



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

November 2020

A historic State Session



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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The 136th Annual Connecticut State Grange Session is history. Our first virtual State Session made history for the Connecticut State Grange. It was the first one ever done this way and most of us hope it's the last. I would like to thank the officers and delegates for their patience for getting through this historic meeting. I think this meeting went very well with the exception of a few glitches that were quickly fixed by Terri Fassio and Faith Quinlan at the controls. I would also like to thank Jodi Ann Cameron for controlling the non-delegate room. A special thank you to our State Secretary Todd Gelineau for all his work in putting this event together. As for the mail-in balloting for officers, this was also something new that has never been done before. I felt it worked out well as we filled all the offices except for Assistant Steward which was a tie for this office. The Board of Directors have selected Roy Harrington to fill the position for one year, until the next State Session.

I would like to congratulate the winners for the Community Service Award that have over 50 members. 1st Place – Cheshire #23, 2nd Place- Riverton #169 and 3rd Place- Lyme

#147. Granges with members of under 50: 1st Place: Vernon #52, 2nd Place- Coventry #75 and 3rd Place – Taghannuck #100. The overall winner that will be sent on to National Grange is Cheshire Grange #23.

I would like to congratulate Riverton Grange #169 for getting the silver Honor Grange award and

congratulations to all the award winners that were presented from the Membership Committee, the Lecturer and the other committees.

In closing this month's article, I would like to thank the delegates for having confidence in me to be your Master/President for the next two years.

Sharon and I would like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous Thanksgiving holiday.

2020 Membership Milestones



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.

Winchester Grange #74
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To say that growing membership for the Grange is a challenge on a normal year is an understatement. To grow membership without meetings, in house events or community service during 2020 feels nearly impossible. You may have realized though, I don't give up easily and with creative thinking and collaboration we can get through this successfully.

When I spoke to the Board in February about coming on full-time. I planned to visit as many Granges as possible to create specific membership development plans, along with a few big educational events. The event to kick it off was to be presented by a professional speaker on leadership and Membership Growth. The basis of the plan was in-person events. Within a week of accepting the position in March, the

schools in Connecticut, and business began to shut down.

This Spring when the pandemic hit, the State Grange made changes and took action to best serve our members and our communities. We quickly made a shift with meetings going virtual, events cancelled or changed to drop off and pick up and now, right here, the biggest and largest event we have yet held virtually, the 136th Session of the Connecticut State Grange.

The pandemic shocked us and we are still struggling to make changes in our lives to adjust but in certain aspects, things have improved. Many people work from home now and they have more time with their children and families. Families that were over booked after school and on weekends have learned to slow down and do more together. I do not make light on the financial stresses of this time but there is a positive quality of life that has returned to some households. Maybe this is the slow down we need as an

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2020 Membership Milestones

Continued from page one...

organization to see clearly what our towns and cities need to feel supported by the Grange so we may serve them better. This is a meeting point between the past and the future and we are getting a chance to shape how we fit into that future and continue to be relevant.

We have become dependent on in-person events as the source of revenue and membership growth. We have not been able to include the busy families or the sick and

the physically challenged people in our meetings. Because of virtual meetings they have a much better opportunity to participate. For some Grangers their children and younger relatives are assisting to get them online. This helps tie us together in a shared experience.

Seven months ago I was absolutely guilty of not stretching to see what was possible virtually for us to develop new members. I was caught between knowing what used to work and having a dream of bringing the Granges back from the brink of extinction. Made clear by the fact that I presented my platform for employment for the State Grange on this very thinking. Events will always be a valuable piece of the membership community-building puzzle. We must expand our ideas and evolve with this new but hopefully temporary new world.

Though we have had a rough start and needed time to adjust to the changes, we quickly refocused to serve the current membership and the Board took quick action to make a Zoom account available for Granges to meet virtually. We solved the Logistical Issue of how to have a meeting.

Many Granges have used this Zoom account plus there are many who have used their own account, or they made phone calls or sent emails to keep in touch. Some Granges have really moved out of their comfort level and have made attempts to meet virtually even with limited computer users.

On the National level, National Membership Director, Joe Stephenoni, has offered membership meetings open to everyone over the past few weeks. He is teaching and offering open discussions to help Granges to problem solve during these tough times. I was able to attend one in September and found the group brain-storming helpful. He and I also chatted again to discuss what he is working on and the plans for the next year. Of course this is where public health and

safety guidelines allow.

As you may remember, at the 2019 state session, a resolution regarding Virtual Granges was passed as a tool to grow participation by younger generations. When speaking to Joe he explained he has found these types of Granges to be challenging. We will continue to discover and explore the best approach and though it seems much more in reach going forward.

We chatted about the benefits of membership, tangible and intangible. Based on that discussion I will be creating materials with all the benefits of membership that will be updated and distributed to Granges as a Membership growth tool. I will also be seeking to add more benefits that are specifically relevant to Connecticut.

The National Membership Director said he has suggested we offer our halls, where possible, to help schools and other community organizations that can not meet in their own spaces due to size and number of people regulations. There are schools that allow clubs to meet but not on school grounds. This free offer will get new people into our halls and be of service.

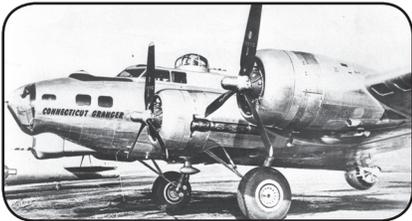
Another share of halls is happening in California where they are setting up 2 different Granges with different charters who share the same building. These Granges have different focus but with this arrangement the hall is supported and members can join depending on their interest. This is an idea I will approach the Executive Board about in the next few weeks.

When thinking to the future we will be experimenting with things that have been working for other Granges around the country plus businesses and organizations who have managed to grow and thrive these past several months.

Interestingly, the key word that came up in the conversation with Joe was Logistics. Our challenges across the table for the next year will be LOGISTICS. So much so that our first thought with every meeting, event or fundraising idea

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WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
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Membership

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should be, What are the Logistics to make this work?

Linking that to a quote from the National Membership Director, "The next 15 months, our success depends on how well we engage our communities." I say let's be smart and creative in our approach. Let us find out who needs us, how can we logistically help them safely and let us be prepared to show them all the benefits to joining our team. We are a team of hard working, community serving, people, planet and animal loving citizens. We who should be honored to have found our way to the Grange and proud enough to share our history with a side of "look at us now!"

And with that I would proudly like to announce some Membership Committee awards: I would like to congratulate these first 2 Granges. They are tied for 1st place for the Largest Number of New Members that joined this year.

The Tie for 1st place with 9 new members each is: Senexet #40 (9) and Cannon #152 (9)

Along with their Certificates I will be mailing them a Visa Gift Card they may use toward anything they like that is for the good of the Order at their Community Grange.

The Second Award will go to the Grange that has the highest NET GAIN

This is the Grange that saw membership grow and when we subtracted the number of members lost – they have the highest "Net Gain" or Retention plus Growth. That Grange is: Cannon #152 (+9)

They will receive an additional amount on their Visa Gift Card.

The final award is a Brand New Category this year. This award is given to the first Grange to meet virtually after all Granges were shut down to in person meeting.

This is the, Early Adopters Award, Early Adopters are people who start using a product or technology as soon as it becomes available. As soon as the Zoom account was made available to members,

they were first to reach out and set up their meeting. They also have continued meeting virtually on a regular basis. This Grange is Vernon Grange. They too will receive a Visa gift card.

As I wrap-up I want to say Thank you to these awarded Granges and to All the Granges that have still gained members this year, many

2020 State Grange Election Results

Those elected are listed after the title in bold lettering. The tally for each suggested candidate is also listed for each office. *Please note: There was a tie for the office of Assistant Steward. As a result, no one was elected to this position. The Executive Committee has appointed Roy Harrington to fill this office until the 2021 State Session.

Master . . . George Russell (50)

Overseer. . . . Robert Buck (35)

Ted Powell (7)

J. Allen Cameron (8)

Lecturer . Marge Bernhardt (49)

Blank (1)

Steward Ted Powell (23)

Robert Buck (23)

Jaimie Cameron (12)

J. Allen Cameron (1)

A. Steward. . . Roy Harrington*

Jaimie Cameron (9)

David Sanford (7)

Ted Powell (9)

Roy Harrington (12)

Ted Beebe (12)

L.A. Steward. . Eloise Osuch (36)

Betty Jane Harrington (9)

Anne Marie Knochenhauer (4)

Chaplain . . Charles Dimmick (50)

Treasurer. . . Jody Cameron (48)

Blank (2)

Secretary . . Todd Gelineau (49)

Blank (1)

have done so even during the lock down. Every new member is a wonderful addition and the people who share the Grange message are truly loyal and dedicated members, again, Thank you. It is my pleasure to serve all of you and I will work hard to expand and support membership this next year. Thank you.

Gatekeeper Jaimie Cameron (21)

Robert Charbonneau (14)

J. Allen Cameron (14)

Blank (1)

Ceres Cindy Finch (27)

Dawn Percoski (23)

Pomona Carol Hnath (29)

Jodi Ann Cameron (20)

Blank (1)

Flora . Michelle DeDominicis (50)

Executive Committee

. Noel Miller (30)

Jeffrey Barnes (19)

Blank (1)

All of the elected officers received the obligation. Officers new to their positions will be officially installed by members of the Executive Committee at upcoming meetings of the various Community Granges.

While we would not want to handle the elections this way again, we feel we have made the best out of the circumstances.

We thank Brother Jeff Barnes for his service as member and Chairman of the Board of Directors.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.

Resolutions Adopted at the 136th Annual Session

1) STATE COMMITTEES

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that Article IX COMMITTEES be changed to read:

Section 6. The wording "A Committee of Women's Activities of five, shall be appointed by the State Master" be changed to read "There shall be a Committee of Family Activities of (at least 3 members but) no more than 5 members appointed by the State Master"; and

The following wording "of five members" in Section 7, Section 8, and Section 10 be changed to read "of (at least 3 members but) no more than 5 members", and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Section 11 be changed to read: "There shall be a Membership Committee consisting of (at least 3 members but) no more than five members consisting of a minimum of one member from each Pomona Grange to be appointed by the State Master, and

2) RE: EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE POWERS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the Connecticut State Grange, through its Legislative Committee, urge the passage of legislation to modify the Emergency Powers Act to limit the length of time of the act to 3 months unless the Legislature meets again to extend the time after the 3 month period.

3) RE: SALE OF GRANGE PROPERTY

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the first sentence of Sec. 4.11.1(G) be changed to read:

"When a sale of real property is concluded, the selling Subordinate or Pomona Grange shall account for the net proceeds of the sale received at the time of settlement and shall remit all but the sum of \$1,000 \$10,000 of such net proceeds or the net proceeds whichever is less to the State Grange having jurisdiction to be held in trust escrow for the said Subordi-

nate or Pomona Grange."

4) RE: UTILITY RATE INCREASES THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

the Connecticut State Grange encourage the Connecticut General Assembly to never pass legislation that allows for an increase in utility charges, either for generation or delivery, that exceeds 10% of the standard cost of living for that given year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange present informational programs educating communities it serves on its options for utilities available to them in Connecticut.

5) RE: DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

RESOLVED the development rights to all farm and forest lands covered by Connecticut Public Act 490, be eligible for purchase by the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture.

REFERRED TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR REPORT AT NEXT ANNUAL SESSION.

7) RE: SUPPORT LOCAL FARMS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that the current \$2 for \$1 SNAP ben-

efit program offered at farmers' markets be extended year-round for CT Grown products as a voluntary participation program for any vendor.

8) RE: OLD AND OLD GROWTH FORESTS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that old growth forests and remnants on public land be strongly protected and provide a buffer, and older forests be protected to maximize their ability to store carbon and protect biodiversity and become old growth forests in the future.

9) PROCESSING PLANTS

RESOLVED

that the CT State Grange support the development of more meat and milk processing plants in CT and that we through our State Legislative Committee urge the State Department of Agriculture to investigate and implement this issue.

10) RE: MASTER'S ADDRESS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

the Connecticut State Grange thank the State Master for his service to the Connecticut State Grange during the preceding year and commend him for his fine report and leadership.





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

A year ago, I left State Session having sat with former CT State Grange Youth Directors and began the year with the promise of adding BJ Harrington as part of our committee. With BJ and Jamie Cameron on the committee, I felt we could expand our program.

Last January I made a call to Sarah Bement, Interpreter Training Program Coordinator at Northwestern Community College. My intention was to plan a program on Deaf Culture. Having a portion of it introducing our youth to the Sign-a-Song contest along with having information for everyone on what life is like for the deaf person. We had a date and place and then COVID-19,

2020 Youth Connections

came over us. When this happened, I found there were many offerings that are still available to view, that was offered by the National Grange as part of their Cultivating Connections. I shared their Friday afternoon sessions on Deaf Culture on our Facebook page.

This year's Northeast Youth Conference was canceled. Many this were virtual this year for youth, including our Public Speaking, Sign-A-Song, and Youth baseball. I reached out to those who competed last year and even though we had no participants this year, I hope those who competed last year will try again next year when we hopefully will have a Youth Conference.

Before I close, I did participate in National Grange Youth Leadership Fundraiser 20 for 20 and thank CT State Grange Master/President

George Russell and Phil Prelli from our State Executive Committee for participation. I also attended meeting discussing Combined Regional Conferences, which I continue to work with a committee of others in the Northeast, led by Christopher Heath, NH State Grange Master/President.

SHOUT OUT!



A big thank you to State Secretary Todd Gelineau for all the letters, e-mails and phone calls keeping us informed on Grange protocol during this pandemic. Also, for his planning and re-planning of the State Grange Session.

Thank you to Terri Fassio and Faith Quinlan for their patience with us computer dummies getting us to be able to use zoom.

To the State Master George for his many communications relative to the pandemic and State Grange Session.

From Cindy Legg to the members of the Southern Past Masters – Miss you. Hope we can get together soon.

Send your "Shout Outs" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org and we'll print them in an upcoming issue of the Connecticut Granger.

Congratulations to Cheshire & All Winners!

Noel & Marcia Miller, Co-Community Service Directors

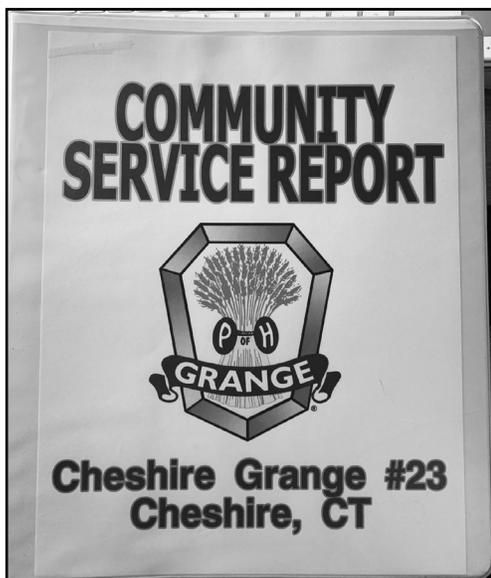
Congratulations to all of the Granges and Grangers who contributed time and energy to Community Service projects this year. A grand total of 10,473 hours were contributed to Grange related projects with 7,860 by Grangers and an additional 2,613 from others. Reports were understandably down from last year due to COVID-19. Hopefully 2021 will be better to us and

we'll be able to get back out into our communities!

In the "Over 50 Member" category **Cheshire Grange No. 23 took top honors** followed by Riverton Grange #169 and Lyme Grange #147.

In the "50 and Under" category **Vernon Grange No. 52 took first place** followed by Coventry Grange #75 and Taghannuck Grange #100.

Congratulations to you all and thank you on behalf of your communities!





Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

2020 in Review and Looking Ahead to 2021

2020 has definitely been a time of evolution for the Grange - not only in how we gather, how we host activities, entertain and congregate, but also in our habits and needs. Platforms like the various types of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) have become more than just fun but a vehicle of information, and software like Zoom has become a new normal, allowing us to connect digitally and virtually in ways never before thought about in Grange circles.

The Connecticut State Grange Public Relations Committee has adjusted our strategies and our programs to incorporate the new normal and reflect the changing public relations trends taking the forefront this year.

We decided to disregard our contests, as Granges were unable to host events and connect in ways that worked within the contest guidelines. For 2021 and looking forward, we will be developing a robust new program that is more suited to digital and virtual connections. Keep an eye on the CT Granger as we will be announcing this in an upcoming issue.

PR Co-Director Robert Charbonneau has been keeping the website current by updating it monthly with all of the articles from the CT Granger, as well as other articles as needed. This is a huge undertaking each month, and we thank him for all of his hard work.

We continue to utilize our strong Social Media base including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, and more. In 2020, we added Instagram to our Social

Media portfolio. Facebook is changing how its platform works for businesses and organizations, so we have no choice but to adjust moving forward. In February 2021, we will host a webinar with the Membership Committee to teach our Granges how to best utilize the new Facebook tools for their Granges.

In late May, we started an e-mail newsletter for our membership that has been sent out on a regular basis. We continue to add to our mailing list in hopes of getting information out to the majority of our members.

In conjunction with the Membership Committee, we offered training services to our members for the Zoom platform, and held a number of one-on-one sessions to help get them used to the software and its workings. We also set-up a series of 6 Social Hours held weekly on Thursday evenings in September and October prior to State Session to give our members a chance to work with the Zoom software and feel comfortable using it. These gatherings each had a small program as part of the evening, such as trivia, guess the Grange Hall, etc. Attendance at

the Social Hours grew each week, with our most popular evening having 29 people in the Room. These will continue at minimum monthly moving forward, to allow our members to connect virtually.

Studies show that in 2020, audiences generally prefer simplicity, convenience and transparency. Our Granges are no different. We encourage Granges to be authentic, personable, relatable and even casual to a degree when looking ahead, and to remember that our audiences are comprised of more than the organization in which they share, but of the people who are dedicated to the organization. We need to always be considerate of our members' time and be respectful of what's on their minds and of the ideas that they share.

The habits of our members and supporters are changing at an unprecedented pace, while 2020 has forced us as an organization to adapt to these changes, and to see first hand the shift before us. We must focus on our fundamentals and revamp our message to tie back to our foundations in the long term.

Getting the word out to the public about our Granges, their projects and activities makes a difference. Just ask the Granges who have utilized our services and resources and have seen positive results. We are here to serve every Grange and Committee at all levels - all you have to do is ask!

If you have any questions, or need a hand, please send an email to information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.



Public Relations State Session Control Center



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

In September we held our first Grange meeting at North Stonington Grange. We had 17 members who braved the pandemic. We had a door prize of survival goodies and Jaimie Cameron won the treats.

Next meeting is planned for December 12 at Ekonk Community Grange at 7:00 P.M. This is pending what the winter is like. We will be voting for 1 member of the Executive Committee.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 18, 6PM: Alzheimers Awareness

We continue to be able to meet monthly with the social distance and the wearing of masks. We are excited to now have the internet in the hall. Various groups have been able to get permission to use our hall. The Girl Scouts and the Brownie Troop from town will be meeting twice a month. The Happy Herdsmen 4-H Club will meet once a month. The Woodstock Safety Patrol will meet once a month and several yoga and fitness groups will use the hall. We have cleared all unnecessary material from the hall to make it easier to keep sanitized.

We are excited to be able to offer a fall craft class as well as a junior cooking class. Having the internet in the hall will allow us to help those who need some help with their computers or Zoom meetings. We have scheduled a pumpkin decorating contest and will be

baking pies for the holiday season. These pies will be in honor of our past Master Joan Perry who passed away last October. We continue to collect books for our book exchange as well as puzzles. We again want to thank all of our members who are coming forward to support our cause. We hope that everyone stays safe

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

We received a \$1,000 grant for hall repairs, a new water heater and plumbing and the bathrooms are being repaired due to termite damage. We draped our charter for Dale Dyer a hard working member from Echo Grange. Her death was sudden. Next meeting we will drape the Charter for Stephen Laputz, a 75 year member of Ledyard, Manchester and Coventry Granges.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Nov. 13: Veterans & Pilgrims

Nov. 27: No Meeting- Happy Thanksgiving

Although attendance is low we are enjoying meeting together at our hall. Sue's programs in September brought back memories of forgotten phrases and sayings and helped us to learn to think positively in these trying times.

Our only meeting in November will give us some information on candidates and voting procedures. Our Christmas party will be held on December 11 and we will carol around town on December 18.

Our grounds have been busy this fall with a horse pull, a dog show, a Family Fun Day, and with the upcoming tractor pull and Food Truck Festival. And if we can just get some relief from this drought, next time we will tell you about optimistic October.

Welcome to our new Family Activities Director

Hello Fellow Grangers, my name is Dawn Percoski and I am a member of Vernon Grange #52. I have just been appointed Director of CWA. Let me just say that I am truly grateful for the opportunity and will do my very best to fulfill the office. I want to thank Cindy Legg and her committee for all their hard work over the past 2 years and look forward to continuing their work.

I am open to all questions and suggestions and you can contact me at cwa@ctstategrange.org. I will be gathering the committee members and we will be putting our heads together to create the programs for the next 2 years. So you will be hearing from me again very soon. I look forward to serving you as the new Director.



Senexet Jack-O-Lanterns

Senexet Grange held a Pumpkin Decorating contest on October 24th with cash prizes. Entry was open to Grange and non-Grange members.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15
Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mountain Laurel Pomona was finally able to meet virtually in October. It was nice to see everyone together again, even if it was only on the computer screen. Our next meeting will also be virtual and will be held on December 6 at 4 P.M. on Zoom. Please contact the Pomona Secretary if you would like the log in information.

Until then, have a happy Thanksgiving.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Winchester Grange continues to meet virtually once a month. At our October meeting, we learned the results of our mail-in election. Craig Leifert was elected Master of the Grange and Peter Keefe has moved from the Master's chair to the Executive Committee for a three year term.

Our next meeting will be held on November 24 beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. If you would like to receive log-in information to attend, please contact Secretary Sue Addison.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

We are hoping to get the Grange Hall repaired before the Snow flies or at least have the roof done. Again I want to thank the

different Pomonas, Granges and individual members for donations as they are still coming in the mail. We appreciate every one of them as we will probably will need to pay towards the roof repair since the insurance company takes into account the depreciation on the roof among other things.

At our October virtual zoom meeting we started our winter hours and met at 7:30pm with again an increase in members participating. We discussed Resolutions #5-8 getting opinions to bring to State Session.

The Master installed 3 new officers. Overseer - Diane Palmer, A. S. - Bill Palmer & Executive Committee 3 years - Harvey Hayden.

Taghannuck's Dictionary Project is alive and well in our schools. On Tues. Oct.13th we will drop off 41 dictionaries to 3rd graders at Kent, Sharon, Warren and Cornwall schools. At the Sharon Center School, the teacher suggested we have a

scheduled zoom meeting with the students while the teacher hands out the dictionaries.

November 12: We will have a regular meeting virtually on zoom at 7:30 as there is still no time frame for getting back into our Grange Hall. The program is "Lets be thankful" and we will discuss how we will do our "Cookie Exchange" this year with the Covid restrictions that are in place.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Nov. 8: Meeting, 2 P.M.

Dec. 13: Meeting, 2 P.M.

We donated \$100 to Taghannuck Grange for their building repairs. We are collecting food items for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner for a family in Bethlehem.

We gave George Murdock of the Christmas Town Festival his Community Service Award. We are now meeting on the second Sundays of each month at 2 P.M.

Bethlehem Award

At its Sept. 27 meeting, Bethlehem Grange #121 presented the Community Citizen Award to resident George Murdock for his work on the Bethlehem Christmas Town Festival. Here he is to the right of Grange President Albert "Skip" Maddox. The Grange met outside on the lawn behind the Episcopal church.



Trick or Treat

On Sunday 10/11, ten members of Bethlehem Grange attended and four came in costume for the program which also included a bit about birding. Dot Fairchild came dressed as a colorful bird; how appropriate! The others are Ray, Cheryl, and Carol. Thanks to those who dressed up.





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Master Don Lanoue had a meeting of the officers at Cheshire Grange on Sunday September 20th. All officers agreed to stay put except Karen MacDonald and Gene Piacentini – that’s understandable with Geno under-the-weather. We wish them both well.

Our get-well wishes go out to Robert Charbonneau. We hope you are on the road to recovery.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday December 6th at 2 o’clock at Beacon Valley Grange. Mark your calendar. Hope things will be better by then.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Nov. 4: I’m Just A Farmer

On September 17th we held our first in person meeting since March 4th. We met in our upper hall with masks and proper distancing. We did not have refreshments. We had eleven members. The meeting went well although six of our officers were not comfortable to be meeting inside. At the meeting, we draped our charter remembering our long standing Grange member, Phyllis Beard. We voted to hold monthly meeting for now on the first Wednesday of the month. In an effort to participate in a community activity, we entered a scarecrow contest sponsored by the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce. We are one of 68 entries. It was fun putting the display together. At this point,

Cheshire abounds with scarecrows. We were represented at the one day virtual Connecticut State Grange Annual Session on October 17th.

We delivered towels, wash cloths and food to our local animal shelter, and our CWA held a bakeless bake sale in place of our usual country store.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Finally, we were able to hold a meeting. On October 9th the officers met to see if it was feasible to meet with all the social restrictions. Everything went well. Nine officers attended. Some have dual offices so we really had 12 officers. Everyone was happy to see their fellow members.

We welcome new members by demit from Prospect Grange: Mary-Lou Raymond, Denise Barbieri and Donald Tyler.

Our next meeting is planned for Friday November 13th. This is for everyone.

On a not so happy note, Cindy and Ray have both had stays in the hospital. Today (October 14th) Cindy is home and Ray expects to be home from rehab on Saturday. We wish them well.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard Prescott

Higganum Grange continues to successfully cope and deal with the “times”. When we could not have meetings our Secretary kept us informed regarding matters of local concern and our monthly editions of the “Connecticut Granger” kept us abreast of state matters and issues. We conducted business matters by telephone as needed. A vote to accept a new member, who wished to join us, was passed. A formal induction remains for future action. We are up-to-date regarding our building’s maintenance and our financial matters. Actual meetings in our hall were begun in September, with 100% attention to following all “virus” safety requirements.

In June we had our annual outdoor picnic. It was well attended and provided a great chance to see one another in person. State session will be attended by one of our members. All-in-all our Grange, like all others in the state, has made it through a very trying time. There looks like there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We’ll be ready to pick up where we left off as an active participant in our Grange and town activities. Our meetings, in the Grange Hall in Higganum Center, are still the first Friday of each month at 7:30 PM. Stay Safe!

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Hello Autumn! Happy Harvest.

Here’s to hoping that everyone that had a garden this year has yielded a great harvest. Autumn is here, and soon winter. At the Greenfield Hill Grange we took on a few new events to try to make up for all the events we had to cancel.

It was sad to not have our agricultural fair this year, but instead we ordered some mums, pumpkins, gourds and bulbs wholesale and we had a fall planting sale with some baked goods. It turned out to be a great success. Thank you to all the organizers, helpers, bakers and patrons!

Our drive-in movies have been a great success, and a lot of fun.

Thru October we will have three movies, weather permitting — all Halloween theme. And we are hoping the weather will stay mild through November so we can have two or three more feature films. Titles TBD.

On November 14th we will host a Souper Supper. Various soups, grilled cheese and... Bingo with prizes. Socially distant seating. Reservations a must. Call Jim. 203 259 8023.

Save the date: next year’s Agricultural Fair: August 28, 2021

We have been collecting canned food and non perishables for Operation Hope of Fairfield ! Thank you!

Stay healthy.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Dec. 3: Meeting

Jan. 7: Meeting

As I write this report we are experiencing a beautiful Indian summer even though it is early October.

We tried to have a meeting on the first Thursday in October, however only 6 people came so we postponed the meeting for two weeks. Maybe we will have enough on Oct. 15.

Our front door is adorned with three hearts, Red, Blue and Black with a thank you across the three hearts. I only work in fabric so they are composed of sticky back felt as are the letters.

Stay well, wear your masks, socially distance and wash your hands!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 13: In Thanksgiving

Nov. 27: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Dec. 11: Holidays

Dec. 25: Omitted for Christmas

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Nov. 4: Business Meeting, 7:30 PM

Nov. 18: Thanksgiving Potluck Supper, 7:00 PM

The sixth annual chili cook-off on September 12 was fantastically successful. We raised our ticket prices some but offered a family price for up to four people. We served about 60 people in an outdoor socially distanced setting. Dan Golias and his musical friends provided nice music by which to dine. There were about a dozen chili entries, plus hotdogs, desserts and drinks. We also received many donations. New members Tanya and Ed Carver organized and put together an ad book for our "Save Our Grange" campaign. All told we made about \$1750.

On October 3, we had a musical program which continued the GO-MAD programs carried on by Margie Rosenberg after Raye Hodgson's departure. These were shifted to the gazebo behind the Grange to allow for outdoor siting and social distancing. They were planned to continue as long as climatic conditions allowed. That music program grossed about \$800 in donations.

A Building Committee has been established to take over the old Hall Committee. This with new members will explore and research updates and improvements needing to be made to the hall and report back to the Grange. We are in contact (thanks to Ed Carver) with

Kathleen O'Neill, the town grant writer, who wants to help us secure the funds to make renovations and needed changes to the building.

The Save Our Grange campaign involves planning and holding hold four events per year to raise funds for the Grange. We have analyzed our finances and have a good idea of fixed costs to run the organization, and aim to raise a certain amount in excess of this to allow for improvements to the Grange hall which will allow us to do more for the community in the future. Judging by the attendance at recent events, the town stands behind us and our efforts.

Cannon Grange Bake Sale



Thank you to Kim Healy and Patricia Zucaro for stopping by and supporting the Cannon Grange Bake Sale today. (Oct 17) ... and a great big THANK YOU to Melanie Haven of Friends & Company Kitchen LLC for donating mini loaves, brownies and cookies to the Cannon Grange Bake Sale!



Boo!

On Halloween night, members gathered for a party on Zoom. Some came in costume while others came to see friends and catch up. Thanksgiving and Christmas Zoom gatherings will be coming up soon!



The Best Chicken & Dumplings



Homemade Chicken and Dumplings are a traditional fall comfort food - and as the weather gets chillier, it's the perfect dish to bring you back to childhood days. This recipe from Taste of Home is quick and easy!

INGREDIENTS:

3/4 cup all-purpose flour, divided
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
2 tablespoons canola oil
2 medium carrots, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 cup white wine or apple cider
2 bay leaves

DUMPLINGS:

1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon butter, melted

SOUP:

1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
2 teaspoons minced fresh thyme

1/2 teaspoon salt
1 broiler/fryer chicken (about 3 pounds), cut up
1 large onion, chopped
2 celery ribs, chopped
6 cups chicken stock
2 teaspoons sugar
5 whole peppercorns

2 teaspoons baking powder
2/3 cup 2% milk

2 teaspoons minced fresh parsley
Additional salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a shallow bowl, mix 1/2 cup flour, salt and pepper. Add chicken, 1 piece at a time, and toss to coat; shake off excess. In a 6-qt. stockpot, heat oil over medium-high heat. Brown chicken in batches on all sides; remove from pan.

Add onion, carrots and celery to same pan; cook and stir 6-8 minutes or until onion is tender. Add garlic; cook and stir 1 minute longer. Stir in 1/4 cup flour until blended. Gradually add stock, stirring constantly. Stir in wine, sugar, bay leaves and peppercorns. Return chicken to pan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 20-25 minutes or until chicken juices run clear.

For dumplings, in a bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, whisk milk and melted butter until blended. Add to flour mixture; stir just until moistened (do not overmix). Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto a parchment-lined baking sheet; set aside.

Remove chicken from stockpot; cool slightly. Discard bay leaves and skim fat from soup. Remove skin and bones from chicken and discard. Using 2 forks, coarsely shred meat into 1- to 1-1/2-in. pieces; return to soup. Cook, covered, on high until mixture reaches a simmer.

Drop dumplings on top of simmering soup, a few at a time. Reduce heat to low; cook, covered, 15-18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center of dumplings comes out clean (do not lift cover while simmering). Gently stir in cream, parsley and thyme. Season with additional salt and pepper to taste.

Tips: You can use dried herbs instead of fresh. Dried herbs are more potent measure for measure, so cut down the amount by half.

To test if dumplings are done, stick a toothpick or skewer into the dumpling after the specified cook time. If the skewer comes out clean, the dumplings are done. If it comes out wet or sticky, cover and let cook a bit longer. Floating isn't as good of a gauge of doneness, so stick with a toothpick.

Overcooked dumplings will start to fall apart and disintegrate in the broth, so don't walk away from the stove. Be diligent about checking them when the cook time is nearly up.

SOURCE: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/the-best-chicken-dumplings/>

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 Joyce Main of Pachaug Grange. She said that the man on the right in the photo is John Dempsey, former Mayor of Putnam and Governor of Connecticut, and his wife Mary. We also heard from Ed Duhamel from Senexet Grange who also believed that the man in the photo John Dempsey and his wife.

Then we heard from George Kotowicz who too said that the man on the right is Jack (John) Dempsey who was Governor from 1961 to 1971. He thinks the photo is from when National Grange was in Connecticut in 1972.

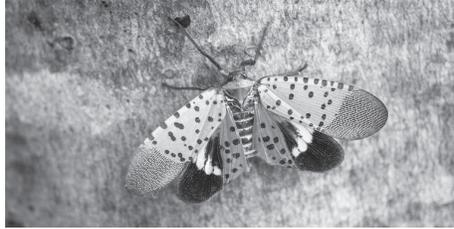
We received an email from Sally Bowman stating the following: "I just opened my Connecticut Granger October issue, I am in Delaware, I am Delaware's State Secretary. I found myself staring at Rodney Dempsey's parents, Norman and Dorothy Dempsey. (Rodney is one of our State Ex Comm. persons.) Norman was our State Treasurer and Past State Master and might have been a National officer, long ago. I suspect they were visiting Connecticut when he and Dorothy went to National Session in Connecticut 40 + years ago. They are the couple on the left of the picture. They are both gone now. They were dairy farmers in the northern part of DE. Norman was State Master 1968 - 1972 and he passed in 2008. Thanks for the nice surprise!"

September Photo -- We heard from Mike Fiske from Killingly Grange on the September photo, confirming that it is Mervin Whipple handing out the award, but he has no idea who the other people in the photo are.



The Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect originally from parts of China, India, Vietnam and Taiwan, has made a re-appearance in Connecticut, posing a threat to local crops and forests and particularly harmful to apples and grapes. The brightly colored insects are about an inch long, half an inch wide with large wings. The lower wings are red with black dots and the abdomen is yellow with black bands.



transport of items that could harbor the fly, including firewood, lawn mowers, outdoor furniture, trucks and RVs in November 2014.

The spotted lanternfly was first detected in the United States northwest of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in September 2014 when it was confirmed by the PA. Dept. of Agriculture. Based on its host affinity, it was a threat to the State's grapes, fruit trees and logging industries. They saw the greatest risk of spreading by people transporting materials that may contain egg masses laid on smooth bark, stone and other vertical surfaces. The Pa. Dept. of Agriculture issued a ban on the

States including Connecticut, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Virginia and West Virginia have all seen the entrance of the spotted Lanternfly. In Feb 2019, the Delaware Dept. of Agriculture signed emergency regulations enacting quarantine for this pest. There is great potential for this insect to infect almost all of the eastern part of the country.

The damage to trees and plants comes from the feeding on the sap from the trunk or branch. As it feeds the tree weeps sap which then attracts bees, ants, hornets and

paper wasps which fosters a mold which could eventually result in the death of the tree. The favorite host tree is the Asian Ailanthus also known as the tree of heaven. It is recommended that local residents cut down this tree. As early as July the adults will mate and lay eggs from late September to the onset of winter. Kill eggs from October through May by scrapping them off of surfaces. Double bag them, or put in a zip lock bag and add alcohol or hand sanitizer to kill them. Infested trees should be treated with systemic pesticides from June to August. Tree injection and bark sprays should be applied by professional applicators that may use a soil drench and foliage spray. Homeowners can apply brown sticky traps at the base of the trunk to trap the young insects.

There seems to be no major damage so far in our state, but the Ct. Dept. of Agriculture feels there is potential for great harm to the states agri-business.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

We Gather Together

Thanksgiving  *Social Hour*

Thursday, November 19th
7:00 pm

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information




CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Home for the Holidays

Virtual Cookie Recipe Exchange

Sunday, Dec. 6th • 7 PM

Let's talk Cookies!
Baking and Packaging Tips, Tricks and Ideas!
Bring your favorite Cookie Recipes to share.
Join us for a fun and casual social gathering.

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information





Congratulations to the winners



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

What a year this has been. My thanks and gratitude go out to all who participated in our Lecturer's work and helped to keep our Granges going forward.

The following awards were given out at State Session:

Lecturers' Appreciation Awards ... Kim Jones, Stafford; Kevin Parker, Redding; Emily Alexander, Cheshire; Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury; Linea Erickson, Cawasa; Cherie Robinson, Vernon; Carol Knutson, Taghhannuck; Cindy Legg, Beacon Valley; Robert Buck, Bethlehem; Susan Pianka, No. Stonington; Lois Evankow, Lyme; Lila Cleveland, Stonington; Raine Pederson,

Riverton; Nancy Swanson, Hemlock; and, Robert Buck, Orange.

Honor Lecturer Awards ... Emily Alexander, Cheshire; Cherie Robinson, Vernon; and, Lois Evankow, Lyme.

"Should Auld Acquaintance" ... Cheshire, Glastonbury, Vernon, Colchester, Taghhannuck, No. Stonington, and, Lyme Granges.

A Word From Home ... Cheshire; Glastonbury; Vernon; Colchester; and Lyme Granges.

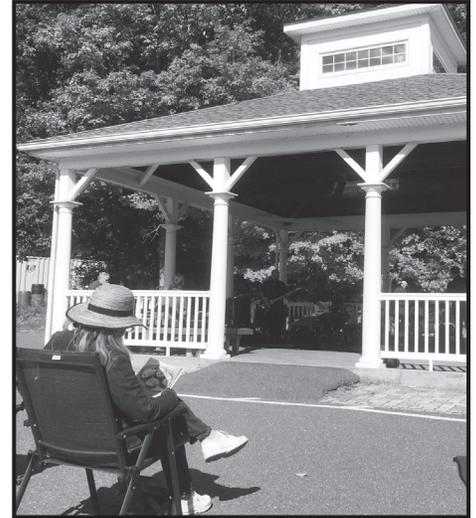
Complete Programs winners ... 1st Susan Pianka, No. Stonington; 2nd Cherie Robinson, Vernon; and 3rd Emily Alexander, Cheshire.

Essay Contest Winners ... 1st Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley; 2nd Susan Masino, Simsbury; and, 3rd Karen Macdonald, Redding.

If your Grange is one of the ones listed, please thank the person

responsible. If it is not listed, why not offer to help your Lecturer this coming year.

Take Care and Be Safe!



Oxford Grange #194 held a successful music program at the gazebo behind Oxford Grange Hall put together by Dan Golias and featuring his musical friends. Thanks for all the effort. Between 40 and 50 people attended.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends! It was great to be able to spend some time on Zoom and see all of my Grange friends virtually during the 136th CT State Grange Annual Session. I hung out in the Non-Delegate Room, and also observed from George's side as well. I can't wait to attend the CT State Grange Halloween Party - more on that next time!

Please visit my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are there too - to follow all of my adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



Let's hope 2021 is a better legislative year



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75

Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Legislative committee met in January to review the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Policy Handbook and added any new resolutions pertaining to state and national issues to it. In early February Gordon Gibson and I went to Hartford to deliver copies of this guide to all Connecticut General Assembly members as well as the Governor and Lt. Governor.

This year Susan Masino offered to step in as our Legislative Liaison to the General Assembly with Gordon Gibson assisting her. We had just started following proposed bills of interest and had sent in a letter of support to the Environmental Committee for one bill when all things came to a complete halt. All public hearings and all legislative events were cancelled. The Capitol was closed and all legislative activity and sessions were halted. This included the annual Agriculture Day at the Capitol in which the State Grange Agricultural Committee along with the Legislative Committee always participated in by manning a Grange booth.

Since the emergence of the pandemic and the state shutdown, the Connecticut General Assembly has only held a couple of special sessions. They were called into

session by the Governor to address specific issues that were needed, mostly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Gordon Gibson continued his involvement with the Working Land

Alliance even as their activities were also reduced. The Grange is a partner with this organization.

Hopefully next year the General Assembly will be back running the state as it should.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE CALENDAR OF VIRTUAL EVENTS

- November:** **Thursday, Nov. 19 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
"We Gather Together"
CT State Grange Virtual Thanksgiving Social Hour
- December:** **Sunday, Dec 6 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
"Home for the Holidays"
CT State Grange Virtual Cookie Recipe Exchange
- December:** **Thursday, Dec 17 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
CT State Grange Virtual Christmas Spectacular
- January:** **Thursday, Jan 28 - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
"Beat the Winter Blues"
CT State Grange Virtual Social Hour
- February:** **Saturday, Feb 27 - 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Webinar**
Joint Event:
Membership & Public Relations Committees
New Facebook Strategies:
A Guide To Managing Your Grange Page



Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!



Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org
or membership@ctstategrange.org
for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

Thank You!

Dear Grange Family,

Thank you so much for the many cards, calls and prayers sent to our family on the passing of family Matriarch, Marion R. Emmons. She was proud to belong to this organization for 78 years, but even more proud of her family. She has passed to "another and better world- 'Where everlasting Spring abides, And never fading flowers."

Fraternally, Russell & Sue Gray & Family.

A big Thank You to all who sent cards, prayers and thoughts to us during this most difficult time. Mom would have been pleased.

Sincerely, Debbie & Jeff Barnes

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

Address Service Requested

Show Thanks By Giving



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! Let them also offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, And tell of His works with joyful singing.

Psalm 107:21-22

Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 19:17

In Memoriam

Rose L. Buzzutto (Dugan)
Redding Grange #15

William (Bill) Fickett
Whigville #48

Dale Dyer
Stephen Laputz, G.S.
Coventry Grange #75

Ruth (Cubby) Hickcox
Norfield Grange #146

Lillian R. Baines, G.S.
Hemlock Grange #182

"Well done, good and faithful servants."

My November column usually has some sort of Thanksgiving theme, and this one is no different, except for the emphasis on giving. Early on, God commanded Moses that the Israelites should not only thank God for his blessings upon them but that words of thanks should be accompanied by a sacrificial Thank Offering. Note that this should be a Sacrifice of Thanksgiving, meaning that when we give we should be giving enough of something that it becomes an act of sacrifice on our part. As an extreme example of what is definitely NOT an act of sacrifice, imagine that we have a bumper crop of Zucchini, more than we can possibly eat, and we take the surplus down to the local soup kitchen. While this is certainly a good thing to do, it is NOT an act of sacrifice on our part to do so. Giving of one's abundance is something that God expects us to do, but we get no grace points for

it; we have merely done our duty. However, if the soup kitchen in the above example is in the next Town, and you have had to give up watching a favorite show in order to find time to make the delivery, then you have sacrificed something to make your offering.

Mother Teresa once said: "This is the meaning of true love, to give until it hurts – with a smile." This should remind us of what St. Paul tells us in his second letter to the Corinthians: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". So, one should give until one feels the pain of sacrifice, but one should at the same time be cheerful about it, because in reality it is only then that we know we have truly given thanks to God by giving to others. Let us all offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of God's works with joyful singing.

Wishing every one of my readers a truly joyful Thanksgiving.



Greenfield Hill Grange continues their Drive-In Movie nights at the Grange