

Merry Christmas

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Connecticut Granger

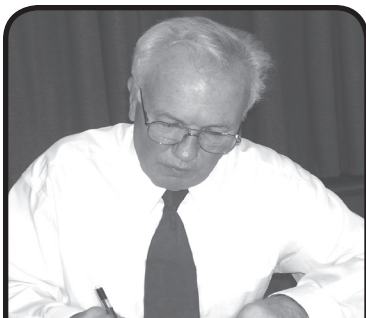


Vol. 50, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2009

State President



Robert Sendewicz
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The Pink Sash meeting was held on the 1st of November. The state committee's concluded their planning and forwarded the information to the State Secretary for printing in the Blue Book. The programs and contests they have planned will probably be listed in this issue. The State Directory and the 125 edition of the Journal of Proceedings should also be at the printer. Aside from the journal, these will be available at the schools of instruction.

Many of the deputies have already picked dates for the schools and they are listed in this edition.

Subordinate Masters will also be notified by their deputy. I will be bringing much information about the National Session to these meetings. We did send seven resolutions to National. November's edition of the Granger listed the resolutions that were adopted at the State session. The ones that went to National are resolution #3, #11, #22, #26, #34, #35 and #36. Other items will be discussed at the schools and of course I will be available to answer your questions.

The Pomona inspections and the subordinate evaluations will be handled the same as previous years. It is important for the Grange secretary to fill out the questionnaire that is sent to them prior to the evaluation. Each Grange should also have available the Executive Committee report and the secretary and treasurer's books and accounts for the entire

year. That's from last year's evaluation to this year's evaluation. I would also like the committee directors to write a report of their activities. I rely on these reports to learn about your Grange.

Sister Marge and I are now packing for National. I hope to learn more about the Northeast Leaders Conference then and will pass this information on to the state committee directors when I return. They all know that it will be in Vermont and it is usually the second weekend in January. So be ready to go.

This is a great time of year. Thanksgiving has just ended and everyone is preparing for Christmas. I hope you all enjoy your Grange parties, Sister Marge and I will be attending some of them, and remember the less fortunate children this year. We wish all of you a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY and PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Marge Bernhardt, a "Hero of the Grange"



Marge Bernhardt (left), State Lecturer and member of Cheshire Grange #23, receives her award as a Hero of the Grange at the recent National Grange Session in Michigan.

(Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 18, 2009) – Eight National Grange members were honored as "Heroes of the Grange" at the 143rd National Grange convention held in Grand Rapids Michigan. These individuals were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Grange.

The first recipients of this prestigious award are Wib and June Justi for their work as coordinators of the Grange Germany/USA Friendship Program. In 1950 the National Grange initiated the Grange Germany/USA Friendship Program (GG/USA). Under this program, more than 500 farm youth from Germany and other ravaged European nations were brought to the United States and placed with Grange farm families for one year to directly experience the benefits of freedom, prosperity and democracy.

... continued on page 2

Meehans "Grange Family of the Year"

(Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 20, 2009) - The National Grange honored the Meehan Family of Connecticut as the recipient of this year's "Family of the Year" award at the 143rd annual National Grange convention's "Evening of Excellence." This award is designed to annually recognize one outstanding Grange family acknowledging their achievements in their local community and Grange.

The Grange is a way of life for the Meehan Family of Connecticut. All seven are members of Prospect Grange serving in almost every leadership capacity available at the local, county, and state level.

In addition to leadership roles, they have helped serve meals, participated in contests, helped start an Adopt-A-Highway Program in Connecticut, and organized the Prospect Agricultural fair for over 20 years.

Recently Prospect Grange, led by the Meehan family, helped a homeless couple by providing shelter, clean clothing, food, and assisted them in successfully finding employment. They also provided furniture and other donated items for the couple's new apartment.

The Meehans are not only active in the Grange, but many other community and civic organizations assisting with activities

such as building a Horseshoe Pit at the Prospect Senior Center and raising funds for community projects. "My family can teach others to be able to work together with strangers and not be afraid to use their talents and imaginations to the max to accomplish any goal," stated Jean Meehan.

In addition to the Family of the Year announcement, two other families were recognized as runners up. Both from Pennsylvania, the Anstadt Family and the Strittmatter family were also honored. The Anstadt family recently helped upgrade and improve their Grange building which is used for local

...continued on page 6

2010 SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION


Jan. 6 (Wed)	Fairfield County Pomona Redding Grange, 7:30 P.M.
Jan. 15 (Fri)	Mountain County Pomona Litchfield Grange, 7:30 P.M.
Jan. 17 (Sun)	Quinebaug & New London County Pomonas Killingly Grange, 2:00 P.M.
Jan. 23 (Sat)	East & North Central Pomonas Hillstown Grange, 1:30 P.M.
Jan. 25 (Mon)	Farmington Valley Pomona Tunxis Grange, 7:30 P.M.
Feb. 7 (Sun)	Excelsior Pomona Prospect Grange, 2:00 P.M.
Feb. 21 (Sun)	Central Pomona Hemlock Grange, 1:00 P.M.

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Deadline for the JANUARY issue: DECEMBER 5

New London County Pomona No. 6



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

NEW LONDON CTY. POMONA #6
Corr: Nancy Weismuller

Dec. 14: Dashing Through the Snow Colchester Grange

Pomona’s court was lovely at our October conferral of the fifth degree. We conferred the degree on two candidates, Elita Flynn from Preston City and Robert Bailey from Stonington. Welcome Elita and Robert!

We will meet at Colchester Grange for our annual holiday meeting. Onereasonwealwaysliketo visit Colchester (other than the great fellowship and friendship of the members) is the music. Their pianist keeps everyone’s feet tapping when she tickles the ivories. Let’s hope the weather doesn’t follow Debbie’s advice and have us “dashing through the snow” to get there.

Colchester will hold a brief meeting at 7:00, followed by our meeting at 7:30.

Holiday time is coming fast,

All gold and green and red

Please join us down at Colchester.

Have fun and be well fed.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138
Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Dec. 11: “Holiday Inn” Brief meeting, Christmas Pageant and Party

Dec. 25: No meeting, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year

The hall overflowed with Princess,witchesandghouls

at our annual Halloween party. With over 80 in attendance it was nearly SRO. The costume parades had the judges scratching their heads. Choosing the winners gets harder each year as the costumes get more imaginative. The cup social following the meeting raised money for our Christmas fruit baskets.

We will carol to our longtime members in mid December. If you would like to join us contact the Secretary or Master for time and date. We always end up at a local restaurant for pizza when we have sung our last carol and delivered our last basket.

Bring a wrapped present for Santa’s pack for the little ones you bring to the Christmas party. The hall will be gaily decorated for the season and the refreshments are always extra special. And if all those beautiful leaves will stop falling all over my lawn so I can finally rake the up, next time I’ll tell

you about nifty November.

LYME GRANGE #147
Corr: Dick Chapman
Dec. 3: Color Us Christmasy
Jan 7: Color Us Electric Lime

Veryspecialmembership recognitionswerepresented to several of our members by Edith Schoell, State Grange Secretary, at our October meeting. There were as follows: Rosemary Fox & Ruth Young 65 year seal, Alione S. Cone, 50 year certificate. To be presented at home will be a 50 year certificate to Bruce Stark and a 65 year seal to GenevievePowaleny. Those present fondly reminisced over their earlier years. Sincere congratulations!

Awards received at the recent State Grange session included: Top Honor Grnage (of the larger Granges), Honor Lecturer, New Member contest 2nd, Highest Net Gain 2nd, Youth Membership Award 2nd, Sunflower contest 2nd. Our for resolutions were adopted and we look forward to their inception. Will we have a State Cake? We will if we work at it.

For the program on Dec. 3, everyone is asked to bring a number and on Jan. 7, is show and tell.

Happy Holidays!



Scott Bill Hirst, center, Legislative Chairman of N. Stonington Grange No. 138, organized a forum for North Stonington Selectman candidates for this year’s Grange legislative program. They included Nicholas H. “Nick” Mullane, ll far left, and his Democratic challenger Marilyn Mackay, second from left; Hirst, and Selectman candidates Leroy W. “Bill” Briscoe, second from the right, a Democrat currently on the Board of Education, and Republican incumbent Shawn P. Murphy, far right.

Heroes of the Grange

Continued from page one...

Mr. Justi coordinated the GG/USA program from 1950 through 1966 as part of his assignments as a staff member of the National Grange. His wife June served as a volunteer assistant with the program. Since his retirement from the National Grange in 1966 Mr. and Mrs. Justi have served as volunteer coordinators for the GG/USA alumni program continuing to achieve the program goals of building international goodwill, friendship and understanding. In a world that continues to experience continual conflict, the history of the GG/ USA program demonstrates that two people working with quiet perseverance can still positively touch the lives of thousands of people around the world. After receiving the award, Mr. Justis stated, “One word...courage. Please think of the word courage when you think of the German exchanges in the GG/USA program and their American host families when they accepted one another at a time immediately after WWII. This tribute is for these people.”

Next honored were Ted and Zula Bryan who traveled to Alaska to organize a State Grange pausing only to work at an information booth at the Kenai Peninsula State Fair . In addition to organizing the Alaska State Grange they are currently one of the two couples who serve as the Directors of the Washington State Membership Department and are getting new members and revitalizing Granges all across the State of Washington. Ted Bryan stated, We try to carry the Grange message and give people who have never heard of the Grange the opportunity to be a Grange member and belong to this great organization.”

Marge Bernhardt, Connecticut State Grange’s Lecturer (educational coordinator), is unquestionably a valuable resource for Lecturers in her state as well as throughout the New England region. She is extremely talented and dedicated to equipping fellow Lecturers with the things they need to be a valuable asset to their own Grange. In addition to her other accomplishments, she leads a training workshop every year at the New England Lecturers’ Conference.

Jessica Horton was the next honored “Grange Hero” as a Membership Director for the North Carolina State Grange for 2 years where she has been a key asset in growing the organization. She has organized 3 new Granges including the formation of a Youth Grange. She has also helped organize a Pomona Grange which encompasses3countiesand4Granges.Jessicaisaconstant support for local Granges by leading membership rallies, giving presentations on Grange membership growth and helping lead a weekend-long state officer’s meeting focused on goals set forth by the National President. She has initiated innovative public relations and recruiting efforts by networking at a local farmer’s market, county extension office, and agricultural teacher’s conference.

Next honored was Brother Jack Cottrell, who for 10 years has been the manager of a Grange Store that operates during the annual Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts. The exposition is the largest fair in the New England region. The Grange store specializes in selling over 60 different specialty foods products and homemade crafts. More than 75 Grange volunteers annually donate time during the 17-day fair to work at the Grange Store, to manage the sale of raffle tickets and to be promotional Grange Ambassadors.

The last “Hero of the Grange” award went to Carl Meiss, Communications/Public Relations Director for the Pennsylvania State Grange. Carl is proactive when it comes to Facebook, Twitter, and his own State Grange blog. As the National Grange Communications Department takes steps to move the National Organization into the 21 st Century with the newest communications technologies, Pennsylvania with Carl at the helm, will lead the charge.

National Grange President concluded the award luncheon by stating, “I am tremendously honored to be at the podium to present these individual as “Heroes of the Grange.” They each deserve the award bestowed upon them and we applaud their ongoing efforts to live by example and promote this wonderful organization.”

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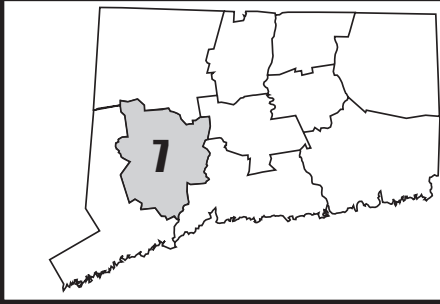
DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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

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

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- ✓ Prospect No. 144
- Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7
Corr: Mary Dubay

Excelsior Pomona does not meet in the month of December, so we would like to wish all members a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103
Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Beacon Valley was proud of the many awards received at the State Session. We received an Honor Grange Bar, second place in the Publicity Contest for the Best Single newspaper article and in the Lecturer’s Department Joanne Cipriano placed first for her essay “What the Grange Means to Me, Honorable Mention for the Complete Program Contest and an Honor Lecturer’s Certificate. We also received a “Should Auld Acquaintance Certificate” for our volunteering at the convalescent home.

The title of our program for December 11th is “Birds” and it will be a Christmas Party. Plans have not been finalized. On December 12th we will be hosting the Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters. Come and join us. Social Hour begins at 5:30 – Pot luck supper at 6:30 – meeting and program to follow the doing of the dishes.

From the Officers and Members of Beacon Valley Grange we wish all our Grange friends and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May it be your best one yet.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121
Corr: Linda Coad
Dec. 14: 6:30pm.. Christmas Party at the Painted Pony. Canned food collection.
Jan. 24: 2:00pm... Wintertime SUNDAY MEETING. Ref: Linda & Buzz Country Store
Feb. 28: 2:00pm...Hearts & Presidents. SUNDAY

MEETINGS Ref: Cindy & Ernie Finch

Looking back at 2009, the year went fast. We ran a successful Flea Market, donated to all the State CWA projects, sent a child to Camp Berger. A delightful picnic was hosted by Rob and Maggie Buck. Set up a display at the Bethlehem Fair. Over 100 entries came in for the “Lillian Merrill Baking Contest” sponsored by Bethlehem Grange at the fair. What a wonderful way to honor a good Granger.

A \$1000 Scholarship was again given out to a student of Shepaug High School. Once again Washington Grange was remembered.

WATERTOWN GRANGE #122
Corr: Mary Dubay

Dec. 4: Christmas Party
Dec. 18: Deck the Halls

First in December we have Pearl Harbor Day, we honor those who have served in the Armed Forces. Next is Christmas, a busy time for all mankind, with shopping for presents, Christmas parties, family get togethers and, of course, Santa Claus.

Our first meeting in December will be our Christmas Party. We will have a Christmas Country Store and a grab bag gift exchange on the agenda.

Our second meeting is called Deck the Halls, getting closer to Christmas by the Lecturer.

At the One Hundred Twenty-Fifth Session of the Connecticut State Grange, Watertown received the Honor Grange Bar and Community Service Award. Our mother and daughter team Diane and Denise Barbieri won many recognition awards for their work with the Youth in many different categories. Nice work girls!

Come and join us when you can. We meet on the first and third Fridays of each month at 7:30 P.M. Our door is always open. Happy Holidays to all!

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

The new year is upon us and we hope to be able to continue making a difference in our community. With our dues to the State Grange due to raise in January, we will have to think about doing the same in order to keep our heads above water. We will be calling on our members for ideas.

Our October meeting produces many faces painted on pumpkins. Everyone enjoyed painting faces on their pumpkins thanks to brother and sister Maxwell.

A \$150 scholarship was presented to Staci Puto who is attending UConn. We wish you well in your studies.

November gave our CWA committee to kook up something for Thanksgiving. This was very interesting. Everyone enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving and learned a lot about the history of Thanksgiving.

We had a table at the 35th Annual Excelsior Pomona Bazaar and our penny auction did well. Thank you to all who contributed with donations and by purchasing tickets.

December 10 a Christmas Party was held with a Pot Luck super starting at 6:30 p.m. for family and friends to enjoy. A Christmas card exchange and a \$2.00 grab bag was enjoyed. Santa Claus paid us all a visit. Our Annual raffle will be held after the party with many happy winners we hope. We would like to thank all our members and friends who contributed to this fund raiser in any way.

We have had quite a few of our members on the sick list this past year and want to wish them well for the new year and hope to see them at our meetings.

Prospect Grange officers and members would like to wish all our friends and neighbors a Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year

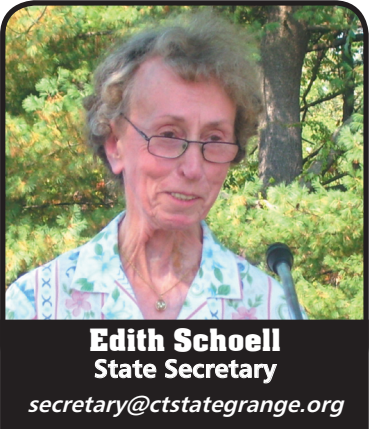
OXFORD GRANGE #194
Corr: Phil Rowland
Dec. 4: First and Second

Degrees
Dec. 18: Christmas Party, 7:00 p.m. Potluck, Grab Bag gift \$4.00

With our small group, doing Degrees will require a little help from our friends. A little help from the weatherman would be appreciated too, considering it’s December!

The recent Blood Drive was successful, with 55 units collected. Our members furnished food and served doners in the canteen. Another community service effort is underway in our Great

Are you incorporated?



Gardens seminar series. Maggie Buck proposed this program to bring folks up to date on gardening. Newer methods such as hydra-ponic will be covered, since she has had some experience with it.

Lecturer’s Programs continue to be the highlight of our meetings. At Halloween time Lecturer Jeanne had each person, or couple, turn a pumpkin into a Jack-O-Lantern. Audrey Welner’s was easily judged the most spooky.

Happy Holidays to all!

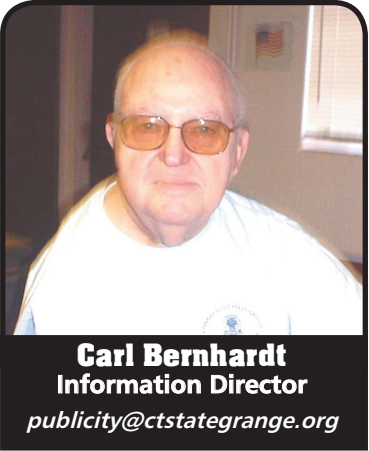
The State Session is now history and recorded a successful year. I hope your Grange is planning for the upcoming holidays that will include friends and neighbors. Remember those in the service as well as those who are in need of assistance.

This is a reminder to all Granges - are you incorporated? Has the incorporation lapsed? If it has lapsed we suggest that you get it reinstated. You can check the State of Connecticut, Secretary of State on the web, or call to request the necessary papers to be reactivated. It is very easy for this matter to be overlooked since some forms are sent from the Secretary of State in August.

If you filed the necessary paperwork with the \$25 you will receive a notice that it has been accepted.

I will close with this verse on Success.
When we meet, the beginning of great things is possible.
When we speak and exchange ideas, progress is possible.
When we think and plan, a bright future is possible.
When we work together and share our know-how, success is possible.

Advertising



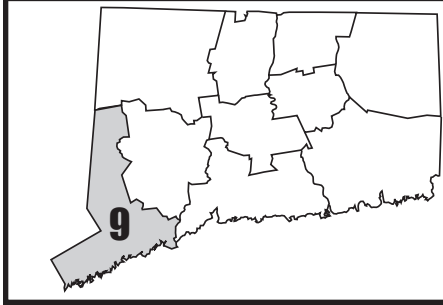
Have you been advertising your Granges activities? This is the start of a new Grange year and you should have completed your plans for the year. Now you should implement those plans.

What are you waiting for? Today can be the first day of the best Grange year you have ever had.

Think positive. Pursue casual acquaintances. Everyone you contact may just be waiting to be asked to join the Grange. ADVERTISE your activities. Let your fellow townspeople know what a great active group you are. Tell the world just how great the Grange is. “Blow our own horns” ADVERTISE! People don’t know if we keep it a deep, dark secret. Don’t be ashamed to say “I BELONG TO THE GRANGE. WHY DON’T YOU JOIN US? SOME OF THE NICEST PEOPLE I KNOW BELONG.”

Your own actions and activities are the best free publicity the Grange can get. Don’t speak in a negative manner. Stress all the good points. Every member of your Grange is a walking, talking advertisement. Remember, we need positive publicity. Let today be the start day of our newer and better Grange year in Connecticut.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9
Corr: Karen Macdonald

Hello to all and hoping that your holidays and New Year were full of fun and wishes for a wonderful 2010.

I suppose we all share a New Year’s resolution of getting new members to help grow the Grange! With our focus on community service and special projects for Grange committees and fairs, there is always something to do for the Grange. As we keep warm for the winter, we’ll be thinking about upcoming Tag Sales, fairs, craft contests and contributions, maybe thinking ahead to next year’s garden. Wishing you all a new year filled with faith, love, peace and joy!

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Marge Sendewicz

Dec. 14: Christmas supper, 6:30 p.m. \$1.00 grab bag.

Dec. 28: No meeting

Jan. 11: New Ideas.

Bob and I just returned from the National Session in time for Thanksgiving. Now we are planning for a full December. No rest for the weary I guess.

We thank everyone who came to our November bake and tag sale. We usually have a pancake supper and bingo this time of year but we wanted to try something different and it was during the day not at night. I hope you found something you liked.

We hope many of you can visit our Grange for our Christmas supper and a fun filled night. We have a \$1.00 grab bag if you wish to participate and if you are coming to the supper let us know. This meeting we are usually jolly and full of good cheer and a fun filled program is planned.

If you come be in good singing voice as we sing many holiday carols. There is also the chance that Santa will be there with

goodies for the good boys and girls.

In January our program will be “New Ideas”. New ideas for a new year and a new Grange. That should be interesting. Visit us anytime we are open and we will make it worth your while. Till then all of us at Redding Grange wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

TRUMBULL GRANGE #134

Corr: Sue Sulier

Hi, fellow Grangers and welcome to December, the month when Christians celebrate the birth of the Christ child and the Jewish celebrate Hanukkah. On a personal note, it has been an exciting time for my family. My husband, Tom and I are very pleased to announce our son, Tommy, purchased his first home and became engaged to his lady love, Rebecca (we call her Becca). We are now in the throes of making their house a home and planning their wedding. Tom and I are thrilled that our son, who is our only child, found someone to share in his life. We hope our fellow Grangers join with in wishing the couple enduring love, health, happiness, prosperity and with our dear Lord blessing, babies.

Now onto the Grange stuff – Congratulations to our Overseer, Pat Gerckens who recently was honored as the AARP CT’s 2009 Volunteer Specialist of the Year. Pat received this prestigious award because of her advocacy work and her position as the Southwest CT Zone Coordinator for their Driver Safety Program. As us Grangers know, Pat is very active in many other volunteer organizations, including, luckily for us, the Grange. Pat is most deserving of every award she has received and we

are all very proud of her.

Speaking of Pat, she and her crew delighted our taste buds with Pat’s delicious beef barley and cabbage soups (her cabbage soup is my personal favorite) and Mary Bourdeau’s incredibly delicious cheesecake. Thanks “sisters”. Pat, we hope you will pencil us in for another “Soup and Sandwich Night” next year.

At our October meeting, we celebrated Halloween, with little Lauren Malatesta handing our goodie bags of trick or treat candy, which were donated by Val Barrachina and Barbara Standley.

Our Henry/Hank Barrachina, who suffered a fall at our September meeting, is now recuperating from a pinched nerve (it had nothing to do with his fall at the Grange). Hank, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Featured CT AARP Column #6 - Keep the Holidays Happy - During the holidays many people are purchasing and exchanging gifts, making home improvements, donating to charities or involved in other financial transactions that could result in legal questions regarding billing errors, debt, identity theft, fraud or a host of other consumer issues. The Consumer Law Project for Elders (CLPE) provides FREE legal assistance to Connecticut seniors 60 and over who have consumer questions or problems. Seniors can call the CLPE Hotline at 1-800-296-1467. All services provided by CLPE are free of charge and there are no income or asset limits.

I wish you all a blessed Hanukkah or Christmas, filled with love and good tidings.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Dec. 8: Holiday Supper, 6:30, Santa Grab Bag

Jan. 12: Winter Fun

As Overseer, Ted Coley presided over our meeting on October 13. He did a great job, and the meeting went seamlessly, laced with large dollops of humor and history.

Two of our favorite Grangers have been having a hard time of it lately, but they are both slowly making their way back. Ollie Phillips is now home and feeling better, after breaking her hip again. And Sue Sulla is convalescing at Honey Hill CAre Center after a frightening stay in

Norwalk Hospital’s I.C.U. If she’s not home by the time you read this, her private telephone number is 846-7935, and she’d love some company!

Have a wonderful Christmas, everybody, and see you at the December 8th Holiday Party. Don’t forget that Grab Bag gift.

Redding Milestones



Phil Bergquist, State Treasurer and member of Redding Grange, (center) receives his 70 year seal from State Master Robert Sendewicz. Also pictured is his wife, Kathy Bergquist.



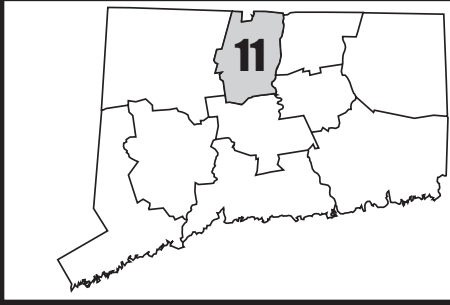
Brian Sendewicz receives his 25 year Silver Star Certificate from State Master Sendewicz at a recent meeting of Redding Grange No. 15.

National Officers

Officers of the National Grange elected at the 143rd Session held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Nov. 10-14.

Master	Ed Luttrell (OR)
Overseer	Jimmy Gentry (NC)
Lecturer	Pete Pompper (NJ)
Steward	Chip Narvel (DE)
A. Steward	Roger Bostwick (KS)
L.A. Steward	Beth Merrill (NH)
Chaplain	Phyllis Wilson (OR)
Treasurer	Dwight Baldwin (IA)
Secretary	Judy Sherrod (TN)
Ceres	Linda Chase (MA)
Pomona	Linda Lewis (CA)
Flora	Patty Lee (IL)
Gatekeeper	Scott Sherman (RI)
Exec. Comm.	Betsy Huber
	Phil Prelli
	Marty Bilquist
	Joe Fryman (NE)
High Priest of Demeter	Thomas Severance (MA)
Priest Archon	Daniel Bascom (NH)
Priest Annalist	Bruce Croucher (NY)

Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11



- ✓ Granby No. 5
- ✓ Tunxis No. 13
- Cawasa No. 34
- Simsbury No. 197
- ✓ West Suffield No. 199
- Cherry Brook No. 210

GRANBY GRANGE #5
Corr: Vivian C. Shaw
Dec. 5: Christmas Tag Sale
Dec. 11: Family Christmas Party, 6:30 P.M. Supper, Grab Bag \$5.00, Please bring item for food bank.
Dec. 28: Bloodmobile, S. Congregational Church sponsored by Granby Grange
Halloween program (from CT at N.E. Lecturer’s Conference).

Skit by Virginia, Fran, Bob and Lyall.
Carol about black cats- Bad luck?
Joe “The Cat Came Back” with chorus by all.

Vivian had Halloween questions.
All together “To Twelve Houses on Halloween”
Thursday, Oct. 22
Granby Grange funeral ritual for Dick Ayer, who was a 60 year member and a World War II veteran Those who participated were Charlie Hunderlach, Bob and Fran Brockett, Shirley Stulpin, Virginia Thomas, Joseph Rudzik, and Lucian Cascio. We place a rose on the casket.

TUNXIS GRANGE #13
Corr: Pam Covington
Dec. 15: “The Star”

We had a wonderful time at our Halloween meeting. Lecturer Al Foster and Dee Otkowski had decorated our hall with Halloween decorations, and it really put us in the mood! The fun thing was when we all had to draw a picture of a pumpkin! Our Lecturer, Al, is doing a wonderful job, and we all appreciate it.
We love to have people come to visit, and we hope you can come and see how much fun we now have! We hope you will check with Sister Doris, as we are not sure when we will have the meetings.

W. SUFFIELD GRANGE #199
Corr: Pam Covington
Dec. 9: Reindeer On the Roof- Christmas Party
We had a good meeting in October. The program was about Halloween and autumn. Our roll call was “What Do You Like or Dislike About Autumn?” The answers we had were very interesting.
We continue to enjoy our luncheons before the meeting and everyone had a good time discussing everything. For the winter we are now meeting as usual at the West Suffield

Congregational Church. It is just about half a mile from the Grange Hall!
At the December meeting, we will have our annual game “Left and

Right.” This is a grab bag that everyone enjoys. The members look forward to it every year! The more the merrier.
The members of West

Suffield Grange want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. I hope all your wishes come true.

The healthcare debates continue



The proposed health care bills are still being debated in Washington. The Senate and the House of Representatives are working on separate bills that will undergo many changes right up to the moment when they are passed. Then a conference committee will be appointed to resolve the differences between the Senate and House versions before the final bill will be ready to go to the President for signing into law. Right now the big questions are what is in the bills now and what will be in the bills when they are passed. The simple answer is that no one knows because each bill is approximately 2,000 pages long. If anyone tried to read through the entire bills at a speed where they could comprehend everything, by the time they finished the bills would have been changed several times. After the final bill is signed into law the people who will be responsible for administering it will need a year or more to learn what they are supposed to do and how they are supposed to do it

There is much talk, both pro and con, about these bills in all the media including television, radio and the newspapers. Some of us are receiving letters from various organizations telling us we should join their group and send them a cash donation to avoid having a horrible government health plan shoved down our throats. Television and radio stations make their money by selling advertising time. Newspapers are happy if the

income they receive from selling their papers covers their costs of printing and distributing their papers; their profit comes from the advertising space they sell in their newspaper. The more people who watch a television station or listen to a radio station and the more copies a newspaper sells, the more advertisers are willing to pay to have their advertisements on or in these media

A talk show host makes the subject sound like it will be bad for their listeners so they will get excited and call in about it. The number of people trying to get through to the host gives an indication of how many people are listening so the sales people can ask more for the advertising time. All of these people have the same bottom line and that is to make money for their employers and themselves. While there is a lot of talk in Washington about health care, there are two other important bills being worked on which are not receiving anywhere near the attention the health care bills are.

A bill has been passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate is working on a companion bill concerning food safety. We all want to feel confident the food we buy is healthy, nutritious and safe, whether we buy it in a large grocery store, a small local store, at a farmers market or a farm stand. The problem with these bills for the farmer is that they would give the regulatory and inspection authority to the Department of Health and Human Services rather

than the Department of Agriculture.

The average consumer has no idea how food is produced or reaches the market. So long as whatever he or she wants is in the store when they want to buy it, they have very little regard to how it got there or how it was processed and stored. Food is relatively inexpensive, particularly compared to health care and medicines, so the average person is not concerned about changes in the laws affecting food production, storage and distribution. The media does not cover these issues because their audience would drop and therefore they could not charge as much for their advertising time or space. Again, the bottom line is money for the media. I cannot blame the media for taking the attitude they do. They are a business and, like all businesses, their goal is to make money. What can we, as individual consumers, do about this? Very little as far as what the media broadcasts or publishes. But what we can do and should do is contact our senators and representatives. Call their offices and ask their aides for information about both the health care bills and food safety bills. Don’t worry about the bill numbers because they change every time there is a major change in the proposed legislation. Let them know where you stand on the issues, by telephone letters or e-mail. They are there to represent you. Let them know what position you want them to take. Remember, they will want your vote next fall.



Shoppers enjoy the Winchester Grange Holiday Bazaar in Nov.

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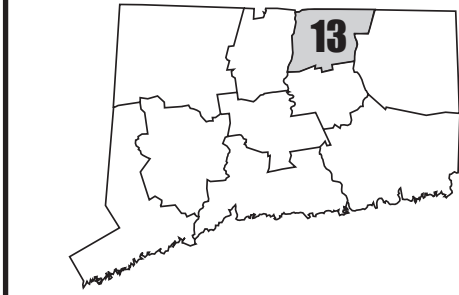
Connecticut's Meehans, National Grange Family of the Year

Continued from page one... community and private events. The Strittmatter family developed a local scholarship program providing nearly 300 students with scholarships totaling \$30,000.

“One of my greatest pleasures is to recognize special Grange families for their dedication and leadership to our organization. Although thousands of Grange families are worthy of this prestigious award, the Meehan family has certainly exemplified our Grange mission of providing opportunities to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation through fellowship, service, and legislative change,” Ed Luttrell, National Grange President stated.

The National Grange is the nation’s oldest general farm and rural public interest organization. Originally founded in 1867, today the Grange represents nearly 200,000 grassroots Grange members affiliated with 2,700 local, county and state Grange chapters located in 40 states. Grange members provide service to agriculture and rural communities on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable rural America.

North Central Pomona No. 13



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

NORTH CENTRAL POMONA #13

Corr: J. Jordan
Dec. 10: CWA in charge of program
The December meeting of North Central Pomona will be held at Tolland Grange Hall on the Green in Tolland. The program will be geared around the holidays. Come and join us for a festive evening. Call Worthy Master Nancy Strong and let her know of your plans so we can refreshments. Thanks for your cooperation.

North Central Pomona will not meet in January or February. So happy holidays from all of us to all of you.

STAFFORD GRANGE #1

Corr: Edward J. Festi
Dec. 18: 7 P.M., Christmas Music, Bring Homemade Cookies
Jan. 19: 7 P.M., Bingo-Ref. Hot Dogs

At our Oct 20th meeting we had surprise guests as State Master Robert Sendewicz and Sister Marge Sendewicz were with us. There was a lot of shop talk. It was a Neighbor’s Night with members visiting from Ashford, Tolland and Enfield. Kathy Hartley provided an enlightening program on the medical problems and how they were solved regarding pet donkeys.
Our Nov. 17 meeting is from the Stafford Historical Society about the one room Patten Schoolhouse. It is the Society’s restoration project.
On Dec. 8 we will have member Jeffrey Giglio and his Studio 85 students

performing music for the holiday season. A young group, it gives them a forum for playing in public.
We were saddened to hear of the passing of Wesley Bradway. A longtime member, he was the Connecticut State Grange’s Dairy Farmer of the Year in the 1980s. Our sympathies go out to his wife and family.
Have a bright holiday season and a Happy New Year from Stafford Grange #1, Inc.

TOLLAND GRANGE #51

Corr: J. Jordan
Dec. 1: Holiday Fun/Pot Luck

Tolland Grange will be hosting a pot luck supper at the home of Sister Jennifer Hopkins on the 1st of December. The Grange will again be “adopting” a family for the holiday and purchasing the Christmas meal. What a great way to give back to the community. All of us at Tolland Grange wish each of you a blessed holiday season.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong
Dec. 11: It’s Christmas Time! 8 p.m.
Vernon Grange has changed its meeting date to the second Friday in December so more members will be able to attend. We will have a Christmas party with our exchange of funny crazy useless gifts! Please call or email nrstrong@aol.com for the meeting place, as we do not know when renovations will begin on Vernon Grange Hall.

North Central Celebrates 50 Years



Milo Bradway, present and original Overseer of North Central Pomona and Marge Bernhardt, an original member of East Central at the time of the formation of North Central Pomona, cutting the 50th Anniversary Cake at North Central’s celebration on Nov. 12. The first meeting of the Pomona was on Nov. 13, 1959.

Vernon’s Community Citizen

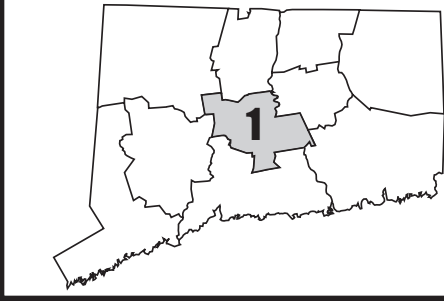


Vernon Grange Master Nancy Strong awarded Bob Hurd the Community Citizen Award from Vernon Grange at their November meeting. Bob has served Vernon at the Historical Society, chairs the Historic Preservation Committee, among many other things. He is a historic architect and in the past year has planned an addition to Vernon Grange Hall.

New Members

Nelson Pires	Southington	Wendy Chaser	Beacon
Kari Mailly	Southington	Bob Ritchie	Beacon
Roy Robbins	Eureka	Charlene Blount	Norfield
Seth Pierce	Eureka	Carolyn Kimberly	Norfield
Margarette Clavette	Eureka	William Kimberly	Norfield
Donna Krupa	Beacon	Christian Schirmer	Vernon
Elaine McDonnell	Beacon	William Kroeger III	Taghannuck
Dewayne Carter	Beacon	Margaret Hopkins	Taghannuck
Cheryl Carter	Beacon	Richard Wingate	Stonington
Nicole Carter	Beacon	Dorothy Wingate	Stonington
Cristal Carter	Beacon	Louis Tyron	Glastonbury
James Brideau	Beacon	Nancy H. Nye Tyron	Glastonbury
David Searles	Beacon		

Central Pomona No. 1



- ✓ Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Westfield No. 50
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25 Dec. 28: Meeting Omitted
Corr: Lisa Lamoureux Greetings from
Dec. 14: Christmas Party Southington Grange. On

FAFRLSM



What the Grange Means to Me
by Sue Gray, Ekonk Community Grange

When I was 14 and became, a youth “Granger”, I was taught the word: “FAFRLSM”. I quickly learned that this “word” meant: “F”-Fellowship; “A”-Activities; “F”-Fun; “R”-Recognition; “L”-Leadership; “S”-Service and “M”-Membership. Just like it did 45 years ago, when I joined the Grange, “FAFRLSM” is still what the Grange means to me!

The Grange provides “Fellowship” with friends, “Activities” that are family “Fun”, “Recognition” programs, unending “Leadership” opportunities;

“Service”toourcommunities that can and should promote “Membership”. “FAFRLSM”: A made-up word from long ago that still applies today.

~~~~~

How many of you remember this word? It really does apply to the Grange today. As we hold our Grange Christmas Parties and visit Convalescent and Nursing homes to bring cheer to the residents as part of our Auld Acquaintance programs remember this word from long ago and put it to use. Make your programs full of fun and fellowship. Show your leadership skills. Invite friends to share in our activities and hopefully this will lead to an increase in membership. Lecturers are an important part of the Grange. Let’s all put our best efforts into making this year special.

May all of you have a happy and healthy Holiday season surrounded by family and friends.



Ron Purinton and Dan Mutchler perform at the Evening of Excellence at National Grange session in Grand Rapids, MI.

December 14, Southington Grange will have its Annual Christmas Party. Why not come down for a cup of cheer!!! You might see an old friend you haven’t seen for a while. I am sure that Martha, our new Lecturer, will have something very special planned for this evening. Everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to

people who could use a little holiday cheer also. Southington Grange would like to wish everyone a Happy, Joyous and Healthy Christmas and New Year. As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:30

p.m. (at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**  
*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*  
**Dec. 11:** Christmas Caroling - Hot Cocolate and Party afterwards  
Dec. 25: Omit - Christmas

## State Membership Awards

*Joanne Cipriano, Membership Director*

We have all heard the expression “what a difference a day makes.” In Connecticut we are well aware of this with our ever-changing weather. Well! What a difference a year has made in our Membership Contests.

The past two years we asked the Granges to simply send us the information for these contests. This year we made a simple form and asked that they be returned with the June Quarterly Report or sent directly to me. Last year we received reports from 7 Community Grange, 1 Pomona and 1 Junior Grange.

With just a “little effort” making out the report form this year we received 47 Community Granges, 9 of the 10 Pomona Granges and 1 Junior Report. The winners are included at the end of this release.

This same “little effort” could be used in getting new members. Don’t wait for people to come to you and ask to join

the Grange - approach them. Explain in a positive manner the benefits of the Grange and how much you enjoy being a member. You may be pleasantly surprised. So many times we hear we have never been asked to join - so do the asking.

**MEMBERSHIP CONTEST WINNERS:**  
**COMMUNITY GRANGES**  
GAIN-(1) Cannon No. 152; (2 tie) Glastonbury No. 26; Prospect No. 144. **NEW MEMBERS-** (1) Cannon No. 152; (2) Lyme No. 147; (3) Glastonbury No. 26. **YOUTH MEMBERS-** (1) Glastonbury No. 26; (2 tie) Prospect No. 144; Lyme No. 147.

**POMONA GRANGES - GAIN-**(1) East Central No. 3; **NEW MEMBERS-** (1) New Haven County No. 5; (2 tie) East Central No. 3; New London No. 6. **YOUTH-**(1 tie) New Haven County No. 5; New London No. 6; (3 tie) Mountain County No. 4; Excelsior No. 7

**JUNIOR GRANGES - NEW MEMBERS-** (1) Ekonk No. 101

## Time to work on contests



by Anne-Marie Knochenhauer, W.A. Comm.

Finally winter is here! It is the best time of the year to start working on items for the Needlework, Craft, Scrapbooking, and Make-

a-Doll Contest. Last year entries were so impressive and creative; keep up the good work. If you attended any of the Regional I hope we as the committee was able to stir some creative juices for any of the contest. Remember the items you enter for the Craft Contest do not ( I repeat do not) get return to you. All craft items goes to the Big E to be sold except 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. They are put on display at state session and use as gifts for the Master, his

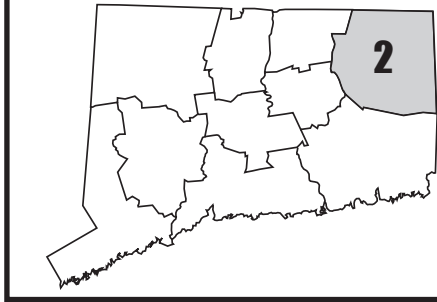
wife, and any dignitaries. Also, now s the perfect time to take pictures during the holidays and start a scrapbook to enter in the Scrapbook Contest. All scrapbooks are return to their owners. Remember the Craft and Scrapbook Contest are for grangers, their children, and grandchildren to enter. The committee encourage men get involved as well as the females. Have fun with whatever you decide to do. Have a safe and Happy Holiday!

## Madison Grange Mural

The former Madison Grange Hall building is being demolished to make way for another building. We have been alerted that there is a large mural in the building and several non-Grange people are wondering if the Grange wants to preserve it. The mural is a farm scene painted by the late Rev. Franklin Bower of the Madison Congregational Church. Apparently it was used as a background scene for tableaux, but does not contain anything specifically depicting Grange

ritual. It would probably cost up to \$5,000 to remove it from the wall and mount it on a board for moving. Then there would be the cost of transporting it and mounting it wherever it might be going. Apparently it is large enough that the most logical place to put it would be as a background scene at another grange hall that has a large stage. If anyone is interested in removing the mural, please contact the Central Office. Just remember, anyone who wants it will get it “as is and where is” and will have to remove it at their expense.

### Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



Senexet No. 40  
Brooklyn No. 43  
✓ Wolf Den No. 61  
✓ Ekonk No. 89  
Ashford No. 90  
Putnam No. 97  
✓ Killingly No. 112  
Echo No. 180

**QUINEBAUG POMONA #2**  
*Corr: C. Hnath*  
Please note the following changes in the Officers of Quinebaug Pomona Grange #2: Assistant Steward: J. Allen Cameron; 564-7614, 11 Lake Street, Moosup, CT 06354  
Gatekeeper: Paul Horanzy; 935-5050, 214 Wagher Road, N. Grosvenordale, CT 06255  
Executive Committee: 1 Year: Jody A. Cameron; 564-7614, 11 Lake Street, Moosup, CT 06354.

**WOLF DEN GRANGE #61**  
*Corr: Elsie M. Johnson*  
**Nov. 11:** Election Time - Legislative Comm., Ref. Cider & Donuts  
Dec. 9: Season’s Greetings, Ref. Everyone - Christmas Cookies

Is winter here? Bah humbug!  
Potatoes have been dug, corn cut, apples picked and pumpkins are on display. Mowers are cleaned and put away. Leaves have been raked and snow shovels are out. Snow on Oct. 15- are we threatened for a snowy winter? Bears don’t know how lucky they are to hibernate for the winter, wish I could. Renovations on our hall are looking good- hope to be back in by Thanksgiving. Our Master John Carter went to State Session.

Tabs are still coming in - some from Putnam Grange and Marvin sent in pounds and pounds. On potluck night we had Halloween nite- some dressed up- had 5 prize winners. Glenna had old news clippings on local news from 1948. Halloween stories were told. With so much flu going around. Wash your hands. Be extra careful. Don’t forget the shut-ins.  
Happy holidays to all.

**EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89**  
*Corr: Sue Gray*  
**Dec. 7:** “Glory to God in the highest and on earth

peace, good will to men!” 7:30 mtg/prog  
**Dec. 11:** Christmas on the Hill, Play by the Juniors, Plus!! Santa! 6 P.M.  
**Jan. 4:** “The Book of Nature” mtg/prog 7:30 P.M.  
**Jan. 22:** “Casino/Game/Family Night” 6:30 P.M.

Our President, J. Allen Cameron, closed the State Grange on the night of the Degree as Master! What an honor to him, to proud Mom and Dad and for Ekonk! J. Allen and his mother, JodiAnn, served as our Delegates. J. Allen gave an excellent report on the session and presented numerous awards to our members and to our Grange. We had a great year!

We continue gifting hats for newborn babies to the Birthing Room at Day Kimball Hospital and delivering lap robes, afghans etc. to area Convalescent Homes. We thank our families for keeping their needles busy!

Our Grange sent an adopted resolution to the Sterling Board of Selectmen for their consideration recommending formation of a Sterling Agricultural Commission. Thanks to Rick Hermonot for drafting the resolution and serving as a strong voice for the sustainability of agriculture!

Our newest member, Sara Davis Phaiah, agreed with enthusiasm to take over the office of Program Director! Katrina Sebastian, 16, was elected by her dance classes, which will help her achieve her career goal, were set for Monday nights in Putnam and conflicted with Grange time. Our loss, but certainly this young lady has talents beyond belief that she is cultivating! Katrina won first place overall in the annual Norwich Grange Bulletin “Creepy Tales”

by students competition! Her tale, “When Time Expires,” was read at our November Grange meeting. Over 1,000 students entered this competition: congratulations Katrina; this makes two years in a row she has swept the competition in this contest!

We miss Barbara Cameron and Henry & Evelyn Pelletier at our meetings and send them all our warmest wishes! Sandy Eggers is recuperating from a brush with death accident involving two Ayshire cows!

Katie Molodich did a GREAT job with our Halloween Haunted House/Hayride/party. She also organized a November bonfire/cookout on Molodich Farms! She is a ball of fire young lady!

Congratulations to Barbara Cameron: Best of Show at the Big E with her hand crocheted wedding gown; a beautiful piece of handiwork to behold!

Plan to visit Ekonk anytime; we are a happy, busy Grange led by enthusiastic youth!

**KILLINGLY GRANGE #112**  
*Corr: Glenna Bruno*  
**Dec. 7:** Let Us Entertain You  
**Dec. 12:** Craft Fair & Sale- 10-3 P.M. Breakfast will also be served.

Our teacup project is still ongoing though slow at the moment. Dairy Suppers are still being held on the second Saturday of each month. Other projects being planned to raise funds for our upkeep. Any donations will be gladly received.

The trick or treat program put on by the youth group was a cute skit. The kids in the neighborhood and who stole “Dobbin,” their horse.

Denise Aubin and her mother Gert Blain attended the State Session, the first time for Denise who reported they had a great time and enjoyed the skits (which were part of our meeting night entertainment program).

Master Eleanor Davis presented the youth recognition certificates to Tiffany Aubin and the Community Service

Certificate to her grandmother, Gert Blain. Master Eleanor also presented the “Grange Members” with the Grange “Honor Bar” which she said we all helped to achieve. It was our Halloween party night also so many of us came in costume. An old tramp, the “Great Pumpkin,” the Old Witch, the tooth fairy, the tooth (huge tooth), a black cat and other characters. It was fun. Refreshments were good too.  
If our “Tooth Fairy” keeps sprinkling us with “Fairy Dust” we may be able to keep up with her until the end of the year. Though some of us are already out of “puff.”

## Ekonk presents dictionaries



Students at Sterling School enjoying the new dictionaries presented to their third grade class by Ekonk Community Grange No. 89.

### FROM THE PAGES OF



# CONNECTICUT GRANGER



Volume 10      SEPTEMBER 1970      Number 8

**Sister Ruth Hickcox of Weston, a member of Norfield Grange, has been awarded first prize at National level for her entry in Class C competition in the National Grange Sewing Contest. The winning entry was made for her daughter Hilary, who is shown wearing the garment.**

by Edith Schoell, State Historian


Several years ago the CWA conducted a nationwide sewing contest. Several? Well, a good many years ago. We did have a winner when Ruth Hickcox of Norfield Grange entered in Class C competition. Sister Hickcox made the winning entry for her five year old daughter, Hilary, who is shown wearing the dress in the photograph.

At that time Sister Hickcox was busy with three children, age 5, 7 and 8, and was involved in various church activities.

She won first place by combining two McCall’s patterns. The dress was delicately smocked with long sleeves and matching slip-in pants trimmed with dress fabric.

Sister Hickcox is still active and reports to the Granger on Norfield Grange’s activities.

### East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

**EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3**  
*Corr: John Waterhouse*  
**Dec. 5:** 7:30 Meeting  
**Jan:** No Meeting  
**Dec. 13:** Past Deputies Meeting

A regular meeting of East Central Pomona No. 3 will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 7:30 P.M. at Goodwill Grange Hall. Marlborough Grange will be the host Grange.

This is our annual Christmas party meeting and our Lecturer has titled the program “All that Glitters.” We always look forward to visitors, especially at this time of year.

We do not meet in January or February- so Merry Christmas to all- and a peaceful new year.

**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**  
*Corr: Kay Ruff*  
**Dec. 3:** Meeting at 6:00 p.m. for those who can make 6:00 p.m.

Kay Ruff and Norma DePietro were our delegate to the State Session. We thank them for attending for Glastonbury Grange. Our December 3rd meeting will be followed by our “Holiday Party/Fun and Games”. This will be a Pot Luck Dinner

this year. Members are reminded to bring in “Books for Kids”. They will be delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department.

Our next Monti Carlo Whist Card Party will be held January 9th 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury. Glastonbury Grange extends a Welcome to Louis and Nancy A. Nye Tryon. We are happy to add them to our list of members.

**MANCHESTER GRANGE #30**  
*Corr: Diane Small*  
**Dec. 2:** Get Out The Flannels  
**Dec. 16:** ‘Tis the Season  
**Jan. 6:** The Oldest Holiday  
**Jan. 20:** Cook’s Choice (CWA)

‘Tis the Season for the Happy Holidays. The music, decorations, baking cookies and all those other goodies just make the holidays so much more enjoyable. By the time this is read, we will have had snow I’m sure. Dress warm -- mittens, scarves, hats and, of course, the galoshes. For anyone with a fireplace, it just makes those nights that much cozier. Have you made your

list of wishes for Santa?? Don’t forget to hang up your stocking and maybe there will be a surprise or two.

Our Grange donated dictionaries to two third grade classes in Manchester. One of the comments made by the students was, “We can keep them?” How important books are in young lives. Kids need to explore the library. Make sure any young person in your life has a library card and that it gets used. I know reading has always been an enjoyable past time for me.

Leaves have fallen are being raked and disposed of. Just think of the snow that will replace them. Hope your snow shovels are at the ready.

Our Decembern 16 meeting shows us ‘Tis the Season’. At this writing we are opting for Lunch at a local restuarant. If you think you may be coming to visit that evening, we will not have our meeting. For lunch we can dress for the holiday and feel festive.

January meetings appear to be interesting. January 6 - The Oldest Holiday. Make your list of resolutions and see how long it takes you to change your mind. The 20th is Cook’s Choice. We all have our personal choices that we choose to make. I personally love to bake cookies. I also will wear an apron when I bake. I guess I’m just a through back to my mom.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL! Happy New Year, too...

**COVENTRY GRANGE #75**  
*Corr: Ethel Harris*  
**Dec. 3:** Toys & Tinsel; Ref. N. Miller  
**Jan. 7:** Youth vs. Age

The crops are harvested and winter will soon be upon us. Don’t let the cold weather cool our spirits. Use the long evenings to work on the new CWA projects. Hope we get the Blue Books soon.

Our Hall has been Democratic Headquarters . . . every dollar they contribute is a welcome gift to help put our hall in better shape. It didn’t save

us any money to close down in Jan. and Feb. last year! Many of our members have been ill, and we wish them all a speedy recovery.

We lost another member, a 50+ year member Lynwood Bearce who came to us from Maine.

Happy Holidays to all.

**HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87**  
*Corr: Rita J. Schaefer*  
**Dec. 13:** Christmas Party  
**Jan. 14:** What a Cute Baby- Bring in our baby pictures.

**Jan. 28:** Past, Present & Future (CWA in Charge)

I hope everyone has prepared for what’s coming according to the weather.

by the time you read this news item our Craft Fair will be history and we are preparing for the holidays. We will have only one meeting in November due to Thanksgiving. A couple of our members will be delivering Thanksgiving dinners at the food bank and there will be many more than last year. Hillstown Grange also gives a dinner to a needy family in our area.

We will have our Christmas Party again at Adam’s mill on December 13 (Sunday) at 1:00 P.M. It will again be a buffet. For more information, call Liz at 860-633-7897. This is the only get together in December due to Christmas. Our January

and February meetings will be weather permitting, and our snowbirds will be heading down south to warmer climates, see you in the spring but do stay healthy.

Some of us will be keeping the home fires burning here. Our phones will be kept busy to check on our shut-ins during the winter months.

This is the time of the year we hope to get busy on our many projects we have planned.

On behalf of Hillstown Grange, we wish everyone happy and healthy holidays.

**MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205**  
*Corr: Ruth K. Posuniak*

Time: 11:00 AM  
Meeting Place Barbara Cosgrove’s Home  
Located at 12 West Road, Marlborough, CT. Holiday Celebration Bring a \$5.00 grab bag gift  
Hosting - Barbara Cosgrove and Frances Carmel

December 12, 2009 - Time 12:30 PM Christmas Holiday Dinner to be held at Adams Mill, 165 Adams Street, Manchester, CT.

Members of Marlborough Grange donated un-perishable food for towns Food Pantry, and a money donation will be given for Thanksgiving Baskets to Hebron, Andover and Marlborough.

## Words for Thirds in Manchester



Manchester Grange recently presented dictionaries to students in Manchester schools.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for the many cards and good wishes that were sent to me on my 90th birthday. It was certainly an honor to be named “A Special Granger Award.”

I have been blessed by a wonderful family and friends like you all.  
- Rita J. Shaefer



## Connecticut State Grange

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### Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Hope No. 20  
Whigville No. 48  
✓ Eureka No. 62  
✓ Winchester No. 74  
Taghannuck No. 100  
✓ Litchfield No. 107  
Beacon No. 118  
✓ Riverton No. 169

**MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4**  
*Corr: Todd Gelineau*  
Dec. 14: “Celebrate the Season,” Gift Exchange (\$5 value), Coin Collection for CT Children’s Medical Center, Litchfield Grange.

Mountain County met for its November meeting at Eureka Grange on Nov. 9. Our schedule of meeting places has been jumbled up this year and Eureka was able to host a meeting that didn’t involve an Election of Officers. A nice change for them, we are all sure.

Our next meeting will move to Litchfield Grange for our annual Holiday meeting. A gift exchange will be held. All gifts should have a value of at least \$5 and should be marked “Man” or “Woman” if the gift is specific. We welcome all to join us. We will also will hold our annual Coin Collection to benefit the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center in Hartford.

**EUREKA GRANGE #62**  
*Corr: Victor Salazar*  
**Dec. 1:** Meeting 7:30  
**Dec. 15:** Potluck & Christmas Party 6:30  
**Dec. 19:** Cookie Walk 10 :00 – 2:00

As the weather is getting colder, Eureka Grange has been busy. We had our Agricultural Fair at New Hartford Day in September, and our Annual Pig Roast in October. Both were a huge success; thanks to all who helped or supported us. We would like to invite you to let US do your Christmas baking for YOU! We will be having our cookie walk on Saturday December 19 from 10 – 2. We would also like to invite you to come to our Christmas party on December 15..

We will be having a delicious potluck dinner, singing Christmas carols, and Santa may even stop by. Further in the future, in February we will be having our annual SUPER BOWL

GRINDER SALE. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**  
*Corr: Todd Gelineau*  
**Dec. 8:** Holiday - Christmas Country Store, Ref. Sandy & Craig Leifert  
**Dec. 22:** Omitted for Christmas  
**Jan. 12:** Snowflakes- Ref. Mary Ann Berlinski

Where has the year gone? Doesn’t seem like time for holidays and snow, but it is. Winchester held its annual Holiday Craft Bazaar in November 7 and an excellent turnout of Crafters and customers turned out for the event. The kitchen was able to nearly sell out of everything. At a time when fundraisers that involve food are increasingly difficult to manage, events like the Holiday Bazaar and the Super Prize Parties are welcome additions to our fundraising activities. More needs to be done in the way of fundraising but we are grateful for the success of these events.

Our next meeting will be on Dec. 8 and will be our holiday program and meeting with a \$5 grab bag gift for all members wishing to participate. We will also have a holiday themed country store to round out the evening. Please join us if you can!

**LITCHFIELD GRNAGE #107**  
*Corr: Sara Lee Fischer*

Where did our “Summer” go? Did we even have one. It seems a long time since we enjoyed a ripe tomato fresh from the garden. Now we have all the leaves to rake, gardens to clean up and a plow to put on the tractor for snow removal.

October flew by and our meetings were well attended and enjoyed by all. November will be a busy month as we plan for and hold our 120th anniversary party and

bake apple, blueberry, pecan and pumpkin pies for our second annual pre-Thanksgiving pie sale.

At our October 22 meeting we draped our charter for a departed sister, Carnie Lincoln.

Joanne Klingerman is finally at home recuperating. We all wish her well in gaining back her health and hope to see her back at Grange soon.

We wish all our brothers and sisters a Happy Thanksgiving.



**Donald Lanoue**  
Youth Director  
youth@ctstategrange.org



**Joan Perry**  
Junior Director  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

**EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101**  
*Corr: Sue Gray*  
Dec. 4: Business Meeting/ Program, 6:00 P.M.  
Dec. 11: Christmas on the Hill, 6 P.M. with Subordinate  
Jan. 8: Business Meeting/ Program, 6 P.M.  
Jan. 22: Annual Family/ Game/Casino Night 6:30 P.M.

Thanks to Rebecca Gervais, who developed the Christmas Program this year. By the time you

**RIVERTON GRANGE #169**  
*Corr: Gail Prelli*

Riverton Grange has had a busy fall. In addition to a successful Grange Fair, we served hundreds of dinners during Riverton Fair weekend. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and was very successful. We also hosted the Litchfield County Council of Fairs Dinner serving 90 hard working fair officers.

November was an

# Youth Report

the winners are Prospect Grange and Excelsior Pomona. I am truly sorry for my error. On the other hand I have decided to add the scavenger hunt. Though it is not in the Blue Book I will write up another list and get it to anyone who is interested, right after the first of the year. I have also added a new contest to the

entertaining month with a legislative program to start the month and a Thanksgiving supper to give us an opportunity to come together and give thanks for our bountiful year.

December 4 we invite you to join us to learn about Louis Pasteur. The meeting begins at 7:30. Our Christmas program will be held on December 18th. This is an open meeting with a potluck beginning at 6:30 P.M.

Blue Book I hope that I get some interest in it. I want to know if you met your spouse in the grange how you how you met them. It was suggested from another state and I thought I would give it a try.

I wish everyone a very happy and safe Holiday Season.

# Junior Grange

read this, we should have several NEW children as MEMBERS! We delivered Thanksgiving favors to an area Convalescent Home (by the time you read this) and we plan to make the Seniors Christmas gifts as well! The flu forced us to postpone our Nov. meeting (only 5 kids were not sick!)

The Juniors enjoy participating in Subordinate events, which helps both Granges! Several Juniors worked at the Races held on Molodich Farms (which added an awesome \$2,000 to our treasury); several work on all suppers: they are terrific!

Looking ahead, the Juniors plan to run a Fruit & Nut Sale- possibly before

Easter... The Subordinate profited just over \$1,000 on their Fall Fruit & Nut Sale! Thanks to Rebecca Gervais, Betsy Molodich (Junior Leader), Janet Hawkins & Verna Cole for their work in weighing and packaging all these products for both Granges.

**HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87**  
*Corr: Rita Shaefer*

Hillstown Juniors have been holding their regular meetings and are planning their Christmas party for December 19th.

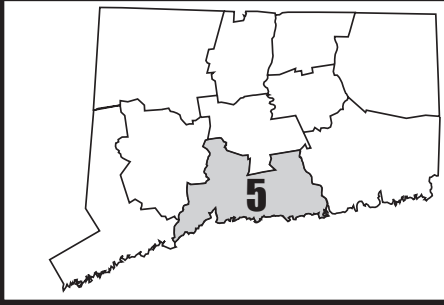
For January and February, they will be involved in winter sports.

As the holidays approach, we wish all a Merry Christmas and do stay well.



Members of Ekonk Community Junior Grange participate in some “Halloween Fun.”

### New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- ✓ North Haven No. 35
- Totoket No. 83
- ✓ Old Lyme No. 162

**NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5**

Corr: Charleen Dimmick  
Jan. 11: Regular meeting at Totoket. “Our Youth & Young At Heart”

The October meeting was “The Feud” based on the game show, “Family Feud.”

**CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

Corr: Charleen Dimmick  
The first meeting in October was the Post-Far social. The Fair was reported on.

At the second meeting in Octobrr, we welcomed the State Master Robert Sendewicz and Sister Marge.

The Master gave his report on State Session and presented Sister Marge Bernhardt with five awards: A Word From Home, Should Auld Acquaintance, Honor Grange Award, Lecturer’s Appreciation Award, and 2nd for large Granges in the Community Service contest. Jane Miller won 1st in the State for her sunflower.

It was announced that Sister Marge Bernhardt will be awarded recognition as a Grange Hero at National. They are now recognizing what Cheshire has know all along, that Sister Bernhardt is a hero in the Grange.

For historical interest. the Master read the Master’s reports for 1885 (the year was organized) and 1886.

The program was “Family Feud.”

Sadly, we had to drape the Charter for Sister Elsie Baumgardt who was 102 years old and would have been a 70-year member in December, 2009. Several members remembered Sister Baumgardt.

**NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35**

Corr: A. Tollette  
Dec. 1: Winter Drawers On  
Jan. 5: It’s a New Year-

**Youth**

The trick or treaters have come and gone and the leaves are still falling. Turn around twice and Thanksgiving and Christmas will be over too.

Emily had a very good program for November. We sure do have a lot to be thankful for. We have brought food for the local food closet and will be helping to fill and deliver the baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmastime.

Keep warm and well and Happy Holidays to all.

**OLD LYME GRANGE #162**

Corr: Barbara Kulisch  
Dec. 11: Christmas Is

**AroundThe Corner**

Dec. 25: Omit - Merry Christmas to All

We continue to be very busy filling the wish list of the children we have taken on for our Community Service Project. The Staff is very pleased with each delivery made.

We continue to work on getting our hall handicapped assessible. We miss Henry at our meetings due it falling on the same week as Chemo treatments, YET, Lois Evankow is doing a fine job filling in in his absence. Henry continues to amaze us all with his continued determination to do the best he can do under the circumstances & we hope someday soon he will be back amongst us fulfilling his duties as Assistant Steward. Wishing all our Grange friends Happy Holidays & a Happy & Healthy New Year!

**Litchfield celebrates**



**Litchfield Grange No. 107 recently celebrated its 120th Anniversary and presented Sister Beulah Partridge with her 75 year certificate. Pictured are Beulah and Litchfield Master Richard Healy.**

**Composting Tips**

*by Morris Buck, Ag. Comm. Member*

All vegetable matter, grasses, manure, hair, fruits, bloodmeal, bonemeal, river grasses, coffee and tea residue, leaves, feathers, fish, garbage, leather, milk, pine needles, soot from chimneys, wood ashes, plus many other items are compostable.

In order to stimulate the compost pile, you will need an activator, such as items that contain a high nitrogen content, such as manure, garbage, dried blood, compost.

This is a list of standard heap: 20 lb. wheat straw; 1/4 lb. lime; 2 lb. dried blood; 1 lb. phosphorite rock; 9 lb. earth

Check temperature frequently. You’ll know when it reaches its peak when it declines. Then you will know when it is ready.

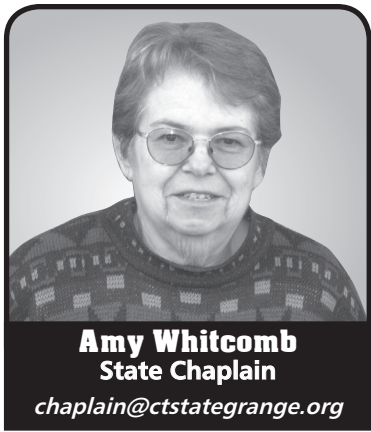
You can make compost in the winter in different ways. I have piled up leaves and covered with clear plastic, snow on the ground. I have found that the center of the pile will be hot enough to burn your hand; grayash. A drum can be used in the cellar in this manner. Remove the bottom and take out the plugs. Turn upside down and place on three or four blocks, placing a container under each opening. Put about six inches soil in the bottom with a few night crawlers and 6 to 9 inches of mulch on top. Put table scraps (no meat or bones), hair, etc., under the mulch each day. The worms will multiply, so that by spring you can get enough to go fishing. The worm castings in the container is 100% fertilizer.

### In Memoriam

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Wesley Bradway        | Stafford    |
| Elsie Baumgardt, G.S. | Cheshire    |
| Florence O’Hare       | Southington |
| Herman Barlow, G.S.   | Wolf Den    |
| Lillian Goodwin, G.S. | Eureka      |
| Richard Heath         | Eureka      |
| Lynwood Bearce        | Coventry    |
| Anne Flynn            | Hemlock     |

*Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on page 2 of this issue. Thank you.*

**Chaplain’s Message**



This month gives us an opportunity to be a vehicle of blessings to others. Christmas is a time of sharing when there is a collective energy. Focusing on your collective energy, you have a great potential bringing a feeling of fullness and of richness.

The energy we generate when we give and receive lovingly, can create magical holiday memories and traditions, and establish a mental, physical and emotional state that leads us on a path for the greater good.

Wherever you are in your life, Christmas will be whatever you make of it. You can create something qualitatively different for you and your family. The energy you create you create will see you through the rest of the year and beyond.

Follow these practices to create miraculous experiences of light and love beginning with the holiday season and throughout the rest of the year. Create new family ties, many people may not be connected with a solid family during the holidays. When families come together it can be pure joy. Script how you want your holidays to go. If you have had a less than joyous experience with your family in the past, now is the time to set the tone for a better experience. Set the tone before the family gets together by telling them how much you appreciate them and how excited you are to see the family, having a wonderful visit.

Let Spirit guide you. Times have changed when it comes to family.

Lots of people are living single or have family members spread out. If you are felling unconnected, follow your intuition, let go of past ideas and let Spirit guide you to where youa re supposed to be. Alternate ideas of Christmas will emerge as the real heart of Christmas comes out. Groups of singles and unrelated people are being called to celebrate together.

Get clear about the reason for the season. Look for the love and blessings of the season and open your heart. Christmas is a time to connect with God and other people in your life, including those who do not expect to be remembered. It’s a time to create memories and start traditions. My wish for you is a blessed season and a wonderful, healthy New Year.



MAY THE MEANING OF THE  
SEASON BE WITH YOU ALL  
*Amy*

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& A JOYOUS NEW YEAR!  
*Todd Gelineau*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL  
*Cindy & Ernie Finch*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL  
OUR GRANGE FRIENDS  
*Jane & Ruel Miller*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A  
GREAT NEW YEAR  
*Phil & Maureen Prelli*

PEACE  
& JOY TO ALL  
*Central Pomona #1*

HO! HO! HO!  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
*Meriden Grange #29*

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
*Bob & Fran Brockett*

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
FROM  
*Wallingford Grange #33*

*Happy Holidays from the  
Officers & Members of  
Coventry Grange #75*

*Happy Holidays  
from  
Bethlehem Grange #121*

*Wishing you all a Happy  
& Healthy Christmas &  
New Year  
Earl & Sandy Phillips*

*Merry Christmas & a  
Happy 2010 Year  
with Good Wishes  
Elaine Lietz*

*Happy Holidays  
Trumbull Grange  
No. 134*

*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year  
Harmony Grange #92*

*Happy Holidays  
to Everyone  
Norwich Grange*

*Happy Holidays  
from  
Dan Lauttenbach*

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
The Percoski Family*

*Happy Holidays  
from  
Enfield Grange #151*

*God Bless All Grangers  
Teddy Coley*

*Tis the Season -  
Enjoy!  
Jim & Pat Palmer*

*Have a Wonderful  
Holiday Season from  
Wolcott Grange #173*

WISHING ONE AND ALL  
THE HAPPIEST, HEALTHIEST  
HOLIDAY SEASON  
*The Members of Whigville Grange*

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM  
*Jim, Lisa & Cocoa*

HOPE YOUR HOLIDAYS  
ARE PEACEFUL  
*Betty Jane Gardiner*

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM  
*Higganum Grange*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL!  
*Kay Ruff*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*George & Sharon Russell*

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY,  
HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!  
*Carl & Marge Bernhardt*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
*from N. Stonington Community  
Grange No. 138*

BEST WISHES FOR A  
BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON  
*Kathryn & Philip Bergquist*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AND  
BEST WISHES FOR A  
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR  
*Jeff & Debbie Barnes*

*Happy Holidays  
Ray, Cindy, Amanda  
and Andrew Legg*

MAY YOU HAVE THE MERRIEST  
OF CHRISTMASSES AND THE  
HAPPIEST OF NEW YEARS  
*Jody, Jodi Ann, J. Allen & Jaimie*

*Holiday Greetings  
from Southington Grange*

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
*from  
The Hnaths*

*Merry Christmas  
Happy & Healthy New Year  
Shirley Lemieux*

*Happy Holidays  
Bob & Marge Sendewicz*

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE A  
HAPPY TIME  
*Joanne Cipriano*

WE WISH HAPPINESS  
TO ALL  
*Lyme Grange #147*

*Happy Holidays  
Redding Grange #15*

*Season's Greetings from  
Hillstown Grange  
& Hillstown Jr. Grange*

HAPPY, HEALTHY &  
SAFE HOLIDAYS  
*Norma DePietro*

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL  
OUR GRANGE FRIENDS  
*Beacon Valley Grange #103*

*Happy New Year  
Norfield Grange #146*

MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
*Rob & Maggie Buck*

*Happy Holidays from  
The Meehan Family*

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
TO ALL  
*Gordon Gibson*

*Season's Greetings  
Noel & Marcia Miller  
& Family*

ALTHOUGH IT'S BEEN SAID  
MANY TIMES, MANY WAYS  
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!  
*Terri Fassio*

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year  
Victor Salazar*

*Happy Holidays  
from Officers & Members of  
East Central Pomona No. 3*

*Merry Christmas & a  
Prosperous New Year  
Edith Schoell*

*Peace & Joy to All  
from  
The Connecticut Granger!*