



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 60, No. 6

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2020

## Looking to an early spring



**George Russell**  
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169  
president@ctstategrange.org

Will March come in like a lamb or go out like a lion? So far we've had a pretty mild winter but I'm still looking forward to an early spring.

All three Pomona Granges will be meeting in March: Mountain Laurel Pomona will meet on March 7, Eastern Connecticut Pomona will meet on March 14 and Nutmeg Pomona will meet on March 22. Nutmeg Pomona will be conferring the Fifth Degree for their annual inspection and will be meeting at Cheshire Grange Hall. For more information you can call Joanne Cipriano, the Pomona Secretary. Mountain Laurel and Eastern Connecticut Pomonas will be conferring the degree in May.

Agricultural Day at the Capitol will be on Wednesday, March 18 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. The Connecticut State Grange will be setting up our booth. I will be there along with members of the Legislative Committee and the Agricultural Committee. So if you're near the Capitol, stop in and say hello.

I will be attending the Northeast Leaders' Conference hosted by the New York State Grange on March 27 to the 29<sup>th</sup> in Albany, NY. I will be attending the New England Grange Building Meeting and the Northeast Connection meeting and will attend several workshops they have planned for the weekend. It looks like it's going to be a busy

weekend.

By the time you are reading this I will have attended the Master's Conference in Baltimore, MD on Feb. 14 through the 16<sup>th</sup>. I will have details in the next report.

Eureka Grange #62 has decided to turn in their charter. With the lack

## Don't fall for these scams

*Todd A. Gelineau, Editor*

Spam emails have been circulating in recent weeks asking for the recipients to purchase gift cards on behalf of other people. Most recently the subject has been George Russell. THIS MESSAGE IS JUNK MAIL! Please do not respond to the email and certainly do not purchase the gift cards. It's just an attempt to separate you from your money by exploiting the trust you have in fellow Grange members. The source of the email appears to be an infected Gmail account. We are trying to get information from Google to narrow down the source, but they have not yet responded.

If you receive ANY emails that ask you to do something out of the ordinary contact that person via phone (don't respond through the email you received--- the intended person is not on the other end) and confirm they sent it. Otherwise, just delete it.

If you have a Gmail address, we advise you to run a virus check on your computer periodically, just in case your computer may be the one who is infected.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please let Terri Fassio, our State

of members and trying to keep up the Grange hall, they felt they could not longer keep going. The members voted last meeting to merge with Winchester Grange #74. These are the meetings that I do not enjoy attending.

Ending this article with a positive note, I hear that some of our Granges have brought in new members! Keep up the good work!

Grange PR Co-Director know: [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).

More information on scams and how to protect yourself and your family on page 3.

**"Building Our Brand by Engaging Our Communities"**



**Saturday, April 18, 2020**  
Ekok Community Grange Hall  
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
**LIMITED! REGISTER TODAY!**  
**Form on page 2!**

**THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER**  
**60**  
YEARS  
1960-2020

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

**NEXT ISSUE ...**  
**Articles Due Mar. 15**

# Carmen Brickner to moderate April 18 event



Carmen Brickner is a leadership and healthy workplace relationship coach and public speaker. She works with individual contributors to create mutual understanding and respect for one another improving communications, productivity and reducing stress in the workplace.

years in leadership coaching and organizational development stems from her belief that whole, healthy people are the best leaders and great leaders create workplaces where people flourish. We can do WELL and do GOOD at the same time. Leaders live at every level.

Carmen's work of over 40

## "Building Our Brand by Engaging Our Communities"

part of the Membership Committee's **Leading, Learning & Making a Difference Program**

Ekonk Grange Hall, Saturday, April 18, 2020  
Start Time: 10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**Lunch will be provided!**



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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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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### the Connecticut Granger Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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President/Editor . . . . . Todd A. Gelineau  
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:

Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road  
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094  
or Todd Gelineau, Editor  
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

# Scams to separate you from your money abound

by Christina Miranda, FTC Division of Consumer & Business Education

Gift cards are a great way to give a gift. But did you know they are also a scammer's favorite way to steal money? According to the FTC's new Data Spotlight, more scammers are demanding payment with a gift card than ever before – a whopping 270 percent increase since 2015.

**Gift Cards are for gifts, not for payments.** If someone calls with urgent news or a convincing story and then pressures you to pay them by buying a gift card, like an iTunes or Google Play card, and then giving them the codes on the back of the card- STOP! It's a scam.

Gift cards are the number one payment method that imposters demand. They might pose as IRS officials and say you're in trouble for not paying taxes; or a family member with an emergency; or a public utility company threatening to shut off your water; or even a service member selling something before deployment. Or they might call with great news- you've won a contest or a prize! But to get it, you need to pay fees with a gift card. Scammers will say anything to get your money. And they know how to play into your fears, hopes, or sympathies. They like gift cards because, once they've got the code on the back, the money is gone and almost impossible to trace. But knowing how these scams work can help you avoid them, and you can help even more by passing on the information to people you know.

If you paid a scammer with a gift card, report it as soon as possible. Call the card company and tell them the gift card was used in a scam. Below is the contact information for some of the gift card companies that scammers use most often. Then, tell the FTC about it- or any other scam – at [ftc.gov/complaint](http://ftc.gov/complaint). Your reports may help law enforcement agencies launch investigations that could stop imposters and other fraudsters in



their tracks.

### Report Scams

Amazon – Call 1-888-280-4331

Google Play – Call 1-855-466-4438

iTunes – 1-800-275-2273 then press “6” for other, then say “operator” to be connected to a live representative.

MoneyPak – Call 1-866-795-7969

Gift cards and reload cards are the **#1 payment method** for imposter scams.

**More scammers are demanding payment with a gift card.** The percentage of consumers who told the FTC they paid a scammer with a gift card has increased **270%** since 2015.

Reports to the FTC say scammers are telling people to buy gift cards at **Walmart, Target, Walgreens, CVS and other retail shops.**

**42%** of people who paid a scammer with a gift card used **iTunes or Google Play.**

Source: Federal Trade Commission

### DO YOU KNOW?

The IRS never calls taxpayers? With tax season upon us it is important to remember this. There are many IRS related scams out there and many of them involve individuals threatening people over the phone to pay an imaginary debt to the IRS. Never return a phone call from someone claiming to be with the IRS. Instead, individuals should call the IRS directly at 800-829-1040, and businesses should call 800-829-4933. The US Department of Justice says the IRS never discusses personal tax issues through unsolicited emails, texts, or over social media.



#### **SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Mar. 18:** Spring is in the Air

We are keeping busy at the hall. We hosted a coffee hour for local seniors and will continue to do so monthly. We are also planning soup nights. We will also be hosting an Open House to show the community what the Grange does. Our hall was built in 1936 and is a beautiful stone structure that is in the historical district. Many members of our town have often wondered what happens in our building. We have a great upstairs hall with a stage that we hope we can put to use as fundraising events. Our kitchen is also available for others to use. Some of our members will be at the Ag Day at the State Capitol on March 18. Our Facebook page is active and promotes our events. Our budget has been set for the year and we will be working to balance it. We will be doing an awards night program to honor our long time members. We invite visitors to our meetings and events.

#### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**Mar. 6:** Guest Speaker from the Alzheimer Association

**Apr. 3:** Mystery Tour

In February, with assistance from United Bank, AAA, Dr. John Hambrook DDS, many generous Grangers and members of the community, we put together Home Sweet Home Kits for the veterans of Phelps Village. The kits included

a bath towel, paper towels, toilet paper, bar soap, hand sanitizer, flashlight, pen and paper pad, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and socks, all in a large reusable bag.

Our March meeting will feature a speaker from the Alzheimer's Association. We welcome visiting Grangers and the public also. This promises to be an interesting and informative presentation. Also you are invited to join us in April as we go on a Mystery Tour to a local attraction.

#### **COLCHESTER GRANGE #78**

*Corr: Bonnie Trecarten*

Our Grange welcomed Ted Beebe, State Membership, as an associate member of Colchester Grange. Ted has been a guest contributor to our Grange for many years and we are pleased to include him as a permanent member.

We continue with our community service efforts at Apple Rehab and Harrington Court facilities.

Grange members Cathy Russi and Eve O'Connell recently held a Mardi Gras themed baking party for residents at Harrington Court. Mardi Gras beads in gold, green and purple were distributed to party goers and a cinnamon roll King cake with pastel frosting along with cupcakes was baked with participation from the residents. In lieu of hiding the traditional plastic baby in the cake, it was decided that edible gummie candies would be used instead. That way all who took a piece of cake would get the lucky surprise. All were looking forward to finding their gummy surprise in their piece. When the cake was baked and served at the party there was a surprise, but not as expected. All the gummies had melted during baking and were nowhere to be found in the cake!

Many thanks to Cathy and Eve for their efforts every month to provide baking fun for the Harrington Court residents.

Happy St Patricks Day to all and think Spring.

#### **EKONK COMM. & JR. GRANGES**

*Corr: Sue Gray*

The Juniors did a "Stamping Up" fun/fundraiser in February, each leaving with four lovely, handmade cards! They also enjoyed a potluck supper. So much enthusiasm from these kids, saw it at the annual Family Game Night, see it whenever they are around! Brianna Gervais (and Rebecca) had a fantastic time in New Hampshire in February when Brianna represented National Grange at the Primaries there. She learned a lot out the New Hampshire legislature, toured their statehouse, got a fabulous tour of a jill complex, listened to the candidates debate: how many kids get that kind of exposure to national political leaders at age 11? Her next major National event is March 6-12 in Washington, D.C. Our Grange donated \$500 to assist the family with expenses not covered by the National Grange on this trip.

We have interest among our youth and juniors in organizing a 2020 Drill Team. Our youth and juniors are certainly marching forward in so many ways.

On April 6, our dear friends from Richmond Grange in RI will be bringing us their annual Exchange Program- you do NOT want to miss this absolutely fantastic night. Then on Friday, April 17, you will find Ekonk at Richmond entertaining them! Always a fun exchange!

April 10 will be our annual Good Friday Chowder n' Clam Cake Supper, featuring corn chowder as well as clam.

We continue providing and delivering food to numerous Sterling families in need. Helping others is our mission.

On April 18<sup>th</sup> our Grange will host the "Leading, Learning, Making a Difference" program with Carmen Brickner as the motivational speaker. Lunch will be served. This is a project of the State Grange Membership Committee, under the direction of Faith Quinlan,

*Continued next page*

Membership Director. A \$20.00 fee will help cover the cost of the event. Reservations a MUST and made through the State Grange.

On April 26 we will honor 15 Grangers for their dedication and service (25-80 years). Arline Boucher will receive her 80 year membership award, leading the other seven, who include: Alton Exley (70), Barbara Haynes (60), Carol B. Hnath, John Molodich III and Patricia Palmer (55), Alan Champagne and Joseph Molodich (50), Jody A. Cameron and Mary Mortimer (40) and Allen Gervais, George Eggers, Jennifer and Luke Hawkins and Jacqueline Hnath (25). The event will start with a luncheon served promptly at 1:00 P.M.

We are always busy at the Grange on the hill!

**N. STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Mar. 13:** Ritual Program

**Mar. 27:** It Happened in the USA

At our one January meeting, we draped our Charter in loving memory of Golden Sheaf member Audrey Robertson, a 69 year member of our Grange. Also at this meeting we learned quite a bit about "the moon up above." The Ag Committee's Cheree and Robert Miner led us with a quiz and interesting facts about that changeable golden glove that

circles our earth.

We will brush up on our Ritual in early March, then enjoy Sue's entry in the Lecturer's State Contest. We have been hearing rumors that George and Harriet might make an appearance in the program.

Some of our members have had recent stays in the hospital. We send healing thoughts to Flo Mullane, Paul Ames, and Arlie Chapman and wish them well on their road to recovery.

Many thanks to Jason Minor for helping to deliver the dictionaries to the town's third graders. And if Old

Man Winter will just keep his icy breath and sparkly snowflakes away from us for a few more months, next time we'll tell you all about fabulous February.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

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

**Mar. 27:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

**Apr. 10:** Omitted for Good Friday

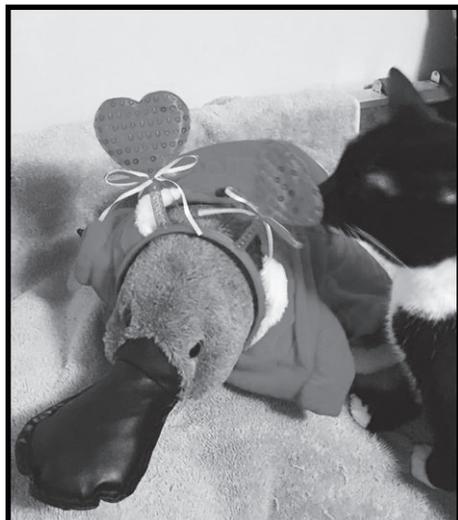
**Apr. 24:** CWA

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

# Hillstown holds winter events

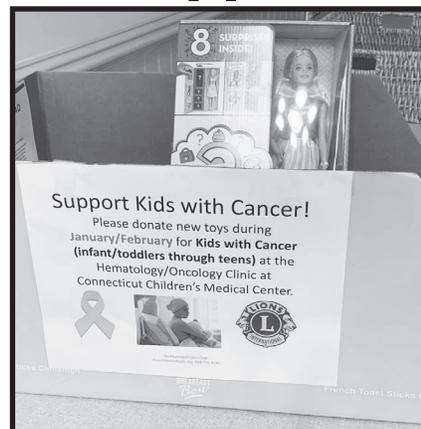


Above left: Seed packets were made available for any and all to take home at Hillstown Grange's recent Pancake Breakfast. Above right: Members of Hillstown enjoy the meal at Hillstown's Jan. 27 Winter Members Party at the Gallery in Glastonbury.



Vernon Grange's mascot, Patty the Platypus is admired by a kitty friend.

# Support kids with cancer



Riverton Grange is collecting new unwrapped toys/games/stuffed animals for the pediatric hematology/oncology clinic at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. We are collaborating items with Lions Club of Barkhamsted and Barkhamsted Seniors on this project to expand our effectiveness in serving Kids with Cancer! We have collection boxes during February at Barkhamsted, Connecticut Town Hall and Barkhamsted Senior Center on West River Road. Let's put a smile on the face of a child with cancer!



**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

*Corr: T. Gelineau*

**Mar. 7:** Taghannuck Grange, 4:00 P.M.

**May 2:** Winchester Grange, 5<sup>th</sup> Degree, 4:00 P.M.

Mountain Laurel Pomona now has a handbook for 2020! It was a long time in coming but at long last it is completed. Mountain Laurel was scheduled to meet at Bethlehem's meeting place on Dec. 6. Due to a conflict, this meeting will be moved to another location. If any Granges out there are interested in hosting either the August 29 or the Dec. 6 meetings of the Pomona, please let Pomona Master Peter Keefe know!

For the first year, the Pomona handbooks are being provided FREE OF CHARGE to all Mountain Laurel Pomona member Granges. Beginning with the 2021 edition, Granges will be asked to provide the number of books needed for their particular Grange and they will be billed appropriately for the amount of books they need. Because it was so difficult to come up with numbers for the first book, this was thought to be the best way to handle it this year. Enjoy the books and let us know if you have suggestions for improving the book.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: T. Gelineau*

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

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

**Apr. 14:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Degrees, Ref. Ted

& Linda Benedict

**Apr. 28:** 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Degrees, Ref. Harvest Potluck at 6 P.M.

Little by little it seems we are rebuilding Winchester Grange hall. In late January we were down to some finishing touches to the repairs on the exterior of the Old Firehouse. The urgent siding replacement on the Post Office side really made it clear the siding on the front of the building needed replacement as well. Our builder did a wonderful job of replacing the siding and installing new trim around the bay doors made out of PVC boards which should stand the test of time. New eaves troughs have also been installed at the roof line to take the water away from the walkways and driveway.

At our first meeting in February, the Grange adopted a new "marketing plan" for our two most important and profitable events, the Father's Day Strawberry Festival and the Grange Fair & Flea Market in August. While attendance at both events is still very good, we did have a noticeable drop in attendance last year. To help turn the trend around, Winchester has purchased advertising on 15,000 placemats that will be seen at McGrane's Restaurant in Winsted now through June. In addition, a plan for new signage for each event will be implemented. Large full color signs will be printed for each event and will be placed in the center of Winsted and in Torrington (along with other important road junctures in the area). We feel the signs and the advertising will be an important investment in the growth of Winchester Grange as ALL of our newest members have joined after attending our events.

We were happy to welcome back Lecturer Ramona Fassio after an extended illness this fall and early winter.

Winchester Grange was saddened to hear of the imminent closing of Eureka Grange #62 in New Hartford. They have asked to merge with Winchester Grange and we are now working out the details. We

are very happy to welcome their members to Winchester Grange, however, they own a hall and this will be a complicated issue for us all to resolve before a merger can be completed. More on this later!

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

**Mar. 8:** Meeting, 2 P.M., Program by Dot Fairchild, "Let's Be Irish"-Country Store, Ref. by Eloise & Curley.

There will be NO Flea Market this year, sorry to say.

If you like, we will collect items for Zac Guerette who is in the Army, stationed in Germany. Razors, shaving cream, shower gel, toothpaste, deodorant, etc. They will be given to First Church, which is sending a box to him.

Monday, Apr. 27 at 7:30 P.M. is our Awards Night. We will honor Gerge Murdock of the Christmas Town Festivity. Marc Poliquin of the musical group The Rack will provide the program. A food collection will be held for the Bethlehem Food Bank. Also, a basket raffle will be held.

**TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**Mar. 7:** Hosting Mt. Laurel Pomona meeting at 4:00 P.M.

**Mar. 12:** My Favorite Oldies & What They Mean, 7:30 P.M.

**Apr. 9:** Spring Cleaning In & Out

Our Master gave out the new annual word at our January meeting and we had a lot of fun at our February meeting trying to think up a way to remember it.

We draped the Charter for Jack Downey, Lucy Gould and Andy Olson, our Assistant Steward who contributed much to our meetings and helped with anything that needed doing. He was greatly missed all evening as members did what was needed in his absence.

At our February meeting we donated \$250 to the totally volunteer Sharon Ambulance Squad towards

*Continued next page*

their new ambulance. According to their request letter the donation could buy turn signal lights or maybe a Rear Compartment Entry Door. As you can see the squad has a sense of humor.

On March 12<sup>th</sup> the kindergarten teacher from Sharon Center School will talk to us about her new Food/ Snack Program. After hearing her we will decide if this will be our new Community Service Project for the year.

With the new Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 handbook you can find out what our programs are in advance. Find one you like and come visit us. NOTE: The April meeting is cleaning the Hall and if you "like" that one be sure to bring cleaning supplies. Yes, we are a fun group.

**ENFIELD GRANGE #151**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Apr. 11:** Carrots

**May 9:** Beans

Our Community Service Project received a positive response from the East Windsor Community Center. The cold weather survival bags were very much appreciated. Our Grange is small and to everyone who contributed to the project, thank you.

In February our program was "Beets" and I found out that you can grow beet greens in your window. Other beet facts and discussions were more interesting and of course were appropriately red for Valentine's Day. We got recipes for roasting and making Borscht. For refreshments we had Beet and spinach salad, pickled beets, Harvard beets, and beet cake, and everyone went home with a package of ready-to-eat cooked beets to keep in the cupboard. I can't wait to see what next month will bring.

On a somber note we heard of the death of a former member Elaine Lietz. When she was transferred from her home to a nursing facility several years ago we lost contact with her and she had no other family, and because of security rules no-one could give out information.

This enforces the fact that we need to try harder to stay in contact with our brothers and sisters so things like this don't happen.

# Bridgewater Loaves & Fishes



This fine crew from Bridgewater Grange did quite a good feast for Loaves and Fishes this evening. Pork Shoulder, Rice, Peas, and Apple Sauce. Always feels rewarding helping out the community. Thanks to Pam Butler, Charles Perry, and Steve for being such a great team.

# Youth Connections



**Dawn Anstett**  
State Youth Director  
Riverton Grange #169  
Youth@CTStateGrange.org

Save the date: Saturday, May 16, 2020. We are excited to announce that we are working with Sarah Bement, Director of the Interpreter Training Program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College (NCCC) to offer workshops on deaf culture, sign language and hearing loss. This program is not just for Grange Youth, so we hope you will consider joining us for this.

Several Youth have expressed interest in starting a Youth Drill Team. Any youth in the state who wish to participated should contact me as soon as possible. In addition to this we are also looking for anyone interested in competing in Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song contests, to send me your information by May 15, 2020. You must compete at the



## Workshop on Deaf Culture, Sign Language and Hearing Loss

Saturday, May 16  
Northwestern CT Comm. College

State level before you can compete at this summer's Northeast Regional Youth Conference. All information should be sent to Dawn Anstett, youth@ctstategrange.org.



### **NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

The schedule for Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 has not changed. Our next meeting is Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Cheshire Grange, beginning at 2 P.M. and we will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Degree rehearsal date is Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at Cheshire, time 2:00.

If you haven't taken the Fifth Degree, now is the time to do it.

Refreshment Committee is Meriden Grange and the Worthy Master.

### **CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Mar. 4:** The Fifth Season

**Mar. 18:** Youth Night

We continue with our Monday craft nights making items for nursery homes and for shut-ins at Christmas. We have two dinners on deck for March, our annual corned beef and cabbage dinner on the 14<sup>th</sup> and a fundraising dinner on the 28<sup>th</sup> for a local hiking club. March will begin our planning for our August Cheshire Grange Community Fair. Two big events will be held in April and May. Our Community Citizen Award Program and our CWA program in May. More to follow on these two programs. Looking forward to Spring and warming weather.

### **HARMONY GRANGE #92**

*Corr: George Ward*

The March meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 13 or 27. Call

Master/President or Secretary for exact time and date. Refreshments at the beginning of each meeting. Lecturer's program later.

Harmony Grange will drape the Charter and perform the Welcoming Ceremony on three new members at our next two meetings.

The Grange has had several groups rent the hall. Rental helps pay some of the Grange expenses. The rentals have been very successful because no snow plowing was required and less heat was required because of above average outside temperatures.

We will be planning for our Spring Fair, scheduled for May 9 over the next two months. More information will be forthcoming.

We welcome Grange members to visit at our meetings. Because of the uncertainty of the weather and the hall conditions during the winter months, we recommend you call our President/Master or Secretary for meeting details. Because many members do not drive at night we hold meetings in the afternoon.

### **BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our March schedule is: March 13<sup>th</sup> – the program is "Old MacDonald's Farm" in the charge of Joanne Cipriano. Carole Mancini will be in charge of refreshments. That means delicious Irish soda bread. March 21<sup>st</sup> is "Open Mic" with Ron Fischer in charge. Time 2 to 5. March 18<sup>th</sup> is clean-up day- we meet at 1:00. We could always use more help.

As I reported in the last Granger, our hall needs new windows in the lower hall and a new roof. We have replaced 5 and have received donations to replace 4 more. Our Boy Scout Troop Eagle Project is doing the manual labor. Letters have been sent to our members asking for financial help. Any donations will be appreciated.

Our Grange was saddened by the passing of Charles Brush, a 67 year member. Charles joined our Grange as a Juvenile member. Our sincere condolences to his wife Connie,

children Robert Brush, Kimberly Tompkins, Caroline O'Bar, Sister Barbara Kirk and Brother William Brush, all members of our Grange.

### **HIGGANUM GRANGE #124**

*Corr: Richard A. Prescott*

Higganum Grange met in form for its February meeting with a quorum, plus, in attendance. Committee reports: The building is holding up well during this winter weather. Plans have to be made to budget for parking lot paving. Treasurer's report shows that all state obligations have been met as well as all current bills. We have no debt and have a positive balance in the checking account. We continue to have a representative, Gail Reynolds, at the town economic development committee meetings regarding the Higganum Farmer's Market and will again support and participate in the Market. Our representative to the Land Trust meetings, Helen Luk, reports that there is discussion of "invasive worms" in town. She is preparing a draft report regarding a proposed state regulation banning the importation of such worms into the state.

The new annual word was shared with dues paid members. Plans continue for future meetings: Easter Egg hunt, family game night are possible themes. Lecturer, Helen Luk, read a poem, "Spring Cleaning" an inspirational reading from an old Grange publication. This publication from the year 1915, was entitled "Grange Recitations" and was written for Grange Lecturers. This booklet was found by Florence LaTouche when she was cleaning out some old family "stuff" in her home. Refreshments after the meeting put a nice finishing touch to an evening of fellowship. An open invitation to all to join us on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome.

### **LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Lois Evankow*

*Continued next page*

**Apr. 2:** Are all your eggs in one basket?

**May 7:** Birds, Bees & Flowers

**May 9:** 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Food & Plant Sale with Breakfast

On a warm, rainy evening, we held our Feb. meeting even though the weatherman predicted snow. We were lucky and got rain.

A few years ago, Old Lyme Grange turned in their Charter and sold the building to the historical society. It needed mega-remodeling. Five (5) professionally accomplished tradesmen met every Tuesday to take on this huge project. On January 27, at the annual meeting, these five were honored for all their work saving the town many thousands of dollars. Our Chaplain, Arthur "Skip" Beebe, was one of the men honored and they became Old Lyme's Citizens of the Year. What a special honor. Congrats Skip!

Congrats also to Evan St. Louis, son of our Asst. Steward, Mary Powell St. Louis, becoming second son to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

It was finally decided to have our annual food and plant sale on May 9 from 8-1, the Saturday before Mother's Day. A breakfast will be served. Come early, eat, and shop for the best bargains.

Kathy Tefft, our Master, is experiencing bad foot problems. She barely recovered from surgery on one foot, now needs surgery on the other one. Her grandson, David Sanford, stepped up and performed the office of Master for her, and I might add, did a super dooper job!

All is peaceful in Lyme!

**CANNON GRANGE #152**

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**Mar. 5:** Business Meeting

**Mar. 19:** Business Meeting

**Mar. 28:** Silent Movies, 7:30 P.M.

We have had a busy season with Hall rentals for which we are grateful as those proceeds support our facility maintenance. We give a shout out to Michele Clark and Dearta Fusaro who have coordinated the rentals recently.

We are hosting an evening of Silent Movies once again on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The first film

will begin at 7:30 P.M. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from our website. This is a fun family event that is perfect entertainment for children, youths and adults. Come spend the evening with us!

We are proud and happy to announce that several of our youth members have done very well in school this past term: Evan Clark is a junior at Roger Williams College where he again made the Dean's List; Sara Shepherd is a sophomore at Ridgefield High School where she made the High Honors Roll; and Anna Clark has been accepted to the University of Vermont.

Looking ahead to June, we are

planning a legislative evening with our district's state legislators that will be a public forum. Gail Lavielle, one of our members and State Representative for our area, is helping to coordinate that evening. We'll announce the date as soon as we have it.

Speaking of area legislators, we're also happy to recognize Cannon member, Ross Tartell who was elected to the Board of Selectmen in the Town of Wilton.

Committees for planning our Agricultural Fair are beginning their work. The event takes place on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. Have you marked your calendar?

# Cheshire Grange Projects & Activities



Clockwise from top left: Cheshire Grange has been making bedrolls for the homeless. Two different santa creations being made for shut-ins for next Christmas season. Feb. 5 Box Lunch Dinner, made and exchanged among members.

# CT State Grange Past Deputies Assoc.

After planning our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party for the past year, the date has finally come- Saturday, April 25. The place will be Cheshire Grange Hall. Agenda- 4:00 Social Hour, 5:00 Roast Beef Dinner and after the dishes are done, a short meeting and program.

Joanne Cipriano and Barbara Robert are making the arrangements but we need your help. Any volunteers?

We could use some desserts for a dessert table and door prizes.

To make planning easier, it would help if you let Joanne or Barbara know if you are planning to attend.

# Hot topics include marijuana, vaccinations and tolls



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
Coventry Grange #75  
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The 2020 Connecticut Legislative Session convened on February 5th. The General Assembly's Legislative Committees are hard at work reviewing and introducing bills to be acted on in the session. This year the "short session" or "budget session" which runs from February until May to deal with budget related bills.

Several key issues will be reappearing for action this session. There has been a lot of concern about flavored electronic vaping products, especially due to increased popularity with younger users and high school students. The proposal to ban these flavored vaping products will be on the agenda this year.

In the health field, concern had been raised about the number of parents who are not having their children vaccinated. There is a push to eliminate the religious exemption for school-aged children after the increase in the cases of measles in children last year.

The legalization of marijuana will again be a hot topic. Especially as our neighboring state of Massachusetts recently legalized the use of recreational marijuana. Both New York and Rhode Island are considering legalizing the recreational use of marijuana this year. One component of the bills would be provisions for those who have been convicted of possession and other low-drug offenses. Should their records be erased?

Tolls will again be a hot topic. The Governor has been working with legislative leaders drafting a proposal to introduce tolls on Connecticut highways. Their proposal would only toll larger

trucks. They are insisting that the bill would not include tolling private vehicles. Any changes to the vehicles would have to have legislative approval.

Bottle redemption centers are encouraging increasing and expanding the state's bottle redemption system. The rate has not changed since 1980. There is a push to increase the redemption rate to 10¢. They also want to expand the bill to include juice, tea, sports drinks, energy drinks and alcohol nips.

Sports betting is appearing again this year. The hangup is the agreement that Governor Weicker made with the Indian tribes giving them exclusive rights to operate gambling in Connecticut. They

are saying they have the exclusive rights to operate sports betting. Some feel that this is a new form of gambling and then not included in the original agreement with the Indian tribes.

Copies of our Legislative Guides have been delivered to the Legislators. This year Gordon Gibson will be stepping aside as our primary Legislative Liaison. He will be working with Susan Masino who will be stepping in to represent the Connecticut State Grange in Hartford. We will be monitoring bills as they are acted on by the committees and will testify on bills concerning topics that our delegates approved at our State Grange Session.



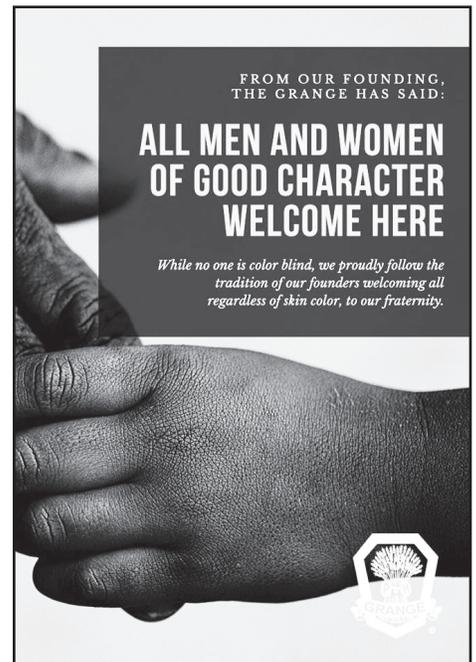
*By Hank the Burro*

Hello Grange friends!

It's been a relatively mild winter so far - cold, but not too much snow. My friend the Groundhog says that we will have an early spring. Let's hope he's right! We haven't been out and about much - but that will change soon with Leader's Conference coming up in Albany, NY in March. We did attend the National Grange Master's Conference in Baltimore mid-February. Keep an eye out as we will be visiting more as Spring comes.

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>

[com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro](http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro)





**Faith Quinlan**  
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Winchester Grange #74  
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So much sad news about the closing of our Granges due to decline in Membership makes it important I again share some of the 2020 plans and goals. The “Kick Off” program for Leading, Learning & Making a Difference is titled “Building our Brand by Engaging Our Communities” with Carmen Brickner. The program will help to get us thinking about how to craft our brand at a community Grange level, understanding what a brand is and how to communicate that to attract potential members. Branding is a term used in business and with a large part of our population at the working age and looking to gain skills and networking to meet potential employers and mentors it seems we are well matched to offer community support and do so in a way that serves their needs and our own.

This program is what I secretly call “Operation: What Is the Grange? Delivery System” (not so secret now). It is my belief that if we show them who we are, what we do and we welcome them and their ideas.. Then all we need are opportunities to be in front of them. Leading, Learning and Making a Difference will use educational events to put the Connecticut Granges right in front of the target audience . These will be big tools in changing membership decline.

I have spoken with a few people about new program ideas they would like to host with the help of the membership team, please keep those coming!



# Corned Beef & Cabbage Soup

One of the most recognizable food traditions for St. Patrick's Day is Corned Beef and Cabbage. This easy recipe for Corned Beef and Cabbage Soup from the Food Network is a fun twist on the classic.

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 3 stalks celery, quartered
- 3 medium carrots, quartered
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- Heaping 1/4 tsp. ground allspice
- 1 pound plum tomatoes, halved
- 3 cups low-sodium beef broth
- 4 cups chopped green cabbage (about 1/4 medium head)
- 1/2 pound Yukon gold potatoes, chopped
- 3/4 cup quick-cooking barley
- 1/4 pound corned beef, cut into thin strips  
(use leftovers or deli meat)
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper



## INSTRUCTIONS:

Pulse the onion, celery and carrots in a food processor until they are pea-size pieces. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the chopped onion, celery and carrots and the allspice and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are slightly softened, about 5 minutes. Add the tomatoes to the food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Transfer the tomatoes to the pot and add the beef broth, cabbage, potatoes, barley and 4 cups water; cover and bring to a boil. Uncover, reduce the heat to medium low and simmer until the potatoes and barley are tender, about 20 minutes. Stir in the corned beef and season with salt and pepper.

## SOURCE:

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/corned-beef-and-cabbage-soup-recipe-2119374>

Photo By: Antonis Achilleos

# 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



We heard from Alma Graham, who was able to identify some of the photos that are in the Scrapbook on the CT State Grange website --

Juniors Photo: The year is 1969. The photo is of Junior Grange members. They are members of Little River Junior Grange #20. I was the leader of the Junior Grange at that point so I can identify them. Back Row: June Briggs - Dan LaVangie - Dale Pearl (DeMontigny) - June Pawlikowski (Miller) - Earline Briggs. Front Row: Kevin Pearl - Geraldine Duhamel - Gene Duhamel - Rene Duhamel - Tammy DeMontigny - Dwayne DeMontigny

We heard from George Kotowicz on the February photo - he said that the man pictured on the right is Frank Prelli. He is not sure who else is in the photo, but they do look familiar to him. George also thinks regarding the December photo, that the man pictured is not Mervin Whipple as was previously stated in a past issue.

We also heard from Dave Roberts from Riverton Grange on the February, confirming that the man on the right is Frank Prelli.



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# Navigating Junk Email Waters

At some point, every e-mail account will encounter unwanted and unsolicited messages. These e-mail messages are referred to as Junk Mail or Spam Mail, and are sent out to recipients in bulk. When you think of junk mail/spam, (and not of the luncheon meat variety), the messages may be about miracle pills or internet pharmacies, hair growth, items you can purchase, phishing messages such as requests for payments or outstanding invoices, Nigerian princes with a get-rich quick scheme, and adult videos and websites. Many of these messages will link to viruses, adware, ransomware or malware, and even key logging software if clicked on. These type of messages are a popular unscrupulous marketing tactic because they are inexpensive to send.

Cybercrime is real - and one of the fastest growing tech segments in the world. There is this naiveté that surrounds cybercrime that it only happens to people who are careless while using the internet, or who click on these unsolicited e-mail messages, but the reality is that it happens to every e-mail address and computer user at one time or another - and we are all constantly under attack.

Junk mail makes up more than 85% of all daily e-mail passing through the internet. Most of these messages originate from overseas in countries such as Russia, Poland, China and Brazil, although messages originating from the US is a growing concern. Most of these messages are filtered out by e-mail providers and we don't ever see them in our inboxes. But the messages that do make it through, are annoying at best, damaging at worst.

According to cybersecurity company Malwarebytes, "The first example of an unsolicited e-mail dates back to 1978

and the precursor to the Internet—ARPANET. This proto-Internet spam was an advertisement for a new model of computer from Digital Equipment Corporation. It worked—people bought the computers." (1)

But junk mail as we know it today didn't start until the early 1990s, when everyone had an AOL e-mail account, or Compuserve, or Earthlink, etc. By the end of the decade, junk mail reached epidemic proportions with hundreds of billions of junk e-mails overwhelming our inboxes every day.

"In 1999, Melissa, the first virus that spread via macro-enabled Word documents attached to e-mails was let loose upon the digital world. It spread by ransacking victims' contact lists and spamming itself to everyone the victim knew. In the end, Melissa caused \$80 million in damages, according to the FBI." (2)

The early 2000s saw the emergence of governments around the world regulating e-mail to help alleviate the pressures of junk mail. At that time, all member countries of the European Union and the United Kingdom instituted strict laws that restrict spam. In 2003 the United States put a set of laws in place called the CAN-SPAM Act. These laws, in the US and abroad, place restrictions on the content, sending behavior, and unsubscribe compliance of all e-mail. (3). It was during this time that the top e-mail providers, namely Microsoft and Google, developed junk mail filtering technologies.

But despite all of the efforts of legislators, law enforcement and technology companies, we're still fighting the scourge of unwanted, malicious e-mail and other digital communication. The fact is that the junk mail business requires little effort on behalf of spammers, few

spammers actually go to jail, and there's lots of money to be made.

### What is graymail?

Graymail is solicited bulk e-mail messages that don't fit the definition of e-mail spam (ie: the recipient "opted into" receiving them). Examples are coupons and advertisements from restaurants and stores, newsletters from various organizations, news blasts from media sources like newspapers and magazines, notifications from social media such as Facebook, and various other targeted informational messages. Recipient interest in these type of messages tends to diminish over time, increasing the likelihood that recipients will report graymail as spam. In some cases, graymail can account for up to 82 percent of the average user's e-mail inbox. (4)

### So what can I do protect myself and limit the number of junk mail messages I receive?

- Never respond to junk mail messages. This includes clicking on any of the advertisements included in the body of the message. 46% of e-mail users have clicked or replied to junk mail out of curiosity, to unsubscribe, or to learn more about the products/services being offered. Once you respond, the spammer knows your e-mail address is active. They then know they can send more spam e-mail to that address. Not only that, it also means they may add your address to databases they can use to spoof the "from" address in future spam e-mails, a common practice among spammers that makes them hard to track and shut down.

- Be careful when using the "unsubscribe" instructions at the bottom of e-mails. Only use this option if you are receiving e-mails you requested. If you didn't request the e-mails (such as by subscribing to a newsletter) chances are it's just a trick to get you to click on the link and let the spammers know they have found an active e-mail address.

- Be aware of where you are

*Continued next page...*

using your e-mail address on the internet. The more websites who have your e-mail address, the more spam you're going to get. Spammers use sophisticated applications to crawl the web in search of e-mail addresses they can then use at random to send spam e-mails. The best safeguard is to not publicize your primary e-mail address, the one you use for only the most important communications. Set-up a secondary e-mail address and use that just for internet use when you use social media, post on forums and message boards, make online purchases and sign up for online services.

- Never share your password, and make sure it is strong and one that is difficult to guess. Never use personal information. Make your passwords a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters with numbers and special characters, such as "&" or "\$," so that you can increase the complexity of your password and help decrease the chances of someone potentially hacking into your account. Also, create longer passwords as they are harder to crack. When you type your password in a public setting, make sure no one is watching or looking over your shoulder. And remember to change your passwords on a regular basis.

- Train your E-mail program - don't just delete the messages. When you do receive spam messages, mark them as junk in your e-mail program, and blacklist the address they were sent from. Also, take the time to whitelist messages that you do want to receive. This allows e-mail providers to better improve their filtering and eliminate the junk messages before they are ever received by the end user. Many e-mail programs do not have junk mail filtering turned on by default. Take the time to go through your settings and turn on the junk mail filtering.

- Learn how to spot phishing messages. Check the sending address through the e-mail headers to make sure the e-mail is actually sent from the address they say it is being sent from. Make sure that the sender

knows who you are and are not just guessing by truncating your e-mail address. Embedded links in phishing messages often have unusual URLs. Vet the URL before clicking by hovering over it with your cursor. If the link looks suspicious, navigate to the website directly via your browser. Same for any call-to-action buttons. Hover over them with your mouse before clicking. Look for bad grammar and spelling. Does it look like the message was translated from a foreign language? Chances are it was.

- Do not download ANY attachments unless you know who is sending them. Attachments are one of the primary ways spammers send out viruses, malware, and the like.

- If your spam is overwhelming - and getting under 30 spam messages a day is not considered overwhelming - the easiest way to remedy the situation is to change your e-mail address. It's a drastic option, but may be the best option. Of course

you'll have to inform your legitimate contacts about the change, and you'll probably have to keep both addresses for a few months. But once you can get rid of the old address, your spam count should plummet.

At the end of the day, spammers are, unfortunately, getting more sophisticated and producing very plausible-looking messages which can fool even the wary. By taking the steps above to reduce the number of spam and promotional e-mails you receive, you'll not only protect yourself, but you'll also increase your own valuable time and productivity.

If you or your Grange has questions with navigating e-mail, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) or [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).

(1)(2)(3) Source: <https://www.malwarebytes.com/spam/>

(4) Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graymail\\_\(e-mail\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graymail_(e-mail))

## Let's get out and socialize!



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23  
[Lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

Let's Celebrate The Grange. As I look back I don't have enough fingers and toes to count the number of dedicated Grangers that made our organization so great. Unfortunately we have lost too many of them. Now it is time for us to continue the traditions they

worked so hard to organize. We all need to step it up a bit and get out and socialize with our fellow Brothers and Sisters.

Let's Celebrate weekend will be held this year on June 13 & 14 at Cheshire Grange Hall.

The Photo Contest will be judged on Saturday. Photos can be sent to me ahead of time or brought to the grange hall on Saturday between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Remember the winning entry goes on to National for judging.

The Talent and "A Number" contests will be judged on Sunday as part of Grange Sunday. We will start our contests at 1:00 p.m. sharp. If you need more information on any of these contests please let me know.

It's time to start planning to attend these events. Mark your calendar now. That's June 13 & 14.

Our National Lecturer, Chris Hamp, has started a quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is e-mailed to me and then I send it out here in Connecticut. The first newsletter has already been sent to all on my lists (both e-mail and snail mail) who currently receive our Connecticut newsletters. If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive her newsletter, please let me know and you will be included from now on.

Hopefully by the time you get this spring will have arrived.  
See you around the State.



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# Good Day! Magazine Needs You

The following is a list of members who currently subscribe to National Grange's "Good Day!" magazine. Following that list is past subscribers. If you are a current subscriber, don't forget to renew. If your subscription lapsed, why not renew? If you've never subscribed... what are you waiting for? Visit NationalGrange.org for more information.

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## God sees the heart



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
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The LORD does not see as man does. For man sees the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart. *1 Samuel 16:7*

So He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is prized among men is detestable before God. *Luke 16:15*

In the above passages and in other places in Scripture it is made plain that when God judges our actions or our merits it is what is in our hearts and our minds that is of greatest importance. Are our actions a desire to follow God's commandments to love the Lord and to love our fellow members of humanity, or rather are they an attempt to make ourselves look good in the eyes of others?

This article will appear in the middle of the Christian observance

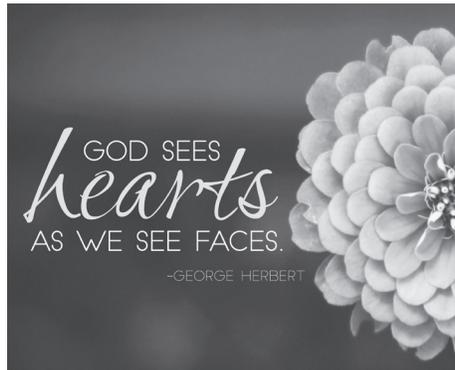
### In Memoriam

Jack Downey  
Lucy Gould  
Andy Olson

Taghannuck Grange #100

Audrey Robertson, G.S.  
North Stonington #138

"Well done, good and faithful servant."



of Lent, a 40-day season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. It has been the tradition of many people over the years to "give up" something for Lent, and/or include days of fasting. While both of these are practices which may be good for many of us, there is no Biblical injunction that we observe Lent by doing so. In fact, Lent itself is not mentioned in the Bible, but rather is the Church's

means of honoring Jesus's 40 days of sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert after the baptism of John.

There are some who make a great show of fasting or of giving up certain things during Lent: "No thanks, I can't have coffee or dessert; I'm giving it up for Lent". But Jesus warns against this sort of behavior:

*"When you give up eating, don't put on a sad face like the hypocrites. They make their faces look sad to show people they are giving up eating. I tell you the truth, those hypocrites already have their full reward. So when you give up eating, comb your hair and wash your face. Then people will not know that you are giving up eating, but your Father, whom you cannot see, will see you. Your Father sees what is done in secret, and he will reward you."* *Matthew 6:16-18.*

Yes, Lent is a time of prayer, repentance, and sacrifice, but do it to please God, not to impress others.

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