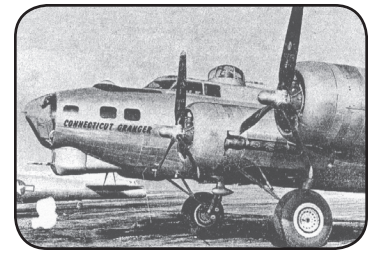




Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 57, No. 6

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2017

State Master



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

Springtime is upon us, the harvest of maple syrup is coming to an end. The fruit trees have started to bloom, another spring is here for us to enjoy. Work in the fields and in the home will bring us outside to enjoy those gifts that the great creature has given all of us to enjoy.

In January at the New England Leaders' Conference, we all met to discuss the year's events and the chance for committees to share ideas and thoughts for future programs. The Vermont State Grange was our host and did a great job. National Master Betsy Huber was there and updated us on the activities at National Grange Headquarters. The New England Grange Building Trustees met and held elections where I, Noel Miller, is now president of the New England Grange Building. This year in the celebration of 150 years of Grange we are looking to attend more Big E parades, to support agricultural groups during the fair. We will be looking for marchers and maybe having a float for the parade. Keep your eyes open for further updates.

In February, the State Masters and National Grange had their conference here in Connecticut. Ekonk Community Grange #89 offered to host the conference. We stayed at the Holiday Inn Norwich and had our meals and meetings at Ekonk Community Grange Hall. It was well attended and very informative with programs from National

Grange, mentoring information, leadership and communications tips that we all can use in our Granges. The meals were excellent and I wish to thank all the members of Ekonk Community Grange, Junior members, Richmond Grange, RI members and Vicki Huff of Maine for a job well done. And I wish to thank those that donated milk, donuts, cakes, cookies, ice cream, and things that I missed for their generous gifts to make Connecticut shine. The weather was great as well as the friendships and fun we have every time we meet.

It was sad to hear of the death of Brother Woody Tucker of Perryville Grange in Rhode Island. Wood was High Priest Emeritus of the National Grange, and a great friend of Grangers in Connecticut. From Past Master Frank Warner to the present, Woody has touched us all with his humor, wisdom, knowledge and friendship. He will be known for his love of Grange ritual. I have heard him speak with passion on the importance of Grange ritual, and the reason for the need of the Grange in the 21st Century. If you were a doubter of Grange ritual before hearing Woody talk about ritual, you would become a believer after. I was honored to attend his wak and reflect with people there who Woody had touched.

We have reported that the National Grange is publishing a new magazine "Good Day." It is out and every Grange should subscribe. It is a magazine that is full of events, family stories, contest rules, history and other subjects that are of interest. This is a tool that could go to the Library and can promote the Grange in a better format. Check it out and I think you will agree.

National Grange reported that they have

National Grange in Conn.



In February the Connecticut State Grange hosted officers and staff of the National Grange and the State Masters and spouses of State Granges across the country for the 2017 Masters Conference. The conference was held at Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 in Sterling and was made possible by the outstanding support of Ekonk's members and the members of neighboring Granges in Rhode Island. Participants were housed at the Holiday Inn of Norwich and were bused to Ekonk each day for their meetings. Above, participants pose for a group shot at the conclusion of the conference.

found a supply of 2013 Subordinate Manuals. These are paperback, they have standard opening or the alternative opening, the Welcome Ceremony all in one manual with LARGE PRINT. This should be a must for all Community Granges to have at least 6 of the new manuals.

The National Grange had had to drop its membership director due to budget cuts. Donations are being collected by the National Grange to help fund interns who will "fill the gaps" in departments like membership. The cost of an intern is \$1,300.00 per month.

After the National Convention I reported that

the California State Grange lawsuit was coming to an end. Well, at New England Leaders' Conference we heard that the legal bills were piling up again. At the Master's Conference we heard that Mr. McFarland is appealing a court order again to drag out this litigation again and again. The National Grange is working with a lawyer that has filed against Mr. McFarland with an exit plan. Hopefully he will stop this suit, or face jail time.

I have just received an email from the "California Guild" for a donation. The California Guild is Mr. McFarland's creation and is not the official State Grange of California.

Please do not donate to this organization.

March 15 is Ag Day at the State Capitol. We will be there to meet with our legislators and the Governor and let them know the Grange is still here. It is a very interesting event with all Ag groups promoting agriculture at the State Capitol.

April is Grange month so let's get ready to really promote the Grange, open your halls, have an activity that gets the community involved. We are 150 years young so we have something in our favor so let's tell our story so others will learn of what they are missing.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to all!

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NEXT ISSUE ... APRIL



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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



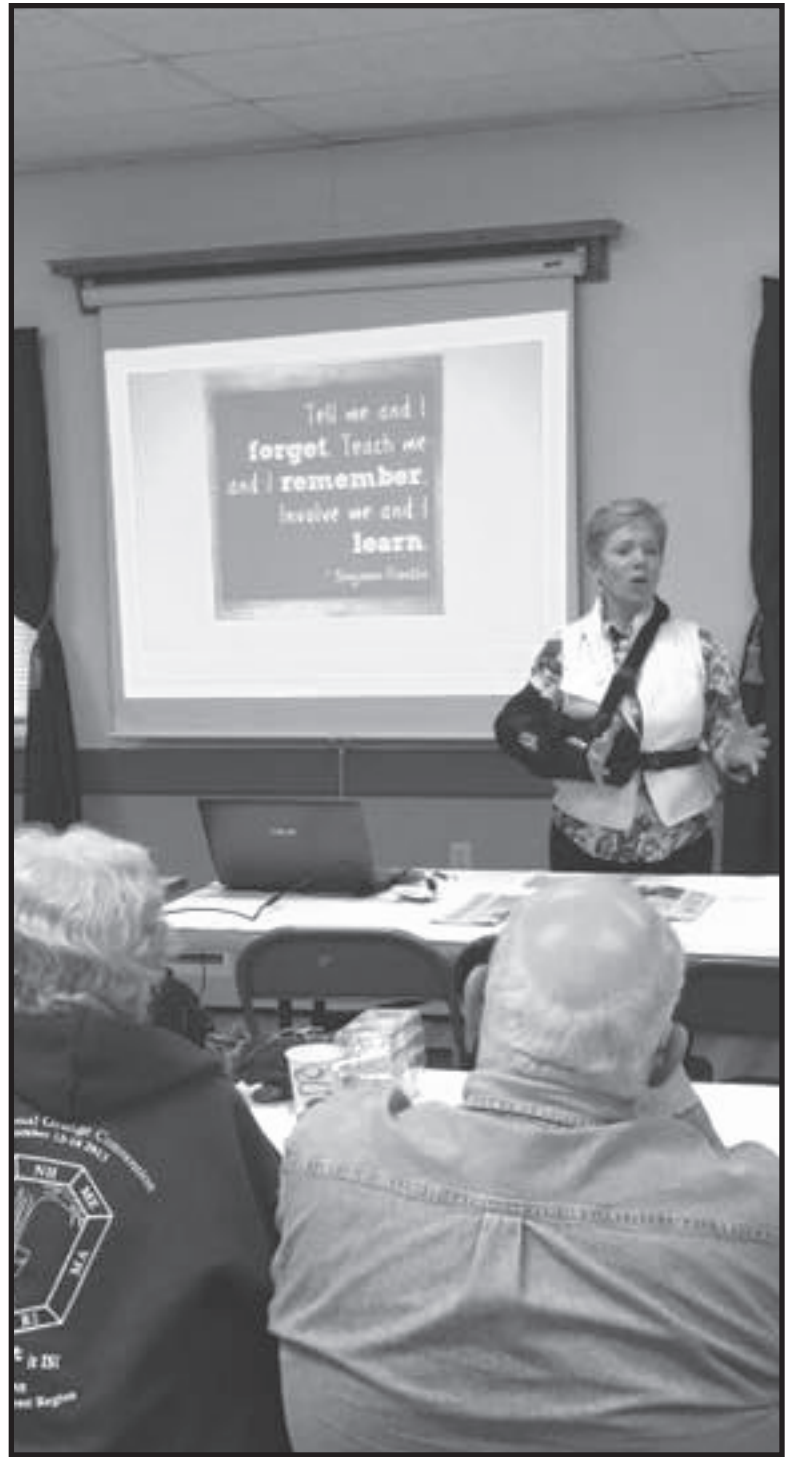
More from Masters' Conference in CT



National Master Betsy Huber speaks to the group about 150 years of Grange.



Ekonk Community Grange Juniors help serve meals for the conference.



National Lady Assistant Steward Chris Hamp presents on Saturday.

State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

It's been a memorable winter season for most of us. For those of us who meet on Tuesday nights—it's been challenging! It seems every few years we get into an "every Tuesday" storm pattern that doesn't want to let go until spring. Hopefully we've "paid our dues" for this winter and spring is on its way!

As reported in the last issue, 990s are in process. If you have filed your own, please provide a copy of your confirmation to me to place on file. Otherwise, all Granges will receive a copy of their confirmation from me when complete.

We have received notice from National Grange

that the shipping charges for Golden Sheaf and membership recognition letters will increase by 50 cents to \$4.00. Please make note of this on the forms you may have already. If you need new forms, please let me know and I will be happy to send them out. Remember to use the pink forms for State Grange orders and the yellow forms for Golden Sheaf and letters 75 years and beyond.

As spring is nearly here, please go through your supplies and see if there are any items that may need replenishment. We have nearly everything you might need right here in Connecticut without having to send away. Let us know!

We also have an overabundance of Grange equipment (i.e. gavels, blocks, staves, song books, etc.). Please let me know if you have a need for something-- items are free. You just have to arrange for pick-up.

Until next time, keep warm and think warm thoughts!

Award nominations requested

For several years the National Grange has initiated a recognition award for firefighters and law enforcement officers that local Granges nominated. Last year Teacher of the Year was added. The Connecticut State Grange has not participated in this program and the Community Service Directors would like to participate in this program this coming year. This will be a new program for our State Grange and we are looking for nominees from your Grange. The winners will be recognized at our State Session in October and will be sent on to be judged at the Northeast and National Grange. We will be using the National Grange application which can be found on the National Grange website or contact Sharon and George Russell. All applications should be sent to George and Sharon Russell by September 1, 2017. Let our Granges recognize our Firefighters and Policemen and Teachers from our State of Connecticut.

If you have any questions, please contact us at (860) 824-7056 or email to: Overseer@CTStateGrange.org

Send application to: George & Sharon Russell, 63 New St., Canaan, CT 06018.

Criteria on the nomination form includes:

Name of nominee, nominee's dept./ school, address, city, state, and zip.

Please tell us why this person should be selected:

Topics (if applicable) that should be included but not limited to: years of service, current rank, previous ranks or offices held, training, special recognitions or awards, committees chaired or member of, involvement in the community not related to their profession.)

Name of Grange submitting nominee; city, state, Chairperson's name, email, address, phone.

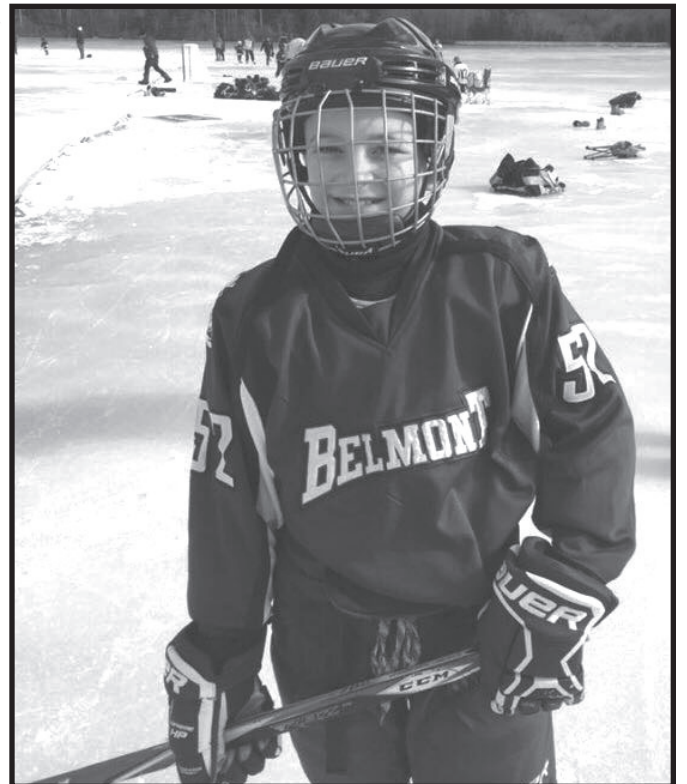
We look forward to receiving your nominations!



Camp Berger Hockey Tournament 2017

Thanks to Coach Sheffield and all of the Camp Berger Alums and volunteers who helped to make the 2nd Annual Berger Pond Hockey Tournament a huge success and a fun day for all of the players, coaches, families and fans who participated in this great event! Thanks for the donation towards camperships.

The tournament location, Camp Berger, is nestled in the northwest corner of Litchfield County and the rolling hills of Winchester Center. The Camp's rustic heritage on Park Pond has found a new outlet for athletic entertainment. Camp Berger, a traditional summer camp owned and operated by the Connecticut State Grange for over 60 years in the off-season is now home to the original pond hockey tournament. **SAVE THE DATE!** January 27th & 28th, 2018.



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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P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org


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President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell



Central Pomona No. 1

Southington #25
Meriden #29
Higganum #124
Hemlock #182



Since November 30, 1886

CENTRAL POMONA #1*Corr: Robert Charbonneau*


March 9: Meeting at Meriden Grange, downstairs at 6:00 P.M. Meriden Grange will be supplying supper. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly. The meeting will start at 7:30 P.M. The literary program is entitled, "Comfort Foods and Food Pantry Contest." Co-Host is Southington Grange.

All are welcome.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29*Corr: Robert Charbonneau*


March 10: Meeting at 7:30 P.M. in Dining Room. Literary Program is, "The Shamrocks are Coming."

A social will be served after the business meeting. All are welcome.



East Central Pomona No. 3

Stafford #1	Hillstown #87
Granby #5	Ashford #90
Glastonbury #26	Enfield #151
Manchester #31	Echo #180
Vernon #52	Simsbury #197
Coventry #75	



Since September 7, 1887

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3*Corr: Noel Miller*

March 4: "Wear Some Green"; Host- Enfield #151

Need to wear something green or be fined. Exterior options only please. We will be giving out the new word at this meeting so please come and join the fun.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1*Corr: Kim Jones*

March 21: Annual St. Patrick's Day Potluck

In September, State Master Noel Miller conducted the Installation of Officers and welcomed new members.

In November, the first annual Stretch Your Stomach Thanksgiving Potluck Supper took place. Members gave thanks while feasting on homemade soups, breads, salads and desserts.

At the Dec. 20 meeting, youth singers Ben, Luke, Abi, Zoe, Cory, Bella, Caleb, and Sasha delighted patrons with festive Christmas carols including The Twelve Days of Christmas, Let It Snow, Joy to the World, Jingle Bell Rock, and Rudolph. Pizza and Christmas cookies were enjoyed by all following the performance.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31*Corr: Leona Wilson*

March 7: Music to My Ears

March 21: Neighbors

Exchange

April 4: The Pursuit of Trivia

On March 7 Sister Edith will lead us on a trip through "Music to My Ears." On March 21 we will have a Neighbors Exchange with Vernon Grange. Vernon Grange will be presenting the program that night. Come join in the fun.

VERNON GRANGE #52*Corr: Nancy Strong*

March 3: Spring Chickens

March 21: Crossing the Road to visit Manchester Grange

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to visit Manchester Grange on March 21st with a program on chickens. Vernon Grange will be testing out the program that we will be taking to Manchester Grange. This is the third year that we have exchanged programs and always is a fun time! All are welcome to join us.

At the February meeting we awarded Kids in Limos with the Community Citizen Award and donated the \$50 that we were awarded for the "G" bill contest. Kids in Limos presented a program on their rides for cancer and special needs kids. Their stories brought tears to our eyes. This is a grass roots 501(c)3 with only a few volunteers. Definitely a

good cause to support! For stories and more information go to www.kidslimos.org

COVENTRY GRANGE #75*Corr: Noel Miller*

March 2: Flowers

March 16: Spring

We are back to two meetings unless a snowstorm buries us under. Come out and join us.

Kids in Limos receives award



Vernon Grange #52 awarded "Kids in Limos" with the Community Citizen Award at their February meeting. Kids in Limos makes sure children with cancer and other special needs get to their medical appointments- in style! It is a few volunteers that provide FREE transportation services to and from hospitals and clinics for critically ill children and its mission is to "Create a Memory" and have a child smile. Pictured: l to r: Donald Waldo, Rob Chernuk, George Kotowicz and Master Nancy Strong with the award.

Hillstown Grange offers seeds



Seeds are in at Hillstown Grange, available during our breakfasts, garden nights, and chili cook off. Seeds are free to encourage people to tryout gardening.

Ag. Experiment Station optimistic

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is cautiously optimistic about the upcoming state budget. In a recent news release they stated: "The Experiment Station's recommended budget from the Governor restored some painful cuts from last year's budget and annualized savings achieved by the station over the past year.

The recommended amount for both FY 18 and FY 19 was \$7,141,972 (Fiscal year 2018 begins on July 1, 2017). Bottom line, we can live with this provided it is adopted by the Legislature and there are no further reductions.

Although the proposed budget, if adopted, will present continued challenges, it provides adequate funding for our current programs through June 30, 2018.

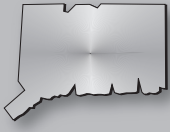
The budget is now in the hands of the

General Assembly and hopefully will be adopted by the legislators and signed by the Governor by the close of the session."

Southern Conn. Past Masters


Our March meeting will be held on the 11th at Cheshire Grange. In place of the usual potluck supper we will enjoy the Corned Beef Dinner being put on by Cheshire Grange. Reservations are a must so if you plan to attend, contact Marge Bernhardt. Supper is served promptly at 6 P.M. Meeting and program to follow.

Election of officers will be on the agenda.



Mountain County Pomona No. 4

Cawasa #34	Litchfield #107
Whigville #48	Beacon #118
Eureka #62	Riverton #169
Winchester #74	
Taghannuck #100	



Since February 1, 1888

MOUNTAINCOUNTYPOMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

The February meeting of Mountain County Pomona was canceled due to a nor'easter passing through that evening. We will give it another try on March 25 when we hold our annual Day Meeting at Riverton Grange Hall beginning at 4 PM. We will open and close the meeting have dinner and wrap up the day with the program. The days are getting longer so you don't have to worry so much about driving in the dark. Join us!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Mar. 14: Everything Green; Ref. Todd Gelineau & Faith Quinlan

Mar. 28: CWA Program – Country Store, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens

It's been quiet in Winchester Center due to the many Tuesday night storms in recent months. We hope spring is well on its way with warmer temperatures and a lot less snow!

Saturday, March 18 from 9-2 will be our annual Cabin Fever Craft and Bake Sale at the Grange Hall. Table spaces are still available and donations of baked goods for the bake sale will be greatly appreciated. Come on out and enjoy the spring weather and find a few things you didn't even know you needed!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghannuck Grange, with the help of a grant from the Connecticut State Grange Community Service

Committee, has given the elementary schools in Sharon, Kent, Warren and Cornwall booklets containing the U. S. Constitution and The Declaration of Independence. These booklets are for students in the Social Studies classroom. As one teacher wrote "The students enjoy flipping through them while discussing current events or when we are debating historical situations." Each classroom has enough booklets so every student has one.

Now that winter is gone (hopefully) we are back to two meetings a month. On March 9th the program is "Be Healthy" by Sharon Kroeger who is very knowledgeable about health and natural foods. On March 23rd the program is An Introduction to Aerial Arts by Margaret Hopkins who does both aerial silks work and flies on a trapeze (I do not believe she will fly at the meeting). We meet at 7:30pm and would love to have visitors.

BEACON GRANGE #118

Corr: Chuck Bezio

We are seeking vendors for our May 6 Spring Fling Craft Fair. Seeking new

towels, pot holders, glass bowls and other kitchen items. Seeking volunteers for our spring clean-up including summer and fall maintenance. Seeking donations for facility maintenance. New front doors and updated kitchen needed. Hall rentals available. Quality used heavy duty metal folding table for \$50 each. Proceeds to fund new lighter folding tables for aging membership

to handle easier. Aged firewood for \$650. Contact Master Bea Neri at 860-733-5818 for more information.

Congratulations to Daniel Bezio, Steward for his participation in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Happy Birthday to Jen Bezio.

Get well soon to Bea Neri, Jen & Makenzie Bezio.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

April 2017 has been declared Grange Month by National Grange President Betsy Huber. "Community Granges throughout Connecticut are encouraged to participate in the month-long celebration by opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities.

Community Granges will be celebrating Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens' awards, service projects, community displays, traditional potluck suppers and more." What is your Grange planning during for this April?

The Grange Month theme for 2017 is "What Will We Do When the Do-ers Are Gone?" In other words, who will take your place when you are no longer able to volunteer and serve your Grange as you are now? This was unveiled at the National Grange Convention last November.

According to National Grange "The World War II generation and the Baby Boomers have been joiners and volunteers. Generations after us are not so interested in serving others. What will happen to your community fair as the number of workers lessens? Who will manage the food cupboard or the community garden? Who will clean and repair your Grange hall? Who will even know how to grow a garden or preserve the bounty? We have a responsibility to train and mentor younger citizens, to teach them the rewards of

volunteering and helping others, even in small ways."

National Grange has distributed their Grange Month materials via their website as downloadable files - www.nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2017/

WINCHESTER GRANGE

CABIN FEVER

Craft & Bake Sale

Saturday, March 18th

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Spring Crafts and Gifts

Delicious Luncheon Fare and More!

Winchester Grange Hall

Route 263 and Newfield Rd.
Winchester Center, CT



www.WinchesterGrange.org


CALL FOR COOKBOOKS

The National Grange is looking for all editions of Grange Cookbooks.

Do you have a new or old Grange cookbook? If so, The National Grange is looking to collect copies of as many editions of Grange Cookbooks as possible. In our new magazine that is premiering next month, we will be highlighting Grange recipes from these cookbooks and are looking for any extra copies of a Grange cookbook you or your Grange have that you would be willing to donate to The National Grange.


If you have a cookbook you are willing to give, let us know at communications@grange.org. Be sure to include the title of the cookbook and the Grange and state that it comes from.

Be sure to spread the word to all the Grangers you know about this Call for Cookbooks.



**New Haven County
Pomona No. 5**

Cheshire #23
Wallingford #35



Since December 4, 1888

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23*Corr: Ruel Miller***March 1:** Do's and Don'ts about Ordering Flowers Online**March 15:** Ballroom Fever (May Be Subject to Change)

We held our Valentine box supper and open meeting in early February. Our speaker at our February legislative program was State Rep. Liz Linehan who filled us in on the doings-on this session in Hartford. Our craft nights continue. We are looking forward to our annual Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 11 at our hall. Tickets are available prior to the dinner and at the door. Tickets are \$12.00 per person.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33*Corr: Daniel Lauttenbach***March 9:** "CWA Program" Program: Janet, Ref: Dan**March 23:** "Maple Syrup" with guest speaker. Program: Jim, Ref: Lisa

Meetings in January: January 30: Tonight we listened to a podcast from the New England News Collaborative titled "When the Milk Runs Dry". "Dairy farms have been folding at an alarming rate. According to a new documentary film, "Forgotten Farms," New England has lost 10,000 dairy farms in the last 50 years, and many of the remaining farms are struggling. John Dankosky spokewith Sarah Gardener,

producer of the film and Associate Director of the Center for Environmental Studies at Williams College." This podcast is quite informative and here are some of the highlights: Despite that the local food movements that have been celebrated it obscures the fact that much of New England Agriculture is under threat. The bulk of the food that is produced in New England is still produced by dairy farms and they are under threat because of historically low milk prices. All dairy farms in New England have been losing money in the last 12 months. The Agri-Mark Coop has been losing 10 farms a month because they are going out of business. There are a few farms that are making money because they are tied directly to a restaurant while others are just hanging on because states like Massachusetts offer tax abates on their homesteads, etc. A lot of farmers are making less \$10,000.00 per year.

Here is the link to this podcast: <https://nenc.news/podcast/episode-23-back-edge/>

Link to the new documentary film: <http://forgottenfarms.org/news-org/news-press/> Footnote: From <https://nenc.news/podcast/episode-23-back-edge/>

Cheshire Grange hard at work



Part of the care packages made for our men and women in Afghanistan.



Above left, Valentine's box lunches enjoyed by Grange members and right & bottom, gift boxes made for the residents of Marbridge.



*The
Bob Charbonneau
Show*

*Thursdays at 8:00 PM EST
Saturdays at 9:00 PM EST
& Following Tuesdays at
10:00 PM EST*


<http://www.GrangeRadio.org>



2017 CT State Grange Calendars Available


The 2017 edition (2nd in the series) Grange Hall Calendars produced by the CT State Grange are still available. The year is still young making it a perfect time to get your copy. Like last year, these calendars feature pictures of 12 additional Grange Halls. You will especially want one if you purchased the 2016 calendar!

The calendars are \$13.00 each. Shipping is extra and will be determined by the location of the person ordering. Orders may be placed by emailing the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org. You may also call 860-307-1522. Or you can order by mail to: CT State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT. Checks should be made out to the Connecticut State Grange.



New London County Pomona No. 6

Senexet #40	Killingly #112
Wolf Den #61	N. Stonington #138
Colchester #78	Lyme #147
Ekonk #89	Stonington #168
Pachaug #96	Norwich #172
Preston City #110	Groton #213



Since January 10, 1890

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

March 4: Talent Show

Our March meeting will be held at Ekonk Grange. With all our new members we should have a great talent show. Spring will be just around the corner and it is a beautiful drive up to Sterling. Please come for a joyous night of fun and friendship.

The winter's nearly over and spring is at the door. We shouldn't see the snow and ice or shiver any more. So please come out to Ekonk. We need you every one; And don't forget your talent so we all can have some fun.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

March 8: Spring Fling, Ref. All

Apr. 12: CWA Program

This has been a cold winter so far – a lot of wind and sickness too. Rain and wet and black ice. Tree tapping soon. Seed catalogs are in- time to plan this coming year's garden, starting seeds inside.

We will not do the Dictionary Project as the children don't use them and iPads are being used.

Please be health-wise- a lot of flu going around. Think spring!

Sick list: John, Sybil, Donna and Elsie.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

We welcomed guests Ted Beebe of Norwich Grange and Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange. Their participation in our meetings is always appreciated. We thank Lois for her entertaining Lecturer's programs and Ted for all his Grange related information keeping us well informed. Our volunteer activities continue with monthly Bingo at Apple Rehab, cooking at Harrington Cour, and donations to local food banks. We have received notes of thanks from all organizations and it's nice to know our efforts are appreciated.

Donations of crocheted and knit hats were given to veterans earlier this winter and veterans are currently enjoying wearing the handwork from our talented Grange members.

With assistance from member Chris Bourque, Colchester's Farm to Table Program in our Elementary Schools is going very well. Projects are being established in classrooms to grow window box herb gardens, and hatch chicks. Thanks to Polly Leonard and Chris Bourque for donating the incubators.

Also, in conjunction with the Connecticut Agricultural Education Foundation, Colchester Grange member Chris Bourque, and donations from local organizations, the donation of a Book Barn Library stocked with agriculturally related books is being planned for our Elementary School Library. Upon completion our Grange would like to dedicate the Book Barn to a local farmer and his family.

Member Chris Bourque is planning an ice cream social at our Elementary School in April to inform the community about the Farm to Table Program and the benefits it is providing to our youth.

Don't forget to check with Cathy Russi for upcoming trips, and keep warm. Spring is on the horizon.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

March 11: Corned Beef & Cabbage Supper 5pm

March 18: Square Dance 7:30 p.m.

By this reading, National Grange officers and State Masters will have come and gone from Ekonk Community Grange and we were indeed humbled to welcome them for their Feb. 17th-19th meetings. Special thanks to Richmond Grange in RI for their assistance!

Our program director has taken us to Uzbekistan and Russia via member Sue Griffiths who did an awesome lecture plus showed, among numerous other treasures, several "Nesting Dolls". Then last meeting members were inspired by Anne Blodgett, Founder and President of Anajali Ministeries. Anne lives in Scotland, CT, but many, many weeks out of each year, she teaches in Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya, where in addition to teaching, she brings the children hope for brighter futures through education..

When you read this, youth Ekonk Granger (oldest son of our Vice President Ned) Colin Sebastian, will be teaching English in Korea for a full year! We all wish him well in this exciting adventure and God speed as he continues his life's journey! It has been great having Colin and Christopher Sebastian back with us for visits. Chris is now back at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and very proud to be a Granger!

Our Grange is bustling with activity and our Junior Grange keeps us all young at heart. Why not plan a visit!

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 10: "Look Before You Leap"

March 24: "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained"

Our painter has finished the upstairs hall, and a wonderful job he did. We have done some rearranging and cleaning out; and the place shines like a new (blue) penny. He will now move on to the downstairs ceiling. That should be finished by the middle of February. Many thanks to Debbie Barnes for heading this project.

Our January program was in the charge of the Agriculture Committee. Jason Miner presented a very intriguing PowerPoint program on "Bomb Sniffing Spinach." Make sure you ask Jason about it when you next see him.

The subject of our March 10 program will be Officer exchange and ritual. This is always fun (albeit confusing). On March 24 we will be treated to Sue's entry in the State Lecturer's program. Sue's programs have been top winners in recent years, so this is one you shouldn't miss.

We send get well greetings to Frances Miner and Charlie Smith who have been "under the weather" lately. Hope to see them back at our meetings soon. We miss them. And if those forsythia on the dining room table will just bloom and bring a little spring into the house, next time we'll tell you all about fabulous February.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Apr. 6: Inspection- What will the Deputy observe?

May 4: Visitors- invite your equal.

May 20: 7th Annual Food & Plant Sale

June 1: Come and see. The polls are open. Election.

So far so good. The

weather man has been kind to us as we held the first two meetings this year.

We are still looking for a Secretary as our longtime Secretary Marita Rand has serious health problems and prayers go out to her.

The church across the street has set May 20 for a rummage sale. Therefore, our food and plant sale will be the same day as heavy traffic makes for great sales. All food should arrive ready for sale as the church uses

our kitchen.

Once again, our newsletter editor has outdone himself. Norman Stitham produced an amazing newsletter. We are taking on a project to assist an animal rescue agency. We will be collecting old towels and blankets to assist them. Hopefully we will be able to donate a lot. The newsletter featured pictures of everyone who received certificates in December. All were taken with State Master Noel Miller.

Past State Master Frank E. Blakeman



Frank E. Blakeman was born on December 31, 1857 in the Town of Stratford, Connecticut. He was the son of Gould Blakeman and Harriet (Birdsey) Blakeman.

He received his education in the local schools. He was a farmer and held a prominent part in town affairs.

He married Nellie E. Beard on November 13, 1884. She was the daughter of Maria and William Beard.

A child was born to them that died in early infancy.

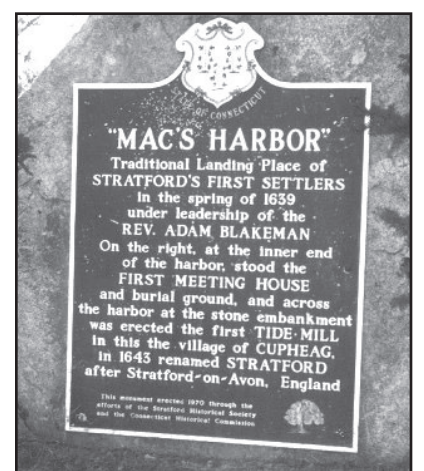
He served the Town of Stratford as Judge of the Town Court, upon the Board of Education and upon the Board of Assessors and represented the Town in the General Assembly. He was a staunch Republican and a member of the First Congregational Church of Stratford. He was a direct descendant of the first minister that came to Stratford when it was founded, the Rev. Adam Blakeman. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

He was very prominent in the Grange; some of the offices he held were as follows: Master of his own local Grange; Master of Fairfield County Pomona No. 9; Deputy of Fairfield County Pomona during 1910/11; Lecturer of the CT State Grange 1912-15; Overseer of the State Grange 1916-17; he was the 11th Master of the second Connecticut State Grange and served in that office from 1918-1921; and a member of the State Grange Executive Committee for 1922-23, being in this office when he died in 1923.

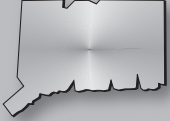
Sister Nellie Blakeman was a spirited, vivacious woman. Her presence at the State Sessions up until the time of her death is well remembered by those who knew her. She served as Chairman of the National Grange Home Economics Committee during 1921 and 1922.

Brother Blakeman personally organized the following Granges: Westport #148, Ridgefield #165, Darien #183, Bethany #188. The following Granges were organized by others but under his administration: East Lyme #157, Mystic #171, Victory #189, Metichewan #190 and Pokono #191.

Brother Blakeman was called to the Great Grange Above on Feb. 18, 1923 and was buried in the Putney Cemetery in Stratford, Connecticut.




Descendant of Stratford's first settlers



Excelsior Pomona No. 7

Beacon Valley #103	Bridgewater #153
Bethlehem #121	Wolcott #173
Prospect #144	Oxford #194



Since October 22, 1891

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on Friday, March 10th. The program "Let's Laugh at the Funnies" will be presented by Lecturer Cindy Legg. Our theme for the Country Store and refreshments is "Green." Carole Mancini will be in charge of the refreshments. You can expect some delicious Irish Soda Bread.

We are still planning fundraisers to make our ladies room more handicap accessible. Any donations or suggestions from members unable to attend meetings will be appreciated. Please send them to Treasurer Mary Lou Raymond or Master Joanne Cipriano.

Our next fundraiser will be a tag sale on Saturday, April 1.

Ron Fischer is planning his next Open Mic in April. Watch for the date and come and enjoy the music or entertain us.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

March 27: 7:30 P.M. Meeting (Monday); Skip & Rob refreshments

We are going to honor Vera Rosa as our Citizen of the Year.

Flea Market is scheduled for Sat., Apr. 1, 2017, 9-1 P.M. Come and see what we have that you can't live without.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

The Bridgewater Grange will hold a meeting at Saint Marks Church on Wednesday March 8th 2017 starting at 7 PM. Saint Marks is located on the corner of Hat Shop Hill Road and Route 133 right near the Bridgewater Post Office. This will be a meeting open to the public. There will be three topics of interest and four speakers.

The first topic will be about a new community supported agriculture (CSA) farm starting up in this area. Dan Weed, from a local family of farmers, is starting the CSA which will be called Deerfield Farms. He has over 400 acres in

New Milford, Bridgewater and Roxbury. They will attempt to be as organic as possible. They will plant over 20 heirloom varieties of vegetables as well as lots of sweet corn.

The second topic will be about gardening. Donna Katsuranis, of Brookfield, is a Master Gardener and the director of the "Giving Garden" which gives their crops to local charities and helps with low income families. Donna can answer most any question about growing flowers and vegetables.

The third topic will be about the future of the Bridgewater Grange Hall. Curtis Reade, the first selectman of Bridgewater, and Lisa Burns, of the Historic Society, will discuss the new plans for the renovation of the Grange Hall.

Refreshments will be served. We welcome everybody in the area to come to this informative meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Meetings:

March 3: Agriculture Program-Invasive Species

March 17: Pizza Party and Planning, 7:00 PM

Events--Upcoming and Ongoing:

March 13: Open Mics to be held 2nd Monday every month

Green Gold Permaculture Program (all begin at 7:00 P.M.):

March 2: Water, Rain gardens, rain barrels

March 16: Introduction to Permaculture

March 30: Urban Permaculture

April 13: Spring perennial vegetables

April 27: Green Gold film

May 11: Fall Perennial food crops

April 22: Chili Cook-off, 6:00 PM

Martin's Open Mic series on the second Monday of each month is back. The General Store program is on hold for now and may not be back, but we don't want to lose the momentum we are building for local entertainment programs in support of our local

musicians.

Our Third Annual Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, and tickets will be available for sale soon at \$8.00 per person. Bring your favorite chili to be judged in the run-off or just come to eat and fellowship with friends. We supply drinks and salad, but attendees are welcome to bring bread, cornbread, or a dessert item to share. There will be entertainment of some sort, musical or otherwise.

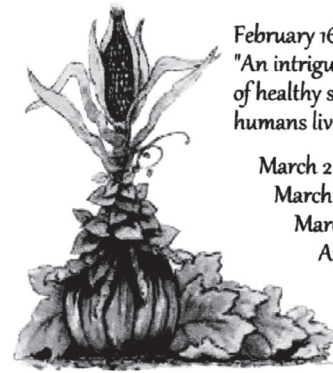
The handicapped ramp is well on its way as we have roughly three quarters of the funding to start construction when spring arrives. Hopefully, the chili cook-off will be our final fund-raiser. Thanks to all those who have donated money to the effort. We thank Selectman Jeff Haney for all his hard work in making this project come to fruition.

We look forward to the Permaculture gardening series that Raye has put together. This will be an ongoing series of short films and discussions on a variety of gardening related topics. We hope to see good attendance for this informational series.

Green Gold and Other Treasures

A free film & discussion series on Permaculture topics

Oxford Grange, 482 Oxford Rd., (Rt. 67) 7:00 p.m.



February 16 - Healthy soil. Film: Symphony of the Soil
"An intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil, creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet."

March 2 - Water, Rain gardens, rain barrels

March 16 - Intro to Permaculture

March 30 - Urban Permaculture

April 13 - Spring perennial vegetables

April 27 - Green Gold film

May 11 - Fall Perennial food crops

For more info contact Raye at 203 529 7293

Tickets available



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

I hope you have inked in Saturday, April 29th to attend the next activity of the Social Connection. Our program "Around the World" will be held at Cheshire Grange. A dinner of ethnic foods will be served promptly at 6:00.

Our request for volunteers has been great. To date, we have 12 volunteers making food from 10 countries. We still have some countries

that it would be nice to have food from. Just call Barbara Robert or me. We could also use help with serving and clean-up.

Our evening will include dinner, program, favors, country store and other things that make for an enjoyable evening. We will be waiting for your call.

Please save the date for a fun evening.

Tickets are in each Pomona - Price \$10.00.



CAMP BERGER

ADVENTURE - FUN
FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY

Celebrating our 62nd Year
Camp Berger is a Co-Educational
Overnight Camp for Ages 8-14
Seven Weekly Sessions:

June 25-July 1, July 2-8

July 9-15, July 16-22

July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5

Aug 6-12

Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week

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PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf, Pickle-Ball, Archery, Frisbee Golf, Sailing Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Rocketry Fishing, Orienteering, Geo Caching Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball Theatre, Rafting, Color Wars, Ping Pong Yoga, Badminton, Ga-ga Ball, 4-Square Hiking, Dodgeball, Rowing and More

Located on Scenic Park Pond in
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Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled
summer yet small enough, 120 campers per
session, to give individual attention. Please
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Lyn & Chris Kimberly Directors

3 Broad Street

Weston, CT 06883

CampBerger@gmail.com

860-238-7949

Facebook: www.facebook.com/camp.berger

Summer Address:

Camp Berger

134 Wahnee Road

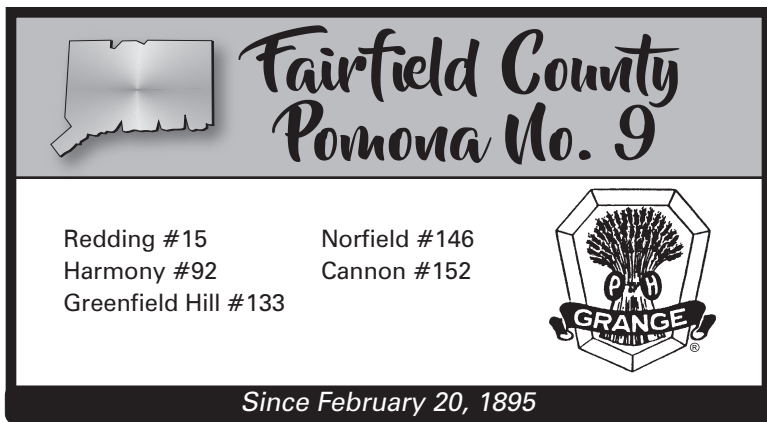
P.O. Box 181

Winchester Center, CT 06094

860-238-7949

www.CampBerger.com





**Fairfield County
Pomona No. 9**

Redding #15 Norfield #146
Harmony #92 Cannon #152
Greenfield Hill #133

Since February 20, 1895

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Lori Golias Burany
The Greenfield Hill Grange #133 held a dinner to celebrate Valentine's Day. It was a huge success, to food was delicious, and a fun time was had by all. Many thanks to all who attended and supported our Grange.

On March 11, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner, complete with potatoes and all the fixin's. For info call Steve at 203-367-4373. please leave a message.

A special thank you to Dave Purcell for plowing out our lot. Thank you and God Bless.

Also, April 22 will be the perfect opportunity to start your Spring cleaning -- or decorating. Pitch It! A Spring Flea Market will be held at: Greenfield Hill Grange from 10 - 3pm. 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT. Tables are also available. Call Steve at 203-367-4373 to reserve a table.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Lyn Kimberly
March 14: St. Patrick's Celebration & Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm
April 4: Grange Baking Contest & Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm
May 9: Think Spring! & Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm
June 2, 3 & 4: 6th: Annual Grange Tag Sale
June 13: Election of Officers & Monthly Meeting @ 7:30 pm

On January 14th we held our 5th Annual Barn Dance & Chili Supper the turnout wasn't as planned due to the snowy weather but all whom came had a great time "lighting up the winter's night". On February 7th we held our annual Valentine's Celebration with a "Souper Supper" of homemade Minestrone Soup, Salad, Bread topped off with Brownies & Ice Cream. Thanks Julia for hosting this event. With great sadness and heavy heart that evening we Draped the Charter for our faithful Brother Teddy Coley whom passed away at

the end of 2016. Our friend who's family donated the land the Norfield Grange sits on will be missed by all. February was a very busy month for our Grange - Mondays were Newbies Workshops for the BackYard BeeKeepers Association; Tuesday afternoons filled the Grange with kids laughter for an ongoing after-school program that runs through May; Wednesdays the Rockin' Roosters (every week 'til the end of the year) host a Square Dance with a fee of \$5/person and \$10/family, and Thursdays a local artisan Suzan Diaz taught "Introduction to Traditional Hand Caning Relax, Enjoy Weave...". Please mark your calendars for the 6th Annual Grange Tag Sale on June 2, 3 & 4... if you'd like to be a Vendor feel free to contact the Grange to rent a space or shop (Proceeds go towards the Grange Scholarship/Campership Funds).

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger
Mar 2: Business Meeting
Mar 15: Business Meeting
Mar 18: Silent Movie evening
Wednesdays in March - Tai Chi Classes (check our website for time) with Bil Mikulewicz
April 20: Program on making Jams & Preserves with Pam Lillis

We learned that one of our Golden Sheaf members, Genevieve Saunders, passed away in late December at age 91. Gen was our oldest living member at the time of her passing. She had begun her Grange journey in Cannon's Juvenile Grange and met her future husband, Art Saunders, at Cannon Grange. Appropriately, we have draped our charter.

Additional new members have been welcomed at Cannon Grange over the recent month: Carole Gilliam, Kara Shepherd, Tina Georgeou and daughter Lauren. Karten, Tina and Lauren have been active participants for many years at our annual Agricultural Fairs. Lauren has been the reigning champ in the Watermelon-eating contest for several years in a row.

Over 80 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected and donated to the local Food Pantry as part of our "Living Well" series of programs and activities, and helping others to do the same.

The first February meeting had our town's Fire Chief scheduled to talk to the audience about Fire Safety Issues. Moments before he was to begin, a call to a

structure fire necessitated the chief to change from his formal uniform into turnout gear. Luckily, one of the fire commissioners was in attendance, Ross Tartell, (who is the husband of Grange member Karen) and provided a short program telling us about the renovation work taking place at Station 2 in town.

In our continuing series of Living Well programs,

we will be hosting Tai Chi classes on each of the 5 Wednesdays in March; enjoying Silent Movies on Saturday, March 18th, and learning about Jams and Preserves on April 20th.

Lots of good things happening at Cannon Grange. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?

Norfield Grange barn dance



Thanks again to Billy Fischer & "The Boys in the Band" and all whom braved the "New England Snowy Weather" and as you can see a great time was had by all at the Norfield Grange Barn Dance & Chili Supper! Please check back for more fun events at the Norfield Grange...and mark your calendar and check back for January 2018 to come join in this great annual community event!

Commercial kitchen grants

Betsy Huber, National Master

Do you see the proliferation of small home businesses in your area like I do mine? This may be an opportunity for your Grange to make a real difference in your community.

National Grange is looking to help a few local Granges apply for Grants to install commercial kitchens in their halls. This would be a fantastic community service to build the economy of your area, help individuals get home businesses started, or help those whose business may have outgrown their home kitchen and are ready to take the next step. It could also help your Grange to be financially sustainable and able to do more to help others in your community. It will certainly help your Grange to become well known in your area.

It doesn't make sense for each small company to undertake the huge expense of building a kitchen to meet government requirements for food production. A Grange can obtain a grant to install a kitchen that

meets the requirements, and then rent it out by the hour or day. This would be a great source of income to the Grange, and a source of new members, as well as a boost to your local farmers and economy.

Dartmouth Grange in Mass. Has done this very successfully. Their kitchen is currently used by more than ten small food businesses who rent the fully-licensed space to produce their products, from jams, teas, cookies, to BBQ sauce or peanuts. It is also used by two caterers to prepare their foods.

We want to duplicate this success in Granges across the country. If you think your Grange might be interested, please have them contact me and your State Master. This could be a great opportunity for the Grange, locally as well as nationally.

National Grange will help you with the grant application to get started.

Give us a call at 888-4GRANGE or email: betsy@nationalgrange.org.



Greenfield Hill Grange Valentine

Danielle Burany, 6, of Trumbull, and her friend Val, enjoy some coloring at the Greenfield Hill Grange Valentine Dinner on Sat., Feb. 11 in Fairfield, CT.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

Noel, Marcia and I attended the NE Leaders Conference in Rutland, Vermont the end of January. We took some bumpy roads through the state to get here, but am enjoying the camaraderie of friends. The Banquet had some great food - and I was a prize winner too!

Want to keep up on my adventures? Be sure to follow me on Facebook. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Lecturers to meet in Castleton



The 102nd Northeast Grange Lecturers' Conference will be held Monday to Wednesday, July 31st to August 2nd at Castleton University, Castleton, VT. Castleton is about 20 minutes west of Rutland and I figure about a 4 hour drive plus

any stops you may make. (Depending on which way you go you will go right by The Vermont Country Store. Even if you don't plan on buying anything it is worth the stop to check out the old-time items they have.)

Please note that we will be starting earlier on Monday with the Grand Opening taking place at 3:30 p.m. And, the conference will end Wednesday after breakfast.

The theme of the conference is School Days and Connecticut's program is entitled Physical Education. If you have any suggestions, please send them to me.

Do you know anyone

who will be going to the conference that does a lot of dancing? I would love to be able to incorporate this into the program. I am also looking for a few old gym suits like we wore back in our high school days. I need your help. Remember this is Connecticut's Program and I want to include as many people as possible.

Connecticut will rehearse Tuesday morning at 9:45 and the program will take place right after lunch.

Forms for the conference will be in the mail as soon as I receive the information, hopefully by the beginning of May.

Governor proposes budget



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut General Assembly was called to order in early January for the for 2017 session. This is a full session year where the legislatures will be submitting bills for a variety of issues. We have already started watching for proposed bills that concern topics of Grange policy. This is also the session that

the states bi-annual budget is presented.

In early February the Governor presented his proposed budget which has generated a lot of discussion since. The governor says that these proposals are needed to close a \$1.7 billion budget deficit. A majority of towns and cities would experience major hits with the proposed changes in funding formulas. The proposed budget greatly reduces state funding to many of the "more wealthy" towns and increases funding to the needier cities. Some groups are calling this proposal the "Robin Hood" budget. A few cities would benefit from this plan with increased funding but more than 130 towns would lose funding.

Currently towns do not contribute to the teachers' pension plan. The budget proposal includes requiring cities and towns to contribute about a third of the obligation to the teachers' pension plan payment which would be about \$400 million.

The Governor has proposed allowing towns to now charge hospitals real estate taxes to help them generate revenue. Most hospitals are non-profit and are exempt from property taxes. To counteract that expense to the hospital the state would increase Medicaid reimbursement payments to the hospitals. Problem is that in future years the state could decrease these Medicaid payments while the hospitals still have to pay the property taxes. The Governor also wants to cap some of the Medicaid programs and change eligibility requirements for adults who are presently receiving insurance through the Husky Program, making some ineligible.

Of course the proposed budget includes renegotiating the state employee contracts and is asking for \$700 million in concessions. The Governor says that if they refuse the concessions, he will lay off over 1000 state employees. Imagine if a local business in the state announced that they will be laying off over 1000 employees, the Governor would be on the phone to try to stop that and offer concessions. He also wants a 10 percent cut in all agencies budgets. This would have impacts on services through the state from social services to state parks.

The budget is now in the hands of the Senate and House members. The Governor's proposal is a starting point and the actual budget may be drastically different from what is proposed. There will be many recommendations and revisions before the final budget is passed. Hopefully the two parties will work this out together and it will be completed by the end of the session in June. If not, they will be back in special session.



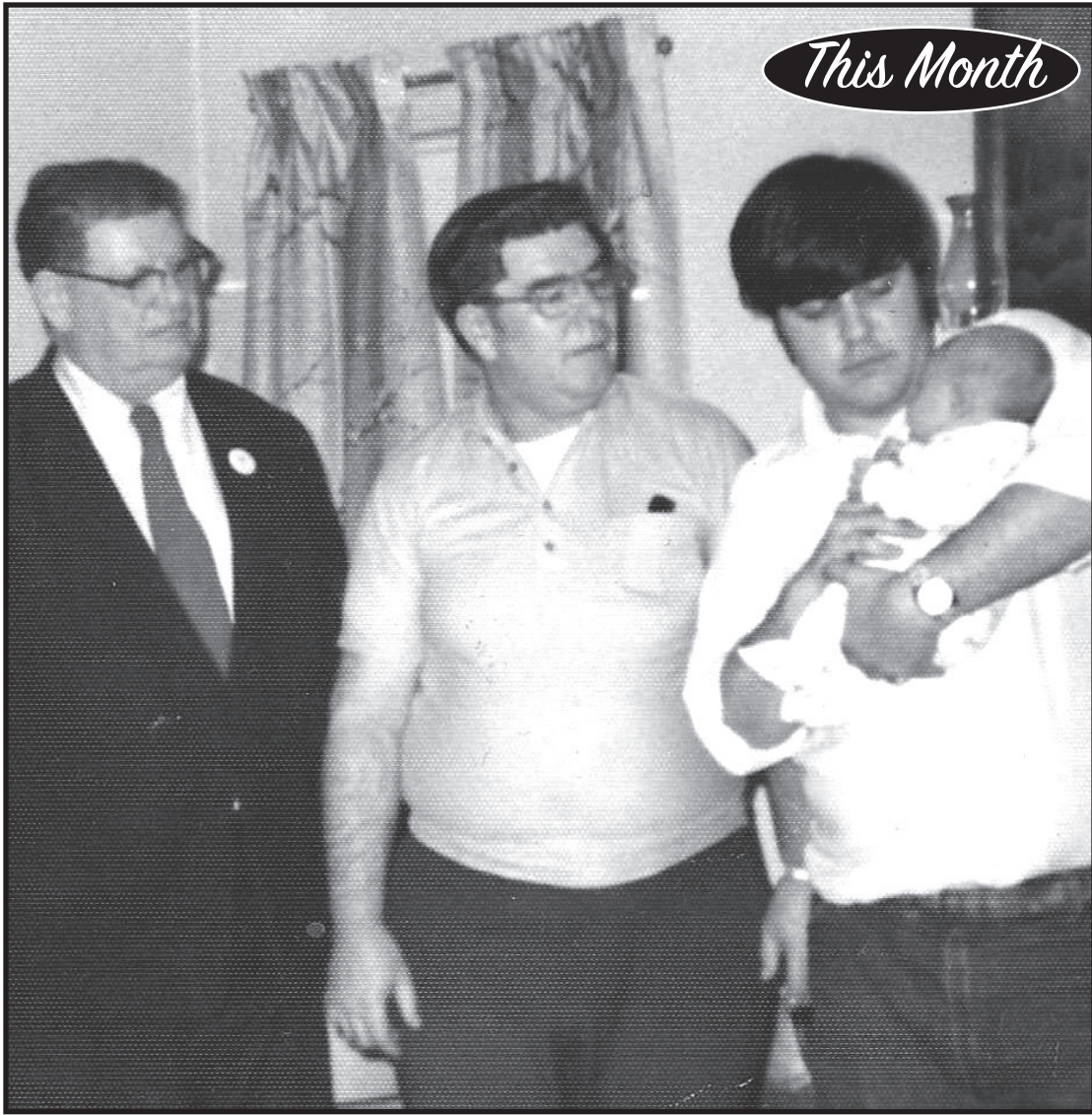
Camping Season is around the corner!

Camping season at Camp Berger is coming soon! The directors have been attending Camp Fairs in the region to help promote enrollment at Camp Berger. Do you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, etc. who would love to experience Camp Berger? Visit CampBerger.org for more information!

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 history 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.

This Month



Last Month



There were no responses to last month's Window Picture.



The month of March - it's not quite winter, but it's not quite Spring either. But it is the month of St. Patrick's Day - and the perfect time for Corned Beef and Cabbage. The food blog "Pass The Sushi" has an easy and delicious recipe for this classic dish.

Corned Beef and Cabbage

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 5-6 lb corned beef, with seasoning packet
- 2 lbs small red potatoes
- 1 lbs carrots, peeled and cut in half
- 1 onion, peeled
- 1 head cabbage, divided into 6 wedges

DIRECTIONS:

Fill a large stock pot with enough water to cover corned beef. Place beef, and contents of seasoning packet if included with purchase, in stock pot and bring to a simmer. Cook for 2 to 3 hours, until a toothpick or wooden skewer can be inserted easily into the meat.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Remove beef from water and place in roasting pan with a ladle of cooking liquid. Place in oven to keep warm.

Meanwhile, place potatoes, carrots, and onion in the stock pot and bring to a boil, cooking for 10 minutes. Add cabbage and boil an additional 10 minutes.

Remove beef from oven and slice against the grain. Serve with drained vegetables.

SOURCE: <http://passthesushi.com/corned-beef-and-cabbage/>



**Deadline for the
Next Issue is
March 5!**

NATIONAL GRANGE



Legislative
FLY-IN

April 23 - 26, 2017 • Washington, D.C.

Grassroots Activism Award

The National Grange Youth Department and Legislative Department still has one slot open for its Grassroots Activism Award available. The winner will receive an \$800 travel scholarship to attend the National Grange Legislative Fly In in April. The scholarship is sponsored by Potomac Grange #1.

This year's event returns to Washington DC. Grangers will arrive in Washington on April 23. The event provides Grange youth and young adults the chance to receive advocacy training from the legislative department, plus visit with

their congressman and senators. The event will conclude on April 25.

The application and registration are available in the 2017 National Grange Youth Handbook on the National Grange Youth website, www.nationalgrangeyouth.org.

Applications must be received by March 1 for consideration.

Contact National Grange Youth Director Charlene Shupp Espenshade if you have any questions at youth@nationalgrange.org or 717-361-2844.

National Youth Zoom Meeting

The National Grange Youth Department is excited to kick off its spring Zoom meeting series.

The first meeting will be at 9 p.m. (EST) on March 8. The topic will be planning and organizing a Young Adults/Young Marrieds weekend. Our speakers will be Pennsylvania State Grange Youth Director Ellen Wadsworth and Past National Grange Patrons Robert and Jennifer Beamon. They will share how their youth department re-launched this popular event targeted for Grange Young Adults (21-35). To join the meeting, you can do one of the following.

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://zoom.us/j/819225112>.

Join from Telephone: Dial: +1 408 638 0968 (US Toll) or +1 646 558 8656 (US Toll)

Meeting ID: 819 225 112

A second meeting is scheduled for April 8 demonstrating how to utilize the Zoom platform to conduct Parli-Pro team practices. The parliamentary procedure contest has grown in popularity and interest. However, distance is a limiting factor for team practices. Contest coordinator Cassidy Cheddar will work with the National Grange Youth Team to demonstrate how to conduct a practice online to prepare for the National competition at the National Grange Session in Spokane, Washington.

In Memoriam

Janet M. Hale
Cheshire #23

Beverly MacDonald
Ekonk Comm. #89

Sylvia Tyler
Ekonk Comm. #89

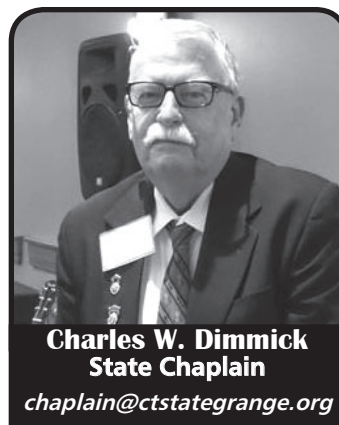
Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain

Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

Matthew 6:19-21

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

also."

For too many of us, laying up treasures on earth has been a major distraction from our need to lay up treasures in heaven. In fact, for some of us, our mantra seems to be "He who dies with the most toys wins". And yet, objectively, those who die with the most toys are just dead. They have won nothing.

In the third degree ritual of the Grange the Chaplain warns "Take heed, therefore, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesseth, but in the right use of God's blessings."

One of the major dangers of putting too much stock in earthly possessions is that they may come to possess you instead. Remember the ghost of Jacob Marley, in Dicken's "Christmas Carol". He was bound with a chain "made... of cash-boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds, and heavy purses wrought in steel." The ghost explains "I wear the chain I forged in life..." "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it."

This is not to say that we should give away all that we have and own nothing, although such was the advice that Jesus gave the rich young man, to "sell all that you have and follow me". Rather, it is a warning that we need to shift our values. We must recognize that all that we have is a gift from God, and we should in thankfulness for what we have received give freely of what we have.



Greenfield Hill Grange #133

1873 Hillside Road

Fairfield, CT



St. Patrick's Day

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

6:00 pm

(Doors open 5:30)

March 11, 2017

(snow date: March 12th)



Reservations by March 5th
No tickets sold at the door
Donation \$20.00 per person

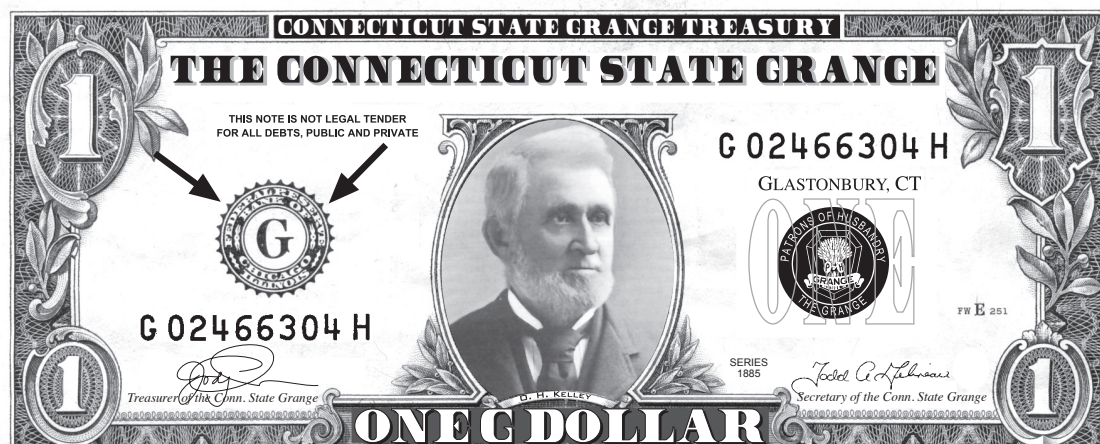
For reservations call

Jim at 203-259-8023

Steve at 203-367-4373

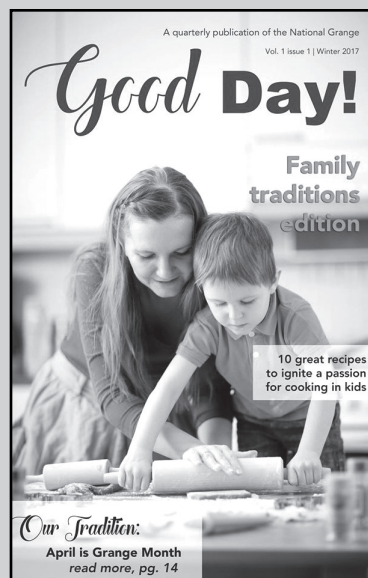
BYOB

G Note Leader Board



Did you know the G-Note program is continuing (by popular demand) in 2017?? Keep looking for those G-Notes and help us defray the cost of future National Grange conventions.

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For just \$14 annually, you can order a subscription to National Grange's new magazine. It will make a great gift for any Grangers you know!

To subscribe, visit www.NationalGrange.org or email them at info@NationalGrange.org. You may also call toll free at 1-888-4-GRANGE.

Our Tradition.
April is Grange Month
read more, pg. 14