



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2025

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstateGrange.org

On December 10 and January 14, I attended the last two meetings of Preston City Grange #110. With sadness I accepted their charter as the members voted to close the Grange organized in 1889 and re-organized in 1905. I thanked those present for all their dedication and work over the years under President Joe LoPresti and hope that those who are so inclined will move on to join North Stonington Grange and remain active. It brought back sad memories of when we had to surrender the charter of Washington Grange #11 as we merged into Bethlehem #121.

I would like to share the resolution index from the 158th National Grange Convention along with Session Committee Policy Statements. The Journal of Proceedings is available on the National Grange website for anyone interested.

The new National Grange signature program you will be hearing a lot about is called Project Sustenance. It has three legs: food security (e.g. dinners and food pantries), self-sustainability (e.g. classes in growing and preserving foods), and resilience (mental well-being). The overall aims are to

promote food security and sense of community. Many Granges promote programs that deal with one or more of the three areas of emphasis noted. While we have been promoting these ideas as an organization before, this endeavor unites the subject under new branding. There are program logos and further information for your Granges to promote their activities on the National Grange website. The following Granges all have done or are doing programs that fall under the aegis of Project Sustenance: Bethlehem (seed donations to Ellis Clark Ag Program community garden, holiday meal

donations), Bridgewater (dinners), Ekonk (dinners), Greenfield Hill (dinners and Pollinator Pathway programs), Harmony (apple tree planting), Hillstown (breakfasts), Oxford (open mic and free holiday dinner), Riverton (food pantry), and Wallingford (breakfasts); and there may even be others. More on this is to come.

Much of this weekend has been spent on Zoom with the Leader's Conference which was held in Sonoma County, CA. A theme presented by National President Hamp was that we should be looking out of the windshield and not in the rear view mirror. We need to promote growth by exploring new activities for our

...Continued on page 2

National's Project Sustenance

by Amanda Brozana

National Grange Membership Dir.

Food security, personal sustainability and community and individual resilience: Grange programming and outreach across the national have for generations focused on these areas. In 2025, these efforts and innovative new projects, programs and outreach focused on these topics, will be celebrated under the banner of a "recognizable signature" program called **Project Sustenance**.

The initiative was first discussed by National Grange President Christine Hamp during her address at the 158th Annual National Grange Convention in November. In those speeches, Hamp noted that while each Grange meets the needs of

its community through different programming and service activities so many currently fall under one of these three pillars of the Project Sustenance banner, making it an idea "recognizable signature"

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due March 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

Granges. Remember to have FUN doing it. We are Rooted, Resilient, and United!

Several good workshops were presented. One, by our National Grange corporate counsel Jeff Skinner went over the auto revocation of your EINs after three years of non-filing 990N to retain your tax exempt status. He outlined the procedure to regain this status once lost; quite involved. Keep up the IRS 990N and you Secretary of State filing for your state incorporation. Another

presentation by CA SG Treasurer Susan Hanks and CT SG Treasurer Jody Cameron reviewed the use of modern computer technology and software to keep Grange financial records and do your banking. National VP John Benedik of NJ talked about membership and the need for growth. He noted that since 2004, we have halved our National membership from just over 100,000 to just under 50,000. Granges exist in 37 states with 13 currently having none; Utah never had a Grange presence. Five states have so few Granges as to go unrepresented at National Convention. Forty two Granges were lost in 2023-24 of which two had 51-75 members; it makes you wonder what happened there. Another workshop covered planning for the future; succession planning, if you will. Yet another discussed the use of SMART goals for planning; this stands for Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound, and is basically a paradigm for planning your Grange's future whether that be long or short term goals.

Sister Susan Noah, Past President of Oregon SG and National Executive Committee member, talked in yet another of the importance of having up-to-date bylaws as these are your road map and rules by which your Grange must be run. Furthermore, they should be updated every two to three years to keep them current. Vic Stevens and Scott Lisle did a fantastic presentation called Bridging Differences and Building Fraternal Bonds by Becoming Un-offendable. It was put forth as a story about how they met in Grange and became friendly having both come from very different backgrounds. The message was how individuals choose to be offended by others and that in controlling this, we can all be happier better people.

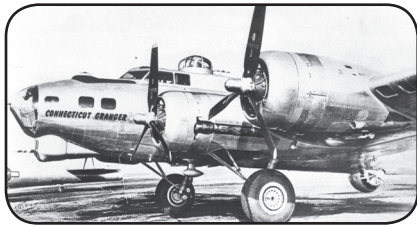
This year, there will be no Legislative Fly-in. Not enough interest recently to continue this program. Instead, directives on how to contact your Congressional representatives will be distributed soon. Direct contact with your House Representatives and Senators is the best way to make your feelings and concerns known to them. Attending Town Halls that they hold for constituents is a great way to stay informed. These are often done in person or by Zoom. Attending an in-person event gives you the opportunity to speak directly to you Congressman or Congresswoman.

National President Hamp spoke about the 159th National Convention ABC (Aruba/Bonaire/Curacao) Cruise. Resistance to this largely comes from a fear of change. This idea to do something new came about to create a fun, new, and exciting way to experience our Convention. The Seventh Degree will be presented on the cruise by way of a professionally produced video to be filmed in Belvedere, IL this coming March 28. As we understand it, the video will be used for limited future presentation. The Sixth Degree will not be done on the cruise. When older members were asked about what they remembered most about far past National Conventions, it was the fun people had at them. One older Sister recounted the "shenanigans" that went on that were so memorable. There are still openings and while about 400 are registered, I hope more of you might consider going. An analysis has shown that this event would cost less than the hotel based conventions of recent years, and while I do not have it, I understand it is available for the asking.

Remember, from the Lecturer in the First Degree that "An honest man (or woman, my addition) is the noblest work of God."

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:

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Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
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PROJECT SUSTENANCE

GROWING FOOD SECURITY, SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWNS

Continued from page one...

program of the Grange.

"This signature initiative will allow most Granges to build on already established programs, (and) allow members to showcase skills and knowledge..." Hamp said.

"In addition to making strides to eliminate food insecurity in our hometowns, I feel it's important that we also offer members, and our neighbors who have not yet joined us, the opportunity to invest

in themselves, the tools to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, and the knowledge and skills to chase, capture, and live out their American dream."

A series of resources and a toolkit for Granges to use, complete with recipes for success – descriptions of programs, outreach, services and projects Granges have taken on to improve food security, self-sustainability and resilience- are rolling out over the next several

months on the National Grange website, social media and in publications like *Grange Today* and *Good Day!* magazine.

"Granges across the country are doing amazing things, and we must ensure our good work is not siloed—we must share our good works among our Granges so one of our most precious resources- volunteer time- is maximized," Hamp said.

She also noted that the National Grange will work to "establish partnerships, seek grants and sponsor dollars, and promote our deep connection with personal sustainability and food from farm to fork for every American."

More resources and information about how your programs, projects and outreach initiatives can be featured as part of Project Sustenance is available on the National Grange website: NationalGrange.org.

Each month we will feature suggestions on how your Grange can participate in Project Sustenance:

School Meal Assistance



School meal assistance programs provide funding or donated meals to ensure children in need have access to healthy, nutritious lunches or breakfasts during school hours. These programs can help combat food insecurity in communities where families may struggle to provide balanced meals. Granges can sponsor or organize food drives or fundraisers to support these programs.

Resources Required:

Granges can partner with local schools to distribute donated or subsidized meals or work with schools to pay down school lunch debts or offer Grange-sponsored school meal vouchers beyond what they may qualify to receive from government assistance programs. Resources required include funds for purchasing meals or donations of food from local grocery stores, farms, or restaurants or funds to cover school lunch costs. Volunteers will be needed to collect and distribute meals to schools or provide support during lunch hours. If the Grange does not have a kitchen, the school or community center may be a good location to prepare the meals.

Emergency Food Kits



Emergency food kits are pre-packaged meal kits designed to provide essential nutrition in case of natural disasters, emergencies, or periods of food scarcity. These kits can be distributed to community members in need, ensuring that they have access to food during times when grocery stores may be inaccessible or when they may not be able to cook for themselves.

Resources Required:

Granges will need to source non-perishable food items that can be included in the emergency food kits, such as canned goods, dried beans, rice, pasta, and packaged snacks. If the Grange hall has storage space, it can be used to store the kits. Volunteers will be needed to assemble the kits and distribute them to the community. Partnerships with local grocery stores, food banks, or emergency preparedness organizations can help supply the necessary food items or funding for the program. Promotional materials will be needed to ensure community members are aware of the program.



**Jody & Jodi Ann
Cameron**
Membership Co-Dir.
Ekong Comm. Grange No. 89
membership@ctstategrange.org

We've spent a lot of time pondering this next article.

To be living a connected life, one must have a purpose. A PURPOSE is: "the reason for which something is done or created or for which something exists."

What is your purpose in life? What is your purpose in your career? What is your purpose in your Grange? What is your Grange's purpose?

Why do you do what you do and for whom do you do it?

We know that we are the Membership Directors, but we feel this is an essential question. What is your Grange's purpose? Do you have a specific purpose?



We encourage every Grange to set aside some time and ask yourselves these following questions as a group:

1. What do we do?
2. Why do we do it?
3. Who do we do it for?
4. Do they know we do it?

By asking these questions and answering them honestly you will create a really defined purpose for your Grange, a real focus on planning future events and

community service projects. These questions will help you focus on the real needs of your membership and community. And when your members' needs are being met only great things can happen. With great things come great rewards like a growing membership and real relevance in your community. A growing membership and real relevance, WOW!

This my friends are how we LIVE A CONNECTED LIFE.



Greenfield Hill Grange #133
1873 Hillside Road
Fairfield, CT

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CORNEBEEF &
CABBAGE DINNER**

March 15, 2025



6:00 pm
(Doors open 5:30)
* Snow date: March 16th *

FOR RESERVATIONS call
THIS IS A RESERVATION ONLY EVENT:
Jim at 203-259-8023
Steve at 203-367-4373



www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Granger



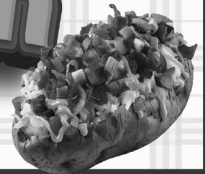
WINCHESTER GRANGE

**BAKED POTATO
DINNER**



\$10 per person

Dessert & Beverage included



Baked Potato with all the Fixings!
Butter • Chili • Broccoli • Cheese • Sour Cream and Chives

**SATURDAY
MARCH 15, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 PM • Dine-In or To-Go**

Winchester Grange Hall

100 Newfield Road • Winchester Center, CT
(Intersection of Route 263 & Newfield Road)

**Door Prizes
Drawing!**

All proceeds to benefit
Grange Community Projects
Help Us to Help Others!

www.WinchesterGrange.org



990 E-Postcard Scam Warning



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

Recently, I received a note from a Grange secretary indicating they had tried to file their 990N E-Postcard and paid the associated fee and were informed their filing was rejected.

There are several problems with this. First, there is no fee for filing a 990N with the IRS. Second, the State Grange files all 990s on behalf of Connecticut Granges. Third, the website accessed by the Secretary was not affiliated with the IRS. Because of this, they are not authorized to accept filings and are only taking money from organizations and individuals trying to file their e-postcards with the IRS.

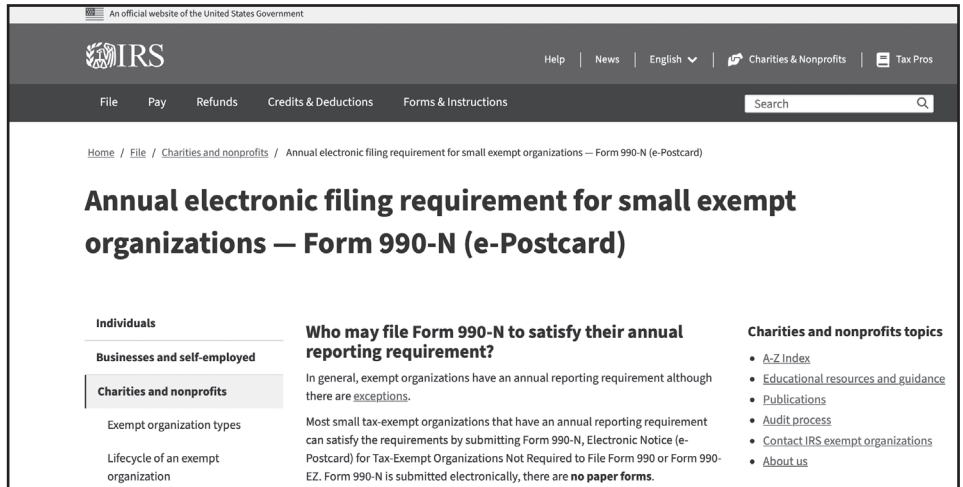
This is an easy mistake to make. It is likely this Secretary Google searched 990N E-Postcard and clicked on the first listing that seemed correct. Unfortunately, such a search will return many listings for bogus websites willing to take your time and money in filing erroneous e-postcards.

Similar problems have been encountered when Granges have tried to file their annual reports with the Connecticut Secretary of State's office in Hartford.

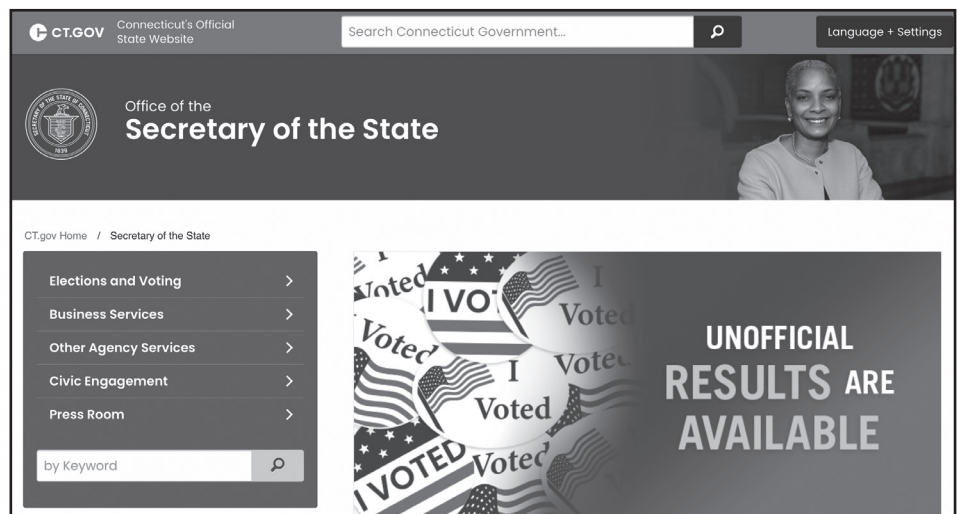
When dealing with the IRS the address should always end with **IRS**.

gov. There should never be a fee for filing a 990. When filing reports with the Connecticut Secretary of State, the website should end in

CT.gov. Just like the IRS, there are bogus websites out there accepting money for filing your incorporation reports with the state. Please be alert and contact me if you are unsure or have questions!



The IRS website should look similar to this. In the upper left corner it says, "An official website of the United States Government." Just because it says "IRS" does not mean it IS the IRS.



Like the IRS website, Connecticut's Secretary of State's website says, "Connecticut's Official State Website." Filing your annual report does require a filing fee of \$50. No more, no less.

Changes to 2025 Youth Contests



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

If anyone has looked at this year's National Grange Program Book for Youth and Young Adults; you will notice several changes.

First off this year's Sign-A-Song or Public Speaking Contests at National will require entries to be recorded on video. This opens up how we can open these competitions to more people around the state.

Over the past few years we have not had people able to compete. I encourage everyone to take a look at the Program Book and think about video taping yourself and

sending in to us a video of yourself completing the requirements for these contests. Deadline of June 1, 2025, with all entries sent into dawnanstett@gmail.com.

Be sure to look at the other contest open to youth and young adults. There is a Sticker Design and a Social Media Reels Contest. Both with some nice prizes and a good chance to show your creative and technical skills.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Unlocking the power of hashtags: Boost your social media game!

by Terri Fassio, CT State Public Relations Co-Director

Hashtags are a fundamental aspect of social media platforms like X (Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. Represented by the pound sign (#) followed by a word or a phrase (without spaces), hashtags serve as a tool for categorizing content, making it easier to discover and engage with. For example, if someone shares a photo of a beautiful sunset and includes the hashtag #Sunset, users searching for that term can easily find and view related posts.

How does this apply to my Grange?

If your Grange is using Facebook, Instagram, X, and more, then using hashtags can be beneficial to track your content. Here's a few reasons -

Increased Visibility: Hashtags can significantly enhance the visibility of your Grange posts. By using trending or relevant hashtags, your content can reach a broader audience beyond your immediate followers. This can attract new followers and increase user engagement.

Content Discovery: Hashtags create a way for users to find specific topics of interest. By categorizing your posts, you make it easier for users to discover content on subjects they are passionate about, thereby fostering communities around shared interests. For example, if your Grange is hosting a dinner raising funds for veterans, your hashtags can be #yourgrangename #veterans #veteransinconnecticut #fundraising

Branding and Marketing: For Granges, hashtags are essential for community recognition. Creating

a unique hashtag allows Granges to promote themselves and engage with prospective members. It encourages users to interact with your Grange, share experiences, and participate in discussions. For example, #yourgrangename, #ctstategrange, #nationalgrange

Event Promotion: Hashtags are frequently used to promote events, whether they are meetings, conferences, or programs and activities. Using a specific hashtag can help organize conversations about the event, making it easier for attendees to follow along and engage with the content. For

example, if your Grange is hosting Degree Day, your hashtags could be #yourgrangename, #degreeday, #joinus #ritualischool

Engagement Tracking:

Hashtags enable Granges to track engagement and analyze the impact of their posts. Monitoring the performance of particular hashtags can provide insights into audience participation and trends, guiding future content strategies.

In conclusion, hashtags are more than just a trend; they are a powerful marketing tool that enhances discoverability, increases engagement, and fosters community on social media. By utilizing hashtags effectively, Granges can significantly enhance their online presence and connectivity.

Need more information? Send an email to Bob at publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or Terri at information@ctstategrange.org.

Get those brains working!



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

Vernon Grange No. 52

CWA@ctstateGrange.org

Collecting G notes will be a great team building exercise. It has a goal; anyone can join in and it's for a good cause. I would like to challenge you all to think of ways you can improve the Grange and give new members a chance to join in with their ideas. Family Activities is all about being inclusive. Are there members who have mentioned some ideas that you can build on? Maybe there are ways to tweak that idea so that it reaches more members for participation? All you need to do is have a brain storm session, maybe only 10 minutes of your time. Have people call out different ideas and have someone write them down perhaps on an easel if you have one. Leave them where everyone can read



Keep looking for "G" notes.

them later. Challenge all members to take home one idea and come up with the same 3 steps for your next meeting. One, make it into a goal, two, make it inclusive to all members and three, have an outcome with definitive time frames. Brainstorming is a great tool that a lot of business's use because it works. Maybe the ideas you come up with can be turned into resolutions or a fun event. The possibilities are endless so lets get those brains working!

The importance of the Heirloom Program



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169

Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Hemlock Grange Lecturer Nancy Swanson recommended that I speak virtually about the National Grange's Heirloom Program at Manatee Grange in Florida. Manatee Grange is the only community Grange remaining in Florida, and I had a wonderful time visiting with its members. I thought I would share some of this presentation with all of you to encourage your Grange to utilize the Heirloom Program.

With a legacy of over 150 years, the National Grange has been a cornerstone of rural American communities, providing valuable lessons about work, family, home, recreation, and more. As the Grange has evolved, so has its approach to keeping these foundational values in its members' minds. One of the most impactful ways the Grange has continued to foster connection, reflection, and growth is by creating the Heirloom Program. This initiative allows local community Granges to bring the teachings from the Grange's rich history into their monthly meetings, ensuring that the timeless wisdom of the past remains relevant and accessible to both new and longstanding members.

Bringing Foundation Texts to Life

The Heirloom Program is designed to help Granges reflect on essential values by incorporating quotes or passages from foundational texts into their regular meetings. These texts, which have shaped the Grange's principles, cover many topics, from the importance of hard work to the value of strong family ties and the significance of recreation in a balanced life. Granges are invited to

read and discuss these lessons each month, making the teachings not just words on paper but practical tools for modern living.

By engaging with these texts, members can explore how these age-old principles still apply today, whether in personal relationships, community involvement, or daily work. Reflecting on these lessons together creates a space for open dialogue, allowing members to share their interpretations and experiences. This ongoing engagement deepens their understanding of the Grange's core values while ensuring that these traditions continue to shape future generations of Grange members.

Interactive Learning and Community Building

The Heirloom Program goes beyond simply reading and reflecting on lessons; it encourages action and interaction. Each lesson is paired with suggested activities that Granges can integrate into monthly meetings. These activities help members apply the lesson in real-life scenarios, making the teachings more tangible and relevant. Whether through group discussions, hands-on projects, or community outreach, these activities strengthen the bonds between members and create shared experiences that can enrich individual lives and the broader community.

In addition to activities, posters, and social media images are available to help Granges share these lessons with a broader audience. These tools make reaching out to current members and those in the surrounding community easy, drawing attention to the Grange's essential values. Utilizing modern platforms and visual tools, the Heirloom Program helps the Grange stay connected to younger generations, ensuring the organization's legacy continues to thrive.

A Year-round Resource for Growth

The Heirloom Program is organized into yearly cycles, with materials covering different themes and topics. Local Granges can download the lessons and resources for Year D (March 2025-February 2026) and access materials for all five years of the program. This comprehensive structure ensures that Granges always have fresh content to explore, allowing members to look forward to new activities and discussions each year.

Moreover, Granges are encouraged to share their activities and reflections on implementing the lessons in their communities. By exchanging ideas, members can learn from one another and find inspiration for future activities. This collaboration further strengthens the sense of community within the Grange and reinforces the idea that every member has something valuable to contribute.

Conclusion

The National Grange Heirloom Program is a powerful tool for local community Granges, breathing new life into the organization's timeless values and providing members with a meaningful way to engage with their heritage. By incorporating lessons from the Grange's foundational texts into their meetings, creating interactive activities, and sharing these teachings with the broader community, Granges continue to nurture a legacy of connection, growth, and service. The Heirloom Program helps preserve the Grange's rich history and ensures that its values remain relevant, accessible, and impactful for generations to come. Visit the National Grange website for more information and to access materials from all five years of the Heirloom Program. And remember, participating in the National Grange Heirloom Program helps you advance in the Connecticut State Grange Lecturers Recognition Program.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol Hnath

Eastern Connecticut Pomona held its regular meeting on March 1 at Hillstown Grange Hall.

The program was “Love Languages”, presented by the Lecturer. Our collection items for the March meeting are cleaning products (disinfecting wipes, sponges, paper towels, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, etc.).

At the last meeting we discussed holding another activity such as the lighthouse cruise we held last summer. If you have any suggestions for an activity, please forward them to Jodi Ann Cameron so that she may research them and have information ready to share at the March meeting.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Mar. 26: Our Earth

Now that our pellet stove is up and working we are staying warm. We are having regular meetings and have interest in many programs that are offered in Woodstock. We are working on setting some goals in the areas of community goals, Grange goals and personal goals. All of these are important for our success. We are looking for ideas for community service including

Spring 2025

Line Dancing

at Senexet Grange

BEGINNER
6 Classes: \$60

BEGINNER
4 Class
Flex-Pass: \$40

INTERMEDIATE
6 Classes: \$60

INTERMEDIATE
4 Class
Flex-Pass: \$40

DATES:
FEB. 23
MARCH 2
MARCH 9
MARCH 23
MARCH 30
APRIL 6

the America 250 program events and the local food bank. Our upper hall is being used by the local corn hole group as well the lower hall for the Happy Herdmen 4-H group monthly. Preparing and selling hearty dinners monthly will be our winter fundraisers. These are always popular. We are working to make our hall more energy efficient. Glad to have the corn hole group making the upstairs room more attractive. We always welcome friends and members.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Michelle DeDominicis

The Hillstown Grange is hosting a Chili and Cornbread Fest on Friday, March 14, 2025. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for a dinner featuring homemade chili and cornbread, there will be a variety for all tastebuds. Three scoops of Chili, cornbread, drink and dessert; all for \$10. Bring

a pot of chili or plate of cornbread to get reduced price admission. For those bringing pots of chili or cornbread's, please come between 5:15 and 5:45. There will be prizes for best chili, best cornbread, first empty pots, hottest chili.

The Grange Ag Committee will have a new supply of free Garden Seeds available.

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. For more information call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Mar. 14: Ritual Program

Mar. 28: Lecturer's State Contest Program

At our one meeting in January we learned a lot about Hawaii. The program was titled “Hawaiian Rebellions”, and there were actually a few skirmishes there in the 1800s, but mostly we learned about the islands, their volcanoes (one of

which is active but still completely submerged and will become a new island or add to a present one when it emerges above the sea), their language and customs. Members who read excerpts from the program found the Hawaiian language a bit challenging. There was actually no written language there until the early 1800s when a lady missionary invented one. Sue handed out sheets explaining the original language, symbols and common Hawaiian

words to take home and study. (Hope there won't be a test next meeting!) She also gave us a Hawaiian word search. We were each presented with a lovely lei and Sue explained its meaning. Refreshments were served upstairs after the meeting as the furnace was acting up (again) but our mini-splits were working beautifully.

We are excited to report that we will be welcoming four new members in February and we have merged

with Preston City Grange #110. Our hall continues to be used for fundraising dinners by local non-profit organizations. In August we will again welcome the New London County 4H Fair to our grounds and in September, the townwide yard sale will be moving here. And if that coyote we saw wandering by the other day will just keep his diet on the wild side, next time I'll tell you all about fabulous February.



NEW Facebook Phishing Scam

by Terri Fassio, CT State Public Relations Co-Director

A widespread phishing campaign is once again targeting Facebook accounts with a new round of counterfeit copyright infringement notices. This latest wave of phishing began at the end of last year and has sparked concern worldwide. These notifications are reaching various types of Facebook Pages, from non-profits to popular celebrities, and are sent via Facebook's messaging system. Depending on your Facebook preferences, you may receive both notifications and emails about these alerts. The intention behind this phishing scheme is for cybercriminals to steal your Facebook login credentials.

Initially, victims receive a message stating that their Facebook page has violated copyright laws. This scam is particularly believable because the email or notification appears to originate from a legitimate source, often featuring Facebook logos, and comes through Facebook Messenger.

The message urges you to log in to Facebook to contest the decision immediately, threatening that failure to do so will result in losing



access to your account features.

It warns recipients that "your recent activity might be a copyright violation" and attempts to create a sense of urgency — a common red flag for scams — pressuring users to act quickly. In truth, the Facebook page in question has not violated any copyright laws.

Users are directed to click a link in the message, which leads to a webpage that seems to be a Facebook support page. This page will request login information for an "account review." However, this support page is fake and operated by cybercriminals. If you enter your Facebook credentials, they will be stolen, granting the scammers

access to your account.

Cybersecurity experts note that there's little recourse once an account is compromised. While users may attempt the account recovery process, any data deleted or manipulated by the scammers could be irretrievably lost.

To protect yourself from Facebook phishing scams, follow these guidelines:

- Be wary of unexpected messages, even if they seem authentic. Facebook does not send emails threatening immediate action. If a real issue arises, Facebook will disable the relevant page, and you will then need to work to restore it.

- Access Facebook directly through its official website or mobile app to verify your account status. Avoid clicking any links in messages that appear to be from Facebook.

- Always scrutinize logos and language in messages purporting to be from Facebook. Many contain fraudulent logos and often feature poor grammar and misspellings.

- Set-up two-factor authentication (2FA) on Facebook to protect your account from hackers and unauthorized access. Once set-up, when logging in from an unrecognized device, Facebook will send a verification code or ask for confirmation of the login, either via text message, or through an authentication app.

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.



We heard from Carol Hnath on the February photo -- "Obviously taken at a meeting of Echo Grange. The woman on the left is Ethel Rosebrooks Larkin (aunt of Sue Gray) and the woman next to her is Gretchen Beckwith Therrien Tellier (daughter of Past State Grange President Al Beckwith). The gentleman looks familiar but I cannot remember his name."

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

As I write this article, Mr. Trump has been President for four weeks. Elon Musk's DOGE department is reviewing all Federal Agencies and an estimated 5,000 Federal employees may be let go.

Impacted agencies include SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, Medicare, conservation projects, grants, and more.

Cuts at US AID are concerning. This program has been around since

Harry Truman, providing aid all over the world.

Conservation grants approved for farmers were canceled. Farmers who were approved and had started fencing, water lines, and pasture improvements were told that no funds were coming. Many families will lose their farms if these grants (approved by Congress) are not released. Rural hospitals are at risk of losing funds to operate, forcing residents to travel farther for health care.

YouTube and TikTok are platforms that provide information and misinformation to confuse the masses. Don't fall for the lies being pushed to all of us regardless of

political affiliation, gender, race, etc. We need to end the divide and work together.

I have watched a YouTube channel, "The Back Forty" by Will Westmoreland. He is well informed about issues related to rural America. In one broadcast he talked about the Grange fighting for grain farmers in the 1900s due to tariffs causing lower grain prices. The fight was won but the end results took us into the Great Depression.

"Truth does not mind being questioned, but lies do not like being challenged."

Egg prices continue to rise, so as Easter approaches, there is a substitute "Dye Potatoes."

We will get through this, stay strong.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Debbie Vail

We held our March meeting at Riverton Grange Hall on the 1st. Part of the Lecturer's Program was a discussion of the names of our Granges. All Pomona members are invited.

Again this year at our June meeting we will be collecting books for the Region 1 Book Bus. Please bring all donations to that meeting. Books are needed for babies through 8th grade. It would be great to have all of our Granges involved. Remember this can be part of your Community Service Report. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Some of the books to consider donating are "Magic Treehouse", "Anne of Green Gables", "DC Graphic Novels for Kids," Sports Illustrated Kids," and "Patrick Picklebottom and the Penny Book."

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mar. 11: St. Patrick's Day (Country Store), Ref. Patrick O'Brien

Mar. 25: Family Activities/CWA Program, Ref. Ramona Fassio

Apr. 8: Card & Letter Writing Month, Ref. Pam Wright

Apr. 22: Keep America Beautiful Month, Ref. Mary Lou Keefe

As always, Winchester Grange welcomes all to visit our meetings. We continue to work on projects around our hall which include the front doors, restoration of the front façade and possible replacement of the dining room and kitchen windows. All of these things are expensive and a special event is planned for March 15.

the Connecticut Granger

Winchester Grange is hosting a Baked Potato Dinner on Saturday, March 15th at Winchester Grange Hall, 100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Baked potatoes will be served with all the fixings, including chili, broccoli, cheese, bacon, and sour cream & chives. Dessert and beverages are included. The cost is only \$10.00 per person. Dine-in or to-go. We will also be having a drawing for door prizes. Let us do the cooking!

All proceeds raised will benefit the community programs of Winchester Grange. Help us to help others!

TAGHMANUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Mar. 4: Making up "Seed Kits" by ALL Note: 4:30PM

Mar. 13: Line Dancing by Barbara Prindle Ref: Jill Drew

Apr. 10: Spring Cleaning In & Out by ALL NOTE: 6PM Ref: Chris Hopkins

May 3: Grange Dance 7pm-9pm NOTE: No experience needed as all dances are taught.

May 8: Fishing by Mike Taylor Ref: Barbara Prindle

June 7 & June 8: Plant & Rummage Sale 9AM-3 PM

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

We were happy to have Debbie Vail, State Grange Deputy along with Steve visit our Grange Hall at our February meeting. Debbie said we passed inspection with flying colors. As is usual with visitors from another Grange we asked them to fill an empty station. Debbie was LAS with Steve was in the AS station. We also encouraged them to participate in the meeting and in the Lecturer's program. By doing this the "energy" is raised in the room and makes the meeting more enjoyable and fun.

We voted on the proposal for membership of Lynn Cline who had been a member a long time ago and has been helping out these past few years with our Plant & Rummage sales and she will be obligated at our next meeting in March.

One of the things we will be doing this year is collecting G notes. So far, they seem to be sparse, although a member suggested taking (she actually said \$100) to the bank and asking for singles. We need to be closer to Chicago where they are printed. We are also continuing in a partnership with the Roving Clover Book Bus. We will collect books that are given out free to kids, at events in the Northwest Corner. This encourages reading and education as it is one of the goals in the Grange.

Spring Cleanup at The Grange

313 Bound Line Rd, Wolcott, CT Sunday, April 13th 8am - 12pm

Rain date: April 27



Join our fun and welcoming group of volunteers for Spring Cleanup at the Wolcott Grange!

We'll be tackling all things spring clean up: branches and sticks, leaf clean up, garden beds, etc. If you're interested in helping us out and spending some time outside, bring your gloves and any tools you might want to use.

We are ALWAYS looking for new members, so stop by and say hi and learn more about what we do!

All people and abilities are welcome! We appreciate your time and energy and would love to see you there!



Questions?

Please message us through Facebook and we will get back to you as soon as possible!



the Connecticut Granger

Also, we are establishing a committee to help develop a community outreach program/project "Roots So Deep". This is a 10-year study of grazing patterns and methods. There will be a movie in July with a speaker at our Grange Hall. We continue with our 19th year of The Dictionary Project. This means we assembled 51 dictionaries, each to include a letter about what the Grange is and why we do this each year. The letter goes home with each student along with their dictionary. They were boxed up for delivery to the 3rd graders in the elementary schools in Sharon, Warren, Kent and Cornwall.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our dances and/or at our other events. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information about anything we are doing.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

March 2: Veteran of the Month ceremony; 6:00 PM; Open to All; refreshments served following ceremony. Event co-sponsored in collaboration with Riverton American Legion Post #159

March 7: Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon featuring soup & sandwiches (\$5); 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Bingo following lunch. Later that date will be Riverton Grange #159's monthly in-person meeting. The charter will be draped in memory of Past President Peter Keefe. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM, and the meeting will begin promptly at 7PM.

March 12: Special St. Patrick's Day lunch at Crystal Peak with the Barkhamsted Seniors (\$10); contact Dave Roberts for reservations at 860-469-5067.

March 21: Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon featuring macaroni & cheese (\$5), noon, Riverton Grange Hall. Bingo following lunch.

March 28: Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon featuring chicken divan (\$5); Noon; Riverton Grange Hall;

Barkhamsted Forks Senior Club (aka Barkhamsted Seniors) continues to rent our hall and is now hosting a public lunch for just \$5 every Friday at Noon. For Valentine's Day, a special lunch featuring shepherd's pie was held, and we had attendees from four area Granges in attendance.

Twice a month, bingo is offered to all attendees. Seeing our hall open and full of people again is so great. Many attendees tell us stories about the "glory days" of Riverton Grange. We have begun Phase 1 of our Kitchen Renovation Project (planning, design, pricing) and raised close to \$10,000 to provide a new kitchen. Once our plans are finalized and our permits secured, we will begin the fundraising phase of this project in earnest. We so appreciate the \$1,000 grant from the CT State Grange Foundation.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Wishin' you a wee bit of fun and a lot 'o' luck on St. Patrick's Day from Simsbury Grange!

On Feb. 13 we held our monthly meeting at the Grange with new officers in place. Our new president, Susan Masino, shared a photo book she created with past photos of our building, people and events. This special book was presented to a local farm we support. Also, plans for our upcoming events were discussed.

March 3 - Music Monday featuring "A Thing Called Dave" with Dave Galt on guitar and vocals - Doors 6:30, music from 7:00-8:00pm.

March 13th - Monthly grange meeting at the grange - 7:00 pm.

March 30th - 3rd Annual Seed Swap upstairs for adults and a Lego Build for children on the lower level, 2:00-4:00pm. Students able to complete their creation may enter it in our June 14th fair. This is a very popular event. Don't miss it.

April 4th - (Friday) The beaver films are back! The first of five 1 hour films centers on wildlife in the spring at a local beaver pond. Doors open at 6:00 pm for a social hour and the film is from 7:00-8:00 pm. Parking at the Farms Village Plaza behind the shops. See you there!

April 7th - Music Monday featuring Eddie Gautier aka SaintsHouse, Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller - Doors open at 6:30pm, music at 7:00pm. Join us!

April 10th - Monthly grange meeting at the grange - 7:00pm.

April 27th - Food and Fun at the Grange - (rescheduled from 2/23) featuring Amoroso's Pizzeria - Cooking Demo and tasting. Register through the Simsbury Public Library's Calendar of Events and Join us from 6:00-7:30pm.

Simsbury Grange Presents: Our 3rd Annual Seed Swap on Sunday, March 30th from 2:00-4:00 PM. 236 Farms Village Rd. West Simsbury 06092. Parking - Farms Village Plaza - Behind the Shops



Bridgewater Grange members donating their time at Loaves & Fishes



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

I have been saying get your candidates lined up. The time has come. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree and being Inspected at Cheshire Grange on Sunday March 23rd at Cheshire Grange at 2 o'clock. Hopefully by then all this cold weather and snow will be behind us.

The officers will have a rehearsal on Sunday March 16th also at Cheshire and at 2 o'clock.

As with all our meetings, Jane would appreciate items for the Country Store.

The color green will be on the programs for many Granges during the month of March.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

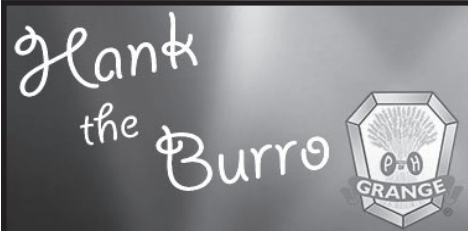
Mar. 5: First Degree Ritualism

Mar. 19: Youth Night

We had to cancel our January 15th meeting due to issues with our furnace. As I write this, we will get back to normal with our February meetings and cooperation with Mother Nature. We have two fund raising dinners planned for March 22nd and April 5th. We are getting suggestions for our Community Citizen award to be presented at our April 2nd open meeting. Looking ahead a bit, we are planning for our Dean Martin Show featuring Jack Lynn, a Dean Martin impersonator on May 7th at our hall. There is no charge and the public is invited. Can't wait for Spring.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler



On Feb. 5, I went to Cheshire Grange #29 tonight with both the State President and the State Vice-President for their inspection. Here's a photo with me and Bob Buck before the meeting. We heard an interesting Literary program on different soil types in CT, by Professor Emeritus Charles Dimmick. a delicious social followed the meeting.



Wallingford Grange has had several fun events throughout the month of February. First, a wonderful book folding class was led by Wallingford Grange member Kathy Sabo where attendees got to learn how to fold pages within a book into a heart. It was so much fun! We can't wait to up our skills with more designs in the future.

The second Wascal Wednesday play date was a blast! The kiddos played with cardboard blocks, created and launched a snowball-cup game, and made Valentine hearts. Third, we had our 2nd monthly "Chess Nerds" gathering (held every first Saturday of the month) from 9-11 AM which is starting to grow more in popularity.

Finally, at our monthly Grange meeting, members enjoyed a potluck to celebrate a feast together as part of the lecture focusing on the attribute of friendship associated with the Fourth Degree. For our March lecturer's program on Thursday, March 13, we will honor Women's History Month and focus on a talk about the historical women of Wallingford. Our Lecturer's program at our April Grange meeting on Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 PM will celebrate the coming of spring with a seed and plant swap. We will also have our monthly country store raffle at each meeting. All are welcome to attend.

In March to May, some special events Wallingford Grange is

looking forward to hosting include a Sourdough Educational Event (March 6, 6-8 PM), Soup Flights Luncheon (March 8, 12-2 PM), Youth Activity focused on taking care of rabbits (March 8, 1-2 PM), Cake Decorating Event (March 20, 6:30-8 PM), Pancake Breakfast (Apr. 12, 8:30-11 AM), Easter Egg Hunt (Apr. 12, 11-11:30 AM), Wallingford in Tune Concert Series (Apr. 26, 12-7 PM), and Wallingford Town Wide Pizza Battle (May 3, 11AM-1PM). To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow our "Wallingford Grange" Facebook page. Hope to see you at these events!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The saying "no news is good news" was not meant for Beacon Valley as we had no news in the January issue of The Ranger and the reason was not good. As reported in the December issue we had to postpone our December 13th meeting and Christmas Party until December 27th because of the number of officers on the sick list. That number rose to 8 on the 27th so that was canceled as was the January and February tag sales.

We finally had a good meeting at the home of President Joanne with good attendance on January 16th. Jean Meehan put on a fun program "Pigs" and Joanne served

some delicious refreshments.

Our February 15th meeting this Saturday is also scheduled to be held at Joanne's house but as I'm writing this on Thursday the weatherman is not being very encouraging.

When we had our Officer's Planning meeting it was decided to hold our January and February meetings on the third Saturday immediately following our monthly tag sale and cancel Open Mic to save on fuel.

We hope to be meeting at the hall in March – March 14th the date. Program "Chickens" in charge of Marie Sousa and refreshments in charge of Marilyn Maxwell. Tag sale resumes on March 15th as will Open Mic.

When I was calling to postpone the meeting, Carol Brooks called to tell us she was in Shady Knoll Health Center in Southbury. We hope her stay will be short and she will be back with us soon.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Stephen Fengler

Despite the winter chill, it has been bustling at the Greenfield Hill Grange. We hosted a Gardening Luncheon and a belly warming Soup Supper in January. Love and friendship were in the air as we just beat the snowfall at our Valentine's Roast Beef dinner in February. And, it looks like the Groundhog was correct when Phil predicted 6 more weeks of winter -- But we can still look forward to SPRING! Here are some upcoming dates to mark in your calendar.

March 15, 2025 - Annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner.

March 29, 2025 - Part II of "How Does Your Garden Grow?" Luncheon series. The topic: Planting seeds indoors. Reservations required.

April 5, 2025 our 2nd Chili Cook Off!

April 18, 2025 Good Friday Fish Fry Dinner. Eat in or Take out — Fish or Shrimp and all the fixings.

May 3 Spring Tag Sale and Flea Market. Interested vendors please contact Steve. 203.367.4373.

All events are reservation only.

the Connecticut Granger

Please contact Jim 203.259.8023.

Our Annual Agricultural fair will be held August 23, 2025. Interested vendors please contact Nancy at 203.331.5640.

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?" ... "It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling on the sunshine..." – Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Mar. 14: Color Green

Mar. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Apr. 11: Hippity Hop

Apr. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.



Join us for an evening of lively music and dancing at Granby Grange, 212 N. Granby Rd., on Saturday, March 29, from 7-9 PM. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or brand new to Contra Dance, all are welcome, no partner needed!

Suggested donation: \$10 per person, \$5 for students, and children under 12 dance free.

Come enjoy great music, good company, and a fun-filled night at the Grange!

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.



AUDACIOUS GOALS

Audacious Goals are ambitious, bold, and often seemingly unattainable objectives that push the limits of what is thought to be possible. These goals challenge conventional thinking, require significant effort and innovation, and often involve taking risks. The purpose of setting audacious goals is to inspire extraordinary achievement and foster progress by striving for something greater than what would normally be expected or deemed feasible. Audacious goals are often associated with transformational leadership and ambitious projects that seek to make a lasting impact. Audacious goals help break through limitations, drive progress, and inspire extraordinary efforts.

NATIONAL GRANGE NIGHT

A MONTHLY ZOOM PROGRAM

March 11, 2025

Join National Grange President **Christine E. Hamp** as we build excitement for April's Grange Month. Tune in to hear how you can bring Grange Month excitement into your Grange and community and join the **Grange Month Challenge** to advocate for your community.

Register:

<http://grange.biz/zoomnightregister>

**2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH
8:30PM ET / 5:30PM PT**



HOPE IS THE
HEAVENLY LIGHT
THAT GILDS OUR
LABORS. WERE WE
DEPRIVED OF THAT
SOURCE OF
CONSOLATION, LIFE
WOULD INDEED BE
DREARY.



GET ON BOARD! SET SAIL FOR THE NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION AT SEA!



NOVEMBER 8-16, 2025

LEARN MORE: WWW.NATIONALGRANGE.ORG/159NCGCONVENTION

MONTHLY

OPEN MIC

OXFORD GRANGE

482 Oxford Rd. Oxford CT

Tuesday March 18

Sign up 6pm Music 6:30

All skill levels and Everyone's welcomed

Snacks & drinks available and byob

You can RENT The Grange
It's easy and very affordable
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oxfordctgrange@gmail.com

With a little help
from our friends at:



The Oxford Grange is a non-profit that encourages Townspeople to economic and social well being



CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



2025

MARCH

MAY

JULY

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 - 7:00 PM EST
TOPIC: CT STATE GRANGE SPECIAL ZOOM -
UPDATE ON THE HISTORY BOOK PROJECT

13

THURSDAY, MAY 22 - 7:00 PM EST
TOPIC: PHOTOS & GRAPHICS -
THE BENEFITS OF EYE-CATCHING VISUALS

22

THURSDAY, JULY 17 - 7:00 PM EST
TOPIC: "NOW THAT'S A SPICY MEATBALL!" -
FUN WITH BRANDING THROUGH COMMERCIALS

17

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 - 7:00 PM EST
TOPIC: PUBLIC RELATIONS BOOT CAMP -
THE ESSENTIALS OF COMMUNICATIONS

25

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 7:00 PM EST
TOPIC: HOW TO KEEP IT FUN AND INTERESTING
AT GRANGE MEETINGS

20

JOIN US FOR A FUN AND CASUAL SOCIAL GATHERING.
A BRIEF PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED.

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

You don't have
to be a
Connecticut
Grange Member
to attend!



**Farming isn't just work, it feeds
the world! With over 1 billion people in
agriculture, it's the largest source of
employment on Earth. Every meal starts
with their hard work.**

Choices



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life that you may live.
Deuteronomy 30:19

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.
James 4:17

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of examples of choices, often with statements of consequences for choosing rightly or choosing wrongly. The writings of the prophets are especially rich in mentioning bad things which have happened because the people of Israel have made wrong choices. Their warnings typically center around issues like idolatry, injustice, greed, and immoral behavior, highlighting how these actions can lead to societal decline



and divine punishment.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5*) lists blessings as a result of making right choices, while his Sermon on the Plain (*Luke 6*) also mentions woes that will befall those who may not have made right choices. One of these is "Woe to you who are rich", which brings to mind the rich young ruler who appears in the 19th chapter of Matthew asking Jesus how to become perfect. Jesus advises to sell all that he has and follow Him. The rich young ruler goes away saddened because he cannot bring himself to do that. For him, and alas for many of us, the riches of this world are far more important than the riches of the world to come.

I do not picture a wrathful God who will actively punish us every

time we make a wrong choice, but rather that the Lord will in many cases allow to descend upon us the evils that we have brought upon ourselves by our own actions or inactions. The prophets repeatedly called us to repent, to choose to turn away from our sinful ways and to follow God's wishes for how we live our lives and deal with our fellow human beings. They warned us of what would eventually happen if we did not do so.

What God is asking/telling us to do is very simple and straightforward. The words should be familiar to most of us: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."
Micah 6:8