

# **PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION**

## **JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2012**

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer/Program Director  
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410  
Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: mbcb76@cox.net

(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address, Please e-mail me so I can add you to our list.)

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR....**

Here's hoping this finds everyone well and ready to take on the challenge confronting all of us – providing good programs that will make people want to come to Grange.

I have had some questions and concerns about some of the contests. If one person is wondering, then I imagine others are too. Let me see if I can clarify them now. And please remember all of these are designed to make the Grange, our community, our State and Nation a better place to live as well as to get the Grange recognized for all the good work we do.

\*The Talent Contest will no longer be judged on a Regional Level at the Lecturers' Conference in August. Thus there is no longer a restriction which prohibits last years' winner from entering the contest again. That was a Northeast rule. There will now be a Talent Show at the Conference and anyone who wishes to participate may. You will have to sign up ahead of time. More details will be available shortly and I will pass them on in my next newsletter and in the CT Granger. The State winner will still be eligible to perform (not compete) at National in November of this year.

\*The "A Number" Contest has nothing to do with cards. You make note of, or mark, a special moment which occurred in your Grange Hall or meeting place. It can be a skit, tableau, recitation or anything else you can think of. It can be a special presentation, putting things in a cornerstone to be opened a hundred year from now, special refreshments or fun times – anything that has or could happen.

\*The Complete Program is titled "When He Was President". This should be done on what happened when one person held the office. This must be presented at both your own and another Grange.

\*Should Auld Acquaintance activities are those done in the name of your Grange. Just visiting a relative or friend doesn't count. Most homes have Recreation Directors. Contact them to find out just what they need the most. It is a very rewarding experience especially if you visit once a month or more as the residents will start to greet you when you arrive as long lost friends. Many of these people have outlived their friends and don't get much, if any, company.

I hope I covered everything... Remember if you ever need me, I am here to help. Just call and I will do my best.

See you around the State... Marge

### **SHARED NUMBERS...**

#### **SOME QUICKIE FILL-INS with Thanks to Manchester Grange**

1. What do you call a stolen Yam? Ans. A Hot Potato
2. How do you make anti-freeze? Ans. Hide her pajamas.

#### **THE OBJECT with Thanks to Colchester Grange**

Wanted: Male deer needed for game of catch between football players.  
Object: Passing the buck

Wanted: Lonely computer looking to meet adding machine..  
Object: To multiply.

## **WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT? With Thanks to Joan Perry**

(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own.. They like other people's.

A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them.. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the colors of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'

They don't say, 'Hurry up.'

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't have to be smart .

They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.

It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.

## **CLAUDE THE HYPNOTIST with Thanks to Don Lanoue**

It was entertainment night at the Senior Citizens Center.

Claude the hypnotist explained: "I'm here to put you into a trance; I intend to hypnotize each and every member of the audience."

The excitement was almost electric as Claude withdrew a beautiful antique pocket watch from his coat. "I want each of you to keep your eyes on this antique watch. It's a very special watch. It's been in my family for six generations."

He began to swing the watch gently back and forth while quietly chanting, "Watch the watch, watch the watch, watch the watch..." The crowd became mesmerized as the watch swayed back and forth, light gleaming off its polished surface. A hundred pairs of eyes followed the swaying watch until, suddenly, the chain broke; it slipped from the hypnotist's fingers and fell to the floor, breaking into a hundred pieces.

"SHIT!", said the hypnotist.

It took three days to clean up the Senior Citizens Center. Claude was never invited back.

**A NEW IDEA FOR CUT-APARTS with Thanks to Irene Percoski**

These are to cut apart and handed out at the beginning of the meeting.

Let people think about them and then have them read and answer them during the program.

I was named after \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My first pet was \_\_\_\_\_

Something I wish was still sold in stores is \_\_\_\_\_

The first president I remember was \_\_\_\_\_

My first job was \_\_\_\_\_ and I was paid \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite movie is \_\_\_\_\_

If I could marry a famous person, it would be \_\_\_\_\_

The troublemaker in my family was \_\_\_\_\_

The subject I liked most in school was \_\_\_\_\_

The historical moment I remember best is \_\_\_\_\_

One time I got in trouble was when \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite toy was \_\_\_\_\_

My first home away from my parents was \_\_\_\_\_

My first car was a \_\_\_\_\_ and cost \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite teacher was \_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

My Dad's job was \_\_\_\_\_

I went on my first date with \_\_\_\_\_ and we went \_\_\_\_\_

My most embarrassing moment was when \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite kind of music is \_\_\_\_\_

My nick-name as a child was \_\_\_\_\_

The farthest away from home I ever traveled to is \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite season of the year is \_\_\_\_\_

I have \_\_\_ brothers and sisters and I am the \_\_\_\_\_

I joined the Grange because \_\_\_\_\_

My biggest regret is \_\_\_\_\_

## **WITH THANKS TO Lois Zezima, Dirigo Grange, Freedom, Maine (skit and 2 short stories)**

### **Alaska**

A young blond bride is calling her mother. The bride is crying.

Bride;" Robert doesn't appreciate anything that I do for him!"

Mother; "Now, now, I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding".

Bride; "No, Mother, I bought a frozen turkey loaf and he yelled at me about the price!"

Mother. "Well, that is mean, those turkey loaves are only a few dollars".

Bride "No, Mother, it wasn't the price of the loaf, it was the airplane ticket".

Mother: "Airplane ticket.....What did you need an airplane ticket for?"

Bride; Well, Mother, When I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the back of the box and it said "Prepare From A Frozen State", so I flew to Alaska".

### **Gathering Chickens**

The farmer's son was returning home from the market with a crate of chickens that his father had entrusted to him. Suddenly the box fell and broke open. Chickens scurried off in different directions, but the determined boy walked all over the neighborhood. He scooped up the wayward birds and returned them to the repaired crate.

He hoped he had found all of them, and reluctantly returned home, expecting the worst. "Pa, the chickens got loose", the boy confessed sadly. "but I managed to find all twelve of them" " Well, son, "the farmer beamed. "You did real good. You left with seven".

### **The Politicians Accident**

A bus load of politicians were driving down a county road one afternoon, when all of a sudden, the bus ran off the road and crashed into a tree in an old farmer's field.

Seeing what had happened, the old farmer went over to investigate. He then proceeded to dig a hole and buried the politicians.

A few days later, the local sheriff came out, saw the crushed bus, and asked the old farmer, "Were they all dead?"

The old farmer replied, "Well, some of them said they weren't, but you know how them politicians lie".

### **AMAZING, SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES: with Thanks to Senexet Grange**

1. AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.

2. AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH THE FEMALES ABOUT LIFTING THE TOILET SEAT BY USING THE SINK.

3. FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SUFFERERS ~ SIMPLY CUT YOURSELF AND BLEED FOR A FEW MINUTES, THUS REDUCING THE PRESSURE ON YOUR VEINS. REMEMBER TO USE A TIMER.

4. A MOUSE TRAP PLACED ON TOP OF YOUR ALARM CLOCK WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ROLLING OVER AND GOING BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON.

5. IF YOU HAVE A BAD COUGH, TAKE A LARGE DOSE OF LAXATIVES. THEN YOU'LL BE AFRAID TO COUGH.

6. YOU ONLY NEED TWO TOOLS IN LIFE - WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD, USE THE WD-40. IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE AND DOES, USE THE DUCT TAPE.

7. IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT WITH A HAMMER, YOU'VE GOT AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM.

## **COLLECTING WINTER WOOD with Thanks to Ekonk Community Grange**

An Indian chief was asked by his braves if the winter was going to be cold. The chief answered yes. The braves began to gather wood.

Two days later, a brave asked the chief again if the winter was going to be cold. The chief called the local weather channel and asked them if the winter would indeed, be cold. The weather service said, yes, a cold winter was predicted!

Two days later, a brave approached the chief again and asked if enough wood had been gathered. The chief said, NO! It is going to be a very bad winter, keep gathering wood. The braves continued bringing wood to the lodges until a great pile was stacked.

The chief called the weather channel again, to ensure he had enough wood saved for the tribe for the winter ahead. He again asked them if the winter was really to be cold. The weatherman replied, indeed, it is going to be worse than even I anticipated. The Indians are gathering wood like crazy.

### **QUIRKS IN THE LAW QUIZ with Thanks to Stonington Grange**

(This is multiple choice -- The correct answer is preceded by a star.)

1. A local ordinance in Atwood, CT prohibits people from doing what while waiting for a politician to speak?  
Discussing the weather -- Talking to strangers -- \*Playing scrabble -- Reading magazines
2. In Bloomfield, it is illegal to do what in your car?  
Read -- \*Eat – Sing – Sleep
3. Any dogs \_\_\_\_\_ must be reported to the police.  
\*With Tattoos – Weighing more than 100 pounds – Carried in a pocketbook or purse.
4. It is illegal to pirouette while crossing the street.  
\*True or False
5. In Devon, it is illegal to do what after sunset?  
Sing -- \*Walk Backwards – Read the Morning Newspaper
6. In Hartford, it is illegal to\_\_\_\_\_.  
Have balloons with advertising on them – Cross the street while walking on your hands – Plant a tree on the street – Kiss your wife on Sunday -- \*All of the above.
7. In order for a pickle to officially be classified as a pickle, what is true?  
It must be stored in a barrel -- \*It must bounce – It must be green.
8. In Simsbury, where is it illegal for a politician to campaign?  
\*Town dump – Town square – Town market – Town water supply
9. It is illegal to dispose of used razor blades.  
True or \*False
10. In New Britain, it is illegal for the fire trucks to \_\_\_\_\_, even when going to a fire.  
Use flashing lights – Use siren -- \*Exceed 25 mph – All of the above
11. In Waterbury, what is it illegal for a beautician to do while working on a customer?  
Solicit future business – Ask personal questions -- \*Hum, whistle or sing – Complain about their tips
12. You may be stopped for biking\_\_\_\_\_.  
\*Over 65 mph – Wearing shorts that are too tight – On a back road without advance permit
13. In Guilford, \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed for display.  
\*Only white Christmas lights – Only Christmas lights that constantly twinkle – Only colored Christmas lights.
14. In Providence, it is illegal to sell a toothbrush and toothpaste to the same customer on a Sunday.  
\*True or False
15. In Newport, it is illegal to\_\_\_\_\_.  
\*Smoke from a pipe after sunset – Play tennis after 6 p.m. – Sing at the Jazz Festival without permission from the performers – Watch the America's Cup in a motorboat.
16. In Rhode Island, it is illegal to\_\_\_\_\_.  
\*Throw pickle juice at a trolley – Smoke from a corn cob pipe at any time – Whistle the state song from any other state

## **PRESIDENTIAL FACTS with Thanks To No. Stonington Community Grange**

### **What was the occupation of the following Presidents...**

Ronald Reagan..... Actor, Public Official  
Jimmy Carter..... Peanut farmer  
George Washington. Planter, soldier  
Lyndon Johnson..... Teacher, Public Official  
Andrew Johnson..... Tailor  
Herbert Hoover..... Mining Engineer  
Warren G. Harding.. Editor

### **Presidential Firsts... Who was the**

First Boy Scout to become president..... John F. Kennedy  
First President to have his inauguration televised..... Harry S Truman  
First President to broadcast over the Radio..... Warren G. Harding  
First President to have a telephone installed in the White House..... Rutherford B. Hayes  
First President born an American Citizen..... Martin Van Buren  
First President from a state west of the Mississippi River..... Zachary Taylor  
First President to have a Christmas Tree in the White House..... Franklin Pierce

### **What were these Presidential Nicknames...**

Abraham Lincoln – The Great Emanacipator  
Ronald Reagan – Dutch  
Harry S Truman – Give 'em hell Harry  
Andrew Jackson – Old Hickory  
Chester A. Arthur – Elegant Arthur  
William H. Taft – Big Bill  
Benjamin Harrison – The Centennial President

### **Who Was He?????**

This president had the largest audience at his inauguration... Barack Obama  
He is the only president not elected by the people... Gerald Ford  
He was the only president to serve non-consecutive terms... Grover Cleveland  
This president was sworn in by his father... Calvin Coolidge  
The only president to be a Congressman, senator-elect & President-elect at the same time was...  
James Garfield  
He is the only president to run unopposed (his second term)... James Monroe

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that the Taj Mahal was built by heartbroken Indian emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child.

Did you know that nearly 150 million cards are exchanged each Valentine's Day?

Did you know that more than 40,000 American are employed at chocolate companies

Did you know that in addition to the U.S., Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, Australia, Denmark, Italy and Japan.

Did you know that 141 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second-most popular greeting-card-giving occasion. (This total excludes packaged kids valentines for classroom exchanges.)

## **TIPS FOR DRIVING IN THE SNOW**

These make great cut-aparts

\*Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.

\*Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, turning - nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.

\*The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to eight to ten seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

\*Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.

\*Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible.

\*Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.

\*Stay home. If you really don't have to go out, don't. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have somewhere you have to be, watch the snow from indoors.

## **WHY PARENTS DRINK with Thanks to Debby Perry**

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow that was addressed to "Dad". With the worst premonition he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter...

Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy and she is so nice.

But, I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercing, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it's not only the passion, Dad, she's pregnant.

Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anyone. We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby for cocaine and ecstasy.

In the meantime we will pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better. She deserves it. Don't worry Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself.

Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren... Love, Your son John.

PS. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a report card. That's in my center desk drawer. I love you DAD. Call me when it's safe to come home.

## **"IT'S LEAP YEAR"**

**Leap Year Rules** There is a leap year every year whose number is perfectly divisible by four - except for years which are both divisible by 100 and not divisible by 400. The second part of the rule effects century years. For example; the century years 1600 and 2000 are leap years, but the century years 1700, 1800, and 1900 are not. This means that three times out of every four hundred years there are eight years between leap years.

### **Background**

According to the Gregorian calendar (which is in use today) the year is intended to be of the same length as the cycle of the seasons. However, the cycle of the seasons, technically known as the tropical year, is approximately 365.2422 days. Since a calendar year consists of an integral number of whole days, a calendar year cannot exactly match the tropical year. If the calendar year always consisted of 365 days, it would be short of the tropical year by about 0.2422 days every year. Over a century, the calendar and the seasons would depart by about 24 days, so that the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere would shift from March 20 to April 13.

To synchronize the calendar and tropical years, leap days are periodically added to the calendar, forming leap years. If a leap day is added every fourth year, the average length of the calendar year is 365.25 days. This was the basis of the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 B.C. In this case the calendar year is longer than the tropical year by about 0.0078 days. Over a century this difference accumulates to a little over three quarters of a day. From the time of Julius Caesar to the sixteenth century A.D., the beginning of spring shifted from March 23 to March 11. When Pope Gregory XIII instituted the Gregorian calendar in 1582, the calendar was shifted to make the beginning of spring fall on March 21 and a new system of leap days was introduced. Instead of intercalating a leap day every fourth year, 97 leap days would be introduced every 400 years, according to the rule given above. Thus, the average Gregorian calendar year is 365.2425 days in length. This agrees to within a half a minute of the length of the tropical year. It will take about 3300 years before the Gregorian calendar is as much as one day out of step with the seasons.

## **THE RED HAT SOCIETY With Thanks to Beacon Valley Grange**

"The Red Hat Society began as a result of a few women deciding to greet middle age with humor. They believed silliness was the comedy relief of life and since they were all in it together, they might as well join red-gloved hands and go for the gusto together.

While visiting a friend in Tucson a while ago Sue Ellen Cooper impulsively bought a bright red fedora at a thrift shop, for no other reason than it was cheap and she believed it to be quite dashing. A year or two later she read the poem "Warning" by Jenny Joseph, which depicts an older woman in purple clothing with a red hat. She felt an immediate kinship. She then gave a friend a vintage red hat and a copy of the poem as a birthday present. Because it was enjoyed so much she proceeded to give the same gift to all her other female friends.

One day it occurred to these friends that they were becoming a sort of "Red Hat Society" and that they should go out to tea...in full regalia. They decided they would find purple dresses which didn't go with their red hats to complete the poem's image. And, that was how it all began.

## **VACATION TIME**

Where was America's first modern amusement park? Ans. Chicago

What National Park gets the most visitors? Ans. Great Smokey Mountains National Park

What city is the No. 1 family vacation destination? Ans. Orlando, Florida

According to "Dr. Beach", what state has four of the country's 10 best beaches? Ans. Hawaii