



Join the Celebration!

April is Grange Month in America

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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

APRIL 2014

Show your passion!



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

When it was said I was planning on moving the map in the CT room at the New England Grange Building members rallied around "saving" the map.

Last month when we talked about the actions of the State Grange Executive Committee ceasing the operations of Camp Berger in 2014, members again rallied to "save" Camp Berger. I appreciate your passion and commitment to your Grange.

So, explain to me then why when we talk about membership growth, Granges closing, Granges being relevant in their community many members don't seem to be concerned. They almost give you a blank stare, like it is not their issue to deal with. How would we survive if the majority of our members felt this way?

In November the National Grange will vote on a \$2.00 per member dues increase. The largest purpose for this increase is the decline in membership nationally. We have an opportunity to delay or vote down this increase and that is by every Grange having a net gain in membership.

Let's do some basic math.

Your Grange has 35 members; you currently pay \$12.00 per member per year in dues to National. $35 \times \$12.00 = \420.00

Dues increase passes at National in November and your Granges 35 members absorb the \$2.00 dues increase. $35 \times \$14.00 = \490.00

Now, your 35 members go out and secure 10 new members a 25% increase in membership making your total membership 45. $45 \times \$12.00 = \540.00

If this increase goes through I see the same thing happening nationally that happened here in CT two years ago. Granges are going to clean up their books to make sure their membership rolls are accurate and the total number of members will drop. I just want to add hear, you should ALWAYS be making sure your records are accurate, not

waiting for an event like this. Now we are working with fewer members paying more. This will ultimately take us in the opposite direction financially. But, if we increase our membership nationally by 25%, it is not hard to do; the National Grange will increase its revenues by almost \$200,000, with no additional burden on its community Granges and members.

Only Community Grange Members have the ability to stop the declines and transform this great organization, restoring us to the powerful numbers we once saw. The Grange is needed as much if not more today that it was in our early years. With the overall population increasing a healthy and sustainable, hopefully local, food source is need in every community. Remember poverty and starvation does not discriminate. As the world seems to continually want to fight, the desire for tighter knit communities are more and more needed.

I am pleading with every member to show that same passion I know you have and "save" your Grange. Together, I know we can do it.

retired federal employee. But he didn't.

There were too many red flags, including the request to keep the prize letter "strictly confidential," the Canadian return address and the letterhead from Barstow, California. And then there was the enclosed \$4,000 check to help cover "processing fees." Those fees, roughly \$3,000, were to be payable through a Western Union money transfer.

The Rosevale, Calif.,

resident says he went online and quickly pulled up scam reports listing the exact same company name as in the letter he

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Ag Day at the State Capitol



Hank the Burro meets Governor Dannel Malloy at the State Capitol during Ag Day Celebrations on March 19. Left to right: Steven Reviczky, Commissioner of Agriculture, State Master Jody Cameron, Jaimie Cameron and Gov. Malloy (holding Hank). Fortunately for Hank, he and the mascot of the Governor's party are the same species!

The Connecticut State Grange, along with over 50 other organizations and state and federal agencies from across Connecticut, celebrated agriculture in Connecticut at the state's annual Ag Day at the Capitol.

Held Wednesday, March 19 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM in North Lobby and Hall of Flags at the State Capitol building in Hartford, the various exhibits showed diverse aspects of agriculture from across the state. Representatives from the Connecticut State Grange had the opportunity to speak with state leaders about the importance of the state's agricultural initiatives, including Governor Dannel Malloy and Commissioner of Agriculture Steven Reviczky.

"This is a great opportunity for us to have a presence at our State Capitol," said Connecticut State Grange President Jody Cameron. The Connecticut State Grange hosted a dynamic and interactive booth explaining the Grange's mission and significance to Connecticut agriculture.

Governor Malloy read the official proclamation and presided over the celebration, acknowledging farming's contribution to the state. A number of awards were presented including the Outstanding Young Farmer Award and the Ag Journalism Awards.

"The Grange is diverse in its legislative and agricultural policies," Cameron explained. "The Grange is a grass roots organization, and this event gives us the ability to take our message, the message of our members, right to the Capitol. It is our one chance each year to interact with representatives from both houses and the administration directly."

Don't fall for these scams

By Claudia Buck, McClatchy Newspapers

When he opened the letter, retiree James Thomas certainly wanted it to be true. In black and white, the congratulatory letter stated that he was one of "five lucky" winners in a Publisher's Clearing House Sweepstakes Association lottery drawing. His prize: \$3,998,000.10.

It was just short of \$4 million. "It sounded so good that I almost fell for it," said Thomas, 86, a

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Like any Granger, Hank loves food...

Hank's Hankerings features some of his favorite recipes!

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!





By Hank the Burro

Like any other Granger, I LOVE good food! This month's healthy recipe comes from the Whole Grains Council and King Arthur Flour Co.

This is the most dependable, most versatile whole grain muffin recipe we know. The batter is a little on the stiff side, the better to hold together when juicy berries and fruits are stirred in, yet the muffins themselves are very tender. Toppings can range from simple, such as coarse sugar or cinnamon-sugar, to stunning, such as streusel.

SOUR CREAM MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Cups (240g) white whole wheat flour
- 1/2 Cup (60g) unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons (1/2 stick or 57g) unsalted butter
- 1 cup (225g) sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup (230g) sour cream
- 1-1/2 cups (220g) fresh or frozen berries or diced stone fruits (such as peaches or plums) of your choice.
- Coarse sugar for sprinkling

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lightly grease a muffin tin, or line with papers and coat the papers with nonstick spray.
2. Whisk together the flours, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl.
3. Cream together the butter and sugar in a large mixing bowl until light and fluffy and almost white in color. Scrape down the bowl to make sure all the butter is incorporated, then turn the mixer back on and add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the vanilla and sour cream, and mix until incorporated.
4. Add the dry ingredients, mixing on low speed just until the batter is smooth. (Over-mixing will result in tough muffins). Gently fold in the fruit and refrigerate for at least one hour.
5. Preheat the oven to 400°F (200° C or gas mark 6). Scoop the batter by the 1/4-cupful into the prepared pan and sprinkle with sugar or other topping. Bake the muffins until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, 22 to 26 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool in the pan for 5 minutes, then turn them out onto a rack to finish cooling.

NUTRITION:

Calories- 221, Whole Grains – 20g, Fat- 5g, Protein- 5g, Complex Carbs 26g, Sugar 16g, Fiber- 3g, Cholesterol- 43g, Sodium- 297mg.

Makes 1 dozen muffins.

Serving Size: 1 muffin

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Don't fall for these scams

Continued from page one...

received.

Letters like that one that landed in Thomas' mailbox aren't anything new; nor do they show signs of going away.

"We get calls like these every day," said Dwight Johnson, spokesman for the Northeast California office of the Better Business Bureau, which covers 24 counties from Stockton, Calif., to the Oregon border. Johnson said consumers have reported phony Publisher's Clearing House calls, emails and even Facebook posts.

The phony sweepstakes letters prey on unsuspecting seniors and anyone else eager to believe they're true.

"They've probably got a whole list of older, gullible folks, said Thomas, who said he fears that others might be taken in and wire money.

According to law enforcement, this type of pitch usually follows a familiar pattern. The consumer is told to deposit the check, keep a portion for themselves, then wire the remainder for taxes, service charges or "processing fees."

Ultimately the check bounces and the consumer is left responsible for the amount wired, as well as the bounced check amount. And certainly he or she never receives the promised "millions" in sweepstakes prize money.

Any contest "winner" who is asked to wire money or deposit an enclosed check to cover fees, taxes or other expenses, should run, says the BBB.

Similarly, the FBI advises consumers to never send money, but report the fraud attempt to the FBI or, if it comes by mail, to the US Postal Inspectors Service, which is the post office's law enforcement arm.

Publishers Clearing House says its prize awards are never announced by phone or email, but always arrive "the way you see them" in TV commercials: unannounced and by a team bearing balloons, champagne and flowers.

Fake sweepstakes letters are just one of many scams that regularly troll for targets by phone, mail, email, smartphones and social media. Recently, the national BBB office released its Top 10 Scams for 2013:

- **Affordable Care Act scam:** Calling it the "scam of the year," the BBB said fraudsters used Obamacare health care sign-ups to try to trick consumers into revealing personal information used in identity theft.

- **Medical alert scam:** Targeting seniors and their caretakers, it promises to send a "free medical alert system" that supposedly has been paid for by family members.

- **Auction reseller scam:** Using eBay and other online auction sites, scammers fool sellers into shipping goods without getting payment upfront.

- **Arrest warrant scam:** Last fall, fraudsters used fake caller ID to make incoming calls that appear to be from the local sheriff's office or law enforcement agency.

- **Casting call scam:** TV shows like "American Idol" and "Project Runway" have inspired scammers to pose as talent scouts or agents seeking actors, singers, models, reality show contestants, etc.

- **Foreign Currency Scam:** Investing in foreign currency, such as the Iraqi dinar, Vietnamese dong or the Egyptian pound, is often touted as a low-risk, high-return money-maker. In some cases, scammers even provide real currency.

- **Texting Scams:** Known as "smishing," phony texts appearing on your smartphone are an attempt to steal personal financial information, such as PINs or ATM numbers.

- **Facebook Friend Scam:** Be wary of fake profiles that can pluck details about you, recommend "sketchy websites" that download malware, use your account to compile information about your friends, even impersonate a military member or other trusted person to perpetrate a romance scam.

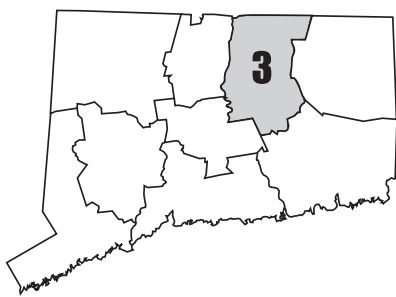
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- **A continuing scam received by Grangers** has been the email or text message alert notifying Grange members that another member has been detained in a foreign country or has had their passport and/or money stolen while on a trip and needs you to send money to get them home. This is a variation of an older scam that involved grandchildren in the same situation in need of money from grandparents to get them home. In both cases, if you are concerned, contact that person to find out if it's true... most likely you will find them safe and sound at home.

The take-away message from this is the on-going creativity of criminals to find ways to part the public from their money. Be cautious, ask questions and be careful not to compromise your personal information.



# East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Tolland No. 51
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- Coventry No. 75
- Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*  
**Apr. 3:** Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Easter Treats, Potluck. Chairs- Dot Monaco & Queria Sullivan. CWA Baking Contest & Skit Night  
**Apr. 12:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.  
**May 1:** Meeting, 7:30 P.M. May Flowers, Memorial Service- CWA Committee Program. Ref. Priscilla Schmartz & Dan & Ann Posuniak

**May 3:** Semi-Annual Food & Tag Sale, 9 A.M.-12 P.M.  
**May 10:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.  
**June 5:** Meeting, 7:30 P.M. Election of Officers, Strawberry Festival. Ref. Committee Mario and Jean Accornero & Tom Breen.  
 I hope by the time you are reading this Spring will be upon us. Today it is overcast and 33 degrees, with another snow storm approaching. I hope we only

get about one inch.

April is the Bake Off for the Caramel Rocky Road Bars. I hope several members will bring in an entry for judging. It is a tasty recipe. Do try it.

Remember, we are collecting "re-gifted articles" for the Glastonbury Social Service Department. The April meeting is the final evening to bring in an item or two or three for the collection box.

The April meeting is also the "skit night" when we will practice the skit that will be our entry in the "Skit Contest" for the May 3 Pomona competition night. It should be a fun night.

Bring a friend or two with you to the April 12 card party. It is a fun evening with plenty of refreshments.

The May 1 meeting is May Flowers and is our annual Memorial Service evening.

The CWA is also going to put on part of the program. The refreshment committee is Priscilla Schmartz and Ann and Dan Posuniak.

Remember: May 3 is our Semi-Annual Food and Tag Sale. All the members will be getting a phone call asking for your assistance. May 10<sup>th</sup> is the next to last card party of the season. Hope to see you there!

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

*Corr: Leona Wilson*  
**Apr. 1:** April Fool!  
**Apr. 15:** Income- Outgo-Legislative  
**May 6:** Needles and Pins-CWA

Finally April is here! Hopefully Spring is here too! Not just on the calendar but in our yards and fields. Our first program of the month will be "April Fool" by all our members. Visit us and join the laughter. On April 15 the Legislative Committee will be in charge of the program. The CWA will be in charge of our May 6 program. This night will also be our baking contest. Come taste the goodies with us. Once again our circle has been broken and one of our members, Pat Zanks, has been called home to the Grange above.

### TOLLAND GRANGE #51

*Corr: J. Jordan*  
**Apr. 1:** Who Are We?  
 Tolland Grange will meet at 7:30 P.M. at the Parker School Recreation Center for its monthly meeting. To date we have had some very interesting presentations from our Grangers. February, Aaron and Bernice spoke to us and in March Carolyn did.

We have all learned tidbits about each other.

Join us if you can and take part in our program.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

*Corr: Nancy Strong*  
**Apr. 4:** "Of Chickens and Bunnies"

Vernon had a fun get-together at the March meeting learning about the Town's recycling requirements and everyone came away with an awareness of what not to throw into our recycling bins. We look forward to spring and will celebrate the new season with a program on chickens and bunnies in April.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

*Corr: Irene Percoski*  
**Apr. 12:** You're invited. Neighbors visit. Bring a number.  
**May 10:** Remember when, Chaplain & Graces in charge. Baking & needlework contests.

Our trip to Hawaii was interesting and we all learned what our Hawaiian names are and how to pronounce them. Prizes for our Hawaiian bingo were pineapple and tropical fruit. We are inviting neighbors to visit and hope that the new starting time of 10:00 A.M. will not be too early. The program was decided long before we voted to change so we'll hope for the best. As I'm writing this we have just finished our 7<sup>th</sup> snowfall of winter and the cold wind is howling outside. I hope by the time you are reading this, grass and buds are showing where snow mountains now exist. Happy Spring to all.

## Granger Shout Out

**Cannon Grange thanks John Mucci for organizing the Silent Movie Night on March 29th and playing the piano score along with the movies.**

**Great food, great atmosphere and a great time at Hillstown's recent Corned Beef Dinner. Thank you to all the members of Hillstown Grange!**

**Cannon Grange thanks John Kriz for an informative program on Nutrition & Wellness on February 6th.**

**Sincere thanks to Art Tylanda of Norwich Grange for giving me a ride to all Pomona meetings - Arlie Chapman.**

**To Bea Neri for being an ANGEL to me! Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Lyn Kimberly**

**Submit your Shout-Outs today!**  
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org  
 They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

**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!**

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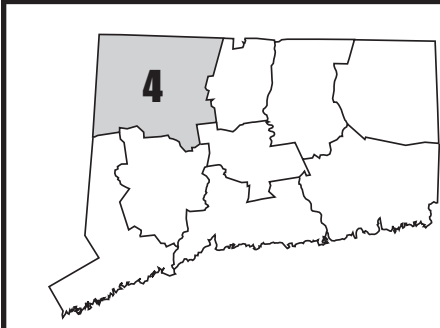
## It's degree season



**Edith Schoell**  
 State Secretary  
 secretary@ctstategrange.org

The weather may be in a "holding pattern" with the cold temperatures, but Grange activities are moving forward. There is a warm greeting awaiting you at the Grange meetings - get out and enjoy!  
 The new members that have been welcomed should witness the four degrees. There is usually a Grange in your Pomona that will be conferring the degrees, so make an effort to be there. It would be proper to let the Grange know if you are bringing someone to observe or you might be willing to fill in one of the positions. Many of our own members have forgotten some of the lessons the four degrees represent. Do you have a favorite?  
 Hope to see you at one of the activities coming up.

## 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.

### MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**May 12:** Fifth Degree at Winchester Grange, 7:30 P.M. (Dinner at 6:00 P.M.)

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be conferral of the Fifth Degree preceded by a meal prepared by the members of Winchester Grange. The cost of the meal is \$5.00 and will be served beginning at 6 P.M. ALL GRANGES are asked to let the Master or this correspondent know if you have candidates to receive the degree prior to May 10 so we can plan accordingly. The degree will be conferred in either case because of Inspection.

The March meeting of Pomona was held on its new regular day, the third Saturday beginning at 4 P.M. at Riverton Grange. While it would have been nice to have more members with us, it was still a nice afternoon with a great potluck supper following the business meeting.

A resolution was presented at this meeting in relation to the School of Instruction held in February. At that meeting it was concluded that members of the Pomona would like to spend more time working on their Community Granges and that if re-districting was necessary, then it may not be desirable to continue with Pomonas in this state. The resolution calls for the elimination of Pomonas while an additional resolution from New Haven County Pomona calls for the re-districting of all Pomonas in Connecticut. While it likely will not pass the Pomona or State, it is important that the role of Pomona and its relationship with Community Granges be discussed by all members. To this end, the resolution was tabled for the next meeting of Pomona

(or the June meeting if there are candidates for the degree). Please discuss this important topic in your own Community Granges and be sure to have at least one member represent your Grange at the next meeting of Pomona to convey the opinions of your Grange.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Apr. 8:** Regular Meeting

**Apr. 22:** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Degrees

**Apr. 25:** Super Prize Party, 6 P.M. (Teacup Auction)

**May 27:** Mom

Thank you to all of the members and friends of Winchester Grange who donated baked goods and gave of their time to make the Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale such a great success. This year's event was even more successful than the Holiday Bazaar with all of the vendor spaces sold out and the soup and sandwiches selling out by the close of the event. Winchester Grange Hall is extremely expensive to maintain and these events are crucial to our continued viability in the community.

Looking ahead to April, we expect to have some guests at our April meeting. Hopefully they will like what they see and will accept our invitation to be obligated as new members of Winchester Grange.

While we do not currently have candidates for the first and second degrees, we are planning on conferring the third and fourth degrees for the benefit of one member who did not receive the degrees last fall when they were conferred. Additional candidates from area Granges are welcome to join us. Please let us know beforehand so we can be prepared for them.

Our Spring Super Prize Party (Super sized teacup auction) will be held on

Friday, April 25 beginning at 6:00 P.M. Drawing of prizes will begin at 7:00 P.M. A ticket card holding 27 chances is only \$1.00. It's a great bargain for a whole lot of fun! Please join us.

At our Feb. meeting, the members welcomed a guest from the St. Pauly Society who spoke about the possibility of having a clothing donation box placed on Grange property. It is the

same donation box currently used at Simsbury Grange. They are extremely well made and very attractive. The Grange receives a per pound payment from the Society for all of the clothing donated and they are responsible for the pick-up and disposal of clothing and unacceptable items dropped off. We will now work with the fire department (as they occupy part of the Grange property) to find a suitable

location that will meet the Town of Winchester's setback requirements.

Also upcoming will be our Spring Tag Sale to be held on Saturday, May 24 at the hall (indoors/rain or shine). Donations of items for the sale are always welcome and can be brought to the hall on any second or fourth Tuesday or by calling the Master at 860-626-0326.

## Do You Remember?



### 100th Anniversary Plate

Plates are a very popular collector's item. Many folks have at least a few, others have large displays in their homes.

When our State Grange celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1985, Bill and I were appointed as co-chairpersons of the event. At an early planning meeting somebody asked if we were going to have an anniversary plate as many of the states had done for their special times. It sounded like a good idea. A message went out to the Granges and also articles ran in the Connecticut Granger inviting anyone who desired to submit a design for the plate. We thought we would have a committee to select the design and we looked forward to what it would be. To our surprise and dismay not one single entry was received. A second month of requesting participation took place with still no response. I told the committee it looked as if I would have to give it a try myself and that was what happened.

Many states had put out plates which was very ornate- crowded with pictures of state historical sites and tourist attractions. I guess we wanted something a bit more simple. Our design was a white plate with a narrow blue border and blue letters which said "Connecticut State Grange 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." Those words surround the Grange emblem and the outline of the State of Connecticut with a pink rose across the state and "1885-1985" on the state. I took the design to a meeting and the group voted to use it (as if they had any other choices).

State Secretary Marion Beecher thought we should have a message on the back of the plate, she did that- it reads...

"Connecticut State Grange, June 24, 1885, One hundred years of dedicated service to our fellowman. Faith, Hope, Charity and Fidelity- the words on which the Grange is based- the words which form the "tie that binds" all Grange members with a common goal of a better world."

I can't remember who on the committee took care of having the plate made- where we had it done- how many we ordered- or what price was charged (Does anybody remember any of that?). I do know we sold a lot of them!!! Some can be seen in many Grange halls today- and every once in a while someone will mention that they have a plate at home tucked away in a drawer or cupboard.

Front of Plate



Back of Plate

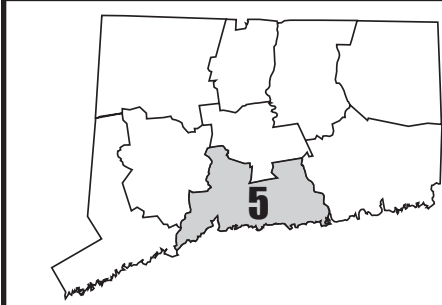


A while ago Edith Schoell was cleaning around the office and found about six or seven plates. She called me- and I ended up taking them off her hands and because I got them at such a good price I gave them to a couple of new members or to somebody who could use one as a replacement.

Now, of course, we have a story to tell about our plates. I'm a little fuzzy with some of the details, but I remember we were helping Bud MacLaurin get the Connecticut Room ready in the Grange Building for a "Big E." Bud mentioned he thought it would be nice to have one of our anniversary plates in our room. The next day we went up to the room and I took one up there. Bud had purchased a nice spring form to hang the plate on a wall. He put the springs onto the plate then held it up for the rest of us to see- he must have touched one of the springs because all of a sudden the plate flew out of the hangar and shot across the room like a missile landing on the floor in a million pieces. Bud was beside himself!!! Not to worry- I had another when I went up a few days later! It was hung on the wall- NOT by Bud. It still is there in the room- a reminder of the good laugh we had at that time.

Do remember our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Connecticut State Grange plate.

## 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 CTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Wesle Dymoke*

May 15: Fifth Degree at Wallingford

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

Apr. 2: Ballroom Fever. Open Meeting

Apr. 16: Landscaping-Guest Speaker; Men's Bake Off

March was a busy month at Cheshire Grange with our programs and three fund raising dinners. Cheshire was well represented at the February 9th School of Instruction for subordinate granges held in our hall.

We continue with our regular craft nights and have begun some early preparations for our August fair. We hope by the time you read this, the snow cover will be on the way out and pretty much gone.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach*

Apr. 10: "CWA" program. Janet B. Haller will be presenting the program. Apr. 24: "Earth Day". A program on recycling in the town of Wallingford will be presented by Doreen Zaback, the town's solid waste expert and town planner, Don Roe.

Feb 13: Cancelled because of a snow storm.

Feb 27: A program on winter gardening was presented by local gardener Dick Conrad of Wallingford. You might have read an article on Dick's winter gardening in the Hartford Courant in the Living Section of the Hartford Courant on January 21. So you say you can't grow a garden in the middle of the winter! But apparently you can. Dick started to notice after many years

of gardening that some of the vegetables that he had grown, some would survive through the winter, especially when there was mild winter. This was especially true for carrots and potatoes. Carrots that stayed in the ground through the winter got especially sweeter. This is also true of kale. It turns out there are a lot of vegetables you can either winter over in the ground and/or will continue to grow through the winter. Examples are leeks, kale, carrots, asparagus and garlic. The key in keeping a winter garden is plenty of mulch. Dick in the fall grabs all the discarded leaf bags that his neighbors leave on the side of the curb and takes them back to his garden and dumps them around his plants. All these leaves help to protect the plants and importantly keep the ground from getting frozen. In the middle of the winter if he needs some vegetables all he has to do is shovel back some of the leaves and start digging them up because the ground isn't frozen. Though he did advise, before you dump leaves around your plants is to stake off where your vegetables are located. This is so that when there is a pile a snow on your garden everything looks different, so you might not find them. It also helps to locate where your digging started and ended from the last time you were out in your garden. Another plus there are no bugs and most animals seem not to bother a winter garden. So this year think about a winter garden. Winter gardening tips can be found by searching "johnseeds & overwintering".

E-mail me at daninnguilford@earthlink.net for a copy of winter gardening links.

### OLD LYME GRANGE #162

*Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch*

As I write this last column on February 28th, we will have taken the next step of "surrendering our Charter", as we signed the closing papers on the sale of our Hall.

The Old Lyme

## The best thing about your Grange



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

What is the best thing about your Grange? Every Grange has its' strong points. Each Grange is different. Some have great dinners.

## CSG joins Ag in the Classroom

Connecticut Agriculture in the Classroom, along with the Connecticut State Grange and the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, would like to invite you to be a reader for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Read Across Connecticut Agricultural Literacy Event. Last year, over 350 books were read to over 9,280 primary and elementary school students throughout Connecticut. This year's book is *The Beeman*, written by Laurie Krebs and illustrated by Valeria Cis. We would like you to participate in this educational event by reading *The Beeman* to an elementary (2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom) in your community between April and November.

Your involvement would be an exciting venue to publicly support agriculture and literacy throughout Connecticut, teaching the significance of agriculture and the importance of pollinators in the food chain. Getting through the day without agriculture is impossible. Many people do not understand nor do they have an appreciation of the connection agriculture has to daily life or the vital role agriculture plays in our state's economy. This statewide reading initiative is funded by the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation, Connecticut State Grange and the Connecticut State Grange Foundation.

In *The Beeman*, Krebs tells the story from the viewpoint of a child whose Grandpa is a beekeeper. This rhyming

Historical Society are the new owners of the building at 55 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT.

We have made our final Community Service Projects donations for 2014 to: The Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries; Social Services in Old Lyme Fuel Assistance and Gift Cards for the Food Assistance programs; the FFA; High School Graduating Senior

Scholarship who worked in Community Service; The Wounded Warriors; Waterford Country School; The Daiper Bank; New London Firefighters Burn Foundation; 2014 CWA projects including the Scholarship Fund; also money towards the Youth Travel Fund.

We will have, if all goes well, turned in our Charter at the meeting on March 28th.

Others have card parties or an active Community Service program. Were you in the service? Then perhaps you appreciate all that the Granges do for our troops in harms' way. Whatever your Granges' strong point is, it is what makes your Grange special. Tell us about it by entering the 2014 Essay Contest. It is entitled "What I Like About My Grange". It should be 150 words or less and needs to be sent to me by October 1. And, don't procrastinate. This is the last year for this

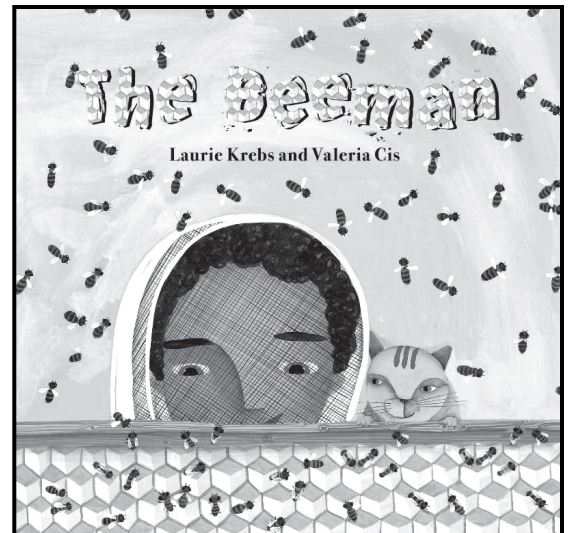
title.

I just got my Granger today and read what I wrote a month ago. Guess it was wishful thinking when I said "Old man winter has kept me from visiting a few Granges. Hopefully the warmer weather that should be coming will make for better traveling and eliminate the need for canceling meetings." Hold that thought. Spring has got to get here pretty soon. See you around the State.

text offers an accessible and engaging introduction to the behavior of bees, including: where they live, how honey is made, and what a beekeeper does. It is clearly written and beautifully illustrated. Krebs describes how Grandpa is known all around town as the Beeman. He is a beekeeper, wearing his zippered-up hood and his heavy cotton and leather gloves to protect himself while he tends his hives. As he teaches the basics of beekeeping to his grandson, children will learn about the lives of bees and discover the vital part they play in the food chain. Children love learning about the role of bees in the ecosystem, and will be delighted to find a delicious muffin recipe on the final page.

This volunteer opportunity is a great way to introduce Connecticut's students to the importance of pollinators in our food chain. Honeybees are good friends. They are the only insect that gives humans food to eat- honey. Their wax is made into candles, crayons, and lipstick. Bees help farmers. Did you know that one third of all the food we eat is pollinated by bees?

Each school participating in this event will receive a copy of the book, an educator's

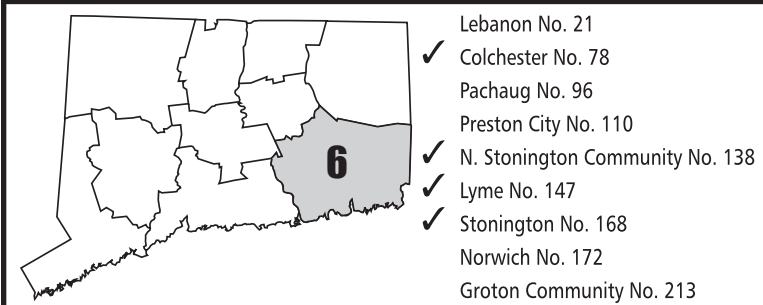


guide, sequencing cards, 20 copies of the Ag Mag Bees, and a poster. Additional resources will be available on the CTAEF website [www.ctaef.org](http://www.ctaef.org). We encourage each educator to use the materials provided and share them with other classroom teachers.

For more information on this program, please contact Eleanor Provencal, Connecticut Coordinator for Ag in the Classroom via email at [eleanor@ctaef.org](mailto:eleanor@ctaef.org). Grange members seeking information or want to sign up as a volunteer should contact Connecticut State Grange Community Service Coordinators Jeff and Debbie Barnes via email at [overseer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:overseer@ctstategrange.org). Thank you for considering adding the 2014 Agricultural Literacy event to your busy schedule.

*The Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, raising funds to support agricultural literacy programs.*

## New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21  
 ✓ Colchester No. 78  
 Pachaug No. 96  
 Preston City No. 110  
 ✓ N. Stonington Community No. 138  
 ✓ Lyme No. 147  
 ✓ Stonington No. 168  
 Norwich No. 172  
 Groton Community No. 213

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*  
**May 10:** Conferral of the Fifth Degree, North Stonington Grange

On Feb. 8 a small but enthusiastic group enjoyed a potluck supper with a good variety of delicious dishes from which to choose. The movie "Hotel for Dogs" followed the dinner; and a good time was had by all.

We hope to have a good class of candidates for the Fifth Degree at North Stonington Grange on May 10. Please urge your members to continue on their journey to the Fifth Degree. The snow will be gone and the flowers will be blooming by then.

Election of officers will be held on June 16 at Groton Grange.

The winter was hard and we had lots of snow.

The temperatures dropped and the winds they did blow.

We're anxious to see what the next month will bring.

Now that the winter has turned into spring.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

*Corr: Bonnie Trecarten*

At our Monday, March 10 meeting Colchester Grange members were pleased to install two new members. Welcome Heidi and John Brown.

We also welcomed our frequent visitors, Ted Beebe, Master of Norwich Grange, and Lois Evankow, Flora of East Central Pomona, and Lecturer of Lyme Grange. We can always count on an excellent program from Lois when she fills in for our programs. We thank Ted and Lois for their ongoing contributions to our Grange.

Letters of appreciation were received from the American Legion Veterans in Jewett City for the Valentine's Gift Cards and sweet treats that were given to the residents. An Easter basket project is also being planned.

A rocky road bar bake-off contest was held with four delicious entries. Congratulations to Polly Leonard for submitting the winning bars.

Our agricultural contributor Chris Bourke gave us information regarding the proposed use of a farm to table school food service project by the Ledge Light Health District. The proposed program would be offered in all New London County school districts. We were pleased to hear that Colchester is being considered as a potential central processing area for this new program. The program is to be administered by Farm Fresh. The potential rise in both beef and produce costs due to the drought in California was also discussed. Thank you, Chris for all your hard work for the Grange and agricultural community in our area.

We are continuing our community service projects at both Harrington Court and Apple Rehabilitation facilities and have activities planned for both locations later in March.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment to these projects.

Please don't forget to check with our CWA representative, Cathy Russi for information on upcoming trips to the Cape, August 10-11 this summer, and a tour of Scotland and Ireland planned for April 8-19, 2015.

Let's hope spring comes soon!

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*  
**Apr. 11:** "To Eat Salt With" "Stonington & CT in the Great Depression"  
**Apr. 25:** "The Biggest Frog in the Puddle" Community Citizen

We are sad to report the passing of a longtime Granger, Marjorie Gavitt. She has joined the Great

Grange above.

At our February 14 meeting Andy Rauch, one of our newest members (and second youngest) presented an awe-inspiring piano recital to a very appreciative audience. Our hall was filled with the music of Mozart and other classical guests. We sincerely hope Sue has Andy signed up for a repeat performance next year.

On Feb. 28 Robert Miner, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, treated us to a Power Point presentation on "Soil Fertility Basics." He was ably assisted by his son, Jason Miner, on the computer. Cheree Miner regaled us with jokes and riddles on farm life.

Our April programs sound really interesting and the refreshments are always delicious. Why not put the dates on your calendar and join us. And if this next huge storm that is predicted to drop another 6-plus inches on us will just decide to go out to sea to our south, next time I'll tell you all about marvelous March.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**May 1:** Memorial Service, CWA Bake-Off, Ag Comm. in charge of program.

**May 17:** 4th Annual Plant & Food Sale

**June 5:** Summer's Almost Here

Old man winter is taking its toll on our attendance. Hopefully by the time you read this the weather will have improved.

Mother Nature was kind and behaved herself so we were able to have our meeting on time even though few people showed up.

Nothing exciting happening. Deputy will visit us in May for inspection.

Flyers are available for our 4th Annual Plant & Food Sale May 17.

We will host children's stuff and rummage sale held by the church across the street- on May 10. They use three buildings in town.

One lone snow drop right next to a stone wall has ventured out and it's in full bloom. Where are the rest?

### STONINGTON GRANGE #168

*Corr: Liz Herzig*

A school of instruction was held at Norwich Grange #174 West Town

Street, Norwichtown on Saturday, February 8th. A potluck hosted by North Stonington Grange followed and "Hotel for Dogs" was shown sponsored by New London County Pomona.

Some (local) Connecticut historical trivia:

B.F. Clyde's Cider Mill is the only steam-powered Cider Mill in the United States and is located in Mystic.

Originally, Montville, along with Groton and Waterford, was a part of New London. New London

was settled in 1646 under the name of Pequot, so called after the Pequot Indians, the name changing to New London in 1658.

Connecticut's most important crops are dairy, poultry, forest and nursery, tobacco, vegetables and fruit.

Stonington Grange #168 splintered off from North Stonington Grange #138

North Stonington was incorporated in 1807.

KEEP WARM EVERYONE!

## Happy Birthday!



**Joanne Cipriano**  
 Social Connection Director  
 Social@ctstategrange.org

The Social Connection of the Connecticut State Grange will hold a surprise menu birthday dinner on Saturday – May 17<sup>th</sup>

The "Road to the 130<sup>th</sup>" Annual Session will be held at the Prospect Senior Center. Supper will be served promptly at 6:00 P.M. The price of the ticket is \$7.00 and can be obtained from: Cindy Charbonneau in Central

Pomona, Jody Cameron – Quinebaug Pomona, Edith Schoell – East Central Pomona, Todd Gelineau – Mountain County Pomona, Marge Bernhardt – New Haven County Pomona, Debbie Barnes – New London County Pomona, Joanne Cipriano or Barbara Robert – Excelsior Pomona and Marge Sendewicz in Fairfield County Pomona .

The committee has searched the State of Connecticut for quest chefs and have come up with: Chefs Jodi Ann and Jody Cameron, State Master and First Lady, members of Ekonk Community Grange; Elizabeth "Liz" Ryducha Secretary of Cheshire and New Haven County Pomona Granges and the 2013 "Granger of the Year"; Marge and Bob Sendewicz, Past Voting Delegates to the National Grange and members of Redding Grange and Barbara Robert, a member of the Social Connection and Bethlehem Grange.

Come and see what these chefs have prepared. Also what the committee has in store. Entertainment, presents, favors and music. We will have a Country Store to help defray our donation for the use of the Center.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please call Joanne, Barbara or Betty Jane.

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

## PLANT & FOOD SALE

May 17, 2014

10am-1pm

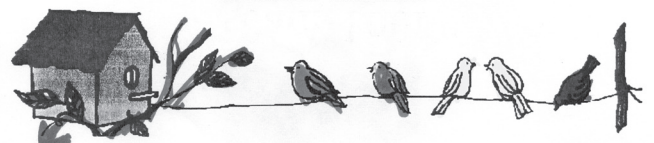
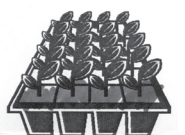
Lyme Grange Hall

Lyme CT

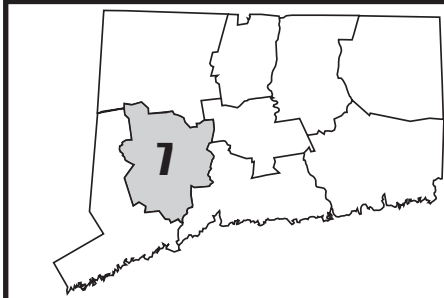
Annuals - Perennials - Trees

Houseplants - Bird Houses

Baked Goods



## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- ✓ 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.

### EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

As we do not meet in April, we hope all our Grange members and friends have a Happy Easter. We are sure looking forward to the warmer weather after all the snow we had this winter. Hope to see you at our May meeting which is the conferral of the Fifth Degree.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

On April 4 we will be traveling to Oxford Grange for an Exchange Officer's Night. Oxford Grange will come to Beacon Valley on April 11<sup>th</sup> and take over for our officers. Joann Muscillo and Joanne Cipriano will provide refreshment for this meeting. Both sound like a fun evening.

The weatherman was not good to us in January and February as we had to postpone our meetings to another night. Both of these nights were frigid but attendance was good. We are hearty souls.

We are still collecting puzzles (any size) for the convalescent home and a home-bound gentleman. We are also collecting greeting cards, buttons and shoe boxes just to name a few. These will be donated to Aces, a facility for handicapped children. For the convalescent home we are collecting ladies hats for their tea parties.

Our contest to see who could collect the most bottle lids ended with Joann Muscillo the winner. These were donated to Aces.

Get well wishes to Connie and Charles Brush. Both were in the hospital at the same time. Charlie was in the Glendale Health Center for awhile but by the time you read this I hope he is

home. Also to Linnea and Robert Behlman. Linnea had a short stay in the hospital.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Skip Maddox*

**Apr. 5:** Flea Market, 9-1

**Apr. 28:** 7:30 P.M., Ref. Officers, Citizen of the Year Open House

**May 19:** 7:30 P.M., Memorial Program, Baking Contest. Note change in date. Eloise refreshments.

Christine Murphy will be honored for her work with the Bethlehem Food Bank as our Citizen of the Year.

### PROSPECT GRANGE #144

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

April is Grange month and Prospect Grange on April 2 will be honoring the teachers in Region 16 for their dedication their lives to educating the young citizens of our community. Their are 108 teachers in our Region 16 School System. This is our way of making the Grange known in our community and what Prospect Grange does in the community.

We have chosen a pee wee flag football coach that spends many days and week ends coaching these wee children in how to play football. He will be our Citizen of the Year. A presentation will be held April 27 at the Prospect Senior Center at 2 p.m.

On April 19 120 Easter baskets were passed out to the patients at the local convalescent home for Easter. These baskets were made and decorated by our grange members.

Our April 10th meeting is a neighbors night about dairy. All members are invited to come join in the fun at the lower level of the Prospect Senior Center behind the Prospect Police Station at 7:30 p.m.



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

### Does your Grange measure Return on Investment?

"I'll come and play in your sandbox if you can prove to me that it is worth my time and money."

In business, the phrase "return on investment" describes the concept of resources yielding a benefit or profits in relation to capital invested.

Let's apply the same concept to Granges and their membership. When your members invest of themselves into the organization (by time, dedication and dues), what do they receive in return? What benefits do your members receive from their volunteer efforts with your Grange?

To begin to answer this question, we must first look at the role your Grange plays within its community. Each Grange plays a unique part of the community they serve. Through its various projects, donations, and activities, Granges leave their marks. For example, there are a number of Granges in Connecticut who host Farmers' Markets. This type of event is seen as beneficial by fulfilling a need in the community, thus creating value. Other Granges may give scholarships to local high school students, or donate non-perishable items to the neighborhood food bank. These also fulfill a specific need, and thus create value.

Each Grange has the ability to provide a powerful return on investment for their members by three distinct engagements:

- 1.) filling community gaps by seizing opportunities and finding solutions
- 2.) encouraging civic involvement by creating connections and collaborations between people and the community
- 3.) generating social connections through service, leadership and advocacy

Each of these methods of engagement create positive outcomes, and thus create value.

What other aspects of the Grange do members view as valuable? For some members, the list of value-added benefits contains tangible aspects, such as hotel savings and discounts on prescription medication. To others, the list contains more professional aspects, such as

networking and social advocacy. The list may also include personal aspects, such as leadership training, fellowship, and quality of life improvements.

The greater the value of your Grange to your members, the more powerful return on investment.

One way to measure your Grange's return on investment is through the results of public relations efforts. Public relations and Grange growth are inextricably connected. Return on PR investments can be easily measured.

**Membership Leads:** Leads can be achieved by measuring engagement through leveraging social media and your Grange website, through press/media reach, and word of mouth.

**Recruitment and Conversion:** How many new members did your Grange Open House garner? Did your recent Grange event generate non-member community interest? Does your Grange routinely contact former members to reintroduce them to the organization?

**Visibility:** Is your Grange in the public eye? Do you frequently hear people asking/talking about your Grange outside of Grange circles?

For today's Grange to not only survive but thrive, each Grange must deliver benefits to their members and prove their membership has value. A quote from business consultant Ed Rigsbee sums it up the best —

"Today's associations cannot rely on their old paradigms for member recruitment. The conversation can no longer be, 'You should join the association to support your industry and network at the convention.' Today the conversation must be, 'Let me explain to you why it is a good business decision to join the association. The return on investment of time and money that most members receive is...'"

*Source: "Why Today's Associations Must Prove Their ROI (Return on Investment)" By Ed Rigsbee, CSP, CAE. [http://www.rigsbee.com/association\\_member\\_recruitment\\_11.htm](http://www.rigsbee.com/association_member_recruitment_11.htm)*

## Be Grange PROUD!

*Joan Perry, Memb. Director*

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 make lighter work, and you'll have more fun as well.

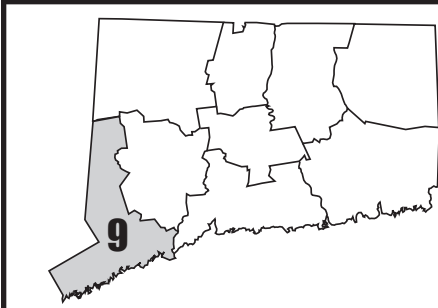
Dedicate this time for putting energy into building our membership, bringing greater awareness to our Granges and outstanding Community Service.

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. Your PRIDE in your Grange gives others energy and creates a synergy that will soon become contagious making our future opportunities and achievements boundless.

Be Grange PROUD!

## 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.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

*Corr: George Ward*

Our Secretary, Susan Sulier, who had a serious eye infection and still suffers from complications is improving and is now able to do some of the secretarial duties.

Our Spring Tag Sale in May will be discussed during our March meeting. We have many items to offer left over from other tag sales.

We have begun planning for our Agricultural Fair scheduled for August. Last year several local companies exhibited their products which were related to agriculture. We expect more vegetables, fruits, plants, canned goods, etc for judging this year.

Harmony Grange will be 125 years old this year. We are discussing the type of anniversary celebration to take place in either September or October. The event will probably be held on a Sunday and will be open to the public. Entertainment will be part of the celebration. We will have more information on this anniversary in the coming months.

Will warmer weather ever come? Even the sap from maple trees have been affected.

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

*Corr: Lyn Kimberly*

**Apr. 8:** @ 7:30 pm - In HONOR of Grange Month: "Grange Green Program" by Amie Guyette Hall & "Grange Baking Contest" (Recipes Posted on Websites & Facebook Pages) by CWA Chair Julia Braden. WEAR UCONN HUSKIE GEAR to show your pride for the Women's Basketball Team playing in the NCAA

Tournament...After the meeting watch & cheer on our CT team on the Grange Jumbo-Tron!

**May 13:** @ 7:30pm - Come learn about New Camp Berger/Open House (ALL ARE WELCOME)... Bring Your Own Stick for BonFire & S'mores!

**May 30:** Sunday, June 1st - 4th Annual Community Wide Tag Sale (ALL ARE WELCOME...Vendors &/or Shoppers)!

**June 10:** @ 7:30pm - Election of Officers

Be OPEN to MIRACLES every day! This is a article filled with "SHOUT OUTS"! This morning I was driving my 11th grade daughter Anna (Flora) to high school and she picked up our mail and we found a "MIRACLE" in the box! I now truly believe in "Pay-it-Forward"! On a warm Sunday a few weeks ago my husband Chris, daughter Anna and our family dog Angus jumped in our SUV and set out on a Field Trip with a Mission to Litchfield County.

On our way home we stopped in a fast food restaurant in Torrington and while there I left my purse hanging on the chair I sat in. When we got home I realized much to my horror what I had done...and didn't relish the idea of driving 1.5 hours (one way) back to retrieve it. I called the restaurant and an "angel" had picked it up. While she was looking for ID she found the "Winter Farmers Market" information and called the Norfield Grange and left me a message to tell me my purse was SAFE!

What makes this worthy of a being in this Granger Article? The woman who left the message is the President

of the Beacon Grange #118 in Northfield! So BEA NERI this is a SHOUT OUT to you...thank you from the bottom of my heart for mailing my purse back to me...you truly are my angel... and I look forward to the opportunity of meeting you to give you a BIG HUG!

Normally this article is written by our beloved Cubby (a.k.a. Ruth Hickcox) who survived a medical crisis over the past few weeks and has left this HUGE RESPONSIBILITY to me temporarily because she better be back next month because I don't hold a candle to her writing skills and prowess...she and I talk and email the Norfield Grange successes and plans for the future for her to write her article monthly...Cubby is a sage Granger and we've been dubbed by the old-timers as the "New Grangers"...we may be new in years but not in heart or spirit!

Our motto is to make all that we do at the Norfield Grange "relevant for the Weston suburban community of today"...and the way we accomplish this is through collaboration and teamwork!

Our most recent success which we've shared with Cubby was our "Fiddles, Farms & Food" - Barn Dance & Dinner held on February 8th with an astounding crowd of 200+ revelers...so successful we're planning another event in October with our partnering organization Wakeman Town Farm, Westport...

Another SHOUT OUT to Marianne Morton and Allison Waggener our WTF friends! And another SHOUT OUT to Eleanor Provencal, Woodstock a poultry farmer who drives 2+ hours one-way to participate in our Winter Farmers Market! Together we are collaborating to help expand her Ag in the Classroom - Read Across CT Program to make it more accessible to elementary school children in Fairfield County and beyond by sponsoring the Coloring Contest and helping her to recruit other organizations and apply for grants to

expand the program across the State.

Lastly because I'm running out of space a SHOUT OUT to McKenzie Bess, a senior at Columbia University, who's approached the Norfield Grange to sponsor her fundraising efforts (\$1,550) her entry fee in order to ride from Boston to the tip of Cape Cod raising money for this amazing program: "Best Buddies" a nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). If you'd like to make a donation her page is: <http://www.kintera.org/faf/donorReg/donorPledge.asp?ievent=1072356&supid=367085202>

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**Apr. 3:** Business Meeting and Program on Environment & Green Issues

**Apr. 17:** Potluck Supper - 6 PM Please bring a healthy hot dish or salad (dessert provided)

**May 1:** Business Meeting with program by CFA (state contests in baking and

crafts)

**May 15:** Business Meeting with program on Home Arts

At long last our kitchen renovation is complete with a new floor, new countertops, new cabinets and a new refrigerator. Our old icebox dating from the 1930s was sold to a collector from Boston.

Our evening of Silent Movies with double feature of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton was enjoyed by a large enthusiastic crowd with many children and adults. Our own member, John Mucci, is kind to share his talents at the piano and to bring the movies from his vast collection.

Looking ahead, we begin the planning process for the next edition of the Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair which will be held on August 24th. Please circle the date!

We're holding a pot luck supper on April 17th. In accord with our crusade to help combat obesity, we ask all who come to bring a healthy hot dish. Supper commences at 6 PM. Please email us or phone us to tell how many are coming.

Please note our activity schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome- won't you join us?



## Thank your Deputy

*Todd A. Gelineau, General Deputy*

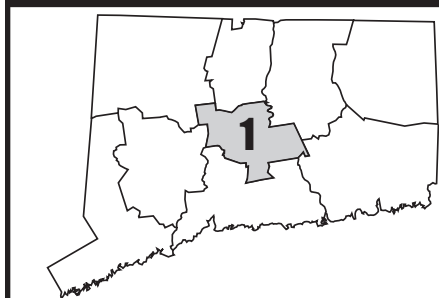
At this writing some inspections have already been completed with the bulk of them being conducted this month and into the month of May. Many members assume the Deputies receive compensation for their work. This is only partly true. All Deputies, including this one, are entitled to be reimbursed for their mileage for official visits to Granges (inspections or other meetings that are assigned/requested by the State Master or General Deputy). Not all of the Deputies request to be reimbursed for mileage (25¢ per mile). They do not receive an honorarium or other compensation for their work. It's all done out of their commitment to the Order and their love of the Grange. Please join me in thanking all of them for doing this important work.

Remember, they are Grangers like the rest of us... working hard to support their Community and Pomona Granges while balancing their State Grange work. A lot of the work we do is "behind the scenes" and is done with little fanfare (as it should be).

As always, please contact me or your Deputy if you have any questions, comments or concerns about your Grange work or the inspection process. We're here to help... not just to inspect!



## 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

**April 5:** Corned Beef and Cabbage

**May 3:** Meatloaf

May 17: Roast Pork

I hope we are thinking that someday Spring will come. There is a quote that says "No winter lasts forever, no Spring skips it's turn". A good thought to keep us hopeful. Robins have been spotted here in Meriden. Our local candy factory is gearing up for their biggest holiday. We are just weeks away

from Meriden's wonderful Daffodil Festival. We have some suppers coming up.

As always, all you care to eat! Our friends and neighbors are always welcome. We meet the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the Month weather permitting.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

**Apr. 11:** Rise Up & Shine

**Apr. 25:** YMCA Jobs Pond Camp

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

# Ekonk vs. Richmond Grange



Ekonk Grange No. 89 and Richmond Grange of RI got together Friday, March 14th at Ekonk sharing pizza & their brownies & ice cream. This was followed by volleyball in the Municipal gym and games for the non-volleyball enthusiasts at our hall; a wonderful time was had by all! We so look forward to them bringing us their fun program Monday, April 7th.

## Taghannuck's "wooly" good time

It was a WOOLY good time at Taghannuck Grange on Saturday, March 8 when we held our "WoolsWorth Old Style Life-Skills Series Workshop." Visitors met a sheep, used a drum carder, made a drop spindle, tried spinning with spinning wheel, tried weaving, knitting and crocheting.



# 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 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



We received the following about March's photo- Sue Addison asked "Is that Lois Baker on the left? Obviously they were ready for Flora's Court in the 6<sup>th</sup> Degree. I would guess this is from the 80's."

Do you have a picture that would be a good candidate for this column? Let us know, we may be able to use it.

## SoCT Past Masters

The April meeting of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters will be held at Southington Grange on Saturday April 12<sup>th</sup>. The evening starts with a pot luck supper at 6:30 P.M., followed by the meeting as soon as the dishes are done.

This is followed by our program and Country Store. On the agenda is Installation of Officers. We invite all Grangers to come and join us. You do not have to be a Past Master as we have an Associate Member category.

## Family Activities

Just some clarifications regarding the Quilt Contest - all entries must be made by Grange members and they must be at Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday, June 7th by 9 a.m. for judging along with the other needlework and craft contests and baking contest. There is no indication in the rules as to the brightness of the pastels and there is no Subordinate or Pomona judging required - all entries are accepted.

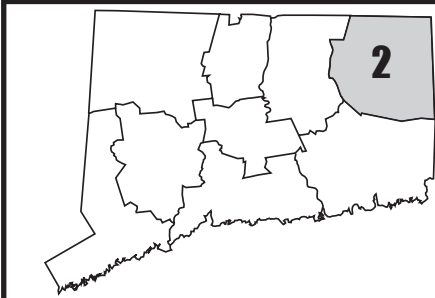
I hope that everyone has been able to take advantage of the cold and snowy weather to work on their other needlework and craft entries. I would love to fill the hall.

I also hope that you will all be able to make donations to the 3 CWA/Family activities projects - CT Granger Trust Fund, CT State Grange Scholarship Fund and the Kid's Fund. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**Pat Palmer**  
Family Activities/CWA Director  
[CWA@ctstategrange.org](mailto:CWA@ctstategrange.org)

## 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.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

*Corr: Elsie Johnson*

**May 14:** Gardening – Memorial, Deaf Program, Ref. All

**May 25:** Potluck, 6 P.M.

**June 11:** Dairy- Election

Snow and cold- still hanging on but pussy willows and some bulb plants are peeking out where there's some bare ground. I'm thinking spring and got some tomato plants started.

We draped the charter for a Patron Sister who had been with us for over 70 years. A donation will be made in her memory to the Abington Congregational Church.

Tabs are coming in- about a 5 lb. Bag and a small bag of labels. We had inspection and ok.

Hope spring will get here soon as the woodpile is about gone. Stay well-happy spring!

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Sue Gray*

April 12: Roast Beef Supper 5 pm

Apr.18: Chowder n' clam cakes

May 17: Roast Beef Supper

We had a fabulous time with our wonderful friends from Richmond Grange; we took them a program (23 from Ekonk went) and enjoyed their warm welcome, hospitality and delicious refreshments! Our teenage gentlemen were rather interested in the three Graces that Richmond has (hmmm). We got together Friday, March 14th at Ekonk with Richmond, sharing pizza & their brownies & ice cream. This was followed by volleyball in the Municipal gym and games for the non-volleyball enthusiasts at our hall; a wonderful time was had by all! We so look forward to them bringing us their fun program Monday, April 7th. In April we will host our biennial FFA appreciation supper; we

have MANY Killingly High School FFA Alumni as well as current students in the program.

We are excited about our 125th (Subordinate and 35th (Junior) Anniversary celebration-coming fast-Sunday, April 6th at 2:00 p.m. SHARPE. The committee of Link Cooper; Paulette Craig; Bill Sebastian; David and Sue Griffiths and Russell and Sue Gray have worked diligently to assure that everything will run smoothly and be very entertaining. Link has quite a repertoire of jokes sure to make you laugh! We have an excellent guest pianist coming and a specially designed cake being made as well as a short movie telling our Grange story created by Bill Sebastian. Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm is also making its first ever "125th anniversary special" flavor of ice cream and donating it for the occasion-I know what Elena is putting in it and it sounds scrumptious! Link Cooper is also heading more improvements on our kitchen, making it more inviting that ever! Our attendance has been high even with the cold of winter; we hope even more will attend when the weather finally breaks!

### ECHO GRANGE #180

*Corr: Gloria John*

**Apr. 8:** Agriculture

**Apr. 22:** Inspection Potluck Supper 6:30 p.m.

The weather has not been very good to us this winter on Tuesdays. Alma Graham has donated 4 Breast Cancer bags that she has made for cancer patients. These are used after their surgery. It includes a pillow that is very useful.

Just another reminder of our Ham and Bean Supper on May 17th. from 5 to 7pm. WE hope the weather will warm up pretty soon.

# CSG Testifies in Hartford



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

The Connecticut Legislative Session is in full swing with many legislative committees actively working on many bills. So far the Grange has testified on three bills and given its support to a few more. We have testified on RB 70 land preservation proposals for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, RB 5419 concerning the preservation of the Savin Farm in Lebanon and RB 5288 concerning a study of the winter road treatments. We also supported but did not testify on RB 66 concerning Wood Burning Outdoor Furnaces which forbids the burning of chemically treated wood in the furnaces, RB 65 which defines the definition of "Connecticut Grown" and RB 69 concerning the Farmland Restoration and Vacant Public Lands Program.

We testified on RB 70 Concerning the Preservation of Lands Under the Control of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Agriculture. The state owns many acres of prime farmland that is under the control of the above agencies. The bill seeks to preserve such land as open spaces or to allow agricultural or recreational

activities. Other state agencies also own many acres of prime land such as the Mansfield Training School and the land owned by the Department of Corrections. The Grange recommended that other state agency's lands also be included in the preservation program.

HB 5419 concerns the preservation of the Savin Farm in Lebanon which is already owned by the State. This would authorize the State to grant a farmland preservation easement to a suitable nonprofit land preservation organization similar to the State easements on many privately owned farms. This easement would insure that the State would never convert the Savin farm to any use other than agriculture.

One issue that has become a big topic this year is RB 5288 concerning the use of chemical treatments on our roads in winter weather. There has been quite a bit of discussion concerning the use of these treatments and the impact it is having on roads, bridges and vehicles. The bill that is being proposed directs the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation to conduct an analysis of the corrosive effect that these treatments are having on roads, vehicles and the environment. He is to report back by January 1, 2015 with his findings, conclusions and recommendations. This is to also include the possibility of using rust inhibitors in the treatments.

The Grange has been for

years advocates for roads and highways and after discussing this issue with the Legislative Committee and the Executive Board we felt that the Grange should support such a study. There have been reports of vehicle frames, brakes and brake lines rusting out as well as metal components of our bridges. One person giving testimony that day was a student at Northwestern Regional 7 and a current FFA member. She has been doing her FFA project on the impact these treatments are having on vehicles and had some very convincing material that she shared. Another speaker noted that a couple of bridges that had to be shut down that were no longer safe for traffic use in the northwest corner of the state due to weakening structures. Ask Russ Gray what damage he is seeing underneath the school buses in Sterling.

It has been reported that other states such as Colorado have included a rust inhibitor in their treatment mix to reduce the rust damage caused by these chemicals. We understand that the State of Connecticut decided to not include this additional chemical to keep costs down. How much damage is being done to the state trucks with the treatment and how much more will it cost the state to keep up on the maintenance of our state fleet? There also has been some concern expressed about the possible environmental damage caused by these inhibitors. The study is supposed to address these concerns.

## Any veggie goes!



*Jon Russell, State Agriculture Director*

This year, the committee would like to show the open-mindedness of agriculture by changing the food donation contest to allow you to grow any vegetable you choose. We want to be able to get a lot of people to participate in this contest. In the last few years we have specified that people grow a single variety. We have concluded that this is too restrictive, and the food banks that we are supporting are only getting a lot of one thing. Ironically, monocultures have contributed to mass famines throughout our history, so we think giving all our participants the ability to grow what they want is also supporting diversified agriculture. We have a very high expectation for participation in this program, we have set a goal for 10,000 pounds of produce donated. We really think that the Grangers can make this happen. Subsequently we want to divert our attention to this program we are officially disbanding the pumpkin decorating contest so that Grangers can focus on growing food to be donated. Thank you all for your help.



Greetings Grange Friends!  
 The month of March has been busy with visiting Pomona Granges for their Schools of Instructions, and meeting new friends too!

My travelogue actually starts at the end of February, when we made the trek out to Wolcott Grange with our friends the Logans from Rhode Island. I love spending time with my Grange Herd BFF Allie the Llama. Rhode Island State Grange President Steve Logan spoke at the Wolcott Meeting, and we also got to meet a real beauty queen. Cynthia Dias, Miss Wolcott Outstanding Teen. She's lovely!

In early March I traveled to Rhode Island with Ekonk Community Grange to visit with Richmond Grange and again see my friend Allie the Llama. I got to meet Haven Nelson, Master of Richmond Grange. He does a great job. It was a pleasure to meet you Haven.

On March 9th, it was off to New London County Pomona. I met so many new friends!

I lent a hoof in the kitchen and helped my family bake a few cookies. I helped bake close to 50 dozen cookies for Web Industries Relay for Life Cookie Sale. A great community service project!

I also got to spend time and have a little fun with cousins Clifford, Lilly and Trevor after Drill practice. Burros are famous for our hard work - but we like to play too!

On March 14th it was time to visit Central Pomona Grange at Higganum Grange Hall. More new friends - and I helped out with their School of Instruction as part of their meeting.

I showed my athletic side (and my new found love of pizza) when I attended the Ekonk Community Grange vs. Richmond Grange Volleyball Night. Then I helped out in the kitchen again, as I watched members of Ekonk Community Grange cook and serve 187lbs of corned beef, and then visited with the Girl Scouts that were selling cookies at the dinner.

I took a special opportunity to wish all of my friends a Happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17th!

Then on March 19th, I was especially honored to meet the Governor of the State of

Connecticut at Ag Day at the Capitol!!! I got to meet CT Governor Dannel Malloy and Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Reviczky and pose for a photo with them. I had some fun with the FFA girls at Ag Day too.

That evening we visited with Excelsior Pomona Grange for their School of Instruction. The meeting was held at Wolcott Grange Hall, so I got to visit with some of my Wolcott Grange friends, but I met many new friends from Excelsior Pomona!

On March 22nd, it was back to Rhode Island, where I got to again see my new friend Haven Nelson and attend a Washington County Pomona Meeting. I also got to spend time with National Grange Membership/Leadership Director Michael Martin and my friend Lucy the Cattledog when they visited Connecticut for the joint CT/RI Membership Workshop held on Sunday, March 23rd. We hung out at Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm and had some ice cream too!

On Wednesday, March 26th, I had my first television interview! Jody, Peter Keefe from Riverton Grange and Todd Gelineau from Winchester Grange each filmed segments for the TV show "Town Crier" with host Jim MacGillavry that will soon air on Charter Access TV in the Winsted/Barkhamsted area.

I am close to reaching my 300th friend! I can't wait to see who it will be. My 300th friend will receive an autographed photo of me! Please take a moment and visit my Facebook Page at [www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro](http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro).

While you're there, be sure to click the "Like" button so that you can follow all of my adventures. Won't you share my page and help me reach my next goal?

If you have a special event, please send me an invitation through my e-mail [HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org](mailto:HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org) with the details, and hopefully I can attend!



I didn't know Ag Day at the Capitol could be so much fun with the FFA girls!



Allie the Llama and I got to meet Wolcott's Outstanding Teen Cynthia Dias



I'm with my friends Allie the Llama and Lucy the Cattle Dog at a meeting of Washington Cty. Pomona in Rhode Island.



I'm over here! At New London Cty. Pomona



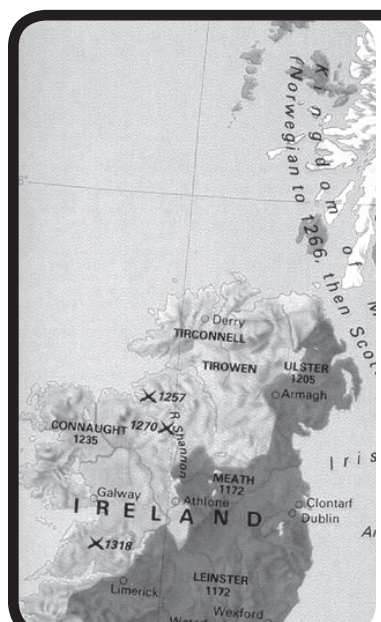
I'm a busy burro, making cookies for Relay for Life



Katie... you're supposed to serve the BALL... not the BURRO!



I LOVE Girl Scout Cookies!



## Explore Scotland and Ireland with Colchester Grange

We invite people to join us as the group visits the following sights; Edinburg • Whisky Distillery • Inverness • Loch Ness • Loch Lomond • Glasgow • Belfast • Titanic Experience • Giant's Causeway • Derry • Glenveagh National Park • Ulster American Folk Park • Dublin • Irish Night. The trip is for 12 Days and includes 15 meals and transportation. Book early and the cost is \$3,649 Double and savings of \$250.00.

Please contact Cathy at [crussi45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crussi45@sbcglobal.net) or call 860-887-9621 for more information or have printed information mailed to you if interested. Please contact us as well if you are interested in joining us for the trip August 10 & 11, 2014 to Cape Cod to see the Boston Pops and see much more!



**Michelle DeDominicis**  
State Junior Grange Director  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

### EKONK COMM. JR. #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

The girls took charge of the program at our February meeting, where we had 31 in attendance. Special thanks to Lillian who took charge of the program. Maria sang and played the electric guitar, Brianna played the piano, Ally had a reading, Lacey had a joke, Lilly and Jenna ran balloon games. Balloons are always a hit! Great job girls! In March, the boys had the program, and we had 34 present. Connor was sick, but, his dad had the group enjoying charades. Bonus: chocolate kisses and hugs when you acted and/or guessed what was being acted out. Lots of kisses and hugs were earned. Jared had a quick game of find the hidden chocolates. Hm. Perhaps, our boys enjoy chocolate.

In February, Lacey Kenneth joined. She has been coming to many of our meetings and programs, and was in our Christmas play. So happy to have her as part of our group! Welcome, Lacey!

We collected items for Ben Cousens, a past Junior member who is in the Marines. Several donated money to help ship his package. Thanks to all who chipped in!

Our St. Judes totals are finally in. We raised \$341.00, not as much as we had hoped, but, pretty good for a Kid-run Walk-a-thon. Thanks to Jenna for chairing this event. Jenna, Jared and Brianna all earned T-shirts for their efforts.

We are having a couple of sign language classes. A teacher from Sterling Community school is teaching us. We had our first class March 8th. We learned the a,b,c's, a few colors, and The Pledge of Allegiance. She is a great teacher, and it was a fun lesson. Cannot wait for lesson #2! Some of our Juniors will sign the Pledge when it is spoken at our Anniversary Celebration in April.

On the 9th, we went to Tom Sweet's farm to learn about maple syrup, and how

# Junior Grange

they collect it. Amazing. As of this writing, it hasn't been a great year for the sap. Too cold. After explaining the process of tapping a tree, then, connecting the tubing and running it with the correct pitch, we went for a short walk to see their lines. They have a LOT of tubing, with plans of putting even more in. Obviously, they have a well thought-out operation. Tom and his dad have a lot of patience, too! They allowed each kid to tap a tree in their front yard. They used the pail method here. You do not get as much sap, but, it was a great chance for the kids to get "hands-on" learning! What a fantastic lesson! After the tour, we went back to the hall to thaw

out, and to have breakfast for supper. French toast, waffles, sausage, bacon, hash browns, topped with REAL MAPLE SYRUP! Yum-yum! What a super supper. Thanks to the Sweets for the donation of a gallon of syrup and their time! Thanks also, to Russell and Sue Gray, Jim and Verna Cole, Jack and Patty Cottrell, Clifford Gervais and Link Cooper for their skills in the kitchen and for cleaning up.

Congratulations to Jared Gervais who recently received his third-place award, in his age group, for Creative Writing at National!

We are BUSY here at Ekonk! Feel free to stop in, anytime!



Above, members of Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling, visited Tom Sweet's farm to learn how Maple Syrup is made on March 9. Each Junior was able to tap a tree and then everyone went back to the Grange Hall to have breakfast for dinner... waffles and french toast with real maple syrup.

## In Memoriam

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Patricia Zanks        | Manchester Grange #31       |
| Evelyn Murdoch, G.S.  | Wolf Den Grange #61         |
| Kirby Weik            | form. memb. Litchfield #107 |
| Marjorie Gavitt       | N. Stonington Grange #138   |
| Virginia Butler, G.S. | Riverton Grange #168        |
| Alfred E. Seifert     | Norwich Grange #172         |

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



*"You call me Teacher and Lord,  
and it is right that you do so,  
because that is what I am."* John 13:13 (GNB)

### EASTER JOY

Jesus came to earth,  
To show us how to live,  
How to put others first,  
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,  
That God sent Him to do;  
He took our punishment on Himself  
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,  
Calling angels from above,  
But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
But the cross did not destroy  
His resurrection on Easter morn  
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,  
Like His, is just a rest.  
We'll be forever with Him  
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
Think of Him in all we do,  
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs

*Have a Blessed Easter!*