



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2019

153rd Annual Session of National Grange



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

I Can't believe it's December already! Where has this year gone? As the Pomona and Subordinate Granges are having their holiday meetings and parties, don't forget the unfortunate people at this time of year.

Sharon and I attended the 153rd National Grange Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota during the first week of November, starting on Monday night with our committee meetings and ending on Saturday with the Seventh Degree.

We were kept busy during the week so there wasn't much downtime. Sharon served on the Education and Health Committee and again this year I served on the Conservation Committee. Each committee had several new resolutions to work on along with coming up with Policy Statements for each committee.

The resolution that the Connecticut State Grange sent out to National Grange was School Bus Safety. This resolution was put in the policy statement. The resolution on Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People From Public Spaces was adopted as amended.

The committee chairman asked me to withdraw the resolution on Support for Family Farms because most of it was already policy.

In our last resolution, Sale of Grange Property, there were two other State Granges that submitted their own resolutions on Sale of

Grange Property. One was for \$5000 and the other was \$10,000 like the resolution we submitted. The committee recommended for \$5000 that would be returned to the Grange on sale of property. This needed a 2/3 vote to pass and unfortunately the resolution didn't receive the 2/3. This resolution was rejected and we will have to try again next year.

This was the year for election of officers. Betsy Huber was reelected President/ Master of the National Grange. Master Betsy Huber is from the State of Pennsylvania. Phil Prelli was reelected Overseer and was named chairman of the Board of Directors for National Grange. The only two changes in the slate of officers was Karen Overstreet, State Master of Texas, was elected National Lady Assistant Steward and Sherry Harriman, State Master from Maine, is the new National Treasurer. Congratulations to all the officers of the National Grange.

Elections of the Assembly of Demeter was held at the annual Convocation and Business meeting. Bruce Croucher from New York was elected to another term as High Priest of the Demeter. The other officers elected to the Assembly of the Demeter were Priest Archon Roger Bostwick from Kansas and Priest Annalist Martha Stefenoni from California.

Martha Stefenoni replaced James Owens from Maine as Priest Annalist. Brother Owens has Held this position for the past eight years.

I would like to congratulate Miss Brianna Gervais for being selected as one of the National Junior Grange Ambassadors. Brianna is a member of the Ekonk Community Junior

Grange from Connecticut. Mr. Bryce Danko from Pennsylvania was also selected as an Ambassador. Brianna also received several other awards at the Junior Breakfast. Brianna is going to have a busy year ahead of her and I know she will be a great representative for the Junior Grange and Connecticut.

Sharon and I would like to wish you all a joyous and safe holiday season and hope that the new year, 2020, will be a prosperous year for our Grangers in Connecticut.



Brianna Gervais, of Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange #101 shows off her award for Community Service at National Session in Minnesota. Brianna was also named National Grange Junior Ambassador. Congratulations!



THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER
60 YEARS
1960-2020

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

NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Nov. 15

Grange family protects iconic farm

Four years after Nancy Strong's father Norman passed away, her extended family agreed that with nobody to farm the land, they couldn't afford to hold onto Strong Farm. "Deciding to sell the farm was very hard but we didn't see another option," says Nancy, whose family had owned the 51-acre Vernon farm for more than a century.

When word spread that the family wanted to sell the farm for \$1 million, she says, developers started calling. Located in the center of

Vernon, the land is less than a half mile from I-84, has views of Hartford and is zoned for residential use.

Residents had expressed their desire to save the farm in the town's Plans of

Conservation and Development since 1990, so Ann Letendre, chair of Vernon's Open Space Task Force, knew the community supported keeping the land as a farm rather than a housing development.

"We knew we had to get it off the market," Ann says. A handful of residents interested in preserving the land met with two local land trusts, but "neither was in a position to take on a large project like this," she says.

She was wracking her brain trying to figure out how to come up with the money before developers could buy it, she says. "In the middle of the night, I thought, 'Why don't we all just buy it temporarily.'"

Ann called Nancy to let her know there was strong community support to save the farm, one of only three heritage farms left in Vernon.

Both Nancy and Ann worried that a developer would come up with the money before residents could cobble together enough to buy it.

Ann called her friend, Amy Paterson, executive director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council who suggested the group form an LLC to purchase the property and ask Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) to help with applying for grants and managing the complex logistics involved with conserving farmland. Strong Farm consists of an 18-acre field and a 33-acre field of locally historic importance called Meetinghouse Hill, and the group of residents called themselves



Meetinghouse Hill LLC.

Seven individuals loaned funds from their retirement savings and investments in varying amounts to buy the land until they could raise the \$1 million needed through grants and donations to protect the farm. Meetinghouse Hill LLC bought the land in April 2015.

CFT agreed to apply for grants and hold the grant funds until it could purchase the land from Meetinghouse Hill LLC.

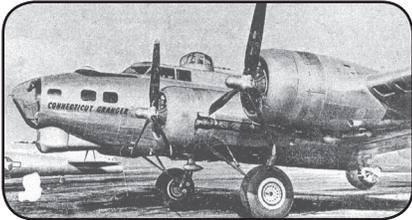
CFT submitted a state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant and applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"We simply could not have done this project without CFT. This was the most complicated land preservation transaction I've ever worked on," Ann says. "CFT's expertise in the world of land conservation, including the associated legal requirements and transfer documents, brought the project home for us."

CFT received \$650,000 from DEEP and \$295,000 from NRCS. CFT and Northern CT Land Trust each contributed \$10,000; and the Baffin Foundation awarded a \$30,000 matching grant. The Town of Vernon, with money from its open space fund, gave \$25,000 toward the purchase price and paid for a survey. Meetinghouse Hill LLC

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WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Continued from previous page...

raised additional funds for legal fees and other final transaction costs.

The Vernon Community played a significant role in preserving the farm. Ann mailed 6,000 letters out to residents and raised an additional \$49,721 by late September. More than 470 people sent checks as small as \$5 and as much as \$4,000

Saving the farmland preserves an irreplaceable part of the town's history, local historian Jon Roe says. The 33-acre pasture known as Meetinghouse Hill is "the birthplace of Vernon, the location of our first meeting house and first schoolhouse," he says.

The property is also vital as farmland. Eighty-eight percent of the property is covered by prime and important farmland soils, says Kathleen Doherty, conservation coordinator at Connecticut Farmland Trust. "It's an excellent natural resource in a densely developed area. We don't often have the opportunity to protect a farm with such a high percentage of the best farm soils."

CFT originally purchased the farm from Meetinghouse Hill LLC on Sept. 27 and will transfer the property later this year to nonprofit Strong Family Farm, Inc. an agricultural education center that owns the original Strong Farm's farmhouse and iconic yellow barns. The nonprofit center is not affiliated with the Strong family.

"CFT's willingness to assume temporary ownership was key to making this project possible," says Ann.

When the 51-acres of fields are transferred to the nonprofit, the original Strong Farm will be whole again; the fields and iconic farmstead will be under one ownership once more. The farmland will continue to be leased by two area farmers.

"My family and I couldn't be happier that the farm has ultimately been protected," Nancy says. "I dreamed that this would happen but I didn't see how. I'm so thankful for CFT's help in making my dream come true."

Article reprinted from Connecticut Farmland Trust "NewsFall/19".

45,982 hours of Service

Noel & Marcia Miller, Co-Community Service Directors

This year we had 19 Community Granges reported on their Community Service project for the year 2019. Our Grangers did 45,982 hours of Community Service and 3,032 hours from non-Granger's. One Junior Grange entered with 1,000 hours and 1,000 non-Granger's hours.

We congratulate the winners:

(With Members 50 or More)

- 1- Ekonk Community Grange #89
- 2- Cheshire Grange #23
- 3- Riverton Grange #169

(With Members 49 or Less)

- 1- Beacon Valley Grange #103
- 2- Stonington Grange #168
- 3- Vernon Grange #52

And Ekonk Community Junior Grange #101 for first prize Junior Grange.

Keep up the good work and follow the do's and don'ts rules in filling out your reports.

The Fire Fighter, Police, and Teacher Awards are a good program to submit entries, remember for next year.

The \$150 Grant for new Community Service Project is still available this is free money to jump start a new project.

The Wi-Fi Grant for \$250.00 will allow your Grange to get hooked up to the internet for video conferences, email, and other uses. We need a request and a copy of the meeting minutes containing the motion for this Grant to be submitted to the State Community Service Committee.

Keep up the good work and get started for the new year.



Thank you from Brianna Gervais



Nov. 9, 2019- the day I became National Grange Jr. Female Ambassador. National Grange was an absolute BLAST! I flew on a plane for the first time, met a ton of really nice people and connected with a few Juniors who will be pen pals!

I worked really hard preparing for the competition and was thrilled to be selected!

Thank you very much for supporting me in this fab-tastic experience!

I look forward to making Connecticut Grangers proud and having an incredible year!

Thank you so much for your VERY generous gift. Thanks again

– Bree

Congratulations to the 2020 National Junior Grange Ambassadors Miss Brianna Gervais from CT and Mr Bryce Danko from PA. They are pictured with Stephanie Wilkins, Nat. Jr. Director.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Dec. 5: Meeting 6 P.M. Christmas Party Buffet Dinner, catered by Gardiners Market. Program by Ann Posuniak and Kay Ruff.

Dec. 21: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 P.M.

Jan. 2: "Happy 2020", Ref. Ann Gilnack

Jan. 18: Monti Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.

Some old news: The Historical Society in town featured Glastonbury Grange on November 3 at the Masonic Hall in South Glastonbury. The evening events began at 4:00 P.M. A catered buffet dinner was served at 5:00 P.M. by Gardiners Market. At 6:00 P.M. the program for the evening was presented by Dr. Brian Chieffer from the Society which featured films from years ago of the fair and parades the Grange held for years. There were 74 people in attendance. It was a wonderful evening. All enjoyed seeing the parades and fairs from the past and recognizing some of the folks that are no longer with us.

December 5th is our meeting and Christmas party. We will have a short business meeting at 6:00 P.M. followed by a catered buffet dinner prepared by Gardiners Market. A program will follow, presented by Ann Posuniak and Kay Ruff.

Dec. 21 we will hold our monthly card party. We will then welcome 2020. We wish all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane and Paul Miller

We are saddened to report the death of our Worthy Master Joan Perry. She passed away at home on Oct. 29. A memorial service was held at the Grange hall on Sunday, November 10. We want to thank all who attended, as well as those who sent their thoughts and prayers of sympathy. Joan had been our Master for many years. Joan was also active with the Pomona and State Granges.

On a brighter note, we were delighted to have 2 of our youth receive State Grange scholarships. Ciri Miller and Danielle Duquette each received \$2,500. Both are students at the University of Connecticut studying in the medical field.

We were also able to host the annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau in October. We were pleased to be able to receive several applications for membership. We will be working on adjusting the times of our monthly meetings to make it more convenient for our members. Our December 18 meeting will be our annual Yankee Gift Shop.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Cathy Russi

Colchester Grange #78 members visit both the community nursing homes monthly. Monthly one group bakes a seasonal dish with the residents at Harrington Court. Recently members created a Friendship Tree with the residents. The group encouraged residents, family members, guests and staff to participate in the interesting program. Please note the people that helped with the project. The group always becomes engaged in a very interesting conversation monthly. Both the residents and Grange members look forward to the community partnership that has developed.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange #87 will hold a Holiday pancake breakfast and

Book sale on Sunday, December 8th from 8:30 AM - 11 AM. Come enjoy a Breakfast of Pancakes, including sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$5, \$3 for kids under 14. This month's pancake are plain, chocolate chip, and a variety of holiday inspired pancakes, syrups and sauces.

Open during breakfast our upstairs hall will be filled with our newly renovated library which has a special area for reading, puzzles, playing games, or just visiting with old friends. Purchase a few books for winter reading. Come to browse, eat, or just visit the historic 1887 "Hillstown Grange Hall". Free Admission. Held at the Hillstown Grange, 617 Hills St. East Hartford.

For more information: call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email:hillstowngrange@aol.com

EKONK COMMUNITY & JUNIOR GRANGES

Corr: Sue Gray

Big news this month: Junior President, Brianna Gervais, won National Junior Grange Female Ambassador at National Grange in Minnesota! She and her Mother, Junior Leader, Rebecca Gervais, had a fantastic time at the convention, met people from all over the nation AND Brianna had her first ever ride in an airplane at age 11! By the time that you read this, we will have had a reception in her honor at our Grange (Fri. Nov. 22nd) with dignitaries invited from all over the State. We were represented at National by Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron also. They went to assist the National Grange Program Director, Chris Hamp, with events. Ekonk was named a Distinguished Grange again this year at National.

Junior Granger, Russell Sharpe, was elected Treasurer of the Student Council at Sterling Community School while Brianna Gervais was elected representative from her 6th Grade class to that Board!

We now have a handicapped toilet in the Men's bathroom in addition to the ladies.

...continued next page

We voted a \$50.00 gift certificate to Lillian Sharpe for her favorite fabric store (Joanne's Fabrics) in commemoration of her completing her first year of Chemo!

Dec. 14th we are having a baked ham supper at our hall benefiting BSA Troop # 36 (Junior Russell Sharpe and Subordinate member Connor Sebastian both are active in this troop).

Now that our suppers for 2019 are over, I would be remiss if I did not express our sincere appreciation to Verna Cole and crew for another extraordinary year!

We welcomed Jason Hnath into membership in November; we now have three generations of the Hnath family on our rolls! Visit us any 1st Monday at 7:30 or the Juniors the first Fridays at 6:30.

N. STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Dec. 13: "On a night like this" meeting at 7:30 followed by party.

Dec. 20: Caroling around town

At our first meeting in October we were honored to welcome all the town Selectman candidates to our meeting. Each spoke briefly, outlining their plans for our town if elected. The second meeting brought out all the little goblins and princesses to our annual Hallowe'en party.

The hall rocked with laughter as the costumed youngsters competed in games like Dem Bones, Bats in Your Belfry and Pass the Pumpkin. A cup social, run by Jason Miner during refreshments, helped us earn money for our Christmas baskets. Seth Riley won the jar of candy corn by coming the closest to the number in the jar.

Our one December meeting will be held at 7:30 with the party

following. Please bring a wrapped gift for Santa's bag (clearly marked with the child's name) for each child you bring to the party. Sue's program this year will include the talents of some of our talented youngsters. If you have a child who would like to participate in the program please contact Sue Pianka. And a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Colchester Friendship Tree



Colchester Grange #78 worked with residents at Harrington Court Colchester and created a Friendship Tree. L to R: Linda, Patricia C., Eva O'Connell, Linda B. and Jane D.

Sterling Words for Thirds



Third graders in Sterling receive dictionaries from Junior President, Brianna Gervais assisted by Juniors Ariella and Alisa Bessette.

So. CT Past Masters

Southern Connecticut Past Masters Association will meet at Beacon Valley Grange in Naugatuck on Saturday December 14th for our annual Christmas Party. Starting with a pot luck supper at 6:30, followed by a short meeting President Rob Buck presiding and program in charge of Vice-President Cindy Legg. We will have a \$3.00 Grab Bag.

Because of the unpredictable weather, we will not meet in January and February. Our next meeting will be March 14th at Cheshire Grange.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 1: Pomona Meeting

As of this writing, the December meeting of Mountain Laurel is just a couple days away (Sun., Dec. 1). Word has been received from the State Grange that the Incorporation paperwork has been received from the attorney. This means the Pomona will need to adopt new by-laws and accept the application to be filed with the State of Connecticut and IRS.

Creation of coporate entities isn't what it was when many of the Granges in the state were organized decades ago. There are many more bases to be covered and this process is part of the "crossing of the t's and dotting of the i's".

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Carol Innes

Dec. 7: Craft Class, 10 A.M. - Noon

Dec. 13: Holiday potluck, meeting and installation of officers.

After losing our Master RoseAnna Smith, we have finally found a new one along with a couple more offices being filled. Our installation will be at the December meeting. October and November were quiet months but a somber time. Our Assistant Steward had a heart attack on the night of Open Farm Day in September and was in the hospital until he passed away on October 23rd. We will miss him, especially his wife and sister who are members as well.

On December 7th we are having a Lithuanian Folk Art Class at the Grange with Lisa guiding folks in

making straw "tree ornaments." It's open to the community for a nominal donation suggested. These are very beautiful works of art and rather high priced in specialty shops.

In January, our own Ron-the-Beekeeper will be teaching and showing about his beekeeping with the public as well. It's quite the buzz.

Everyone is welcome on both workshops as well as our meetings. Check our Facebook page for details. We meet at 7 P.M. on the second Friday of each month at Granby Grange #5, 212 North Granby Road, Granby, CT. The Dec. 13 meeting is at 7 P.M. with our Potluck Christmas Party at 5:30 and \$5.00 Gift Exchange (as the Lecturer's program).

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 10: Christmas Program (\$5 Grab Bag) - Be Festive. Ref. by All Members

Dec. 24: No Meeting - Merry Christmas!

Jan. 14: A New Year - Ref. Randy & Kim Carlson

Jan. 28: An Icy Month (Country Store), Ref. Todd Gelineau

Winchester Grange will slow down a bit for the coldest of the winter, although we continue with a full slate of meetings and meeting activities scheduled for December and January.

The hall is looking better than ever with the siding repairs fully completed. As of this writing, it's a WINDY day in Winchester and the new siding is standing the test.

This combined with the parking lot completed last year, Winchester Grange has spruced up its corner of Winchester Center nicely.

Join us for our Christmas meeting on December 10th and don't forget to bring a \$5 grab bag gift. It's always a nice evening and we would love to see a hall full of friends and guests.

We have omitted our second meeting of the month due to its falling on Christmas Eve.

2020 comes in with a Jan. 14 meeting celebrating "A New Year."

Until next time... have the merriest Christmas and stay warm!

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Jan. 11: Potatoes - Judy

Feb. 8: Beets - Richard.

It seems funny to be reporting for January when it is just a little before Thanksgiving, but I will do my best. We had a wonderful Nov. meeting followed by a delicious turkey lunch with all the trimmings, thank you Claudia and Sylvia for the main dishes. We decided to add a heavy duty plastic rain poncho to the packs we are donating to the Enfield Police and the East Windsor police. It is one size fits all and has snaps on the side to open up to use as a cover. It also has a hood with a draw string. We made 18 totes from tee shirts, then filled them with most of the essential items that homeless people can really use. Now we will have a work session to make 18 scarves from fleece to add to the totes which we will deliver after our Dec. meeting.

Going along with our Food thyme, Potatoes is our program for January. You never know what you can uncover about some food until you start digging. (Pardon the pun). I know that Judy will come up with something special. As always, if the weather is too bad for the meeting it will be postponed until the following Saturday. If in doubt, please call the day before.

On a sad note our former member May Alevo passed away after a long illness, and we send our sympathy to her family.

LOOKING FOR A JUNIOR PROGRAM? 

GOOD DAY! MAGAZINE WRITING CONTEST

Junior submissions welcome on the topic: "If I were President..."

Send submission as a Word document attachment along with short bio of Junior author by Jan. 21, 2020 to communications@nationalgrange.org

For more information, see Good Day! magazine or contact Amanda at communications@nationalgrange.org or by calling (301) 943-1090





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 does not meet again until March 22nd.

We will be meeting at Cheshire Grange and will be conferring the Fifth Degree and having our annual Inspection. It's not too early to be lining up your candidates.

From the Officers and Members of Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 to our fellow Grangers "we hope your Christmas is bright and happy and the new year that follows is wonderful for you".

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Dec. 4: Getting To Know Your Neighbors

Dec. 18: Christmas Is In The Air. Open Meeting, Grab Bag, and Card Exchange

We received received a number of awards at the State Session in October to include second prize in the Community Service Program for Grange's with over fifty members, and the Silver Grange award in the Honor Grange program. Don Lanoue was elected to be a member of the State Grange Executive Committee. We opened our hall in October to participate with the Cheshire Historical in their annual Spirits Alive cemetery tour. It provided very good public visibility for our Grange. A successful fund raising dinner enhanced our treasury in early November.

We held our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at an open meeting in November. As I write this, the Christmas season is

getting close. We extend our best holiday wishes to you all.

MERIDEN GRANGE #29

Corr: Cindy Charbonneau

On Dec. 13th, our program is entitled "Christmas Time." We will be having a gift exchange and party. Everyone to bring something for refreshments.

Meriden Grange meets on January 10th. It will be our CWA program and Hot Cocoa Time w/ Marshmallows.

Meriden Grange meets on the second Friday, unless a makeup meeting is needed on the fourth Friday. Our meetings start at 7:30 P.M. Visitors are always welcome.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The members of Beacon Valley were really happy when they heard the report of the State Session from our Delegates Joanne and Cindy. First our resolution regarding cable technical support was adopted.

Award-wise we received a certificate for the CWA Committee. In the Lecturer's Department Cindy Legg placed second in the Complete Program Contest and Joanne Cipriano placed second in the Essay Contest "My Grange." We placed first for Community Service for Granges with under 50 members. We also received a Bronze Certificate for Honor Grange. Working on getting silver next year.

In the drawing for the Past Deputies Raffle our Grange had 8 winners. I have been chairing this raffle for 48 years and I haven't been a winner yet. Maybe next year.

Our schedule for December – We party on the 13th with a potluck supper at 6 o'clock. If you would like to participate we will have a \$5.00 grab bag. On the 14th we host the Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters and on the 21st we will have our monthly "Open Mic."

At our November meeting, Tom Honyotski had charge of the program with a Military Theme.

Tom assisted by Ron Fischer put on an excellent program. Following the meeting our new member Gary Frankel provided the refreshments. One nice touch, he brought fancy china tea cups for everyone to enjoy their tea. The food was tasty too.

From the members of BVG, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Jan. 2: Age is a state of mind. Hobbies & Collections.

Feb. 6: On the trail of Cupid!

At our November meeting we collected non-perishable food. A huge discussion was held about separating the Hamburg Fair from the Grange. It will take a lot of thought and legal action to have this happen.

We installed our two new officers- Steward & Secretary.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Jan. 10: Happy New Year's Day

Jan. 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Feb. 14: Be My Valentine

Feb. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Dec. 4: Business Meeting-Resolutions

Dec. 14 & 15: Holiday Bazaar

Dec. 18: Social Meeting - Christmas Potluck, 7:00 P.M.

Dec. 27: GOMAD Potluck and Music, 7:00 P.M. - bring a dish to share.

Much is going to change soon. Master/President Ray and husband Randolph are planning to move to Indiana, but hope to keep connected by retaining membership support. No definite date for the move yet.

We are planning to have another music night in December before Christmas to highlight local talent but no date set as of this writing. Dan Golias and friend of the Grange

Continued on page 13...

Merry Christmas

Season's
Greetings
from

The Russell Family

The Gray family of
Ekonk wishes
all a blessed
Christmas and
wonderful 2020!

Wishing Everyone
a happy and healthy
New Year!

Pat Valys

*Happy Holidays from
Eastern Connecticut
Pomona #14*

*Merry Christmas and a
Happy & Healthy New Year from
George Ward, Harmony #92*

*A very Merry Christmas and
a Happy, Healthy New Year
Enfield Grange #151*

Thank You for
being my Friends.
Merry Christmas.

Love, Joan Perry

Wishing you a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
and Healthy New Year

Joanne Cipriano

Wishing you a
Merry Christmas
Season

Jeff & Debbie Barnes

Merry
Christmas from
*Higganum Grange #124
P. of H.*

The Hnaths with
everyone a
Merry Christmas
& Happy 2020!

*Happy Holidays
to All
Groton Community Grange #213*

Our doors are
always open.
Merry Christmas &
a Happy New year
Beacon Valley #103

Special thoughts
to all this
season from
*Evankow and
Freudenthal Families*

Connecticut State
Grange - thank you
for your hospitality
and friendship.
Have a Merry
Christmas to all.

*Dwight & Kathy
Iowa State Grange*

*Christmas Greetings from
our Grange to yours!
Glastonbury Grange #26*

*Christmas Greetings from
our Grange to yours!
Glastonbury Grange #26*

Happy New Year

Merry Christmas
from

*Eloise Osuch and
Malcolm MacDonald*

As our hippie friends
were prone to say:
"Have a Cool Yule
and a Frantic First"
to all our Grange
Friends

Jane & Ruel Miller

Bee Merry and
Bee Happy for
the Holidays

*Donald Tyler &
Denise Barbieri*

*In Memory of Edith Schoell
Geno & Karen
Nutmeg Pomona No. 16*

*Best Wishes for a very
Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year
Ray, Cindy & Omar Legg*

*May all Grangers share
in the blessings of the Season
Dawn Percoski*

May you have the
merriest of Christmas'
and Happiest New Year

Jody & Jodi Ann

Wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy & Healthy
New Year!

Phil & Maureen Prelli

Taghannuck Grange
wishes everyone a
Healthy & Happy
New year

A Happy Holiday
Season to All
Earl & Sandy Phillips

Happy Holidays
from

Noel & Marcia Miller

*Happy Holidays
from
Coventry Grange No. 75*

*Season's Greetings
from
Todd, Faith, Quinlan, Noelle,
Rajah & Figaro*

Bridgewater
Grange #153 would
like to wish all
Grangers a very
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New year

Best wishes for a
Happy, Healthy
Holiday Season.

Marge Bernhardt

Kat Hanlon &
Allie Hanlon
I could not be more
proud of the young
women you are
becoming. Love
always and forever,

XOXO Mom

*Happy Holidays
from
Hillstown Grange No. 87*

*Holiday Greetings!
from
Alma & Bruce Graham*



Bats - The Farmer's Friend



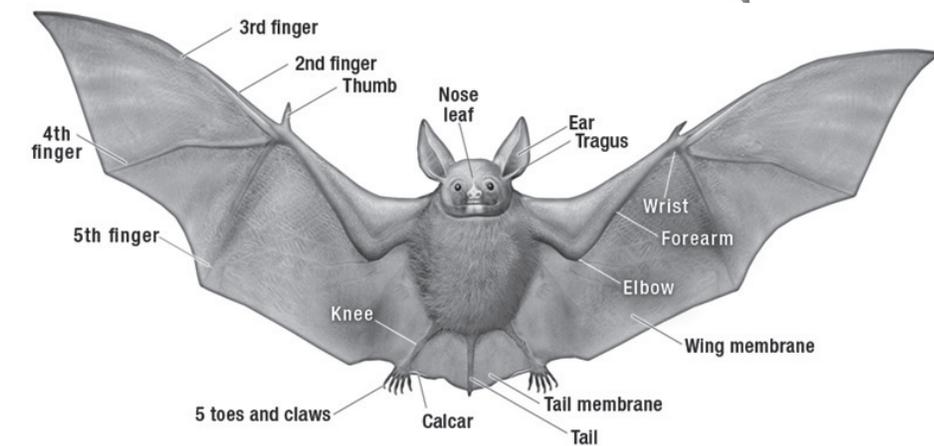
Irene Percoski, Ag. Committee

An older English name for bats is flittermouse, which matches their name in other Germanic languages (for example German Fledermaus and Swedish fladdermus), related to the fluttering of wings.

Bats are clean, gentle, and intelligent, they are vital to the ecosystem, and they enhance our lives in many ways. Most female bats have only one pup a year. This family size makes it difficult to maintain population levels and leaves bats very susceptible to dangers like disease, pesticides, habitat loss and deforestation. Fruit and nectar bats bring us approximately 450 commercial products such as almonds mangoes, agave and bananas. They also bring over 80 different medicines through seed dispersal and pollination. Up to 98% of all rainforest regrowth comes from seeds that have been spread by fruit bats. Insect-eating bats are literal vacuum cleaners of the night skies, eating millions of harmful bugs. They protect us by eating insect-pests that destroy crops as well as insects that cause human disease.

Insectivorous bats in particular are especially helpful to farmers, as they control populations of agricultural pests and reduce the need to use pesticides. It has been estimated that bats save the agricultural industry of the United States anywhere from \$3.7 billion to \$53 billion per year in pesticides and damage to crops. This also prevents the overuse of pesticides, which can pollute the surrounding environment, and may lead to resistance in future generations of insects.

Bat dung, a type of guano, is rich in nitrates and is mined from caves for use as fertilizer. During the US Civil War, saltpeter was collected from caves to make gunpowder; it used to be thought that this was bat guano, but most of the nitrate



comes from nitrifying bacteria formed on the floors of the caves. There are many conservation groups that aim to increase awareness of bats' ecological roles and the environmental threats they face. In the United Kingdom, all bats are protected under the "Wildlife and Countryside Acts", and disturbing a bat or its roost can be punished with a heavy fine. In Sarawak, Malaysia, "all bats" are protected under the "Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998". Many people put up bat houses to attract bats. Local Boy Scout Troops teach boys how to make them as they learn about ecology and the importance of bats in their communities. The 1991 University of Florida bat house is the largest occupied artificial roost in the world, with around 400,000 residents. In Britain, thick-walled and partly underground World War II pillboxes have been converted to make roosts for bats, and purpose-built bat houses are occasionally built to mitigate damage to habitat from road or other developments. Special Cave gates are sometimes installed to limit human entry into caves that have sensitive or endangered bat species. The gates are designed not to limit the airflow, and thus to maintain the cave's micro-ecosystem. Of the 47 species of bats found in the United States, 35 are known to use human structures, including buildings and bridges.

Fourteen species use bat houses. The Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Texas, is the summer home to North America's largest urban bat colony, an estimated 1,500,000 Mexican free-tailed bats that make their night time home there. About 100,000 tourists a year visit the bridge at twilight to watch the bats leave the roost

In many cultures, including in Europe, bats are associated with darkness, death, witchcraft, and malevolence (think of Dracula). Among Native Americans such as the Creek, Cherokee and Apache, the bat is a trickster spirit. More positive depictions of bats exist in some cultures as in China , bats have been associated with happiness, joy and good fortune. Five bats are used to symbolize the "Five Blessings": 1. Longevity, 2. wealth, 3 health , 4. love of virtue and 5. peaceful death The bat was sacred In the Zapotec civilization of Mesoamerica, (a section of pre-Columbia Central and South America), the bat god presided over corn and fertility.

Bats sometimes find their way inside human structures such as barns, sheds and even homes during the spring and fall for a number of reasons. They could be youngsters experiencing their first migration and have lost their way, or they could be confused adults who have lost their habitat due

...continued next page

to human encroachment. Please be kind to bats; never place them outside in rainy or harsh weather as that is a death sentence. Instead, if needed, call a rescuer in your area right away. Please also remember to protect yourself while protecting them – never rescue a bat barehanded. This article would be remiss if we didn't also warn that bats, as well as any animal, is subject to contacting and spreading rabies. Always use caution when encountering one.

Swag Bags



Members of Vernon Grange #52 assembling Swag Bags of toiletries for veterans at a local facility.

Creamy Brussels Sprouts & Cauliflower Gratin



One of the best parts of the holiday season is to share favorite dishes at potlucks and gatherings. Tablespoon.com has many recipes aimed to elevate your festive recipes, but this one for Creamy Brussels Sprouts and Cauliflower Gratin is easy and delicious!

INGREDIENTS:

1 head (2 lb) cauliflower, cut into large florets
3/4lb Brussels sprouts, trimmed and quartered lengthwise
6 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
1 cup hot milk
1 cup hot heavy whipping cream
3/4 cup shredded Gruyère cheese
2/3 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
Pinch grated nutmeg
1 cup Progresso™ plain bread crumbs

DIRECTIONS:

Heat oven to 375°F. Spray bottom and sides of 2 1/2- to 3-quart baking dish with cooking spray.

In 5- to 6-quart saucepan, cook cauliflower florets in boiling salted water 3 to 4 minutes or until tender but still firm. Use slotted spoon to transfer cauliflower to colander to drain. Add Brussels sprouts to boiling water; cook 3 to 4 minutes or until tender but still firm. Drain.

In 4-quart saucepan, melt 2



tablespoons of the butter over medium-low heat. Add flour; cook 2 minutes, stirring constantly with whisk. Slowly pour hot milk and hot whipping cream into butter-flour mixture; beat with whisk until smooth. Increase heat, and heat to boiling, beating constantly, 1 to 3 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat. Stir in shredded Gruyère cheese and 1/3 cup of the shredded Parmesan cheese until smooth. Stir in salt, 1/4 teaspoon of the pepper, the garlic powder and nutmeg until combined.

Add drained cauliflower and Brussels sprouts to sauce. Gently stir to coat. Pour into baking dish. In small microwavable bowl, heat remaining 4 tablespoons butter uncovered on High 30 seconds or until melted. Stir in bread crumbs, remaining 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese and remaining 1/4 teaspoon pepper to combine. Sprinkle evenly on top.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until top is golden brown and mixture is bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

TIPS:

-- Swap shredded Swiss cheese for the Gruyère cheese, if desired.
-- If possible, purchase Brussels sprouts that are similar in size to ensure even cooking.

SOURCE: <https://www.tablespoon.com/recipes/creamy-brussels-sprouts-and-cauliflower-gratin/d33c7bc1-e4cf-4add-ab83-7e6>

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.



No answers were received for last month's Window picture.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Make the Holidays Count

by Terri Fassio

State Public Relations Co-Director

Some interesting holiday facts*:

- Americans gave \$410 billion to charities in 2017, up 5% from 2016.
- Donors give 80% larger gifts in December
- 16% of Millennials give through Facebook fundraising tools.
- The following three categories receive over half of all donations: religious entities, education, and human services, at 32%, 16%, and 12%, respectively.
- Over 768 thousand employees are hired each year throughout the United States to compensate for the holiday rush.
- The average person spends more than \$500 on gifts for the holiday season.
- 86% of Americans plan to attend events and gathering during the holiday season.
- More people volunteer during the holidays (9% women and 7% men), but spend less time at it than during the rest of the year.

Holidays are a time to celebrate with loved ones — and also a time to shop and donate. What better time to get your Grange into the media and into the eyes of the community! The holiday season is the biggest time of the year for organizations to promote themselves, but instead of saying “buy” like their retail counterparts, they’re saying “support us and give.” Does your Grange promote it-

self during this time of the year?

Here’s a few ideas that will put your Grange into the holiday spotlight --

- Plan an event. Consider family-friendly activities - such as a craft fair or concert, invite Santa, serve hot chocolate, even ask your local high school’s choir to be carolers. The possibilities here are endless!
 - Community Service projects, such as toy drives, collections for the local food bank or animal shelter and adopting a family for Christmas.
 - Start a holiday fundraising campaign. Ideas include hosting a baseless bake sale, a real bake sale, a donation drive via mailing, email or phone, a Christmas card mailing, or an open house.
- Remember to plan far in advance, and don’t be shy about asking for help is needed. E-mail us at information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org for more information.

Membership Master Class



This spring, the State Membership Committee’s first class under the Leading & Learning program will be presented by Carmen Brickner. Carmen is dedicated to working with individuals and organizations willing to create healthy relationships and develop the culture, skills and processes necessary for sustainable innovation and success. The program will be offered at Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling. There will be limited seating, with first priority given to Grange members. Details on the date and registration will be provided in the January Granger and will be sent out to all Granges.

Nutmeg #16

Continued from page 10...

Rich Patchkofsky are working out the details.

Yoga instructor Aga Chapska will hopefully have had a successful Bazaar and Music Night on November 16, with another Holiday Bazaar planned for December 14 and 15.

While running low on money and trying to keep enough fundraisers in the pipeline to keep the hall running, the idea of selling our mid-century modern Herman Miller chairs (those not too comfortable molded fiberglass things) has been tossed around. Thanks to Kathy Golias’ research and efforts, they were sold on the first day listed on Facebook Marketplace for \$3,000. Turns out there’s quite a market for those things. Evidently they were given to the Grange more than 30 years ago.

JOIN US
AT CANNON GRANGE
IN HISTORIC CANNONDALE VILLAGE

Pop Up Holiday Market!

December 7 | 10-4 | Free Entry

Choir music*holiday cards*ornament making*soaps*candles*flowers*olive oil tapenades*hot cocoa*pies*wool*honey gift baskets*produce*eggs*meats*bread cheeses*photos*knit wine bottle holders and much more ...

25 Cannon Road
Wilton CT



Bridgewater Annual Chili Cook-Off

Calling All Chefs!
We are now accepting entries!!

The 3rd Annual Bridgewater Grange Chili Cook-Off will be held: January 11, 2020, 5 to 7 pm at St. Mark's Parish House, 5 Main Street S., Bridgewater, CT **ALL are welcome to enter!**

- New Contestants! Put your special chili recipe up against the best!

- Past Contestants! Tweak your recipe and bring it on!

- Past Winners! Come defend your titles!

Thanks to all our talented Chefs, last year's Chili Cook-Off was our biggest event and we expect this year to be even bigger! Proceeds to benefit the Bridgewater Grange Annual Scholarship. Please reply to this email or call (860) 355-3665 for an application to enter or with any questions.

Looking forward to your participation!

The Chili Cook-off Committee
p.s. - We are very interested in any comments and suggestions you might have to improve our Chili Cook-Off. Please let us know your ideas!

For more information, follow this link: <https://mailchi.mp/582aab8e8e3c/calling-all-chili-chefs>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

There wasn't much rest between the CT State Grange Session and heading off to Minneapolis for National Grange's Annual Convention. We had a lot to pack, but we arrived safe and sound and didn't forget anything! The Banquet and the Evening of Excellence were fun, and we accomplished a lot of work too. A highlight was that I received a new gold sash.

To catch up on all my latest adventures, just follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page to see our updates in your FB timeline. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Whigville Grange #48



Whigville Grange will host its annual Cookie Sale on December 7th at Terryville Congregational Church, Main Street (Rte. 6), Terryville, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Dozens of types of homemade cookies will be available. Containers will be provided, and goodies will be sold by the pound. There will also be a Tea Cup Auction. The public is invited. Free admission and parking.

Contact Debra Brown at b_gary@sbcglobal for more information.

State and National Legislative Action



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

Thank you everyone who submitted resolutions to the Connecticut State Grange Annual Session. We had a nice variety of topics to discuss. We ended up with 37 resolutions covering topics including environmental concerns, Grange processes and safety concerns.

Four resolutions were sent on to National Grange for their consideration.

Resolution # 16, School Bus Safety: this resolution recommends placing cameras on the stop “arms” of school busses. This will record the license plate of any vehicle who ignores the stop sign and passes the bus while the arm is extended. National Grange likes this resolution but did not vote on it but will be adding it to their annual policy book.

Resolution #28, Support for Family Farms: while National Grange did like the thought of this resolution, they did not feel that the resolution was specific enough in its whereas. This resolution was withdrawn. Hopefully this can be rewritten with better definitions and submitted again next year.

Resolution # 20, Sale of Grange Property: this resolution has been submitted to National Grange before. Presently when a Grange sells its property, the Grange only gets \$1000.00 from the sale with the rest going into an escrow in the Granges name. The Grange then received a yearly interest payment on the principal. This resolution would have increased the amount that the Grange would receive to \$10,000. The session committee at National rewrote this to reduce the amount to \$5,000 but then the delegates rejected the resolution.

Resolution #32, Removal of Public Monuments Memorializing Notable People; this resolution states that the Grange “stands in sup-

port of American citizens that have made overall positive contributions to the culture of the Unites States of America in their lifetime.” It also supports the maintenance of these monuments in their public spaces. This resolution was passed at National Grange and is part of their policy.

There were a few resolutions that the delegates did like the intent of the resolution but were concerned about the wording of the resolved. One was the overhaul of the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles. This is something that should be looked at again. We did reject two resolution on tolls, one on the opposition of tolls and the other supporting tolls in Connecticut. Present Connecticut State Grange policy is that the Grange urge that revenue collected from the fuel taxes be returned to the transportation fund for improving roads and bridges before considering tolls on major state highways.

90th Annual Fair
Sponsored by
Meriden Grange, No. 29
September 7th, 2019- From 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
At the Meriden Grange Hall, 540 Broad Street,
Meriden, CT
www.meridengrango.org/grangeagfair.asp

Meriden Grange won first place in the Association of CT Fairs Premium Book Contest. It was announced Saturday evening at the Association’s Tri-State meeting in Farmington, CT.

Riverton hosts Vets Dinner



Riverton Grange No. 160 hosted a potluck dinner in honor of Veterans on November 16.

Be Joyful in the Lord



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

I hesitated before writing this month's column. Normally one expects a Christmas column to emphasize the joy, celebration, and giving associated with the Christmas season. But there is another side to the Christmas story, a deeper side, which is always present but usually somewhat hidden behind the scenes. Sometimes, however, it peeks out, sometimes buried in a Christmas carol, sometimes showing boldly. Consider, for instance, the folk hymn "I Wonder as I Wander," often sung as a Christmas carol which begins:

"I Wonder as I Wander, out under the sky

How Jesus the savior did come forth to die

For poor on'ry people like you and like I..."

Our what about the fourth verse of "We Three Kings," which contains:

"Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb."

Not exactly a reflection of what we usually think about at Christmas time, is it? And yet, when we consider the full meaning of what

the birth of Christ entails, it is definitely a part of the story. Christmas joy is because Jesus has come into the world. But *why* did Jesus come into the world? In the Gospel of Mark we read, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." St. John says, "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him," and in Paul's first letter to Timothy we read, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Not one word about Christmas in either the Gospel of Mark or the Gospel of John, and in the rest of the New Testament only the phrase "Jesus came into the world." Jesus coming into the world is necessary for the rest of the story, and that's one reason we celebrate Christmas,

but without the rest of the story the beginning would have no meaning.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high; the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry in praises of the child by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.

(by Richard Wilbur)

In Memoriam

Joan Perry
Senexet Grange #40

Valerie Barrachina
Harmony Grange #92

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

National Grange Officers

The following officers have been elected as leaders of the National Grange:

Master/President - Betsy Huber, PA
Overseer/V. President - Phil Prelli, CT
Executive Committee:
Lynette Schaeffer, IL
Steven Coye, NY
Lecturer - Christine Hamp, WA
Steward - Chip Narvel, DE
A. Steward - John Plank, IN

L.A. Steward - Karen Overstreet, TX
Chaplain - Barbara Borderieux, FL
Treasurer - Sherry Harriman, ME
Secretary - Judy Sherrod, TN
Gatekeeper - Christopher Johnston, MI
Ceres - Cindy Greer, CO
Pomona - Kay Stiles, MD
Flora - Welina Shufeldt, OK

Karen Overstreet and Sherry Harriman are both stepping in as new officers of the National Grange.