



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 64, No. 6

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2024

From the Master's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No.121
president@ctstategrange.org

Once again snow is falling while I write this. I have many people comment on the mildness of this winter both in temperature and paucity of snowfall as if it were a good thing. We may not like dealing with the effects of snow on our lives and routines (I am involuntarily taking a vacation day on account of it due to office closure), however, snow is in fact a good thing and quite necessary for the seasonal cycle of life. It insulates the ground to limit the depth of freezing which might damage plants and their roots. You have heard snow called “poor man’s fertilizer” because it slowly leaches nutrients into the soil during its spring melting. The cold temperatures along with snow help to reduce the population of insect pests like ticks and others that plague plants and us. Like it or not, snow is a necessity and good

The January Virtual Social Hour on the 25th hosted by Terri Fassio was thought provoking as it encouraged us to look into and set goals for the New Year and perhaps use this analysis to change our outlook on things. I would challenge that more of you take advantage of this resource and come join us. Also try attending the Membership

Matters and Communications Webinars by Amanda and Phil of National Grange. Try it/them, and you might just like it! All these folks are spending time preparing these programs to help us all.

We are looking into a Pomona level Social Hour to pull officers of all three Pomona Granges (and interested members) into a round table forum on Zoom twice a year to share ideas across Pomona Granges as to what is working and what is not.

Ag Day at the Capitol will be held on Wednesday, March 20 in the Capitol in Hartford. As you might know, it is an opportunity for farmers and leaders of agriculturally interested organizations to connect

with each other and their legislators. The Connecticut State Grange will be represented by Legislative Chair Noel Miller, CSG Vice President Ted Powell, Agricultural Committee Chair Kristina Donhiee and her daughters/Ag Committee members Chloe and Violet.

On another note, National Grange President Chris Hamp has announced the sale of the National Grange Building in Washington, DC to 1616 H Street NW LLC. The contract was signed January 17 by the Executive Committee and the deal closed February 6. The sale price was \$10.3 million, and there will be \$8.12 million left to invest after all debts are paid off. The 11th floor offices and basement storage will be moved to the first and second floors where they can stay rent free

...Continued on page 2

Be You-Nique



Shelley Cameron
Membership Chair

Ekonk Comm. Grange #89
membership@ctstategrange.org

You walk into a McDonalds and every single one is the same. They all have the same decor, typically the same menu and the same quick service. The beauty of our Grange is that it is anything but the same. Every Grange is unique. Our Grange was founded on the principles of helping their community. It was a place where men and women could come together, raise issues relevant

to their community, and help each other in solving those challenges. Our Granges of today are no different. Ekonk Grange may be known for their dinners, Redding Grange may be known for helping out animals, and Taghannuck Grange may be known for offering a “home” to other organizations.

Whatever it is that fuels your particular Grange, embrace it. It is what makes your Grange You-Nique and it is what sets your Grange apart from all the other organizations in the area.

Don't have a niche?

I encourage you to find a need in the community and help to fulfill that need. By doing so you will make

...Continued on page 2



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due March 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

for six months, after which National Grange must vacate the building. The National Grange Executive Committee must now formulate a plan to move forward and prepare for a new home after the next six months is up.

This week, Maggie and I leave for Myrtle Beach, SC for the Grange Presidents' Conference. The agenda looks interesting and engaging. There is even preparatory homework

for some of the sessions, so I will take a break here to prepare and upon our return from the sunny south I shall report further before this goes to press...

Having now returned from Myrtle Beach, it wasn't as sunny as it might have been though it was a bit warmer. Over three days, we had 13 seminar presentations on teambuilding, parliamentary procedure, planning and goal-setting, and transitioning Grange leaders, to name a few. We also worked on rewriting the National Grange Mission (pertains to the current) and Vision (looking into the

future) Statements. All the while, we were experiencing fellowship with friends from other states. We also got a taste of how President Chris Hamp will lead the National Grange forward. It will be a bit different from the past by utilizing teams and committees to do the work instead of single department directors. Instead of being held in North Carolina as was planned, the 2025 National Convention will be an eight day cruise out of Miami into the Caribbean. Stay tuned for more on changes to be made...

As I finish writing, I just received news from our Chaplain Charles Dimmick that Gordon Gibson, past Legislative Director Emeritus has passed away. Rest in peace, Brother.

Membership: Be *You*-Nique

Continued from page one...

your Grange more marketable in the area. New members will want to come to your doors and fill the Grange Hall because you are providing and supporting a need that is important to them. Our Granges are amazing organizations that have this flexibility. Our Grange can adapt to anything that you need it to be. Whether your community loves sports and needs a sponsor for a sports team or even a place to hold their annual awards banquet. Let your Grange be that place.

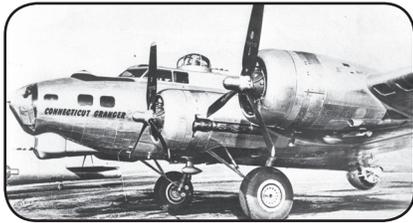
Is your community driven by historical sights? Let your Grange be that place. Does your community need a soup kitchen or shelter for those in need? Let your Grange be that place. The Grange organization is full of ever changing potential, don't let your Grange be stuck in the past and not open your doors to the community.

Our Granges were never intended to be kept small and unwelcoming. They were always meant to be a place of welcome, of gathering, and of helping hands. Let us remember our motto "in essentials unity..." be that Grange that unites the community when it is needed most. "...In non essentials liberty..." sometimes the need that requires fulfilling isn't always about the essential food, water, and shelter. Sometimes that need is friendship, a feeling of belonging or just a place to gather with others, be

that Grange. "...In all things charity" be that Grange that gives to, provides for, or supports the community in any way possible. By being a voice to advocate for the community, and an ear to listen to your communities' and members' needs. Your Grange can find its purpose, its niche, and people will want to join based on the amazing things you are accomplishing.



the Connecticut Granger Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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 3
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

58 Years of Grange friendship

by Shirley Lawson, Past National Grange & RI State Secretary

It all started in November 1964 when John Lawson, Jr. (Jack) of Rumford Grange #52, RI started dating Shirley Manchester of Kickemuit Grange #24, RI. Their first date was to a Grange meeting, and at least 75% of their dates that followed were to Grange meetings and activities, not only in Rhode Island, but in neighboring states as well.

In July 1965, they decided to visit Stonington Grange in Connecticut for their annual summer barbecue and meeting to follow. Well, on the way to that meeting, Jack asked Shirley to “go steady” with him. “Going steady” (a thing of the past) meant that with him giving her his college ring to wear, they were promising not to date anyone else (sort of a pre-engagement). They then decided that because that evening was such a special event in their “love life” they would repeat their visit to Stonington Grange every July in the years to come.

So, they were at Stonington Grange again in July 1966 and again in July 1967 when they announced that they had officially become engaged in the previous December. During the early years of their visits, the members of the Perkins family were the main officers and the backbone of that Grange. Year after year, Jack and Shirley would return to Stonington Grange for their annual summer barbecue, and the members were always glad to see them, renewing friendships and making new Grange friends as well. When they made their visit in 1970, they announced that they had become husband and wife on May 23rd, and they brought many wedding pictures with them to share.

The Lawsons faithfully continued their visits. In 1972, they brought their son, John III, who was born in September 1971, and in 1975, they came with their two children, with the addition of their daughter, Cindy, who was born December 30, 1974. The members of Stonington Grange had become



John (Jack), Cindy, John III and Shirley Lawson of the RI State Grange.

a “second family” to the Lawsons, and they looked forward to their annual visits, sometimes with the children, and sometimes alone, as a special date, when a babysitter was available.

On and on it went in every July. The children were getting older, and school pictures, family activities and Grange events were shared at each visit. Jack would serve as Master of the Rhode Island State Grange in 1990-1994, and Shirley would become Flora and later Secretary of the National Grange. Their two children would get married in 2000 and 2003, and their granddaughter, Samantha, was born in 2008. Unfortunately, the membership of Stonington Grange was dwindling, and the attendance was becoming fewer, however this would change with the local Masonic Lodge buying the Grange building and some of the Masonic brothers and their wives joining the Grange.

The Lawsons’ annual visits continued for 20, 30, 40 years, and with a big celebration for their 50th consecutive visit in July 2014. Two very unique visits bring back special memories: 1) On the evening of one annual barbecue, the neighbor’s cows decided to escape from the field across the street from the Grange hall, strolling into the parking lot and down the Pequot Trail. All the Grangers, including the Lawsons, went outside and helped to round up the escapees. 2) On the occasion of another visit, the grill was not functioning, and it became necessary to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs on the kitchen stove. There was an overabundance of

smoke, setting off the smoke alarm that was connected to the local fire station. The members and guests were all seated at the dining tables eating their delicious hamburgers, hot dogs, and sides, when in bombarded five firemen, clothed in their firefighting uniforms and gear, ready to put out the suspected flames.

In several years, the Lawsons returned to Stonington Grange more than once. Jack, assisted by Shirley and other Grangers from Rhode Island, was honored to install the officers of that Grange several times. When there were any new members or visitors in attendance when the Lawsons visited, Shirley was always asked to tell the story about how the growing relationship between the Lawson family and the Stonington Grangers came about. Jack and Shirley Lawson were even given the honor of becoming honorary members, in response to their loyalty and devotion to Stonington Grange.

In July 2019, Jack and Shirley returned to Stonington for the 55th consecutive visit. Due to the Covid pandemic, the year 2020 brought the cancellation of many events, activities, and meetings, including those of Granges, including Stonington. So, July 2021 brought the Lawsons’ 56th visit, but no longer in consecutive years. On June 20, 2022, Jack Lawson passed away, and thus ended both Lawsons attending the July meetings of Stonington Grange, but Shirley attended in both July of 2022 and 2023, keeping the Lawson/Grange tradition and friendships alive!

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

A few issues ago I wrote about the trials of Artificial Intelligence (AI), where guardrails are needed to protect our youth from dishonest people who use AI for bad things. At the Northeast Leaders Conference in Concord, NH, we had a seminar on this topic. When asked about AI, I stated “it’s bad,” as in my article there are great things that can be done with AI, yet the bad always shows its ugly head. At a Connecticut high school AI was used to enhance photos of girls in a class with nude features and distributed to the school for a rating game. Some of the students involved were 14 years old. This could have been your daughter, sister, granddaughter, friend. This abuse is what needs to be controlled, regulated, guarded, and punished. Our legislators are looking into this. I know Senator Blumenthal is working with Senator Blackburn on a bill that will regulate this type of misuse. Even Taylor Swift has complained about her image being turned into pornography.

The rise in hate events against Jewish people after the horrific attack in Israel resulted in Congressional hearings involving the presidents of Harvard, MIT and the University of Pennsylvania. All three were poorly prepared for the hearings and had a rough time expressing views and policies. The president of the Univ. of Pennsylvania resigned. The president of Harvard eventually resigned due in part to the Congressional hearing and allegations of plagiarism that spanned her academic career.

Since the standard has been set at Harvard, let’s investigate all staff at Harvard for plagiarism. If it’s good for the President then all should be looked at. Boy this would lower the cost to operate. Fair is fair.

The Grange is the only Fraternity, at the time of its founding, to bring women in at the Grange level. Our founders knew that women were an important part of our Grange family. The Grange took on greedy corporations and won in the Supreme Court. Women fought for the right to vote. Many Granges rallied for the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919. During World War II, many Grangers went to fight Germany and Japan, raising war bonds, junk drives and victory gardens to help with the war effort. Grangers helped defeat fascism and suppression from Japan. These are the good things about the Grange. Yet we are coming to that time where good and evil are at the door, and the call will come “Which side will you be on?”

When I was in high school we had to read two books which I think fit the times we are in - “Fahrenheit 451”. This is a story of a future earth where the government controlled everything, the media, your jobs, who you married, where you lived, and the fire department’s main job was to burn books. The government banned books so people hid them. It was the community’s duty to report them and the fire truck would come and remove the books and burn them in the streets. The hero of the book is a fireman who would question the reasoning for the rules and finds an underground group that protects and preserved banned books to educate and teach right from wrong. This government run television ran constant brainwashing programs

which dumbed down the minds. In the end, our hero fireman finds a utopia of learned people and with his stolen books, helps rebuild the world.

The other book was “Animal Farm.” This was about a farmer who died and the animals worked the farm as a commune. The rules were voted on. 1) No animal lives in the house. 2) No animal talks to humans. 3) All work for the group. After the first year, when all but the pigs complained and moved into the farmhouse, when questioned the rules were changed. Rule 1 now said no animals, but pigs can live in the house. The working animals not being so smart figured they read the original sign wrong and labored on, then one day the pigs were talking to humans and making deals without the group knowing. When questioned about rule 2 that too was changed to pigs can talk and trade with humans. Again, the working animals believed the pigs and all was well. One day the plough horse went down, the animals went to the pigs who said a wagon would take the horse to the doctor, as the horse left the farm the animals heard the pigs and humans making a deal to sell the horse for slaughter, the other animals cried for the horse to get out of the wagon but it was too late and he died. The ending was the pigs and the humans were in the house fighting for who was right and the other animals watched from the outside unable to tell which was a pig or which was human.

These are great books and everyone should read them or watch the movies. During these troubling times the answer might become clear. Who are you for, I hope a “good Patron,” I do find comfort in Bruce Nelson’s songs on YouTube. My favorite is “I’ll be silent (Once I’m Dead)” Happy Grange Month in April.

Lecturer News & Notes



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

In mid-February, my family and I journeyed to Slocum Grange in Rhode Island for the annual Rhode Island State Grange Game/Pizza Night event hosted by Rhode Island State Grange Lecturer Valerie Richard and her daughters Desiree and Jasmine. I so appreciated them reaching out to my family and me to attend. Immediate Past Massachusetts State Grange Lecturer Kristin Paulson and her husband also attended. We arrived around 4:00 PM (a 2-hour drive for us) not really knowing what to expect. (We told our kids NO ELECTRONICS for 4 hours!) Grangers from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut came streaming into the historic Slocum Grange Hall, many bringing board games and appetizers. Rhode Island State Grange Master Walter Hartley and his family were there too. For the next two hours or so, attendees moved around the room to socialize and play various board games, enjoy refreshments, and socialize with other Grange members and guests. I learned to play a new game called Sequence. One member brought “traffic jam” dip and crackers and it was unbelievably good. Two Grangers showed me plates and cups that they are decorating for the Big E Grange Building. I was shocked that the basement of the hall and the parking lot was so full. About 6:00 PM, pizzas arrived from Kingston Pizza and they were just awesome. I had a “fully loaded potato” slice of pizza, and one of my kids had a piece of meatloaf pizza. My family and many others donated desserts. Desiree Richard made “cookie salad” which was to die for. This gathering was fun and I



**Rhode Island State Grange Game/
Pizza Night at Slocum Grange (RI)**

thought how awesome to try a social event like this with Connecticut State Grange. So please let me know if you might be interested in gathering for a few hours at one of our Grange halls for some fun, fellowship and food donated by my Department. As our new National President Chris Hamp says: “don’t forget to make granging a fun experience for both your new and not-so-new members.”

Our NINTH virtual Lecturers Roundup was held on Sunday, February 18th, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. At this event, we featured an exciting new initiative launched at the 2023 National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, called “Reaching Rural Surgical Seniors” or “RRSS” for short. Each community and Pomona Grange Master/President should have received a mailing from National Grange on the details of this initiative. This program is funded through a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) federal engagement grant awarded to the National Grange. Joan C. Smith, from Potomac Grange #1, serves as the RRSS Program Manager. At the invitation of National Grange, I am serving as the Northeast Region POC for this RRSS initiative for the next two years. For any Community Grange who participates in providing valuable information to your Grange friends and your community, you can earn a \$100 incentive payment just by

supporting this initiative. All you have to do is report in May and October of 2024 the total number of people you influenced. If you need more information, just ask me.

Speaking of incentive payments, both Granby Grange and Riverton Grange each just earned \$100 for hosting informational events to spread the word on the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) under another initiative supported by National Grange. Granby Grange succeeded in placing a complimentary smart phone with three eligible individuals; and Riverton Grange succeeded in placing a complimentary smart phone with two eligible individuals. Riverton Grange hosted a session at the Barkhamsted Senior Center and Granby Grange helped host sessions at Waste Not Want Not and Stony Hill Village. This program is funded by the federal government to provide a smart phone and phone service to those on Medicaid or food stamps. All that Granges are asked to do is spread the word; and who better to help educate and spread this message than Community and Pomona Lecturers. Or you can have a Lecturer’s program on one of these topics.

Some of my home Grange members have joined me on the “Pancake Circuit” supporting other community Granges. Seven members of Riverton Grange journeyed to Hillstown Grange for their January pancake breakfast and their February 1st Free Seed Event. Six members of Riverton Grange journeyed to Wallingford Grange for their February pancake breakfast. It is great when Granges support each other events (particularly their fundraisers) and it is so much fun to see members from other Granges and to meet new folks too.

In closing, please let me know if you need any help for your Grange or a speaker, as I enjoy visiting other Granges as your State Grange Lecturer. Also, if you would like help on performing a community needs assessment, I would be glad to help.

Oxford Fundraiser



The Art Club of Oxford will be holding a Grange Fundraiser on April 4th, 10am & 6pm. Draw your own gnome on a canvas tote. Deb will guide you through this easy method of drawing. RSVP insures you get a tote bag. Instant message Oxford Grange on Facebook to RSVP <https://www.facebook.com/OxfordGrangeCT/> Door and Raffle Prizes too!

Paint Party

At Norfield Grange

Join your friends as we show you how to paint a welcome board while you enjoy terrific appetizers & delicious drinks.

All Supplies, Food & Drinks Included

\$35 per person

Monday, March 11th
7 pm to 9 pm

Pre-register with Venmo @LynKimberly

With guided instruction by Agata Tria

Strengthening individuals, families and communities through service, education, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness.

- National Grange Mission Statement
Adopted February 2024

GRANGE /grānj/
n. National fraternal organization serving as the voice for agricultural producers and consumers and elevating rural interests since 1867
n. Local chapter of the organization whose members sponsor social activities, perform community service and educate others about



What is email spoofing?

It has come to our attention that Connecticut State Grange Officer email addresses have recently been spoofed, and we wish to make our members and recipients aware of this. We recently have been made aware that some of these type of unexpected spam messages have been sent to Grangers as if they were from CT State Grange President Robert Buck. The messages are FAKE, they are a scam - and they did not come from his email address (they just used his name in the sender field).

Rob's email account HAS NOT BEEN HACKED, and these messages do not come from the CT State Grange mail servers.

What is email spoofing?

Email spoofing is a form of impersonation. It is the creation of email messages with a forged sender ad-

dress. It is incredibly simple to modify the sender of an email, and anyone can do it without special tools, knowledge or training. This allows individuals or organizations to be impersonated.

Because the recipient of these spoofed emails trusts the alleged sender, they are more likely to open the email and interact with its contents, such as a malicious link or attachment. Spoofing is a means for making certain types of attacks — such as phishing — more believable or effective.

Spoofing is considered an increasingly common form of cybercrime where it is difficult to track down the source of the spoofed message.

What do I do if I receive a spoofed email?

First, verify the identity and

email address of the sender. Also, look for poor grammar, misspellings, and unnatural text in the body of the message. Next, avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown or untrusted sources. Unusual requests or urgent demands indicate the presence of a spoofed email. Lastly - delete the spoofed message, and be sure to empty your trash.

What to do if your email has been spoofed?

There's not much you can do if someone has spoofed your email to send spam. Luckily, your real account is safe - just don't forget to change your password once in a while to prevent real hacking.

So, the next time an email seems suspicious, think twice before crafting a reply. Call the person directly if you think it may be a real message, just to confirm. Stay safe, stay informed, and protect yourself.

Need more information? Contact Public Relations Co-Director Terri Fassio (information@ctstategrange.org).



GRANBY GRANGE #5

RUBBER DUCK RACE

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024

12 NOON - 3 PM (RACE STARTS AT 1:15 PM)
PROCEEDS BENEFIT PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC GRANBY GRANGE HALL



1 DUCK = \$5
5 DUCKS = \$20

OVER ONE DOZEN PRIZES
TOTALING OVER \$1,200
IN VALUE FOR FIRST
DUCKS TO CROSS THE
FINISH LINE

SALMON BROOK PARK
PAVILION 2
215 SALMON BROOK ST.
GRANBY, CT

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO GRANBYGRANGE.ORG
(DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL)

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road -- Fairfield, CT

good Friday

March 29, 2024





Eat IN
Or
Take OUT

6 PM
doors open at 5:30 PM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Please order by
March 21, 2024
Jim 203.259.8023
Steve 203.367.4373

Donation \$24.00

(Sorry about the price increase, just keeping up with cost increases)



www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol Hnath

At our March meeting, we discussed holding an activity such as a cruise to the lighthouses or to the Essex Steam Train and Cruise. As details are available and finalized they will be reported and shared.

We have discussed trying to find a way to involve the other Pomonas in an activity with us- if the other Pomonas have any ideas or suggestions, please share them with our President, Jaimie Cameron, or our Secretary Carol Hnath.

The Fifth Degree will be coming up soon- May 4th at Killingly Grange Hall. We are hoping to have some candidates for this year's conferral. Let the Secretary or president know if you are anticipating having members join at that time.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

March 7: Wearing of the Green 7:30 p.m. Ref. Priscilla Schmartz and Ann Posuniak

March 21: 7:00 p.m. Social Evening, Free Seed Packet give away. Public invited.

Glastonbury Grange is very happy to report that we have a new member. At our February 1st meeting the Obligation Ceremony welcomed our new member, Phillip Crump. Hopefully in the next 6 months we will be able to bring in 2 or 4 more new members.

March 21st will be our 4th Social Event, where the public is invited. We will hold a class on how to start a garden. Teach how to prepare your seed packets for planting them in your garden. Beverly and Andy Bell have been able to secure the seed packets for us to be able to pass out the vegetable and flowers seeds. They will be heading up the class. After all the cold, rain and snow in January I am ready to think about March and the warmer days when you are thinking about working out in a garden.

From our degree work, "the buried seed wakes to life in darkness, and then sends up its germ, seeking Heaven's sunlight". I miss hearing the lessons of the four degrees.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

March 27: Meeting -Garden Preparation and Planning

March 28: Chicken Pot Pies Sale

Another busy winter for us. We made Valentines for the community. These were lollipops with special messages attached. These were designed by each member and distributed by our members and also distributed to the Community Kitchen. We were glad to welcome Noel Miller from Eastern CT Pomona and Ted Powell State Overseer. They brought us a new Charter as our original was misplaced. It was to be framed and displayed. Christmas fundraising pie sale was well received. Nice to have the community stop in to pick up their orders. Amy presented a listing of many community events that are offered in Woodstock. Our website is up and running. Great for others to see what is happening at our Grange and other organizations in our area. The pollinator garden that was planted this fall will be an asset to the environment. We often discuss what else we can do to improve the community.

The yoga group is using the hall

as well as the corn hole group. We welcome others to use the hall as it has a beautiful wood floor and full stage. Line dancing is very popular here. Scholarship applications for local students will be available this spring. These are presented annually. Hope to see visitors anytime.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Jodi Ann Cameron

We have continued to support many families in our town with food donations bi-weekly or monthly. This has become a continuous project for the last few years. It's that time of year when our dinners start up, and we have a large following that requests the supper dates list just after the start of the new year. We have a hard working kitchen crew under the direction of Verna Cole & Betsy Molodich.

In December we had 5 members receiving years of service awards. Betsy Chamberland 45 years & Doris Desjardins 75 years were presented their awards in person by Jaimie Cameron, President. Also receiving awards were Amos Cornell, 50 years; Bruce Lindberg, 65 years; & Ruth Rosebrooks, 80 years.

We are starting to plan some member & families outings. Ideas that have been presented were Baseball game, Zoo, Lighthouse tour cruise. Hopefully we can come up with a couple of dates to fit at least one of these activities.

This year has gotten off to a rocky start with weather issues and members being ill and not making it to meetings but we are looking to better days. We are also saddened by the loss of our Grange member Rick Hermonot whom passed unexpectedly on Feb. 23, 2024. Our sympathy to his family and all that knew him. Rick was an asset to the Grange and will be sadly missed.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

In January with heavy hearts, we draped our charter in memory of one of our oldest member Gertrude Blain. Gert was a member of our Grange for

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.

35 years. She arranged the monthly booking of Nick Anderson and the Shady Creek blue grass concerts. Her warm hugs and beautiful smile will be truly missed.

Here at Killingly Grange will have been very busy with a variety of events. On Saturday 2/10 we hosted a country music show featuring Ken Atkins and Honky Tonk Kind band, and on 2/27 there will be a bluegrass concert featuring Nick Anderson and the Shady Creek (we host a blue grass concert the fourth Saturday of every month.) On March 2 we have square dancing starting at 7 pm (we host square dancing the first Saturday evening of the month) On Saturday March 9th Ken Atkins and the Honky Tonk band will be returning with a show here at our Grange. March 21 we are looking forward to hosting a play for a local home school group. March 24 we will be having a beginner's sewing group (details to follow)

We are also in the process of planning our annual Lenton fish dinners. Please join us for any of our events.

PS, We have a shallow jet pump for sale if interested please call Dave at 860-774-0321.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 8: Ritual Program

March 22: Lecturer's Program State Contest

Our Santa Claus for many years has now joined the Great Grange Above and his beautiful tenor voice has joined their choir. Thurlow Coats was our Master in the '70s and during his active years in the Grange he acted in plays, sang solos and in duets, trios and quartets. Borrowing from the words of a young man who had never walked, said at the funeral of his younger brother who had suffered all 13 years of his life from the same disease; "I don't know why everyone is crying, David is running around in Heaven now!" God speed, Thurlow.

At our January 12 meeting we

learned all about the French and Indian War. It surprised us to know that "Yankee Doodle" was originally written for this war with what we know as the "first" verse (where Yankee Doodle rides his pony) written years later. And if the birds will just stop eating those invasive bittersweet berries and spreading the seeds all around the countryside next time we will tell you all about fabulous February.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

April 5: Membership Committee Invited

May 3: Coventry comes with the program. Ref. Claudia & Dawn

Zoom meetings are at best a meeting. I'm not a fan but it's a way to stay connected. In February we learned all about bluebirds. How

people have regarded them over the centuries, what their habitats are like, how they have become so rare when natural forests are cut down, how many people, mostly farmers, build nests for them in their fields because they are a great source of insect control, and just in general one of the prettiest birds to see. I think the most popular idea is that the bluebird is the symbol of happiness.

Our next meeting is still a Zoom meeting which will be presented by Dawn on Family Activities.

Our condolences are extended to the family and friends of Gordon Gibson on his passing in February.

We love to have visitors, contact Nancy for the zoom information. Reminder, Easter is early this year on March 31. Happy egg hunting. .

Item suggestions for Big E

As Craft Manager at the New England Grange Building, once again I can't thank you all enough for your generosity. We had another great year. I would like to tell you how things went this year as far as the items that your members so generously donated

We had many requests for larger afghans and you all stepped up. We sold all of the larger sized afghans, so that is still on the list for next year. Dishcloths for washing dishes. We are still asking for them to be all the same size. We would again like to suggest that if you are making them, the size should be approximately 8 X 8 so that we can eventually get it down to one price. The larger ones just are not selling as well.

Once again, stuffed animals were a tremendous hit this year. We had so much more donated and unbelievably they all went in the first week. So, we ask that you keep on making them. We have slowly been raising our pricing for the great quality of the work. That is why we are making much more in the craft side of the store than ever.

Baby mittens (without thumbs) and Baby Sets are still in demand, we believe that these are the staples of our baby section. Other items needed are chef hats, large shawls, scrubbies made out of the rough netting, mittens, fingerless gloves, sets of place mats, potato sacks, grain bags.

The quilted bowl cozy (for warming bowls in the microwave) were a big hit and hopefully we will get more in of those. The kitchen towels went well, we would like to have you not cut the towels in half if they are a thin material. People wanted the double ones and we are raising our prices on them to be competitive we the rest of the fair who are selling them. So a better quality is a plus for doing so.

Aprons and clothespin bags are needed as well as cotton grocery bags and Plastic bags made from Grain and bird food wrappers. We also did not have enough plastic canvas tissue box holders. The few we had flew off the tables. Our Christmas section is always a big seller. So maybe have a craft night to make some for our store would be great.~ Dawn R. Percoski



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

As of this writing, the March Pomona meeting is a day away. Looking forward, the next meeting will be on May 4th. This will be a special meeting for the purpose of conferring the Fifth Degree. All Granges are encouraged to talk up the Fifth Degree with their members and see if they can come to the meeting on May 4 at Winchester Grange (2 PM).

GRANBY GRANGE #45

Corr: David Roberts

Phase one of our historic Granby Grange Hall renovation project is almost completed thanks to a generous donation from the Pomeroy-Brace Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Funds were used to construct a new handicapped porch, ramp, and entrance to the Grange Hall and a new unisex bathroom on the main floor. Our contractor was Wutka Home Improvements who did an awesome job. In the spring, new vegetation will be planted around this new enhancement thanks to Lisa and Todd Vibert. In addition to the Pomeroy-Brace funding, this project was partially funded by Carol Innes in loving memory of her mother Lila Innes, the Dave Roberts & Walter Oliver Living Trust, and the Connecticut State Grange Foundation.

Our next big fundraiser is our 2nd Annual Rubber Duck Race which will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 12 to 3 P.M. at Salmon Brook Park, 215 Salmon Brook Street, Pavilion 2, in

Granby. Over \$1,200 in prizes will be offered to the first ducks that cross the finish line. Proceeds will be used to fund preservation of our Grange hall. For tickets, please contact Dave Roberts at Granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or call 860-469-5067. Tickets are \$5 to sponsor one rubber duck or \$20 to sponsor FIVE rubber ducks! Good luck!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 12: Green, Ref. by All Members.

March 26: CWA Program, Ref. by Pam Wright

Apr. 9: Solar Eclipse, Ref. Randy & Kim Carlson

Apr. 23: Not Too Much Rain- Please, Ref. by Sandy & Earl with Country Store

In late February, Winchester Grange said farewell to 99+ year old member Charlie Cooper. Charlie came to Winchester many years ago after the closure of Tarringford Grange. He was both a purveyor and consumer of good clean jokes. His service highlighted many of them including a 30 year old recording of Charlie playing piano and telling some of those famous jokes. He, of course, served in many different Grange offices during his Grange years. In recent years he was Gatekeeper. His hearing wasn't always the best and when a member would tell a joke or say something funny, there would be a 10 second (or so) delay and then you would hear Charlie's chuckle from the hallway or the Gatekeeper's chair.

For many years Charlie volunteered to take care of the trash at the Grange Hall and Winchester Center Congregational Church. His family will tell you there were many days he came home with more than he took down to the dump.

Often funerals for people over the age of 80 and 90 are less well attended simply because friends and family have passed on themselves. Such was not the case with Charlie. It was a true testament to the love and affection the Winchester community has for Charlie and Fran

when the church filled to capacity with friends and family of all ages for Charlie's send-off. Charlie, there will never be another like you and you will be greatly missed by all of us.

Winchester Grange was also saddened to hear of the passing of Lonnie (Zeke) Zelenkewich. Lonnie was a member of Winchester Grange, serving as Gatekeeper in the early 90s and then dropped his membership due to time constraints. This didn't mean he stopped helping the Grange. Lonnie owned his own plumbing company, Zeke's Plumbing, and was always there when new fixtures needed to be installed in the bathroom, the kitchen needed a new pump or the faucet in the ladies room wouldn't stop dripping.

Lonnie also had a great sense of humor often giving friends and family members funny nicknames which the family called "Lon-isms."

Our condolences and best wishes go out to Lonnie's wife Deborah and her entire family. We understand she will be moving to Tennessee to be closer to family.

Our next meeting will be on March 12 with a program entitled, "Green". Refreshments will be provided by all members. We will be visited by State Overseer Ted Powell who will conduct our annual Inspection.

The final touches are being put on our lease with the Trinity Reformed Church for use of our hall each Sunday for the rest of this year. So far the arrangement has worked out very well and the Grange is happy to have this additional income to offset the operational expenses of our building.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

March 14: In Like a Lion by Barbara Prindle & Family Activities/CWA. Ref: Bill Beeman

April 11: Spring Cleaning in and out by Building Committee. Ref: Jill Drew

May 4: Square & Contra Dance by Dance Committee 7PM-9PM

Suggested donations: \$5 child, \$10 adult, \$20 Family Ref: ALL

Continued next page...

May 9: Beltane by Debra Tyler Ref: Chris Hopkins

NOTE: Refreshments & Social time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

We were surprised and delighted when CT State Grange Master, Robert Buck walked into our Hall at 7PM for our February Social Time. As seems to be our custom, at 7:30 we asked if he could fill in at a Station, which he did as Assistant Steward. He did a great job in that position since one of the things on the agenda was giving out the "annual word" for the year. It is always fun to have visitors and he added much to our discussions and to our program which was All About Love.

Our February Dance was a big success with many new people coming into our Grange Hall. We had dancers from age, I am guessing here, 4 through 80+. Five new people signed up to be put on the Dance email list and three of those also want to be on our Events email list. It was great to see our Hall filled with happy, smiling people and allowed our members to talk about Grange with some of them. Yes, we are always looking for members.

At our February meeting we gave donations to the CT Scholarship Fund, CT State Grange Foundation, CT Granger Trust Fund and Meals on Wheels.

Come dance with us on Saturday May 4th and see what it is all about.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Another fun meeting at Grange on Sunday afternoon, the day of the Super Bowl. We had visitors, Ted Powell our State Overseer and Stephanie. Ted assisted with the presentation of the 25 Year Silver Star to Carol Womelsdorf.

Fred Fairchild conducted the lecturer's program entitled "Teddy Bear". He also included a Valentine message and a card game with his woodworking crafts as prizes.

We draped our Charter in memory of Evelyn Seymour, a Golden Sheaf member.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Mar. 10: Makers Sunday, 1-4

Mar. 12: Improving Your Memory-complimentary workshop at the Barkhamsted Sr. Ctr., 109 West Rd., beg. at 12:30.

Mar. 18: National Grange Virtual Leg. Fly-In (sign-up on National Grange website).

Mar. 20: Ag Day at Capitol, 10-1

Mar. 24: Makers/Marketing Sunday, 1-4 P.M.

Riverton Grange members have been very busy with a number of both fun and impactful activities. We are expanding our new initiative called "Maker Sunday" proposed by Sister Dawn Anstett to twice per month. On the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, members and guests will meet at the Grange to work on making handmade items. All are welcome to attend.

On Feb. 10, six members of Riverton Grange journeyed to Wallingford Grange for their awesome pancake breakfast and to celebrate Jackie Martin's birthday. A fun time was had by all and it is great to see Grangers supporting Grangers.

Our March Veteran of the month program was held on March 3 at the

Sr. Center.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Hooray! We are excited to announce that due to an increase in membership over the last two years, we are now an honor grange! We are also working hard to increase our presence in the town of Simsbury.

Our 2nd Annual Seed Swap and Lego Build at the end of February was a HUGE success. We had many community members stop by to say hello and gather seeds for future gardens. Can't wait to see some of their efforts displayed on Saturday, June 8th at our annual agricultural fair! Also, our Lego Build was more popular this year with several young people completing their 12" x 12" creation and planning to enter it in our June fair.

Be sure and head over to the grange on Friday, April 12th for our Line Dance event from 7:00-8:30pm. Local line dance instructor, Mary Root, will treat us all to a fun-filled 90 minutes. Our social hour will begin at 6:00pm with FREE chili and corn bread. Yes! You read that right - FREE chili and cornbread! Come join us at the Simsbury Grange!

Consider having a craft night



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstategrange.org

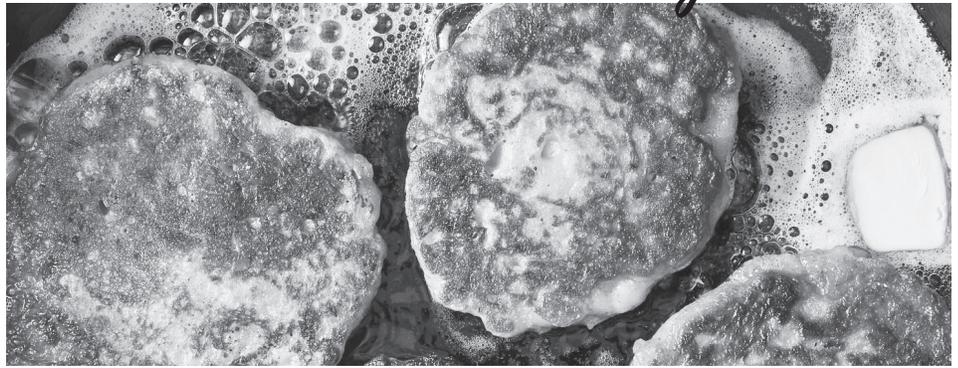
We just had our FAC zoom meeting and it was well attended. Thank you all for making it a success. We had some fun facts about snowmen and some funny jokes! As mentioned in our meeting, when your subordinate reports for Family Activities are

completed, please make a copy to send to your Pomona FA Chairman as well as the State Director. If you don't know who that is, just email me and I can let you know. Each Pomona is responsible to look for judges for our Family Festival in August. Details are still being worked out for the dates and I will update you all once they are confirmed. If you would like to volunteer or know someone interested, please let us know. We need judges for the needlework but also for the baking contest, tea cup and crafts too.

Just a note regarding the Pomona Handbooks and the State Directory: When possible, under the FAC category, it would be great if you can have the state secretary and your Pomona secretary add the address, email or phone number of the chairman. That way I know who to contact and send out our packets to. There are a lot who do provide that information already and I thank you for those.



Hank's Irish Boxty



Can't decide between a crispy latke and a pile of creamy mashed potatoes? Make boxty. Crunchy on the outside, soft and fluffy in the center, these Irish potato pancakes give you the best of both iconic potato dishes in a single bite. It's easy to make boxty that are just okay, but there are a few important tips to keep in mind if you want yours to be exceptional. Follow these hints and you'll be cranking out crispy-edged potato pancakes with fluffy centers in no time.

What is boxty?

Boxty originated in Ireland in the 1700s. Made with a mix of cooked mashed potato, raw shredded potato, flour, and buttermilk, it was created in an economical effort to stretch the potato harvest, which the Irish depended on for sustenance throughout the year. Although it's not quite the mealtime staple it used to be, boxty is still a favorite in Ireland today.

TIPS: Use pure mashed potatoes. Don't use leftover potatoes that contain butter and cream. Wait to grate- do not grate potatoes in advance as they will turn color before you use them. Don't overmix the batter. Manage the heat by making sure they cook 3 to 4 minutes per side. If they turn too dark before that time, turn down your heat.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 Lg. floury potatoes (about 1 lb.), such as russet or Idaho
- 2 tsp. kosher salt, divided
- 1 c. (120 g.) all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. fresh ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup (180 ml.) buttermilk
- 6 tsp. unsalted butter, divided
- 6 tsp. vegetable oil, divided

sliced scallions and sour cream, for serving.

STEP 1

Peel 1 potato and cut into 1" cubes. Transfer to a small pot and cover with cold water; season with 1 teaspoon salt. Bring to a boil over high heat, then reduce heat to medium and simmer until potatoes are tender, 10 to 12 minutes. Drain. While still warm, pass through a sieve, ricer or food mill. Let cool completely, 30 to 60 minutes.

STEP 2

Meanwhile, peel remaining 1 potato and grate on the large holes of a box grater. Wrap in a kitchen towel and, over the sink or a large bowl, wring out as much moisture as possible. Discard liquid.

STEP 3

In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda, black pepper, and

remaining 1 teaspoon salt. Add mashed and grated potatoes and stir until combined, then stir in buttermilk, 1/4 cup at a time, until a thick batter forms.

STEP 4

In a large, heavy skillet over medium-high heat, heat 2 teaspoons butter and 2 teaspoons oil until butter melts and begins to foam. Using a 1/4 cup measuring cup, drop 4 rounds of batter into pan. Cook until crisp on the bottom, 3 to 4 minutes, then flip and continue to cook until cooked through, 2 to 3 minutes. more. Transfer to a wire rack. Repeat with remaining butter, oil, and batter.

STEP 5

Divide boxties among plates. Top with scallions. Serve with sour cream alongside.

SOURCE: delish.com



Bridgewater Grange No. 153 members Carol Hagstrom Wilbur, Aaron Jacques and Charles Perry having fun serving the community this month at Loaves and Fishes Food Bank in New Milford.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Nutmeg Pomona will be held on St. Patrick's Day- March 17 at Cheshire Grange. The noise you will hear will not be Clancy lowering the boom but Master Danny O'Lanoue rapping the gavel promptly at 2:00 signaling the start of the meeting.

Special orders of business will be the conferral of the Fifth Degree and the Election of a Steward.

All eyes will be smiling if you are lucky enough to win something on the Country Store. Family Activities Chairlady Jane Miller would appreciate donations.

Our sympathies to Ceres Janet Haller and family on the passing of her sister Ruth Hewston. Both are members of Cheshire Grange.

As my favorite Irish song begins "Sure a little bit of Heaven fell from out the sky one day" let's hope what's coming from the Heavens will be a nice sunny day.

Following the meeting, refreshments will be served by the lads and lassies from Greenfield Hill and Wallingford Granges.

This Irish lass plans to be present, will you?

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Mar. 6: What National Day is March 6th?

Mar. 20: Youth Night

For some reason our February news found it's way in with the Granges in Eastern Ct. Pomona. We are looking at a busy Spring with annual dinners for two long standing hiking clubs as well as hosting an

April 20th luncheon for the State Grange's Leadership Academy who will have their session all day at Cheshire Grange. We will setting up a fair meeting for this year's fair in early March. We have been contacted by the Ball and Socket Arts Group in town to make our hall available for a project in March for a community painting of Cheshire locations. Our members will be able to participate as well as the public. We are learning of all the project details as I write this. We feel this event will give us more visibility in the Cheshire Community. Lastly we are considering suggestions for our 2024 Cheshire Grange Community Citizen Award which will be our first meeting in April along with our Awards Night.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Aili McKeen

March 14: 6:30 pm: Regular meeting, program by Lyman Hall FFA

March 16: 8:30-11 am: Pancake Breakfast with choice of corned beef hash or sausage \$6.

March 16: 11:30 am: Easter Egg Hunt for children 3-5

April 7: 4- 6 pm: High Tea & Paint event

March through April: Clothing Drive!

First and Third Mondays: Quilts of Valor work group, open to all

February 10th was our very first Pancake Breakfast as a revitalized Grange, and it was successful beyond expectations. Thank you to all the Grangers, near and far, who came out in support. We plan to do this alternating with meatball lunches – two months breakfast, one month lunch.

For our January lecturer's program, Aili McKeen, a volunteer conservation/hunter safety educator with CT DEEP, presented on The North American Model for Wildlife Conservation and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. She included the program's history, scientific basis, and interesting insights with visuals.

Our February meeting program was putting together Birthday Cake kits for the local food pantry. Each

kit contained everything needed to make a cake, including a foil pan and package of candles. 22 kits were delivered to Master's Manna.

In January we began a Quilt of Valor group with the intention of meeting monthly, then decided to increase that to twice a month, and now the talk is making it an open craft night so that more people will be encouraged to come out to socialize. We're almost done with our first quilt top too! QofV can accept donations of money or materials for this worthy cause.

There's a full calendar with the next events being a Pancake Breakfast on Mar. 16, an Easter Egg hunt that immediately follows. April 7 is a High Tea Painting Party, which is like a paint & sip only "dry," so tea instead of wine. A facilitator guides participants in painting a floral still life – one does not need any particular talent to bring home a nice painting suitable for display. Later in April we will have a meatball lunch and a youth seed day. Also, we are working with a Girl Scout who wishes to make a pollinator pathway garden at our Hall.

Our Lecturer Kathy Bergonzi came up with a game we're playing called "Counting Granges." Members take a selfie with a sign printed with our logo and the year, in front of other Grange Halls. You may see us doing this at your hall, be assured it's nothing nefarious.

The Fair committee has begun planning for the Wallingford Grange Fair to be held Sept. 14. Mark your calendars & start those projects to enter!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our January meeting and tag sale was canceled due to the frigid weather. As I write this our February meeting is five days away and the weatherman is calling for snow. Let's hope he is wrong. We have some plans we are making for a fundraiser and our 135th Anniversary Celebration.

We will be back in our meeting hall on March 8th. Marie Sousa is in charge of the program entitled

“Pineapple.” Refreshments will be grilled cheese sandwiches. Always one of our favorites.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

It was a “Souper” night at the Greenfield Hill Grange on Feb 17 at the Soup Supper. Grange members made homemade soup and others volunteered to help make grilled cheese. Some of the delicious home made soups were : French Onion, Vegetable, Chicken Soup, Beef Barley, Cream of Broccoli, Hungarian Mushroom, Cheesy Creamy Ham and Potato, & Chicken Orzo.

The evening included Brown Bag Bingo and everyone had a blast!

We are planning a Chili Cook Off for April 20. Advanced reservations required. Call Jim : 203-259-8023. On May 18 a luncheon will be held from 12-2. The topic-- Getting to know your backyard pollinators!!! Bees-wasps-hornets/ Friends not Foes. Tammi Worsham from the Weston Backyard Beekeepers Association will be the guest speaker. Donation \$20 - prepaid - reservations a must by May 12. Choice of Chicken, Egg or Tuna Salad with Caesar Salad. Please call Jim. 203-259-8023.

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Good Friday Fish Fry will be held on March 29, 2024. Batter dipped fish or batter dipped shrimp, cole slaw, french fries. Eat in or Take out! Reservations a MUST. Call Jim 203.259.8023. Our annual Agricultural Fair will be held on August 24, 2024.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Steve Porter

Mar. 7: Go Green + Scholarship Launch + Monthly Meeting

Mar. 11: Paint, Sip & Pizza with a NEW Twist on Wooden Boards!

Apr. 4: Celebrate Grange Month + Monthly Meeting

May 2: Scholarship Finalist Interviews + Monthly Meeting

June 6: BBQ Celebration with Scholarship Presentation + Fair Planning Launch + Monthly Meeting

It’s been a busy fall-winter season at the Norfield Grange. In October a town trio of friends hosted a

Halloween Masquerade Party with a generous donation from the net proceeds being matched by a UBS Grant processed through the CT State Grange Foundation of \$1,276 earmarked for our scholarship fund enabling us to award 3 full scholarships of \$500/student in June, 2024. For the 12th Annual Kiwanis 1/2 Marathon the Grange hosted a Water Station in the pouring rain and under a pop up tent refreshments of hot chocolate, coffee & donuts were provided to keep the Grangers somewhat dry, warm and as a thank you for their community service. At our November 2nd meeting we welcomed another new member Jerome Myers (14) - son of Christina Seeber & Nicholas Nosel, Norfield Grange members.

At the end of the month we hosted our Annual Wreath Decorating Event. In December our holiday meeting featured a collection for our local food pantry. In the new year we kicked off our fundraising efforts pivoting to host monthly “live music” events with a local band “Good Godfrey!” and splitting the door proceeds between the Grange and the Band. January’s event was a hit and the next event is scheduled for March 1st at 7 pm. Our February meeting was a field trip to The Yard House located at The SoNo

Collection (the new mall) located in nearby Norwalk.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Apr. 4: Meeting

May 1: Meeting

We held our February meeting in a nice warm hall. The new furnace has been installed by two of our members, David Roberge and Steven Evankow. Many thanks go to a dealer who sold us the furnace at wholesale prices.

The food and plant sale was discussed at great length. The date was set for May 11 (day before Mother’s Day).

Also, thanks go to the Connecticut State Grange for a grant to help pay for a water pump and furnace.

The tag sale is up in the air due to the cost of insurance. It is outrageous. Hope everyone stays well and happy.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 8: Four Leaf Clover

Mar. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Apr. 12: Egg Hunt

Apr. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

NORTHEAST GRANGE YOUTH CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATES
JULY 19-20, 2024

MORE INFO COMING SOON




CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE 

A Special Zoom
on the
Connecticut State Grange
History Book Project

Thursday, March 28th
7:00 PM

Join us for a discussion on the history of the Connecticut State Grange and learn the details on progress of the History Book Project. Stop by and say Hello!



Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Credentials and More Information

Paint & Tea Party

Music by **BobbyLoo - Acoustic Duo** 

SUNDAY
APR 7TH
4 - 6pm

\$40

\$10 per ticket to support cause

Raffle Drawing

Wallingford Grange
586 Center St, Wallingford

Instructor, Kellyn Trapp
pay.kellyntrapp.com/wallingfordgrange




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 uncover 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.



This Month

Last Month

January

JANUARY: We heard from Cynthia Spósito from Coventry Grange #75 - "The man with his back to the camera looks like Alfred C Beckwith. The lady with glasses and light colored clothing is Gretchen Beckwith Alfred's wife." We also heard from Alma Graham who identified Al and Gretchen Beckwith.

FEBRUARY: Rob Buck identified this as a meeting of Metichewan Grange with Phil Prelli making the presentation. Asst. Steward is Fred Camp. LAS is Robin Stack. Forrest Smith may be to the left of the altar.

God Calls Us



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“For God alone my soul in silence waits; truly my hope is in him.”

I’ve come to believe that for each of us there are things that God wants us to do, or wants us NOT to do, but that most of us are so busy with our lives that we never hear the requests. This is, in many ways, the kind of problem that parents often have with their kids. The automatic “OK Mommy”, when in reality the command or instruction never went into the child’s brain. Or consider the communication problem some wives have when their husband is sitting on the couch, absorbed in a championship football game.

There are several reasons why we don’t hear God speaking; perhaps the first reason is that we expect that God will speak to us in one of those resounding Basso Profundo voices, enough to make the windows rattle, and therefore are totally misled as to how we really hear God’s voice. His voice is NOT conveyed through the ears, and so we are doing the wrong sort of listening. [I will admit that there are some people who have heard God’s voice as though a person were speaking to them, but for the vast majority the voice of God comes through the action of the Holy



Spirit, conveying the message God wants to deliver. The apostle Paul explains this very well in First Corinthians:

However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The second most common problem, as described in the first paragraph of this article, is distraction.

The third problem is that most of us don’t expect God to be talking to us. After all “I’m not worthy for God to speak to me”, and therefore don’t bother listening. Remember, God’s call to us is not restricted to “Holy People”, but is directed towards all His children.

Next comes stubbornness and disobedience. God calls, and in our stubbornness, selfishness, and pigheadedness we refuse to listen. And finally there is disbelief. God calls and we refuse to believe that

God is talking to us. We feel that it is impossible that God would speak to us, and therefore there cannot be any message delivered to us.

In Memoriam

C. Thurlow Coats, Jr., G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138

Charles B. Cooper, G.S.
Winchester Grange #74

Richard Hermonot
Ekonk Community Grange #89

Mary Medbery, G.S.
Preston City Grange #110

Dorothy Czikowsky, G.S.
Lyme Grange #147

Gordon F. Gibson, G.S.
Vernon Grange #52

Ruth Hewston
Cheshire Grange #23

Evelyn Seymour, G.S.
Bethlehem Grange #121

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”