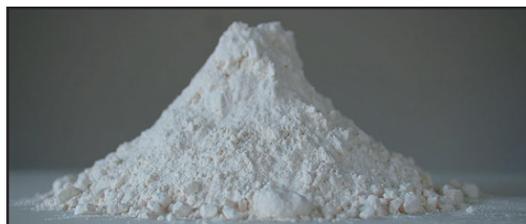
There's more possible suggestions to mention, but until then, I wish everyone success at taking photos at their event.



One dollar's worth of organic grapefruit



One dollar's worth of supermarket grapefruits



One dollar's worth of Shurfine flour



One dollar's worth of a double cheeseburger from a fast food restaurant



One dollar's worth of Tomatillos from Mexico



One dollar's worth of candy necklaces from China



One dollar's worth of potted meat food product



One dollar's worth of tea biscuits from Spain



One dollar's worth of shrimp ramen noodles



One dollar's worth of supermarket beef shank



One dollar's worth of side salad with ranch dressing from a fast food restaurant



One dollar's worth of early season organic blueberries from California

Past Deputies

The Annual Meeting of the Past Deputies Association of the Connecticut State Grange will be held on Sunday, April 10, 2011 at Riverton Grange Hall. A social hour will begin the afternoon at 2:00 P.M. followed by the 3:00 meeting with Supper to follow.

The Agenda for the day will include the Treasurer's Report, Report of the Raffle Committee, Report of the Fundraising Committee, Election of Officers, Collection of Dues, Program and Country Store.

For more information, please contact President Phil Prelli or Secretary Joanne Cipriano.

Youth & Junior Grange



Lisa Lamoureux
State Youth & Junior Director
youth@ctstategrange.org
juniors@ctstategrange.org

Hi Junior Grangers and Youth Grangers

As I am sure that everyone has heard.... The Annual Bowl-A-Thon will happen on Saturday, April 9th at 1:00 p.m. at Highland Bowl in Cheshire. Come out and put on some bowling shoes and let us see how great you can bowl. There will be awards for the person who brings in the most donations and another award for the highest score. Come out and have some fun.

It is with great pleasure that Angelina DeDominicis was just recently awarded the Junior Grange Member Recruiter of the Year. She will receive a certificate and a \$50.00 gift card to the National Grange Store. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Also the following Juniors have won awards at the 2010 National Grange Session:

Jared Dervas – 1st Place in Writing;

Noella Burlette – 1st

Place in Writing;

Mary Burlette – 2nd

Place in Writing;

Kayla Michaud – 3rd

Place in Scrapbooking; and

Mary Burlette – 1st

Place Handprint

Congratulations and a job well done. Keep up the great work in representing Connecticut.

Hope to see everyone at the Bowl-A-Thon.

If anyone has any ideas for a fundraiser or a gathering, or road trip, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Junior or Youth Committees. We are open to all ideas and want everyone to participate. Until next month, keep warm!!!

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87

Corr: Rita Schaefer

Apr. 15: "Spring Break Fun"

May 20: "One More Month of School"

The Junior Grangers were lucky last month. They could gather for a meeting. At this meeting they discussed what they would like to do for projects and of any trips they would like to do this year.

They will have a craft night and the project will be decided later.

They didn't do much

tripping last month due to the weather and sickness. Hope everyone is no on the mend and is starting to get busy.

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

The Juniors want to visit a "Sugar Shack" this spring so leader, Rebecca Gervais is searching the area for a place where the kids can watch the process by which maple syrup goes from sap to the syrup that they love atop pancakes, etc.

The Juniors voted a monetary donation of \$30.00 to the "Care Drive for the Troops", which the Grange is doing in conjunction with the Killingly FFA Chapter and Alumni.

The Juniors will also be bringing donations to their next meeting to go into the boxes being mailed out on April 30th to our brave soldiers.

Many Juniors are enjoying Sunday evening volleyball at the Sterling Municipal Building; this is so popular that three teams of eight players had to rotate playing since there is only one net!

The Spring Junior Grange Nut/candy sale is underway! Our Juniors are certainly a busy group; we are so proud!

In Memoriam

Mary Cook

Grace Ayer, G.S.

Helen Ripley

Antoinette Kent, G.S.

Nancy E. Standley, G.S.

Elizabeth Moran, G.S.

Edith Hilpman

Gloria M. Maddocks, G.S.

Elizabeth York

Granby Grange #5

Granby Grange #5

Cheshire Grange #23

Wolf Den Grange #61

Harmony Grange #92

N. Stonington Grange #138

Norfield Grange #146

Lyme Grange #147

Lyme Grange #147

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

Let us travel through this Lenten Season remembering to reject negativity and limiting thoughts. We have bought into the superstition that goodness is a soap bubble about to burst. But I would like for you to know that goodness is successive, a base of beginning.

We spend a lot of time listening to our "realistic" voice. We always want to wait and see how things turn out. Perhaps we should bring our celebration totem because in that moment we will know a fuller truth. The following disappointment does not change the reality of that original holy moment until you let it. The wait and see was an admission that the future could change the current experience and the character of our infinitely Loving God.

It's considered prudent to prepare for rainy days. But we don't do much to prepare for joy. Instead, when love or abundance comes to our house we think it's a fleeting visitor, a lost butterfly, or a hoax. But I challenge you to consider that when you are in your joy you are in your sane mind. I do not advocate you deny reality, just claim it.

You were designed to blossom. I urge you to try on a new sense of realism. When good things happen to you do not wait for the other shoe to drop. Expect something even better now. I would predict the shoe on the ground is about to fly. I would remind you to save the date of June 12th at 11:00 A.M. in Cheshire for State Grange Sunday Services. See you there and have a blessed Easter Season.

1st 2nd 3rd 4th Degree Day

East Central Pomona No. 3 will hold a Degree Day on Saturday, May 14 beginning at 10:00 A.M. The First & Second Degrees will be conferred in the morning, followed by lunch and then the Third & Fourth Degrees. All Granges are invited to bring candidates to the conferral. To help in planning for the day, please contact Master Noel Miller with the number of members and candidates planning to attend (Tel. 860-742-8839).

Left (top) Ekonk Junior Grange members play games with pasta a a recent meeting. (left) Ekonk Jrs. toured Norman's Sugar House in Woodstock. After the tour (and several product samples), the Juniors and families came back to the Grange, where all (30+) enjoyed pancakes, french toast, sausage, bacon, homefries and Norman's real, fresh maple syrup.

