



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 53, No. 8 The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange MAY 2013

Will you help lead us?



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

Webster's Dictionary defines Leadership as:

- The office, position or function of a leader.
- The quality of character and personality giving a person the ability to gain confidence of and lead others.

•The people who serve as leaders of a group.

These are all true, but to be a leader it takes more than just what is outlined in the above definition. A leader develops other leaders, and empowers everyone to attain the highest rank of their calling. A Leader, as difficult as it can be, finds a way to bridge the gaps of opinions and frustrations ensuring everyone is given an equal voice and granted the right of appeal courteously in a safe and controlled manner. This is not always easy, especially when opinion may differ from yours.

A leader lets other leaders lead! What do I mean by this, a leader ensures and entrusts authority, responsibility and accountability to all; and is there for support as a mentor, guiding and assisting along the way. A leader applauds and heralds the accomplishments of the team, and accepts responsibility for the short comings when needed. A leader always looks at the big picture, looking into the future, relying on history to guide us to a better tomorrow.

Will you help lead us into tomorrow?

You could be a winner

The Connecticut State Grange Foundation is pleased to announce that they are currently raffling a new John Deere X300 Riding Lawn Mower.

The John Deere X300 Riding Lawn Mower comes equipped with a smooth-running V-twin iTorque™ Power System and easy-to-use Twin Touch™ hydrostatic transmission, as well as four-wheel steering and easy-to-operate Twin Touch transmission control pedals.

Second prize is a \$500 Gift Certificate to the Tractor Supply Company.

Tickets to enter the drawing are available at the low cost of only \$5.00 per ticket, and are limited to only 2,500 tickets sold, greatly increasing each ticket holder's opportunity to win. The drawing will be held on Sunday, June 9th at the Connecticut State Grange's Let's Celebrate Day event at Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire.



This X300 Deere could be yours!
Get your raffle tickets today.

Tickets are available from CT State Grange Officers across the state.

The Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit 501(c)3 public charitable organization created by the Connecticut State Grange for the people and businesses of Connecticut to promote and facilitate philanthropy through community leadership, grant-making and donor funded stewardship.

For more information on the raffle or to purchase tickets, contact CT State Grange President Jody Cameron via e-mail at president@ctstategrange.org or by calling the CT State Grange Central Office at 860-633-7550.

IN THIS ISSUE...

Central No. 1	3
Quinebaug No. 2	4
East Central No. 3	5
Mountain County No. 4	6
New Haven County No. 5	7
New London County No. 6	8
Excelsior No. 7	9
Fairfield County No. 9	2
Do You Remember	10
Junior Grange	12

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!

Deadline for the JUNE 2013 issue of the Connecticut Granger: MAY 5.

A part of the National Grange
American Values, Hometown Roots

Grange Month in Connecticut

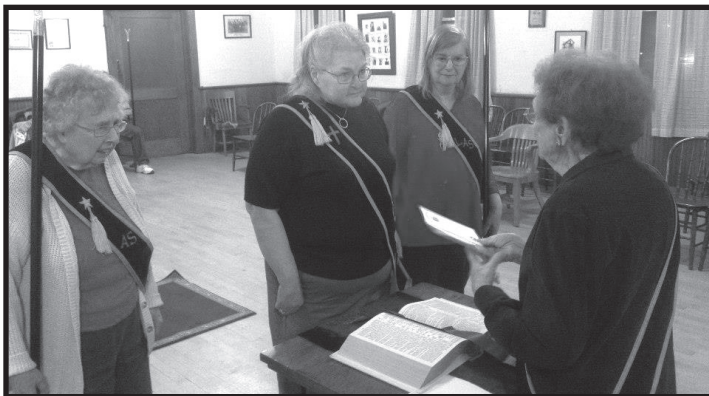
A sampling of images from a special month...



Professionals Jeff and Andrea Dunn demonstrate their dancing skills during a special program at Cheshire Grange on April 3.



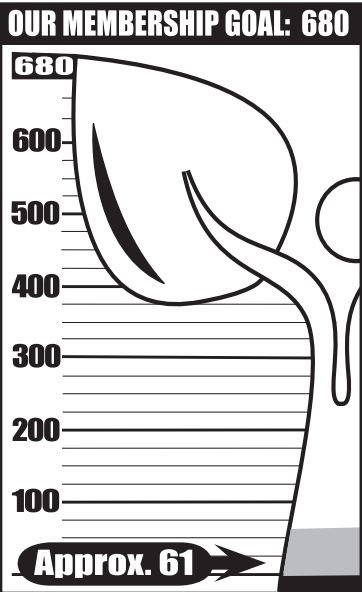
Esther Rebillard (center) is escorted to the Altar to receive her 70 year seal by LAS Sandy Phillips and AS Betty Linsky at the 125th Anniversary Celebration of Winchester Grange on April 14. Governor Malloy declared April 14 "Winchester Grange Day in Connecticut"



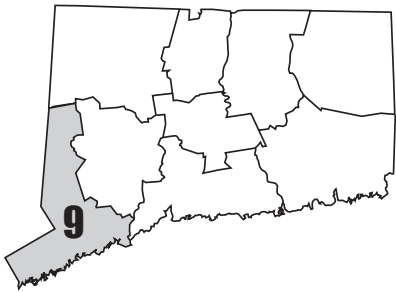
Meriden Grange held a Grange Month Awards Night honoring Cindy Hupper for 50 years of continuous membership (2nd from left) and Dianne Clark for 25 years. The presentation was made by Past Voting Delegate to National Grange Mildred Bell.



(Top left) Micah, Justice for Micah Founder thanks Wolcott Grange for dedicating "Desmond's Garden" during the Grange's first Animal and Rescue Expo in April. The garden brings attention to the mission of Justice for Micah to end animal abuse.



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



Redding No. 15

Harmony No. 92

✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133

✓ Norfield No. 146

✓ Cannon No. 152

MISSION STATEMENT

Fairfield County Pomona is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich
May 20: Connecticut in May, 7 P.M. meeting
In March we continued addressing Fair and membership issues. Eric Frisk, our Assistant Steward spoke on activities at Fairfield’s Community Garden. He has been doing a series of talks on garden planning and practice at the Fairfield Woods Library. The last in the current series will be “Planting the Garden” will be at 10 A.M. at the Library on Fairfield Woods Road (next to Grace Methodist church), Fairfield on Saturday, May 18th. There will be an opportunity to visit the Community Garden to see the talk put into practice.
At our may meeting, we will continue planning our late spring and summer activities and events. This will be at our hall on Hillside Road in Fairfield. All of our Grange friends are most welcome.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146
Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
May 14: Spring Meeting
June 11: Election of Officers
July 9: Fourth of July Celebration

First the good news: at our March meeting we celebrated the phenomenal Sue Sulla’s 99th birthday! And in honor of St. Patrick host Marie and Kevin Parker cooked up a delicious corned beef and cabbage dinner complete with

individual soda breads for every Granger present.
There was a Spring Fling at our Winter Farmers’ Market several days later, with a Potato Recipe contest, judged by the “Head Banging Hostess”, Vanessa David. Also, in honor of St. Patrick, following a long-held tradition of planting peas, peas were given out to take home to plant or grow on the windowsill. There was also a Green Teatime Party and an Easter Hat Contest! On Easter Saturday an Easter Egg Hunt took over the grounds, with more than 100 children of all ages joining in the two hunts. A treasure was secreted in every plastic egg. Overseeing it all were the Grange Cow (Elizabeth Eastus of Redding) and the Easter Bunny (Catharine Kimberly of Weston).
But we must end with some very sad news: Betty Miller, mother of Randy Miller, our Master, passed away after a brief illness on March 10. She was 97. She had been a World War II U.S. Marine Corps veteran, serving as a 2nd Lieutenant, and a member of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Assumption. In her quiet way, Betty served as Chaplain- a post that fit her well. It also helped that she had a great sense of humor, and a loyalty to match. She was our “apron lady”; no one could stitch up an apron faster or more professionally. Along with our sympathy for

the Miller family, we rejoice in a life well lived.

CANNON GRANGE #152
Corr: Don Offinger
May 2: Business Meeting and Contest evening - state contests in baking & talent
May 16: Business Meeting and Program, “A Healthier You”
June 6: Election of Officers (Cannon members only)
June 20: Business Meeting and Planning Ahead

Plans for our 81st annual Agricultural Fair are coming along and want everyone to know that the date is August 18th, rain or shine. We’re planning on some changes that should make our fair still one of the nicest local fairs in CT. Please circle the date on your calendars.
We enjoyed a very nice Neighbor’s Night on April 18th, and we thank Doug, Michelle and Peggy for coordinating the dinner.

Upcoming meetings that should be of great interest to young and old are listed above. Especially, take note of the June 20th meeting with the special program “A Healthier You”. Come hear and learn how you can lead a healthy life style through proper diet, exercise and outlook.
Our Grange celebrates it’s 114th anniversary on Mary 4th (the actual day).
Several of our Grange members report that they already have seeds in the ground, and many things already “up”. What have you planted.
We are sad to note that we have draped our charter in memory of Grange member, Mary Offinger, who passed away on March 19th at home. Mary was an integral part of the annual agricultural fair for many years as a judge in baked goods and sewing, and then running the Baked Goods department for as long as some can remember. Mary was always an avid supporter

of special Grange projects and programs such as the Silent Movie Night, Neighbor’s Night Dinners, and the recent purchase of the Grange’s

AED.
Please note our meeting and event schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome- won’t you join us?


Norfield Egg Hunt




More than 100 children of all ages attended the Norfield Grange Easter Egg Hunt on the Sat. before Easter. Top photo Catharine Kimberly of Weston (Bunny) and Elizabeth Eastus of Redding (Cow) pose with a young friend.

POFH ELECTRIC


HAVE YOU SEEN THESE STATE OFFICERS?




KIM MELE
Should have been seen at:
East Central #3,
New Haven County #5,
Bridgewater #153,
Echo #180, Riverton #169



NOEL MILLER
Should have been seen at:
Mountain County #4,
New Haven County #5,
Hemlock #182,
Simsbury #197, Lyme #147



PHIL PRELLI
Should have been seen at:
Central #1, E. Central #3,
Redding #15,
Lebanon #21, Tolland #51



CAROL HNATH
Should have been seen at:
New Haven Cty. #5,
Excelsior #7, Granby #5,
Cheshire #23, Wolcott #173

If these officers have not submitted their visit reports to the State Master, please do so.

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)

“Connecticut Granger”
is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

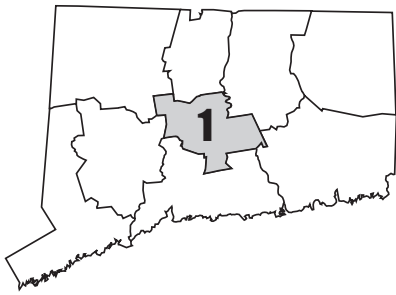
Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS
News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033
or
Todd Gelineau, Editor
170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

Connecticut Granger Staff
President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President Brian Carptenter
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

Central Pomona No. 1



Southington No. 25

✓ Meriden No. 29

✓ Higganum No. 124

✓ Hemlock No. 182

MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29
Corr: M. Harrison

We in Meriden are wishing you all a Happy Spring. I hope you are getting your seeds for the Garden. We also invite you all to see our beautiful Hubbard Park, home of over 600,000 daffodils. The Daffodil Festival is known as the "cure for spring fever".

It is a busy spring here at Meriden Grange.

May 10- Youth & Jrs.

Happy Memorial Day to all. We will have our garden planted by then. Be sure to check your fair book for the vegetables and flower categories. I reminded a fellow Granger from another Grange to save some of his maple syrup for the Fair. We say it's never too early to think Fair.

Remember that our meetings are the 2nd & 4th Fridays of the month & we love to see friends & neighbors.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124
Corr: Barbara R. Smith

Higganum Grange #124 opened with inspection and then received two new

members at their April Meeting. Mr. Lee Warren and his son, Jessie Warren became members. Higganum Grange welcomes them. Mr. Warren spoke of his trial this winter and spring with his cold plants. It's been either too cold for anything to grow or its too dry. Hopefully it will start to get warmer and we will receive some of the much needed rain. The Grange charter was dropped for Faith McKenzie who recently passed away. It was also noted that Higganum Grange was a charter member of the Higganum Farmers Market which has been in existence for five years now. It is set to open the 1st Friday in June.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182
Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 10: Outdoor Container Gardening; Erik Swanson will teach us how to plant a deck garden. Refreshments: carrot cakes and squares

May 24: Omit for Memorial Day

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

So. CT Past Masters



Southern Connecticut Past Masters elected the 55th slate of officers at their meeting at Southington Grange. They include (from left) Cindy Legg, President; Cindy Charbonneau, Vice President; Joanne Cipriano, Secretary; Carl Bernhardt, Treasurer; George Ward, Chaplain; Janet Haller, Historian; Marge Sendewicz, Statistician; Exec. Comm.: Charles Dimmick (1 yr.) [not pictured]; Bob Sendewicz (3 yr.). Each new officer was introduced in verse by Marge Bernhardt.

Budget time



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Russell M. Gray,
State Legislative Comm.

Sterling, like all towns across Connecticut, is, at this writing, working on its budget. The State generally does not have its budget in place until after towns need theirs done. We, the towns, therefore must guess at what state revenues we will receive.

This year, Sterling was one of many towns in our state, to have gone through mandatory

property tax revaluations. Towns in Connecticut must go through revaluation every five years, or forfeit state aid. Because of the economic situation, the Grand List, which is the total value of the town's properties (residential and commercial), dropped in Sterling by one-third. This drastically affects the mill rate!

The mill rate is the rate at which property taxes are determined. Towns need a certain amount of dollars to run their town, community services and schools. The mill is used to compute the tax rate.

While some revenue is generated from licenses, fees, fines and state revenues, the bulk of the money municipalities depend on comes from taxes.


In Sterling, the school system uses 80+% of our total town budget. In addition, a good part of our Selectman's budget goes to purchase a new bus, annually; maintain the fleet of school buses and vans and pay the salary of our part time town mechanic. Our mechanic spends over 95% of his time on school related vehicle work.

If the Governor's suggestion to eliminate the car tax is passed, towns like Sterling would face even higher property taxes; this would indeed have a drastic negative impact.

In Sterling, if the car tax is eliminated, as the Governor currently proposes, we would lose approximately \$744,000.00 in revenue; yet another blow to a struggling municipality.

Editor's Note: Russell Gray also serves the Town of Sterling as First Selectman.

Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer



Jeff & Debbie Barnes
Co-Community Service Directors
CommunityService@ctstategrange.org

#1: It's good for you. Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards. It:

- Reduces Stress: Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.
- Makes you healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.

#2: Volunteering encourages civic responsibility. Community service and volunteerism are an investment in our community and people who live in it.

#3: You get a chance to give back. People like to support community resources that they use themselves or that benefit people they care about.

#4: You learn a lot. Volunteers learn things like these:

- Self: Volunteers discover hidden talents that may change your view on your self worth.
- Government: through working with local non-profit agencies, volunteers learn about the functions and operation of our government.
- Community: Volunteers gain knowledge of local resources available to solve community needs.

#5: Volunteering strengthens your community. As a volunteer you help:

- Support families (daycare and eldercare)
- Improve schools (tutoring, literacy)
- Support youth (mentoring and after-school programs)
- Beautify the community (beach and park clean-ups)

#6: It promotes personal growth and self-esteem. Understanding community needs helps foster empathy and self-efficacy.

#7: It brings people together. As a volunteer you assist in:

- Uniting people from diverse backgrounds to work toward a common goal.
- Building camaraderie and teamwork.

#8: Volunteers gain professional experience. You can test out a career.

#9: It saves resources. Volunteering provides valuable community services

#10: It's good for you. Volunteering provides physical and mental rewards. It:

- Reduces Stress: Experts report that when you focus on someone other than yourself, it interrupts usual tension-producing patterns.
- Makes you healthier: Moods and emotions, like optimism, joy, and control over one's fate, strengthen the immune system.



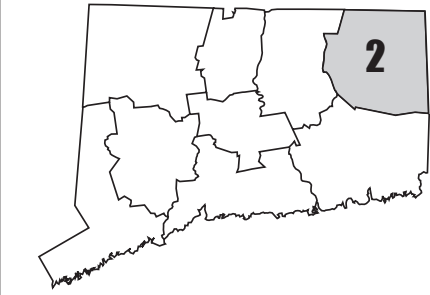
Granger Shout Out

A big shout out to Terri Fassio from Winchester Grange for helping Taghhannuck Grange set up their Facebook page.

HOW TO SUBMIT:
Email your "Shout Out" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org (use "Granger Shout Out" in the subject line). They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



Senexet No. 40

Wolf Den No. 61

✓ Ekonk No. 89

Ashford No. 90

Putnam No. 97

✓ Killingly No. 112

✓ Echo No. 180

MISSION STATEMENT

Quinebaug Pomona supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89
Corr: Sue Gray
May 6: “Willie Mays!” Mtg/ Prog 7:30 pm
May 11: Roast Beef Supper 5pm-
May 19: Sterling Memorial Day Parade

We began Grange Month with a BANG: Richmond Grange visited in force and brought us a very funny “play”, featuring Jack & Patty Cottrell at home, arguing over the “remote”. We saw Clint Eastwood (aka Haven Nelson); Minute to Win it Stars Russell Gray and Link Cooper; and a myriad of other very funny “bits and pieces” as Jack and Patty hit their remotes! Richmond Master, Haven Nelson (also a Special Deputy-RI) led the Richmond delegation, which also included RI State Master, Steve Logan and his wife, Claire!

Link Cooper continues to amaze us with his ongoing hall improvements! We now have an extra handrail entering the kitchen; new picture frames grace our walls, the piano stool has been “firmed up” and he installed a large, pull down movie screen in the main hall!

Paulette Craig is a wonderful addition as our (as of today) newest member. She has already worked two suppers and not missed a meeting!

We have 24 lovely new “Ekonk Community Grange Spirit” aprons to wear at Grange meals and an entire set of updated manuals.

We voted to donate a \$25.00 “Gardening” theme basket to “Relay For Life” at the “Carnival For a Cure” at Brooklyn Fairgrounds May 10th-11th and 12th. Our Grange will be there selling Strawberry Shortcakes and huge cookies!

Our Youth Drill Team had a fantastic Turkey Supper April 6th! An awesome meal was served, complete with apple crisp for dessert; they were disappointed that the profits were only \$500.00. They will put on two

breakfasts (April 28th and May 5th) from 8am-10am. They will serve pancakes, sausages, scrambled eggs and beverages for \$6.00 (adults); \$3.00 children under 12 and preschoolers will be free. They are rehearsing every Sunday and we wish them well!

June 8th is our annual Strawberry Supper-yum! 5pm we begin serving!

May 11th plan to purchase your garden vegetable and flower plants, along with beautiful Hanging Baskets for Mothers Day at our annual Plant Sale from 9am-2pm.

May 11th we will also have a Roast Beef Supper-for our treasury this time!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112
Corr: Glenna Bruno
May 6: USA Cheers
May 11: Craft Fair
May 20: Memorial Night, Chaplain

We had a quorum for our March 4 & 18 meetings and this year Killingly Grange will dispense with the first four degrees as we are so short of members who are able to march around.

Repairs on the front entrance are done but repairs on the roof will at a later date. Gert Blain and Denise Aubin attended the workshop in Glastonbury and the Quinebaug Pomona meeting in Feb. We often have as guests State officers Tom Perry, Joan Perry and Debbie Perry. We sang Happy Birthday to Pat Valys and Lecturer Eleanor read a birthday poem to her as our March 4 meeting. Sister Eleanor gave a list of information about maple syrup and planting peas or “spring peas” which is best done on St. Patrick’s Day if you can dig up the ground.

One of our oldest members, Josephine Stenback, has donated a parcel of her property to the town for preservation and has been awarded the Killingly Conservation Award. Our Secretary Gail has been on the sick list and the Treasurer Phil, her husband, has been

her caregiver this month and were absent this meeting.

Lecturer Eleanor had four members give the sign of the order- Faith, Hope and Chairty, their meaning and definition. Overseer read articles on the origin of the shamrock and potatoes which at one time were considered poisonous. No wonder there was a potato famine in Ireland. Everyone fled.

Watch for information on our Craft Fair on May 11. Vendors are needed. Contact Master Denise Aubin or Gert Blain for more information. There will also be a bottle &

bake sale at the same time and a dance in the evening. The last dance on March 9 almost didn’t happen as the musicians “almost forgot”. Oh my!!

The Easter Hat Parade was short, consisting of the Chaplain Anne and Overseer Glenna. No prizes were given but a fun time. Last month we reported 204 community service hours.

ECHO GRANGE #180
Corr: Gloria John
It has been a rough winter and hopefully we are on the way to a lovely spring and

summer. Unfortunately we lost one of our long time members - Joyce Roscoe - a 75 year member of the Grange. She was our second pianist and a willing worker. We have survived our inspection and look forward to all working in our gardens. We will again be holding our Ham and Bean Supper on Saturday, May 18th from 5 - 7 p.m. Cost is Adults - \$9.00, Seniors \$8.00 and children (4-12) \$5.00 and children under 4 free.

Stenback preserves land

by Meryl E. Willett, Killingly Villager

For the past 11 years, the Killingly Conservation Commission has recognized one person’s commitment to bring awareness, care, enhancement and protection of Killingly’s natural resources to the forefront.

This recognition is done through the presentation of an Environmental Award, and this year’s award was given to Josephine Stenback for her sizeable land donation to the Wyndham Land Trust in 2012.

“We want to recognize the people who put in great effort to make Killingly a better place for future generations,” said KCC Chairman Donna Bromwell. “If we don’t work to protect open space now, it’s very possible that in the future most of our land will be fully developed. It’s important that we take care of what we have.”

Stenback donated 36 acres off of Yosemite Valley Road in Killingly, which is a dirt road in the northeastern part of the town.

“It’s a beautiful little valley, there is an oasis in the valley - such a wonderful place,” said Bromwell.

With those 36 acres now protected, the Killingly Conservation Commission is that much closer to reaching their goal of protecting 21 percent of Killingly’s open space, mirroring the state’s goal of having 21 percent of state property protected. Including Stenback’s recent doantion, the KCC has legally protected 9.24 percent of the town’s property as open space.

Michael Green serves as a board member for the Wyndham Land Trust, and was the contact person who worked closely with Stenback,



Killingly Grange member Josephine Stenback

assisting her in the process of legally setting aside her land as protected open space. Green is also a long-time volunteer in the town of Killingly, and has dedicated much of his time towards protecting open space for the last 10 years. In 2005, Green also received the Environmental Award.

“It was a pleasure working with Josie Stenback,” said Green. “She was determined to see her property protected for future generations and protecting land is the mission of the Land Trust, so it was a perfect match. It’s really a gift from Josie to the people of Killingly, for which we should all be grateful.”

Stenback’s 36 acre donation to the Wyndham Land Trust will remain in its natural state even after Stenback is gone.

Born in Voluntown, Stenback lived in Russia for 3-1/2 years as a child and in Finland for a year. Committed to conservation and the environment in many ways, Stenback has also been a member of Killingly Grange for more than 40 years.

“I donated because I wanted to, not for recognition,” said Stenback. “I love nature, and right now every morning I’ve been seeing turkeys come and feed under the bird feeder. This morning there were seven. That’s what I like, that’s why I wanted this land preserved,” said Stenback.

Stenback’s donation to the Wyndham Land Trust and the award given to her by the Killingly Conservation Commission brings to light the importance of preserving open space in Killingly, said Bromwell. It also continues working to provide protected open space for people in Killingly as well as surrounding areas who enjoy being outdoors.

How are your entries coming?



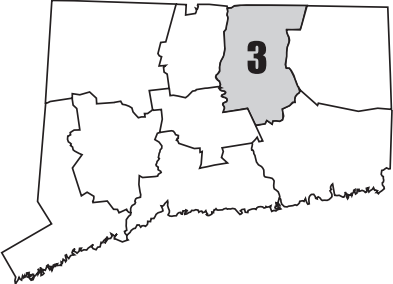
Pat Palmer
Family Activities/CWA Director
CWA@ctstategrange.org

I hope that everyone has been working feverishly on completing their needlework and craft projects. June will be upon us before we know it. I have been pleasantly surprised by the interest in the National Grange Quilt Square contest.

Just a reminder that they do not have to be brought to “Let’s Celebrate” Day in June. They have to be brought to State Session in October. A correction from the Blue Book regarding the day before “Let’s Celebrate” Day.

The items to be brought in for judging must be there by **9:00 a.m.** and **NOT 10:00** as printed in the Blue Book.

East Central Pomona No. 3



Stafford No. 1
Granby No. 5
Tunxis No. 13
Glastonbury No. 26
Manchester No. 31
✓ Tolland No. 51
Vernon No. 52
Coventry No. 75
✓ Hillstown No. 87
✓ Enfield No. 151

MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51
Corr: J. Jordan
May 7: Presidents 31-35
Tolland Grange will return to its hall for the May meeting. We will be continuing our discussion of Presidents. Join us if you can.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87
Corr: Frank Forrest
May 4: Pancake Breakfast and a Tag Sale. 8 to noon.
May 9: May Flowers.
May 23: Memorial Service
June 22: Meatloaf and Strawberry Shortcake Dinner.

Hoping your May flowers will open this year if they don't get snowed on with the way the weather has been going this year.
We have started our seeds and announced our veggie/flower fair competition plants: the largest "Mr. Strippy Tomato" and the longest flower spike from a larkspur flower. Call or email us for seeds or more information. Seeds donated by "New England Seed Company", Hartford, CT.
We are trying to raise funds for a new roof before our antique one starts to leak and to bring our hall up to ADA

standards. It is frustrating to not fit in any special group with available funding to maintain our Grange halls. We have tried farm trusts, historical groups, etc. and they all respond back that we don't fit their standards for grants. If any Community Grange has found a funding source please spread the word to us poor Granges.
One of our fundraising ideas is a special bead that fits Pandora, Biagi, and other bracelets and key chains. They are Grange Blue and Gold with the words GRANGE-CONNECTICUT engraved in silver. We have been selling this for \$26 a bead and \$30 with a keychain. Contact Michelle at 860-568-2415 for more information.
Check us out on Facebook and on the web at: www.hillstowngrange.org/grangehome.asp

ENFIELD GRANGE #151
Corr: Irene Percoski
May 11: Tribute to Mom, Bring a photo, Baking contest. Ref. Everyone
June 8: National Dairy Month. Ref. Elaine & Judy
As I write this column winter seems to be fiercely

hanging on and spring doesn't seem to be trying very hard to get here. No crocuses or tulips even peeping from the ground, at least not in my yard.
Our cookbook is ready for the printer and I want to thank everyone for their help and contributions in putting this together. When we all work together, good things happen. It truly was a Grange effort.
Inspections are over and in

May we honor Moms. Bring a photo of your Mom to share along with any memories or funny stories to tell. Happy Mother's Day.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Now what?

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Keep the momentum going
Grange month is over... now what? Your Grange had a great event that was well attended and garnered good coverage from the local media. How do you maintain momentum to keep your Grange in the public eye and on the tips of everyone's tongues? Be proactive. Do something new that will catch the public's attention and announce it.
Perseverance is important
One of the best ways to leverage momentum is to build upon it. Success is based on promoting the small daily or weekly successes of your Grange, thus creating an ongoing engagement with your audience. When the public reads/hears about your Grange and its activities, events and projects consistently, you are building a reputation within your community.
Don't forget to follow-up
Follow-up is just as important as initial contact. Write thank you notes. Send an article/photo to the newspaper summarizing your successes. Send out a recap of your activities to your members. Post photos to your Grange

Facebook Page (and don't forget the captions). Don't wait for the media to contact you - take the initiative and follow-up. Be engaged full circle.
Don't get overwhelmed
Set aside time for your Grange public relations efforts. As the old saying goes - the more you put in the more you take out. To promote your Grange consistently, it does take effort and dedication, and if you lead a busy life, then properly promoting your Grange could become overwhelming. Scheduling and organizing your time is crucial. It could be an hour a day or three hours a week. Whatever you choose, stick to it.
Observe what other Granges are doing
How do other Granges keep their momentum going? Do they schedule their events in such a way that they are frequently mentioned in the newspaper? Are they consistently updating their Facebook Page? It is important to make connections with Granges who have mastered the art of momentum - and observe and learn. Don't let jealousy of other Granges' successes cloud your judgement. There is nothing wrong with healthy competition. Be happy for what they achieve, then work to make success a reality for your Grange.

Protect your Grange history



Edith Schoell
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

A year or two ago Granges were asked to have a record of bank accounts and signers so your funds would not be lost.
If you are fond of Grange jewelry, pins, etc., they

could be turned over to the State Grange and "recycled" to younger officers. This information could be included in the instructions.
Requests have been coming in for the scholarship information. Do you have college members in your Grange? Have them apply. Last year we were able to award five scholarships to students attending various colleges. Scholarship information can be obtained through the Central Office.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87 FUNDRAISER BEADS



Hillstown Grange is selling a beautiful "Connecticut Grange" bead that fits Pandora, Chamilia, Biagi, Troll and most European bracelets. The beads are sold individually or on a keychain.

Bead individually: \$26.00
Bead on Keychain: \$30.00
Send check or money order payable to:
Hillstown Grange #87, c/o Michelle DeDominicis,
56 Hills St., East Hartford, CT 06118
Questions: Please contact Michelle @ 860-568-2415
Include name, address, phone & email with your order.

Santa Claus is coming to town

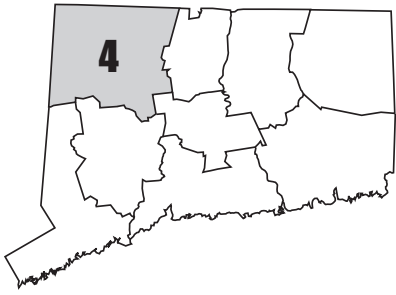


Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
social@ctstategrange.org

"You better watch out – You better not cry – Better not pout – I'm telling you why Santa Claus is coming to town. "That town is Prospect. That's where the Social Connection is having their Fall activity – a Christmas party. Date – Saturday – September 21st. We're not trying to rush the season; but, we are not trusting the weatherman if we had the party in December. We will be having finger foods for refreshments, a \$5.00 grab bag, a Country Store to help pay for the use of the hall, Christmas music, presents and Christmas fun. Please mark the date on your calendar. We will be looking for your help with refreshments and country store when the date gets closer.
Has your Grange decided who your "Granger of the Year" will be? We know there are many good candidates in each Grange. We are not looking for the person who comes to Grange in the height of fashion or the prettiest or the most handsome. We are looking for that person who just does those little things that makes your Grange and your meetings pleasant. I'll be checking the mail.

"You better watch out – You better not cry – Better not pout – I'm telling you why Santa Claus is coming to town. "That town is Prospect. That's where the Social Connection is having their Fall activity – a Christmas party. Date – Saturday – September 21st. We're not trying to rush the season; but, we are not trusting the weatherman if we had the party in December. We will be having finger foods for refreshments, a \$5.00 grab bag, a Country Store to help pay for the use of the hall, Christmas music, presents and Christmas fun. Please mark the date on your calendar. We will be looking for your help with refreshments and country store when the date gets closer.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



✓ Cawasa No. 34

Whigville No. 48

Eureka No. 62

✓ Winchester No. 74

✓ Taghannuck No. 100

Litchfield No. 107

Beacon No. 118

✓ Riverton No. 169

Cherry Brook No. 210

MISSION STATEMENT

Mountain County Pomona No. 4 has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

MOUNTAIN CTY. POMONA #4
Corr: Todd A. Gelineau
May 13: Salutations- Fifth Degree at Winchester Grange, Supper (\$5) at 6:00 P.M.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Statewide Tag Sale on Apr. 27. With only a couple new additions, the items for sale were re-runs from last year's sale, so it was a great surprise to make \$56.85 on 5¢ and 10¢ items. All of the proceeds will go to the State Social Connection's Food Bank charity and even more important to Litchfield Grange, all shoppers received invitations to the re-scheduled Litchfield Grange Open House in June (on the 2nd-- 1 P.M.).

Next up is our Degree and Inspection on May 13. All Granges are encouraged to "beat the bushes" and find those Fourth Degree members who have yet to receive the Fifth. Membership growth at the Pomona level is just as important as it is the the community Grange. Dinner is \$5 at 6:00 P.M. with the degree meeting beginning at 7:30 P.M.

This is the meeting we will also distribute the tickets for the annual Pomona Gift Drawing. A decision has been made to change this year's drawing to GIFT CARDS only. All Pomona officers are asked to make a monetary donation to the drawing and gift cards will be purchased in the following amounts (\$50 Wal-Mart; \$25 Stop & Shop; \$10 Target; \$10 McDonald's). Any additional donations will be used to purchase "bonus" gift cards to be drawn at the same time. The drawing will be held at the June 24 meeting of Pomona at Eureka Grange. Tickets will be \$1.00 each. This is the only major fundraiser for the Pomona, so please purchase as many as you can!

CAWASA GRANGE #34
Corr: Maggie Schofield
Hi All: Thanks Edith for the Recipes for our cookbook we are starting to pull them

all together and look at them. Please feel free to send recipes to : Maggie Schofield 23 Thayer Ave, Collinsville, CT 06019-3023.

Spring is ALMOST here, today we are Freezing and it's April.... We hope everyone had a Blessed Easter, Sister Lin had 15 for dinner, Friends, relatives and all had a Wonderful Time. Inspection is our June Meeting, so we have time to prepare for that. Everyone have a wonderful Spring. It's a Wonderful time to see green things sprouting all over.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74
Corr: Todd A. Gelineau
May 3: Super Prize Party (Teacup Auction), 6:00 P.M.
May 14: Mother/Country Store, Ref. Don & Pam Fancher
May 25: Spring Tag Sale
May 28: Remembering, Ref. Sue Addison
June 16: Strawberry Festival

EXHALE! It's over! The 125th Anniversary celebration of Winchester Grange was a great success and we thank everyone who attended, participated and supported the event. We were pleased to have two State Senators, a Winsted Selectman and the Town Manager with us for the afternoon along with reporters from the Hartford Courant and the Waterbury Republican. Additional thanks to Ramona Fassio, Lecturer and Terri Fassio for organizing the program and to State Master Jody Cameron for being our keynote speaker. In addition to the proclamations from the Legislature and the Town of Winchester, we also received a proclamation from Senator Blumenthal and Governor Malloy declared April 14 Winchester Grange Day in Connecticut. Happy birthday Winchester Grange!

Several new members will be joining Winchester as a result of the anniversary hoopla and Rev. Hall at the Winchester Center Cong.

Church is interested in reviving a community-wide event for the fall after seeing how closely we have worked together in the past with events like the Blueberry Bazaar (NO-- we're not reviving that!).

We are including an excellent article written by the Republican on the day's events. Please read it for more detail and note the calendar of events above. There's always something coming up at Winchester Grange!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100
Corr: Barbara Prindle

A very successful Square, Round and Contra Dance was held April 20 from 7-9:30 P.M. at Taghannuck Grange's Hall. The caller was Bob Livingston and the music was by Still the Home Grown Band. A free will contribution was collected at the door and refreshments were served. Everyone from novice to expert attended, danced and had a good time.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169
Corr. Shirley Moore

May 17: Pot-luck supper 6:30 Shirley & Rujo Moore, Third & Fourth Degrees, 7:30
June 7: Reg. Mtg., Program: MEMORIAL DAY, Ref: Theresa & Matt Freund

At our second meeting, on March 15th, we began with a pot-luck supper with 42 people enjoying a delicious meal.

Our program for the evening was called "Let's Dance" and, with the help of Mary Lou Keefe, we were able to have Kathy & Jim Todd as dance instructors, with Jim doing the calls. They did this for us as one of their 26 Acts of Kindness to honor the memory of Ana Marques-Greene, age 6, who was one of the victims of the horrible tragedy at Sandy Hook School on Dec. 14th. Ana's favorite color was purple, so the hall was decorated in purple and those coming for the evening were requested to wear purple.


The Todds have attended dance workshops for over 20 years including New England contradance, French, Scottish and Italian folk dance and Irish, Scandinavian and various Eastern-European/Balkan styles. In addition, Jim has taught American Colonial dance.

Some of us had to sit on the sidelines, but thoroughly enjoyed watching those who really got into the spirit of dancing, some of which was much like the old-time square-dancing. People learned these

dances by the calls Jim made. Hopefully, we can do this again in the near future because those who participated and those who watched really

had a good time. We always welcome any who would like to attend our meetings or our pot-luck suppers.

Is it really May?



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
lecturer@ctstategrange.org

this contest so far at the State level and they are about as far apart in content as can be. All Pomonas are expected to have an entry in this contest. If necessary the Pomona Lecturer can get people together from various Granges in their Pomona and put on the number. The endless possibilities using this theme should make for a great contest at Let's Celebrate.

Let's Celebrate will be held June 8 and 9 at Cheshire Grange Hall. Entries for the Photo Contest are due at Cheshire Grange by 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 8. The hall will be open by 9:00 to receive these entries. Or, you can mail them to me in advance. Most everyone takes pictures. Let's show off where we have been or those special Grandchildren. Complete rules are in the bluebook plus your Lecturer was provided a copy earlier. I already have judges for this contest. Please provide them with lots of pictures to judge.

On Sunday June 9 the hall will be open at 10:00 a.m. for those who want to get an early start and check out not only our winners but also those in the CWA Department. At 11:00 a.m. our State Chaplain will conduct her Grange Sunday Service. This will be followed by a Lasagna Dinner hosted by the Youth Committee. Our turn starts sharply at 1:00 p.m. with the Talent and "A Number" judging. Come and join us for a true day of Grange Fellowship.

Remember, if you ever have questions or need help I am as close as your phone, computer or mail box.



Enjoy the nice weather. See you around the State.

Community Citizen

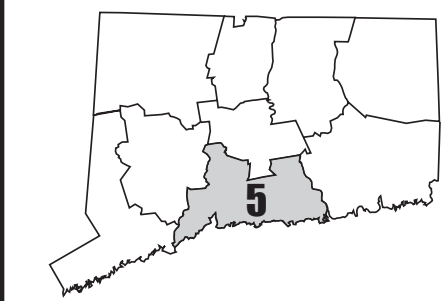


Master Barbara Prindle presenting Ruth & Ed Epstein with the Community Citizen Award from Taghannuck Grange at the April meeting.

In memory of Sandy Hook



New Haven County Pomona No. 5



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

MISSION STATEMENT

New Haven County Pomona through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5
Corr: Wesli Dymoke
May 13 (Mon.): Fifth Degree at Wallingford Grange (586 Center St., Wallingford)
June 10 (Mon.): Regular meeting at Cheshire Grange (44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire)- Gift Card Drawing, Program: Summertime! Please note that the date in the handbook is incorrect-- June 10 is the correct date of the June meeting.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23
Corr: A. Ruel Miller
May 1: Awards Night (Open Meeting)
May 15: This and That –Baking Contest
Our March 6th CWA program was cancelled due to the weather and is rescheduled for April 17th.
We had a very good attendance at the Pomona-wide school of instruction in Cheshire on March 13th.
Our first annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on March 16th was a huge success and greatly benefitted our treasury. Plans are underway for a pre-Mother’s Day ham dinner at our hall on Saturday, May 11th.
The men won our competitive night vs the women on March 29, which evens the score from last year. Our members are getting ads for our August Fair which will be here before we know it.

Needless to say, we are all looking forward to the Spring season which has taken its time getting here.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33
Corr: Dan Lauttenbach
March 17: Program was based on “St Patrick’s Day” and was presented by Joan Olschefski. We learned more about fairies and banshees of Ireland. Banshees have been portrayed in the popular media as evil and bad. In Ireland this is not the case. For example in Ireland a banshee was a medium to help a relative pass safely from this world to the next.

It was suggested and voted on to have a Spring Tag & Bake Sale from 8am to noon on April 13th. Marcia Cutrole was going to run with this and would handle the calls and get vendors. It was asked that members bring 4 bake items for our bake table and the Grange would also have its own table for tag sale items. We will also open the kitchen to sell hot dogs and sandwiches

March 28- This was our annual “Spring Planting” program that was put on Dan. Seed planting mix, peat pots and various seeds such as tomatoes and squash where provided so that they may be started indoors then replanted outside after Mother’s Day. The hall downstairs was rearranged for the upcoming tag sale.

Upcoming Meetings in May:
May 9- May Fliesî and will also be our inspection night by our Pomona deputy Carl Bernhardt.
May 23- 128th Anniversary Celebration and Community Citizen Award Night

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35
Corr: A. Tollette
May 7: May flowers
June 4: June Bugs

Let’s hope that winter is behind us. The huge pile of snow that the town left in my front yard finally breathed its last on April 2.

Now the birds are happy and buds and blossoms are rapidly appearing.
We are looking forward to the annual visit from the deputy next month.

See you next time with more news.

OLD LYME GRANGE #162
Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch
May 10: In Memory
May 24: Omit-Memorial Day Weekend
May 31: We host the 2-4-5 Club at 8:00pm
June 14: Flag Day~We Welcome The Deputy
We were finally able to have our meeting on Friday,

March 22. Mother Nature, Pomona #6, and Amy service projects, for the local food pantry!
and her many Friday night Wininger, Chaplain of Lyme Sis Shirley Dill Brown says snow storms that plagued Grange. We thank all these “Hi” to everyone from Sunny us throughout February visitors for helping to fill our Florida!
and the beginning of March, officers chairs for the evening, It will be good to meet up finally gave us a great as several of our officers were with our 2-4-5 club members evening for a meeting. We out of town that evening with on the 31st of May at our welcomed Ted Powell State family commitments. Grange Hall.
Agriculture Member, Arlie We were able to
Chapman Gatekeeper fulfill our “Bag It,” for
of New London County one of our community

DEPUTY TEAM

INSPECTIONS RITUAL CODE READING SUPPORT INSTRUCTION

Inspection notes

Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy

We may not have made it clear in previous communications but the Deputies are on an expanded inspection schedule. That means they have the flexibility to inspect Granges anytime during the year up to July. In the past, Inspections were traditionally carried out on Degree nights during the spring and over the years Granges have become accustomed to carrying over those dates as “inspection night” regardless of whether or not they are conferring degrees.

I have received calls from Granges asking why they are not being inspected on the date they have printed in their handbooks. While the Deputies make every effort to schedule inspections on nights that are most convenient for both the Grange and the Deputy, this is not always possible and the expanded schedule gives Deputies “breathing room” between inspections. Please let your Deputy know as early as you can each year if you have a preferred date and they will make every effort to accommodate your request.

Some Granges are also still in the mindset that Inspections are a “final exam” of sorts on Grange work. This is certainly not true. In fact, we are not

using a number based scoring system for this reason. Inspections do evaluate Granges, the committees and officers and offer suggestions for improvement and encouragement when things are done well. The inspection reports are also used by us to decide what types of programs and instruction need to be offered to the Community and Pomona Granges. The current School of Instruction format is an outgrowth of observations made during inspections. We should always “strive to do well” and the inspection process is one way to do just that.

NEW REQUIREMENT: Beginning with the 2013 Executive Committee Report (filed by Dec. 31 or March 31, depending on your schedule), all Granges (Community and Pomona) will be required to file a copy of their Steward’s Inventory Report with the General Deputy when filing the E.C. Report. This is a report that all Granges are already required to have on file (especially on the night of inspection) so the only change is the additional requirement to file a copy with the State Grange.

Please feel free to contact me or your Deputy if you have any questions.

Return to “Old Ethical Values”

Edith Schoell, State Historian

From a scrapbook from the 1930s this headline appeared in the newspaper: “Appeal for Return to Old Ethical Values is Voiced.” This was the topic of Dr. Robert A. Colpitts of Melrose, Mass. address to the New England Lecturer’s Conference, Aug. 24 in Orono, Maine.

“America is not threatened from without as some people believe but it is rather threatened internally because of a disintegration of ethical values.

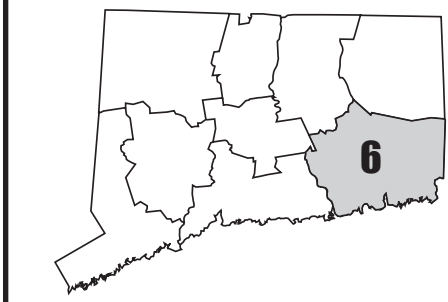
The security of our national life is soon to be tested at a very crucial point here in America. The major menace that threatens the United States today is not from some external enemy from without which stupid statesmen think they are fighting. America is disintegrating from within, in spite of their foolish efforts, because of a lack of ethical values, and if our national fabric rots, it will begin from the

ethical threads woven therein.”

“Dr. Colpitts said that for the past 25 years democracy has been declining and that during this period people have put away in the attic the ethical values of their forefathers just as they stored away the family furniture. Now we have begun slowly to recognize that there are other political patterns creeping in, and that we are now dragging out of storage the ethical values, long out of use, as well as the furniture- both treasures in their own right.”

“We are beginning to see again that there is a vital connection between the old ethical values and the old form of democracy. I firmly believe that with the present trends of American government the way the are, unless we go back to the solid faith of our fathers, we will be in a far worse state of affairs than we could ever imagine. However, I believe that soon we will find a new merit in the old ethical values and democracy will remain.”

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

MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6
Corr: Nancy R. Weismuller
May 11: Conferral of the 5th Degree, North Stonington #138

We had a very good attendance at our School of Instruction at Norwich Grange on March 10. Many questions were asked by the group and answered by our State Master, General Deputy and Deputy East. Joan Toomey was our appointed Lecturer and we could see why Colchester has so much fun at their meetings. Her Irish program was a mixture of music, inspiration and laughter with everyone participating. Many thanks to Norwich for hosting. Great refreshments followed the meeting.

Our next meeting will be held at North Stonington Grange for the purpose of conferring the Fifth Degree. Please encourage your Fourth Degree members to take this beautiful and inspiring Degree.

At last the winter is over,
The leaves will return to each tree
Please encourage your members
To take the 5th Degree.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78
Corr: Joan Toomey

Our May meeting will be held May 13, 2013 at 7 P.M. The program scheduled is Arlington National Cemetery. Come to Colchester and witness our Grange in action. See just how much we are part of our community. The Parade will be held on Sunday, May 26. If it rains hard, the rain date is on Monday, May 27 the traditional Memorial Day. We look forward to seeing your faces in the crowds that line both sides of Norwich Ave. and Main Street.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138
Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
May 10: “A Collection” Grange Heritage Night
May 24: “Melange” Memorial Program

We ahve lost another faithful Granger to the Great Grange Above. Rose Berg,

mother of our Overseer, passed away on March 26. Rose worked for years at the main gate of our Agricultural Fair and was a faithful worker in our food booth at dog and horse shows.

Our Lecturer presented her State program at our March 8th meeting and it looks like another winner. The parade around the hall, complete with floats and costumes, was impressive indeed. At our March 21st meeting the Youth presented the program. We broke into groups and brainstormed ideas for increasing the membership. The groups came up with many good ideas and we will be working on them in the near future.

We will be decorating our float for the Memorial Day Parade on Monday morning May 29. If you would like to help, come on down around 7:30. We will also be starting up our food booth again for the spring and summer events. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Secretary.

The days are getting longer and the weather is warming. Hope to see lots of you at our programs in May. And if those little, midnight visitors will just stay out of my bird feeders, next time I'll tell you all about awesome April.

LYME GRANGE #146
May 18: Food & Plant Sale
June 6: Guess Who? Election
July 4: No Meeting- Happy Birthday America!
July 11: (2nd Thurs) Wearing of the Red, White & Blue

Well, Mother Nature is trying hard to strut her stuff- by the time you read this I'm sure the daffodils will be blooming- the snow drops will have passed, forsythia and trees should be in bloom. Spring at last!

Our March meeting was canceled due to snow predicted- had had it on the third Thursday. CWA strutted their stuff with the Cookie Bake Off resulting in Marita Rand winning. We voted to put up a black coated plastic chain link fence around our

fairgrounds. Lyme Grange Fair Assoc. and Lyme Grange will split the bill.

April brought the water being turned on. Surprise! Flooding all over. What a mess! The Ag. program was

presented by the Lecturer. It was fun.

In May we will welcome the deputy for inspection. The Graces and Chaplain will present a program and Memorial Service. they always

do a terrific job. An eighty five year certifiicate has arrived for Virginia Gardner. It will be presented to her at her home. She will be 99 in May. Congratulations, Virginia.

Welcome to our newest Grange members!



Daniel Posuniak
Barbara Barr
Paulette Craig
Trevor Gervais
Tom Sweet, Jr.
Jay Fairchild
Rosemary Roe
Patrick Hourihan
Jennifer Lodovico
Debra Brydon
Karen Cersoli

Glastonbury Grange #26
Ekonk Community #89
Ekonk Community #89
Ekonk Community #89
Ekonk Community #89
Watertown Grange #122
Enfield Grange #151
Stonington #168
Riverton Grange #169
Riverton Grange #169
Riverton Grange #169

Has your Grange taken in new members? We would love to know about them and include them in this report and in the State Master's membership tally on page one. Email, mail or phone the Editor with the names of your new members.

Consider giving a Camp Berger Campership

News on Camp Berger has been scarce as the revamping of the “Five Year Plan” was expected, then on hold, and now being worked on. There has been enough improvement in the camp buildings and in the running of the camp season, in the last few years, to be able to look ahead to even more improvement.

However, this is the time to think about Camperships. It is hoped that each Grange and Pomona would send a child to camp. A new brochure has been sent out, and the website updated. Please support the camp. It belongs to all of us.

The Grange Advantage

By Michael Martin, National Grange Leadership Membership Director

meeting where each has the same voice and vote? Equality within the Grange is one of our hallmarks.

Why did you join the Grange? What do you get out of the Grange? Why should others join the Grange?

Why did you join the Grange? Think back to the beginning of your Grange journey. It may have been earlier this year or perhaps it is several decades removed. What was the appeal to you at that time? Did your grandmother simply give you an application with instructions to complete and return it? Did your father say it was now time for you to come “inside” the meeting room instead of doing homework in the Grange kitchen? I joined because a group of friends my age joined together. We subsequently worked together, played together, attended Grange camp and conferences together. And we met others our age from across the state and region. Eventually, my Grange family spanned the nation.

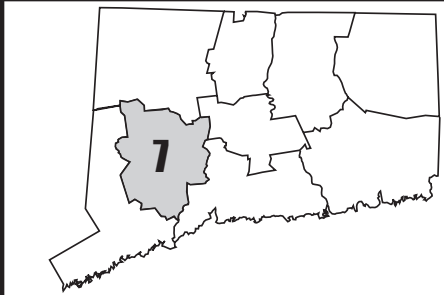
What do you get out of the Grange? Last week, *The Boston Globe* featured an article, “Grange continues to attract a faithful flock.” I encourage you to read it (printed in this issue). In it, their president said, “The big thing is family; there aren’t many family organizations out there.” As I travel the nation on behalf of The National Grange, I continually meet multi-generation Grange families. Where else, besides your church, can all members of the family, without regard to age or gender, participate fully in a

Why should others join the Grange? Massachusetts State Grange Master, Matthew Johnson, says, “People have decided that they like the Grange again.” They like the sense of history the Grange represents and they respect what the Grange stands for.

Last week I spoke at a well-established Grange, Keystone Grange No. 2 in Trappe, Pa. They recently celebrated their 100th anniversary, but not as a Grange. They celebrated 100 years of conducting Grange business in their current hall. The Grange was chartered in 1873. As I spoke with folks around the hall I met Golden Sheaf members; I met former National Grange delegates; I met active youth. Later in the week, the Grange hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive and filled all 43 donor slots. In a couple months they will host their annual Grange Country Fair; a good ole-time country fair they have conducted for several decades. In the fall they hold a Farm City Dinner. They are actively seeking new members and competing to bring in the most members in the state.

People are joining the Grange in Trappe to network with the community. They know the Grange members are “plugged into” the pulse of the community and they want to become a part of this active, caring organization.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

May as usual will be a busy month. On the 10 we will hold our regular meeting. Theme “Complete Program.” Mary and Helen will supply the refreshments. On the 14th we will host the Pomona Degree rehearsal with the Fifth Degree and Inspection on the following night.

Then comes the fun time. On May 31st we will be celebrating our 124th anniversary. This will be an open meeting starting at 7:30. Members please note the time. Everyone is invited to come and help us celebrate.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

May 20: Memorial Program; Ref. Baking Contest Entries

Note the change in date for our meeting, which is a week earlier than usual because of the holiday.

The Flea Market was successful and thank you to all who helped.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122

Corr: Diane Barbieri

May 3: CWA Contest Judging

May 19: Memorial Program

Hi everyone! Hope you had a good Easter. Now we have to look for May Day, Cinco de Mayo and Mothers Day. On May 3 we will have our baking contest judging. On May 19 we will have our Memorial Program with the Graces/Chaplain in charge. We have a new member, Jay Fairchild, Fred Fairchild’s son and we lost one member, Sandra White.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

The Bridgewater Grange had its annual Community Service Award on Friday April 26, 2013. There was a potluck supper starting at 6:30. The award ceremony followed. This year the Bridgewater and Roxbury

Garden Club were the honored guests. The Grange Hall is on RT 133 just off the Bridgewater Green and between the Bridgewater Post Office and St Marks Episcopal Church.

On March 10th we had our meeting at the Episcopal Church which right next to our Grange Hall. On Tuesday March 26th we visited people and delivered Easter Flowers. On Saturday March 30th we sponsored an Easter Egg hunt for the children of Bridgewater.

On Wednesday April 17th we had our monthly meeting in the Grange Hall at 7:30. Every meeting after that will be there on the second Wednesday of the month except when we have a combined picnic and meeting in August.

Our Grange Roast Beef Dinners will be at 5:30 PM on the second Saturday of May, June, September and October. A Hootenanny will follow at approximately 7:30 featuring Jeff Case and Friends.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Phil Rowland

May 3: Gardening

May 17: Patriotic Americans Love Parades

Gardening, the May third Program topic, is naturally of popular interest this time of year. Several years ago the Grange presented a series of Gardening Seminars which were well received by the public, and a repeat series is being considered.

We are indebted to Beacon Valley members Ray and Cindy Legg for their help in Oxford- Ray for his Hall work and Cindy for putting on a fine Program when needed. Her “Games” Program especially was enjoyed by all participants. Their presence is indeed appreciated.

With sadness, we must report the loss of longtime member Elmer “Buddy” Mead. Our condolences to his family.

Grange continues to attract faithful flock

by Taryn Plumb, *The Boston Globe*

WEST NEWBURY — It is probably not what you think. You hear the word “Grange” and you might envision farmers with dirt-cracked hands sitting around, smoking corn-cob pipes.

And although the National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry did start out in 1867 as an association to serve farmers’ interests — and continues to advocate for rural folks and agriculture — it has evolved over time to serve a 21st-century purpose.

“The big thing is family,” said Peter Carter, president of Laurel Grange No. 161, as he stood in the circa-1940 Grange hall on Garden Street in West Newbury before a Saturday gathering. “There aren’t many family organizations out there.”

Represented in 2,100 communities across the country, the nonprofit and nonpartisan Grange is a fraternal order that has welcomed male and female alike.

Related

Laurel, which is one of 55 local Granges in the state, last week celebrated its 125th anniversary with a potluck dinner.

Beyond the milestone, Laurel also is cheering — along with its fellow Granges in Massachusetts — a modest increase in membership. The state’s Granges reported a net gain of 38 members for 2011-2012, and have 1,858 taking part in activities.

“We look at any growth as a good thing,” said state master and Laurel member Matthew Johnson of Haverhill. “People have decided that they like the Grange again.”

Before joining his local Grange in the central Mass. town of Rutland at age 16, Johnson was excruciatingly shy. He had trouble even interacting one-on-one.

But after 28 years of involvement on the local, regional, and state level, he has learned leadership, organizational, interpersonal, and public-speaking skills. In 2011, he was elected master/president of the Massachusetts State Grange.

“It’s an organization that teaches you quite a bit,” said Johnson, who manages a stockroom but stays close to his Grange roots with a backyard vegetable garden.

Laurel, which charges \$30 annually in dues, organizes plant and penny sales, craft fairs, bake-offs, public suppers, and farmers markets. Granges also provide college scholarships, send care packages to troops overseas, donate to and volunteer at food banks, and support the Reach Across America program, which works to provide free medical, dental, and vision care for impoverished, uninsured, and underinsured people.

Only a couple of Laurel members are active farmers. Some of its members are multi-generational, and have been involved for 70 to 75 years, said Peter Carter, he and his wife Jackie included. They raise 25 beef cattle, along with chickens, pigs, and vegetables, in Georgetown. The Carter family, Peter’s grandfather Raymond and his father, Charles, farmed a large area of Gloucester before the family relocated to Georgetown in 1990.

“You meet a really great group of people, and you get really involved in the community,” 11-year member Jackie Carter said as she tended to her 6-month-old daughter, Bellah, and 5-year-old son, George. “It’s definitely a place where you can give your opinion, and you’re not going to get criticized.”

Johnson agreed. “It allows everyone the opportunity to facilitate change,” he said, noting that 14-year-olds can work alongside 50-year members for the benefit of the Grange and the community.

Erin Stack runs the New Harmony Farm in West Newbury, which grows organic vegetables.



Matt Johnson, Master of the Mass. State Grange

Stack, who made a career change to organic farming last year, joined to seek out mentorships from longtime farmers and to cultivate relationships in the community. In her 50s, she described herself as a “grayhorn,” and she grows certified organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

She described the Grange’s “strong ethical base” and the fact that it has been ahead of its time when it comes to equality. Members also understand that farming can be a “spiritual practice.”

“I love the history, and really respect what the Grange stands for,” she said. “I wanted to support that tradition and keep it alive.”

At a recent Saturday gathering in West Newbury that included members from Laurel, Haverhill’s Bradford section, West Boxford, Rowley, and Beverly, tradition and modern practicality were combined. The hall was arranged with tables and three carved-wood columns, so as to create an enclosed space. At the center sat a Bible-topped altar; there was also a US flag, as well as staves, which resemble shepherd’s crooks and bear the Grange’s seven-sided emblem of a sheaf of wheat. Gatekeepers, meanwhile, “guarded” the door.

A simple tune played on a piano began the proceedings; carrying the staves, two stewards walked to the Bible, opened it, then circulated the room to greet each member with a whisper.

Roughly two dozen members, wearing sashes of green velvet and gold trim, then said a prayer, and sang a short song. “It’s a grand good thing to be a Granger,” they intoned, “and we welcome you all.”

Then it proceeded as a typical meeting: roll call, general business, assigning tasks for events, going over finances, and introducing resolutions. Secretary Brian Carr of Beverly read through the agenda.

Committee reports followed. Peter Carter, representing the agricultural committee, suggested that people make sure the salt they use on their walks is environmentally safe. Carr, of the home and community service committee, gave the group some valuable advice for spring cleaning: Use hydrogen peroxide to remove blood stains from furniture; apply car wax to sticking doors; use clear nail polish to repair tears in window screens.

Stressing the family aspect, members call each other “brother” and “sister” throughout, sometimes ascending to “worthy master” or “worthy secretary.”

It is admittedly pomp and circumstance, and, although they clearly respect the ceremony, members are not stodgy, and they do not take themselves too seriously. There is a lot of good-natured laughing and joking throughout.

As they took a break mid-meeting for a raffle drawing, Johnson summed up the feelings of many members.

“The reason I stay involved,” he said, “is because of the people.”

New arrivals in the National Grange Store

By Samantha Johnson,

National Grange Sales, Benefits and Programs Director

The Grange store has added some fun new items available for purchase! These new items include: Grange Sharpie in blue for \$2.00 and Navy Long Sleeve Shirt Small thru XL \$35 and 2XL \$36.

There are some items that have been out of stock for a couple of years that have now returned to the Grange store! These items include: the Golden Sheaf Button for \$20 and the 4th Degree Past Master Pin with Gavel for \$15.

Also, the Grange is reintroducing the Grange Umbrella and the Grange Binder with new designs. The Grange Umbrella costs \$12.50 and the Grange Binder costs \$6.

Check out these new items at www.grangestore.org. You can order online at the Grange Store or by calling the National Grange Sales, Benefits and Programs Director Samantha Johnson at 202-628-3507 ext. 109.



Scholarship Winners

by Grace Boatright

National Grange
Legislative Director



The National Grange Legislative Department is pleased to announce that **Victor Salazar**, Caroline

Tart, and Lexi Gegare are the winners of this year's Potomac Grange Legislative Fly-In Scholarship Awards. Victor, Caroline and Lexi will join us in Washington, DC June 2-4 for our annual Legislative Fly-In to advocate on behalf of their Granges and rural Americans across the country. We'd like to send them a big congratulations from the National staff. Can't wait to see these amazing youth in action!

Do You Remember?

Rudy & Pat McNeal

by Betty Jane Gardiner

As our Grange year goes along we are aware of the Community Service records compiled by Granges and their individual members. Soon it will be time for each group to submit this annual report to our State Overseer Jeff Barnes and his wife, State Pomona Debbie. They (like the Community Service chairpersons who preceded them) can tell you of the outstanding record Connecticut Granges have accomplished over the years.

This brings to mind a couple whose service record has been a memorable one. Pat and Rudy McNeal belonged to Wethersfield Grange #114 where they served as Master and Lecturer among other offices and were active in Newington Grange #44 in later years. They were also members of Central Pomona #1 and affiliate members of West Hartford Grange #58. At the State level they were called upon to work on several committees. Their hours of service to the Grange, their church, and the community were countless! After Rudy left Chandler Evans and Pat "retired" from her job with the State, they became even more involved serving wherever there was a need.

They collected eye glasses for the Lions Club and used hearing aid batteries for several Granges.

Many miles were put on their car as they delivered "Meals on Wheels," drove folks to doctor's appointments, seniors to workshops or to help with shopping. When shut-ins were known to them, they would often take them out for long rides or for lunch.

Fund raisers were supported by them- mostly for dinners- and Rudy was well-known for the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner he cooked and served on March 17th.

In December they appeared at homes for children or at convalescent hospitals as Santa and Mrs. Claus! At other times of the year there was a pair of clowns who looked very much like them who brought joy to little ones who otherwise had very little to smile about.

In 1991 they washed and dried thousands of dollars worth of coins that had been tossed into the fountain at Westfarms Mall. A messy job at best, but they made it into a fund time for all who were helping.

Special projects were done for Saint Elizabeth House when they went to tag sales picked up good used clothing and household items for folks. The men who chopped wood at the "Open Hearth" wood lot received work gloves and warm clothing thanks to their efforts- as did the children at the Cromwell Home who were given new jeans. White socks were collected for youngsters who needed them- always white so it was easy to match them.

On behalf of their Granges the town libraries were given books, they helped serve lunch to people building homes for Habitat for Humanity, and of course Thanksgiving baskets each season.

The "giving" tree at the mall each Christmas was something they loved to do- and often got friends to



Rudy & Pat Clowning Around

Pat & Doris Shaw pose in front of a Habitat for Humanity project.



Thanksgiving grocery bags being presented to Central Baptist Church by Pat.

Pat presents a copy of "People, Pride & Progress" to a local library.



Pat presents a scholarship at the American School for the Deaf.

Rudy works at the Giving Tree in Westfarms Mall.



Rudy poses with a young friend at Thanksgiving.

Pat & Rudy at the local library after donating books.

take part manning the tables with them. Wishes were hung on the tree by those in need and people took a wish from the tree- went shopping at the mall- and returned with the request so that those in charge of the project could see to it the wish was

granted. One year a wish (from an older lady, no doubt) that Pat and Rudy granted was for a pair of "new bloomers"- size extra large!! That wish came true.

Do remember Pat and Rudy.

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.



For the May Window picture we have a 1915 photo from National's *Grange Monthly* newspaper with the caption, "The Alert Deputy Force of the Connecticut State Grange." Note the sashes were still dark green (dark colored in this black and white photo), pre-dating the change to light pink that we are familiar with today for the Sixth Degree. While not many may have known any or all of them, there might be a few recognizable faces in this crowd. Let us know!

April Photo:

From **Karen Flanders Eddy** on Facebook: Far right is Mervin Whipple

From **Alma Graham** on Facebook: I agree, Mervin is on the right. I think that may be an event at Killingly Grange. The lady is familiar but I can't think of the name.

From **Shirley Lawson** on Facebook: Could it be Mervin Whipple, Al and Glenna Bruno...no clue man on left.

From **Kim Mele** on Facebook: One of my favorite people; Mervin Whipple!
From **Shirley Lemieux** and **Sandy Phillips**: Sterling Jewett on the left and Mervin Whipple on the right
From **Janet Haller** -- Mervin Whipple is on the right.
From **Glenna Bruno** -- Mervin Whipple (right). Can't remember next man. Lady, Betty Jane Gardiner.



March Photo:

Note: Even though a similar photo to this one ran last year with the same three women featured in the photo, we received so many varying answers we decided to run this again in the March Granger to see if we could clarify the ladies in the photo.

From **Shirley Lemieux** and **Sandy Phillips**: Mae Mitchell on the right and Vivian Shaw in the Middle. Alta Peck is on the left.

From **Betty Jane Gardiner**: Alta Peck on the left, Ruth Hickcox from Norfield in the middle and Eunice Stoll from Simsbury on the right.

From **Susan Kelly Kotowicz**: Eunice Stoll is on the right.
From **Ruth Hickcox**: The picture was taken in 1970 in Boise, Idaho after the National Grange Sewing Contest was over I was the national winner, and the picture of the young woman is of myself. . . Ruth Hickcox. But I still don't know who the older woman is with Alta Peck and me.



February Photo:

From **Annie Lane**: "Gene Nierowicz, who was a President of the Ag Fair, and Oscar White. I always loved the smiles that Whitey brought to everyone's faces with his upbeat music."

January Photo:

From **Sue Gray**: At our Grange supper tonight, longtime Ekonk members, Willis & Betty Maynard brought their January "Granger". They play cards weekly with Bill and Mildred Pearl's daughter, Joanne (Pearl) Page and her husband! Joanne identified her parents, Bill and Mildred Pearl as the couple in the center row of the picture ~ 2nd table from the front; back side of the table ~ far right (both looking at the camera).

Winchester Grange members discussed this photo at a recent meeting, and said that at the head table on the right - on the end are Betty and King Beecher. (King 1, Betty 2) Up from King and Betty at the same table are Fred & Alma Brooks (Alma 8, Fred 9)

From **Annie Lane**: In looking at the long table on the right - starting from the bottom - 1) King Beecher 2) Betty Beecher 3) David Avery 4)? 5) Looks very familiar, but can't place his name. I think he is from Preston City Grange 6)? 7)? 8) Alma Brooks 9) Fred Brooks 10) ? 11) ? 12) National Grange Herschel Newsom 13) ? 14) Edgar Tucker 15) Mrs Ives 16) Sherman Ives 17) Mrs. Scott 18) National Grange John Scott 19) Harry Page 20) Frank Peet 21) Bob Mitchell. Second Table from the bottom on the right (near the long table) is Alfred Beckwith facing forward with back to long table. Sitting next to Al is Jerry Keetch. Next table in the same row is Don and Alta Peck. Don has his back to the long table and Alta is next to him.



Celebrating 125 Years in Winchester Center



State Senator Clark Chapin, at podium, and State Representative Jay Case, left, spoke with members of the Winchester Grange at the 125th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, April 14th.

by Kurt Moffett, *Waterbury Republican-American*

WINCHESTER CENTER — The Winchester Grange No. 74 celebrated its 125th anniversary Sunday with music, proclamations by town and state officials, slide presentations depicting its history, awards to longtime members, skits, remembrances and speeches.

The Grange formed in Winchester Center on Jan. 2, 1888 as an agricultural club that promoted local farming. Over the years, as the number of farms has waned, the Grange has become increasingly more of a community service organization. The Grange hall complex at 100 Newfield Road houses the Winchester Center post office and volunteer fire department.

Grange members said, though, it's the people who make the organization a great place with which to belong.

"I think the most important thing about the Grange today is it unites families," Grange President Todd A. Gelineau said after the two-hour ceremony concluded. "It brings families together and keeps families together in a way that is missing in society as a whole."

Charlie Cooper, 88, said he has belonged to the former Torrington Grange, which closed in 1974, and the Winchester Grange a combined 73 years. "I call it down to earth," he said of the Winchester Grange. "It's not high class or high calling, they're everyday people."

Deirdre DiCara and her sister, Cara Blazier, beamed as they recalled childhood memories of the Grange from the 1960s and '70s. DiCara said she still lives in the Goodenough/ Houlihan house where she and her sister grew up and where the Grange organized in 1888.

DiCara also credited Ellsworth "Bud" Beecher, who, at 92, attended, as the oldest living past Grange master, and his late wife, Marion, for running the Junior Grange for close to 50 years.

"The Junior Grange was all about Bud and Marion and their steadfast dedication, their organizational skills, their patience and their wisdom and they guided us baby boomer kids through life-learning skill lessons and helped shape us into responsible, caring businessmen," she said.

Longtime members Domenic and Joan Campi were recognized for their 50 years with the Grange; Barbara and Fred Dreger, 55 years; Shirley Lemieux, 65 years; and Jean Hurlbut and Esther Rebillard, 70 years. Several past masters and lecturers were also recognized.

Jody Cameron, master of the Connecticut State Grange, said it is "unheard of" to find a civic organization that has been around as long as the Winchester Grange and still have members who are descendants of the founders.

"Organizations don't last that long in our society," he said. "We're a very quick, spontaneous society. We move on from one thing to the next faster than you can imagine."

Cameron then announced that he was signing the Grange's application to start the process of reorganizing the Junior Grange, which was discontinued about 15 years ago.

The Grange needs 13 children between the ages of 5 and 14 to start a Junior Grange and Gelineau said he expects to have that many at an open house at 2 p.m. Saturday.

JUNIOR GRANGE



Contact:
Jody Cameron, State Master
president@ctstategrange.org

HILLSTOWN JR. GRANGE #87
Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Hillstown Juniors have busy little bees - we are now having the Juniors produce their own meetings - so we have seen and heard about the Chinese New Year, Black History Month as well as some tales about St. Pat. They are looking forward to working on the flower bed in front of the Grange Hall again! And are teaching the new members what the Grange means and what the Grange means to them. They are also busy with their craft projects for State Session and look forward to meeting members from

the reinstated Winchester Junior Grange!

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101
Corr: Rebecca Gervais

At our April meeting, Sister Kay Ruff inspected us. Always nice to see her. We also gained 4 new members, WELCOME to Jacob Bessette, Casey and Patrick Ferns, and Brianna Gervais! Brianna was excited to, finally, be old enough to join, and to join with friends was even more special. We had 18 Junior members present, and a total count of 36. A fun night, ending with Birthday cakes for 3 of us. We plan on going on a hike later in April with the youth, and taking part in a river clean-up with them. Should be a fun month.

In March, 27 of us went to Mik-Ran's sugar house, in Brooklyn. Yum-yum. What a great smell the boiling sap makes. We learned a lot about maple syrup making. Perfect way

to give us an appetite for the supper waiting for us back at the hall. 43 of us feasted on pancakes, french toast, bacon, sausage, hash browns and REAL maple syrup. A HUGE thanks to Russell and Sue Gray, Jim and Verna Cole, and Jack and Patty Cottrell who prepared this feast!

In March, we also visited a Convalescent home. Three of us dressed up as Easter bunnies. One of their caregivers led us around, pointing out who could receive the chocolates we brought. We were happy to see Carol Orr. Always nice to visit, and spread happiness.

In May, we have our annual Mother's Day Plant sale. Profits always go to local children's charities. Drop in for a plant for Mom, or veggies for the garden. Have a happy spring, and remember, we always welcome those who would like to visit!



Ekonk Juniors and their parents pose for a group photo after touring Mik-Ran's Sugar House in Brooklyn.



Seventeen Ekonk Juniors visited a convalescent home in March with three "Easter" bunnies.




A group photo of all of the Second Grade students at Sterling Community School. Each student received a new grade appropriate book chosen by their teachers and provided by Ekonk Grange. The books helped close out Read Across America day. Some students were elephant ears to represent Dr. Seuss' "Horton."

In Memoriam

Pearl Manager	Hillstown Grange #87
Frank Swider	Hillstown Grange #87
Evelyn Johnson	Hillstown Grange #87
Sandra White	Watertown Grange #122
Rose Berg, G.S.	N. Stonington Grange #138
Mary Offinger	Cannon Grange #152
Eleanor C. Norton, G.S.	Old Lyme Grange #162
Joyce Roscoe, G.S.	Echo Grange #180
Elmer Mead, G.S.	Oxford Grange #194

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

Chaplain's Message



Barbara C. Kulisch
State Chaplain
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Memorial Day Tribute

Honoring all those who served and still serve today. Never forget the men and women who gave their lives so that we could have freedom.

Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep

Mary Frye (1932)

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am in a thousand winds that blow;
I am the softly falling snow.

I am the gentle showers of rain;
I am in the fields of ripening grain.
I am in the morning hush;
I am in the graceful rush.

Of beautiful birds in circling flight,
I am in the starshine of the night.
I am in the flowers that bloom,
I am in a quiet room.

I am the birds that sing,
I am in each lovely thing.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there, I do not die.

Lord, remind the present generation ~ remind every generation ~ to honor those who faced the fires for us.
Amen.

Future Grangers



Deirdre Houlihan DiCara, right, talks about the different officer positions in the Grange during an Open House for children between the ages of 5 and 14 who might be interested in joining the newly reactivated Jr. Grange at Winchester Grange #74 in Winchester Center. The Junior Grange has not been active in 15 years. Photo by Jim Shannon of the *Waterbury Republican-American*.