



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 60, No. 5

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2020

Granges off to a great start



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

As I am writing this report for the February issue of the *Connecticut Granger* in the middle of January, the temperatures in Connecticut were in the 60s and 70s! On the evening news they showed people out playing golf, people jogging and enjoying the spring-like weather. As the first half of January has been warmer than normal; we'll have to wait and see what the second half brings. They are forecasting some cold weather and snow in the coming weeks. That's New England weather!

The Legislative Committee, under the direction of Alma Graham, has met and put together the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook that will be distributed to our State Representatives and Senators. This booklet is updated each year with the new policies that have been adopted at last year's State Session.

Family Activities Director Cindy Legg has sent out the recipes for this coming year's baking contest and information on this year's craft contest. If you have not received them, please contact Cindy Legg for more information. Marianne Nielsen, from Redding Grange, has been appointed to the CWA Committee. Sister Nielsen was formerly a member of the Youth

Committee. Two other new appointments are Roy Harrington, from Hemlock Grange, has been appointed a Deputy and Betty Jane Harrington was appointed to the Youth Committee. Sister Harrington will replace Sister Nielsen on the Youth Committee.

Membership Committee Director Faith Quinlan is busy putting the final touches together for a workshop to be held on April 18, 2020 at Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling, CT. The workshop will be presented by speaker Carmen Brickner. This workshop will be open for Grange members and non-Grange members to attend for a slight fee which will include lunch. So save the date: April 18, 2020.

I would like to congratulate Bridgewater Grange for putting on a successful third Annual Chili Cook-off. I saw the pictures and article written in the Republican American newspaper. There were 12 participants and well over 100 people who attended this event. Hope you will get a few new members out of this successful event! Congratulations again and keep up the good work! I would also like to congratulate Senexet Grange's new Master Pat Valys for taking over after the passing of Joan Perry. Senexet Grange has started several new projects for their community. Keep up the good work!

I'll leave you with this old saying... "In New England, if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute!"

Save The Date



Faith Quinlan, Membership Dir.

We are very pleased to make our first announcement for the Leading, Learning, Making a Difference Program. The Membership Committee is pleased to present Carmen Brickner of CLEARBrick, Inc. on Saturday, April 18th at Ekonk Community Grange in Sterling, CT. Carmen will speak to Grange Members and guests about various membership topics that will be helpful to gain new members, retention topics as well as diving into leadership in 2020. She has been working with organizations for decades.

Lunch will be served, as we will meet in the morning and afternoon. The Membership Committee is assuming the primary cost but a fee of \$20 for Members and \$30 for Non Members will be charged to offset a portion of the expense. Ekonk Community Grange has the capacity to hold 50

...continued on page 2



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

**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due Feb. 15**

attendees so if you are interested in participating be sure to respond quickly.

There are other events for 2020 to be scheduled. It is the goal of the committee to include all areas of the state and cover topics of interest to friends of and Grangers. If your Grange is interested in hosting one of the classes/ workshops, please contact me. That includes any classes you might be able to open up to the State membership.

Current topics being Organized for 2020:

- Container Gardening
- Plant-based Cooking
- Digital Accounting & Payments
- Conversational Spanish
- Hand Knitting a Blanket
- Backyard Beekeeping

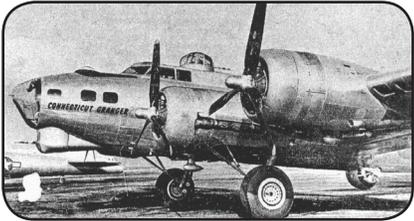
The goal is to offer value and service to our communities and to familiarize them with who the Grange is and what we do and to gather like-minded friends to join us in our halls to celebrate community and be of the best service so they may help us continue long into the future.

As part of these community events I think it would be great to

offer a Chef & Farmer Brunch on a Saturday in July. Of course this is best done by a Grange that has the location and membership ability to host the event. This would be a State Grange partner event. Let me know if you are interested.

I love celebrating your successes so please feel free to share things you are doing that are bringing new Grange friends to you. Wins are new visitors and those conversations. Thank you all for working so hard in your community and please let me know what your interests are in regards to hosting any of the Membership events in 2020.

the Connecticut Granger
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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 Vice President Terri Fassio
 Treasurer Jody Cameron
 Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the **15th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
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 100 Newfield Road
 P.O. Box 3
 Winchester Center, CT 06094
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 P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
 Granger@CTStateGrange.org
 (USPS 563-220)

the Connecticut Granger
 is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..
 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 4
 Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid
 at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER:
 Send address changes to:
 Connecticut Granger,
 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
 Winchester Center, CT 06094

Sign Me Up!

Membership Committee
Leading, Learning & Making a Difference Program
 Ekonk Grange Hall, Saturday, April 18, 2020
 Start Time: T.B.D.



Clip this form or make a photocopy of it and reserve your space at the upcoming workshop. Seats are limited!

Reservations: \$20 for Members \$30 for Non-Members

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Make Checks Payable to: *Connecticut State Grange*

Please mail to: Connecticut State Grange,
 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094;
 Email to: FaithQMaus@gmail.com

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GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Feb. 6: Happy Hearts 7:30 p.m.
Ref. Pot Luck desserts

Feb. 15: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party 7:00 p.m.

Mar. 5: "Ides of March" 7:30 p.m.
Ref. Bob and Doris Nordstrom

Knitting has been going on in Glastonbury. 20 baby hats are being delivered to Manchester Memorial Hospital (baby unit) and 20 to Day Kimball Hospital (baby unit). Now we need to make another 40.

A few invitation letters have been sent out to some of the folks that attended our "Special Event" held last November by the Historical Society. Hopefully we may secure a few new members.

Wishing all a "Happy Valentine's Day."

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Feb. 19: Presidents Day program

We have had a very busy fall and winter. We participated in the Woodstock Winter Festival on Sunday December 15 with a Christmas craft project for kids and a cookie decorating project as well in our hall. Many visitors stopped in to see what the Grange was like and hopefully become members since we had a display

table describing the work of the Grange and the projects that could be done here. We then had a very successful pie sale on Dec. 24. Several of our members are planning projects for the seniors in our area to be held at the Grange hall. These will begin in February with programs of cards, board games and craft projects. We have a beautiful hall that can be used for many activities. The kitchen is approved for use and we hope to have more events take place using it. Since we are located near the center of town it is convenient for all. We have established a facebook page and an email address. We hope that others from the area will join us.

EKONK COMM. & JR. GRANGES

The Juniors supplied Christmas gifts for 12 children at Sterling Community School. They also had a fun movie night and Yankee Swap. Brianna Gervais will be in NH for the Primaries in February. In Feb. they also have a "Stamping" fundraiser planned as well as their annual Indoor Fun Night! The Grange now has a second handicapped bathroom as Link Cooper converted the Men's bathroom to also handicapped accessible. Our Grange television now has Netflix and Disney access thanks to the Cameron family. We are excited that several youth are interested in once again having a Youth Drill Team. We donated \$400.00 to Brianna Gervais and her mom towards expenses in NH, representing the National Grange. Our first supper of the season will be Sat., March 14th: corned beef and cabbage! We look forward to March when Richmond

Grange will be bringing their annual FUN program!

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Feb. 14: "... and a thing called love"

Feb. 28: Snow date for Feb. 14

Our December meeting found fourteen happy children waiting eagerly to greet Santa. The stage was decorated in a Christmas scene with the stockings hung by the chimney with care and a "fire" cheerily glowing next to the sparkling Christmas tree. Sue's program had most of the youngsters participating. They placed the people and animals in a manger scene at the front of the hall while the Chaplain read the Christmas Story. Santa arrived with gifts and Jason and Sue passed out apples, candy canes and sparky ornaments to all before we went downstairs to enjoy a table full of Christmas goodies.

We caroled around town and delivered fruit baskets to old friends on the 20th, then went out for pizza at a local restaurant. Our gift cards helped 12 needy families have a happier Christmas.

How could our February program be more appropriate? What better on Valentine's Day (if it doesn't snow) than a program about love? Hope you can come. And if those doggone raccoons who seem to think my suet feeder is an all-night restaurant will just find another place to eat, next time I'll tell you about Jolly January.

Hillstown Granger is 2020 CT Ms. Agriculture



Danielle Brochu

Danielle Brochu lives in East Hartford Connecticut, just minutes away from the urban bustle of the state's capitol. In high school she was an active member of the Wamogo FFA chapter from 2009-2012, serving on the officer team as chapter reporter and vice president. She worked at The Little Guild animal shelter in West Cornwall for six years and worked closely with animal control through various public outreach programs. As an active member of the Hillstown Grange, Danielle enjoys raising Russian mammoth sunflowers, gardening, attending fairs, and advocating for all facets of agriculture. Since becoming a Miss Agriculture USA queen, she has been invited to present at various fairs and agricultural events through the state.

Miss Agriculture USA is a nonprofit organization that is much more than just promoting and celebrating agriculture, it's about building confidence, developing public speaking skills, shaping strong leaders, networking, forming lasting friendships and so much more. Danielle is excited to represent Connecticut at the national competition in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio this summer.

For more information, visit www.missagricultureusa.org

Outreach by Colchester Grange No. 78



(LEFT) Colchester Grange supported National Make A Difference Day, offered through one of the churches in our community. We donated \$150 which purchased a goat for a family in Haiti. We were given the opportunity to name the goat... "Granger". This photo shows "Granger", a Haitian Health Foundation representative and the lady who received the goat. The goat is pregnant and the family was educated on how to breed goats. The family can then establish a small herd. The offspring can be sold at market for cash, bartered for goods or services or be used as a necessary protein source for the family. Our Grange feels that the Haitian people have experienced so much and hope that our support shows how much we care for our neighbors in a different land.



(LEFT) Colchester Grange supported veterans by purchasing holiday gifts for the residents that make their home in Jewett City. The facility houses 19 veterans and in partnership with the ladies of the Greek Church in Norwich, each Vet received one or two gifts from their wish lists and they were so pleased and grateful for the gifts they received. (L to R) Cathy Russi (Granger), Donie Jarmon (Facility Dir.), Eva O'Connell (Granger), and Marie Valkanos (Greek Church).



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: T. Gelineau

March 7: Taghannuck Grange, 4:00 P.M.

Mountain Laurel Pomona was finally able to meet on the first Sunday of January after two postponements. Even the January meeting was threatened by a last minute location change! Just a couple of days before the meeting was scheduled to be held at Winchester Grange, a problem was discovered with their boiler which resulted in shutting down the heating system while a part was ordered and installed... a day after the Pomona meeting.

Riverton Grange rose to the occasion and graciously agreed to host the meeting at their hall. Word was spread by mouth, email, phone call and by any other means necessary. In the end there was a good attendance for the meeting and a great deal of delayed work was accomplished.

Craig Leifert was finally installed as a member of the Executive Committee for the Constitutional term of three years. State Executive Committee member Phil Prelli and State Secretary Todd Gelineau explained the status of the Pomona incorporations. Due to the extensive changes recommended by the State Grange attorneys, each Pomona will have to work on and adopt an entirely new set of by-laws (vote at the March meeting) that conform to the requirements of the State of Connecticut and the IRS.

The Pomona discussed our lack of an annual Handbook. Material has been received from nearly all of the Granges in the Pomona and it was voted to print a 2020 Mountain Laurel Pomona Handbook. Instead of billing Granges for the cost of their books, this first edition will be paid for by the Pomona with the expectation that the Community Granges will be billed for their books when it comes time to print the 2021 books. So enjoy the free handbooks for 2020. These will be distributed to the Granges as soon as they are printed.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: T. Gelineau

Feb. 11: Be My Valentine, Potluck at 6:00 P.M.

Feb. 25: CWA, Ref. Craig Leifert

Mar. 10: St. Pat's Day, Ref. Sandy Phillips

Mar. 24: Hobby Night, Ref. Angela Cain, Patrick O'Brien

First, Winchester Grange thanks our Brothers and Sisters at Riverton Grange for hosting Mountain Laurel Pomona while our boiler was being repaired. As of this writing, the part arrived, was installed and the heating system has been running perfectly since.

At our first meeting in January, we were pleased to welcome two new members who received the Obligation Ceremony. Another two new members should be joining us at one of our upcoming meetings. This is a total of six new members since fall and it's a direct result of being open and welcoming to questions about the Grange and encouragement to join. They will join if they get the impression we WANT them to join!

The older metal folding chairs in our hall have been in continuous use since 1952 (when the new hall was dedicated) and they are now showing their age as the welds on some of them are letting go. One of our newer members, Patrick O'Brien, investigated various options for replacing them and we

have settled on a tan colored metal chair that has a wider seat than our current chairs. An anonymous donation of \$1,000 was given to the Grange with the stipulation that it be used to purchase new chairs. This generous gift will give our program off to a great start enabling the purchase of 50 or so chairs. We will continue to replace the chairs as funds become available from fundraisers and donations. There are a number of chairs that are not nearly as old so we don't have to replace all of the chairs in the hall ... just roughly 150 or so!!!

Winchester Grange also received two other anonymous donations of \$1,000 each that were made through the Connecticut State Grange Foundation. To follow the requirements of the Foundation, Winchester Grange established a new "Building Maintenance Fund" for the purpose of receiving the doantions from the Foundation. We can't thank the three anonymous donors enough for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Their funds will absolutely be put to good use at Winchester Grange.

Please look over our list of upcoming meetings and plan to visit. Our meetings start at 7:00 P.M. (with the exceptions of potlucks, which begin at 6:00 P.M.)

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Feb. 8: Beets -Richard.

March 14: Peas - Irene

December was a truly busy month. We delivered 52 afghans and lap tops to two of our area nursing facilities. They will be used as Christmas presents to patients who have no family or visitors. Next, a sewing marathon to make 18 totes from old t-shirts. We also purchased fleece yardage to make 18 scarfs, then filled the bags with personal items and cold weather gear. These bags were then given to the Enfield and East Windsor Police departments to give out to homeless

Continued on the next page...

Continued from previous page... people. We made a donation to the Enfield Beautification Committee to purchase two flags in memory of past members who were veterans, Brian Carpenter and Russell Ballard. These flags will fly with many others that will be placed along Enfield St. (RT. 5) and RT. 190 from Memorial Day through Veteran's Day.

Dawn presented a program

on cranberries along with games that had everyone laughing. Our Christmas Cookie exchange was wonderful, we all got to take home a box of different cookies, then for lunch we had home-made pea soup and Cranberry pie. Come visit.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dawn Anstett

Riverton Grange celebrated it's 112th anniversary with a potluck

Birthday Supper and honored to have seven guests join us to find out more about us. Our February 7, 2020 meeting is in charge of the Agriculture Committee and we are preparing for our 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off on March 6, 2020, with a program in-charge of our Legislative Committee. Look on Facebook for other events including Game-nights and SMASH tournaments.

Reminders from the State Office



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

It's been a while since I've written a message for the Granger... When there's so much material to include in issues I can't, in good conscience, leave out an article or two to make space for my own!

Since State Session it's been all about getting the Pomona Incorporations moving forward. By now the Pomonas are considering the preliminary steps to get their new By-Laws adopted. In the meantime I will be working with our lawyer to get the first reports filed with the State of Connecticut.

Just after State Session we mailed the annual Bonding letter to all Granges. It was months ahead of schedule this time around. Unfortunately, the response from Granges has been about the same. There's still a good number of Granges that haven't sent in their payments for 2020. If your Grange is one, please send it in as soon as possible. Granges that don't respond will be renewed at the basic level and will be billed for the cost. Per the National Digest, all Granges are required to have Bonding insurance.

I still have a number of Granges who haven't paid for their Dues Receipts (billed in September). Again, if your Grange is in this

category, please send in your payment as soon as possible.

There are also a number of Granges that are behind in their Quarterly Reports. The Annual Word cannot be communicated to your Grange unless its dues are paid through the end of the fourth quarter of 2019 (Dec. 31). Granges that are still outstanding as of Jan. 30 will receive a late fee of \$25.

Now that I've said all of this, I would like to thank all of the Granges and Secretaries, in particular, who are so prompt at filing reports and making their necessary payments to the State Grange. It is truly appreciated by me and the Executive Committee.

In the coming weeks I will be sending out a large mailing to each Grange that will contain the following items:

1. 2019 Journal of Proceedings
2. 2020 Legislative Policy Handbook
3. Filing receipt for the 2020 990N EPostcard
4. The State Directory Officer & Committee Form

The Journal and the Policy Handbooks are to be shared with all members of your Granges. Additional copies are available from the State Office, while supplies last.

The 990 receipt should be kept on file as it is, essentially, the tax return for your Grange.

The Officer and Committee Form should be held until your Grange holds its elections in May or June. If your Grange does not

hold elections this year, please send it back with "no change" written on it. In all cases, please look it over for errors and note any changes necessary. The State Directory will be printed as soon as possible after State Session, due to elections.

We have had questions from Granges regarding insurance. There seems to be a misconception that the State Grange has insurance coverage that covers all Granges in the state. This is simply not true. The National Grange offers bonding insurance and the State Grange coordinates that on the State level, but we DO NOT maintain insurance for Community, Pomona and Junior Granges. It is the responsibility of EACH INDIVIDUAL Grange to purchase their own insurance at a level that it appropriate to their own particular needs. There are agencies in the State that have more experience than others in handling Grange insurance and we, as a State Grange, are happy to provide you with contacts but it is your Grange's responsibility to handle this.

In this issue, Faith Quinlan has included information about the Special Membership Workshop on April 18. There is a sign-up form on page 2. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the form and return it to the State Grange as soon as you can. It's important for us to be able to gauge the interest in these events and knowing what number of people to expect will help Sister Faith and her committee plan the event.

Until next time... Stay Warm!



NUTMEG POMONA #16

The schedule for Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 has not changed. Our next meeting is Sunday March 22nd at Cheshire Grange and will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Degree rehearsal date to be announced. Watch for date in the next Granger.

Best wishes to Ruel Miller as he recuperates from a nasty fall. Our thought and prayer are with you.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

On a freezing cold night December 28th we got together and had an early New Year's eve party. Fun time.

Our February schedule is: February 14th – the program is “Swing Music” in charge Judi Reynolds - Pat and Ron Fischer will be in charge of refreshments. February 15th is “Open Mic” Ron Fischer in charge. Attendance has increase and the entertainment has been great with many new participants. Time 2 to 5. February 19th is clean-up day – we meet at 1 o'clock. We could always use more help.

Our hall needs some new windows in the lower hall and a new roof. We are in the process of replacing half of the windows. Any donations from the members will be appreciated. We are still looking for some fundraisers. Any suggestions?

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim Golias and Lori Golias
Hope this winter finds you warm and cozy. Save the dates!

On February 8, 2020 (Snow date - February 9) we will host a Valentine's dinner with chicken

francaise, rice pilaf and all the Fixin's. on March 14, 2020 (snow date March 15) We will host our annual St. Patrick's Day corn beef and cabbage dinner. For reservations to either event call Jim 203-259-8023

Our agricultural fair will be held on August 29, 2020.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Mar. 5: Bits and Pieces, Windy & Cold- Think Green, CWA

Apr. 2: Are All Your Eggs in One Basket?

On a balmy January night, Lyme Grange held their first meeting of 2020. It was show and tell, a favorite program. Many people brought items to talk about. From old photos cut from newspapers years ago to seed catalogs, to jewelry, to watches, to genealogy items to quilted items.

A long discussion was held about our food and plant sale and possibly including a breakfast. It is a good fundraiser. The theory was “come early, eat and purchase plants!”

We draped our charter in loving memory of Jane Reynolds DeWolf, a Golden Sheaf member who owned the little store in the village of Hamburg, Lyme.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

Feb. 6: Business Meeting

Feb. 20: Business Meeting

Mar. 28: Silent Movies (Sat. at 7:30 P.M.)

We hosted a really nice Holiday Pop-Up Market in early December featuring lots of vendors with highly desirable goods for sale. Lots of very happy people all day long. The Holiday Market

was coordinated by both Dearta Fusaro and Michele Clark.

We have already begun thinking about our next Agricultural Fair. the date is set for Sunday, August 30, 2020. So please save the date and mark your calendars! In addition, we already have eight concessionaires signed-up and paid! That is definitely the earliest we have ever signed up vendors, so it must be a sign that 2020 is going to be a good year.

A special program that we hold annually is our Silent Movie Night. This year we're holding it on Saturday, March 28th. These are vintage films and they are accompanied by John Mucci at the piano with original piano scores. Definitely red circle this date on your calendar for some great mid-winter entertainment.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Feb. 14: Be My Valentine

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

Mar. 13: Daylight Savings, St. Pats, Spring

Mar. 27: Omitted unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

If your Grange is on Facebook...READ THIS!

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Facebook has been cleaning house!

If you're using a Facebook Profile to market your Grange, you've probably been informed of the importance of converting your Facebook Profile to a Facebook Page. If you have a "profile" set-up for your Grange instead of a business/organization "Page" - you are at risk of having the Profile removed.

According to Facebook's Community Standards (terms of service), profiles are for people only, and are not to be used for businesses, organizations, etc. These type of pages are considered "fake accounts" according to Facebook, mainly because they represent something that they are not, and once Facebook catches up with these "bad pages," they are deleting them with little or no warning.

According to a recent article in the New York Times, "The Silicon Valley company defines fake accounts as profiles that are either designed to break its rules, for example by spammers or scammers impersonating others, or that are misclassified, such as someone setting up a Facebook profile instead of a Facebook page for a business."

Facebook is currently in the middle of a big push to track down pages that are set-up wrong or misrepresent, and is deleting pages at a record rate. In 2018, Facebook deleted 3.3 billions fake accounts. In 2019, they shut down 5.4 billion fake accounts. Essentially, Facebook has closed down more accounts in the past year than all of the existing Facebook users worldwide. As of December 2019, Facebook has over 2 billion users, and figure that 25% of existing profiles



are fake and/or misrepresent themselves.

According to Facebook, most of the recent fake accounts addressed have been taken down within minutes of being created, therefore those accounts aren't included in its report of active users. It claims that it flags 99.8 percent of fake accounts on its own, before they're reported.

Granges that have set-up Profiles instead of Pages are caught in the Facebook crossfire. In most cases, they are not intentionally misrepresenting their Grange, but are just not following Communi-

ty Guidelines - most likely due to lack of knowledge of how Facebook works. But if Granges act quickly, they may be able to fix the situation before Facebook deletes the profile in question.

Facebook offers a migration path to convert your profile to an actual Page. Just go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/create/migrate> - then follow the prompts. Once your new Grange "Page" is up and running, be sure to make yourself an admin from your personal profile. (And we ask that you also make someone from the Public Relations Committee an admin as well, so that we can help you with your new Page, and also ensure that the Page follows the CT State Grange and National Grange Social Media policies.)

If you or your Grange needs assistance with navigating Facebook, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org. Don't have a Facebook Page for your Grange and would like one? Contact the PR Committee today to get your Page up and running correctly!

GRANGE APPLAUDS RELEASE OF THE FINAL WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES (WOTUS) RULE BY THE EPA AND CORPS OF ENGINEERS



This new WOTUS rule replaces a rule that overreached the authority granted by Congress to regulate navigable versus not-so-navigable water on private lands. The revised navigable definition provides four clear categories of waters that are to be federally regulated under the Clean Water Act and details what waters are not subject to federal control. This is good news for farmers, ranchers and landowners."

BETSY E. HUBER,
NATIONAL GRANGE PRESIDENT



Why not enter the “A Number” Contest?



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY ... I have been getting a lot of questions on this years' contests. These two-year projects were sent out by our State Secretary a few months ago to all Secretaries. This included the Lecturer's information. I also sent it out again to all our Lecturers last fall. I would be happy to send a copy to anyone else who wants a copy. Please, we need your support to help our Granges move forward.

This month I would like to re-

view our “A Number” Contest. This contest has been going on for many years. It was designed so that every Grange can enter. The theme is “Holidays” – This can be on any recognized holiday. Any number suitable for a Grange Meeting is eligible. It only takes one member. You can do a monologue, or even a reading. Why not do a tableau. That would only take one person to read and others to remain motionless on stage. Or, how about a skit. Got some members with good voices? You could sing a song or songs relating to one of our holidays. The time limit is six minutes. This includes set-up and the performance. All entries will go directly to State

for judging in June. Numbers will be judged on presentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality. All entries go directly to the State for judging in June.

There are a lot of great Grange happenings around our State. If you want help getting information out to other Grangers just send me the information (posters are great) and I will see that it is sent out to those who have email. And, if you want to get added to this list, just send me your email address (mbcb76@yahoo.com or lecturer@ctstategrange.org) and I will be glad to include you.

See you around the State.

The Pillars of the GRANGE



Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director

Riverton Grange #169
Youth@CTStateGrange.org

It's mid January, as I sit down to write about the new youth project, I am just getting a chance to read about in the 2020 Youth Program Guide. The G·R·A·N·G·E Youth Pillar Project replaces the achievement award seals among other awards and contests. Their description of this project reads: “The Pillar Project is to hone in on the passions, creativity and leadership abilities of Grange Youth and Young Adults.? It goes on to mention that ?the pillars serve as the six main things that we should be striving to live by as G·R·A·N·G·E Youth.”

So what are these six pillars? The first is Growth. Many of us have grown up in the Grange and you haven't you have grown in your understanding of the many things the Grange embodies and stands for. For youth, the Grange provides many opportunities for growth in leadership and hard work which is embodied in the second pillar is Ritual. The other four pillars revolve

around what we do as Grangers The Action we take, how we Network, or get involved in Grassroots Advocacy and of course Education.

The Pillar Projects that youth not only get involved in projects, but take one on and track it from beginning to end. This is really one of the first lessons imparted to us, when we join the Grange. Every time I instructed those joining the Grange to ?note down new and useful ideas that they be not lost, for new ideas are the material from which progress is made,? I was imparting this

lesson. Now I am going to ask you to impart this lesson to the Youth in our Community Granges, encouraging them to come up with a project that ties into one of the pillars.

More details about this will be placed on the CT State Grange Youth web-page. I hope to offer a workshop for interested youth and mentors to get you started on implementing this in our Granges. I have also been contacted by youth members interested in starting a youth drill team. Anyone interested in either of these events, please contact me through Facebook or by emailing me at youth@ctstategrange.org

Riverton Grange turns 112



Celebrating the 112th anniversary of Riverton Grange's founding on January 3, 1908. Lecturer Raine Pedersen presented a great program on our Grange's history and how some members today are related to Charter members. All current and Past Masters and Lecturers were recognized. We began the evening with a spectacular potluck dinner. Serving the community promoting our rural lifestyle and agricultural heritage for 112 years!

Palmer Amaranthus found in Connecticut

Irene Percoski, Ag. Committee

I recently came across an article in a local newspaper stating that scientists from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station discovered a highly invasive and noxious species of pigweed in Connecticut. The weed identified as Palmer Amaranthus is wide spread and damaging in the southern United States and can be toxic to livestock. It was found this past fall in two pumpkin fields in East Windsor. The weed is highly aggressive and can outcrop many crops, causing dramatic losses of yields. It has been shown to be resistant to many commonly used herbicides. Farmers and gardenerers are encouraged to report any new sightings of this weed to the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station. If you suspect that you have amaranth on your property, contact Dr. Jatinder S. Aulakh, Assistant Weed scientist at Jatinder.Aulakh@ct.gov or call 860-683-4984.

The following is a synopsis from Wikipedia about the weed.

Amaranthus palmeri is a species of edible flowering plant in the amaranth genus. It has several common names, including carelessweeddioecious amaranth, Palmer's amaranth, Palmer amaranth, and Palmer's pigweed. It is native to most of the southern half of North America. Populations in the eastern United States are probably naturalized. It has also been introduced to Europe, Australia, and other areas. The plant is fast-growing and highly competitive.

The plant can be toxic to livestock animals due to the presence of nitrates in the leaves. Palmer amaranth has a tendency to absorb excess soil nitrogen, and if grown in overly fertilized soils, it can contain excessive levels of nitrates, even for humans. Like spinach and many other leafy greens, amaranth



Palmer Amaranthus or "Pigweed"

leaves also contain oxalic acid, which can be harmful to individuals with kidney problems if consumed in excess.

Because of its toxicity to livestock, and scarce familiarity in the United States with the uses of amaranths as food, Palmer amaranth is rarely consumed nowadays, despite its ubiquity and resistance to drought. Unlike the grain and leaf amaranths of other regions, it has not been cultivated or further improved by recent agricultural breeding. As a result, the primary economic importance of Palmer amaranth to American farmers has been as a noxious weed and a competitor to more marketable crops, rather than as a crop in its own right

Palmer amaranth is considered a threat most specifically to the production of cotton and soybean crops in the southern United States. In many places, the plant has developed resistance since at least 2006 to glyphosate, a widely used broad-spectrum herbicide. Glyphosate-resistant pigweed not only dominates in cotton fields, but also has wide-ranging effects on other crops and productions. In 2001, Palmer amaranth was found

in the southern quarter of Illinois and appeared to be moving to northern Illinois in 2006.

In 2014, the Texas Department of Agriculture asked the United States Environmental Protection Agency for permission to use the restricted chemical herbicide propazine on 3 million acres (1.2 million hectares) of cotton threatened by Palmer amaranth. The request was denied due to unacceptable risks to drinking water

In 2019, Kansas State University researchers documented a population of Palmer amaranth with resistance to 2,4-D and Dicamba in Kansas. Previously, Palmer amaranth in Kansas has developed resistance to ALS, atrazine, glyphosate and HPPD herbicides—mesotrione, Huskie, Laudis, Impact, and Armezon—leaving growers with very few postemergence options to manage this weed

Palmer amaranth may be the most aggressive pigweed species with respect to growth rate and competitive ability Palmer amaranth in particular is highly competitive. It will outgrow cotton and is much more efficient. Growers of crops have not been able to provide adequate moisture to offset prolonged temperatures above 85 °F with 112 °F heat indices. In these conditions, many herbicides break down over time and Palmer amaranth will keep thrusting. It can grow from 2 to 5 inches (51–127 mm) in three days, or less. In only a few weeks, it can grow from 12 to 18 in (305–457 mm) compared to cotton at 5 to 8 in. (127–203 mm) Pollen is most commonly spread by wind The male produces the pollen and the female plant produces the seed. The wind carries the pollen from resistant male plants to female plants. In addition, the seed is spread by traditional means, such

Continued next page...

Pigweed...

continued from p. 10

as harvesting, inadequate cleaning of equipment, and the spreading of infested materials, such as manure. In 2014, North Dakota State University's "ND Weed Control Guide" selected *Amaranthus palmeri*, as "weed-of-the-year" to raise awareness about its "potentially devastating impact." In 2015, Palmer amaranth was chosen as "weed-of-the-year" for the second year in a row as a "proactive approach to prevent Palmer amaranth establishment in North Dakota."



Stutsman County Extension agent Alicia Harstad with a Palmer Amaranth plant (North Dakota State University Photo)



Chocolate Covered Strawberry Brownies

Valentine's Day is often filled with sweet treats - so why not make something special to celebrate! The Cookie Rookie has the perfect Valentine's Day dessert that's easy to make and great for sharing.

INGREDIENTS FOR THE BROWNIES:

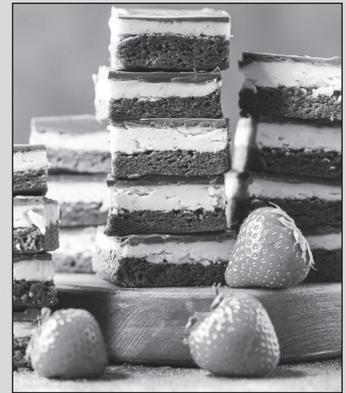
- 1/2 cup butter salted, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 16 ounce can chocolate syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 cup all-purpose flour

FOR THE STRAWBERRY FILLING:

- 1/2 cup butter salted, softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup strawberry spread (jam or jelly)

FOR THE TOPPING:

- 1 10 ounce package semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon butter cubed



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BROWNIES:

Heat oven to 350°F and spray a 13x9-inch baking pan with nonstick spray. In a small bowl, whisk together flour and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, combine butter and sugar and cream together until lighter in color and fluffy. Add eggs, one-at-a-time. Beat well after each addition. Add syrup and vanilla - beat well. Sprinkle the flour/salt mixture over the chocolate mixture and mix just until no dry flour remains. Pour into the prepared baking pan. Bake 30 minutes at 350°F for 30 minutes (the brownie top will still appear wet). Transfer brownies to a wire rack to cool completely.

FOR THE STRAWBERRY FILLING:

Cream together softened butter and powdered sugar. Beat until smooth. Add strawberry spread and cream together until well incorporated. Spread the strawberry over the cooled brownies. Cover and refrigerate until set.

FOR THE CHOCOLATE TOPPING:

Melt the chocolate chips and butter together. Stir until completely blended. Once the chocolate has cooled (at least 30 minutes), spread it over the strawberry layer and place the brownies back in the refrigerator. When ready to serve, cut into small bars. Keep bars refrigerated in an airtight container up to 1 week. Enjoy!

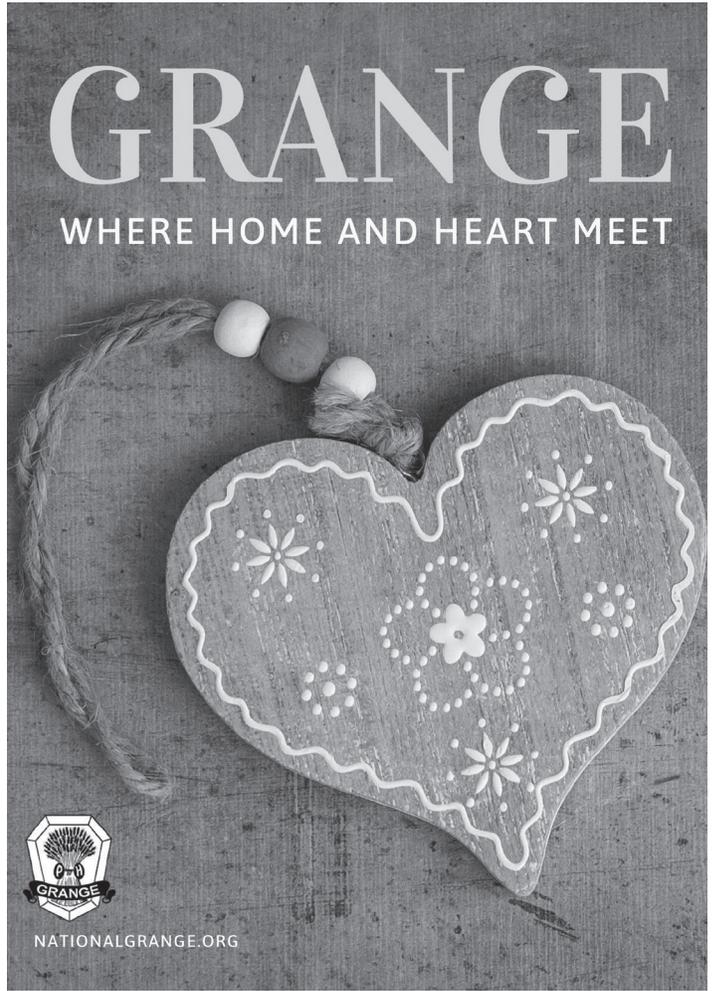
SOURCE: <https://www.thecookierookie.com/strawberry-brownies-chocolate-covered-strawberry-brownie-recipe/>

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 from a couple of folks this month with answers to the Window to the Past photos. December Photo (Santa) -- The Santa Claus is perhaps Mervin Whipple (as he used to play Santa at Killingly Grange), Mike Fiske (former member of Killingly Grange. January Photo (Awards) -- "The Lady Asst. Steward (woman on the left) is Agnes Moquin. I don't know anyone else in the picture." -- Kay Ruff. "I am 95% sure the man in the center of the photo is Ira F. Wilcox, former State Master. I can remember meeting him many times when I was very young, as my parents were both so active in the CT State Grange, and National Grange. Wilcox was State Master prior to my Dad becoming State Master in 1953." -- Doug Peck. "The lady with the stave is Agnes Moquin and the gentleman presenting the certificate I believe is Arthur Elsemore." -- Joanne Cirpiano



Hello Grange friends! What a rollercoaster the weather has been this winter! Let's hope the snow stays away. George and Sharon took me to the Mountain Laurel Pomona meeting in January at Riverton Grange. It was nice to see all of my Grange friends. Want to keep up with all of my travels? 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>

Did you know?
Between **2007** and **2017**

 **U.S. milk yields increased**
by **4,508 lb per cow¹**

That means that every gallon of milk produced in 2017 used:

 17.3% less feed	 20.8% less land	 30.5% less water	 20.2% less fuel
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 The carbon footprint of a gallon of U.S. milk produced in 2017 was **19.2% lower** than in 2007

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Because pets are family too.
Members can save more on pet insurance!



Go to poi8.petinsurance.com/benefits/national-grange or login to your member account at nationalgrange.org for more benefit information





Paper Please

National Grange members have always asked for the choice to receive paper copies of notices, invoices, reports, statements and more rather than be forced to go online for these. Yet, the federal government and most large corporations are intent on going paperless, like it or not. Now, Representatives Larson (D-CT) and Buchanan (R-FL), and Senators Wyden (D-OR) and Cassidy (R-LA) have introduced the bipartisan Know Your Social Security Act which would restore the printed statement until such time as the wage earner chooses to transition to online statements.

Telecommunications

Robo Relief

Congress has passed the TRACED Act with the President's support. The Act will require phone companies to implement cell-blocking technology and call authentication technology to determine if scammers are calling. Primary drivers of this National Grange priority on Capitol Hill to stop illegal and unwanted calls were Representatives Pallone (D-NJ) and Walden (R-OR), and Senators Thune (R-SD) and Markey (D-MA).

A \$9 Billion 5G Fund for Rural America

National Grange President Betsy Huber issued an early December statement strongly supporting Federal Communications Chairman Pai's plan to deploy high-speed 5G broadband into the rural and small town landscape. Huber lauded it as a huge step forward for rural equity in the social, education, health care, business and many other spheres. "Under his tenure, Chairman Pai has done so much within his area of influence to advance rural

Continued on page 15

Agriculture and Food Spending Bills Clear Congress

A couple days before heading home for their Christmas break, Congress cleared spending packages to fund the federal government for fiscal 2020. The legislation includes several new appropriations for agriculture:

An additional \$1.5 billion for disaster relief (including quality loss) for farmers and ranchers.

Reinstatement of the \$1-a-gallon biodiesel tax credit.

Increases staffing to relieve shortages at Farm Service Agency offices.

Kick-starts new farm bill-authorized programs including dairy business innovation initiatives, healthy fluid milk incentives projects, and micro-grants for food security.

Boosting rural broadband deployment by providing an additional \$550 million for USDA's ReConnect program.

Hiring an additional 240 agricultural customs inspectors to protect domestic agriculture from importation of foreign diseases and pests.

Health Care

Spending Bills Include Health Care

Significant health care policy changes include several National Grange priorities:

Repeal of the "Cadillac" tax on high-end employer-funded health insurance

Repeal of the medical device tax
Repeal of the individual mandate health insurance tax

Several National Grange priority health care issues were left unsolved including prescription drug pricing and surprise medical bills. These will be back on the table for 2020.

Drug Pricing Bill Passes House

Speaker Pelosi's drug pricing bill, H.R.3, passed the House 230-192 along party lines in December. H.R.3 would require the federal government to negotiate prices for costly drugs. However, H.R.3 may be dead on arrival in the Senate. Early in December Senators Grassley (R-IA) and Wyden (D-OR) introduced their bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act of 2019. The Grassley-Wyden package takes a more prescriptive approach to drug pricing and appears to enjoy a broader patient support base.

When Rural Hospitals Close Doctors Leave

When local hospitals close, rural and small town residents lose their availability to physicians in the local health care system as well. Not only are surgeons leaving these communities but so are primary care physicians. It appears priority objectives for rural health care policy must include a focus on supporting and maintaining systems that do not depend on hospitals.

communities,” according to Huber.

Satellite Programming Endangered

The National Grange has supported the reauthorization of the Satellite Television Community Protection and Promotion Act of 2019 (STELAR) before it expired December 31. Unfortunately Congress allowed STELAR to expire. This leaves 870,000 satellite TV subscribers vulnerable to higher fees and the possibility of losing local and regional programming. It is imperative that Congress address retransmission fees and the negative impact on rural communications access.

Clear the Path for Mixed-Technology Broadband

The National Grange and the Connect Americans Now Coalition are urging the Federal Communications Commission to remove regulatory barriers to TV white space technology. The integration of unused TV white spaces with other broadband technologies will help extend connectivity to the “last mile” in rural areas.

Taxes

A bill has been introduced to update and modernize Section 2032A of the Internal Revenue Code regarding special use valuation on farm and ranch land for estate tax purposes. Representatives Panetta (D-CA) and Walorski (R-IN) are cosponsors of H.R. 5259, The Preserving Family Farms Act of 2019. The bill would allow property to be appraised on the basis of its current agricultural use value as farmland rather than its development value when determining estate taxes. The Panetta-Wolarski bill is supported by the National Grange and a long list of agricultural and landowner organizations.

State Grange Ag. Alliances



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut State Grange has been in partnership with the Connecticut Farmland Trust for many years. Gordon Gibson is a member of that groups board, representing the Connecticut State Grange. I asked Gordon for some information about

the Connecticut Farmland Trust as well as the Working Land Alliance. We have been working with the Working Lands Alliance in Hartford communicating our objectives on various bills during the Legislative session. I want to thank Gordon for his many years of acting as our communicator at the Capitol and for his dedication to these groups as well as the Grange. The following is from Gordon.

Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT) is a private statewide land trust dedicated to preserving Connecticut’s working farmlands with emphasis on the smaller farms that do not score high enough, because of their small size, to be considered in the State’s program. CFT raises all of its own money through donations from many organizations and individuals. CFT is classified by the IRS as a 501(c)3 organizations so donors can treat their donations as charitable gifts on their income tax returns. CFT operates very similarly to the State’s program and on occasion has assisted the State program. In one case the family needed to sell the farm to settle an estate but at that time the State did not have the authority to purchase farms but only easements. CFT did not have the funds to purchase the farm. The family did not want to see their farm turned into houses on small lots. The solution was to have the State purchase the development rights and then CFT purchased the property subject to the State’s newly acquired easement. CFT currently holds easements totaling approximately 3500 acres on 52 farms. CFT also advises and aids other nonprofit organizations including municipalities in preserving farmland throughout Connecticut. This advisory program has resulted in the preservation of more than 1,000 additional acres. CFT is managed by an 18 members board of directors, three of whom are members of the Connecticut State Grange: Charlotte Hansen, CPA is Treasurer of CFT and Secretary of Stafford Grange No. 1. Gordon Gibson is a Past President of CFT and Overseer of Vernon Grange No. 52. John Kriz is chair of chairman of the CFT Nominations Committee and is also chairman of the Executive Committee of Cannon Grange No. 152.

The Working Lands Alliance (WLA) is a broad-based state wide coalition of agricultural and related organizations working together to preserve Connecticut’s farms and farmlands. It originated as an informal group of lobbyists who compared each other’s testimony just prior to hearings before the Connecticut General Assembly in order to convey the maximum amount of information in the limited time each lobbyist was allowed to speak. WLA consists of farmers, planners, conservation organizations, local food activists, anti-hunger groups and others who care passionately about protecting Connecticut’s working lands. WLA staff routinely assists its member organizations, including the Connecticut State Grange, to prepare and distribute their testimony to members of both the Connecticut General Assembly and the United States Congress. Legally, WLA works as a project of American Farmland Trust to qualify as a 501(c)3 organization.

American Farmland Trust (AFT) is the only national conservation organization dedicate to protecting farmland, promoting sound farming practices and keeping farmers on the land. Because of the similarity of their names many people assume that Connecticut Farmland Trust is a unit of American Farmland Trust but the two organizations are not affiliated although they work closely together to achieve common goals.

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested

Finding God in stillness



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

*“Be still and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among
the nations,
I will be exalted over the earth.”
(Psalm 46:10)*

Many of us lead such hectic lives that we have lost touch with God. As the poet Wordsworth puts it: “The world is too much with us; late and soon, Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;”

The answer to getting back in touch with God is both simple and difficult. We must find the time and the place to “be still”, putting aside for the moment all the worldly distractions that separate us from God. For any one of us the way to do this may be different than for somebody else. If one is retired, it becomes easier to find both a time and a place. If one is independently wealthy it is also easier. But what of those who are on a work schedule of 40 or more hours a week, interspersed with various family obligations, such as housework or yardwork and/or caring for kids. Then a little more ingenuity may be necessary to “find” the time. For some it may be only after we have crawled into

bed that we can consciously “put aside the day” and create time to be with God in silence.

In whatever way you find time, you will find great reward therein. The prophet Isaiah says: “For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.” And in Psalm 40 we read:

*I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to
stand.*

The need for a time set aside so that we could rest and be quiet was recognized since the days of

ancient Israel, when a “Shabbat” was ordained, a day set aside as a rest from labor, and a time to reconnect with God. Despite the dictates of some religious authorities, I am of firm belief that the day set aside does not have to be Sunday [or Saturday if you happen to be Jewish or Seventh Day Adventist]. The monks of one monastery I am familiar with set Monday aside as their Sabbath. The other six days of the week [including Sunday] they are busy serving as hosts to people on retreat. Monday is their day of silent rest.

In Memoriam

Charles H. Brush
Beacon Valley Grange #103

Jane Reynolds DeWolf
Lyme Grange #147

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

**BE STILL,
and
know that
I AM GOD.**

PSALMS 46:10

