



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

August 2025

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

As I write this, we are getting to the end of the traditional Dog Days of Summer of July 3-August 11. With the climate changing, I won't be surprised to see more hot and sultry days throughout the month of August. When I go birdwatching, I can see the effects of time passage on what birds are most prominent as it changes dramatically from April to late summer. Fewer warblers are to be seen, the red-winged blackbirds will leave soon, the various flycatchers are on the uptick with all the flies and gnats, and goldfinches are numerous as they look for breeding mates as evidenced by their singing. Time is passing and I hope your Granges are making good use of the summer with community serving events and programs.

Make sure your Grange and officers are properly bonded through the National Grange program. For the Granges receiving grants from various foundations, this will boost your treasury holdings and your Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee should choose the proper level of bonding to match your assets. Secretaries, get your premium payments into our State Grange Secretary promptly as these are required by National Grange as they

are usually paid by the State Grange for all its subordinates before you submit your premium payments to Todd Gelineau.

National Grange is in the process of switching to a new Grange Engage community online platform. This will be provided for enhanced fellowship, resources, and connections to member benefits. The platform includes a digital hall where Community/Subordinate, Pomona,

and State Granges can upload and access resources, hold discussions, and host virtual meetings and social events. It will also provide a more clear view of the Order to the public in regards to our values, policy, programs, history, leadership, and more. Stay tuned and make use of this resource when it goes live.

I have been preparing for the upcoming 141st Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange. The Sixth Degree is once again memorized in but two weeks, down

...Continued on page 2

Come to Peoples State Forest

Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary

Join us on Sunday, August 24th when we dedicate the Grange Plot in Peoples State Forest.

For decades the exact location of the plot had been unknown as the original plaque was attached to a tree and lost to the ages. Due to the diligent research of member Janet Haller, along with the hard work of State Lecturer Dave Roberts, the plot has been identified and a new marker with a beautiful plaque has been placed prominently in the forest.

This part of the Forest was once the King Farm and was purchased through donations of members of the Connecticut State Grange in 1930.

The new plaque was made possible by the generous donations of members and friends of the Grange. All donors will be recognized during the ceremony.

The dedication will begin at 3:30



and include an appearance by the Riverton American Legion Color Guard.

The plot is located on Park Road in Barkhamsted. From Route 20 (Riverton Rd.), take High View Road and continue as it turns into Park Rd. The monument is located just before the junction with Slade Rd. From Route 44, take Route 318

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due August 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

from one month last year and two and a half months on the first go-around. Calls to the Session have gone out, so make your hotel reservations. Get your resolutions in to your Pomona Granges. As I write this, Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 has six resolutions so far to consider at the August 23 meeting. Our National representative this year is to be National Grange Treasurer Joe Goodrich and wife Lisa from Vermont.

The Big E is just around the

corner. Maintenance on the building under the oversight of Building Manager Noel Miller keeps the edifice in good shape so we put on a good appearance for our Big E visitors and customers. Noel doesn't look for acknowledgements on this, but if you see him, thank him for all the hard work. He puts a lot of time into this endeavor because of his love for the Order. If you can attend the Big E, look into sitting in the Connecticut Room for all or part of a day to greet visitors.

This year, the Northeastern Grange Weekend and Chaplains Service failed to materialize as of late July due to the difficulty in finding a suitable location. They try to move it around to different parts of the seven state conference to give the Grangers in all the states a chance to attend periodically if not every year. It is an enjoyable event and I hope this tradition will continue another year.

By the time you read this, Grange Family Day in Hillstown Grange #87 and its pancake breakfast will be past and I hope will have been

successful with many contest entries and attendees. Thanks to the Family Activities Committee for all their work on this.

Plan to attend the rededication ceremony for the Grange Plot in Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted. It is located near the intersection of Slade and Park Roads. There will be a dinner afterwards at Riverton Grange #169. It would be nice to have a good attendance by Grangers. Parking will be along the sides of the road. The boulder on which the plaque is mounted is only about 20 feet into the field and the grass is mowed from roadside to and around the monument. Dave Roberts assured me that anyone who cannot walk into the field can watch easily from the roadside. The Riverton American Legion Post #159 will provide an Honor Guard for the rededication. Plan to attend this resurrection of sorts for an important piece of lost Grange history brought back to us by our State Lecturer Dave Roberts.

Food for thought from the Heirloom Program for July: "Changes and transformations are constantly passing before us." (*Second Degree, Ceres*)

National Representatives

The Connecticut State Grange is pleased to announce National Treasurer Joe Goodrich and his wife Lisa will be the National Representatives to our Session in October. Joe is a third-generation Grange member, joining Center Grange #290 at age 14 and having been a Junior Grange member prior to that. He is the immediate past President of Vermont State Grange, where he served from 2018-2022. He is the co-director of Membership & Leadership and Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee in the Vermont State Grange. Joe worked in the rail industry for nearly 40 years. Joe and Lisa have six adult children and several grandchildren. They enjoy riding motorcycles.



Joe Goodrich
National Grange Treasurer

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

President/Editor Todd A. Gelineau
Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:

Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
(USPS 563-220)

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Continued from page one...

(Ripley Hill Rd.) to 181, turning on to Park Rd. A full map is included in this issue. As the plot does not have a street address, we will try to mark the major intersections with signs directing you to the site.

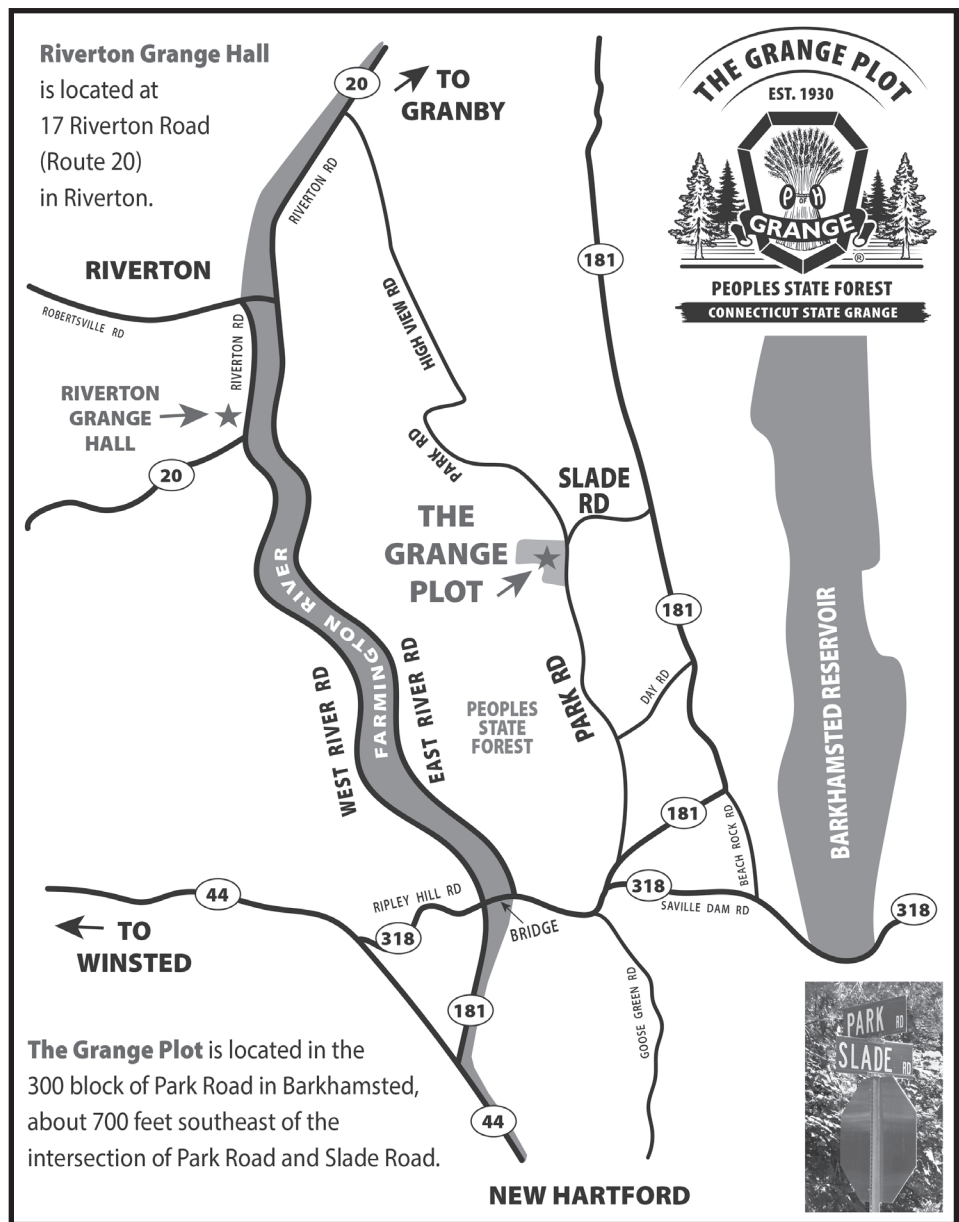
Following the ceremony, there will be a catered dinner provided by the CT State Grange at Riverton Grange Hall. To ensure we have enough food prepared, please email or call the State Secretary to let him know how many will be attending: secretary@ctstategrange.org or call 860-307-1522.

We thank the members of Riverton Grange (located at 17 Riverton Road/ Rte. 20) in Riverton for offering the use of their hall for the meal.

Everyone who attends will receive a commemorative keychain.

In honor of the event, we have produced limited edition t-shirts with the logo shown on the front page of this issue. The shirts will be dark green with a cream print on the front. Be sure to get yours at the event. We will have any remaining shirts available at State Session but cannot guarantee your size will be available.

We look forward to seeing all of you on this memorable day.



Cheshire Grange 140th Community Fair

Artwork Created in Bing Image Creator, Microsoft Designer

Sponsored by **Cheshire Grange, No. 23**

August 23rd & 24th, 2025 - From: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM
At the Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire, CT

www.cheshiregrange.org/grangeagfair.asp

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Saturday August 23, 2025 10 am-3 pm

Special Events
Judged Exhibits
Vegetables, Flowers, Fruits, Baked Goods, Photography, Arts & Crafts, and more Games, Raffle, Vendors, Food & Refreshments
Live music, Agricultural Programs & Demonstrations

EVERYBODY'S GOING THIS YEAR!

Grange Hall 1873 Hillside Road Fairfield CT

Sugar Snap Peas
freshly picked on July 9th

This may look like a simple brown bag of peas, but it is actually a photo of compassion and kindness. THANK YOU to the person who donated these peas - and to all who take time to drop off food for Redding Grange's weekly produce drive - your garden veggies are very appreciated by the recipients at the local pantries that we support, including our own Redding Social Services. Helping is easy! Just drop off any excess garden veggies from 8am-12pm each Wednesday - and we will get them where they need to go! We have 3 convenient drop-off locations this year: the Mark Twain Library, The Granite Church and Redding Grange!



Convention Registration

Thursday, October 16 - Saturday, October 18

HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE: SEPT. 10

SESSION REGISTRATIONS DUE: SEPT. 30

ALL MEMBERS are required to register to attend most sessions/activities (excluding Sixth Degree and Lecturer's Program on Friday evening). All other events require payment of a registration fee and/or purchase of a ticket. Lunches are included in the registration fee and the Banquet is a separate ticketed event.

Grange Name _____ No. _____

DELEGATES (Complete this section only if you were selected your Grange's Delegates to Session)

Delegate Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$50) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) _____ Saturday (\$25) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

Email: _____

Delegate Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$50) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) _____ Saturday (\$25) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

Email: _____

NON-DELEGATES

Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$50) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) _____ Saturday (\$25) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$50) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$25) _____ Saturday (\$25) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

JUNIOR MEMBERS (This section is for Junior Grange and Plus 1 members)

Junior Granger Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$20) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$10) _____ Saturday (\$10) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

Junior Granger Name _____

Sessions: _____ Full (\$20) _____ Thurs./Fri. (\$10) _____ Saturday (\$10) \$ _____

Attending lunch on Friday? _____ Yes _____ No Banquet Choice # _____ (\$35) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: \$ _____

CELEBRATION BANQUET (FRIDAY Evening at 7:00 P.M.)

Meal Choices (indicate the number of each person's choice above):

1) 12 oz. Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus

3) Stuffed Filet of Sole with Seafood Stuffing

2) Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce

4) Eggplant Parmesan

Entrees include a Herb Roasted Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Garden Salad, White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake.

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

Mail to: Connecticut State Grange, 100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094

Questions: Please call the State Secretary at (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

To reserve hotel rooms, call the Holiday Inn at 860-889-5201 and ask for the CT State Grange block.



141st Annual Session Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

Ballroom, Holiday Inn, 10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT

- 7:00 P.M. Opening in form in the Fourth Degree
Introduction of National Representatives,
National Treasurer Joe Goodrich and Sister Lisa
Roll Call of Officers, Deputies, Committees
Lower Grange to Fourth Degree
Presentation of Fourth Degree Delegates
Roll Call of Granges
Report of Credentials Committee
Session Committee Announcements
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 8:00 P.M. Address of State President Robert Buck
Response of Overseer Theodore Powell III
Report of Treasurer Jody A. Cameron
Report of Secretary Todd A. Gelineau
Report of Executive Committee/Board of Dir.
Report of Lecturer David Roberts
- 9:00 P.M. Closing
- 9:05 P.M. Annual Meeting of the Connecticut State
Grange Foundation, Inc.
Report of CSG Foundation Pres., Alma Graham
(Please remain seated for this brief meeting)
- 9:30 P.M. Time for Committee Meetings (if necessary)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the
Connecticut State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Session
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Special Order of Business: Election of ONE
member of the Executive Committee and any
other vacancies which may have occurred
- 9:30 A.M. Report of Legislative Committee
Report of Agriculture Committee
Report of General Deputy
Reports of Pomona Deputies
Report of *Connecticut Granger*
- 10:45 A.M. BREAK
- 11:00 A.M. Presentation by the Membership & Public
Relations Committees:

"When Tradition Meets Reality"

- 12:00 P.M. Luncheon (Nutmeg Ballroom), Hosts: TBD
- Blessing by State Chaplain
 - Family Activities Awards & Report
 - Membership Awards
 - Public Relations Awards
 - Agriculture Contest Awards
- 2:00 P.M. Recognition of Past Voting Delegates
- 2:15 P.M. Address of National Representative
- 2:45 P.M. Business Session
- 3:15 P.M. BREAK
- 3:30 P.M. Report of New England Grange Building
- 4:30 P.M. Closing
- 7:00 P.M. Celebration Banquet (Ballroom)
- Professional Agriculture Awards
 - Scholarship Awards
 - History Book Presentation
 - Lecturer's Program

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

- 7:30 A.M. FREE Continental Breakfast provided by the
Conn. State Grange (Chelsearose Room)
- 9:00 A.M. Opening & Introductions
Roll Call of Officers
Minutes of Previous Day's Sessions
Introd. of Business to be referred without debate
- 9:15 A.M. Memorial Service
Closing in form in the Fourth Degree
- 9:45 A.M. Break for Preparation of Sixth Degree
- 10:00 A.M. Conferral of the Sixth Degree, Ballroom**
Open to all Sixth Degree members, registration
not required to attend.
Opening in form in the Sixth Degree
Escorting National Representatives
Recognition of Honored Guests and Past Voting
Delegates to National Grange
Conferral of the Sixth Degree in full form
Recognition of Golden Sheaf Members
- 11:15 A.M. BREAK (or at conclusion of the Degree)
- 11:30 A.M. Budget Approval (tentative)
Committee Reports (Resolutions)
- 12:00 P.M. Youth & Junior Recog. Luncheon, Hosts: TBD
- Blessing by State Chaplain
 - Junior Recognition
 - Youth Recognition
- 1:30 P.M. Business Session
Community Service Report
Honor Grange Awards
Installation of Officers
- 3:00 P.M. Closing in Form in the Fourth Degree

Degree candidates must be at the Holiday Inn by 9:30 A.M.
with the Fourth and Fifth Degree Words and the Sixth Degree
ticket stub to be admitted. Applications are \$10 and can be
purchased from the State Secretary.

This Schedule is Tentative and subject to change.

A renewed focus on Veterans



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

The 14th Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundup was held on June 29th and brought Grange members from across the state for an inspiring and informative virtual event centered on veterans' initiatives and inter-organizational collaboration. Held in a spirit of service and community, the theme focused on strengthening partnerships between local Granges and veterans' organizations. The event's highlight was a keynote discussion led by Tim Sweeney, a dedicated Riverton Grange #169 member and Commander of the Riverton American Legion Post #159.

Dave Roberts began the discussion by sharing that Riverton Grange conducted a Community Needs Assessment over six years ago and discovered a need for veteran initiatives. At that time, the only initiative was an annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner held at Riverton Grange each November, hosted by Lecturer Raine Pedersen. Riverton Grange contacted the Riverton American Legion Post Commander, Tim Sweeney, and a new partnership began.

Tim shared insights into the Riverton Grange's nationally recognized programs that honor and support veterans. Their "Veteran of the Month" and American flag retirement ceremonies have received National Grange acclaim for their heartfelt execution and community impact. These events recognize the sacrifice of local servicemembers and serve as educational and unifying moments for the broader community. This partnership brought Tim and his wife Melissa to Riverton Grange

as new members and now as newly elected Riverton Grange officers. "If it weren't for the Grange partnership with veterans," said Tim, "we never would have known about Grange nor become members. And we are so glad we did!"

Riverton Grange's "Veteran of the Month" ceremony has been held for four years and has honored over fifty veterans since its inception. Recently, Riverton Grange was gifted a new solar-lit flag pole for its property to enhance its monthly ceremonies. Riverton Grange recently held its 8th American Flag Retirement Ceremony at a new location in Colebrook, where over two thousand flags were retired in a solemn bonfire ceremony. Since this initiative began, over 9,000 American flags have now been retired respectfully per the US Code. In addition to Riverton American Legion Post #159, Riverton Grange partners with over one-half dozen other community groups on veterans initiatives. Partnering with other like-minded groups has helped Riverton Grange grow and impact the region more.

Tim Sweeney emphasized the emotional significance of these ceremonies, noting that for many veterans and their families, being honored this way is deeply meaningful and often healing. "Every veteran deserves to be remembered, and these ceremonies offer a tangible way to say thank you," he stated. He also shared stories that underscored the profound personal impact these recognitions have had on families, some of whom had never seen their loved one's service publicly acknowledged before.

Beyond honoring veterans, Tim highlighted the importance of collaboration between Granges and veteran service organizations. Tim offered practical advice for Granges, who was interested in building these partnerships, suggesting

outreach to local American Legion posts, VFW chapters, and other community groups. He guided the initiation of these connections, starting with a simple phone call, attending a veterans' event, or inviting veterans to speak at Grange meetings.

The discussion underscored the shared values between the Grange and veteran organizations: service, community involvement, patriotism, and a commitment to uplifting others. Attendees were encouraged to view these collaborations as mutually beneficial relationships that can strengthen both organizations' outreach and impact.

The Roundup served as a platform for education, inspiration, and a call to action. Connecticut State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts praised the work of these Riverton Grange initiatives and urged Granges across the state to consider implementing similar initiatives. "This is a blueprint for what community service can look like at its best," he noted.

As the session concluded, many attendees expressed a renewed commitment to honoring veterans in their communities and exploring new avenues for partnership. Tim Sweeney's closing message best summarized the spirit of the Roundup: "We can't do everything, but we can all do something. And when we work together, the impact is far greater."

With a renewed focus on veterans and collaboration, the Connecticut State Grange is poised to expand its reach and deepen its role in serving those who have served. The 15th Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundup will be held on Saturday, October 4th, at 7:30 PM. Roundups are virtual and open to all.

Please don't hesitate to contact Connecticut State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at lecturer@ctstategrange.org or 860-469-5067 with any questions or to schedule a visit.

Join our new book club!



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

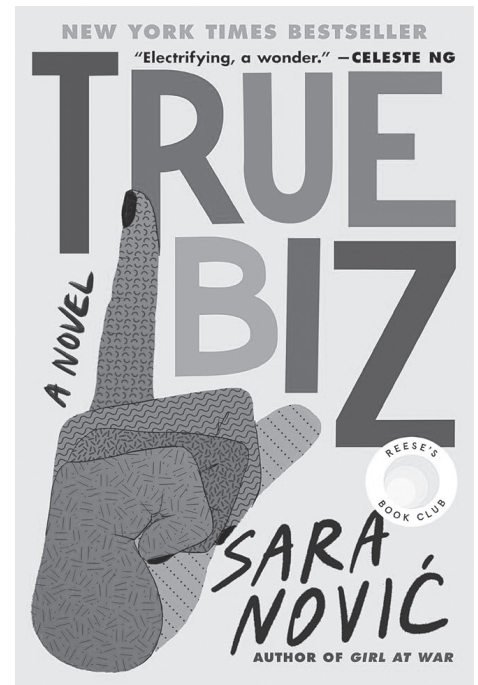
For many years you have listened to our State Steward, Jaimie Cameron and I talk about how we want to start a book club. We are going to do it this year, starting at Saturday's lunch of State Session this year. The book *True Biz*, by Sara Novic will be the first.

To prepare for lunch with the Youth and Junior Committees, you want to begin by taking a piece of paper or sticky note and answering this question: "How much knowledge did you have about the deaf community and/or ASL before you read *True Biz*?" This is the first questions Novic recommends for reflection and even if you don't read the book it is a good questions to try to answer before you come to lunch. For over 50 years, deaf awareness has been an endeavor of the Grange

and Sign-A-Song has been a Youth/Junior contest.

True Biz is a coming-of-age story set at a residential school for the deaf, exploring themes of deaf culture, identity, and the experiences of both deaf and hearing individuals. You have listened to me encouraging you and your Granges to get families so we can have a new generation of youth and young adults involved in the Grange. This book has that and what different generations think about one topic. So it is a book for everyone. Sara Novic, its author, is someone not born deaf but someone who grew up hearing and had to learn what it was like to be deaf. She addresses many issues of concern to deaf culture. The book itself lets you feel ASL or hear it if you listen to it as an audio book.

Before I started writing this, I went online and found 9 used copies of this book that we can circulate around for our members to read before our October meeting. Please contact me at dawnanstett@



gmailcom and I will try and put you in touch with a book. This book is also available on Amazon, Kindle and Audible.

Lastly, I encourage every Grange who has active youth to acknowledge them. Please send me their name and some of the things they have been doing in your Granges over the past year.



Vernon Grange & Eastern Connecticut Pomona
are sponsoring a

SUNDAY FUNDAY

RAIN or SHINE!

FREE!

August 17, 2025 • 10 AM -2 PM
(Open House! Come and leave anytime!)

at the **Strong Family Farm**
274 West St., Vernon - less than a mile off of exit 66 on I-84



**FREE and all welcome to come -
especially Grangers, Friends and Family!**

Featuring... Delicious Signature comfort food truck to buy lunch, music, crafts by Family Activities Chair Dawn Percoski, story time by Lecturer Cheri Robinson, scavenger hunt all over the farm for all ages, ducks and chickens to see and hold, and visit the farm stand for only CTGrown produce and products.



For more information email info@strongfamilyfarm.org

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual Social Hour



"That's a spicy meatball!"
Fun with branding
through Commercials

NEW
DATE




Thursday, August 14th • 7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering.
A brief program will be presented.

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org for info and Zoom Credentials



E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol B. Hnath

Sept. 6: Meeting at Hillstown Grange Hall at 7 pm - Please note that this is the correct location for the meeting! Program "Sense of Wonder"

The next meeting of Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at Hillstown Grange Hall, 617 Hills Street, East Hartford at 7 pm.

The program, "Sense of Wonder", will be presented by the Lecturer. The collection items for this meeting are school necessities such as colored pencils, school glue sticks, washable markers, wood pencils, and boxes of 24 crayons.

We will begin the meeting with a presentation by Suzanne Feola, Habitat for Humanity North Central Connecticut Director of Development. We have scheduled the date of April 25, 2026 to assist Habitat for Humanity as a community service project.

The election of officers in June found the slate re-elected and they will be installed at this meeting.

A SUNDAY FUNDAY, is an event the Pomona is co-sponsoring at Strong Family Farm with Vernon Grange, will be held on Sunday, August 17th from 10 am – 2 pm. More details are available on the flyer or by contacting info@strongfamilyfarm.org.

We have also set aside the date of July 18, 2026 for a Pomona activity.



Ekonk Junior Grangers participated in an Earth Day Clean-Up this year.

Some suggestions have been made and we will be discussing these ideas at future meetings so come and get involved in the planning!

The new handbooks should be available for distribution on September 6th.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Aug. 27: Beat the heat-Ice Cream Social

Aug.28: Woodstock Fair begins

We were pleased to be able to offer a dinner out to our long term members receiving awards. This to be held at a local restaurant. Our Scholarship Awards program that is scheduled for August 6 will include 4 recipients. We will be preparing an exhibit for the Woodstock Fair and will be looking for vegetables, flowers, crafts and other items pertaining to the Grange.

2026 will be the 140th anniversary of our Grange and 90 years for the building.

We are still working on getting our outside stairs installed. as well as improving the plumbing in the kitchen, a new front door and other updates. Fund raising is important to get these projects done.

Looking forward to the local food produce and open family stands. Buy local.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Aug. 8: Ice Cream, Potluck Picnic

Sept. 5: Fair Time

Fireflies were the topic of our July program. While we are seeing less of these lovely little points of light, be sure to spend some time enjoying the glow of fireflies on these hot summer evenings. Not only are they a bright spot in our evenings, the larval glow worms are beneficial in that they eat some insect pests.

We did some planning for the upcoming Grange year and have some fun, exciting and interesting programs planned. Please plan on visiting.

August brings our annual picnic. You are welcome to attend. Please be sure to call before coming as our picnic location may change depending on the weather. Please note that this meeting is the second Friday. We will be at Let's Celebrate on the first weekend. See you there!

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Aug. 1: Korea- For the Second time (Men have refreshments)

Continued next page

Legislatively Speaking



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

We have all heard the following: “Figures can’t lie, but liars can figure.” Since the last article, Congress has passed the “Big Beautiful Bill” budget for this upcoming year. They say it is full of tax cuts for the middle class, and cuts wasteful spending as found by DOGE. Yet, it’s full of cuts to SNAP, Medicare, Farm Aid, Education, Children’s programs, Social Security, State aid, and a scale back of FEMA funding.

At this time Elon Musk was leaving the White House after DOGE fired and cut funding for Social Security, VA, and Federal Agencies. The tables were turned as a school drama erupted between Musk and the President.

Mr. Musk rejected claims the “Big Beautiful Bill” was full of pork and would raise the National Debt by 2.6 trillion dollars, urging the Senate vote down the bill. The drama continued to the breaking point that Mr. Musk said that if it wasn’t his money buying the election Trump would have lost, and as he was shown the door, the last blow was Mr. Trump is on the Epstein List. The moral to the story is “When you bring in clowns, you get the circus.”

Immigration has been affected by ICE removing undocumented immigrants from the U.S. Trump promised to remove violent criminals and gang members. Instead, ICE is taking mothers with children, students with Visas, dairy farm laborers, farm laborers in strawberry fields, day laborers from Home Depot

parking lots and meat processing plant workers. Many have been deported without due process. This is not the United States I live in. Many protestors have taken to the streets and in Los Angeles to protest ICE from taking day workers from a Home Depot. The National Guard was called out by the President, without the Governor’s request and violence broke out. Media reporters were shot with rubber bullets and flash bangs and tear gas was used against the crowds. Attacking the media was witnessed during the Black Lives Matter protests in Washington, D.C.

June 14 was the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army, and it was also the birthday of the President. A parade was planned for Washington, D.C., a military parade. The last time a military parade was held was following Desert Storm in

1991 to welcome back the troops. The parade was prepared, at a cost of 45 million dollars. It was a cloudy, showering day and the event started at 6:30 P.M. The only media coverage was Fox News, News Nation, Newsmax, and CNN. Attendance was listed as 25,000 people, many empty bleachers, and the troops representing all of the armed forces from the American Revolution, Civil War, Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and new military. All these media outlets provided biased coverage of the event. The troops presented themselves as they do at a Memorial Day parade, not a high-stepping show parade as in North Korea, Russia and China.

June 14 was also the “No King” protest with over 5 million people in all the states gathering to protest the policies and actions of this administration. We need to keep up the protests because if we don’t, they will continue.



Grange Declaration of Purposes

WE MUST ALWAYS BEAR IN MIND THAT NO ONE, BY BECOMING A PATRON OF HUSBANDRY, GIVES UP THAT INALIENABLE RIGHT AND DUTY WHICH BELONGS TO EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN, TO TAKE A PROPER INTEREST IN THE POLITICS OF ONE’S COUNTRY. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS RIGHT FOR EVERY MEMBER TO DO ALL IN HIS OR HER POWER, LEGITIMATELY, TO INFLUENCE FOR GOOD THE ACTION OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY TO WHICH HE OR SHE BELONGS. IT IS RESERVED BY EVERY PATRON, AS THE RIGHT OF A FREE CITIZEN TO AFFILIATE WITH ANY PARTY THAT WILL BEST CARRY OUT HIS OR HER PRINCIPLES.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

As summer continues we look forward to our August 23rd meeting in Granby Grange hall @ 2 pm. It will be a full agenda with the Meeting, 5th Degree and Resolutions. The 5th degree is open to all Fourth Degree members and we encourage those members to attend.

Due to a mix up at the June meeting we didn't collect the children's books, so please bring them to the August meeting. This will be our last collection of books for this Grange year. Please let me know if you have a community service project for us to tackle. Again this year we will collecting gloves, mittens, children's underwear including pull up at our December meeting in Riverton Grange Hall. When delivered, these donations have created a BIG thank you and excitement among the staff. If you have a school in your area in need of these items please let me know.

Again a big thank to all who have donated and helped to make these programs a success.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Aug. 5: Fair Set-Up, Ref. All

Aug. 9: Grange Fair & Flea Mkt.

Aug. 26: Awards Night & Picnic (meal provided by the Grange at 6)

Sept. 9: National Mushroom Month, Ref. The Millers

All activity at Winchester Grange is geared to our annual Fair to be held on August 9 at the Grange Hall



Artist Shelley Thibault and Cuz We Can balloons created this awesome American Eagle balloon float that was placed on display on Riverton Grange's front porch.

and on the green. Flea Market spaces on the green will be available for \$15 each. Contact Patrick O'Brien if you are interested or come on the day of the Fair with \$15 in hand and we'll have a space for you.

We remind you that Dr. Jill Lopez will be providing mobile vet services during the Fair with her Pet Candy Mobile Vet Clinic. Wellness Services for cats and dogs will include physicals, core vaccinations for Rabies, DAPV for dogs, HCP for cats, heartworm testing for dogs, flea, tick and heartworm prevention prescriptions and pet health advice and recommendations. The dog wellness package is \$125 and the cat wellness package is \$99. If you haven't priced vet services lately... this is an exceptional value. Visit her website at myvetcandy.com for more information or contact info.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Aug. 2: Square & Contra Dance 7PM-9PM

Aug 14: Lammas by Debra Tyler
Ref: Debra Tyler

Sept. 11: Installation of Officers

by Installing Team Ref: Tamara Johnson

Oct. 9: Halloween Costume Party by Debbie Hanlon Ref: Debbie Hanlon

NOTE: Refreshments & Social time at 7:00PM with Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

Our "G Notes" collection is building. Chris is beginning to work on fixing our back door. A big thank you goes out to the State Grange for helping monetarily.

Barbara Prindle and Debbie Hanlon were elected to be our delegates at the October State Grange Convention. As is our custom our Grange voted to pay their expenses. At our August meeting we will discuss and come to a consensus on all the Resolutions that will be presented in October. When we talk to potential new members this is one of the things we stress as a benefit. They get to have a larger voice in the legislative process locally, statewide and nationally.

Thank you to all who attended our Square & Contra dances but unless more attend our November dance will be the last dance we will be holding.

Continued next page...

We hope you will make an effort to attend on Nov. 1st. from 7PM to 9PM at our Grange Hall. Our Grange Hall is located at 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon CT 06069.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Our meetings are held at Memorial Hall on the Green. Next scheduled meeting is for Sunday, August 10th at 2pm.

We worked on our 2025-2026 Pomona Handbooks during our July meeting. Also, two Resolutions were written and forwarded for submission. Also, a vote has all officers to remain in their position.

We enjoyed delicious food and good company during our June 25th picnic meeting. We had three Whigville Grangers attending our indoor picnic and other visitors included two of Dot's daughters.

Our Grange will be at the Bethlehem Fair's 100 Anniversary on the first weekend of September. Although it evolved to be the Town of Bethlehem's Fair, our Grange started this Fair on the Bethlehem Fairgrounds in 1925. A Happy Birthday table displaying 100 years of historical items will be setup by Al Maddox and Barbara Robert. you can find us in the Scarecrow Barn. Hope to see you there.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

Congratulations to all who worked so hard to make our roast beef dinner, on Sat., June 14th, a success. The Bridgewater Grange also volunteered for the Loaves and Fishes program on June 7 and July 5. We also had our regular monthly meetings on June 11 and July 9.

Coming up in August we will also have a day to help out Loaves and Fishes on the first Sat , August 2nd. Our regular meeting will be Wednesday August 13th. We will also help out Saint Mark's at the Bridgewater Fair, August 15, 16 and 17.

In September we will go to Loaves and Fishes on Saturday September 6. Our regular meeting will be postponed a week to Wednesday Sept 17. We will have a food stand at the Bridgewater Fireman's Fundraiser on September 20.

I will inform all of you that I will be on vacation from July 26 to August 4 in Cape Cod. I will also be in Canada from August 31 to September 4. Then we will be in Vermont from September 5 to September 14. I'll be missing the days for Loaves and Fishes but I will be at the meetings and the Fireman's Fundraiser and the Bridgewater Fair. Best to all of you.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Aug. 1: Riverton Grange #169's monthly in-person meeting (with Zoom option). Refreshments will be served at 6:30 PM, and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 PM.

Aug. 3: The 43rd Veteran of the Month ceremony at the hall will begin at 6:00 PM and is held in collaboration with Riverton American Legion Post #159. It is open to all, and refreshments will be served following the ceremony.

Aug.16: The Riverton Grange Fair will be held at the hall from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. At Noon, the Community Citizen of the Year Award will be presented.

Aug. 24: CT State Grange hosts the dedication of the Grange Plot in Peoples State Forest (3:30 PM) and a complimentary Dinner at the Riverton Grange Hall (5:00 PM).

Riverton Grange conducted its July membership meeting on Friday, July 18th. Whigville Grange member James Mele was elected and welcomed as an Affiliate Member to Riverton Grange. James was then elected Lecturer, and Judy Doyle was re-elected Secretary to complete our 2025-2027 Officer Elections.

The Pedersen family was thanked for the installation of the new flag pole, and American Legion Commander

Tim Sweeney was thanked for his guidance on this project.

Exciting News: Riverton Grange Receives Grant for Kitchen Renovation. Under the leadership of Project Chair Judy Doyle, Riverton Grange has been awarded a \$33,000 grant from the Northwestern Connecticut Community Foundation to support Phase 1 of our Kitchen Renovation Project.

Renovating the kitchen is a top priority for Riverton Grange, as it will significantly enhance our ability to serve the community, host events, and support local initiatives. This grant marks a significant step forward in bringing our vision to life. We are deeply grateful to Judy for her leadership and dedication, and to the Community Foundation for believing in our mission.

Connecticut State Grange will host a Dedication of the Grange Plot plaque in Peoples State Forest on Sunday, August 24th, at 3:30 PM. The site is located on Park Road in Barkhamsted. Connecticut State Grange officers, Barkhamsted Historical Society, and Riverton American Legion Post #159 members will participate in the ceremony. Following the ceremony, a complimentary BBQ dinner, hosted by the Connecticut State Grange, will be served by the Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center at the Riverton Grange Hall, 17 Riverton Road, in Riverton, and is open to all. If you would like to make a reservation, please contact State Grange Secretary Todd Gelineau at secretary@ctstategrange.org.

Finally, based on the nomination of Dawn Anstett, Riverton Grange voted unanimously to nominate The Stead Farm from Barkhamsted for the Connecticut State Grange's Outstanding Agricultural Professional Award. The Stead Farm is a regenerative farm, providing nutritious grass-fed Katahdin lamb, pastured chicken & eggs, and tasty pork from pigs raised in fresh air and tender care.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Latest trend in Community Engagement & PR: Personalization

by Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

In today's fast-paced digital world, the way community organizations like the Grange connect and communicate has evolved dramatically. Social media, online news, and instant sharing mean that information about the Grange can reach neighbors, members, and community leaders almost instantly — magnifying your messages and increasing public engagement — both positive and negative.

To serve our communities effectively, it's essential for the Grange to stay informed about these digital trends. There are tremendous opportunities to highlight the valuable role the Grange plays — whether through local events, community support, or educational programs — by making these stories resonate more personally with your audience. At the same time, it's crucial to navigate this landscape carefully and avoid spreading misinformation.

A recent study by marketing experts RevBoss shows that nearly half of journalists receive more than 10 media pitches daily, with some getting over 26. How can the Grange ensure its voice is heard and stands out?

The answer is **Personalization**.

Tailor your messages to reflect the unique stories and contributions of your Grange. Reach out directly to community papers, local radio, or social media with messages crafted specifically for each audience — sharing stories about your members' projects, local partnerships, and community impact.

Broadcast through multiple

channels, ensuring your Grange messages reach different segments of the community — in social media, local newspapers, community newsletters, and even at events. Consistency across platforms strengthens Grange recognition and fosters a sense of connectedness.

Move beyond generic press releases. Share authentic community stories — highlight specific programs, volunteer efforts, or local partnerships — and showcase how the Grange makes a difference locally. Let your community see themselves in your Grange stories.

Be honest and transparent. Whether discussing challenges or

successes, authenticity builds trust. If your Grange faces issues, openly share what's being done to address them and how community members can help.

Engage with empathy, humor, and dialogue. Build deeper relationships by listening to your community's needs, encouraging feedback, and fostering two-way conversations.

Act proactively to counter misinformation or negative perceptions. Think carefully before sharing — messages should reflect the genuine, local heart of your Grange.

Personalization goes beyond just using names; it's about making every message feel directly relevant and meaningful to your community. When the Grange communicates authentically and personally, it strengthens bonds, encourages participation, and demonstrates the organization's vital role in fostering a thriving, engaged local community.

Here are some tailored marketing ideas to help your Grange connect more effectively and enhance visibility:

Member Spotlight Stories: Share weekly or monthly profiles of local members, highlighting their contributions, talents, or personal stories. Use social media, your Grange newsletter, or local newspapers to showcase the human side of your Grange and foster community pride.

Community Event Partnerships: Collaborate with local schools, churches, or businesses for events such as farmers' markets, charity drives, or educational workshops. Promote these events through personalized invitations, local media, and social media channels.

Localized Social Media Campaigns: Use community hashtags to reach local residents. Create engaging, shareable content like photos, videos, or even live streams of your events or programs. Encourage members to share with their friends and families to expand your reach.

Storytelling Through Video Content: Produce short videos highlighting community projects, success stories, or the history of your Grange. Share these on social platforms and your website to generate interest and emotional connection.

Interactive Community Polls & Feedback: Use social media to ask your community about their interests and needs. Show that you listen by acting on feedback, and share the updates, emphasizing the collaborative effort.

Personalized Outreach: Send personalized invitations or thank-you messages to local officials, community leaders, or longtime members. Recognize their contributions publicly to foster stronger relationships.

Educational & Cultural Workshops: Host workshops on topics relevant to your community — gardening, nutrition, DIY projects, or local history — and promote them as free or low-cost opportunities to gather, learn, and connect.

"Behind-the-Scenes" Content: Share behind-the-scenes glimpses of your Grange's work — planning an event, preparing donations, or member meetings.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Hopefully we have received everyone's information for the Pomona handbooks.

It would be nice to have all Granges included. We would like to have the books ready for distribution at our next meeting on September 28th at Beacon Valley Grange.

Also we hope Pomona Master Donald Lanoue will be back in the Master's station fit-as-a-fiddle.

Wishing you are all enjoying the summer months and that we will see you at the September meeting.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Aug. 6: Potpourri-Everyone Brings a Number For The Program

Aug. 16: Omitted. Fair Work Week

Aug. 23 & 24: Cheshire Grange Community Fair

This month, as in previous months, we will be concentrating on our annual fair on the above dates. A lot of work goes in to making the fair a reality each year as this is our biggest community event. The Sunday Roast Beef dinner is a big draw. The prices this year will be \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children ages 5-12. We will have two seatings one at 12:15 and a second one at 1:30. Take out will be available. Departments for baking, photos, needlework and sewing, arts and crafts, flowers and vegetables, and our Youth Department, will be



Wallingford Grange recently hosted a Youth Owl Pellet Dissection activity with a great turnout.

available, as well as the contests for the Association of Connecticut Fairs.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

At our recent Grange meetings we have been supporting local charitable causes including Wallingford Animal Shelter and Master's Manna Food Bank. For Master's Manna Food Bank, Grange members donated a total of 48 pounds of shelf-stable food. For the Wallingford Animal Shelter, members donated 2 bags of dog toys and some blankets. Thank you members!

We recently hosted a Youth Owl Pellet Dissection activity. It was a great turnout and group that came out for the event. Youth were able to learn more about owls and their prey. It was a hands-on science activity where they examined the indigestible remains (fur and bones) of an owl's prey.

From August to October, some special events Wallingford is looking forward to hosting include the Mocktails & Herbs Educational Event (August 5th: 6pm-8pm), our 88th annual Grange Fair (September 13th: 12pm-5pm), Harvesting Honeys and Tastings Event (October 8th: 6pm-8pm), and Potato Bar Dinner

(October 11th: 5pm-7pm). At the fair, lunch will be served throughout the day. We will have Backyard Shenanigans for the Kids, Live Music, Chicken Poop Bingo, Ol' Coots Giving Bad Advice, Exhibits, Bake/Craft Sale, Educational Interactions, and More! If you're looking to enter an exhibit into the Grange Fair, one can access the fair book for specific categories to enter in on our website. Fair entries are due by Saturday, September 6th to ensure exhibit space. Mail entry forms to Kathy Bergonzi at 22 Bailey Avenue, Wallingford, CT, or email them to fair@wallingfordgrange.org.

Wallingford Grange is very excited to offer a fabulous quilt for raffle this year! This queen-sized, all-cotton quilt, measuring 106" x 86" was made by sisters Aili McKeen and Rebecca Perrone. Tickets are \$10 each, only 350 will be sold. The drawing will be on September 13 at 3 PM, winner need not be present. Tickets on sale now and are available at any Grange event or find a Grange member to get yours.

To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow us on Facebook.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our Officer's Planning meeting was held at the home of Master Joanne Cipriano and all officers, committees, refreshment committees and programs are now in place. Our program theme is the alphabet. Letters taken were A, B, C, D, F, G, M, O, P, Q, S and V. We look forward to some interesting programs.

Our next meeting is August 8th and will be our annual picnic. Pot luck supper at 6 o'clock.

Next tag sale and Open Mic August 16th. We received some new great items – a good collection of quilting supplies and porcelain dolls. Come and check us out. Tag Sale 9 to 2 – Open Mic 2 to 5. We always have some free snacks but Secretary Marilyn has added a lunch snack at a very reasonable price.

Personally I am sill on a high since our last meeting when I received my 75 year membership certificate. I was surprised at having 47 In attendance. Also at the many gifts and cards I received. In addition to cards from Connecticut Grangers and family, I received some from Texas, Florida and Rhode Island. Also a plant and floral arrangement from my nieces and nephews, Fascia's chocolates (I've enjoyed every bite) from friends Barbara Roberts and Eloise Osuch and some spending money from Secretary Marilyn and husband Peter. Thank you very much all. It was a night I will never forget.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Aug. 8: Fun at the Beach

Aug. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Sept. 12: School Days

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

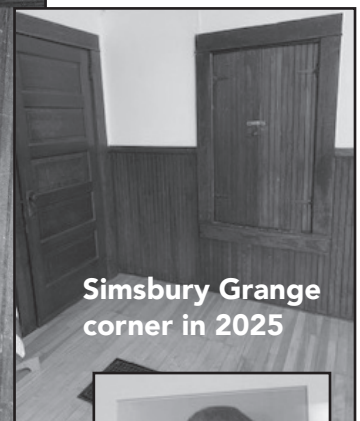
Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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.



Last night at our monthly grange meeting our eagle-eyed treasurer, Scot Riley, brought this month's Window to the Past photo to our attention. Turns out, we believe this photo is of Nelson Tuller who was a Simsbury Grange president from December of 1958 to September of 1959. Below, please see the two photos that helped in identification. – *Submitted by Marguerite Smith, Simsbury Secretary*



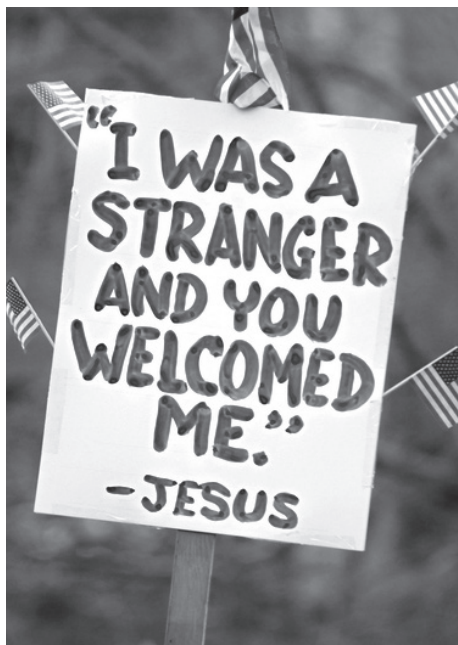


Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstateGrange.org

This is a rerun of a column I first ran in June of 2017. The present refugee situations, both in this country and in many other parts of the world, make it relevant to the times.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

One of the biggest differences between the culture of Biblical times and our modern western culture is in hospitality to strangers. In at least a dozen places, scripture tells us to welcome strangers, and until recently this was a mandate for almost all cultures in the Middle East, whether Muslim, Christian, or Jewish. In Leviticus we read: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God". This is reinforced in Deuteronomy, where we are told: "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."



A famous example of showing hospitality to strangers is found in the 18th chapter of Genesis, where we find Abraham resting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day when he looked up and saw three strangers standing nearby. He instantly ran from his tent to greet them and urged them to join him for something to eat and to drink. Unbeknownst to him these were messengers from God, and they brought blessing upon Abraham and Sarah his wife. But Abraham had no way of knowing that such blessing was forthcoming from his actions. He was merely following the customs of his time and his culture.

Jesus tells us in Matthew: "You

have heard that it was said, 'you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy'. But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.." In telling the parable of the Good Samaritan He shows another example of kindness to strangers, even those who might be considered enemies. Jews and Samaritans generally despised each other at this time in history, but the Samaritan in the story showed great kindness, generosity, and brotherly love to the stranger Jew he found robbed and beaten. Paul tells us, in Romans: "Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers." And in the Letter to the Hebrews we read: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

It is of great sadness to me that we, today, have moved so far away from these ancient Biblical standards of hospitality.

In Memoriam

Raymond Percoski
Vernon Grange No. 52

Scott Bill Hirst
N. Stonington Comm. No. 138

"Well done, good and faithful servants."