



Hi! Ho! Come to the Fun Fair!

Saturday, May 16, 2015 • Prospect Senior Center

Price: \$10.00 per person

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Connecticut Granger



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The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2015

Join the team effort



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

As you pass into the summertime of your Grange journey, forget not these teachings of ceaseless activity, of earnest cultivation and of abiding Hope." Let us not sit still on our past we must move ever forward in our life, family and community."

We all celebrated the UConn women's basketball team on their 10th NCAA National Championship in April. A nail biting first half but a strong second half, as we have seen many times before. To me I prefer the women's basketball over the men's basketball games. The men always show individual strength as they drive to the basket and swing from the hoop throughout the game. The women constantly pass the ball around the court working as a team to find the best shot, not an individual effort, but a team effort. That's what we want in our Granges... team players working together to get the best shot off for the WIN!!

In the beginning, the women's games were called the grandma league because grandmothers would take their grandchildren to the old fieldhouse stadium to watch the women play at \$3 a head. When the women won their first NCAA championship, the ticket prices tripled and the corporate sponsorship was sought by the athletic department and the grandmas were moved to the upper

level of Gampel Pavilion. After each winning season the ticket price has risen higher as well as the seating in Gampel. Now there are not many grandmas at the games, but they stay at home and root for their women every game, they even follow them on the road. This is team spirit and we should all learn from these grandmas.... GO HUSKIES!

Inspections are well on their way, and I hope all is going well with the Deputies and others inspecting Pomona and Community Granges. By now the Blue Books are out so take a look at them for new projects and contests for our local Grangers to participate in.

A reminder of the May 16th Social Connection event, "Hi! Ho! Come to the Fun Fair!" in Prospect. It sounds to be fun for all, so car pool and join in on the fun.

I must also remind our members of the Connecticut State Grange Foundation. This is a foundation set up for tax exempt donations for the benefit of the Connecticut State Grange. It can also be used by Community Granges seeking tax exempt donations by setting up an account that the donations can be sent to the Foundation and then sent to that Community Grange within certain guidelines. Check with the State Grange Central Office for information on this Foundation.

Since I have been your State Master I have received letters of well wishes and stories of members fond memories of their Grange experiences over the years. I enjoy hearing from you and thank you for your dedication and love of the Grange. I ask that you not forget the Grange, donations can be given in your name to the

Continued on page 2

Connecticut State Grange Foundation, as memorial gifts or even as a beneficiary from you or your family. I bring this up because many times family members don't know about your Grange dedication. So please discuss

Governor proposes CIA cuts



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

In 2005 legislation was passed creating the Community Investment Act (CIA). This law created a dedicated fund that supports four sectors, Agriculture, Open Space Conservation, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation. Funding for these programs originates from a \$40.00 surcharge on real estate recording fees. The CIA program has been generating up to \$25 million per year with the monies being placed in a dedicated fund. A significant portion of Department of Agriculture programs are funded through the CIA funds. This CIA has been extremely successful directing more than \$133 million towards saving hundreds of acres of farmlands, restoring historic buildings, supporting agricultural

with your family members if you wish to donate to the Grange.

As we reflect this year we had the "COLDEST FEBRUARY" then the "SNOWIEST MARCH" then the "WETTEST APRIL" and now let's HOPE that we have the most "MARVELOUS

programs and affordable housing. This program has touched almost all towns in this state.

This year Governor Malloy proposed, in his budget, to divert any currently unspent money from the CIA fund as well as any income going to this fund through 2017 to the general fund. Our Legislators must not let this happen. The CIA fund was created so that it was not part of the budget and would always be available for the particular programs.

Some of the programs that will be affected are the Agricultural Sustainability Account (Dairy Support Program), Farmland Preservation, Ag Viability and Farm Transition Grant programs, Connecticut Grown program, CT Farmlink, Seafood Advisory Counsel, CT Farm Wine Development Council and the CT Food Policy Council. If the funding is eliminated, these programs and more will disappear.

The Community Investment Act has been extremely effective in stopping the loss of precious farm land for development of strip malls. We should note

MAY." Get out and enjoy the sun, we all need to recharge our batteries drained from this past winter.

And I wish all mothers a HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY. May your kids spoil you with love and gifts because you deserve them for all you have done for us.

that Connecticut agriculture is a \$2 billion industry with 2000 permanent jobs.

The Grange has already submitted testimony to the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee objecting to the diversion of these funds and requesting that this program be left as it is.

The budget process is still evolving and probably will not be finalized until the very end of the Legislative Session in June. We must all continue to pressure the legislators to not vote on a budget that will eliminate the funding for the Community Investment Act. The Governor's budget bill is S.B. 946 AN ACT CONCERNING REVENUE ITEMS TO IMPLEMENT THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET.

I encourage all to contact their local Senate and House members encouraging them to maintain funding of the Community Investment Act. This loss of program funding will affect both rural and urban communities. You can locate your legislator and how to contact them by going to the State General Assembly website - <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>.

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Next Issue...



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



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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



Redding Granger publishes textbook on aging

Article written by Terri Fassio

Dr. Karen Macdonald has recently completed a four-year project and published a new textbook titled "Productive Aging: An Occupational Perspective." Macdonald is a member of Redding Grange of Redding, Connecticut and holds the state Grange office of Connecticut State Ceres.

The book is written by Karen C. Macdonald, PhD OTR/L with Marilyn B. Cole, MS OTR/L FAOTA and is published by Slack Books. It is available for purchase on Amazon.com.

Macdonald explains that "although designed as a textbook, anyone who would like to learn 'the secrets of successful aging' might enjoy the findings of our Productive Aging Study, in which forty seniors were interviewed."

The book takes a fresh look "at our rapidly expanding and diverse older population" according

to the official product description, and "outlines self-management strategies for promoting participation and engagement in productive occupations for the older persons' own continuing development, health, and well-being."

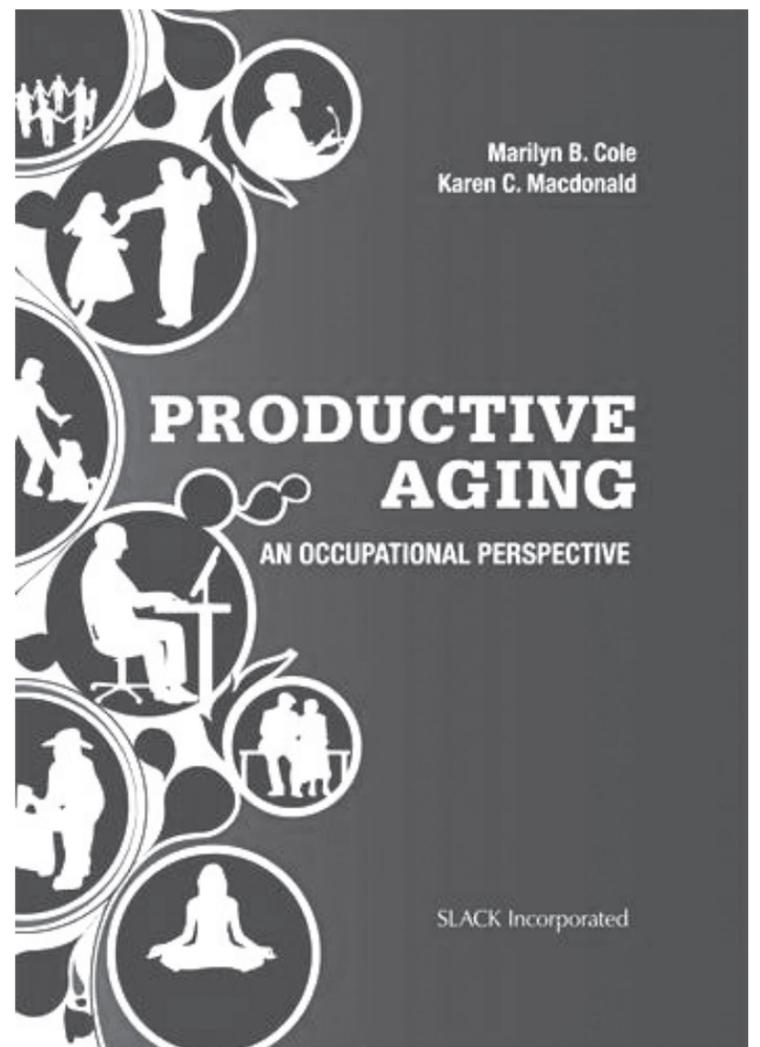
A 98 year old very active Grange member, Sue Sulla, was a participant in Macdonald's research. Macdonald believes that organizations like the Grange play a key role in productive aging. "Some of the key findings would support beliefs that belonging to organizations such as the Grange, promotes many concepts for wellness and quality of life, through social connections and participation in self fulfilling activities," Macdonald says.

Macdonald has specialized in geriatric occupational therapy for 35 years. Her undergraduate degree in occupational therapy was from

Quinnipiac University. She received her master's degree in Counseling the Aging from the University of Bridgeport. At New York University, she earned a PhD in occupational therapy.

Roles in adult day care and long-term care as a clinician included program design and intervention for individuals and groups with acute and chronic conditions. Eventually specializing in dementia management, she was the Coordinator of the Special Care Unit at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield, CT.

Over the years, she has participated in public speaking, research, and consulting roles. Currently, she teaches at Sacred Heart University and Housatonic Community College. She is listed in Marquis' Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World. Personal interests include travels and organizations



including the Grange in (Amazon Book Link CT, with her husband, - <http://www.amazon.com/Productive-Aging-An-Occupational-Perspective/> as quilting, gardening, and Occupational-Perspective/visiting nearby seashores. dp/1617110779)

Oxford hosts Ag Event

Bee Keeping, Wine Making, Organic Gardening and Fiber Animals are a few of the subjects that will be in the spotlight at the "Home on the Grange Share and Learn Event" hosted by Oxford Grange. The all-ages Agricultural Symposium will be held on Saturday, May 9th, from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and will feature guest speakers, demonstrations, vendors, live animals, and more.

Oxford Grange Hall is located at 482 Oxford Road (Route 67), in Oxford, Connecticut. This is a free event, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 AM - Organic Gardening by Guy Beardsley from Eco Gardens of Shelton, CT.

10:30 AM - Wine Making by Tess Szamatulski of Maltose Express, Monroe, CT

11:00 AM - Bee Keeping with Honey Bees by Author Al Avitable from Bethlehem, CT

12 Noon - 1:00 PM — Question and Answer Session on the raising and keeping of rabbits and chickens moderated by Robert Owsiany.

1:00 PM — The Keeping of Fiber Animals (goats, sheep, alpacas) by Spinner and Shepherdess Pam Blasko of Dream Come True Farm from Oxford, CT.

1:30 PM — Natural Pollinators by Charlotte Pyle of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

In addition to the speakers, a variety of vendors, including Coon Hollow Farm, will be selling ag-based products. Animal displays will include chickens, rabbits, goats, sheep and alpacas. Childrens' activities include face painting, seed planting and more. Oxford Grange will be selling sandwiches, baked goods, beverages and more from the Grange Kitchen.

For more information, contact Oxford Grange President Maggie Buck at (203) 267-6796, or via e-mail at oxford@ctstategrange.org. Oxford Grange can be found on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/OxfordGrangeCT.

The Social Connection Committee of the Connecticut State Grange presents



Hi! Ho!
Come to the
Fun Fair!

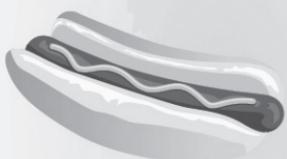
Saturday, May 16, 2015

Prospect Senior Center

6 Center Street (Routes 68 & 69)
Prospect, Connecticut

Price: \$10.00

Entertainment, Games of Chance,
Auction, Raffle, Favors,
Exhibits to Enter and more!



Catered Fair Supper

including the

best hot dogs - guaranteed!

Food Stand Open from 5:30 to 8:30 PM



TICKETS: Available from the Social Connection Committee and in each Pomona.
More Info: social@ctstategrange.org

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35

MISSION STATEMENT

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

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Wesle Dymoke

New Haven County Pomona met on March 9 for and the program was entitled "Young at Heart."

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

May 6: Awards Night, teacup auction
May 20: CWA Extravaganza-Special presentation from My Sister's Place a State CWA Project

Our three March dinners, back to back, enhanced our treasury greatly. Our annual Ballroom Fever program in early April was well received as always. It included some audience participation with our experienced dancers who performed for us.

We continue to have our Monday craft nights and plans are moving along nicely at this point for our August Cheshire Grange Community Fair. We are looking forward to our two big meetings in May. Cheshire Grange is very involved in sending packages to our troops and the response we are getting from them is heartwarming.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

May 7: "Gardening Know

How", Ref. Robin & Anne
May 21: "130th Wallingford Grange Anniversary Celebration", Ref. All Officers

March 12 – We had a lively discussion about our Fair for next fall. Among the things we talked about: was suggested we try adding photography as an event. Robin has been working on getting a Master Gardener to come. Anne has been in contact with Farmer's Cow and they are thinking of sending two people to show. We are also going to have an ice cream social on July 25th, noon to 4 P.M. Joan Olschefski and her niece, Rachel, put on a St. Patrick's Day program and we learn how important the harp is as a symbol of Irish culture and identity. While its earliest origins are lost, the harp dates back at least 1,000 years. The last High King of Ireland, Brian Boru (d. 1014), was said to be an accomplished player but there is no surviving evidence other than in 12th century annals referring to the harp being played during the Crusades. During this time the Gaelic harp was revered by both Scottish and Irish kings and chieftans. They usually

had their own resident harpers who played during poetry recitals or singing of psalms. Though they may have created their own music, it was never written down. During the middle 1500's the English banned the playing of the harp because it was a symbol of Irish resistance to the English. Though in 1792, a group of harpers were lured to a traditional harp festival whereby Edward Bunting wrote down their music and methods to play the harp. His notes were very important for later 20th century revivals of Irish harp playing.

March 26 – Janet Haller was in charge of tonight's CWA program with help from Mary Lou Raymond, State Family Activities, of Prospect Grange.

We had a guest speaker, Phyllis Woodmann who is a member of Heritage Quilters speak about quilting and the quilts she has made. It turns out that she has a small family farm with a couple of horses, chickens and three sheep. The wool from the sheep she turns into yarn. Phyllis brought a number of quilts that were quite colorful and unique, some with her own designs.

It was just amazing and how she managed to get all those square patches to line up in a row and she does this all by hand without a machine. It was one of those things you have to see in order to appreciate them.

Ballroom Dancing



Cheshire Grange - April 1, 2015: Jeff & Andrea Dunn and Kent & Lu Marshal demonstrating various dances followed by Audience Participation.

Easter Parade



Some of the many Easter bunnies made and delivered to Marbridge Nursing Home by the members of Cheshire Grange.

Foster Life Books



Cheshire's Monday Night Group has started making Life Books for Foster Children.

New Members



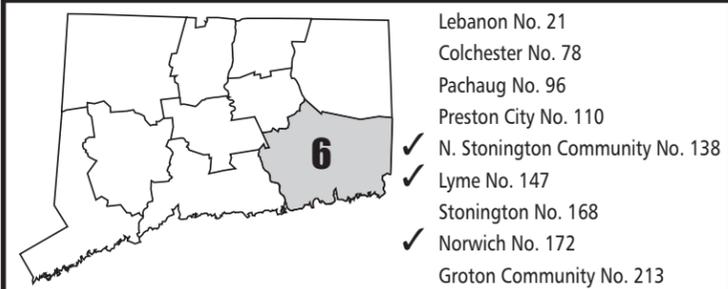
Cheshire Grange welcomes new members Tatum Bailey and Alessandra Marino to our Grange.

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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New London County Pomona No. 6



MISSION STATEMENT

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

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
May 9: Conferral of the Fifth Degree

At our March meeting we voted to raise Pomona dues to \$6. We have not raised the dues in many years and this change is needed to continue our work. It's still only fifty cents a month- a bargain at twice the price! We will confer the Fifth Degree on May 9 at North Stonington Community Grange. Please ask your Fourth Degree members to take this next step in their Grange career.

Pomona Judging for the Needlework Contest will be held at the North Stonington Grange Hall on May 16.

It's spring at last! The snow is gone.

It's finally getting warm.

Please come and take the Fifth Degree.

We'll be there in full form.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 8: "Amazing"

May 22: "Bewilderment"

At our first meeting in March we worked on our ritual skills- and found out we really needed the practice. We also played Pictionary with Irish words. Did you ever try to draw a picture of "limerick"? On March 27th Sue presented her State Lecturer's program, "What's Cookin' in the Grange?" and everyone really had a great time. Daughter, Jennie Watrous, was there to give Sue a break on the ivories. We think Sue has another winner.

At our May 8th program we will meet Joe Sanda, "The Raccoon Whisperer." Joe is a presenter with the Stonington Wildlife Sanctuary. We wish he could teach us how to whisper away the two raccoons that keep stealing the suet from our bird feeders! And if the bulbs that are just daring to pop their head through the

ground will just not get covered by another blanket of white stuff, next time I'll tell you all about awesome April.

LYME GRANGE #147

May 16: Fifth Annual Plant & Food Sale, 10-1 at Grange Hall

June 4: June is bustin' out all over! Election.

July 2: Fun in the Sun

Once again we had to postpone our March meeting from the first Thurs. to the third Thurs. It was our Youth Program. David Sanford and Riley Tefft did a fine job helping with the four games we played.

We sadly draped our Charter once again. Second month in a row for two more of our Sisters. Louise Ely, who came to us from Old Lyme Grange and Virginia Gardner who came to us via East Haddam. She was our oldest member at 100 years. That makes six this year we have lost due to their passing.

We have scheduled a rehearsal for our first and second degrees in May. Hopefully all will go well when the Deputy comes to call.

Snow is gone!! It sure makes a lot of people happy.

NORWICH GRANGE #172

Corr: Susan Kenney

At the April meeting, the Norwich Grange installed two new Officers Susan Kenney as Lecturer and Jolene Whitney as Lady Assistant Steward.

We played the Rain Rain Go Away game by passing the Umbrella until the music stopped. We also had a class on identifying the parts of the umbrella and the history of the umbrella.

We welcomed a new member John. We voted to accept two more new members.

Jeff Barnes, from the State Executive Committee, examined and audited our books. We did well on our audit.

The Grange will be having their annual fair

on August 1, 2015. We are looking for vendors. (Ten dollars for a table outside.) Jolene Whitney represented the Norwich Grange for the State Fair Association. We will be



Todd A. Gelineau
 State Secretary
 secretary@ctstategrange.org

The first thirty days following the close of the first quarter of 2015 have passed. Unfortunately, that means that there are a number of Granges who will be receiving statements from the State Treasurer with the amount of the last dues payment on it along with a 1% fee. I have mentioned it before in this column, but there are still quite a few Secretaries and Masters who contact us at the Central Office after receiving one of these statements. This 1% fee is required by delegate vote at a recent State Session. Unless there is a change adopted at an upcoming session, this policy has to be enforced by myself and the State Treasurer.

If you are having difficulty in completing the report or have other complications, please let us know. We are happy to help in any way that we can, but we can't offer that help if we don't know that it is needed.

Some Granges have received Statements from the State Treasurer. If you have outstanding payments to the State Grange in the form of Dues, Bonding, Loans, etc., the Treasurer

having a Membership table at our next fair.

Our Chaplain, Dick Tarryk, delivered Easter gifts to a local Nursing home. We are now collecting gifts for a

Veteran's charity. Please remember to bring a gift for a veteran to our next meeting. Our May meeting will be about flowers. Come and join us! Visitors are Welcome!

State Secretary

will send you an Statement of Account as a reminder of the outstanding amounts. These Statements will list an invoice number. That invoice number refers to the numer of an invoice you will have already received from the Treasurer. This is a standard bookkeeping practice that we have instituted with the implementation of a new bookkeeping software package in the Central Office. There have been many questions about these Statements so please call me or email me or the State Treasurer if you have any questions or concerns.

A mailing recently went out to all Granges containing Blue Books, Directories (for those that did not receive them previously), an update on activity in the Central Office and a form for submitting changes for the 2016 State Directory. In the past, we have required Secretaries to submit a new list of all officers and committees. We are attempting to do this differently this time around. Each Grange has received a printed copy of their listing from the 2015 Directory. Should there only be minor changes to the listing, please mark those changes on the copy. If there are substantial changes, please fill out the usual form printed on the back and submit to me at the Central Office using the address listed on this form. By only indicating

the changes on the printed copy, we hope to eliminate the errors that can occur when trying to sift through the entire report form to find the changes. We also hope this new procedure will make things easier for the Secretaries. Let me know if you have any questions.

Student Loans and Scholarships are available from the Connecticut State Grange for members, children and grandchildren of Grangemembers. Contact me at the Central Office to learn more and to receive the appropriate applications. This underutilized resource of your State Grange is something that should be in much greater demand.

Coming soon to the Central Office are limited edition t-shirts celebrating agriculture on the front and advertising the Grange on the back. There are only 36 t-shirts in this first order. We hope to have them available for the Social Committee Event at Prospect Senior Center in May and Let's Celebrate in June. If demand warrants, we will place additional orders but don't wait for that to happen. You'll be showing your support for agriculture and you'll be supporting the State Grange. It's a win/win for us all.

As always, if you need anything from the Central Office or have any questions, please give us a call or send an email. We're here to help you!

Enter the Baking Contest



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

Edith Schoell,
 State Family Act. Comm.

In the past few weeks I am certain that the test kitchens have been at work. The CWA baking contest of Strawberry Cupcakes is being held in most Grange during the months of April and May.

If you don't have the recipe contact your Chairman or any of the

State Committee It is an easy recipe and they taste good.

Just a reminder to use the regular size cups, not the large. Enter three on a plate for judging and the rest could be used for refreshments.

Happy Baking!

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

EXCELSIOR POMONA #7

Corr: Jean Meehan

Excelsior Pomona held a successful degree day April 18 taking in 6 new candidates. Three from Bridgewater, 2 from Oxford and one from Prospect. Congratulation to our new members. Barbara Robert and her crew served a delicious ziti supper between degrees. Master Cindy Legg would like to thank all who helped to make this degree a success.

Our May meeting will be degrees.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

May 18, 2015, 7:30 P.M. – Note change in week and date. CWA judging

of contests. Memorial Program and Inspection by Deputy Ron Fischer.

We are deeply saddened by the sudden death of Malinda Mable. Our sympathies to her family.

Our Flea Market was held on April 11 and Joe Shapenis was honored as our Citizen of the Year for his work as Town Historian.

PROSPECT GRANGE #144

Corr: Jean Meehan

Prospect Grange would like to welcome our new member Donald Tyler. Donald took his degrees on Excelsior Pomona's degree day he joined 5 others in taking their degrees.

Prospect Grange

recognized the 128 healthcare workers at Paradigm Health Center during Grange Month for their dedication to the elderly and disabled. Congratulations! We are working on Mother's Day and Father's Day favors for the patients there now.

Our May meeting was inspected by Deputy Ronald Fisher and his wife Patricia. We also held our baking contest for the CWA and decorated flower pots for the craft contest.

Let's Celebrate

Sunday, June 13
Cheshire Grange Hall

Are your Contest Entries Ready?

"Let's Celebrate" Nears



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

My thanks to all who attended the Lecturers' meeting on March 22. We had a nice crowd and discussed what's happening now and what we can expect in the future.

We discussed a new project which we hope will help get the news out about what our Granges are doing. If your Grange has a special program or event scheduled you can mail (424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410) or e-mail (lecturer@ctstategrange.org) me the details and I will send out the information

to all on my e-mail list. I would like information thirty days in advance but will accept it later. The hope is to send out e-mails twice a month, but this may change depending on how much info I get.

Please, still send your information to the CT Granger. This is just an added incentive to get people out visiting. We all need to support one another.

By now we should all have plans for our entries during Let's Celebrate. Entries in the photo contest can be mailed to me ahead of time, brought to the State Office in Glastonbury, or brought to Cheshire Grange Hall between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Saturday June 13th. (Please note this time has been extended to match the CWA time so you can bring everything at once.)

Our "A Number" Contest and Talent Contest will be judged Sunday afternoon June 14th, also at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Why not make a day out of it? Charles Dimmick will be conducting his first Grange Sunday Service at 11:00. This will be followed by a Shepherds Pie Dinner prepared by our new Youth Committee. The Lecturers part of the day will begin sharply at 1:00.

It seems like every month I say the weather well be getting better. Let's hope it is by the time you receive this. As I write this article we still can't open the door on the north side of our house but on the south side we finally have crocus and snowdrops open.

See you around the State...

Bridgewater Egg Hunt

The annual Bridgewater Easter Egg hunt was postponed from Saturday April 4th to Saturday April 11th because of the rough Winter which continued into early April. The location was also changed from the Bridgewater Recreation Area to the Burnham School located at the center of the town off Rt 133. We finally had good weather.

Over fifty children showed up. Since the area was smaller the hunt was a quick mad scramble for 500 Easter Eggs. Afterwards there were more prizes given out. Many thanks to the Bridgewater Grange members who helped and to the Town of Bridgewater for the candy. Hopefully next year Spring will come on time.

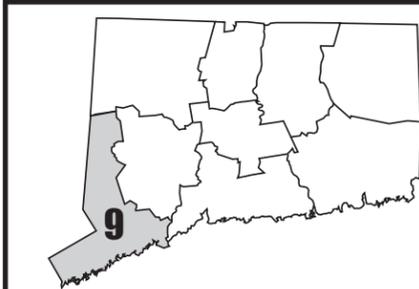


Prospect visits Paradigm



Prospect Grange made 150 Easter favors for the patients at the Paradigm Health Facility for Easter. Food items are not allowed, so we made Peter Cottontail napkin holders. Prospect Grange will also be honoring the 108 health care workers at The Paradigm Health Care Center in Prospect for Grange Month. These hard working people deserve being recognized and a pat on their backs for caring for the elderly and making their lives a little better until the end. A Great Big Thank You to these caring people from Prospect Grange #144. Keep up the great work.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: Susan Sulier

We were fortunate to have Maggie Buck, from the State Grange Membership Committee, as our guest speaker. She gave Hgers many insightful suggestions on methods we might use to obtain and retain new members.

Also in March, Maggie Buck and George Ward spent a wintry Saturday afternoon at Benedicts Home and Garden "poultry seminar" in Monroe. Sharing a booth with the Fairfield County Connecticut Farm Bureau, they handed out information and membership applications and explained, to those interested, the purpose/mission of the Grange in hopes some would consider joining. It was a successful event with roughly a dozen people expressing interest in joining. HG appreciates Benedicts allowing us to set up a booth with literature to be handed out and the opportunity to speak with their customers about the Grange.

Plans are progressing for HG's upcoming 125th Anniversary Celebration and HG's Agricultural Fair.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

May 2: Hungarian Stuffed Cabbage Demo., 10 A.M.

May 2: "Benefit Street Band" and E.C. Bradley Concert, 7:30 P.M.

May 16: Seed Exchange & Junior Planting Activity, 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

May 16: Spring Fling Pasta Night, 6 P.M. (Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.)

May 18: "Preservation in Connecticut" Meeting 7:00

P.M.

March found our hall to be a busy place. In addition to our regular meeting in which the program included questions and answers and poultry catalogs were available for viewing, the Saturday following we had a successful chicken dinner with great food and fellowship! Some interesting door awards were donated by members and two Winter Farmers' Market sellers. Rehearsals of "Macbeth" by the Penny Lane Players continued into early April.

Paul and Diane Lytwyn became Fairfield County Pomona members via taking the Fifth Degree, which was conferred upon them, along with two from Harmony, on April 1st.

On May 2, we have a Hungarian Stuffed Cabbage Demo at 10:00 A.M. Call Chef Steve, our Lecturer, at (203) 367-4373. That evening, the Benefit Street Band along with EC Bradley will be presenting a concert at 7:30 P.M. Mid-month, May 16th, we will have a Seed Exchange from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. and later, at 6 P.M., a "Spring Fling Pasta Night" (Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.)

For reservations, call Steve or Jim at (203) 367-4373 or (203) 259-8023. Ticket donations are \$20 or \$10 for children under 12. A special speaker will be Lee Ganim, "That Garden Guy"; topic "Make Your Garden Grow."

The future Junior Grange continues to be active. They visited a maple sugar operation, hosted by Bill Hill, at Warrup's Farm in Redding. They will be doing a garden related activity

concurrent with Seed Exchange. For information contact Cindy Wakeman at (203) 243-1887 or email: greenfield133@gmail.com.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

Apr. 14: Grange Green Program, 7:30, Baking Contest

May 12: Camp Berger/Open House, 7:30 P.M.

May 29, 30, 31: Fifth Annual Community-wide Tag Sale, Hours 10-4

We had a glorious St. Patrick's Day celebration in March, with more than 25 people in attendance and no wonder: who can possibly resist corned beef sliders? Thank you, Tish Murray and Laura Clark! The Baking Contest in April has not yet happened at this writing, but be sure to tune in later. A Farm-to-Fork fundraiser, with speakers, is scheduled for a week night in late April or early May, and also on the list is a "Poker Party @ Norfield Grange." Wouldn't our earliest Grangers be amazed!

Be sure to put the Camp Berger/Open House on your schedule for May 12. Take along your own stick for the bonfire and smores! And here's a resounding cheer for Lyn and Chris Kimberly, who rediscovered Camp Berger in the first place. Let's make it THREE cheers for the Kimberly's.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

May 7: Cardiac Health - 7 PM

May 21: Business Meeting - 7 PM

June 4: Nutrition - 7 PM

June 18: Election of Officers with Business Meeting - 7 PM

August 30: 83rd Agricultural Fair - 10 AM to 4 PM

An interesting and interactive seminar on Fluoridation of Water was held at our early March meeting in the continuation of our series of programs dedicated to Healthy Living. The program provided the platform for understanding the pros

and cons of this public health issue. We are especially looking forward to our program on Cardiac Health slated for May 7th at which time we will welcome Nancy Capelle to the stage. Nancy will share her story of how she survived a heart attack and cardiac arrest only days after her 40th birthday, and of the lifestyle changes she and her family have made since. This is an incredible story not to be missed!

Plans are underway for our 83rd annual Agricultural Fair that will be presented on Sunday, August 30th. Our fair continues its tradition of being the last big event of the summer held in town prior to the children heading back to school. It's a great way to see neighbors, friends and Grangers at work demonstrating "American Values and Hometown Roots".

Please note our meeting schedule with times. We look forward to seeing you!

Cannon Water Program



Paul Hurlbut of Professional Water Systems in Ridgefield, Carol Peringer of ConnFACT, John J Kriz, Lecturer, and Christine O'Day of ConnFACT, at Cannon Grange on March 19 speaking on risks of fluoride in drinking water, and other water quality issues.

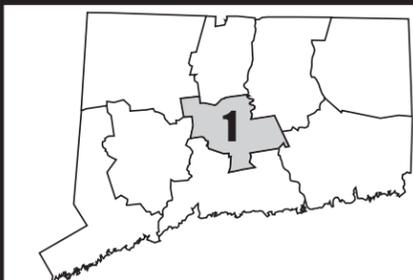
Ekonk Exchange Program



Richmond Grange presented a fantastic program at Ekonk Community Grange on April 7th titled "Hollywood Squares." Guest "stars" included Uncle Si (Duck Dynasty), Rodney Dangerfield, John Wayne, Joan Rivers... a total of 9 celebrities were present! (Photos by Susan Woloochian)

Members of Ekonk Community Grange took a program to Richmond Grange in RI on April 17th. All had great time and love visiting with our neighbors. (Photo by Jodi Ann Cameron)

Central Pomona No. 1



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: M. Harrison

Hello Grangers, Happy Spring! I think we all waited a long time to say that. As I write this the daffodils are just starting to break through the soil. In just 3 weeks Meriden will be celebrating the annual Daffodil Festival at Hubbard Park, Meriden is home to over 600,000 daffodils, truly a sight to see!

We have our degrees in April and hope to pass inspection with flying colors. We invite you all to our meetings, they take place on the 2nd & 4th Friday of the month. Our upcoming programs will be: CWA, I Scream, U Scream (should

be some tasty treats that night) and Vacation Time.

By the time you get this Granger, my husband will be out rototilling our garden & we will have our yearly debate over what to plant in our little garden. Our fellow Granger, Mike will be planting his beautiful sunflowers next to the Grange. We ask that you keep Diane Clark in our thoughts and we hope to see sister Diane soon.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 8: Alcapella

May 22: CWA

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.



Marketing Versus Branding

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Marketing and branding both fall under the umbrella of public relations. People often use the terms interchangeably, but in actuality, they are two different, yet important concepts. Let's take a look at the similarities and differences and how that applies to Granges.

Every individual Grange is a unique brand. The Grange as a whole is a brand. Businesses are brands. Organizations are brands. The Grange, at its core, is a business. We encounter brands every day. Coca Cola, McDonalds, Walmart, Ford and Chevrolet, and John Deere are all popular brands. You immediately recognize these brands and most likely use them in your daily lives. Brands are formed through the sum of all information regarding

each business/organization. Branding is the foundation of each business, organization and service, and reinforces how the public (often called your target audience) communicates with each business/organization. It strategically encompasses the values, qualities and mission, and if strong, allows for the business, organization and service to be successful both financially and affectively. It's the purpose a business exists. Branding is rooted in how the public interacts on an emotional level with business, organizations and services, and how people interpret what the organization "promises" to them.

Marketing is how businesses, organizations and services promote themselves and communicate. A support system in a sense to the brand. It is getting in front of customers and members through methods such as publicity, advertising, social media and more, thus enabling growth, establishing reliability, a familiarity and trust within communities. Marketing contributes to the building of the brand, yet the brand itself is a larger entity than any specific marketing endeavor.

Branding is pull, marketing is push. An article by MarketingDonut.co.uk explains it well. "In essence, marketing is what you do to get your message or promise to customers, while your brand is how you keep the promise made through delivery to customers and colleagues."

For example, marketing at the Grange level may introduce local communities to the organization and its activities and events.

Marketing catches the public eye and encourages that person to go to the Grange Fair, meeting, dinner, concert, etc. Marketing is influential. But it is the Grange brand that determines whether or not that same person will become a member, and continue their membership for years to come. Thus the term "brand loyalty."

Compare joining the Grange to how you purchase your vehicle. Are you a Ford person? A Chevy person? A Subaru person? Ask yourself why do you stick with one brand when purchasing your vehicles? A brand is built from many different pieces, but a positive experience and trust will ensure a life-long customer. Does your Grange encourage a positive experience and trust with your members? Ask any Golden Sheaf member why they have remained a member of the Grange for over 50 years, and the answer will most likely be based on their experiences and loyalty to the Grange.

The strongest brands understand the branding versus marketing difference, and craft their businesses and organizations based on positioning and creative marketing strategies. At the end of the day, the Grange as a brand gives your members an experience filled with value, knowledge, and benefits. Marketing your Grange promotes the organization and helps to grow your membership. Each Grange should take some time and evaluate their brand - and how they use marketing. Strengthening the Grange foundation from its core will lead to brand loyalty, and thus membership growth.



EUREKA GRANGE

presents

Baked Potato Extravaganza

Join us to enjoy delicious baked potatoes with all the toppings, including chili. Beverages are included.

Only \$5.00!

Eureka Grange Hall
777 Litchfield Tpke. (Rte 202)
in the Nepaug section
of New Hartford.

For more information:
CALL (860) 482-1111
or (860) 307-7000

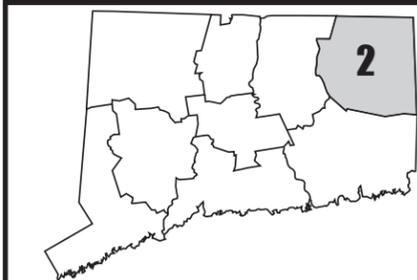
SATURDAY

MAY 23rd

5 - 6:30 PM



Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

May 20: May Flowers

We have been meeting monthly and are trying to keep the hall ready for renting to other volunteer groups.

Some of our officers are either recovering from surgery now or now in a nursing home.

Two members participated in the Ag Day at the Capitol event and spoke to the Governor about the Community Investment Act. Funds are being swept out of the budget. These funds are necessary to keep dairy farming in Connecticut as well as funds for other community needs.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

May 13: Remember Mom, Memorial Day – Deaf, Ref. All

May 27: Potluck, 6 P.M.

Days are getting a little brighter. Roads are bumpy, snow gone, wild animals are on the move. Birds are happy. Tabs are still coming in for the Shriners. We voted to start at 7:00 on meeting nights on the second Wednesday of the month for the rest of the year. Potluck at 6 P.M. We are going to fill a “Shoobox” for the vets- with personal items and socks too for the New Haven Hospital for Veterans. Last night the Deputy East Jim Palmer was here for inspection. Flowers are coming up. Lots of cleaning and raking up sticks from so much wind.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

May 4: Brown Bag Auction/Inspection

May 16: Roast Beef Supper 5 pm

June 1: “Strawberry Shortcake” mtg/prog

June 13: 121 Strawberry Supper 5 pm

We received a heartfelt, two page letter of thanks from a family that we continue to assist. Made us all grateful for what we have and take for granted! Our May Roast Beef Supper will benefit TALVHI (The American Legion Veterans Housing Inc.)-home for “homeless veterans in Jewett City, CT. We voted to switch this annual event from November to May. May 30 & 31, we will again serve all food at the Relay for Life in Plainfield, CT. Thanks to Link Cooper, David Griffiths and Jody Cameron for once again heading up this event! We again sponsored the Earth Day Poster Contest for Sterling Community School 3rd graders. The 2nd graders were thrilled with their individually gifted books from our Grange as part of Dr. Seuss Week. We welcomed back Chaplain, Paulette Craig, who enjoyed a respite in Florida, missing most of the snow of the winter! We had to look twice because Paulette lost over 60 pounds and looks rested and fantastic! Carly Sebastian did a fabulous job as her protem Chaplain, even having to drape the Charter-well done young lady! The grass is starting to green in places at this writing and a robin was seen in our front yard--Happy Spring all!

ECHO GRANGE #180

Corr: Gloria John

May 12: CWA

May 26: Memorial – Chaplain

We hope that the winter storms are over. We will be working on our contests for this year. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Ham and Bean Supper on May 16th. Flowers are starting to come up around the snow piles. Spring is finally here.

Lecturer's Conference celebrates 100 years!

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

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

The cost of the conference will be \$190 Double or \$200 Single. This is less than the price last year. We are looking for memories you would like to share about past conferences and any mementoes you may be willing to share with us.

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

The plan is to make this a special event to celebrate our 100th Anniversary.

Upcoming Plant Sales

Wallingford Grange #33

Looking for the perfect plant for Mom or Grandmother? On Saturday, May 9th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Spring plant sale will be held for Mother's Day hosted by Wallingford Grange. Wallingford Grange Hall, 586 Center Street, Wallingford.

Lyme Grange #147

Lyme Grange will hold its' 5th Annual Plant and Food Sale on May 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lyme Grange Hall, Route 156, Lyme. The sale will feature annuals, perennials, trees, houseplants and more, and will also feature a bake sale.

We Miss You!



Reporting to the Connecticut Granger is easy! Just write a short description of what's happened during the last month at your Grange and/or a listing of what's coming up on your Grange's calendar in the coming month. Email your report to: Granger@CTStateGrange.org. Snail mail your report to: CT Granger, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. It's easy, it's fun and WE MISS YOU!



NATIONAL GRANGE LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

May 17-20, 2015

Washington, D.C.

Come to Washington and help us promote the policy that was initiated by your local Grange offices back home.

The schedule and a clickable link to the registration form can be found on the National Grange Website at: <http://www.nationalgrange.org/2015-legislative-fly-in/>

If you have any additional questions, please contact the National Grange Office.

But hurry! Hotel registrations are going fast, so sign up today!

East Central Pomona No. 3



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

May 2: Auditions Host Hillstown

Talent contest that night so bring a number. Had two candidates at the Apr. 11 meeting. A good time was had by all. Get well wishes to Secretary Kay Ruff. Come back quick. Noel talks too much. Youth is having a bowling day on May 3 at Lucky Strike Bowling at 2 P.M. on Route 32 in Mansfield so come out and throw your back out with us. It's lots of fun.

We are having car pools for the Social Connection May 16th event so get your tickets from Edith and meet at Good Will for a ride to Prospect. Needlework judging for East Central is June 2 at 10 A.M. Lunch is included.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

May 2: National Postcard Month

May is National Postcard Month. Postcards are beginning to be an item from the past, but so many of them bring back warm, good memories of the past that include adventures, travels, friends and/or family. Members are asked to bring in postcards from the present or past and tell their stories. In March we visited with Manchester Grange and presented our Hobo program. Our June meeting will be inspection of officers and Manchester Grange will be doing a program for us. We want to welcome two new members who came in from demit from Tolland Grange – Jennifer Hopkins and Cherie Robinson. We were sad to see our sister Tolland Grange No. 51 close, but glad many of them have joined us.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

May 21: Spring time and Inspection. Refreshments, R. MacRobbie

We have done many repairs to the hall and have

plans for our Tag Sale in early May. We may have a vendor to sell organic soups and sandwiches in our parking lot we hope that they will do well. Our Grangers are helping with the Town's new Community Garden Project, making 30 plots available to residences for vegetables. Bring on the sun!

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

Our snowbirds are returning home to their flock, as the Hillstown Grangers look forward to the spring finally! We have had good attendance at our monthly open meetings-inviting the public to our Grange hall to discuss and dream about our gardens this year! We had a good meal, great fellowship and free seeds! We were then able to focus our second meeting during the month on business.

Last year we started with our monthly pancake breakfasts and have a following of people that truly look forward to a good breakfast and company. We plan on holding our pancake breakfast through the first Saturday in June then starting back up in October. Great deal for \$5- all you can eat pancakes, hot coffee and our special warm pecan syrup!

Every year we all look forward to our "Western Night" with the Yankee Blue Grass Jammers – this year was no different-It was a great way to finish up our Grange Month activities! Happy spring everyone! And Happy Memorial Day!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 16: Inspection – Honoring Mom, bring a photo-baking & needlework contests – Ref. Judy & Elaine

June 13: Speaker – Ref. Dawn & Irene

Please note that our May meeting will be delayed one week. It will be the third week in the

month. Five our members went to the degree day at Good Will Grange, some to see the four degrees for the first time. The weather was not very good but we persevered and had a good time.

We sadly draped

our charter for a long time friend, Florence LeFrancois. Flo was a dedicated member for 40 plus years. She held the office of Secretary for over 30 years until her eyesight became too difficult to do the minutes. She then

filled the Office of Ceres with dedication and grace. We will miss her smile and her friendly greetings. Well done good and faithful servant.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

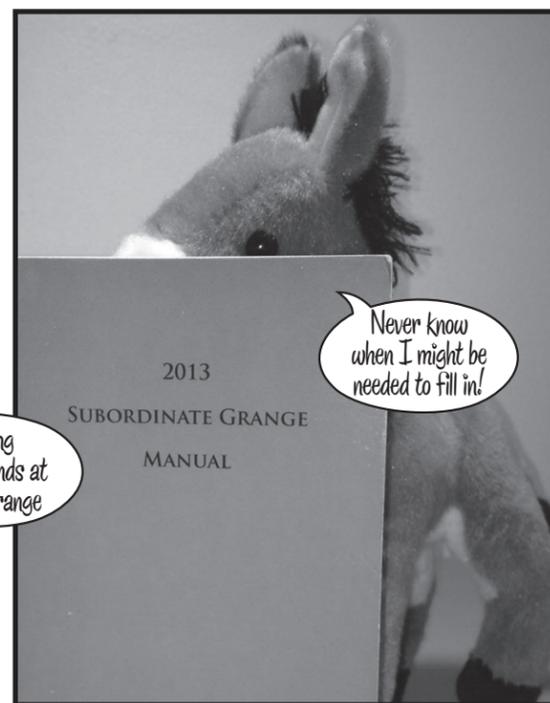
Not much to report for my travels during April, but I've been brushing up on my Grange Degree work in my spare time.

I did join my host family at Lyme Grange on April 9th. We had a fun time, and it was nice to meet new friends, and see old friends too!

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

And if you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!

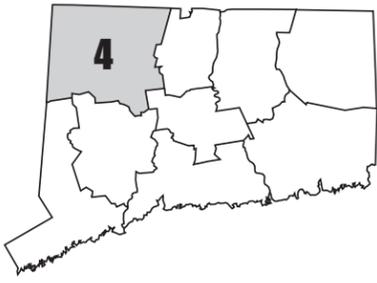


Preemie Hats donated to St. Francis



Jim Percoski shown with Carrie Eaton, in charge of Labor & Delivery at St. Francis Hospital. Enfield donated 100 hats to their neonatal ICU unit.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Cawasa No. 34
Whigville No. 48
Eureka No. 62
✓ Winchester No. 74
Taghannuck No. 100
✓ Litchfield No. 107
Beacon No. 118
Riverton No. 169

MISSION STATEMENT

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

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4 WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

May 11: Fifth Degree & Supper, Winchester Grange Hall, Dinner at 6, Degree at 7:30

It's been a very bad winter/spring for Mountain County Pomona. Weather has affected us way too many times... and as I'm writing this on April 24, snow was coming down furiously. We certainly hope that snow will not be a factor for our May 11 meeting, but you never know!!!

We will just assume that all will go as planned and the Dinner will be held at 6:00 P.M. The meal is prepared by the members of Winchester Grange for a charge of \$5.00. The degree will begin at 7:30 P.M. All are welcome but we encourage you to contact the Master George Russell or Secretary Shirley Lemieux to let them know who and how many will be in attendance to receive the degree. It will be greatly appreciated.

Just a reminder that Mountain County changed the format for our Spring Drawing last year. Instead of the spring, the drawing will be held in September to give members plenty of time to sell tickets and to get them back to the September meeting of Pomona. We will have the tickets for distribution at the June meeting of Pomona on the 22nd at Taghannuck Grange in the Ellsworth section of Sharon.

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

May 12: Mother's Day, Country Store, Ref. Sue Kline & Bill Latulipe

May 23: Spring Tag Sale, 8-2

May 26: Memorial Day, Ref. Women

June 21: Strawberry Festival (Father's Day)

Our Spring Super Prize Party was exceptionally well attended with a great profit which is badly needed by our treasury. Thank you to all who donated items and to all who purchased tickets, making the night such a success.

Also in April, we conferred all four degrees on candidates from Winchester, Cawasa and Taghannuck Granges. It's good to see there are many Granges around the state actively working on recruiting new members—the lifeblood of the order!

Coming up on May 23 is our Spring Tag Sale. The donations have been coming in steadily since our fall tag sale—so expect plenty of bargains to be had. The sale will be at the Grange Hall from 8-2. Stop by and find that bargain that you didn't know you needed!

Mark your calendars for our annual Father's Day Strawberry Festival at the Grange Hall from 2:30 – 5:00 P.M. We feature the largest servings of shortcake around served up by the Laurel Queen and her court members. It wouldn't be Father's Day in Winchester Center without the Strawberry Festival!



Asparagus Salad



With the arrival of the month of May comes garden growth and springtime, and the first of the season picnics. This recipe for Asparagus Salad with Peas and Toasted Almonds comes from the Old Farmer's Almanac website - and is the perfect dish to share at Grange picnics and potlucks.

Ingredients:

2 bunches asparagus, washed and cut into 5-inch pieces (tough bottoms discarded)

1 cup shelled fresh peas

1 medium shallot, minced

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil

1/3 cup whole almonds

2 teaspoons grated lemon zest

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

About 10 fresh mint leaves, roughly chopped

Kosher or sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Garnish: 4 ounces

Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, shaved with a vegetable peeler

Directions:

In a large bowl, combine 3 cups very cold water with 1 dozen ice cubes. In a large saucepan, bring 6 cups well-salted water to a boil; add asparagus. Return water to a boil and blanch asparagus 5 minutes (8 to 10 minutes if using thick spears). Remove asparagus with tongs (reserving water in pan) and place in ice water 1 minute; remove from water, dry, and set aside. Bring cooking water back to a boil and blanch peas about 3 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon and place in ice water 1 minute. Strain and dry well; set aside.

In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, saute shallot in olive oil until translucent, about 5 minutes. Remove shallot to a small bowl and set aside. Add almonds to hot oil and toast 6 to 8 minutes, stirring frequently, being careful not to burn. Add almonds to shallot and mix in lemon zest, juice, peas, and mint leaves.

Arrange asparagus spears on a serving platter (or divided among six salad plates). Season pea and almond mixture with salt and pepper, then spoon over asparagus. Garnish with Parmigiano-Reggiano.

Source: <http://www.almanac.com/recipe/asparagus-salad-peas-and-toasted-almonds>.

Granger Shout Out



To Barbara Bartram of Taghannuck Grange for bringing members to our meetings who could otherwise not get there.



Rebecca Gervais: Fantastic work with the Junior Grangers (Ekonk)!



Chuck Thurlow: thanks for your numerous donations to Ekonk & Ekonk Community Junior Granges!



Ekonk Community Granger, Elena Hermonot and Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm placed 1st last night at the annual Connecticut Food Association Banquet at Aqua Turf in Southington for her creation of "Black Currant Ice Cream"! She and her husband, Rick, attended. On Facebook, Rick posted pictures! Awesome!



Richmond Grange, RI—fabulous exchange program at Ekonk—good friends!



Tom and I extend "Shout Outs" to Ron & Gail Bunovsky, to Karen Macdonald and to Geno Piacentini...Thank you all for always giving 100%!!!!...

Submit your Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.

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.



We heard on Facebook from Alma Graham that the April photo is of John Carter from Wolf Den Grange. We also heard from John Carter himself, confirming that it was indeed him in the photo. He said the picture was taken in 1976 and he was performing a Patriotic Number in the "A Number" competition, where he placed first in the State. He said that he believes Edith Schoell placed second that year performing as the Statue of Liberty. He said that he still has the costume packed away.

Phyllis Beard (from Cheshire Grange, formally of Indian River Grange) called regarding the March photo. She said that the woman is Marion Peterson of Indian River Grange receiving an award from Carlton Platt. She does not know the gentleman, but does know that it is not Marion's husband. She believes the photo was taken in the early 1970s.

Membership Corner

Maggie Buck, State Membership Comm.

"Only if you dive for pearls shall you find one" If you want to find new members for your Grange, you must first believe that they exist. After all who goes looking for something they know doesn't exist. Once you allow yourself to believe that new members are out there, your mind can then move on to formulating a plan to find them. I'm currently working with a Grange on a membership drive. One of the current members suggested that we set up a booth at a chicken talk being held at a local feed store. What better audience could there be for a grange that does a nice agricultural fair each year? There were more than 60 people who showed up for this chicken talk and we had a very nice opportunity to speak with people about the grange. Will this local grange get new members this way? Its too early to tell. We gave out ten applications and next comes the follow up to see if we can persuade them to give the grange a try.

While the chicken talk was a great way to meet people, at little more prep work would have been helpful. The two things

I really would have wanted were: items to set up an attractive booth highlighting the Grange and membership applications that explained what activities that local Grange is involved in.

The CSG Membership committee is currently working on kits that will allow subordinate granges to set up nice booths with nice banners and general information about the grange. Our plan is to make enough of these kits to give one to each Pomona Grange for use by all their subordinate granges.

So second item needed, would be membership applications for your Grange. A few nice pictures, a few events to highlight and the name and address of the person the applications should be mailed back to. A few nice pictures, most of us have them. A few events to highlight, if you don't have any, time to have some. Name and address of the person to return the applications to: you are going to be asking people to join your subordinate grange. Asking people to send applications and checks to a central office in Glastonbury, maybe not the best way to go.

Cabaret Night at Greenfield

Kick off the summer concert series at Greenfield Hill Grange Hall on Saturday, May 2nd at 8:00 PM with the Rob Carlson Benefit Street Band and EC Bradley Music Fundraiser for the Grange Hall Building Improvements. \$10 / donation - BYOB. We will have cabaret style seating upstairs. Limited number of tables so come early.

Greenfield Hill Grange is located at 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT 06824

Cheshire +1



Cheshire Grange started the 1+ Junior Grange Program on Wed. by welcoming Gabriel LaPlante and Isabella Marino to our Grange.



Michelle DeDominicis
State Junior Grange Director
juniors@ctstategrange.org

EKONK COMM. JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Greetings from Ekonk Community Junior Grange! We had a very busy March. We held a very successful Spaghetti Supper, donating \$368.14 to two "Animal Therapy" Organizations (Tufts Paws for People & Hope AACR). They both came (with trained, beautiful dogs) and put on a wonderful program.

A big hit! Shout out to Sue Gray, who made the scrumptious sauce and to her grandsons, Jared Gervais & Russell Sharpe (ages 9 & 8), who, under

Junior Grange

her supervision, made the delicious meatballs (with the hamburger donated by Chuck Thurlow). Brother Thurlow also donated all of the pasta and sauce ingredients. Thanks also to Beverly Bessette who donated all of the salad. Without these generous folks, the profits would not have been nearly as high!

The Junior Grange had a table at the Power Lifting Competition held in Sterling. We sold gatoraid, protein bars, granola bars and baked goods. Special thanks to Paula and Natasha Ignacio who spent HOURS manning our table! We went on our annual Maple Sugar Tour. For the second year in a row, we went to the Sweet Farm in Voluntown. Both years, Tom and Tom (father & son) allowed us to drill and tap the trees. The kids have a great

time with this "hands on" activity. We also learn a lot about maple syrup and the process of harvesting the sap. After the tour, we went back to the Grange Hall for an awesome meal of French toast, home fries, bacon and sausage and REAL maple syrup donated by the Sweets! Special thanks to Jack & Patty Cottrell (Richmond, RI Grange friends), Jim & Verna Cole and Russell & Sue Gray for preparing the great meal! Juniors and their parents (and two Easter Bunnies) visited a Convalescent Home, bringing homemade Easter decorations and candies to the residents. I am sure those costumes were VERY warm, especially inside the Home! Looking forward to our annual Mother's Day Plant Sale on May 9th from 9am-2pm. Visit us any first Friday at 6:00 p.m.

In Memoriam

John Dufford	Glastonbury #26
Willis Bailey	Glastonbury #26
Ethel Rosenbrooks, G.S.	Echo #180
Malinda Mable	Bethlehem #121
Louise Ely	Old Lyme #147
Virginia Gardner	Old Lyme #147
Florence LeFrancois	Enfield #151

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

Unspotted from the world?

by Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

At the close of every Grange meeting we hear the Master tell us "Let us be quiet, peaceful citizens, feeding the hungry, helping the fatherless and the widows, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world." Now, the first three admonitions are clear enough, but what is meant by "keeping ourselves unspotted from the world"? The passage is part of a quotation from the Letter of James, and going back and reading the original source gives some clarification. There are three different words in the Greek New Testament which are all translated as "world" in English. The word that James uses is "Kosmos", and elsewhere James twice refers to "the unrighteous world", using the same Greek word. So, he does not have in mind the "Cosmos" of the popular TV program, the physical universe. Rather the reference is to the outside social world of his time, a world of greed, corruption, cruelty, and indifference. One translation of James 1:27 into modern colloquial English would be: "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."

Saint Paul has a similar view in his Letter to the Ephesians, where he says: "You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the...spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else."

None of this means that we should isolate ourselves from the world in order to keep from being corrupted. That path is OK for monks and nuns and hermits, but we are meant to live in the world, with all its faults and temptations, and yet strive to, as my mother warned, "keep our noses clean". I'm not going to make a list of all those things which might tempt us to stray off the straight and narrow path; you already probably know them well. Rather, we should concentrate on those things and activities which have a positive influence, and which perhaps might keep us busy enough that we have less time to go astray. We might start with St. Paul's list in the letter to the Philippians:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things."

Following such advice should help us in our endeavor to keep "ourselves unspotted from the world."

CAMP BERGER

ADVENTURE - FUN FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY

Celebrating our 60th Year
Camp Berger is a
Co-Educational Overnight
Camp for Ages 8-16

Seven Weekly Sessions:
June 28-July 4, July 5-11
July 12-18, July 19-25

July 26-Aug 1, Aug 2-8, Aug 9-15
Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week
CIT Program for Ages 15-17

PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf 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 Winchester Center, Connecticut. Camp Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled summer yet small enough, 120 campers per session, to give individual attention. Please feel free to call or email with any questions.

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