



# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 55, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

DECEMBER 2014

## New State President Noel Miller



**Noel T. Miller**  
State Master/President  
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Everyone has heard “the early bird gets the worm,” but how about “the second mouse gets the cheese”?

Marcia and I represented Connecticut at the National Grange Convention, in Sandusky, Ohio. As a new State Master, we had to go early and learn how to be a State Master and delegate at the convention. There are eight new State Masters, four from New England alone. We were brought up to speed on National Grange trademark litigation, the California State Grange legal battle, and how we as new Masters will bond with each other with questions and ideas. We were then assigned mentors who would sit with us on the first day of session to explain and lead us through the delegate process of the National Grange. This session is a whole lot different than here in Connecticut. National breaks into committees that receive a packet of resolutions then breaks them into categories (adopted, amended, rejected, withdrawn, adverse, Grange policy). The committee

presents the adopted package to the floor for action and then produces a policy statement that covers the vision of the National Grange for the next year. Connecticut sent four resolutions from our State Session. One passed (bat houses), 1 withdrawn (handicapped hotels), 1 rejected (paying non-delegate expenses at National Convention) and 1 is Grange policy (flavored milk). The committees meet throughout the convention until they complete the pile of resolutions. So each session you get a pile of updated pages to put in your notebook to have a updated packet (big waste of paper). Then there is a mad dash to finish.

This year was the election of two Executive Committee members. Leroy Watson and Duane Scott were elected and installed.

Delegates toured the NASA Glenn Research Center, which has the largest space environment simulation chamber and the rocket propulsion test stand. All very interesting to see.

A membership report shows that Oklahoma had a net increase of 938 members this past year, one Grange had 320 members along, these members though are able to purchase insurance. In discussion with State Granges many talk of new programs and ideas outside of the box to get new members. They all say we need to try new things or we will not survive. The Seventh Degree was conferred on 109

candidates. It was reported that 380 candidates received the degree last year in New Hampshire.

Awards were presented at the Celebration Banquet and I wish to congratulate Ekonk Community Grange for their first place in the Community Service Contest. A job well done.

The National Grange will continue to fight trademark infringement by receiving donations or taking a loan against the headquarters building in Washington, D.C. The fight in California over the old State Grange v. the new California Grange will go forward until we win. This litigation is about the Digest, the official rules of the National Grange. If we lose this then any Grange can violate the digest and the National Grange will have no legal claim to Grange property and assets.

In the Fourth Degree, this is the season of relaxation and reflection, we relax with friends and family to enjoy the past year and to reflect on what worked and what needs improving. Increasing our membership is the only way our Granges can continue to grow so we must all commit to increasing the membership of our Granges. You should be hearing soon of new State programs for the upcoming year. I am still seeking committee members and Deputies but hope to fill all soon.

Please take time to help those in need, with food, gifts, fuel bank donations just to help others have a better holiday season... for Grangers are known for their CHARITY! Happy Holidays to all. Noel.

## Congratulations to Ekonk Grange



Congratulations to Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 for once again achieving Distinguished Grange for 2014 along with being named first in the nation for Community Service.

## Farm stands face new regulations

Brigitte Ruthman

Waterbury Republican-American (11/28/14)

Farm fresh sweet corn and tomatoes, the staples of local farm stands, are exempt from packaging and labeling regulations. But that could change next year if legislation supported by the state’s Department of Agriculture is approved.

Farm stands- those iconic seasonal roadside feasts of fresh fruit and vegetables that pop up as seasonal crops ripen – are not subject to Connecticut Farmer’s Markets rules, which require farmers to sell only what they grow.

Along Route 202 last summer, some residents questioned produce sold but not raised by Tara Farm, which obtained a \$90 zoning permit to operate a farm stand near the parking lot of NAPA Auto Parts at 433 Bantam Road.

Tara Farm Co-Owner Chris Deluca said he grows some of what he sells on his 31 acre farm in Watertown, but he also brings in produce from other farms. He labels the products “local” even though some are as far away as Glastonbury and Windsor. He said the only out-of-state product he sells are watermelons, which are grown in New Jersey.

“What’s local? It’s a gray area,” Deluca said. “But there is never enough. We can’t grow enough to supply the stand.

Continued on page 2

## My Big Buck

By Andrew Molodich (Ekonk Community Grange #89)

It was November 12, 2013. I had the day off from working on the farm and Dad said we could go hunting when I got home from school. I ran late coming home and Dad was ready and waiting when I walked in. I grabbed my Grandfather’s old hunting jacket and his Winchester 308, model 88, that I also inherited.

We got into my father’s truck and drove down the road a little ways to the edge of one of the back fields. Quietly, we got out of the truck and made our way to the edge of one of the back fields. It had snowed that morning and there was just enough snow on the ground and the woods to see a good distance. We knew that we weren’t going to have too much time in the woods before dark. We hurried to the wood line, quietly crossed over a fence and

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Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on Dec. 5.



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

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# Farm stands face new regulations

*Continued from page one...*

You can't grow everything yourself."

DeLuca said he wouldn't mind identifying where produce is grown, if that's what consumers want.

State Department of Agriculture marketing representative Rick Macsuga said it's legal to sell produce grown by other farmers from a local stand. If the seller has a product with a Connecticut grown logo, then the produce must be from a state farm, he said. But just what constitutes local is not clear.

"They can't bring in pineapples," Macsuga said. "But it makes sense that if you specialize in orchards, that you would be buying corn for resale. Many farmers buy from other farmers. The majority of farm products aren't sold to wholesale chain stores but to other farmers."

Each municipality can impose its own layer of regulations. For instance, the town of Suffield requires farm stands to sell only local products, Macsuga said.

"If you are a farmer selling someone else's product, hopefully there will be a requirement to say that on the price card," Macsuga said.

The state agency is supporting legislation that would require a farmer to identify on a price card those items grown by someone else. The "picked" food doesn't have to meet the more complicated packaging and labeling requirements for processed foods, Macsuga said.

Farm stands – which have popped up alongside farmers' fields for generations as a means of peddling local bumper crops and eliminating the middleman – are making a comeback, Macsuga said.

But navigating local and state regulations to gain the right to sell from a farm stand – or on the property of an adjacent private land owner – can get tricky, according to Dennis Tobin, Litchfield's land use administrator.

After first gaining the permission of a commercial land owner, farm stand owners must apply for a \$90 zoning permit each year to open a stand. The stand then operates as an accessory to a principal use, Tobin said.

"It's up to the state to regulate labeling," Tobin said. "And they don't have the personnel to do it."

State Department of Agriculture spokesman Steven Jensen declined to comment.

The northeast leads the country in farm-direct product sales, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From 1997 to 2002 alone, sales increased by up to 53 percent in some areas.

"It's an expanding horizon," Tobin said. "It makes sense economically because people will pay more for locally, sustainably grown."

But just what "local" means remains up for discussion.

"Some say it's 75 miles," Tobin said.

Rick Bunnell of Bunnell Farm in the Milton section of Litchfield also paid \$90 for a zoning permit last summer. Family members and friends have been selling farm-raised sweet corn along Route 202 for more than 20 years.

In addition to Bunnell's own produce, the popular stand has been selling vegetables from Ruwet's Farm in Torrington.

"People want local stuff," said Bunnell, who is in favor of labeling. "But once in a while you may have to supplement what you have."

## CWA Regional Meetings

The CWA/Family Activities Committee will be holding four regional meetings on the following dates:

November 30 at Norwich Grange Hall  
December 28 at Riverton Grange Hall  
January 4 at Cheshire Grange Hall  
January 25 at Hillstown Grange Hall  
All meetings will begin at 2 P.M.

We encourage all Community Granges to send a representative to one of the meetings listed. CWA packets will be distributed and all will have a chance to meet the committee members. Light refreshments will be served.



## My Big Buck

*Continued from page one...*

made our way carefully down off the ridge into a swampy area.

My father lost his footing and slipped and fell; he was as quiet as a tree falling in the woods! I knew Dad was fine because he got right up, but at that moment all I could think was that no deer would come out after that. We continued on, making our way through the swamp and soon found fresh tracks!

We walked up onto the next ridge; we were almost to the spot where we wanted to be. We walked about a hundred yards along the ridge to "my rock." Dad and I got up onto the 4 foot tall rock. From this point, we could see down into the valley and up into the swampy area that we'd just come from as well into a brushy area beyond.

My father asked me which way I wanted to face; I chose to look over the valley. We stood back so Dad was looking towards the thick swampy areas. We stood there for about 45 minutes when I glanced over my shoulder where Dad was supposed to be watching. I whispered to my father and asked him, "Why is that tree moving like that?" The movement stopped and I returned to watching the valley. A few minutes passed and Dad whispered, "Get your gun up!" I turned around and pulled up my gun. I placed the gun next to my father's shoulder. It was then I spotted horns in the brush; I knew he was a big deer. I noticed also that he was dark colored and realized that this was the very large buck that I had been chasing for the past two years.

He (the buck), didn't notice that we were there. He made his way about 10 feet out into a little clearing in the brush. At this point, he was 50 yards out and slightly quartered towards me. I was still standing behind my father, waiting for a broadside shot. Dad stood as still as possible, knowing that if he moved a muscle, the deer would be gone! The deer picked up his nose and looked straight towards us. At that moment Dad quietly whispered, "Take him, take him!" After the second "take him," I clicked off the safety, aimed for the middle of his chest and took the shot. He dropped like a sack of rocks, right there!

We could see that he wasn't moving, so we sat down for a few minutes to calm down and let my Dad's ears stop ringing! Then we fought our way through the thick undergrowth to where he was laying in the small clearing. The first thing that we noticed was one of the kickers on his rack, and the thickness of his neck. It was then we both realized just how big of an animal this buck was. We counted 14 points, and the bases of his horns were huge. We followed his tracks back into the swamp to see what tree he was rubbing on. It was a fairly large sapling about 4 inches diameter.

My father congratulated me; he'd never seen a deer like that. It was the deer of a lifetime! He was too big to drag up the hill, so my father called my mother to bring our Yamaha Rhino down. I then handed the phone to Dad and he took several pictures of me and my deer.

We field dressed him and my mother still wasn't there yet so we decided to drag him a little ways. Shortly, my mother showed up and together, we loaded my big buck into the back and drove to the farm.

Once there, I rinsed him out good, weighed him in at 216, and showed him off to everyone. More pictures were taken.

A while ago, my father told me what his father John Molodich told him, "Just keep pressure on him and eventually, you'll get him." I did! Grandpa would be proud!

*Editor's Note:* Andrew's buck scored a whopping 162 6/8" and won an award at the 2014 NBBC Annual Awards Banquet. Andrew is 16 years old and is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation dairy farmer. The farm provides 450 acres to hunt in Windham County, CT.

*Article reprinted from Northeast Big Bucks Magazine, Records 2014 Issue.*

## Please remember our shut-ins



Marge Bernhardt  
State Lecturer

[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

As we enter the holiday season let's not forget those in convalescent and rest homes. While our Should Auld Acquaintance Program is intended to be a year-round project, why not start now? Check with the Recreation Director of a local home and see what their needs are. They may want entertainment for their residents – most Granges have Christmas Programs at their meetings. Bring one of those to entertain at the home. How about

small tray or table favors. You can all get together one night and make some simple ones. These work nights will also bond our Grangers together and help make some new friendships. Does the home need someone to help residents address their cards? Maybe they even need you to supply the cards that the residents can give their relatives and friends when they come to visit. The cost would be minimal but the appreciation of those you help is very gratifying. After you have made a few

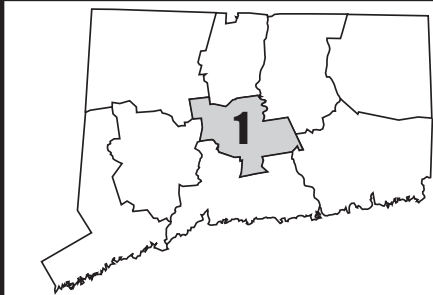
visits these people consider you their friend. There is nothing more rewarding than walking into a home like this and to have the residents come and thank you over and over again and tell you how great you and the Grange are. Bring a little sunshine into the lives of those who need it most. Isn't this what the holidays are all about?

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year to all our Grange Friends everywhere.

## Miller Open House

An Open House Reception will be held for new State Master Noel Miller. All are welcome on December 14, 2014 at the Masonic Hall, Rte. 17, 895 Main St., South Glastonbury from 2 to 4 P.M. RSVP to Gordon Gibson: 860-871-7757 or Edith Schoell: 860-528-8015.

# Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- ✓ Meriden No. 29
- ✓ Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Central Pomona No. 1* will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

### CENTRAL POMONA #1

*Corr: Cindy Charbonneau*

Our meeting on Dec. 11 is our Christmas program. We will collect canned goods for a local food pantry. The subordinate Granges who bring the most canned goods will get to donate them to their local pantry. We will be collecting donations for the Foster Care Program instead of a gift exchange. Our meeting will be held at Hemlock Grange at 7:30 P.M. with a potluck supper planned for 6:00 P.M.

Visitors are always welcome to come and join us. Each Grange is asked to bring items for our CWA table, "Sweets for Santa."

### MERIDEN GRANGE #29

*Corr: M. Harrison*

I trust everyone is preparing for the holidays. Thanksgiving gave us all a time to look with gratitude over the past harvest. Christmas is sooner than we think, remember it is always less than 8 weeks after Halloween.

I hope everyone will think about shopping local, small businesses. I always look for practical gifts and begin my Christmas shopping by stopping at the Grange building at the Big E. I also attend our local Christmas Fairs.

We will be having our Christmas party on Dec. 12th and be part of the fun by bringing a wrapped unisex present. We will be having a Night Before Christmas present exchange. Hopefully our Overseer Mike will read the story for us again this

year. All gifts should be in the \$5 range.

Also remember that our last Grange Supper for 2014 will be in Dec. Look on our Facebook page for the date. As always, it is all you care to eat. With both the supper & the Christmas party, check the weather to see if the event is on.

Best wishes for a happy & healthy holiday season from our friends at the Meriden Grange.

### HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

*Corr: Barbara R. Smith*

Higganum Grange meets on the first Friday of each month at 7 P.M. at the Grange Hall in the center of Higganum. Members wish all Grangers a Happy Holiday season.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Dec. 12:** Christmas customs around the world

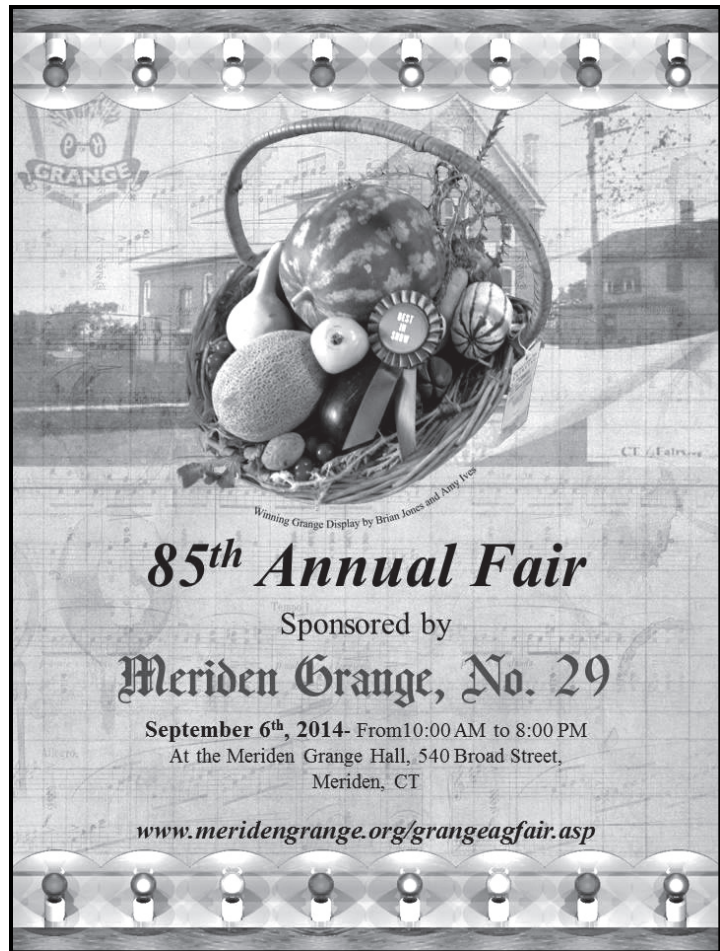
**Dec. 26:** Omit (for Christmas)

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

# Hemlock honors Phyllis Redford



On the night of Sept. 26, 2014 Phyllis Redford, originally of Mattabassett Grange, then of Westfield Grange, now of Hemlock Grange received her 75 year membership award from Hemlock Grange Master / President William Sanborn.



Here's a picture of Meriden Grange's first prize winning Premium Book awarded at the Association of CT Fairs Banquet in the Local Fair category. 2nd Place - Cannon Grange. 3rd Place - Cheshire Grange

## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# 2015 PR Contests Announced

By *Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

The Public Relations committee has scaled back our offering of contests and has only three contests for 2015, all with a deadline of October 1st. It's easy to participate. Let's take a quick peek at each

- 1) Promote Your Grange Creative Video Contest: Create a video promoting your Grange. The video can be any length, and of any theme.
- 2) Best Cooperative Partnership Contest: An integral part of Grange public relations is partnering with other local groups and organizations. This could be a co-hosted event, a co-sponsorship of a project or initiative, a project to benefit or honor a group/organization, and so much more! Write a description of how your Grange has integrated/ utilized a Cooperative Partnership, and include a photo to accompany the description if appropriate.
- 3) Social Media

Participation Contest: Create a Buzz about your Grange, its projects, activities and events by managing a proper Facebook or Twitter Page. This contest is open to all Community Granges, Pomona Granges and Junior Granges. Pages must be active at any point within the period of November 1, 2014 - October 1, 2015.

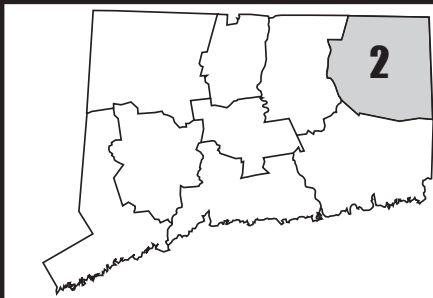
All of the details, rules, and information for the contests can be found on the Connecticut State Grange website at [www.CTStateGrange.org](http://www.CTStateGrange.org), and will also be available in the Blue Book. Entries should be mailed to Robert Charbonneau, 102 Spring Street, Meriden CT 06451, or sent via e-mail to [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org).

**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!**

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## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- ✓ Killingly No. 112
- ✓ Echo No. 180

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Quinebaug Pomona* supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

#### SENEKET GRANGE #40

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Dec. 17:** Merry Christmas Party, 6 P.M.

**Dec. 24:** Christmas Pie Sale

We had a very successful annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau and received a certificate of appreciation from Celebrating Ag.

Our food booth at the Woodstock Fair showed another profitable fundraiser.

We sold pies at the Killingly Little Big Apple Festival.

We will now hold our winter meetings at 7 P.M.

New officers have been installed and Joan Perry will be our new Master.

Renting the hall adds to our local exposure. We continue to look for new members and welcome visitors.

#### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

*Corr: Elsie Johnson*

**Dec. 10:** Santa Who?; Ref. Christmas Cookies

**Jan. 14:** Who? – What?

**Feb. 11:** Valentines

Winter is here – a lot of unwanted weather to look forward to. Oh to be a bear! State Session is over and there are a lot of new changes.

More and more people are using wood stoves for heat. So be careful.

Our meetings will be at 7 P.M. until April.

When possible, help the food pantries. More and more are in need. Hope everyone has happy holidays and stay well.

#### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Sue Gray*

**Dec. 6:** Christmas Bazaar 10-2

**Dec. 12:** Annual Musical by the Juniors 6pm

**Jan. 5:** “Warm Apple Crisp!” 7:30 pm

Our Grange was very well represented at the first annual Sterling AG Day! Jai Izzarelli manned the Granges “Carved Pumpkin” contest. Link and Jan

Cooper sold hotdogs & beverages (adding \$140.00 to our treasury). Our Juniors held a successful bake sale throughout the event. Several of our active members are members of the AG Commission, so they were all actively there. Attendance was great and the day a complete success! That evening was the 2nd annual Sterling Spooktacular at the Municipal Building. Again, our Grange and members were actively involved. Well over 300 kids had a great time with storytelling, games, crafts, trunk a treats and hayrides! Several Grangers were members of the planning committee.

State Session found Ekonk well represented as usual. Link Cooper gave a complete report at our Nov. meeting. Modestly, he refrained from reporting that HE was named a “Granger of the Year” for the state at the banquet, but we all reminded him with applause. Our report for Community Service is an National at this writing. Jody, Jodi Ann and Jaimie Cameron will attend National as will Trevor and Clifford Gervais. More on that event for the December issue.

Looking forward to the celebration of the birth of our Savior, may all who read this column find peace in the coming year-He is the reason for the Season!

#### KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

*Corr: Glenna Bruno*

Our Apple Festival went of fairly well despite the fact that Mother Nature did not cooperate. It rained part of the day. We had several vendors and a pancake breakfast that was well attended. We are planning more pancake breakfasts. So keep your eyes and ears peeled and open for dates, time, etc.

Recently, at the State Session, which Master Bernadette and I attended for the opening roll call

and at a later day, our Chaplain, Anne Duval, through the efforts of our Master was presented the Granger of the Year award and a lovely mantle clock. This was a complete surprise and happy event for Anne. Congratulations, Anne. Master Bernadette composed and read an excellent report on Anne’s volunteering outside the Grange and doing kitchen duty at Killingly Grange after meetings.

At our last meeting Anne had invited a Chef Franklin Cameron to give us some helpful hints about ordering food for events and helpers in the kitchen. Sometimes it gets a bit crowded and sometimes “too many cooks spoils the broth.”

On Sat., Oct. 25 we held a bluegrass concert and chili supper. It was well attended but more advertisements are needed for the bluegrass. We are in competition with the chili as we have a Mexican restaurant in town.

Upcoming events, Harvest Happiness – will be a surprise with guest speaker. Maybe Linus and Snoopy will tell us of “The Great Pumpkin” coming to the pumpkin patch?? Plans for this meeting have not been finalized yet.

Check for our upcoming Farmer’s Markets.

Before we know it, it will be Christmas. Oh my where did this year go?

An important after thought- our new member Bruce Kahl has been very busy repairing and painting the windows in our Grange and replacing broken clapboards which were badly needed. Way to go, Bruce – he also cooks a mean chili!

#### ECHO GRANGE #180

*Corr: Gloria John*

**Dec. 9:** Holiday Happenings

**Dec. 23:** Omit

We will be holding only one meeting until April. We meet on the second Tuesdays at 7:30 P.M. Betty and Charles Lussier delivered the third grade dictionaries to three schools in Mansfield, South East School, Vinton School and Goodwin School.

We are still donating several items to “From the Heart.”

We hope everyone will have a nice holiday and a Happy New Year.

## Ekonk hosts dinner



Ekonk Community Grange recently held a benefit dinner for TALVHI (The American Legion Veterans Housing, Inc.).

## Legislatively Speaking



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

Thanks to all of the Granges who sent in resolutions to this last session. We had some very interesting conversations on a variety of topics. We saw resolutions concerning restructuring the State Grange by eliminating or realigning the Pomona Grange structure. These were not adopted by the delegates but they did bring this topic to the limelight for our members to think about. How well is the present structure working? The delegates also voted in favor of eliminating the Camp Berger Board of Trustees. The State Grange Executive Committee would now be managing the camp business.

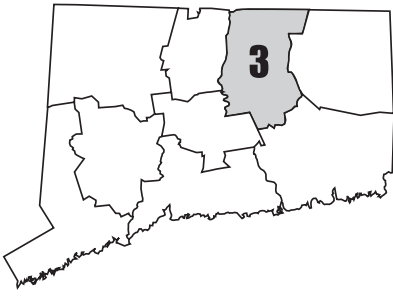
There were a few cost savings resolutions. One will affect the delegates to future sessions. The delegates voted to eliminate the per diem payments per session and mileage reimbursements for delegates, committee members and officers as a way to reduce the cost of the state convention. The delegates also sent a recommendation to National Grange to eliminate paying for the cost of travel, meals and lodging for non-essential staff and honorary delegates at the National Grange Session. This last year many State Granges were becoming concerned on the handling of the finances by the National Grange so the delegates opposed the pending \$2.00 per member dues increase. They requested that the National Grange place adequate financial controls to improve its current financial position.

We saw a couple of safety issues addressed. One resolution recommends that animals not be allowed to sit in the driver’s laps of motor vehicles while the vehicles are in motion. They also requested that animals be restrained in an area away from the driver. Another resolution asked that handicapped rooms be available on the ground floors. They were concerned about minimally mobile persons being trapped in upper floors without adequate ways of evacuating the building. There were a couple of driver safety resolutions that were adopted. One asked that highway billboards be designed to be easier read with larger fonts and to control the flashing of lights on them. The other resolution was concerning the signage at the intersection of I-95 and I-395.

A couple of recommendations were adopted for projects for individual Granges to participate in. The delegates asked that Granges that have their own halls participate in a National Heritage Day. They also supported the placing of bat houses to promote the welfare of the state’s bat population.

Another GMO issue appeared with the delegates asking legislators to address the issue of liability for the contamination of non-GMO and organic fields. Many times these fields are contaminated with seed that is unintentionally deposited by wind and other means. There have been lawsuits by bio-tech companies which hold the patents on the GMO seeds. The resolution asked that the cost of these suits be borne by the companies and not the farmers whose fields were contaminated through no fault of their own.

# East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- Granby No. 5
- Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- Hillstown No. 87
- Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

### MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

**Dec. 4:** Christmas; Ref. M. Manning

Master Noel Miller resigned after he was elected State Master. Brother Gordon Gibson was elected Master and Brother John Hykes was elected Overseer. Noel will still take care of the hall and be auctioneer when there. We will meet on Jan. 3 at Vernon Grange so that northern Granges do not have to travel too far. Happy Holidays to all.

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

**Dec. 2:** Visit to the Zoo

**Dec. 17:** Christmas – Let’s Party

**Jan. 6:** Winter Sports

On Dec. 2 we will go on a “Visit to the Zoo.” Sisters Leona and Maryanne are in charge of the program. The Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> program will be “Christmas – Let’s Party.” This night we are asking everyone to bring something for the program. On Jan. 6 we will be learning about “Winter Sports” presented by Sister Edith. We have had some illness in our ranks but we are hoping that all our members will

be felling better.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

**Dec. 5:** “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”

Vernon welcomes two new members from Tolland Grange – Joyce Jordan and Elizabeth Robertson – and hope that we get a few more to join our group! Vernon Grange will have its holiday meeting on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. As always, the wonderful cookies and breads will be supplied by our Lecturer Pat Conger. We will also have our “Wacky Gift Exchange.” A fund time seeing what strange and unusual gifts are brought that bring laughs to us all.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

**Dec. 6:** Ho Ho Ho, Coventry Host

We welcome two new members, William and Catherine Root in November and enjoyed their enthusiasm. We will be looking into grants for hall improvements. Happy Holidays to all for a better new year.



Todd A. Gelineau  
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

The Central Office seems to be settling into a new rhythm now with the change of officers. In addition to regular hours several mornings a week, the State Treasurer and I will have evening hours at least twice a month. If you have a need to come into the office at night (or any other time) please let me know to be sure we will be there. The Central Office is there to serve the members of the State Grange.

By the time you are reading this paper, the notices for the 2015 Bonding Program with National Grange should have arrived in each Pomona and Subordinate Grange. As is explained in the notice, we are required to send in one check to National with the list of participating Granges, so it is imperative that all Granges return their payments (made payable to the Connecticut State Grange) as soon as possible. We would like to have everything to National Grange by later this month

# State Secretary

(Dec.). The rates have remained unchanged from 2014 and a schedule of coverage options is also included in the event your Grange needs to increase. Most Community Granges are covered for the minimum amount of \$5,000. It is also important to remind all Granges that you are required by the National Grange Digest to have bonding coverage.

We thank the Granges who have returned their Quarterly Report and payment for the third quarter. Unfortunately there are a small number that are outstanding. Our payment and report to National were already due. When this happens, we pay National based on what was reported the previous quarter rather than being late with the report and paying a late penalty. We cannot tell you enough how important it is to receive these reports on time!

Edith and I are working on a new project and need your help. We know there are many members out there that have old (or not so old) Grange jewelry, pins, buttons, etc. that they either do not use or would like to put to better use. We would love to have these items to offer for sale to the members and raise a little money for the State Grange.

If you have any items you would like to donate to the State Grange, please contact me or Sister Edith. You can also send them to the Central Office at P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033. We received a donation of jewelry prior to State Session and many of these items sold very quickly.

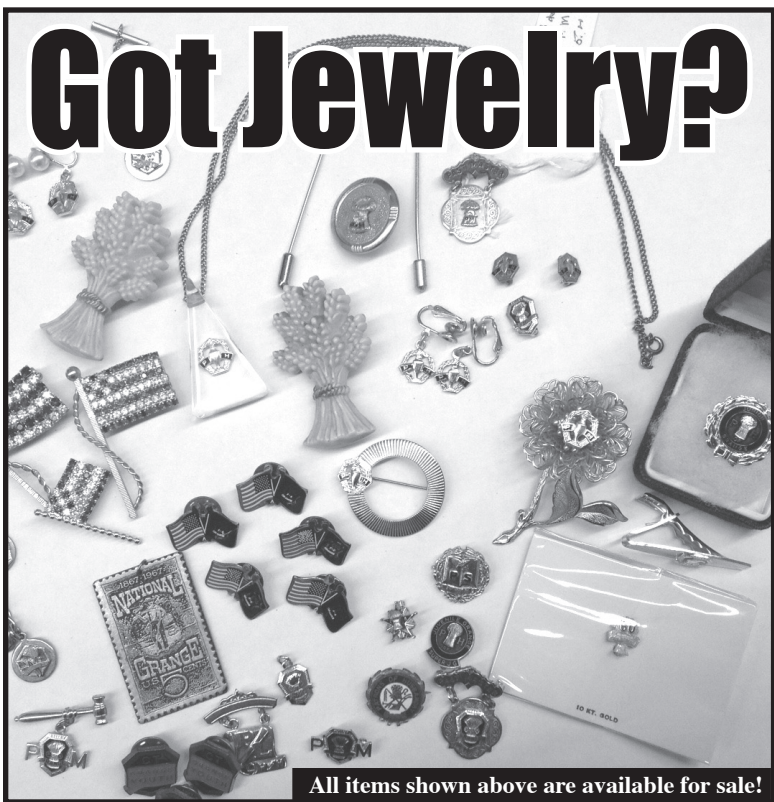
Did you know that many of the items (especially supply items) offered on the National Grange website are also for sale through the Central Office. Well, they are! We plan to feature a few items each month in our own Grange Store here in the Granger to help familiarize you with what is available. All you have to do is contact me in the Central Office and we’ll be happy to fill your order!

Special thanks to the Cameron family for assisting me with organizing the mountains of regalia stored at the office. The work is not done yet but we have come a long way! Thanks also to Sister Jodi Ann for making the new curtains for the office and hanging new blinds. What a difference!

Until next month, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year!

# CONNECTICUT GRANGE STORE

Each month we will feature various items available in the Central Office for sale to members and Granges. If you would like to order anything you see (or don't see) here, please email the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call 860-633-7550 to place your order.



## Got Jewelry?

All items shown above are available for sale!

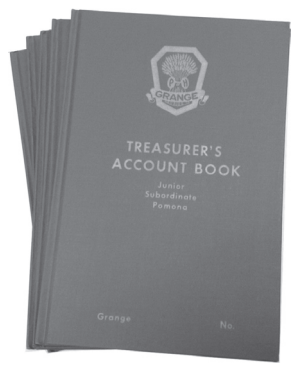
We are now accepting donations of Grange jewelry, buttons, and other similar items to be sold to benefit the general fund of the State Grange. If you have items, they can be sent to the Central Office, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033 or you can contact Secretary Todd Gelineau or Sister Edith Schoell to make arrangements. We thank you for your help!



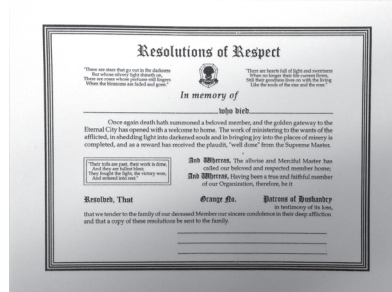
“The Grange & You” new member brochure – 50¢ each.



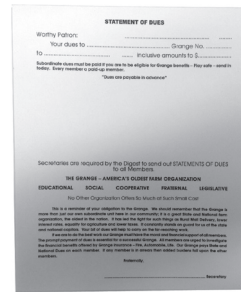
2013 (latest version) Subordinate Grange Manuals - \$12.00 each.



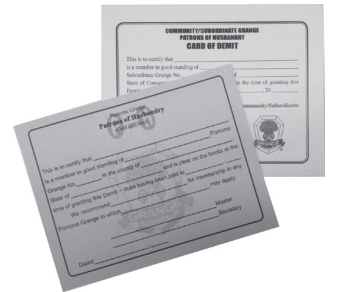
Hard bound Treasurer's Account Books (limited supply) - \$8.00 each.



Resolutions of Respect (for presentation to families of deceased members) 25¢ ea.



Statement of Dues Pads \$3.00 ea.



Pomona & Subordinate Demit Cards – 15¢ ea.

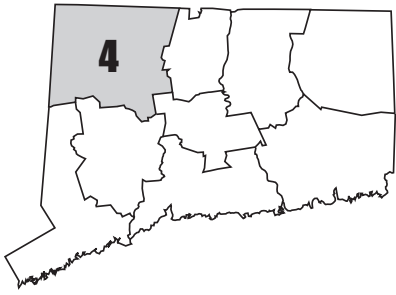
Order on Treasurer	\$ .....	ORDER ON TREASURER
Date .....	Treasurer of .....	Grange No. ....
For .....	Pay to the order of .....	
Amount \$ .....	and charge the same to the Grange.	Dollars and .....
Grange No. ....	Master .....	Cents .....

Order on Treasurer Pads - \$5.00

TREASURER'S RECEIPT	TREASURER'S RECEIPT
RECEIVED OF Secretary of .....	RECEIVED OF Secretary of .....
Date .....	Date .....
Dues - \$ .....	Dues - \$ .....
Fees - \$ .....	Fees - \$ .....
Collection - \$ .....	Collection - \$ .....
Other - \$ .....	Other - \$ .....
Total - \$ .....	Total - \$ .....

Treasurer's Receipt Pads - \$3.00

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



- ✓ Cawasa No. 34
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- Taghannuck No. 100
- Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- Riverton No. 169

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Mountain County Pomona No. 4* has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Dec. 8:** Christmas Meeting @ Winchester Grange, 7:30 P.M., \$5 Grab Bag Exchange

Traditionally the Christmas meeting of Mountain County Pomona hasn't been treated kindly by the weather gods! Hopefully December 8 will be mild and clear of snow and other winter weather. The meeting will be at Winchester Grange Hall beginning at 7:30 P.M. Please bring a \$5 grab bag gift if you would like to participate in the exchange.

On behalf of the officers and members of Mountain County Pomona, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

### CAWASA GRANGE #34

*Corr: Maggie Schofield*

We have lost two members of our Grange. Edward Kozlak and Richard Olson. Both were wonderful men who we will miss dearly in our town.

It's been quiet in Grange. October was State Session and Sisters Lin and Maggie were our delegates.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

*Corr: Debbie Brown*

The Whigville Grange will hold a cookie walk on Sat., Dec. 6 from 10 am until 2 pm. The event will take place at Terryville Congregational Church, rte. 6, Terryville. Dozens of types of homemade cookie will be for sale, along with a teacup auction. For more information, please call Debbie at 860-582-9863 or e-mail: b\_gary@sbcglobal.net.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**Dec. 9:** Christmas, \$5 Grab Bag; Ref. By All (something holiday oriented)

**Dec. 23:** Omit for Christmas

**Important Notice:** There will be a vote to amend the By-Laws of Winchester Grange at the next meeting on Dec. 9. At the November meeting it was voted to add an automatic increase clause to our by-laws that triggers whenever the National or State Granges increase

their dues. National Grange raised the dues in November by \$2.00 per member/per year. Without this change to the By-Laws we are required to vote on a dues increase each and every time. Winchester Grange has opposed any additional dues increases at the National Grange level and adopted a resolution this summer stating our opposition, especially in light of the tremendous amount of money spent by National on court and legal fees to fight the former California State Grange while cutting programs at the National Grange to direct money to the court battle. While we were unsuccessful in stopping the dues increase, the voice of Winchester Grange was heard.

The last increase for Winchester Grange was several years ago when our boiler failed and required replacement. This was coupled with a dues increase at National at that time. While a dues increase is unfortunate, Grange dues are a great value and tremendously lower than that charged by other organizations. We thank you for supporting your Grange and for understanding that we are left with no choice but to increase dues to absorb this additional cost. Dues notices reflecting the change will be sent out by Sue as soon as the increase is approved by the membership. We thank you in advance for your prompt return.

Join us for our only meeting in December on the 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be our Christmas meeting featuring a grab bag gift exchange (\$5 value) for all who wish to participate. Of course, there will also be a wonderful holiday themed program by Lecturer Ramona. Take time out from the holiday rush and enjoy a piece of the holidays at Grange.

In November, we received a letter from the St. Pauly organization (providers of

the Clothing Donation Shed at our hall) requesting the name of a family in our community to receive a holiday dinner provided by their organization. Rather than a single family, the Grange has decided to send the \$40 check to the food pantry in Winsted where it can benefit many families during this holiday season. Our thanks to St. Pauly for

doing this for Winchester Grange and all of the other organizations and communities where they have donation bins. It's a wonderful gesture that will help a lot of people in need this holiday season.

As always, we are collecting non-perishable food, children's toys, hats, mittens, toiletries and any other items you can think

of to donate to charities in Winchester and Torrington during the holiday season. Drop off your items at a Grange meeting or contact me, Ramona Fassio or Sue Addison and we will make arrangements to receive your items.

We wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Winchester Grange #74.

## Litchfield's new members



The Connecticut State Grange welcomes the following new members of Litchfield Grange: Karl Ebner, Richard Grinvalsky, Jessica Falwell, Barbara Putnam, Deborah J. Laws, and Jonathan Wilson. They are all part of Litchfield's Corner Co-Op, an organization looking to pair up with the Grange to the benefit of both organizations. The next meeting will be on December 4 and will hopefully be the night the Charter is finally restored to this Grange.

## But can they spell Taghannuck?



Taghannuck Grange #100 presented dictionaries to the third graders at Sharon Center School in Warren, Kent and Cornwall. This is the 11th year of doing this project in Sharon.

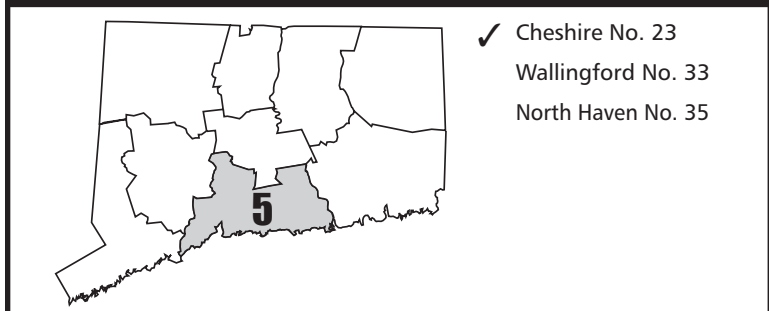


## Festival of Trees

Friday & Saturday  
December 5 & 6, 2014  
Riverton Grange Hall, Rt. 20, Riverton Village Center

Part of this year's *Christmas in Riverton*.  
Proceeds benefit the *Community Food Bank*.

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35

### MISSION STATEMENT

*New Haven County Pomona* through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Wesle Dymoke*

**Dec. 7:** (Sunday) – 4:00 Meeting in Cheshire. Program- It's Christmastime – Bring a \$3 gift to exchange. Potluck Supper to follow.

**Jan. 26:** Regular meeting at Cheshire. Program: Showtime

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**Dec. 3:** Neighbor's Night – Wear your favorite t-shirt

**Dec. 17:** Christmas Party – Open Meeting - \$3.00 Grab Bag and Card Exchange

We had a fundraiser to

boost our treasury by way of a dinner we put on for a local hiking club. We have done this dinner for them for many years and they keep coming back.

We have had good response from our members for the annual Cheshire Food Bank. Our third annual craft show is getting close for December 13<sup>th</sup> at our hall. Crafters are registering and we are looking forward to this event.

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner which we hold each year, was enjoyed by all. It is a very nice preview for the real day.



*By Lyn Kimberly, Director*

Happy Holidays from Camp Berger!

We can't believe how fast "Camp Time" is flying. It seems like we just finished closing camp and now were cleaning up from Thanksgiving dinner with New Years just around the corner. We are busy registering Campers for the 2015 season. This will be the Camp's Diamond Anniversary, 60 years on Park Pond! The price of camp is rising to \$400 per week, still keeping the camp one of the least expensive in Connecticut and allowing us to continue the improvements that are needed to be competitive with camps costing 2 to 4 times ours. We will continue to honor last year's price until New Years Day! Just mention "a Granger sent me" and receive last year's rate of \$350. Send your kid or grand-kid to Camp Berger next summer, or donate a Campership! We believe that Camperships offer a great way for Granges to promote themselves in their local communities. Not only is it great to give a child a wonderful camp experience but it's a great way to invite the community to get involved. To that end we will also be holding the price of Camperships for Subordinate and Pomona Granges until next summer to \$350. We are available to help. We're holding monthly Open Houses at Camp (weather permitting).

By popular demand we're returning to 7 weekly sessions: June 28th-August 15th. Camp Berger is "a gem" and embodies the future of the Connecticut State Grange. To keep up on Camp News visit our Website and "Like" us on Facebook and plan to help when we announce the Spring Clean Up Weekend. Bring your sleeping bag and we'll provide the food for a fun packed hard working weekend. Please feel free to contact us at: 203-557-3339 or email: CampBerger@gmail.com.



**Michelle DeDominicis**  
State Junior Grange Director  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

### EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

*Corr: Rebecca Gervais*

We are proud of Casey who placed second at State for her Creative writing, and Jared and Brianna who each placed first in their age groups. Great job kids!

We had a lot of fun at our Halloween party, and the haunted greenhouses that the youth put together! At the hall, we had a scavenger hunt in a "spooky room," with cobwebs, spiders,

# Junior Grange

insects, ghosts, slugs and other scary things. We had donuts on a string, ghost darts, pin-the-nose on a pumpkin, bowling and a costume parade. Lots of fun, goodies, and friends to play with. The haunted greenhouse was pretty scary! Some of the kids left in tears. Our Halloween party was well attended, and we are looking forward to next year.

We had a bake sale table at Sterling's First Annual Farm Day. We also oversaw children's games. We made over \$45, thanks to all who baked and manned the tables.

Tracy Hansen had a Trunk at Voluntown's Trunk-or-Treat. We sent

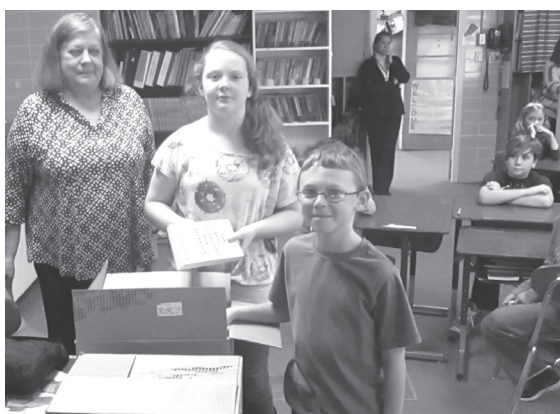
bags of candy over. Thanks Tracy for spreading the word of our Grange!

13 of us went to Tomaquag Native American Museum in Exeter, RI. We learned a lot! We learned a Welcome dance/song, about indigenous people, what they used for homes, currency, and clothes.

Our tour guide was interesting and quite informative. I wonder how many of us are going to look for a powwow to visit?

On Black Friday, we will be walking for St. Jude.

Our Christmas rehearsals are starting, we are performing, "On Our Way to Bethlehem." Feel free to drop in anytime!



**Ekonk's Logan, Jenna and Mrs. Wesa** handing out dictionaries at Voluntown Elementary School.



**Future Junior Grangers** working on sugar cookies at Greenfield Hill Grange recently.

### Greenfield Hill Grange Famers Market

EVERY Saturday Opens 10:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. - **NEW Vendors every week!**

Fresh, Fairfield baked artisan breads, pies, fresh organic hydroponic greens, fresh, free range FAIRFIELD eggs, hand made soaps, candles, gourmet prepared food including marinara sauce, vegetarian dishes, apples, cabbage, carrots, broccoli and cauliflower, home baked Southern pies, fresh floral arrangements and plants, Fairfield honey and MUCH MORE!

Come Support The Grange!

Raffle Tickets for our Thanksgiving Turkey ON SALE Saturday November 15th - Drawing Saturday, November 22nd!

Coffee/bagels/baked goods for sale to benefit the Grange!

Great people, plenty of off street parking!

SEE YOU SOON!

### Thank You

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for the calls, cards, prayers or thoughts for me and my family while I was hospitalized recently.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season with family surrounding you with love.

Sincerely,

Russell Gray

### Thank You For The Honor

On behalf of Amy Whitcomb and myself, your first two women Chaplains of the Ct. State Grange, we both wish to thank the delegate body for having had the faith in both of us to have represented the State Grange where ever we went during the years of serving as your Chaplain.

Fraternally,

Barbara C. Kulisch

Past State Grange Chaplain

### Thank You

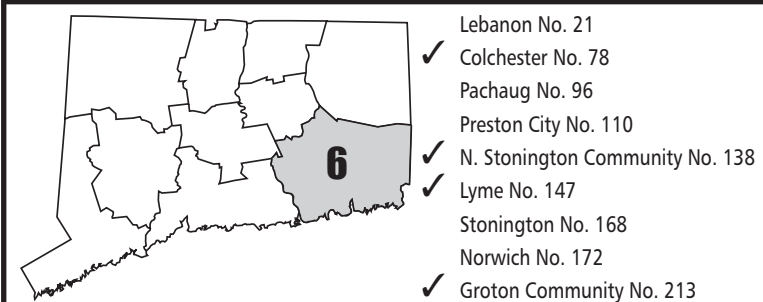
I want to THANK ALL in the STATE GRANGE for their beautiful cards, well wishes and PRAYERS. It means so much to me to have all my State Brothers and Sisters praying for me.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

Love, Maggie

P.S. Also a big thank you to Maine State Lecturer for the cards and prayers!

## New London County Pomona No. 6



### MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller  
**Dec. 10:** "Holiday Cheer" – Norwich Grange

The fun starts at 7:30 at Norwich Grange on December 10<sup>th</sup>. So deck yourself out in your holiday best and join us for an enjoyable evening.

It's winter at last and it's holiday time.

With tinsel and sleigh bells and cards filled with rhyme.

So come down to Norwich! We'll all have some fun!

The refreshments at Norwich are second to none!

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

Colchester welcomed guests, Anne Marrie Knochenhauer, Master of Groton Grange, Lois Evankow, Lecturer of Lyme Grange and Ted Beebe, Master of Norwich Grange. Congratulations to Ted Beebe on his appointment to the State Membership Committee.

Certificates were presented to Cathy Russi for CWA Achievement, and Chris Bourque for most pounds in vegetable donations. Joan Toomey also received second place for her baby ensemble entry at the Big E. Congratulations to all. Your efforts are appreciated.

We continue our community service efforts with our monthly cooking activity at Harrington Court Facility in Colchester, Bingo at Apple Rehabilitation Center, Christmas gifts for the veterans in Jewett City, and food donations to St. Andrew's Food Pantry.

Our Grange will also be crafting and donating a Christmas wreath for the Festival of Trees at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford.

Purchase of a goat to benefit a family in Haiti has also been made.

We are also discussing a possible project for next year that all will be interested in. More to come later...

On a final sad note, our condolences to the family of Ann B. Smyk, we are sorry for your loss. Ann was along time member of

Colchester Grange.

### N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller  
**Dec. 12:** "Awe"- Brief meeting at 7:30 followed by party

**Dec. 26:** "Wonder" – Merry Christmas/Happy New Year no meeting

On Oct. 10 our Legislative Chairman, Nick Mullane, took us through a sample ballot and answered questions about candidates in the upcoming election. Hope you remembered to vote! For the first time in our history we had to cancel our Halloween Party. Maurice Miner, a long-time Granger, was honored as a Distinguished Alumnae of Wheeler High School at a special dinner. That meant our Master, Overseer, Ceres and Pomona would be absent. Other Officers had travel plans, leaving too few of us to run the party. We apologize.

Please join us for our Christmas party on Dec. 12. There will be a brief meeting at 7:30. Santa will be there. Bring a wrapped, labeled, present for Santa's bag for each child in our group. Leave the gifts in the kitchen before you go upstairs. Calling all carolers for Friday, December 19. Meet at the Grange at 6:30. We will go out for pizza later. And if those two little mice who wanted to move in with me for the winter will just forgive me for their untimely demise, next time I'll tell you all about nostalgic November.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Jan. 1:** Happy New Year

**Jan. 8:** Come & See – Surprise!

**Feb. 5:** Hears a Fire – CWA struts their stuff.

**Mar. 5:** Juniors are hot tonight. Wearing of the green and Jr. committee in charge.

It was exciting to see our two Junior leaders and our three juniors at State Session. What a treat going to Dinosaur State Park in the morning and attending the luncheon at State Grange at noon. Also to see so many people wearing a little something red to support the Juniors. In the past, if you did not

have some red on you got fined. A great way to earn money for them.

Congratulations to Ted Powell who has been elected Assistant Steward of the Connecticut State Grange.

Lyme again received several awards. It was especially nice to bring home a silver level Honor

Grange certificate.

We draped our charter in loving memory of Cynthia Fogle and Sharon Mingo.

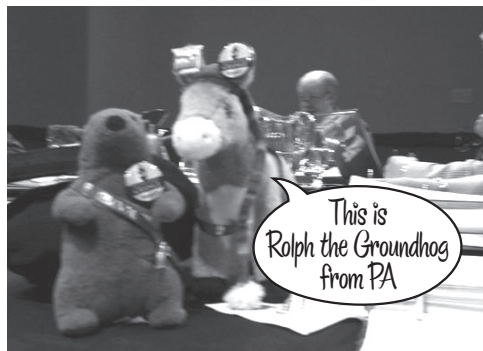
Have a wonderful Christmas and may the new year be good to every one of you.

### GROTON GRANGE #213

Corr: Anne-Marie

Knochenhauer

Dec. 15: We are having a Christmas Party with the Fire Men of our town. Everyone is welcome to join us. It will be a potluck supper after the meeting. Our meeting will start at 6 P.M.



Greetings Grange Friends!

My new host family, the Millers, have been wonderful! Our first trek was to Hillstown Grange for their Halloween Party, but then we immediately got to work getting ready to go to Ohio for the National Grange Session.

The hotel for the Session had a fun Safari Theme - and it was so nice to hang out with all of my Grange Herd Friends again. I even got to see my friend Trevor Gervais of Ekonk Community Grange. Trevor was on the National Grange Youth Officer Team as their Gatekeeper.

While at National Grange Session, I also reached a new milestone on my Facebook Page. Christie Bagenstose Straub is now my 300th friend! Congratulations!!! Now let's look towards the next milestone of 350 "Likes" to my page!!

After the Session - it's back to Connecticut and back to work - with a little bit of Thanksgiving in between.

Keep an eye out for me as I travel around the State, and be sure to say Hello!

## WINDOW TO THE PAST

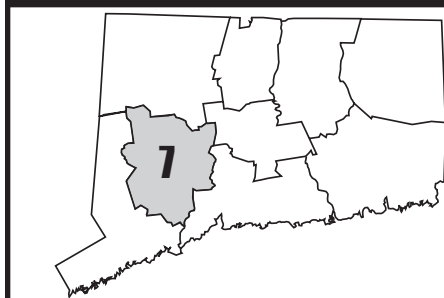
Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a story to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window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

**No answers for Nov. were received!**





## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

### MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

On December 12 we will be celebrating the holidays. Christmas dinner will be served at 6:00 P.M. Reservations are a must. Lecturer Cindy will present a program entitled "The Walton's Family Christmas." Those who would like to participate should bring a \$5 grab bag gift.

The next evening (Dec. 13) we will be hosting the Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters. Both of these are fun evenings so come and join us.

The members of Beacon Valley welcome our new State Master Noel Miller and wish him a happy term. Our Overseer Ron Fischer was re-appointed Deputy of Excelsior Pomona, Master Joanne Cipriano was re-appointed Social Director and Lecturer Cindy Legg was appointed to the CWA Committee.

We have an attendance surprise. Come and see what this is all about.

A very merry and healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Grange Brothers and Sisters from the members of Beacon Valley Grange.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

Dec. 8: Sunday – 2 P.M. Christmas Party and Grab Bag Gift Exchange - \$5.00

Dinner after meeting at the Painted Pony.

We welcome Lucy Greico as a new member.

State Session News-Congratulations to Rob Buck on being elected Steward of the CT State Grange and Eloise Osuch continuing as Lady Assistant Steward of the State Grange.

We won third prize and \$25 in the Community Service Contest. We also

received an Honor Grange award.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

Thank you all for your interest in the Bridgewater Grange. Here is what we have done the past month and what we are going to do the rest of this year.

The Bridgewater Grange made its appearance at the Sullivan Farms open house. Members Pam Butler, Fred Camp and Dean Perry set up and ran a booth from 9 to 4 on Sat October 18th. Members Graham Baldwin and Riva Martin did a splendid job, as directors of Sullivan Farm, putting on this event. They then spent the evening going to Rocky Hill CT for an award from the Connecticut State Grange as "Farmers of the year".

We had opened the Grange Hall for Halloween as part of Bridgewater's "Trunk or Treat". We had a very scary haunted hall. Our living skeleton provided some thrills moving to haunted spooky sounds and dancing to "Thriller".

Wednesday November 12th was a very busy day. We had a meeting with the First Selectman of Bridgewater Curtis Read around noon. He had to inform us of the towns plan for our Grange Hall. They want to demolish the old building and put up a brand new Bridgewater Grange Hall. The town does own the building and apparently it is very much in need of work. They feel it would be more cost effective and better for the long run to build a new hall. The Grange will have use of it as well as the town and other groups. In the meanwhile we will have use of Saint Marks Church for our meetings.

That evening we had a potluck dinner followed

by a regular meeting at 7 PM. There was a lively discussion on the future of our Grange and our Grange Hall.

We had another special meeting on November 21st to further discuss our future plans.

On Monday Nov 24 and on Tuesday Nov 25th Thanksgiving gift baskets were made and passed out to the homebound and to people in nursing homes.

Wednesday December 5th we will have a pizza party at the hall followed by a regular meeting at 7:30. On Friday December 5th the Bridgewater Grange will participate in the Bridgewater Tree Lighting. The ceremony will start at 6 PM and we will open the Grange Hall to the public for hot cocoa and cookies. It may be the last time the building can be used by the public.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

Oxford Grange held its second open mic night on 11/10/14. The audience had a good time and the music was very nice. The next open mic night has been scheduled for December 8, 2014. Signups are at 6:30 and the music starts at 7:00 pm. Bring a snack and come and enjoy.

Oxford Grange held a pizza taste testing night in September as a fund raiser. A number of local pizza places donated pizza for the taste testing and the grange provided the salad and drinks. We lucked out and had music provided by a local DJ for free. It was an easy and fun night and provided our grange with a few well needed dollars.

Oxford Grange would like to give a big shout out to a group of our new members, led by Patti Pace, for all their hard work on our Grange hall. It has been cleaned and the upstairs has been repainted with nice new colors. Thank you so much for everyone who worked on this.

Oxford Grange will be hosting some open mic nights starting in November in conjunction with the Oxford Culteral Arts. Please check our facebook page for upcoming nights.



## Sugar Cookies

The holidays are a lot more fun when cookies are involved. They are fun to decorate and oh-so-good to eat!! Food.com has a great recipe for basic sugar cookies that can be used for cut-outs, and also for an icing that gets nice and hard after decorating!

### SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 cup butter, softened (no substitutes)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### FROSTING

- 2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar (the sugar must be sifted)
- 1 tablespoon milk (adding in more if needed for proper spreading consistency)
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract (can use 1/2 teaspoon vanilla in place of the almond)
- food coloring (use your choice of colors)

Cookies: in a large bowl combine butter with sugar, eggs, vanilla and almond extract; beat using an electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy.

In another bowl combine the flour with baking powder, baking soda and salt; gradually stir into the butter mixture until well blended. Cover bowl with plastic wrap and chill for 2 hours.

Set oven to 400°F. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper (do not grease cookie sheets use parchment paper only).

On a very lightly floured surface roll out the dough into about 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes using cookie cutters. Place cookies 2-inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake 4-6 minutes. Remove cookies to wire racks to cool completely before icing.

Frosting: in a small bowl mix the confectioners sugar with milk (start with 1-2 tablespoons, you will likely need more milk for the perfect spreading consistency).

Beat in corn syrup and almond extract until the icing is smooth and glossy (if the icing is too thick add in a small amount more of corn syrup).

Divide into as many separate bowls as you wish for different colors. Add in food coloring until desired intensity is achieved.

Paint the icing over the cookies using a brush, or dip edges of cookies into icing. Allow to set on waxed paper.

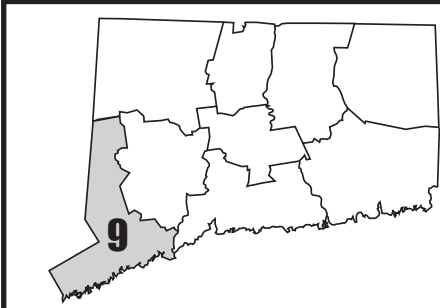
Source: <http://www.food.com/recipe/kittencals-buttery-cut-out-sugar-cookies-w-icing-that-hardens-261889>

## Prospect makes Halloween favors



Prospect Grange delivered 150 meowing black cats to the Prospect Senior Center for their Halloween Party at the Center. We also delivered 125 meowing black cats to the Paradigm Health Center for the patients Halloween party. These were all made from paper rolls.

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- ✓ Harmony No. 92
- ✓ Greenfield Hill No. 133
- Norfield No. 146
- ✓ Cannon No. 152

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Fairfield County Pomona* is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

### HARMONY GRANGE #92

*Corr: George Ward*

We were saddened a couple of weeks ago by a phone call I received that our long time Grange member, Gertrude Wilson, 70+ years, had fallen, cut her eye, broke her hip, and suffered many bruises. She was taken to the Bridgeport Hospital and transferred to Yale-New Haven Hospital. There she had an operation on the eye and her hip. I can report she was moved to Lord Champlain Rehabilitation Center and is resting comfortably. She has pain in the hip area but is in therapy once a day, sits in a chair, has visitors, and has received many get-well cards.

I, as Master/President, attended the 130th Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange as a delegate. To my surprise, I was presented with the 2014 Deputies Challenge for Harmony Grange #92 for first place in the fourth Annual Deputies Challenge. This award was earned by members of Harmony Grange and will be presented to the membership at the next scheduled meeting in November.

In my write-up for November, I included some information on the use of the Grange Hall by the Farm Bureau. I received a write-up from Ronald and Gail Bunovsky, who were instrumental in planning and getting the hall ready for the event, but the write-up was received too late to be included in place of what I had submitted. The write-up they submitted expands on the information I sent. I am adding this write-up. "On October 4, 2014, the Fairfield County Connecticut Farm Bureau organized a farm tour promoting Connecticut grown Ag products and businesses. Harmony Grange volunteered the use of their hall for both lunch and dinner. The Connecticut farm sourced food and drink were supplied by Stone Gardens, Shelton, Mason's Farm Market, Monroe, Bison

Meat from Tanner's in Brooklyn Ct. Other foods and drinks were supplied as well. Many hours of preparation were spent in getting the dining room and kitchen in proper order for the occasion".

Our Christmas Boutique for December is progressing. We will have a silent auction, sale of wreaths and Christmas items, jewelry, baked sale, and lunch, consisting of soup, sandwiches, coffee, tea, soft drinks and water. Several baskets of food and other items will be presented to the lucky ticket holders.

Our December meeting will be a fun meeting. We will have a catered meal, gift to pass for those who brought a gift, Christmas music, and a guest speaker or an entertainer for our Lecturer's program. We will send out invitations to our neighbors to join us in our meeting.

After the Christmas season is over, Harmony Grange will begin planning on its 125th anniversary. I have written about this event for the past several months since it is a big event. As stated before, the celebration will include speakers familiar with the areas and Harmony Grange. There will be entertainment, and refreshments. Guests from the areas of Monroe, Shelton, Trumbull and Stratford will certainly be invited as Harmony Grange is the new home of consolidated granges of Farmville River and Trumbull. Invitations to other areas and Granges will be extended also.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Dennis Rich*

**Dec. 6:** Roast Beef Dinner, 6 P.M.; Doors Open at 5:30 P.M.

**Dec. 13:** Hungarian Cookie Demo, 10 A.M.-12 Noon

**Dec. 15:** Christmas Party - 6:30 P.M. Party, 7:15 P.M. Meeting & Carols

October featured planning and efforts for raising awareness of activities in Grange for children and young teens.

At our meetings, we laid out a Thanksgiving-themed meeting for November and a Christmas party in December.

This year 2014 marks the 125th anniversary of the Junior Grange, which covers persons ages 5 through 14. As a means of introduction, we had a pumpkin carving and decorating event on October 25th. About 20 youngsters along with their parents participated! For more on Junior Grange, contact: greenfield133@gmail.com.

We will start December with a Roast Beef Dinner on the sixth beginning at 6 P.M. Doors will open at 5:30 P.M. Cost of this event includes beverage and dessert is \$20. For reservations, call Steve at 203-367-4373 or Jim at 203-259-8023.

During our December 13 Winter Farmer's Market, we will have a Hungarian Cookie Making Demonstration from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon. This is a "Make and Take," the \$20 cost includes materials. Call "Chef Steve" our Lecturer, to receive a space. He can be reached at 203-367-4373.

Lastly, our Christmas party will be on our usual meeting night and will feature finger foods, a brief meeting and caroling. Please RSVP to the email address above.

All are welcome at our meetings and activities.

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

*Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox*

**Dec. 2:** "Deck the Hall" and Holiday Party

**Dec. 3:** Fairfield County Pomona Dinner at 6:30 P.M. All are invited.

**Jan. 13:** 2015 Fair Kick-Off and Planning Meeting

Congratulations, everybody! On Sunday, October 26 at 8 A.M., Norfield Grangers of all ages arrived at the hall to set up the Gatorade and water tables for the third annual Kiwanis half-Marathon Run. They cheered on each of the 500 plus runners, offering them drinks and doughnuts as they passed by. A chilly good time was had by all. Norfield Grange was voted "Best Water Station," and we are already making plans for next year's event. On the same weekend the Weston Middle School PTO transformed our hall into a Halloween Festival-Haunted House for Kindergarten through 8th graders.

And so - on to Christmas!

### CANNON GRANGE #152

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**Dec 4:** "Unraveling the mysteries of Genetically

Modified Organisms, GMOs" - guest speaker, Christine O'Day

**Dec 6:** Holiday Market, 10 AM - 4 PM - Come and do some Christmas shopping!

**Dec 18:** Holiday Party  
**Jan 15:** "Cheese-making" learn how to make cheeses at home. It's fun!

We're looking forward to our program line up for December when we will learn about GMOs. The interactive seminar is open to the public, and there is no charge for admission. We hope to see

many Grangers there for this educational topic. Our Holiday Party will be an enjoyable event with some musical entertainment, plus wonderful desserts to taste. Please bring a dessert to share.

We plan to have one meeting in January, rather than two, so plan to come by and learn about cheese making on January 15th.

Please note our meeting schedule. Visiting patrons are always welcome, won't you join us?

## Comm. Service

*Jeff & Debbie Barnes,*

2014 Community Service Co-chairpersons

The community Service awards were presented during the recent State Session. From your reports we find that 406 Grange members, assisted by 409 members of the community preformed 73,623 hours of Community Service work this past year. With only half of our granges reporting, this number could easily be doubled.

We received reports from 22 Granges, all of whom are doing great works for their communities. We again divided your reports into two categories: Granges with membership of 50 and less, and those with a membership of 51 and over.

All of you are winners! Our judges struggled to select the top 3 Granges in each category. They are as follows:

For Granges with membership of 50 and under;

3rd place Whigville # 48 "Made in Burlington Then and Now"

2nd place Oxford # 194 Small Business Fair and a six part gardening series for the public

1st Prospect # 144 Operation Cold Weather and honoring 108 teachers in their school district

For Granges with membership of 51 and over:

3rd place Bethlehem # 121 Seed potatoes and string bean seed for the Woodbury FFA, & Red, White and Blue clothes drive

2nd place Cheshire # 23 Re-cup program, box tops for education, and the ongoing "A Word from Home"

1st place Ekonk Community # 89 Turkey can-can 3.5 mile road race, Sterling Veterans' Memorial, Sterling Family Day

In the Junior Grange category we have Ekonk Community Junior, 1st place.

The first place winner, the best in show, with 21,000 hours by 52 members and 802 hours by 197 community citizens and a continued presence in their town is Ekonk Community Grange. Their notebook, 8-1/4 pounds, has been sent to National Grange for judging at Sandusky, Ohio. Congratulations and good luck to them.

## Growing Indoors

*By Maggie Buck*

While I was on the agricultural committee, I wrote an article about growing crops inside. Now that winter is approaching here is a thought for those of you who cannot bear the thought of not growing anything for months. If you have a spot available in the house where the temperature is fairly cool you might think about growing some greens. I grow greens, lettuce, beet tops, arugula and spinach in the bottom halves of plastic milk jugs or the low seed trays. They don't require a great depth of soil, nor do they require a full light spectrum.

While some people have told me they have had luck growing in window sills with sunlight, I have not had good luck doing this. I use a T5 light, which is what I use to grow seedlings in the spring. It is a four foot long light, with a very small long bulb that does not use much electricity. This light fulfills the light requirements for green growth. It, however, does not provide enough light spectrum for flowering. The lights that would work for flowering are hotter, brighter and costs more to run. Then there is the problem of lack of bees, so stick with the greens.

## In Memoriam

Edward Kozlak	Cawasa #34
Richard Olson	Cawasa #34
Ruth Zobel	Taghhannuck #100
Eugene Lattimer	Taghhannuck #100
Cynthia Fogle	Lyme Grange #147
Sharon Mingo	Lyme Grange #147
Thomas LaBarge	Hemlock Grange #182

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

## Chaplain's Message



Charles Dimmick  
State Grange Chaplain

To begin with, it was a matter of fear. Palestine had been under foreign occupation for over 60 years, one of the many countries under the yoke of faraway Rome. There was a puppet King, Herod the Great, elected King of the Jews by the Roman Senate. He was cruel, corrupt, and highly immoral. If this were not enough, the people were also repressed by unscrupulous government officials, soldiers, and tax collectors. No man's life or property was safe. The Jews looked for a delivery from oppression, the Messiah promised by the prophets of old.

The actual coming of the Messiah was not at all what people expected. It started with the appearance of the Archangel Gabriel to a poor maiden of Nazareth by the name of Mary. Mary, of course, was somewhat frightened by the sudden appearance of an archangel, but Gabriel quickly said "Fear not", then announced that Mary, who was betrothed to be married to a carpenter named Joseph, but was still a virgin, that she would bear a child conceived by the Holy Spirit of God, and that this child would be called the "Son of God" and would reign over the House of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there would be no end.

It wasn't long before Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. Because they were betrothed but not yet married Joseph knew the expected child was not his. He was fearful as to what to do next. Because

Joseph was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ... When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.

About this time the Roman Emperor, Augustus, decided that there should be a census of all the inhabitants of his far-flung empire. In some countries, such as Palestine, every inhabitant was ordered to report to the officials in his home village to be enrolled. Joseph, being a descendant of King David, was required to return to the village of Bethlehem, David's ancestral home, to have his name entered in the rolls. Accordingly, Joseph and Mary made the trip to Bethlehem, even though Mary's pregnancy was far along. Her journey was somewhat eased by riding on a donkey, but even so the trip was hard on her, and Joseph was fearful for Mary's safety, and Mary was fearful for the health of the baby she carried inside. Arriving in Bethlehem they found that the Inn, or

Caravansary, had no room for any more travelers, and the best they could do was to find temporary shelter in a stable. Tradition says that this stable was actually a shallow cave. Shortly after their arrival Mary gave birth to the infant, which she named Jesus, based on the name given to Joseph by the angel in his dream.

That same night there were in the hills surrounding Bethlehem shepherds guarding their flocks in the fields. Suddenly an Angel of the Lord appeared to them, greatly frightening them, but the angel said "Fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be for all people, for tonight is born in Bethlehem a Savior who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: you shall find the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." So they went to Bethlehem and found things to be as the angel had told them.

About this time, far to the east in the area now known as Iran there were a group of wise men known as Magi: they were astrologers, priests, and interpreters of dreams and in their own Kingdom formed the council which appointed new kings. Searching the heavens they saw a new heavenly body [or some say a new conjunction of heavenly bodies] in a position in the heavens which they interpreted as heralding the birth of a new King in Palestine. So they sent a committee [some say a committee of three] to Palestine to learn more. Their arrival in Jerusalem greatly frightened King Herod, especially when they announced that they were searching for the newly born future king of Judea. You see, Herod knew that these Magi, in their own land, had the power to appoint new kings. So, hiding his fear, he called in his own biblical experts, who announced that their reading of scripture indicated a new King would be born in Bethlehem. Herod therefore sent the Magi to

Bethlehem to search for the new King with a request that when they found him they would come back to him and report so that [he said] he also could go and worship the new King. Of course his real intentions were far from honorable.

The Magi made their way to Bethlehem and were guided to the Inn where Joseph, Mary, and the baby Jesus had at last found room, where they presented their kingly gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh. Being warned in a dream of Herod's real intentions, they

then left Bethlehem on the road away from Jerusalem and went home without ever letting Herod know what they had found.

So the world was full of fear, and the world is still full of fear, but on that fateful day 2000 years ago God sent his Word to dwell among us, so that we might be able to overcome our fear. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

## Family Activities



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

Our Committee is up and running. Members are: Chairman, Irene Percoski, Marge Sendewicz, Cindy Legg, Edith Schoell and Mary Lou Raymond complete the crew. Our craft theme this year will be "Everything is Comin'

Up Roses," in honor of our Patroness Flora. We're confident your imagination will bloom and many lovely and surprising items will show up for judging. Just remember – you do not get them back. These items will not go on for judging at the Big E. They will be retained and used as gifts and/or donated to the Country Store at the Big E for the upkeep of the New England Grange Building. Dates for regional meetings have not been firmed up yet but notices will go out as soon as possible. See you around the state.

## Grange Growth

By Maggie Buck

Well, this is my first article on membership and I'm having a hard time getting it started. I guess I will just rattle off some of my many thoughts on membership growth and will attempt to expand on the subject as time goes on.

One, I think new members can be found.

Two, I don't think we need to totally change our organization to find them.

Three, New members can mean new ideas for programs, but its the current members who should strive to keep alive the rituals and practices of our organization. While the language is old, the values are timeless. If we do not stick up for that part of our organization, no one else will. Lastly, I would like to see the Grange try a combination of local membership drives on the subordinate level and some statewide programs run by the State Grange committees with and for the subordinate granges.

Have questions or comments, your new membership committee (at this writing) is Ted Beebe and myself.

### Granger Shout Out



**Congratulations to Ekonk's Mae Flexer on her election as State Senator for the 29th District!**



**Congratulations to Ekonk's Andrea Truppa on her election as Judge of Probate for the 27th Judicial District!**

**Submit your Shout-Outs today!**

Granger@CTStateGrange.org

They can also be mailed to 170 Scoville St., #14, Torrington, CT 06790.



# Merry Christmas



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

Ruth & Scott Bill Hirst  
N. Stonington Comm. #138



HAVE A BLESSED  
CHRISTMAS SEASON  
Ray & Cindy Legg



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from the  
Connecticut Granger



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& HAPPY NEW YEAR  
George Ward

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all from  
Kay Ruff

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

from  
Central Pomona No. 1

A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR  
Bob & Marge Sendewicz  
Redding Grange #15

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

from the  
Connecticut State Grange Foundation

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
East Central  
Pomona No. 3

## MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR

Carl & Marge Bernhardt

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Todd A. Gelineau

A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR  
Marge & Bob Sendewicz  
Fairfield County Pomona #9

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

from Meriden Grange #29

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
from  
the Officers & Members  
of Coventry Grange #75

## WISHING ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

& a prosperous New Year  
Phil & Maureen Prelli

## WOULD LIKE TO WISH

everyone warm holiday wishes  
and a very Happy New Year!  
George & Sharon

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM PARK POND  
Camp Berger

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from Central Pomona #1

SEASON'S GREETINGS  
to all  
from Jeff & Debbie Barnes

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Ross, Lisa & Nicole Stands

## ENJOY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON!

Beacon Valley Grange #103

BEST WISHES TO ALL  
Cindy Finch

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

from  
Higganum Grange #124

HAVE A  
HAPPY HOLIDAY  
New London County  
Pomona No. 6

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

Russell & Sue Gray

## MAY THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON BE YOUR BEST ONE YET -

Joanne Cipriano

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
from  
Bethlehem Grange #121

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from  
North Stonington Community  
Grange No. 138

ALL THE BEST  
OF THE SEASON  
Winchester Grange #74

## SEASON'S GREETINGS

from  
The Meehan Family

## REMEMBERING

our favorite Mrs. Santa,  
Sue Sulla with love...  
Geno & Karen

HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ALL OUR FRIENDS  
Rob & Maggie Buck

## BEST WISHES

to all from  
The Norfield Grange

SEASON'S  
GREETINGS  
from  
the  
Central Office

**WE WISH ALL**  
of our Grange friends a very Merry  
Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year  
Jane & Ruel Miller

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

and bright, healthy  
New Year  
Noel & Marcia Miller

A BLESSED CHRISTMAS  
SEASON TO ALL  
Enfield Grange #151

## MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY, HAPPY. NEW YEAR

from  
Betty Jane Gardiner

Merry Christmas  
and the  
Happiest New Year  
from  
Jody, Jodi Ann, Jaimie  
and J. Allen Cameron

**MAY THE BLESSINGS**  
of the Season bring you peace.  
Gordon Gibson

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

from Terri Fassio