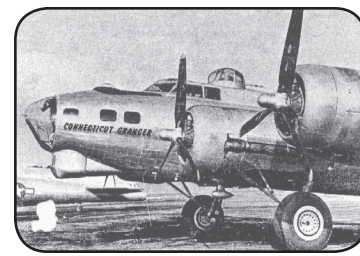




Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 57, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2016

State Master



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

The National Grange has kicked off its 150th anniversary celebration at the 150th annual convention in Washington, D.C., birthplace of the Grange. We all know the history of the founding of the Grange, where Oliver Kelley, working at the Department of Agriculture was sent out to evaluate the conditions of agriculture after the four year devastation of the Civil War. In his tour of a nation that had survived a division of states, families, political parties and economic groups, Kelley found a common core that people from the North and South could rally around for the interest of all the Grange.

We all hear that things go in full circle for a reason. After this year's Presidential election, we seem to be in a divided nation once again, economic despair, joblessness, cultural clashes, environmental concerns over energy production, and states rights. We seem to have, again, gone full circle and maybe the Grange can unite and rebrand this divided nation as we did 150 years ago. Our values are our strength and "We ask none to join us who cannot see good in their fellow beings; but to all interested in agriculture, who have generous hearts and open hands to help the needy, raise the fallen,

and aid in making the labors of this life cheerful, we say "Welcome to the Grange." We need to take this opportunity to take the lead as the seven founders of the Order did 150 years ago to reach out to everyone to partake in our group. "We are constantly passing blindly along the pathway of life, events occurring that we do not understand, and often encountering difficulties and obstructions in our way, but we should press forward, having Faith in God will ultimately bring us into the broad and pleasant fields of Paradise." Now is the time to renew our commitment to the Order and seek honorable men and women to join us.

The National Grange 150th convention was exciting and exhausting. We had more resolutions than the previous years, but many seem to be repeats and are already Grange policy or state issues. Connecticut's three resolutions met the titles of the committees, one on (5) Treaties and Trade deals was policy, (32) Ecology, was withdrawn because the committee read too much into the resolve, (33) Ecology was adopted on the floor. The debating seemed to take forever and the word adverse seems to have caused delegates to bring these resolutions to the floor only to be defeated.

The National Grange was able to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was very touching that we had Grange members from the Korean War, Vietnam, 80s actions, current actions, escort the wreath. It was a proud time to be a Granger. We also toured the monuments at night and had a chance to see

the National Grange building at 1616 H St. NW, which overlooks the White House. The Seventh Degree was conferred on 145 candidates with three from Connecticut. Congratulations to Ekonk Grange #89 for their fifth year in a row winning of the Distinguished Grange Award. Good job to all your members for this achievement.

The National Grange will be publishing a quarterly magazine called "Good Day." To subscribe you need to go to the National Grange website and sign up. They also have a Grange radio station that is computer sourced news and entertainment. Check it out.

The 150th celebration continues to the 151st National Convention in Spokane, Washington, November 7-11, 2017. Watch for future National Grange events that are planned for the next year.

The G Dollars were such a successful activity that we are continuing this activity for the next year so please start saving those G Dollars.

New plans and programs are being worked on by our state committees so please watch for their release in the next few months.

Marcia and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year. Goodbye 2016 and hello 2017. May you be better to us than your predecessor was.

In the aftermath of Nov. 8

Alma Graham, Legislative Director

There have been many words used concerning the past election. Some are angry, some concerned, and some comfortable with the selection for President. Now the first task for the President-elect is setting up his new administration by selecting major appointments and staff.

All of Connecticut's General Assembly seats were also up for election. We saw changes in the make-up of both the House and Senate. The biggest change was in the Senate. There is now an even split in the Senate between Democrats and Republicans with an 18 - 18 tie in the election results. This brings into play the importance of the Lt. Governor who oversees the Senate sessions. The Lt. Governor is allowed to cast a deciding vote in cases of ties. Since the Lt. Governor is presently a Democrat, that makes the Senate lean Democratic. The House is still Democratically controlled but by a much slimmer margin. The Republicans picked up 8 seats giving the House a 79 - 72 split. This is the most seats that the Republicans have held since 1986. ...Continued pg. 3

Protecting Connecticut Grown

by Susan High, Associated Press

HARTFORD - Connecticut's Department of Agriculture is planning to redouble its efforts to educate farmers about a relatively new law that attempts to ensure fruits and vegetables advertised as being grown in Connecticut actually were grown in the state.

Compliance among farmers was erratic over the summer, the first full season for the Connecticut-grown labeling requirements, agency officials said. Inspectors issued nearly 50 warnings to growers and vendors at farmers markets who failed to post signs identifying the names and addresses of the farms where the produce originated.

Most of the warnings were issued because signs marked with an item's price didn't include the farm's identifying information. In some cases, the products were grown at a Connecticut farm other than the one selling them, but were not labeled as such.

"This was the first summer the law was in effect at farmers markets. We decided we still needed to do more education," said George Krivda, the agriculture agency's chief of staff. "For the most part, the vast majority of the farmers wanted to comply. They just had questions."

Krivda said the department is currently developing a policy statement that will be shared with Connecticut farmers over the winter. Farmers and vendors already have to comply with a laundry list of state rules if they want to participate in the more than 100 farmers markets held across the state. They range from a required crop plan that shows the state what the farmer is growing to

...Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE...

- Central No. 1 5
- East Central No. 3 5
- Mountain County No. 4 6
- New Haven County No. 5 . . . 7
- New London County No. 6 . . 8
- Excelsior No. 7 9
- Fairfield County No. 9 10

NEXT ISSUE ... JANUARY

150TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!

Do You Remember?



Betty Jane Gardiner

Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

After the passing of Marion Beecher, I had asked Betty Jane Gardiner to take over writing this column... a feature that was dedicated to reminding us of the amazing people who have gone on before us and who contributed so much to the Order.

Betty Jane was very much one of the people she wrote about in these pages. She served the Grange in so many capacities which included State and National CWA Director, State Flora, Secretary of her beloved West Hartford Grange, and a member of the Beecher Installing Team with her husband Bill. She looked forward to the changing of the seasons, especially summer to fall when the New England Grange Building would be open again for the Big E.

Most of us have our own special remembrances of Betty Jane. She was a link to a "golden age" in the Connecticut State Grange when our membership numbers were growing exponentially, Camp Berger was being built on the shores of Park Pond and new Granges were being organized.

I have included some pictures with this column to help us all remember a lady who meant so much to so many in Connecticut and across the country. She will always be remembered but I will close this last column the way Betty Jane always did -- *Do remember Betty Jane.*



Bill & Betty Jane presents a needlework sampler on behalf of the National Grange to First Lady Barbara Bush at the White House.



Betty Jane (left) and Marion Beecher shown performing one of their well-remembered skits at State Session. This particular skit always featured "gossip" with their own "twist."



One of Betty Jane's favorite places – behind the cashier's table in the New England Grange Building during the Eastern States Exposition (The Big E).



Betty Jane (left) and Marion help carry lumber during the construction of Camp Berger in Winchester Center.



Betty Jane and Bill pose for a picture during a State celebration of Betty Jane's appointment as Director of the National Grange CWA.



Betty Jane helps sell raffle tickets during one of the Social Connection's events at Prospect Grange's meeting place.



Betty Jane helps out taking in entries during a "Let's Celebrate" held at Cheshire Grange Hall.



"The Boys" (Bill & Bud) are good sports for yet another one of Betty Jane and Marion's skits during a Mountain County Choristers Concert.

Protecting Connecticut Grown



Westport Farmers Market - photo courtesy ct.gov (CT Dept. of Agric.)

Continued from page one...

adhering to food preparation safety standards.

Under the 2015 Connecticut-grown labeling law, anyone who fails to disclose the name and address of the person or business that grew or produced the Connecticut-grown product at a farmers market faces a warning for the first violation and a \$100 fine for each subsequent violation. The law includes specific rules for the signage, including how signs must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches in size. The signs must be readily visible to shoppers and have legible lettering.

The legislation was meant to address the issue of someone claiming an item was grown in Connecticut, but it was not. Often, vendors can charge a premium price for fruit or vegetables grown in Connecticut.

Krivda acknowledges it's difficult sometimes to prove the items were actually grown here.

"There are no DNA tests for squash," he said, adding how the only way to tell sometimes is when a falsely labeled Connecticut-grown item becomes available at a farmers market late in the season. He noted how inspectors found one vendor with packages of tomatoes from California that were being advertised as Connecticut-grown.

"Farming is hard. People sweat blood to bring a product to market," Krivda said, adding how the agency sees the new labeling requirements as a way of protecting both consumers and the farmers by making sure everyone is playing by the same rules.

Election Aftermath

Continued from page one...

The state General Assembly's newly elected members are already busy at work at the Capitol setting up their leaders and committees. They have already selected their Majority and Minority leaders for both the House and Senate. Then the leaders selected the various committee chairman and committee members. The freshman class of legislators has been attending orientation classes before the session starts. This is also the time for legislators to submit proposals for bills for the upcoming session. Sessions support staff is being hired that will work in the different committees for the session. The moving and assigning of legislative offices is also an interesting process to watch with different members jockeying for better or larger offices. I have seen members bring in tape measures to check the size of offices.

The General Assembly officially opens on January 4th, 2017. Again Gordon Gibson will be our voice at the Capitol watching and communicating on various bills as they arise. We will be posting any testimonies, that are submitted to the General Assembly by the Connecticut State Grange, on our web site.

Past Master Burdette A. Peck

Burdette A. Peck was born on Aug. 12, 1853 in Burlington, Conn. He was the son of Don E. and Mary (Yale) Peck.

He received his education in the common schools of his native town, and this was so far supplemented by the fruit of naturally studious habits that he is in the best sense of the term, a self-made man of many accomplishments.

Miss Elizabeth Terry of Bristol, Conn. became his bride in 1875.

To them a son was born, named Constant Peck.

During his life while in Burlington, he had many offices of trust in the Town government, such as" School Visitor; Justice of Peace; Chairman of the Town Committee; Registrar of Voters as well as administrator and conservator. He was known as Judge Peck. After moving to Bristol he was Secretary of the Bristol Fair Corporation and assistant judge of the borough police court. A native capacity fitted him admirably for this latter position and found him much employed in the judicial line.

He was always interested in agriculture and although not actively engaged at all times in agricultural pursuits, he operated a florist business, wood-turning business

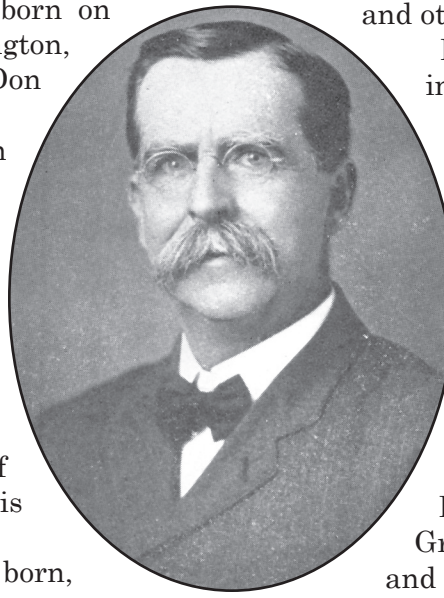
and other allied lines.

His Grange history started in Whigville Grange No. 48, of which he was a Charter Member and Charter Secretary. After moving to Bristol he was more or less instrumental in the organization of that Grange although not a charter member of it.

He was active in Central Pomona Grange and held various offices. He ws Central Pomona Grange Deputy during 1902 and 1903; General Deputy of the State Grange during 1908 and 1909; Overseer of the State Grange during 1904-1909.

He was the 8th Master of the present Connecticut State Grange during 1912. He died on June 19, 1912 enroute to a Pomona meeting. He was stricken with a heart attack while on a train approaching Waterbury. When they arrived at the Waterbury Station, he was pronounced dead. He was buried in Bristol, Connecticut.

His untimely death, no doubt, cut him off from a brilliant career in Grange work because he was a very able worker and with his ability no doubt would hae brought honor and renown to Connecticut.



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
secretary@ctstategrange.org

The first year of planning as State Secretary for State Session was expected to be "bumpy"—year two was supposed to be much easier—well it was in some ways but there always seems to be that new challenge that must be conquered! Well, Session is over and the office has been returned to its pre-State Session planning condition.

In the coming weeks the annual Bonding renewals will go out to Granges. We remind each Grange to review your coverage to

State Secretary

ensure it meets the needs of your Grange. Bonding coverage is not optional as it is a requirement of the National Digest. Granges do have the ability to obtain their own coverage but it would be difficult to match the premiums offered by the National Grange blanket coverage. National usually doesn't give us a lot of time to return payment in paperwork, so we ask that you return your renewal to the Central Office as soon after receiving it as possible.

We still have a number of Granges who have not sent in payment for their Dues Receipts for 2017. If you haven't sent in yours, please do so soon.

At State Session we introduced a new program that enables Granges to have custom printed t-shirts without having to purchase large amounts of shirts in sizes that they don't need. Working with a shirt printer in nearby Millerton, NY, we were able to set up a template that will allow Granges to have shirts with the Grange emblem and their own Grange name on them. Printing on the back of the shirts is also available. The best part, is the ability to buy just the sizes and quantities you need. The only limitation is the minimum order of at least 12 shirts. For more information, please contact me by email or call the Central Office. A flyer was also included in the delegate

packets so your delegates may also have the details to share with you. It's a great opportunity to let the public know the Grange is in their community and hopefully they will ask questions.

Looking for a Christmas Gift(s)? We still have the new t-shirts printed with the Grange emblem on them. They are available for \$13.00 each and are available in Large, XLarge, and 2XL. Shipping charges are additional (if applicable).

We also have membership pins and jewelry available. Need more info? Give me a call or send an email to find out about availability.

I want to take this small space to acknowledge the passing of Betty Jane Gardiner. Betty Jane (in addition to many other jobs through the years) was Marion Beecher's back-up in the Central Office. During the last two years, I could count on an occasional call from Betty Jane. As her health kept her from Grange, she felt left out and needed to get caught up on the happenings so the phone would ring and it was Betty Jane asking if I had time to "talk to an old lady." She was also an "adopted" member of Winchester Grange-- she will be greatly missed. I'm sure Marion and Betty Jane are now catching up on all the gossip.

Until next time, have a Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years!

PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!

(USPS 563-220)

"Connecticut Granger"

is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..

100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
(Do not send mail to this address)

Periodicals postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Connecticut Granger,
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033-1393

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS


News is due on the **5th Day** of each month and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

or

Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org


Connecticut Granger Staff

President/Editor Todd Gelineau
Vice President
Secretary Treasurer. Edith Schoell



Central Pomona No. 1


Southington #25
Meriden #29
Higganum #124
Hemlock #182



Since November 30, 1886


HEMLOCK GRANGE #182*Corr: Maureen Sanborn***Jan. 13:** I would have been here, except for the snow.**Jan. 27:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



East Central Pomona No. 3

Stafford #1	Hillstown #87
Granby #5	Ashford #90
Glastonbury #26	Enfield #151
Manchester #31	Echo #180
Vernon #52	Simsbury #197
Coventry #75	



Since September 7, 1887

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3*Corr: Noel Miller***Dec. 3:** Egg Nog and Mistletoe; Host-Glastonbury & ManchesterThanks to all who helped with the clean-up day on the 29th. Many hands made short work. Happy Holidays to all.**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26***Corr: Kathryn Ruff***Jan 5:** Welcome the New Year, 7:30 P.M.; Ref. Ann Gilnack**Jan. 14:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7:00 P.M.**Feb. 2:** Hearts & Flowers – Ref. Potluck Desserts, All

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving and also a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It is hard to believe I am typing something for 2017 already. Remember we have the card parties once a month. Do try to attend as we need everyone's support. Bring a friend or two with you. The more, the merrier.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31*Corr: Leona Wilson***Dec. 6:** Time for Church**Dec. 20:** Brr- Winter is Upon Us**Jan. 3:** From Head to Toe

On December 6 we will take "Time for Church." Should be an interesting program put on by Maryanne. On December 20 come and join us for "Winter is Upon Us." This program will be presented by Leona. Hopefully it won't be too cold. On Jan. 3 our program will be "From Head to Toe." Maryanne will have an exciting program this night.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75*Corr: Noel Miller***Dec. 1:** Christmas; Ref. Pat Ridzon

If it snows we will meet on the third Thursday. Check out Christmas in the Village on Dec. 4, 9-1 on Main St. in Coventry. Fun for all. Happy Holidays.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151*Corr: Irene Percoski***Dec. 10:** Come to the Stable**Jan. 14:** Green Towns

It is 79 degrees outside as I write this December column, and cannot imagine cold and snow. Too many members were away and we did not have a quorum for our October meeting. It's really important to announce in advance if you can't make a meeting so we can postpone for the following week.

Congratulations to all the officers elected at State Session. May you all have another successful two years. As you read this we will have a new United States President and can only wonder what changes are in store for our country. Regardless if your candidate won or lost, I think we are all very happy the campaigning is over.

ECHO GRANGE #180*Corr: Gloria John***Dec. 23:** "Christmas Cards and Candy"**Dec. 27:** Omit

We are now meeting once a month on the second Tuesday for the winter. We have been sending articles to help the "From the Heart". They can use all kinds of things for families.

We have two members

in Nursing Homes, Louise Garabedian and Lucille Lewis.

We are all hoping for a mild winter. Happy Holidays everyone.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Give your members something to talk about!

by Terri Fassio, P.R. Co-Director

Your Grange is a recognized organization in your community. But how do you get more than just recognition? How to you get people talking about the projects, activities and events of your Grange, and also interested in joining your Grange?

Word of mouth is 1000 times more effective than other forms of promoting your Grange. And the best part - it's either inexpensive or free! A person praising the efforts of your Grange - be it online or in person, can have a significant impact on the decisions of that person's friends, family and acquaintances. Word of mouth can influence the public's opinion of your Grange.

What does word of mouth accomplish?

- enhances trustworthiness of your organization
- builds trust with the Grange as a brand
- generates membership leads
- forms the attitudes of members, volunteers, and the public in general

Take the time to come up with a word of mouth strategy for your Grange. Make the extra effort to take to people about the Grange. Don't wait for the newspaper

to publicize your upcoming event. Make phone calls to friends and family. Tell the person standing in line next to you at the grocery store about how much you had at the last Grange event. Work Grange into your conversations. Create a creative and compelling endorsement of your Grange. Share your positive opinions. And even tell stories of the past as examples of the foundation your Grange has laid throughout the years. Grange projects and activities should not be a taboo topic only discussed within the confines of your hall.

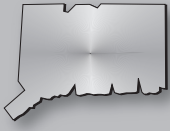
There is no better promotion than word of mouth. When one of your members/supporters/volunteers is excited and passionate about being involved with your Grange, they will tell their friends and family, and even random strangers they meet. When a member believes that your Grange is worth their time (and their dues money), they will shout it from the roof tops. Enthusiasm spreads - and attracts others to see what the buzz is all about.

The new year is coming. Give your members something to talk about.

Camp Berger "Barn" Dance




On Saturday, October 29th the 2nd Annual Barn Dance & Dinner was held at Camp Berger to raise funds for the Campership Fund and it was a huge success! Thanks to all of the Campers, Counselors, Alumni, Parents, Family, Friends, Neighbors, Grangers & Fans whom came together for a fun evening filled with great food, dancing & laughter all for a great cause! The delicious dinner menu of stuffed pork roast, mashed potatoes, roasted harvest veggies, gravy, salad and rolls was all washed down by fresh apple cider and ended with a tasty pumpkin cake with cream cheese frosting -- the entire meal was prepared by Tracy the Camp Master Chef and a team of volunteers. Back for an encore was the amazing Barn Dance Caller Billy Fischer of Bethany whom was accompanied by the talented team of Bill Walach and Dave Howard and the entire crowd danced the night away. Stay tuned for the next event to raise money for the Campership Fund being planned for early May.



Mountain County Pomona No. 4

Cawasa #34	Litchfield #107
Whigville #48	Beacon #118
Eureka #62	Riverton #169
Winchester #74	
Taghannuck #100	



Since February 1, 1888

MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

Dec. 12: Meeting at Winchester Grange, Grab Bag Gift Exchange

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be our Christmas Meeting to be held at Winchester Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M. There will be a Grab Bag Gift Exchange with a value of \$5 so come on over!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48*Corr: Debbie Brown*

Whigville Grange will hold a Cookie Walk on Dec. 3 at the Terryville Congregational Church, Rte. 6 in Terryville. Dozens of types of homemade cookies and candies will be available. Containers will be provided, and goodies will be sold by weight. There will also be a teacup auction. Contact: D. Brown at b_gary@sbcglobal.net for more info.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

Dec. 13: Christmas Program, \$5 Grab Bag Gift Exchange, Ref. All Members

Dec. 27: Omitted for Christmas

Winchester's fall Super Prize Party was a huge success with a full dining room and lots of prizes to be won. Thank you to all who donated prizes and to all who came and purchased tickets. Our Christmas Bake Sale was also held during this event as we did not hold our Holiday Bazaar this year. It also was a great success. Thanks to all who donated baked goods.

Our only meeting in December is our Dec. 13 Christmas program which will also feature a Grab Bag Gift Exchange. It's

always a fun evening—join us!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

Taghannuck Grange is having a Cookie Exchange on December 8th at 7:30 P.M. We will make up cookie plates for "Ella's Pantry" which is part of the Town of Sharon's Social Services Dept. In addition, we also give cookies to our home bound members who cannot attend our meetings. There are always extra cookies so that night everyone can also take home a plate full of cookies. Taghannuck Grange also has a gift exchange for anyone who would like to participate in a gift swap.

If you want to join us, you would be very welcome. Just bring 4 dozen of 1 kind of cookie to take part in the exchange and a gift valued at \$5 for the gift swap. Snow date is December 19th.

BEACON GRANGE #118*Corr: Chuck Bezio*

Beacon Grange is holding a fundraiser to help purchase new front doors for the Grange Hall. The event will be at Scarpelli's Family Restaurant-Large 2 topping pizza. Carry out Sunday-Wednesday (Pick-up only). \$10 donation. For more information, contact Chuck & Jen at 860-605-5368. To order tickets, make checks payable to Beacon Grange #118, 1266 New Litchfield Street, Torrington, CT 06790. You interested? Want to buy tickets? Visit us on Facebook.

Beacon Grange #118 is selling aged firewood for \$650. If interested, contact Treasurer Ron Neri at

860-782-1492 for more information. Proceeds go to funding new front doors and entrance, kitchen and safety updates for the facility. If you are aware of possible organizations or contractors who may be interested in contributing/donating/volunteering. In order to apply for grants we need contractors to provide quotes for the renovations needed.

We thank all the sponsors of the Annual Penny Auction and Patrons who attended on October 15.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169*Corr: Shirley Moore*

Dec. 16: Reg. Meeting, Program: Snowflakes & Snowpeople; Ref. Gail Prelli & Charlie Bierce

During Riverton Fair days, our Grange served turkey dinners on Saturday and ham dinners on Sunday. It was a busy two days for our members who prepared and served about 250 dinners. Thanks to all who helped that weekend, especially those in chage – Phil Prelli and Deb Hodge. In January, we are looking forward to celebrating 108 years as a Grange. Lecturer Dawn Anstett is also planning on doing the A-Number that evening – should be fun! In this Grange, it may be a contest between the brothers and sisters.

Mster Sue Belle-Isle and I, as a delegate, attended the State Session and enjoyed being a part of Constitution and By-Laws Committee, along with nine other Granges, which made recommendations of adoption or rejection. It was also a time of renewing acquaintances from other Granges.

This is a reminder for our members; please check your Pomona handbook for meetings. We would like to see more of our members at our meetings. If you haven't received the handbook, you should call our Secretary, Maureen Prelli. She will see that you receive it.

Take a trip with Colchester Grange



Colchester Grange #78 has announced its trips for 2017. We look forward to the community's support as we raise funds to offer two scholarships to Bacon Academy students. We have limited seats on the following trips. Please contact the trip coordinator Cathy Russi @ 860-887-9621 or crussi45@sbcglobal.net for more information or flyers for all trips. Various trips book very fast, please contact the coordinator if you are at all interested in any of the trips.

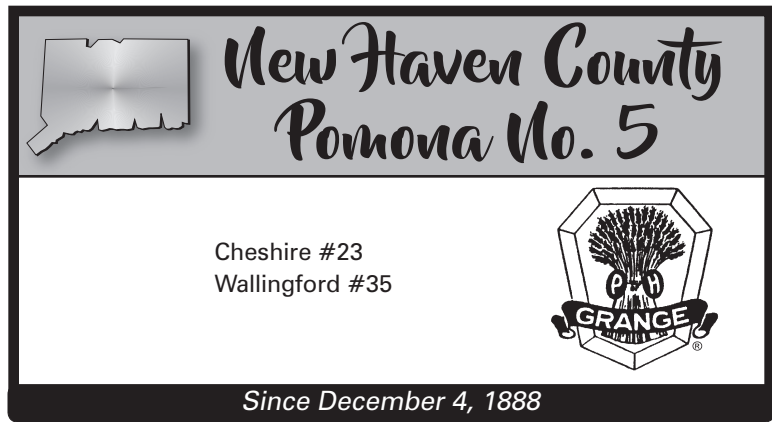
PENN DUTCH - April 25th - 27th: The two night stay will be at the beautiful Cork Factory Hotel, enjoy the Artist in a hour, Sight and Sound Theatre to see the show "Jonah", On the way home you will visit the city of Philadelphia newest attraction. One Liberty Observation Deck and experience the City of Brotherly Love from above plus much more. Cost: \$441pp/for double

TALL SHIPS IN BOSTON - June 20th: Enjoy a 90 minute narrated cruise through Boston Harbor after a wonderful lunch. Tour includes, Lunch, Cruise, transportation and gratuities for the driver and tour director. Enjoy the cruise in the harbor as you view the Tall Ships throughout the port. Cost: \$112.00

BOSTON POPS ON OLD CAPE COD - August 13th -14th: Enjoy the famous Boston Pops featuring Keith Lockhart and Celebrate Guest Conductor, one night stay at the Holiday Inn Hyannis Hotel, with a welcome dinner. You will hop aboard Hy-Line Hyannis Harbor boat and Cruise as you learn the local history of the area. Visit JFK Museum and the Cape Cod Baseball League Hall of Fame. Also included is one breakfast and all gratuities. Coast: \$347

NEW-ENGLAND/CANADA--FALL FOLIAGE CRUISE - October 1-11, 2017: Enjoy a beautiful fall cruise on a Royal Caribbean ship leaving from Cape Liberty NJ. You will be motorcoached to the pier and enjoy a 10 Night onboard the Vision of the Seas. You will visit Portland, Bar Harbor Rockland, Halifax, Sydney, Cornor Brook and Quebec City. Price starts at \$1349.00. Various cabins book fast, please call early if you are interested in this trip.





New Haven County
Pomona No. 5

Cheshire #23
Wallingford #35

Since December 4, 1888

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

Dec. 4 (Sunday), 4 P.M.: Open Meeting; Program: Christmas is around the corner- \$3.00 gift exchange.

Jan. 23: Regular Meeting; Program- Young at Heart- Worthy Master in Charge

As I write this article, State Session is behind us, and we are told that "New Pomonas are Coming..." I wonder where this new journey of Pomonas will take all of us.

Our October meeting did see some pretty colorful leaves, depending on which part of the state you lived, and the program was full of "Fall things," with colorful facts on fall/autumn, "Fall" Bingo; Apple Facts; to the Harvest Season. A fun time was enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

The officers and members of New Haven County Pomona #5 wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Daniel M. Lauttenbach

Dec. 8: "Christmas Program" Open Meeting, Card Exchange and \$3 grab bag. Mike McBride will be a guest speaker from the Little Stone House Museum in Guilford. Mike will give a

short talk about Puritans celebrating (or the lack thereof) Christmas.

Dec. 22: Christmas Eve – No Meeting

On Oct. 13, the program was the origins of bluegrass. Janet Haller attended the CWA regional meeting at Cheshire Grange on Oct. 29. Our members have done more than 20 hours of community service since the last meeting. Our fair state contest winners: Faith Roth (Adult Baking) and Louise Comparone (Apple Pie) attended the Association of Conn. Fairs meeting to compete in the state bake-off.

Jim Lamoureux talked about the origins of bluegrass music. Bluegrass is a form of American roots music, and a related genre of country music. Influenced by the music of Appalachia, bluegrass has mixed roots in Irish, Scottish, and English traditional music.

Jim reported that 68 tickets are out and 50 plus have been sold for the Amy Gallatin and Stillwaters bluegrass concert on Saturday, Oct. 15. More than 60 people attended the show at our hall. We were really pleased with the number of people that attended given this is the first time we have done a lone concert at this time of year. Thanks to all who attended.

Reminder: Dues are due in October.

Congressman lauds Grange

HERNDON, VA – During the opening day of the 150th Annual Session of the National Grange, breakfast speaker Rep. Glenn (GT) Thompson (PA-5) told the audience that today in a nation divided, the Grange is more relevant than ever.

"Given what we're experiencing right now, after the election that we just completed, the National Grange is as relevant today as what it was 150 years ago," Thompson said to the approximately 140 attendees.

Thompson noted the Grange's role in reconciliation between individuals of the nation in its early years, founding just after the Civil War.

"Just like the founding of this organization your timing is such that it is time for healing in our land and I think the Grange can be a very big part of that."

Thompson spoke to the oldest agricultural organization in the nation about some priorities of the next Farm Bill, for which work has already begun, but focused greatly on the complex relationship between world trade, politics and agriculture.

While he began with a look at the current struggle of dairy farmers due to increasing milk competition in our

trade markets because of Russia's ban on European Union products, he quickly discussed the intersection of national security and agriculture.

"If you don't think that agriculture is a complicated issue, well it can get caught up in the geopolitics of our time," Thompson said. "Without food security and energy security you have infant mortality, you have illiteracy... you have war, you have violence."

"For our country to ever be at a point to be dependent on another country for our food, is completely unacceptable," Thompson said.

For legislators, he said the priority must be to "make sure we are doing the right thing by those who dedicate their lives to feeding us, providing the fiber for our cloths, the wood materials that build our homes and they provide us energy because so much of America's energy comes off of our rural land."

"The fact is without a robust rural America, people in the cities will wake up in the cold, in the dark and hungry, and so we have really a moral obligation to make sure we do our best to fulfill the focus and mission of the National Grange," Thompson said.

National Grange Elections

HERNDON, VA – On Thursday, Nov. 17, delegates of the National Grange had scheduled elections for two positions on the organization's Executive Committee and special elections for the offices of Lecturer and Lady Assistant Steward.

Duane Scott, from Fort Atkinson, WI, and Leroy Watson of Walpole, NH, were re-elected to two-year terms on the Executive Committee. This will be the start of Watson's second term while Scott begins his fourth term and while Scott begins his fourth term and re-elected by the committee as Secretary.

Amanda Leigh Brozana, National Grange Communication and Development Director, announced on Wednesday, Nov. 16, her intent to resign as National Lecturer to respect the tradition of separation of staff and officers. Brozana,

of Greenbelt, MD, was elected in 2015 before returning to the National staff in March 2016.

Christine Hamp, who was serving as National Lady Assistant Steward, was elected Thursday to the remaining one-year term of the Lecturer's office. With the move of Hamp, of Nine Mile Falls, WA, the one-year remainder of the term for Lady Assistant Steward was open and Brenda Rouselle, of Essex Junction, VT, was elected to the office.

Hamp announced in a letter to delegates that she is "honored to be your new National Grange Lecturer and... excited to get to work." She plans to announce programming changes or additions by December 15 and encouraged all State Presidents to share information with their members as soon as possible.


Connecticut State Grange Past Deputies Association

The next meeting and Christmas Party of the Past Deputies Association will be held at Cheshire Grange on Sunday, December 11. The afternoon starts at 2:00 with a social hour hosted by Joanne Cipriano and Eloise Osuch. Jody and Jodi Ann Cameron will be in charge of socializing. They request that those attending come prepared to tell us something that no one knows about them.

Following the meeting, Irene Percoski will present a fun program. Those attending who wish to participate should bring a \$5.00 grab bag gift. The Country Store theme is "White" and we don't mean snow.


The afternoon concludes with a potluck supper hosted by Marge Bernhardt.

All Past Deputies and their spouses are invited to come and join us.



**New London County
Pomona No. 6**

Senexet #40	Killingly #112
Wolf Den #61	N. Stonington #138
Colchester #78	Lyme #147
Ekonk #89	Stonington #168
Pachaug #96	Norwich #172
Preston City #110	Groton #213



Since January 10, 1890

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Dec. 10: Christmas Songs – Norwich Grange

We will meet at Norwich Grange for our holiday get-together. Dress in your holiday best and join us for fun, friendship and music. We hope some of our “new” Granges will join us. The resolution about dissolving Pomonas failed to pass. Let’s show State Grange that we are alive and well.

It’s time for the holidays, hip, hip hooray

So come out to Norwich! Be ready to play!

‘Cause we will be singing those holiday songs,

There may be accordions, sleigh bells or gongs.

SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Dec. 21: Merry Christmas
Dec. 24: Christmas Pie Sale

Jan. 18: Hobby Night

We are meeting each month. Programs are varies.

We provided dinner for the Windham County Farm Bureau annual meeting.

We are having lots of work being done in the hall. Painting the basement floor, sealing the stone walls and putting in an enlarged handicap accessible bathroom are in the works. It looks great and is a much needed improvement.

The AARP continues to meet in our hall and the Happy Herdsmen 4H Club also meets monthly. They have a very large membership and very much appreciate our large space.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Dec. 14: Christmas Contest

Jan. 11: Begin Anew

State Session is over. Master John gave us information and what went on.

Gardens are done and cleaned up for next year. Leaves are cleaned up. Movers put away. Shovels are at the ready. Have you had your flu shot yet? Heat

turned on- and heavy coats put on.

Looking into getting dictionaries for third grade students. Plans for Thanksgiving being made. This good weather we’re having- can be like it all winter.

Stay well. Sybil is better.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Our annual Awards Meeting was held and as always, we thank Lois Evankow and Ted Beebe for the continuing contributions to our Grange. We also welcomed Anne Marie Knochenhauer from Groton Grange and guest Mary Mingo from Norwich Grange. Several awards were presented by Ted Beebe from the State Grange Session: Polly Leonard/Joan Toomey- returning community service report. Polly Leonard- Outstanding Ag Professional 2016. Joan Toomey- Outstanding Lecturer’s Program 2016. CWA: Polly Leonard- Ag growing to Colchester Grange. CWA – Dot Mrowka- Class K- 2nd place; Bonnie Trecarten- Hat – 3rd Place; Cathy Russi- Craft – 1st place. Maureen Taylor- Class D – 2nd place.

The following members received certificates from State Grange presented by Ted Beebe: Blanche Bass- 40 years, Marion Culhane- 25 years, Walter Pieniadz- 45 years, Julie Swick- 40 years; James Swider – 45 years, Wilma Zemko- 40 years. The following members received Golden Sheaf Certificates for 50 years of service- Steve Misovich, Joan Toomey. Congratulations to all.

Our community service activities continue as we made donations to the Haitian Health Foundation and local food banks. We also sent greeting cards to Veterans for the Holidays.

We also received a

thank you from Haitian Health Foundation for our contribution to Hurricane Matthew Aid.

Our CWA Chair Cathy Russi has some exciting trips for 2017, please contact her for all the details.

Hope all had a nice Thanksgiving.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

We draped our Charter in loving memory of Past President (1966-7), Robert A. Chamberland. A Navy veteran, Bob was proud to have been Marshall of both the Moosup VJ Day Parade and the Sterling Memorial Day Parade. His daughters are both Grangers at Ekonk.

December 3rd is our annual Christmas Bazaar from 10-2. Vendor spaces are sold out! It should be an outstanding event, with lots of great food available in our kitchen.

We are honored to host the National Grange Masters/Officers Conference in February. Thanks to Link Cooper, we have new Anderson windows throughout our facility. These new windows should better keep the winter winds of Ekonk from finding their way into our hall! Anyone who has visited Ekonk in the winter can attest to the wind and cold that we are blessed with!

We were proud to have collected the most “G” bills of any Grange in the state and must especially acknowledge our two top collectors: Barbara Salisbury and the late Chuck Thurlow.

We are excited to have our Community Service book judged at National Grange. The materials in this book represent a huge commitment of our members and their generous service and caring hearts.

Friday, December 9th will be the annual play presented by our Junior Grange, beginning at 6:00 p.m. They continually make us proud as they share their talents and also help others! Veterans Day found them delivering BAGS of gifts to the Jewett City Home for Homeless Veterans--18 veterans living there were delighted with the remembrances and the children who delivered them! They will walk for St. Jude’s November 25th- contact Rebecca Gervais

860-564-1139 if you wish to be a sponsor.

January 27th will be our annual Family Game/Casino Night--all invited.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Dec. 5: Holiday Time

Dec. 19: Christmas Carols & Party, Potluck 6 P.M.

Jan. 28: Meeting, 2 P.M.

Feb. 25: Meeting, 2 P.M.

It’s fall- the leaves are falling all over. Soon bare trees, but the sun is shining. Installations are over and Eleanor Davis is again our Master. Congratulations! Good luck. Past Master Pat Valys is now Secretary and Glenna Bruno is now the Lecturer. Congratulations to all. We hope all had our turn at one office or another over the years.

Oct. 8 – Apple Festival was a success and we sold at least 50 pancake breakfasts. The several vendors were busy buying and selling and all were entertained by good musical groups. Thanks to John & Penny Bennet for sponsoring this event. Look for other local dinners on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Call 860-481-9102 and leave a message for more info.

Thank you to Jody Cameron and Jeff Barnes and team for a job well done in installing our officers.

We held a dinner and bluegrass concert on Sat., Oct. 22- sold out to a good crowd for both evening – our Wed. dinner of meatloaf and potatoes/vegetables on 12th of Oct. was not as successful as we hoped. The next one is scheduled for Nov. 16th- hope you joined us.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Dec. 9: “Christmas Comes But Once A Year”

Dec. 23: No meeting – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

At our October 14 meeting Nick Mullane passed out sample ballots and went over them for us and then gave us information on state and town budget issues.

Our Halloween party was a joyous affair with upstairs and down decks out in its Halloween best. Prizes were awarded for costumes in four age groups, with ages two to adult represented. Sue had games for the children which included filling monster mugs with candy corn using a spoon, grabbing dog biscuits with a

skeleton hand to see which team could fill their basket first, trying to ring sparkly witch hats, passing the pumpkin, sweeping balloon “creeps” and wrapping Charlie and Jeff in toilet paper. Both gentlemen made excellent mummies and they shambled across the hall. Jason Miner ran a very successful cup social to raise money for our Christmas fruit baskets while all enjoyed refreshments downstairs. Kaelin Rose guessed the exact number of candies in the guessing game.

Our Christmas party promises to be a pleasant evening for all. If you are bringing a child please bring a wrapped gift with name clearly attached for Santa’s bag. There will be apples and a small gift for each person attending, and Sue promises a special surprise for all. Please come. And if those pesky mice who keep getting into the basement will just find another winter home, next time we’ll tell you about nifty November.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Jan. 5: Show & Tell. Let’s share our hobbies and small antiques.

Feb. 2: Groundhog Day- will he see his shadow?

Mar. 2: CWA Kitchen Queens & Kings

Amazing as it may seem, once again we had a potluck supper with 14 people present and no duplicates on food. Such wonderful warm weather prevailed at our November meeting. How lucky can you get?

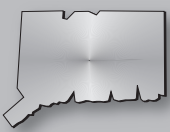
Our Lecturer and CWA Chairman was presented with several awards she earned this past year at the State Session in October.

31 invitations were mailed out to members who will be receiving certificates in Dec. All from 25 years all the way up to 75 years.

Our plumbing problem has not been fixed yet but when tradesmen are volunteering their services you must be patient and be glad they will take care of the problem.


I must thank Norman Stitham for printing wonderful invitations and mailing labels that are being sent to recipients of certificates in December.

Hope everyone will enjoy a most wonderful Christmas and Hanukah and Happy New Year to all.



Excelsior Pomona No. 7

Beacon Valley #103	Bridgewater #153
Bethlehem #121	Wolcott #173
Prospect #144	Oxford #194



Since October 22, 1891

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on Friday, Dec. 9th. This will also be our Christmas party with a potluck super to be served promptly at 6:00. Meeting time 7:00. We welcome Lecturer Cindy Legg back after being on the sick list for a couple of months. Cindy will present her program titled "Angels We Have Heard on High." We will have a \$5.00 grab bag.

Our members are still on hearing the news our Assistant Steward Bryan Kaplan had passed away unexpectedly in his sleep. Bryan was only 39 years old- too young to leave us. Our sympathies have been extended to his family. Bryan was also a member of the Executive Committee of Excelsior Pomona and on the State Grange Youth Committee.

The following evening we will host the meeting and Christmas party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Dec. 4: (Sun) 4:00 P.M. Dinner at the Painted Pony. Grab bag \$5.00

Dec. 12: (Mon), 7:30 P.M., Surprise Package, Ref. Eloise, Linda

Jan. 8: (Sun) 2 P.M., Ref. Ed Whitehead, Barbara Robert

Our Flea Market was Nov. 12.

Food was collected for a complete Thanksgiving Dinner through First Church of Bethlehem for a Bethlehem Family.

A Neighbor's Night was held the end of October with many friends present including Hank the Burro and State Master Noel Miller.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Dec. 2: Craft Night- Holiday Decorations

Dec. 16: Christmas Party/ Potluck at 7:00 PM/\$5.00 grab-bag gift exchange/ Games

Open Mics are back in swing so watch us on Facebook for the dates.

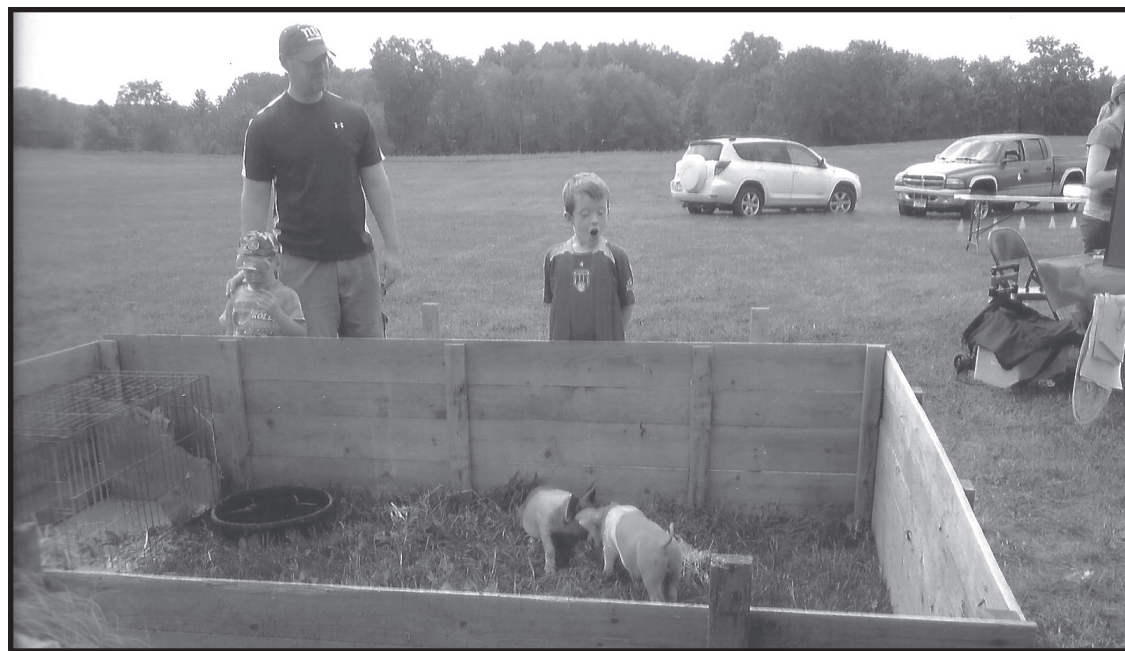
By the time you have this in your hands, we hope the footings for our handicapped ramp will have been poured, and plans for funding the ramp itself in place. Our Open Mics are back. Kim and Mike have held the General Store Open Mic since September, and Martin had a special memorial open mic for a deceased friend on November 14th. Watch our Facebook page for Open Mic dates, and come out to enjoy the entertainment. We hope to entice our members who regularly perform at the Open Mics to enter the Grange talent run-offs this coming year, and what talent they have! State Session has come and gone, and it was a productive session. We now know the Pomona Granges will continue with specific plans to come from the State Grange by next State Session. If Pomona is to continue, it will take the dedication of all Grangers to MAKE IT WORK! That means CHANGE and stepping OUTSIDE of our comfort zones.

Oxford Grange's resolution in opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership was adopted. We also were one of three Gold Honor Granges in the state and quite proud of the accomplishment (Cheshire and Ekonk being the other two). At our last meeting in October, we had a guest in attendance on the invitation of our treasurer who we hope will have joined us by the time you are reading these words. Growth of your Grange is possible if you make a concerted and dedicated effort.

Colchester Grange No. 78



Colchester Grange's Walter Pieniadz accepts his 45 year congratulations from Ted Beebe, Ann Marie Knockenhauer, and Dot Mrowka.



Colchester Grange #78 members took an active part at the Annual Family Fun Day held at Zagray Farm in Colchester. Colchester Grange #78 offered hayrides to participants. Chris Bourque, Colchester Grange member enjoyed the fun filled day with family members taking the ride. The Grange membership also had pigs and a baby goat. Members were able to talk to families on the need for good farming and how to care for the animals.


Family Activities



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org


The report from the building manager at the Big E states that more than \$14,000 was made on the crafts and handmade items and jams and jellies brought in over \$11,500. Without this income it would be impossible to fund the building repairs. Every item that you made and donated counts in that total. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your continued help. With that said, it's not too soon to ask you to start making things for 2017. The most needed items are scrubbies, towels, mittens, hats, slippers, baby sets, aprons, stuffed toys and of course afghans and lap robes. I know it seems a long way off but it's never too early to begin.

We are profoundly saddened by the death of our former National and State CWA Director Betty Jane Gardiner. She looked at the Grange as her family and considered all of us as her brothers and sisters. I have no words to express how much she will be missed.



**Fairfield County
Pomona No. 9**

Redding #15 Norfield #146
Harmony #92 Cannon #152
Greenfield Hill #133



Since February 20, 1895

HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

Dec. 9: Refreshments at 6:30, meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's Program to be announced later.

We are still working with the State Transportation Dept. and the Town of Monroe to add parking spaces lost by the cul-de-sac being added on Herd Avenue. This is some of the effects Harmony Grange will suffer because of the round-a-bout being added at the intersection of Rtes. 110 & 111.

Membership will be required to make a decision on land requisition when details are complete.

Our Christmas Boutique is scheduled for Dec. 3 at the Grange Hall. It will consist of food, vendors, Christmas items, raffles, antiques, jewelry and Santa. We are hoping for good weather and a good turnout of prospective fair-goers.

Harmony Grange wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Around the World



Congratulations to Brothers Jim and Steve Golias of Greenfield Hill Grange No. 133 who were chosen to receive our 2016 "Granger of the Year" award. Steve is Lecturer and Jim is Treasurer. Both have only been members for four years, but, have done more than many members in a lifetime. We thank the other

Granges who took the time to send in nominations. Your Granges are very fortunate to have them as members. We look forward to receiving your nominations next year.

The date of our next activity is Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Cheshire Grange. Our program will be "Around the World." A dinner of ethnic foods will be served promptly at 6:00.

We could use your help. Anyone who would like to volunteer to make a dish from another country, please call Barbara Robert or me. Our previous activities have always been fun and this one should be too.

Our committee has been saddened by the Passing of Sister Betty Jane Gardiner. When she was feeling well she liked to sit and sell our Country Store. Lately, when not able to attend, she offered her suggestions and sent prizes. She will be missed. We know she is now happy with her many Grange friends in the Great Grange above.

Corr: Lyn Kimberly

Dec. 1: Wreath Decorating Party, 5:30-7:30 P.M. Co-sponsored by Weston Garden Club & Norfield Grange- \$30 fee (includes wreath plus supplies).

Dec. 13: Deck the Hall & Holiday Party @ 6:30 P.M.

Jan. 10: Monthly Grange Meeting @ 6:30 P.M.

Jan. 14: Barn Dance & Chili Supper @ 6:30 P.M. (Tickets: \$10/Kids, \$25/Adult & \$50/Family)- Please bring a potluck item to share.

November was Weston Beautification Month at Norfield Grange. Four energetic Girl Scouts from Troop #50458 and their Leader Julia Braden (Executive Committee Member) and a Troop Mom planted 250 daffodil bulbs (donated by the Weston Garden Club) and helped Lyn & Chris Kimberly-Norfield Grange Officers & Camp Berger Directors blow & rake the leaves to clean up the Grange grounds. We can't wait until spring to see what has bloomed along Good Hill Road.



Christmas Brownie Trees

These are perfect for your Grange's Christmas gathering! A simple brownie recipe from the Food Network becomes extra special with the addition of green frosting and candy. We bake the brownies in round cake pans to make cutting triangle shapes easy, with no trimmings or waste.

INGREDIENTS:**Brownies:**

- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus more for greasing the pans
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour (see Cook's Note)
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- Sixteen 1 1/2-inch pieces mini candy cane
- White sprinkles and small non-pareil candy-covered chocolates, such as Sno-Caps, for decorating

American Buttercream Frosting:

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 stick (4 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- Pinch of fine salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 to 1/2 tablespoon whole milk
- 24 drops green food coloring
- 1 drop red food coloring

DIRECTIONS:**For the brownies:**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter the bottom and sides of two 8-inch round cake pans. Cut two 8-inch circles out of parchment and line the bottoms of the cake pans with the parchment.

Stir together the butter, granulated sugar, vanilla and eggs in a medium bowl. In another bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking powder. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Stir in the chocolate chips and divide the batter between the prepared pans, smoothing the tops. Bake until the brownies begin to gain a crust around the edges, pull away from the edge and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes.

Let the brownies cool fully in the pans on cooling racks, about 1 hour. Cut each circle into 8 equal triangles with a knife. Use a small offset spatula or pie server to lift each triangle out of the pan.

For the American buttercream frosting:

Combine the confectioners' sugar, butter and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment (or in a large bowl if using a handheld electric mixer). Mix on low speed until mostly incorporated. Add the vanilla, increase the speed to medium-high and mix until smooth. Loosen the consistency with milk as desired. Add 24 drops green food coloring and 1 drop red food coloring and mix on medium speed for 1 minute. Set aside.

To assemble:

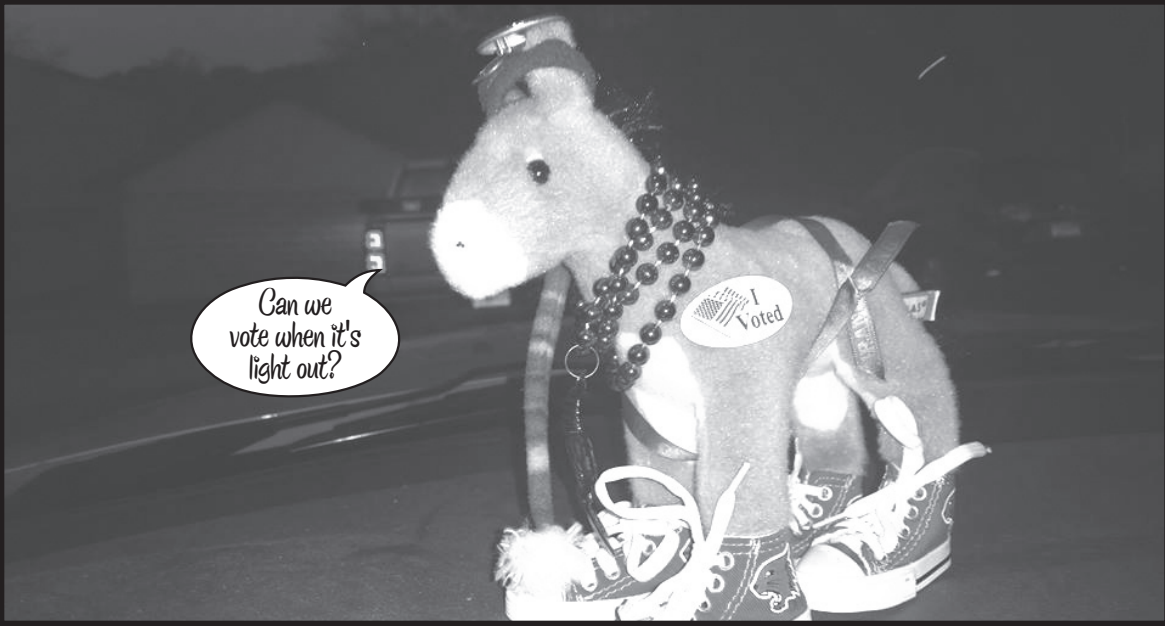
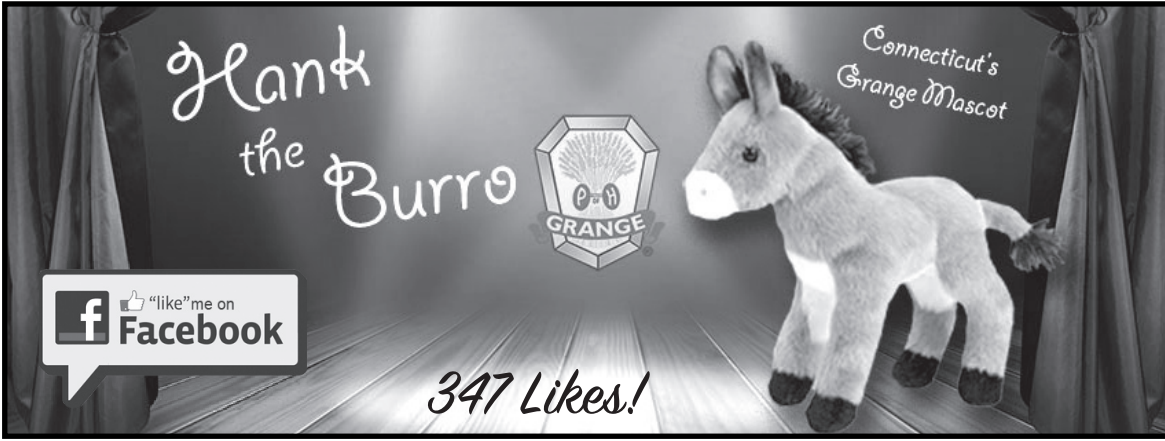
Using the tip of a paring knife or a skewer, poke a small hole along the bottom edge of each brownie. Insert a candy cane "trunk" into each hole.

Fill the resealable plastic bag with the frosting and cut 1/4 inch off the tip. Using a zig-zag motion, pipe the frosting from the base to the tip of each tree. Decorate the trees with sprinkles and top each with a candy-covered chocolate as the star.

Recipe courtesy of Food Network Kitchen, 2016

SOURCE: <http://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchens/christmas-brownie-trees.html>





By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

After the Annual Session of the CT State Grange ended in October, I accompanied my host family to Hillstown Grange for the Pancake Breakfast. It was yummy - and great to see so many of my Grange friends!

I also did my civic duty and voted on November 8th. But then it was off to the National Grange Annual Session in Washington DC, where I reconnected with the rest of the herd.

I wonder what Noel has planned for the holidays? Merry Christmas to all my Grange Friends!!

Want to keep up on my adventures as I travel around the State? Be sure to follow me on Facebook. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



The long nights of winter are here

MY FAVORITE SPOT IN CONNECTICUT

By Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange

My favorite place in Connecticut is wherever and whenever I am with family and close friends. It could be at the beach, a restaurant, at their homes, at a meeting or volunteering, friends at Grange and quilt meetings or just socializing. Or, when my New Hampshire Son comes down and we walk our dogs together.

All of these are my favorite places in Connecticut.

The longest nights of winter are coming this month and next. Lots of us stay close to home when the cold dark winter nights come. Why not take one night and write an

essay for the contest. This years' topic is "My Favorite Food". When the Lecturers met last March they thought this was a perfect topic for Grangers. All Grangers are noted for their good cooking and their hearty appetites. Let see what everyone likes.

I'm hoping to see a lot of you around the State this year. I have several Granges I plan to attend. I didn't get out as much as I like last year and plan on making up for it this year. Stay healthy. Keep warm.



Bethlehem #121



Hank the Burro and State Master Noel Miller pose for a picture with Al Maddox, Master of Bethlehem Grange No. 121 at a recent meeting. Also pictured is First Lady Marcia Miller.

Greenfield Hill Grange offers another great dinner on December 10th - A Taste of Italy: Antipasto, garlic bread, pasta (all you can eat) homemade sauce, meatballs, sausage. doors open at 5:30 PM BYOB \$20 / children under 12 \$10 please RSVP Jim (203) 259-8023

WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.



This Month

We had no responses on the November Photo. We heard from Kay Ruff regarding the October photo. Kay believes that the man on the right is Mervin Whipple, and the couple is Grace and Roy Linden from Franklin Grange.



October



Last Month



Cheshire Junior Granger

Junior Granger Gabriel LaPlante shows box tops Cheshire Grange has collected. He brought them to his school in the name of the Grange.

In Memoriam

Robert A. Chamberland, G.S., PM
 Ekonk Community #89
 Bryan Kaplan
 Beacon Valley #103
 Joanna Formica
 Hemlock #182
 Betty Jane Gardiner, G.S.
 Simsbury #197

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain



Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain

Christmas season is often closely associated with the giving and receiving presents, which gets me to thinking about the entire broad subject of giving. We have all heard the old adage that it is more blessed to give than receive, but there is more to the adage than appears on the surface. It turns out that generous giving is also good for both your physical and mental health. Note that I included the modifier “generous”. If you give grudgingly, and/or only of that which you can easily spare without missing it, then your giving has no benefit to you and perhaps very little to those who receive it. According to Immanuel Kant, if you only give of your abundance there is no virtue in the giving; you are merely doing what God says you should do, sharing with others that which you do not need for yourself. But if your gift actually entails some sacrifice on your part, then there is real blessing in your gift, both to the giver and to the receiver.

Keep in mind that the entire subject of giving includes much more than the presenting of physical objects. In fact, such giving may occur without really putting much of yourself into the giving. To be a complete giver you should give not only of your treasure, but also of your time and your talent. Whether it be for your family, or your Grange or for your Church, or for your community, give your whole self to helping others. It has been wisely said that the more you put into any organization, including into your own family, the more you get out of it. Give and God will reward you for your giving. We read this in the sixth chapter of Luke’s Gospel:

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

And finally, as the Christmas season approaches, let us become aware that no matter how much we give to others and to God we cannot approach God’s gifts to us, especially His greatest gift, Jesus Christ. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life.”



Merry Christmas

May you be
blessed in the year
ahead!

Russell & Sue Gray

Wishing everyone a
blessed
Holiday Season!

Phil & Maureen Prelli

Comfort & Joy
in Memory of
Phil Bergquist

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from

*Eloise Osuch
and
Malcolm MacDonald*

Happy Holidays
from

Bethlehem Grange #121

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year
Jeff & Debbie Barnes

Happy Holidays
**Marge & Bob
Sendewicz**

Merry Christmas
& A Successful
New Year

Merry Christmas to all.
Enjoy the Holidays
Mary Lou Raymond

Merry Christmas
from

Central Pomona #1

Merry Christmas
to our
Brothers & Sisters

Special Blessings of
Christmas to all.

*Lois Evankow
Lynn Freudenthel*

Merry Christmas
Happy New Year

Marge Bernhardt

Our best wishes to all
for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

Jane & Ruel Miller

May Peace & Joy
Be With You
Gordon Gibson

Blessings to all at
this Holiday Season
Cynthia Finch

Happiest Holidays to All
**N. Stonington
Community Grange #138**

Greetings from
Glastonbury Grange #26.
Have a Happy Holiday and a
Happy Christmas to all.

Wishing all a very
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy & Healthy
New Year

Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays &
"Cheers" to 2017
Norfield Grange #146

To our Campers, Families
and Supporters of Camp
Berger- Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays and a
Healthy & Prosperous
New Year

Lyn & Chris Kimberly

Santa & Rudy will
soon be here!

Meriden Grange #29

Happy Holidays
from

*Groton Community
Grange #213*

Holiday Greetings
from
Wallingford Grange #33

We would like to
wish everyone a
Happy, Healthy Holiday!
George & Sharon Russell

Happy Holidays
to all from
Taghannuck Grange #100

In memory of my mother-
wishing everyone a
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

*Denise Barbieri,
Donald Tyler and
Prospect Grange #144*

Happy Holidays
from

*Todd, Faith,
Zuinlan
& Noelle*

Thank you for your
support. Happy Holidays.

*Social Connection
Joanne - Barbara
Betty Jane*

To our Brother & Sister
Grangers - "Merry
Christmas & a Healthy
New Year"

Beacon Valley #103

May peace be your gift
at Christmas and your
blessing all year.

Joanne Cipriano

Best Wishes of the Season
**New London County
Pomona No. 6**

