



Happy
Valentine's Day

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



Connecticut Granger



Vol. 55, No. 5

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2015

Happy New Year to All!



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Since becoming State Master I have returned to reading the Manual looking for parts that would reflect a better understanding into the Grange Ritual. At the close of the opening charge in the Installation Ceremony, the Installing Officer states "We ask none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow being, but to all interested in Agriculture, who have generous hearts and open hands to help the needy, raise the fallen and aid in making the labors of this life cheerful, we say "Welcome to the Grange". As I reflect on this charge it reminds me of the Harmony in the Grange resolution from the 2014 State Grange Session, that was to be read at all Granges. We accept anyone and will work with everyone for the betterment of our Order.

I have been forced to use Facebook to visit with people and help Hank type his activities. I was hesitant with this task, but have found it to be a great resource for getting the word out on what we do. Though I threaten to de-friend people for game type messages or funny videos,

I find that Granges utilize their Facebook pages with functions and activities that put the Granges out in the news. Please read up on the messages sent out by the members and committees that put information out on Facebook, but beware of what you write because we want positive posts.

We just finished the Northeast Leaders Conference, held in Portsmouth NH. Connecticut had a good showing of members. I found it interesting as a new State Master as to what is going on the Northeast region. I am on the trustees of the New England Grange Building, member of the 2018 National Grange Convention committee, hosted in Rhode Island. Our committee members found interesting information for the upcoming year's programs. So stay tuned for more on activities.

This January has pelted us with frigid temperatures and rainy to sleet nights very little snow (knock on wood), so I hope we take into consideration our member's safety on meeting nights. A shout out to Betty Jane Gardiner who slipped on the snow in her driveway when I brought her home from NE Leaders, after a great weekend we didn't expect to spend 7hrs at Hartford Hospital ER for a bump on the head and three staples, but we are family and that's what we do. Best wishes and speedy recovery.

I am pleased to see the number of Winter Farmers Markets that are in our Grange Hall, what a great opportunity to get new members and visit with people and get our message out there. Keep up the good work and any other Granges looking for information on how they can do this contact those Granges, they are willing to help you get started.

In talking with members about the Grange and where they see us in the future, I hear that new members coming in are left on their own to get familiar with running a Grange meeting. We should have mentors assigned to new members so they have someone to go to with questions. If we take them in and leave new members on their own they can become frustrated and not come back. Give them an old Manual to read and see the lessons that the Degrees have to offer, go with them to see a Degree Day to witness the degrees. Lecturers add a ritual night to your program, but make it fun, so new members get more information on how we run our meetings. Make them feel welcome and appreciated for joining the Grange. Remember "ours is truly a social Order-one in which all can find something to enjoy"

Happy Valentine Day and remember Presidents Day. Stay Warm.

Veterans receive Grange donation



Katie Molodich and Link Cooper of Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 present a check to the Veteran's Home in Jewett City, an ongoing project of the Grange.

Grange Healthcare Options

The National Grange has a variety of policies on health care which lead us to support some principles and oppose others in the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). This notification is not meant to support or oppose any particular aspect of the Act. Its sole purpose is to alert Grange Members of the February 15, 2015 deadline to enroll in health coverage plans if they need to or want to.

DECISION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15 SIGN UP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE OR PAY TAX LEVIES FOR NO INSURANCE

The Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) requires most people have health insurance coverage or pay a fee to the federal government. Options for coverage are private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

If you already have insurance or acquired insurance in 2014, you do not have to re-enroll. If you do not have health insurance after February 15, 2015, you will be subject to a penalty of either, 1) 2% of your income or, 2) \$325 per adult and \$162.50 per child, whichever is higher for 2015.

For those who did not have health insurance coverage during 2014, you will be assessed a penalty fee with your 2014 federal tax return. You'll pay the higher of 1% of income or \$95 per person and 47.50 per child. The fee is set to increase every year. You might be eligible for an exemption from the fee if affordable health plans were not available to you, if you had only a short gap in coverage, or other possible exemptions might apply.

Continued on page 2

100th Northeast Lecturer's Conference

Marge Bernhardt,
State Lecturer

The 100th ANNUAL NORTH EAST GRANGE LECTURERS CONFERENCE will be held August 3, 4, & 5, 2015, at Saint Joseph's College in Standish, Maine. This is northwest of Portland on Sebago Lake. The overall theme of the conference will be 100 YEARS OF.... Connecticut's program will be 100 Years of Education.

If you have any suggestions or want to volunteer to be in the program I would love to hear from you. Other programs will be 100 Years of Transportation, Discovery, Leisure Activities, Agriculture, Music and Literature.

The cost of the conference will be \$190 Double or \$200 Single. This is less than the price last year. We are looking for memories you would like to share about

past conferences and any
Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

Central No. 1	9
Quinebaug No. 2	10
East Central No. 3	3
Mountain County No. 4	4
New Haven County No. 5 . . 5	
New London County No. 6 . . 6	
Excelsior No. 7	7
Fairfield County No. 9	8

Next Issue...

March
St. Patrick's Day

Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on Feb. 5.



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

Scan this QR
Code and join
us on the web!



Pink Sash Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015

Deputies @ 12 P.M.

General Meeting @ 2 P.M.*

**All Members Welcome*

National Grange Legislative Update

Burton Eller, Leg. Director The New Congress Begins

Congress arrived back in Washington this week for the First Session of the 114th Congress. Newly elected Senators and Representatives were sworn in, got seated on committees, found their assigned desk (Senate) or seat (House) on the Senate or House floor in the Capitol Building and began their trek to become Washington “insiders”. Both sides of Capitol Hill are now controlled by Republican majorities for 2015-2016, 54-46 in the Senate and 247-188 in the House. This greatly increases the likelihood that more bills will pass both chambers and be sent to the President. It also increases the likelihood that the President will keep his veto pen handy. During the recent 113th Congress with Democrats controlling the Senate and Republicans controlling the House and neither party willing to compromise, bills seldom reached the President’s desk to be signed into law or to be vetoed.

The 114th Congress will be the most diverse in history. A record number of 104 female lawmakers will serve with 46 black lawmakers, 33 Hispanic lawmakers, twelve Asian-American lawmakers and two of Native American ancestry. The vast majority are Protestant or Catholic, along with 16 Mormons, 28 Jewish-Americans, two Buddhists, two Muslims and one Hindu. Professionally, lawyers lead the pack at 184; 27 have healthcare backgrounds, 13 come from agriculture and three are former aviators including the first female pilot to fly in combat. Many have served in other public service positions; 10 have been governors, 32 were mayors and 251 served in state legislatures.

Cuba

Last month, the President called for ending the embargo on Cuba and announced a series of executive actions to increase trade that would allow Cuba, with an abysmal credit record, to pay for agricultural commodities through a third-country bank. Several U.S. agricultural, cooperative and agribusiness groups have formed the U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba to support the initiative. There remains strong resistance in Congress to ending the embargo. Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), the son of Cuban immigrants and outgoing chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is critical of the “secret diplomacy” negotiations that gave up things the Castro regime wanted without securing assurances for human rights and political dissidence there.

Establishing diplomatic relations right now will be difficult.

Keystone Pipeline

The oil pipeline’s first three construction phases from Canada to the Gulf are practically complete. Current controversy centers on phase four known as Keystone XL which is proposed to connect Hardisty, Alberta to Steele City, Nebraska with a 36 inch pipe transporting up to 830,000 barrels of crude per day from Canada, Montana and North Dakota to refineries in Illinois and Texas. This final phase has generated controversy because of routing over the Ogallala Aquifer in Nebraska and complaints from landowners of eminent domain abuse. The President has threatened veto of legislation approving XL.

Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)

After five years, major components of the law are being worked out for the first time. Persons who do not have health care insurance by February 15 face a fine of \$325 or two percent of family income, whichever is higher. Businesses with at least 100 employees will be forced to offer insurance in 2015 and companies with 50-100 employees must follow suit in 2016. Family doctors who treat Medicaid patients will see reimbursements drop 43% starting now causing some doctors to turn away patients. More than 270,000 doctors and 200 hospitals are experiencing funding cuts for failing to meet new government mandates for electronic medical records. The stakes are high in 2015. While chances of repeal are slim, expect Congress to attempt substantial changes to the Affordable Care Act.

Food

The 114th Congress will deal with more than the food on their plates. A thorough review of school lunch requirements under the 2010 Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act will be a high priority. In implementing this Act, the USDA required schools to serve more vegetables, fruits and whole grains with much less fat, salt and sweeteners. The unintended consequences coming to light now are huge increases in plate waste, reductions in students’ usage of cafeteria services and operating losses on food operations for school districts. School cafeteria professionals are asking for more flexibility.

The government issues dietary guidelines every five years to encourage Americans to eat healthier. These guidelines are routinely integrated into school lunch meal patterns and other

federal feeding programs. This year’s version may include what’s supposedly healthy for the environment as well. An advisory panel to USDA and Health and Human Services is expected to recommend “compatibility and overlap” between what’s good for health and good for the environment. Introducing undefined “sustainability” into nutrition guidance by the federal government raises scientific and policy issues for Congress oversight.

Food labeling will be on the agenda for several Congressional committees. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will have to defend its new rule requiring calorie labeling at chain restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores and theaters. The Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) labeling debate will certainly continue. Following Vermont’s passage of mandatory GMO labeling requirements and several close votes on state ballot initiatives, several Democrat and Republican members of the House are considering legislation would prevent states from setting their own standards while reiterating FDA’s authority over food labeling. At the same time, public policy gurus are asking that instead of demanding foods be labeled as possibly containing GMOs, why are activists not asking for labels on foods that can be certified not contain GMO ingredients?

Trade

Trade agreements may be the most promising area of cooperation between the President and both Republicans and Democrats on the Hill. Washington has not been able to agree on a major bipartisan trade agreement in the last 20 years. Fast-track Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), the Tran-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) all have a shot of moving in 2015. The U.S. food production chain from producers to agribusiness to processors and manufacturers are mostly quite supportive trade pacts that give the American business a fair opportunity to buy and sell abroad.

Tax Reform

Tax reform has bipartisan support around the idea that existing tax laws need major reform. How those reforms will take place, though, is another question. Can Republicans, Democrats and the White House agree in some of the most controversial areas needing major reform? Three specific tax provisions will likely get the most attention over the next couple years.

Corporate Tax Rates. Republican leaders and President Obama both support reducing the current top tax rate of 35%, which is the highest among nations with the world’s largest economies, to the 25-28% range. The devil will be in the details and the specific ways to keep the various proposals overall impact revenue - neutral could become major sticking points.

International Taxes. Tax treatment of multinational corporations has become a huge issue. Major multinational U.S. corporations are using tax-motivated strategies to shift their tax homes, and therefore their taxes on profits, to more favorable foreign jurisdictions. Any tax reform package will likely seek long term solutions to this loop hole.

Individual Income Taxes. The Republican Congress wants to restore the lower individual tax rates that expired at the end of 2012. Yet the general population appears to be sharply divided on whether tax hikes or cuts make better economic policy at this time. The last major comprehensive tax reform compromise back in 1986 used a combination of lower rates and reduced tax breaks to spur both sides to the bargaining table.

Gas Taxes. Congress may be open to negotiating a gas tax increase in order to pay for

the highway infrastructure bill that expires in May.

Immigration

Immigration activists on all sides will be pushing Congress to legislate comprehensive immigration reform. Last month, a federal judge in Pennsylvania ruled parts of President Obama’s immigration executive actions violated the separation of powers provided for in the Constitution. Several more legal challenges, including one by two-dozen states, are pending before federal courts.

Perspective

Most major legislative initiatives will be offered early in 2015. Some will be confrontational between the President and Congress but the two ends of Pennsylvania will likely agree on others. The biggest window of opportunity to actually get something done is between now and the August recess. Several loose legislative ends will get wrapped up this fall. Politics and legislative opportunities take odd turns in a presidential election year and 2016 is a presidential election year. In addition, several senators and governors will be in the presidential hunt and unwilling to take unnecessary political risks. Do not expect a lot of major policies to be adopted in 2016.

Grange Healthcare

Continued from page one...

Additional information is attached to help Grangers with their decision process. The Health Insurance Marketplace is a way to find health coverage that might fit your budget and meet your needs. You can connect to Marketplace by phone at 1-800-318-2596 or online at Healthcare.gov. Many communities have organizations and individuals that can help you apply, choose a plan, and answer questions. A list of help in your local area can be found at Find Local Help-URL: <https://localhelp.healthcare.org> or by calling 1-800-318-2596.

You are encouraged to ask your local Grange Youth members to help you and others in your community navigate these web sites. This activity will qualify them for the Gold Seal for the Caroline Hall Achievement Award. Just have them get a letter of verification from a member of their subordinate Grange stating their work with the program.

Lecturer's Conf.

Continued from page one...

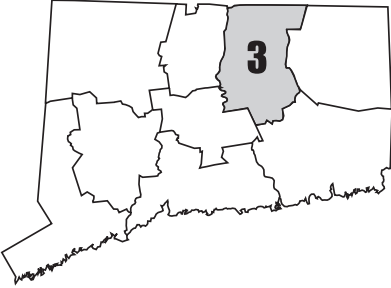
mementoes you may be willing to share with us. Again, please see me.

The college is right on the lake and has its’ own beach we can use free of charge or for a fee you can swim in their pool. All buildings and rooms will be air conditioned.

The plan is to make this a special event to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. I will be mailing out information as soon as I receive it in early May. Hope you can set those dates aside and plan on celebrating with all of us.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 22, AT 2:00 p.m. A LECTURERS’ MEETING will be held at Cheshire Grange Hall. In the past, this has been for Pomona Lecturers only. This year we are inviting all Grangers to come and help us plan our year ahead. Hope to see you there...

East Central Pomona No. 3



Stafford No. 1
Granby No. 5
✓ Glastonbury No. 26
Manchester No. 31
✓ 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.

E. CENTRAL POMONA #3
Corr: Noel Miller
Feb. 7: Vernon Special Meeting; Host Vernon and Stafford
Canceled January 3 meeting due to icy weather, good call 6:00 I-84 sheet of ICE. Come out and visit Vernon has a Elevator for all to use. Planning a Degree Day March 21 at Goodwill Grange Hall let us know it you can help or want to witness the four degrees, we will even feed you, come out for a fun day.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26
Corr: Kay Ruff
Feb. 5: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Love Letters
Feb. 14: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.
Mar. 5: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Welcome Spring
Mar. 7: Glastonbury #26 Hosts East Central #3
Mar. 14: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

As I am preparing this article for the Granger it is December 28th. We certainly have been lucky so far with no snow to have to shovel or plow. I sure hope we don't get a severe storm in January and/or February.
February 5th we will meet at 7:30 P.M. and the Lecturer's Program is Love Letters. She is thinking Valentine's Day. Try to attend to see what she has planned. The refreshment committee is Dan and Ann Posuniak and Jeannine Carini.
February 14 is our monthly card party at 7:00

P.M. Try to attend and bring a friend. These card parties help pay our rent and other bills. We do need support from the membership.
March 5th we will meet at 7:30 P.M. and the program is "Welcome Spring." The refreshments are Potluck Desserts, K. Ruff Chairman.
March 7th. Glastonbury Grange is scheduled to host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange Hall at 43 Naubuc Ave. Meeting is 7:30 P.M. There are three Glastonbury members that attend Pomona on a regular basis. We would love to see a few more of our members attending.
March 14th- Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.
April 2nd. Meeting 7:30 P.M. Eggs and Bunnies. CWA Baking Contest judging and skit contest. Refreshments: The Grommecks & Taffy Hyppa.
VERNON GRANGE #52
Corr: Noel Miller
Feb. 6: "You can have your chocolate and eat it, too!"
In January, we learned about peanuts and peanut butter. We even sneaked it into the reports from the Health and Wellness Committee, the CWA and Bills and Accounts. This meeting will be all about chocolate and you can be sure it will show up everywhere!
Wewelcomemembers from Tolland Grange #52

who have joined our Grange – Dorothy Dimmock, Joyce Jordan, Elizabeth Robertson, George Kotowicz, Calvin Wilcox (who called from California!), Bernice and Bob West. We hope that others might come our way.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75
Corr: Noel Miller
Feb. 5: Valentines Day, Darby refreshments
Surviving cold man winter. We have a vender looking to up our parking lot for a food cart, hoping her well but advised them of the risk due to the realignment of the town road and driveway. Wish her luck! Wishing Sister Alice Williams on her 101 Birthday January 18th Best wishes and many more. To all our shut in you are in our thoughts. Come on early spring.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151
Corr: Irene Percoski
Feb: Cards for Military – Ref: Irene & Elaine
Mar. 14: Talent and A Number – Ref: Jim & Dawn

Our December cookie exchange was a big success as was the hot soup, crackers and cheese lunch. We had a good collection of coats to donate to the needy and several donations to the food bank. The Enfield Day Care was thrilled to accept the large bag of hats, mittens and scarves which we donate every year. Many of the children don't have anything for cold weather wear and they love to get something new just for them.
This month we will be writing and sending cards and letters out to the military. Our garden plans are forming up well and as soon as the ground is ready we should be too. We love company so please come and visit.



Granby Grange recently purchased a bus (shown above) to help members get to and from meetings and activities.



Faith Quinlan receives insructions from Winchester Grange Secretary Susan Addison after receiving the Obligation Ceremony at the January 13 meeting.

We welcome the following new members who have joined Connecticut Granges during the last three months:

Faith Quinlan.	Winchester #74
Patricia Wata (joining from Maine by demit) .	Winchester #74
William Root	Coventry #75
Catherine Root	Coventry #75
Melody Wright	Litchfield #107
Lynne Alexander	Litchfield #107
Deneen Bernier	Litchfield #107
Karl Ebner	Litchfield #107
Jessica Falwell	Litchfield #107
James Fischer	Litchfield #107
Andrew Graves	Litchfield #107
Richard Grinvalsky.	Litchfield #107
Joan Spear	Litchfield #107
Barbara Putnam	Litchfield #107
Deborah J. Laws	Litchfield #107
Jonathan Wilson	Litchfield #107
Alicia North.	Litchfield #107
Joann M. Andrews	Litchfield #107
William E. Whittle	Litchfield #107
John Post	Litchfield #107
Ruth Allen	Killingly #112
Carrie Carter	Killingly #112
Virginia Kieth	Killingly #112
Bruce Kohl	Killingly #112
Krystal Bezio	Beacon #118
Danny Bezio	Beacon #118
Lucy Greco	Bethlehem #121
Bernard Bartick	N. Stonington #138
Claudia Sopstyle	Enfield #151
Jennifer Mastroianni.	Bridgewater #153
Andrew W. Perry	Stonington #168
Joanna Petrone	Stonington #168
Robert Cornell Sr.	Stonington #168
Sandra Dart.	Stonington #168
Kristopher Dorsett	Stonington #168
Mary Anne Manley	Stonington #168
Lynda Newell	Oxford #194
Christine McCrystal	Oxford #194

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

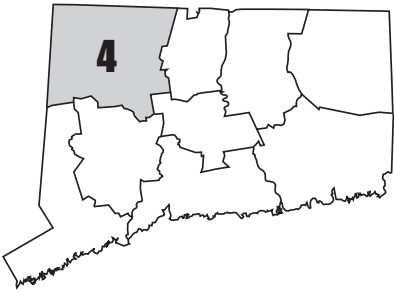
DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell

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

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

Feb. 9: Eureka Grange Hall

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9 at Eureka Grange Hall. It's our first meeting since December (we take off January). The meeting will begin at 7:30 and we would love to see you there!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Feb. 10: Valentine's Day, Country Store; Ref. Sara Bement

Feb. 24: President's Birthdays, Ref. Sue Addison

Congratulations to Faith Quinlan, the newest member of Winchester Grange. Faith received the Obligation Ceremony at the Jan. 13 meeting and looks forward to receiving the four degrees in April. We also officially welcome Pat Wata who comes to us from the Maine State Grange. She originally belonged to Hope Grange in Torrington, then moved to Maine. So we welcome her back to Connecticut and know she will be a great addition to our Grange.

The dates have been set for the first few of our late winter/early spring activities.

Our Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 28 from 9 to 2 P.M.

The Spring Super Prize Party (Giant Tea Cup Auction) will be held on

Friday, April 17 with the doors opening at 6 and drawing to begin at 7. Cards will be sale for the low price of \$1 each.

The annual Spring Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, May 23. We can always use donations of items to sell at this event so keep us in mind when you are doing your spring cleaning.

As expected with the winter weather, donations to our clothing bin have declined recently. Please keep in mind that the bin is located at the hall just behind the Post Office and is available to accept donations 24 hours a day. Winchester Grange receives a percentage of each pound of clothing donated. Donate to a worthy cause and support Winchester Grange at the same time!

LITCHFIELD GRANGE #107

Corr: Todd Gelineau

The new members of Litchfield Grange met in late January for a potluck supper to get to know each other before electing officers. As a result, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 12 at Litchfield Grange Hall, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Election of Officers and Installation will take place, and then they will be ready to begin working on projects and setting their agenda for their first year of work as the new Litchfield Grange. Please feel free to visit. They love company!

Membership

Ted Beebe, Membership Committee

The membership committee met in December. We have all the material for the Blue Book ready. You will find all of our contests in it. What our Pomonas are doing:

East Central Pomona will have a Degree Day on March 21 at Good Will Hall, 43 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. We will start in the morning and do all four degrees and end with a potluck supper at the end. All have taken the welcome ceremony or the obligation ceremony and should witness the first four degrees. All are welcome to observe the degrees.

New London County Pomona will have a Degree Day on April 19 at North Stonington Grange Hall beginning at 1:00 P.M. They will confer all four degrees and then have a potluck supper. Let us know if you have any questions.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Restoring Grange memories

by Robert Charbonneau, PR Co-Director

On our www.ctstategrange.org site we've continued to update and expand the Grange Scrapbook section. This section includes photos and items of historical significance, photos of past events, and scanned photos / panoramas from as far back as 100 years ago. These photos were scanned in to create digital copies. We are continually on the look out for photos. They are added to our Scrapbook so we can share those photos with everyone who visits our CT State Grange website.

Some of the photos we've received in the past four years came to us faded, scratched and

in varying degrees of damage. We have the ability of taking damaged photos we've received and perform digital photo restoration. Some of the restorations performed to-date have included Grange events, panoramas, and old-fashioned photography. Restoring the photos means the details of it are strengthened, which in some cases may bring out important information about not only the foreground of the image, but the background.

One of our latest finds was included in a photo collection supplied to us by Janet Haller. This collection included a photograph of an event from 1910 of a Meriden /

Wallingford Grange picnic held at Spruce Glenn Falls. This included a group shot of over 200 Grange and family members, a poem and a postcard commemorating the event.

If you have a collection of Grange photos (and even newspaper clippings) which you would like us to scan, please contact us (publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) so we can make arrangements for scanning. We would then scan in these photos and return the original photos back to you.

Please also include information with the photos so we can accurately add in description to each photo.

Riverton Grange No. 169



Tonight we celebrated the 107th Anniversary of our Grange, with CT State Grange Lecture Marge Bernhardt making a presentation to Shirley Moore. Shirley's picture placed 1st at the state level and represented CT in The National Grange photo contest.

Anniversary dinners are always fun for us. Everyone sits at a table by their birthday month. A special thank you to Tilly Jackson, Sharon Russell, Raine Peterson and Sally Dewey for preparing these tables for us. After dinner we were all entertained with our 2nd Annual a - number contest, where everyone took part. We had three great numbers but awarded our trophy to group #3 and their National Agriculture Bank skit.

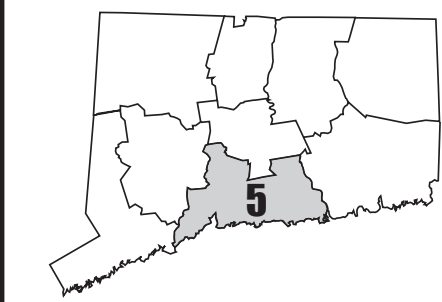
We finished up the evening listening to the beautiful singing and guitar playing of Sally Dewey. Now people are already asking us to bring her back again.

So. CT Past Masters

Southern Connecticut Past Masters will hold their February meeting on the 14th at Oxford Grange. The theme of the program being presented by Vice President is "Be My Valentine." The meeting just happens to fall on the right date.

Our meeting starts with a potluck supper served promptly at 6:30, followed by a short meeting when the dishes are done, an entertaining program and if you are lucky you might win something on the Country Store. Come and join us.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



✓ Cheshire No. 23

✓ Wallingford No. 33

✓ North Haven No. 35

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
Mar. 9: Regular meeting at Wallingford. Program: Young at Heart.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23
Corr: A. Ruel Miller
Feb. 4: Open Meeting. Box Supper at 6 P.M.
Feb. 18: When is a Weed Not a Weed

We started off the New Year with a presentation by Jon Hauser, the grandson of Marge Bernhardt, who spoke on his trip to England and France this past summer. It was quite an experience for this young man. Our crafts nights will start up shortly as we prepare items for the convalescent homes for the upcoming annual holidays and for Christmas 2015.

We have scheduled our first meeting for our 2015 Cheshire Grange Community Fair, and our committee is making plans for our annual Corned Beef Dinner set for March 14th. Tickets are available.

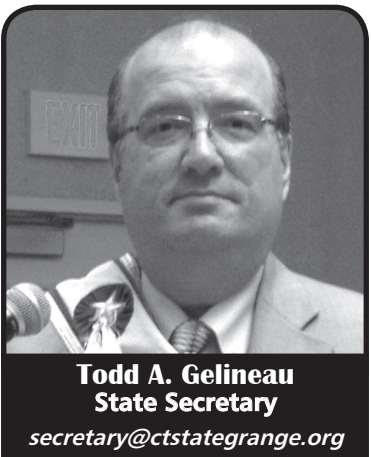
WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33
Corr: Dan Lauttenbach
Feb 12: “Trivia Night” Ref: Jane
Feb 26: “Winter Tales of Connecticut” Ref: Marcia

November 13–“Cooking Demonstration” by Robin and Anne. Prior to this meeting, Anne handed out recipes that she asked us to try out and either bring the results to the next meeting or tell about them. These recipes were from an old Wallingford Grange cookbook titled “Choice Recipes” from the 1900’s. The recipes only listed the ingredients and the amounts but no cooking times or temperatures. At the time this cookbook was

published, most people were cooking on wood or coal stoves. So it wasn’t like you could set the temperature of the oven like we do today. Some people did alright with them; whereas others had mixed results. I fell in the latter category. I followed the instructions to a ‘T’ but I was thinking dry ingredients. So when the coffee cake recipe called for a cup of coffee, I literally put a full cup of ground coffee in. So needless to say this tended to dry out the dough and I had to add more water than the recipe called for. When I baked it, I scoured some recipe books to get a temperature and time. It baked okay, but I went just a few minutes over my estimated time and the very top of it got very over cooked. I scraped that part of it off and salvaged the rest of it. It actually tasted pretty good. But when compared with what Anne and others did, it was obvious I did something wrong and then it dawned on me, the cup of coffee! I think it was called “Power-House” cake afterwards. Anne Cella demonstrated making micro-wave English muffin bread and it came out looking like and tasting like English muffins! While the bread was baking, Robin McCoy demonstrated an easy to make Tuna Spinach dip which was then used on slices of English muffin bread and crackers for refreshments afterwards. Needless to say the refreshments were tasty and interesting.

December 18th. Our original meeting for Dec 11 was postponed to Dec 18th due to icy conditions. Our annual Christmas Program: Before the meeting started, everyone

signed about 30+ Christmas cards for the residents of the Regency House. Robin and Anne made the cards by hand. At our last meeting we also had signed cards for Thanksgiving for the residents of Regency House. Robin and Anne said that the residents were thrilled with receiving the cards at Thanksgiving. The Christmas cards that we signed were going to the long term care residents. We then exchange our own Christmas cards with each other and had our business meeting. Janet mentioned that last Saturday she and Mel stopped by the hall to pick up the donated food and toys to deliver them



My thanks to all of the Secretaries who have paid their dues and sent in their bonding payments promptly. Prompt payment is extremely important to the State Grange at this time of year with many year end expenses impacting our cash flow. There are, however, a good number of Granges who have not yet sent in their dues or bonding.

In the case of bonding, we are required to send in one check to National Grange for all of the Granges that will be covered under the policy making it necessary for us to collect all of the money in advance of sending in that check. We really need to hear from all Granges as soon as possible to get our bonding complete for 2015.

In the case of Quarterly Reports/Dues- there are also quite a few Granges who have not yet reported. We remind all Granges that per Delegate vote, a 1% per month fee will be charged to all Granges who have not sent in their dues payments within 30 days of the close of the quarter. For the December quarter, that means January 31.

We have received notice from the National Grange that there will be a shipping charge added to all orders for seals and certificates. Silver Stars and seals can be ordered directly through the

to Holiday for Giving. Jim, Lisa, Janet, Robin and Anne attended the Association of Connecticut fairs meeting. Anne was elected to the board for local fairs and she won an honorable mention in the state baking contest. It was mentioned that we start thinking about getting Fair Ads for this coming year. I had a real hard time getting our phone service back after an error in billing by AT&T and then getting Frontier to get us re-connected again. After the close of the meeting, we had our grab bag and delicious deserts with my favorite Christmas cookies!

NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35
Corr: A. Tolette
Feb. 3: Famous February

My calendar is acting up again. It goes too fast. Can’t seem to get Grange news ready on time. Not too much to report. Congratulations to Emily and John Alexander for their awards at State Session. We are enjoying this “balmy” weather. If it stays close to this maybe we will not need to postpone or cancel meetings. But this is New England.

State Secretary

Connecticut State Grange Central Office but there is a fee of \$2.50 when ordered through National. \$3.50 must be added to all orders for Golden Sheaf and 75 year awards. I would advise all Secretaries to add these fees to the order forms they may have. Checks for these awards must be made out to the National Grange, so I will be forced to return checks that do not include the fees or have to wait until a supplemental check

is sent to us before ordering the seals/certificates. The Worthy Treasurer and I have been talking recently about the possibility of creating a Grange Store for the Connecticut State Grange where you can purchase items in a way that you can from National. If you have an idea for an item that we may be able to offer, please send it along. We would love to hear your ideas.

A Story with a Moral

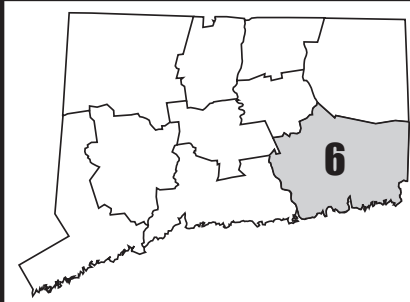


(From the Arkansas Granger)

A Granger was hunting in the forest when a terrible storm came up. He looked for shelter, but there was none. It was beginning to rain and soon it was coming down in torrents. He spied a hollow log and crawled into it. It fit snugly. The rain lasted for hours and the water soaked through the wood. The log began to contract. The storm let up and the man tried to get out, but could not. No matter how hard he strained, it was to no avail. The log held him tight. He knew he would die of starvation unless he could free himself. Suddenly, his whole life flashed before him, especially his mistakes, and he remembered he had not paid his Grange dues. That made him feel so SMALL that he was able to crawl out of the log. MORAL: Do not let your dues accumulate until you are in a “tight pinch.” Have you paid your 2015 dues yet???

(Originally printed in 1969)

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 #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Feb. 14: Movie Night with Potluck Dinner- Norwich
Mar. 14: Talent Show – N. Stonington

We enjoyed a pleasant evening at Norwich Grange on December 10, celebrating the holidays. It was decided to have a Degree Day on April 19 at 1:00, followed by a potluck dinner. If you are interested in participating, please contact Master, Debbie Barnes. Rehearsal will be on April 12 at 1:00. Any member who has not received or observed the four Subordinate Degrees should attend.

Please celebrate Valentine's Day with us at Norwich Grange. The movie of the evening will be "The Butler." As Cecil Gaines serves eight Presidents during his tenure as a butler in the White House, the civil rights movement, Vietnam and other major events affect this man's life, family and American society." The potluck dinner begins at 5:00 P.M. This will be followed by the movie, complete with popcorn and candy.

Calling all talent and A Numbers. Our March 14 meeting will hold the run-offs of these two contests. Contact your Lecturer for details.

Bake up your favorite recipe,

Bring it to Norwich at five.

Enjoy the dinner and movie,

It's just a delightful drive.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Our Grange held a shorter than usual meeting this month due to inclement weather. We welcomed our frequent guest, Lois Evankow, Flora of East Central, and Lecturer for Lyme Grange. Thanks to Lois for always providing informative and fun lecturers programs for us. They are very much appreciated.

We did receive a thank you from the Veterans program that we, along with

Colchester Ladies Auxiliary # 6993, and members of our community sponsored for Christmas gifts. We were happy to hear the Veterans received the items from their wish lists and were so appreciative for all their gifts. This is a very rewarding project for our Grange and we all enjoy contributing.

We also received a thank you from the Colchester Land Trust for our recent donation to their organization.

Our volunteer efforts continue with our cooking activity at Harrington Court and Bingo at Apple Rehabilitation Center. These activities are very much enjoyed by the residents of both facilities. We also continue to contribute to the Willimantic and St Andrew's food Banks.

All you travelers out there don't forget to contact Cathy Russi our CWA representative for two great trips being offered for the 2015-16 year. For music lovers there will be a trip to American Music Cities to include Nashville, Memphis and New Orleans October 16-23rd of this year. The second is a trip to the Panama Canal for March 2016. Everyone stay warm and think Spring!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Feb. 13: "Flabbergasted"
Feb. 27: "Shock"

At this writing the February programs look like this. The first meeting will be an Officer Exchange Night and Ritual Quiz. The last time we did this we had three gentlemen sitting at the Graces stations. Wonder who will draw Secretary? This is always an entertaining evening (still can't bring myself to use "fun" as an adjective), so please come. On the 27th we will have Andrew German talk to us about his book Privateers and Torpedo Men of Stonington.

Our Christmas party was a great success, with 26 North Stonington and 19 visitors present. The

live manger scene had the Tim Rose family as Mary and Joseph and nine-month old Mia as the baby. There were beautiful little angels with tinsel halos, three wise men and a shepherd. Then Santa arrived, to the delight of all the little ones present. Music for the evening was provided by Jenn Watrous, Reese Main and Sue Pianka on the piano, Noah Brown on the drum, and solos by Thurlow Coats, Jason Miner (accompanied by Cheree) Jim Patton, Bev Robertson, Marcia Smith and Nancy Weissmuller. A small but enthusiastic group caroled around town on the 19th delivering fruit baskets to members we miss. And if those nasty storms that have been hitting all around us will just stay away, next time I'll tell you all about jolly January.

LYME GRANGE #147

March 5: Juniors are hot tonight wearing of the green.

Apr. 2: Maundy Thu.- Omit
Apr. 9: Look what the March winds blew in! Invite your equal. Neighbor's Night.

Apr. 11: We host East Central Pomona at Good Will Grange – Supper & 5th Degree

Due to predicted extreme cold, windy weather, we postponed our meeting from Jan. 8 to Jan. 15. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and not be so severe. That's the joy of owning your own building, you can re-arrange things at will. Our building is very old and with no insulation, it makes our furnace work hard with little results.

We hope everyone had a happy, healthy holiday and that 2015 will be a wonderful year for all.

You know what they say, "when the days begin to lengthen the cold begins to strengthen." How true!!

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

Norwich Grange had the Janaury meeting and is still collecting soda tabs and box tops for education to help local charities. The Grange also donated food to the local soup kitchen. The Grange had a program on a Calendar Quiz and President's Day Quiz. Prizes were given to the most knowledgeable Grangers.

The Grange will be hosting a family movie night in February. The Grangers will be making gifts for a rest home in the Norwich Area in March.

Social Connection



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Having been re-appointed to this committee by State Master Noel Miller, our committee has come up with two (we hope) fun activities. As we all miss the Connecticut Agricultural Fair, our first activity will be a fun fair titled Hi! Ho! Come to the Fair!. This will be held at the Prospect Senior Center on Saturday, May 16th. Please mark this date in your appointment book. We need your help as we have a minimum count.

Supper will be a catered fair supper and I guarantee the best hot dogs you have ever tasted. We have many items on our menu. Our food stand will be open from 5:30 to 8:30 P.M. So you can eat whenever you are hungry. All for the low price of \$10.

Fair premium books and tickets will be available shortly. In the next Granger we will tell you more of our plans.

Our Reach Out project this year is to help our disabled servicemen. We are asking each Grange to fill a shoe box of items needed by these servicemen. These will be given to the West Haven Veterans Hospital.

Family Activities



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

Cold weather is the perfect time to work on those needlework and craft projects. Take the time to check your work. Do you have loose threads hanging out? Is your piece clean? Is the back of your embroidery visible? Ask a friend to look it over a new set of eyes will pick out things you may have missed. Have fun and be creative. Think Spring.

The CWA regional meeting originally scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at Hillstown Grange was cancelled. The remaining packets that were not picked up at this Regional will be sent out to the Granges as soon as possible.

Farmer's Market

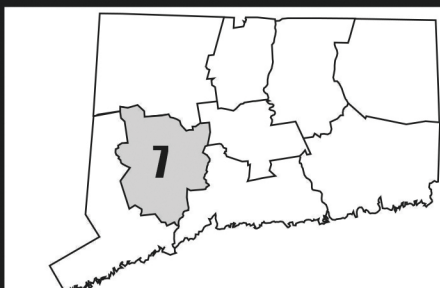


A scene from the Greenfield Hill Farmer's Market

Oxford Grange Chili Cook-Off

The Oxford Grange Chili Cook-Off is under way and we are looking for chili entries to register with us. Entry registration is \$5.00. Event will be 6:00 PM, 02/28/15. Call Rob or Maggie at 203-267-6796 for info. Dinner tickets will be \$7.00 each and available for pre-sale from members or by mail. Send a check for tickets to us at: Robert Buck, 116 N Georges Hill Rd, Southbury, CT 06488. Tickets will be held for pick-up at the Grange Hall the night of the event.

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.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our February meeting is on the 13th. "The Love Boat" is the title of the program to be presented by Lecturer Cindy Legg. Pat and Ron Fischer will be in charge of refreshments.

Just a reminder to our members that on Saturday, May 2 we will have a tag sale. This is a good way our members who are unable to attend meetings can help us. So when you do your spring cleaning remember our tag sale.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Once the plants and fruit baskets and cookies were delivered to our shut ins and the Christmas tray favors and Christmas Cards made and delivered to the Paridgrim Health Care Center it was time to look toward new projects. The New Year promises changes and more new projects for Prospect Grange. We hope all our Grange family and

friends had a great holiday season.

We had 36 present at our Open house and awards day where State Master Noel Miller presented Minnie Wolvek with her 25 year certificate, Ronald Shea with his 50 year certificate and Frances and William Maxwell with their 60 year seals and Florine Wheeler with her 70 year seal. Congratulations to all. As the 25 and 50 year pins were at the Post Office the pins were presented at a later day.

Minnie Wolvek was presented with her 25 year membership pin at the Christmas Party by Master Tim Meehan.

We are planning a Heritage Day event in our town for around April or May with all the businesses in town involved. We hope this event goes well. It will take the help of all of our community to make it a success.

We are always looking for help and new members.



Happy New Year Grange Friends!

I began 2015 by watching the Rose Parade with my host family. We had so much fun! There were a lot of horses this year.

But we quickly went from relaxing to Grange work when we went to Glastonbury Grange on January 8th. It was a chilly evening at only 17 degrees! I got to help present some awards and meet some new friends!

We then traveled to New Hampshire to the Northeast Leaders Conference. It was great to catch up with all of the Grange Herd members in attendance, and see all of my Grange friends too! The Youth Committee took my measurements while I was there... hmmm... wonder what they are up to?

On January 19th we trekked southwest to Greenfield Hill Grange, where we helped them initiate new members to their ranks. Congratulations and welcome new Grangers!!

I love to visit and make new friends! Invite me to your Grange meeting or event! I want to meet as many of you as I can! Send me an invitation to my email: HanktheBurro@ctstategrange.org.

Keep an eye out for me as I travel around the State, and be sure to say Hello!



Master Tim Meehan presents Minnie Wolvek with her 25 Year Silver Star pin at the Christmas Party of Prospect Grange.

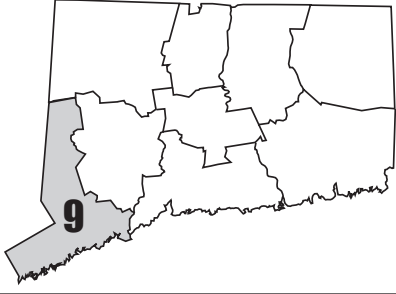


Prospect Grange member Jean Meehan (right) presents tray favors to a staff member at Paradigm Health Care recently.



Prospect Grange

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

The Christmas Boutique was a success. We had an excellent day, weatherwise, and with several events occurring in the area, attendance was very good. Many of the items on display were sold. The hot soups and sandwiches, sold in the kitchen, were well received. A big thank you to our dedicated members and others who donated their time and talents to make the Boutique successful.

Our Christmas Party was a huge success also. The food was plentiful and was enjoyed by all. We had some invited guests who may become members. Geno and Karen from Redding Grange did a couple of the skits they had done at our last Pomona Christmas Party which were enjoyed by all.

Our activities for the next few months will focus on getting new members and on observing our 125th anniversary. At our next meeting, we will establish a date so we can schedule the events we will have.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich
Feb. 14: Candy Making/ Junior Activity, 10 A.M. – 12 Noon
Feb. 14: Sweetheart Dance, 7 P.M. (Doors Open at 6:30 P.M.)
Feb. 16: “Seeds & Garden Planning”- 7 P.M. Meeting

December was a month for memories. The last Saturday of November found the future Junior Grangers decorating our hall’s Christmas tree and participating in a cookie baking and decorating session. Mid-month “Chef Steve,” our Lecturer Steve Golias, had a Hungarian cookie making demo which brought talents and tears as well as strong memories from participants.

Our Christmas party took place on the evening of our regular meeting.

It was complete with light food offerings, carols sung by members which were accompanied by our Secretary on guitar and a guest on the violin!

As with uncertain weather time of year, we suggest those planning to attend, call ahead to one of our officers, or email us at greenfield133@gmail.com to confirm a cheduled date. As a rule, our regular 3rd Monday meetings are changed the Wednesday following in the event of a storm.

We will have a garden planning focus for our regular meeting. We are still in need of help with our March 21st Irish Night fundraiser. All are welcome!

NORFIELD GRANGE #146
Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox
Feb. 10: Valentine’s Day Celebration (\$5 Donation)

We honored Assistant Steward Steve Porter with a surprise party in December, serving chili and cake and potluck items... his first surprise party ever! After Christmas our Flora and high school senior Anna Kimberly launched the work on her Girl Scout project with volunteer help from Grange members, classmates and friends, to put in 47+ hours of labor towards building a Butterfly Garden and sanctuary at the Katharine Ordway Preserve near the Grange Hall. The group spent over 27 hours clearing the parking lot of brush, downed trees, etc. and enjoyed pizza snacks and drinks around the bonfires as they attended the burning brush and wood. This will allow the Preserve Steward and Norfield Grange member Mark Mainieri to mow the area to keep it free for visitors’ use. The next day a second group of volunteers came out and put in 20+ more hours to move brush, cut down dead trees, and repair stone walls. The

cleared field will then be transformed into a butterfly garden and sanctuary for endangered monarch butterflies and honey bees – our food pollinators!

CANNON GRANGE #152
Corr: Don Offinger
Feb 5: Keeping Backyard Chickens - 7 PM
Feb 19: Beekeeping as a Hobby - 7 PM
Mar 5: Cardiac Health & surviving a heart attack - 7 PM
Mar 19: Nutrition for a healthy lifestyle - 7 PM
April 2: Pot Luck Supper/ Neighbors’ Night - 6 PM

Some very interesting and informative programs are in the works for members and guests at Cannon Grange Hall during the next few months. If you’ve ever considered having chickens, come hear Cannon member, Bil Mikulewicz describe his set up with coop design, number of birds, and how to care for them so that they flourish as egg layers or fryers. There is nothing like a fresh egg! Beekeeping as a hobby will be fully discussed by our Lecturer, John Kriz. Beekeeping is a fascinating hobby, and as we all know bees play an integral role in pollination of many agricultural crops. Come hear how to set up and plan an apiary for maximum benefit.

Nancy Capelle, a friend of Cannon Grange, will be leading our March 5th program on Cardiac Health. Nancy miraculously survived a heart attack days after her 40th birthday, after which she and her family made some courageous changes in their lifestyle. She now conducts motivational seminars on heart healthy living. You will not want to miss this program where Nancy tells her story. Anyone at any age can suffer a heart attack. Nancy and Cannon Treasurer, Don Offinger, work together as EMTs with Wilton EMS.

Our first April meeting will be a Neighbors’ Night Pot Luck Supper. Please bring a main course dish to share.

Please note our event schedule. We hope you can come to any or all of these fascinating programs. They are part of our overall program of Living Well.

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



Ultimate Valentine Cake

Valentine’s Day is for sweethearts - so why not celebrate with a sweet treat! This recipe for the Ultimate Valentine Cake from Food.com can work for decadent Grange refreshments too!

Ingredients for Cake:

- 1 cup cake flour
- 14 tablespoons powdered sugar or 14 tablespoons confectioners’ sugar, divided in to 2 equal parts
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 pinch table salt
- 3 eggs, separated
- 6 tablespoons water
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 green cardamom pod, crushed seeds
- cooking spray
- all-purpose flour, for dusting

Ingredients for Rose Frosting:

- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 7 tablespoons powdered sugar or 7 tablespoons confectioners’ sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons edible rose water
- pink food coloring

Cake:

Preheat oven to 325°F. Sift together flour, baking powder, salt and 7 tablespoons of powdered sugar. Set aside. Start beating the egg yolks in a bowl. While beating the eggs, very slowly add water. Combine well. Now slowly add the oil to create an emulsion (smooth consistency). Add the sifted flour mixture in several batches to form a smooth batter. Add the cardamom seeds. Mix for another ten-fifteen seconds. Set aside. In a separate bowl, start beating egg whites while gradually adding seven tablespoons of powdered sugar. Beat until this mixture forms peaks and triples in volume. Gently, fold the egg whites into the egg yolk and flour batter. Do this in three batches and do not over mix. Pour the batter on to a 12” x 16” baking sheet, which has been coated with cooking spray and dusted with all-purpose flour. Place this tray on the top rack of the preheated oven. Bake until the cake tester comes out clean. It should take about ten to fifteen minutes, depending on the oven. When the cake is baked, take the baking sheet out of the oven and place it on a cooling rack. Bring to room temperature. Using a 3-inch cookie cutter cut 12 circles out of the cake sheet. Set them aside.

Frosting:

Start beating 1 Cup heavy whipping cream in a mixer bowl, using a whisk. Once frothy, gradually add the powdered sugar. Once the sugar is combined, add the food color with the help of a toothpick. Add the rose water. Continue beating until it triples in volume and forms peaks. Place the frosting in a zip lock bag. Seal the bag to remove air. Push the frosting to one corner and snip that corner of the bag.

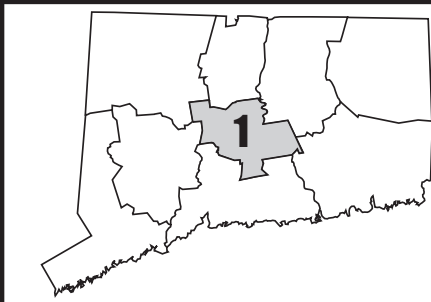
Garnishing: Unsalted Shelled Pistachios, chopped.

Assembling:

Place one cake circle at the bottom of a glass bowl. Pipe the prepared frosting to cover this cake circle. Place another cake circle on top of this frosting and repeat. Garnish with pistachios.

Source: <http://www.food.com/recipe/aarsi-rsquo-s-ultimate-valentine-cake-476849>

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 #27

Corr: M. Harrison

Happy 2015 Grangers,
 We are wishing all a happy & healthy new year. As I write this we have had a mild winter season so far & only one tough driving day. Our neighbor had a driver jump the curb & smash into the stone wall. It was not a large snowfall storm, but the road conditions were not good. Our ecology & safety reporter, Mike told us all about the chemicals that the DOT have put on the roads & all the damage they are causing.

We welcome you to our Feb 13th meeting. Just in time for Valentine's Day the Program will be Sugar, sugar. We also would like to remind all that the Meriden Grange is celebrating our 130th anniversary on March 27th. Check out our Facebook page for upcoming info. We are planning a supper, hopefully corned beef in

March.

Just a reminder for those who find the winter a long, long season, the time between Halloween & Christmas is about 2 months so hopefully the winter will breeze by.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Barbara Smith

Higganum Grange wishes everyone a Happy Valentines Day. We meet the first Friday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments are served.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 13: Adirondacks

Feb. 27: Omit (Unless first meeting of the month is canceled)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Legislatively Speaking



Alma Graham
 Legislative Director
 Legislative@ctstategrange.org

At the recent Northeast Regional Grange Leaders Conference in Portsmouth NH, the legislative directors met with Burton Eller who is the present National Grange Legislative Director. Burton has many years of legislative experience and is very informed on what is going on in Washington. He believes that this coming year will be a busy one. We now have a new mix in the legislature with the Republicans now controlling both the House and Senate. This increases the chance that we will see more bills passed by both chambers and reaching the President's desk. He also believes that we will see more Presidential vetoes.

This is also a non-election year so that the Congress will be more willing to discuss major issues before the Presidential election season starts next January.

Eller informed us of some of the issues that he feels that Congress will be addressing this coming year. Many of these issues

are not issues that the National Grange will be addressing but he expects that we will be hearing a lot about them.

The President recently announced that he wishes to end the embargo on Cuba and presented some executive actions which would increase trade with Cuba.

The Keystone pipeline which will move oil from Canada to the Gulf is in the process of being built with the first three phases almost completed. The fourth phase will connect Alberta Canada to Nebraska and is controversial as it will pass over a major aquifer in Nebraska. The President is threatening to veto this bill if it passes.

Affordable Care or "Obama Care" is still in the implementation process. This year businesses with over 100 employees will be required to offer health insurance and doctors who treat Medicare patients will see a 43% reduction in reimbursements.

Many states are starting to address GMO food labeling. The feeling is developing that there should be national guidelines instead of individual state requirements. We discussed the options of labeling those foods that do not have GMO

ingredients included as opposed to having to label all GMO ingredients in foods.

One of the most promising areas of compromise may be with trade agreements. Washington has not been able to agree on any major bipartisan trade agreements in years. The Fast-track Promotion Authority (TPA), the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TIIP) all have a chance of being resolved this present session.

We will also be seeing Tax reform addressed. The two sides agree that we do need major tax reforms but they are still far away from agreements. It is possible that we will see discussions on the corporate tax rates, international taxes, individual income taxes and gas taxes.

Eller sent out a National Grange Policy Updates and News newsletter on January 7, 2015 with much more information on these topics that I summarized. I recommend that you read his full National Grange policy update. If you would like a copy of it, email me at legislative@ctstategrange.org and I will forward it on to you. I hope to have this update added to the Legislative section on the State Grange web site.

U.S. Postal Service Cuts Ill-Considered

Below is an article sent to the National Grange from the Office of Postal Regulatory Commissioner Ruth Y. Goldway. The National Grange also opposes reductions of service to rural America. A sustainable and prospering postal service is a necessity for rural America; and we urge the USPS to vigorously pursue ways to keep the same quality service it presently provides.

by Postal Regulatory Commissioner Ruth Y. Goldway

Last week, the U.S. Postal Service reduced its service standards for First-Class mail, and eliminated nearly all overnight letter mail delivery. Most mail will be delivered in two to three days -- longer if weekends and holidays are involved. During 2015, more than 80 processing plants serving small cities and rural areas throughout the nation will be closed in the Postal Service's push to shrink its network.

The Postal Service has achieved considerable success in removing costs from the system during the last six years, at a time when mail volumes were in decline. This latest round of operational cuts, however, threatens the

very integrity and concept of Universal Service -- the Postal Service's primary obligation under the law.

These measures will result in a two-tier patchwork network in which service to smaller cities and rural areas will be degraded much more than major urban areas. This despite the fact that the law requires that postal customers in all areas be provided prompt, reliable and efficient services. The law also mandates that the Postal Service shall provide a maximum degree of effective and regular service to rural areas, communities and small towns where post offices are not self-sustaining.

Under the law, the Postal Service is required to give the highest consideration to the requirement for the most expeditious collection, transportation, and delivery of important letter mail.

While we have experienced increased access to electronic communications options, particularly in metropolitan areas, a great many American homes and businesses rely upon the mail. It remains essential that all Americans can rely on a fundamental communication service and avenue of commerce that provides equal access

and prompt service to all, regardless of region. Binding the nation together is the founding principle of the Postal Service's mandate.

The Postal Service is moving ahead with these changes despite three cautionary reports: a March 2013 Management Advisory Report; a September 2012 Audit Report issued by its Office of Inspector General, and an Advisory Opinion produced by the Postal Regulatory Commission in 2012.

The Inspector General in his reports called on the Postal Service to carefully evaluate actual measured cost savings and service impacts for the network changes implemented in 2013 and 2014; to accurately and fully disclose to mailers and other stakeholders the savings resulting from closed facilities, and to provide a more reliable estimate of future changes during the notification process.

In its 2012 Advisory Opinion, the Commission pointed out that by identifying the productivity levels of plants and by basing closures and processing rearrangements on measurable efficiency gains, the Postal Service could do

better than in its original plan: save more money, maintain higher service standard levels and keep more plants operating.

In fact, the Commission's analysis indicated that the Postal Service could undertake significant network improvements and reap large cost savings while preserving most current service levels. As a result, the Commission urged the Postal Service to carefully review the first set of plant closings and service standard reductions before embarking on this second phase of closures and further reducing service.

Unfortunately, the Postal Service has not taken those important steps. First, the Service has not publicly identified the impact on revenue and profit from the proposed changes. Second, the Postal Service has not disclosed a robust, reliable figure for savings obtained from the first set of consolidations. Third, the Service has not identified projected savings from the second phase of consolidations.

An essential role of the Commission is to help ensure that the Postal Service provides adequate transparency and accountability, particularly

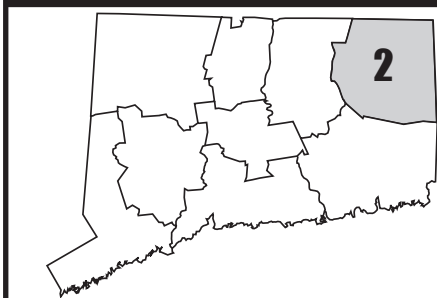
where there may be a gap in the public record. I believe that such a gap exists with regard to the proposed plant closings.

In August, 51 senators signed a bipartisan letter asking the Postal Service to delay these announced service changes and plant closings because of continuing uncertainty over the impact on the public. The following month, 160 House members asked for a moratorium on the plant closures, expressing concerns over slowed mail.

At a time when the Postal Service is proudly promoting its Sunday delivery and same day package delivery offerings in major cities, it should not be impairing service in other parts of the country. The Nation depends on a Postal Service that provides as consistent a level of service and pricing as possible to all Americans.

Before proceeding with these changes, the Postal Service should - at the very least - offer well-supported projections of the impacts on operational efficiency and solid estimates of financial savings before hastily embarking on this new round of cuts and closures.

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.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 18: Hearts and Flowers

We had a really nice Christmas Party and had a lot of visitors, great buffet dinner, games and yankee gift swap.

We also had a Christmas Pie Sale with a large assortment of pies. This was a good fundraiser.

We continue to work on getting the hall in order for rentals.

Sorry to hear of the passing of long-time member Kristen Reynolds. She owned the Christmas Barn Shop in town.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Feb. 11: Groundhog – Valentines, Ref. Valentines Cookies

Mar. 11: Irish Hearts – Ref. Something Green

Seed catalogs are coming in. It's so cold. Will there be a spring? Looking through the seed catalogs. There's a lot of new vegetables listed. We can try some. The third graders at the PFC school sent the Grange their thank you notes for the dictionaries. Very nice.

Wood is going very fast with the cold weather and the heating bills are high.

Will the groundhog see his shadow in February? Will the sun shine? We sure can use some sun. Stay warm and well.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Feb. 2: Meeting/Program 7:30 pm

Feb. 20: Indoor Family Fun Night 6 pm

Mar. 2: Meeting/Program 7:30

Mar. 14: Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper 5pm-

Apr. 3: Chowder n' Clam cakes 5pm-

The Juniors did a fabulous performance with their presentation of "The Road Leads To Bethlehem" plus Juniors sharing their musical talents with piano and violin selections. We congratulate Grangers

J. Allen Cameron and Shelley St. Jean on their engagement and Christian Gagas and Andrea Truppa on their engagement! It would seem that love is in the air! We are gathering names for an upcoming Membership Incentive Program. We have been busy helping two special families in Sterling that we heard needed a hand up. This in addition to four families we remembered at Christmastime and the families we (and the Juniors) adopted at Christmas. We have a list available of 100 fun things to do in The Last Green Valley, supplied by Paulette Craig. 124 scarves were delivered to the Access Agency, all made by Marion R. Emmons. Link Cooper will be contacting the Sterling AG Commission on possible joint projects. Russell Gray will be donating a new American Flag to the Grange. We are asking members for items the hall needs, like hand cleaner, paper products, dish soap, etc. This will save our Grange money. Congratulations to David Griffiths on his retirement from public service. Paulette Craig will miss Grange in Feb. and March while she enjoys the sunshine in Florida-your smile and presence will be missed! We have missed Bob Jordan at Grange and hope when the weather warms up he will be back among us! It is great having Link Cooper back after his successful knee replacement surgery. Visit us anytime!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Feb. 2: Hobbies on Parade

Feb. 16: Snow Date or Special Event

On Dec. 1st- our regular meeting, we sang Christmas songs. Our new Master presided. Patricia Valys was installed at our November meeting. Other members were installed by Joan Perry, Master of

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.

We had one response —

The gentlemen in this month's Connecticut Granger is Ellsworth Colvel, Past State Secretary. I do not know the 2 ladies. Happy New Year one and all. - Alice Patenaude - Stafford Grange #1



This Month

Senexet Grange. At our Dec. 1st meeting Bruce Koh, was installed Asst. Steward and Cranston Briggs as Gatekeeper. Our new Secretary Julie Jussaume is doing a good job and has been very busy coordinating the information needed for long time (though not active) members of Killingly Grange. Mikel Fiske received his 50 year certificate. It was a long time coming. Mikel is a retired Army major. There are other members of Killingly Grange that will be receiving their 50 year certificates, namely Cranston Briggs.

The Christmas party was well attended. The Lecturer's Program was a Yankee Swap of Christmas gifts. That's always fun. You sometimes never get to keep what you first picked. Glenna Bruno had a program on Christmas celebrations in other countries with some costumes and told of their culture. Nancy Arena (LAS) is doing a good job collecting community service hours.

The Farmer's Market is still continuing until April. Also breakfast served during this time. Recently some of the lady members painted, decorated ice skates and Bruce Kohl made a display rack for them.

Bruce is also doing an excellent job of maintenance work on our building which is badly needed. Way to go, Bruce!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

Feb. 10: Youth

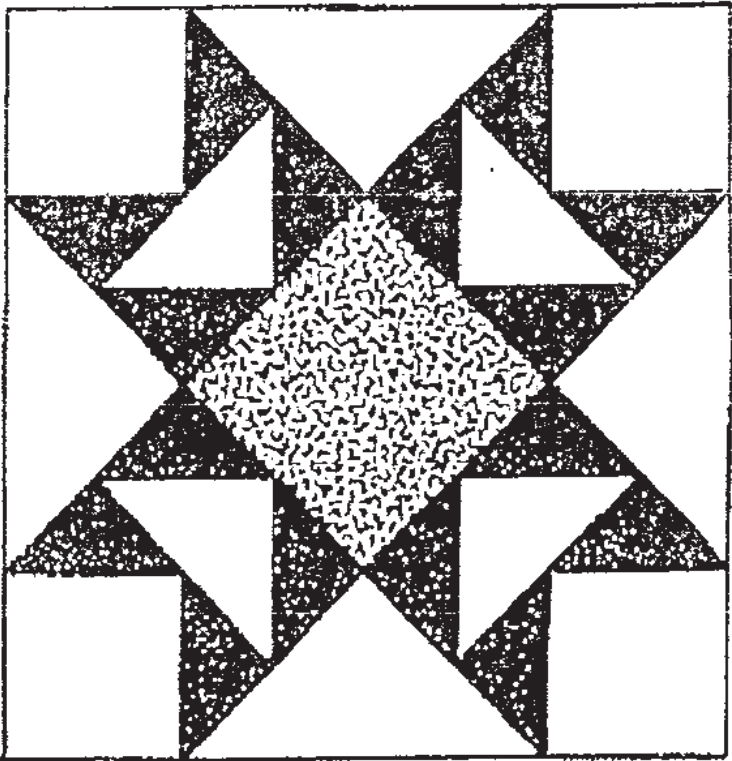
Feb. 24: Omit

We had a successful Tag Sale in Nov. The weather is being good to us so far. Alma Graham received first prize for her table runner at National Grange. We are still making donations to "From the Heart."



Killingly Grange's new event promotion sign

National Grange Quilt Block Contest



Theme: Summer
Color Scheme: Red, White and Blue
Pattern: Northumberland Star
Completed Size: 12-1/2" x 12-1/2"

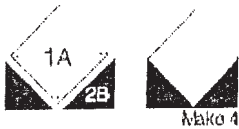
Cutting Instructions:

Fabric 1 – Background Fabric:
Cut 4 squares 3-1/2" x 3-1/2" (Piece 1A)
Cut 4 rectangles 2-5/8" x 4-3/4" (Piece 1C)
Cut 1 square 7-1/4" x 7-1/4", cut twice diagonally to make 4 quarter-square triangles (Piece 1E)

Fabric 2 – Star Points:
Cut 4 squares 3" x 3", cut once diagonally to make 8 half-square triangles (Piece 2B)
Cut 8 squares 2-5/8" x 2-5/8" (Piece 2D)

Fabric 3 – Center
Cut 1 square 4-3/4" x 4-3/4" (Piece 3F)

Piecing the Block:



Step 1 ... Square and Triangles Unit
Sew Piece a 2A triangle to side of Piece 1A square. Repeat to add second triangle to adjacent side of square. Make 4 units.

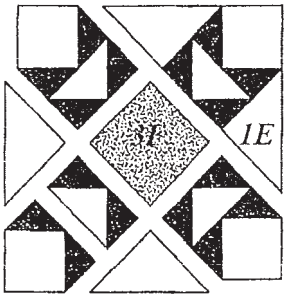
Step 2 ... Flying Geese Unit
Draw a diagonal line on wrong side of Piece 2D red squares. Layer Piece 2D square and Piece 1C rectangle. Sew directly on top of drawn line. Cut away excess fabric 1/4" from seamline. Press seam allowance. Repeat for other end of rectangle. Make 4 units.



Step 3 ... Assembling Block
Sew each square and trangle unit from Step 1 to each flying geese unit from Step 2. Sew the piece 1E triangles to either side of two of these units. Sew remaining other two units to the Piece 3F square and complete to make block, as shown.

Rules:
The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is a contest that we are promoting to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the National Grange in 2016. The idea behind the contest is to create a vehicle for our members to share their creative talents.
A. The period of the contest runs from January 1, 2015 until September 15, 2015 deadline for submissions is September 30, 2015 to the National Lecturer, James Tetreault, 10 Parker Street, Winchester, NH 03470.

- B. Judging will be done prior to National Grange session.
- C. Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged, however, they will be exhibited at the National Grange session in Lincoln, NE.
- D. Pattern: This year's pattern will be the Northumberland Star.
- E. Colors for this year will be red, white and blue.



- Categories:
- A. Individual quilt block to measure 12-1/2" x 12-1/2" and must come unfinished- no batting/backing.
 - B. Quilted throw pillow finished size 18" x 18" must come finished batted and backed.
 - C. Quilted table runners size 17" x 56" must come finished!

All categories must use the Northumberland Star.
All entries become the property of the National Grange. All entries will be given proper credit and awards.
We ask that each entrant also submit the following information: Name(s); Grange Name & Number, State; Address/Hometown; Years of Grange Membership; What is special about your Grange/hometown?

National Court Ruling

Thursday, January 15, 2015, Judge Brown in Sacramento Superior Court granted our summary judgment motion and dismissing the lawsuit filed by Bob McFarland.

The claim against the National Grange, Edward Luttrell, and two Californians, which sought unspecified damages, was for: 1st for defamation, 2nd for public disclosure of private facts, 3rd for intrusion, 4th for intentional interference with contractual relations, 5th for intentional interference with prospective business relations and 6th for infliction of emotional distress.

The result of this ruling is that it removes this one lawsuit from the actions between the National Grange and Mr.

McFarland.
Other recent rulings include:
Presiding Judge Haight granted the reorganized California State Grange intervention in the suit filed by the National Grange in Sacramento Superior Court.

Presiding Judge Haight granted the consolidation of a suit filed in Butte County against the reorganized California State Grange, Ed Komski, Master, and Lillian Booth, Secretary by Mr. McFarland, with the suit filed by the National Grange in Sacramento Superior Court.

Judge William B. Shubb denied the motion by Mr. McFarland to reschedule (to delay) the trademark trial set for October of 2015 in Federal Court.

Hillstown Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday, February 7th, the Hillstown Grange will be holding a Pancake Breakfast from 8:30am to 11am. Take a break from the winter blahs and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5; children under 12 just \$3.

This month we are holding a book sale for young and old and everyone in between. All books are just a quarter each. This is a great time to stock up for winter reading.

Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural and Community Service groups in the United States. Snow date is March 7. For more information on this event, call Helene at 860-568-6268, Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail, hillstowngrange@aol.com.

Recipe for a Happy Day

A heart full of thankfulness,
A thimbleful of care;
A soul of simple hopefulness,
An early morning prayer;
A smile to greet the morning with
A kind word as a key
To open the door and greet the day,
Whate'er it brings to thee.
A patient trust in Providence
To sweeten all the way . . .
All these, combined with thoughtfulness,
Will make a happy day.

NORFIELD GRANGE

BARN DANCE & Dinner

7pm

Saturday, Jan. 31st

Legendary Dance Caller Billy Fischer with Bill Walach & Dave Howard

Come dance and eat as we SPICE up the Winter!

Enjoy the Grange's award-winning chili- bring an appetizer or dessert to share

RSVP: NorfieldGrange@gmail.com \$10/person \$25/family

12 Goodhill Rd Weston, CT



Junior Grange

welcome Juniors into our Granges so that they are not intimidated by what they experience – but that they are inspired to be part of the Grange family! I look forward to the coming year and working with the new State Officers on what it means to be a1+ Junior Member of the subordinate granges.

Congratulations are in order! The following Junior Grange members were awarded the following at this past State Session:’

Creative Writing:
Age 5-7: Brianna Gervais (1st)
Age 8-10: Jared Gervais (1st), Casey Rose Ferns (2nd)
Age 11-14: Kayla Michaud (1st), Angelina DeDominicis (2nd)

Creative Junior T-Shirt Contest:
Age 8-10: Noella Burlette (1st), Victoria Tackett (2nd)
Age 11-14: Angelina DeDominicis (1st), Kayla Michaud (2nd), Nevayah

Moreno (3rd)
Flower Arrangement in Unusual Container:
Age 8-10: Victoria Tackett (1st)
Age 11-14: Kayla Michaud (1st), Angelina DeDominicis (2nd), Madison Tackett (3rd)

Photo Contests:
Zany Pets: Angelina DeDominicis (1st), Kayla Michaud (2nd)
JG in Celebration: Kayla Michaud (1st), Angelina DeDominicis (2nd)
Favorite Sport: Angelina DeDominicis (1st)
Season of the Year: Angelina DeDominicis (1st), Kayla Michaud (2nd)
JG – Act of Kindness: Angelina DeDominicis (1st)

Thanks to all that participated – it was great to see all the entries on the tables at State Session – I hope more participate next year!

Have a great year!

Happy 2015!

Time flies! It seems like we were just attending CT State session and the Dinosaur State Park with Connecticut Junior Grangers! And now we are starting to think about what we are going to accomplish in 2015! By the time you are reading this, I am pretty sure that most New Year’s resolutions have been broken – but any goals we have set for ourselves are still going strong. One of my goals this year is to get the word out about 1+ Junior Grange Program that the National Junior Grange Director is promoting. What does this mean to our subordinate Granges? How can we

Northeast Leader's Conference

Portsmouth, NH - Grange leaders from NY, Conn., RI, Mass., Maine, VT, and NH attended the Northeast Grange Leaders Conference from Jan. 9-11 with125 Grange leaders from across the region. In addition, Lillian Booth, Burton Eller, and Ed Luttrell from the National Grange participated. Friday began with an invocation, a salute to the Flag, and welcome by Chris Heath, Master of the New Hampshire State Grange. The group then broke for breakout sessions. These sessions included: The NE Grange Building Trustees meeting, Lecturers, Chaplains, Youth, Juniors, Family/WCA, Community Service, Agriculture/Legislative, Membership, and Masters. The Northeast Connection (National Grange hosting) met the following day. During these sessions, each group discussed activities pertinent to them and where National Grange could help and how Community Granges could benefit. Saturday began with a workshop on the Pease Greeters. These Greeters meet each planeload of service men and women departing or arriving the country through Pease Airport in Portsmouth, NH. “It was an inspiring presentation and a tremendous patriotic community service program,” National Grange President, Edward Luttrell

said. Following that event was a lecture on Lyme disease and herbal formulating to treat and prevent Lyme disease. A Panel consisting of a party leader and the speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, two business leaders, and two non-profit leaders (a local minister and National President Luttrell) discussed their leadership styles, beginnings, and goals. Questions were asked by the audience and the panel gave their answers. During the Q &A, The National Master explained the history, timeline, and principles behind the court cases in California. He then answered questions from the Northeastern leaders on the subject. The members were appreciative of having their questions answered and their comments heard. The evening concluded with a Banquet and the presentation of Firefighter, Police Officer, and Educator of the Year for the Northeast Region. Sunday began with Devotions led by the New Hampshire State Chaplain and a recap of what each of the breakout sessions had decided or discussed. Next Year, the 2016 Northeast Grange Leaders Conference will be hosted by Massachusetts on January 8-10.

Camp Berger

Adventure, Fun, Friendship & Discovery

Camp Berger is a Co-ed Overnight Summer Camp for Ages 8-16
We offer a wide variety of activities including Archery, Arts & Crafts, Sailing, Fishing, Canoeing, Forest Golf, Rocketry, Rafting, Sports & more....
7 Weekly Sessions from June 28th to Aug 15th
One of the Best Values in Overnight Summer Camps in New England!
Directors Lyn & Chris Kimberly 203-557-3339 or CampBerger@gmail.com
134 Wahnee Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
www.CampBerger.com

In Memoriam

Kristen Reynolds	Senexet #40
Violet Wilson	Manchester #31
Mildred Barshaw, G.S.	Winchester #74
Ann Smyck, G.S.	Colchester #78
Julie Swick	Colchester #78
Thomas Leffler	Pachaug #96
Ruth Zobel	Taghannuck #100
Jim Tucker, G.S.	Bethlehem #121
Fred Anderson, G.S.	Bethlehem #121
Cindy Harding Fogle	Lyme #147
Sharon Mingo	Lyme #147
Andrew W. Perry	Stonington #168
Joanna Petrone	Stonington #168

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

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men

Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

The title is from the Book of Sirach, one of the Apocryphal books of the Bible. In fuller form it is:

*Let us now praise famous men,
and our fathers in their generations.
The Lord apportioned to them great glory,
his majesty from the beginning.*

It is also the title of a famous book by James Agee, documenting the everyday life of three poor tenant farmer families. In this context the title is obviously used for its irony.

I was reminded of the phrase from looking at the calendar for February, where we honor both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, with Washington often called the Father of our Country, and Lincoln called Father Abraham by the slaves who he caused to be freed with his Emancipation Proclamation. There are also some famous women with birthdays in February: Rosa Parks on Feb. 4th and Susan B. Anthony on Feb. 15th. And in Arkansas the third Monday in February is Daisy Gatson Bates Day.

All five of these individuals have in common their fight to increase freedom for various groups of human beings: Washington succeeded in the fight to win the freedom of the American colonies from Britain’s tyrannical rule; Lincoln famously ended slavery; Susan B. Anthony fought both for women’s rights and to end slavery, and Rosa Parks and Daisy Day were active in the struggle to end segregation.

The Bible has numerous examples of people who struggled to bring freedoms to their people, starting with Moses, who helped God deliver his people from Egypt. And they weren’t all men. The Prophetess and Judge Deborah was responsible for organizing her people to drive the Canaanites out of Israel, for which role she is sometimes referred to as “Mother of Israel”.

But the other thing that all these people have in common is their faith in God and their frequent prayers to him to help them in their causes. Rosa Parks once said: “Prayer and the Bible became a part of my everyday thoughts and beliefs. I learned to put my trust in God and to seek Him as my strength.” And Abraham Lincoln is famous as saying he was “driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I have nowhere else to go.” We can take a lesson from all this.

In the words of Joseph Scriven’s familiar old hymn:
*O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!*



Rosa Parks

Daisy Bates

Susan B. Anthony