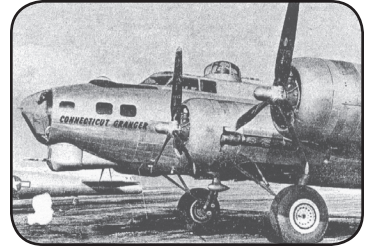




Connecticut Granger



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

Vol. 56, No. 10

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

July 2016

State Master



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

"Knock, Knock"
 "Who's There?"
 "Opportunity"
 "Opportunity who?"
 "Don't let the opportunity for free stuff pass you by."

The State Grange has given your Granges many opportunities for free promotional items for membership. Our Community Service committee has a \$150 grant for a new Community Service Project. And the State Office has surplus regalia and furniture available for Community Granges, all you need to do is ask. The State Secretary has new 25 year and new 30, 35, 40, and 45 year certificates available (at no cost) for your members. Many have taken advantage of these certificates to honor their members for their hard work and commitment to the Order.

As members of the National Grange you should check out the free offerings of the National Grange, by logging on to their website you can see all the discounts and items that your membership to the Grange makes available to you. From hotels, car rentals, discount store membership, eyeglasses, medical supplies and many more are there. Check it out, after all you have paid for this service, take advantage of it.

Inspections are going well, though some re-schedules have been necessary due to officers being away, but you should be receiving reports back to your Granges soon. It is sad to report that Putnam Grange #97 has voted to turn in their Charter. Though they have

been operating since 1889 it is hard to see the work of so many members of the past and present just vanish from our roll call of Granges.

I hope that everyone is working of resolutions to present at this year's State Session. The grassroots power of the Grange is our heritage. From our humble beginning we have taken on the Goliath of unfairness, and have worked together to victory over evil.

One thing we have seen is the great longevity of our members. This is the year of 50 year Golden Sheaf Certificates to many who we have seen grow up through the Grange and I congratulate them on their success. I have also seen a good number of 75 year and 80 year awards. My what these members have seen and done for our Grange. I congratulate them for their commitment to our Order and for being an inspiration to all of us. When we are called upon to help at a function, an activity, a dinner, a part in the Lecturer's program, step up and accept the honor to help out.

A reminder of the CWA needlework and craft contest July 30 & 31 at Hillstown Grange in East Hartford. I know that this committee has worked hard for this event, moving it to July to hopefully get more items entered. Let us support them and visit this event with good food, good friendship, and good luck to those that enter. Show your Grange spirit! See you there!

Summertime is the time for outdoor events, farmer's markets and community events. Get out and put up a card table, get brochures from the State Grange office and tell your Grange story and sell your Grange. Remind the public that the National Grange is celebrating its 150th anniversary. We have a proven record of being fun, honest, hard working, friendly, family oriented, community minded, neighbors with a great love of agriculture. Get out and pitch some hay. Happy summer and keep COOL!!!

Taking Dad out for dessert in Winchester



Father's Day and Strawberry Shortcake at Winchester Grange... what more do you need? This is just part of the line that stretched into the hall, down the stairs and through the dining room for this annual tradition in Winchester Center. *More on page 6.*

"Harvest of Handicrafts" at Hillstown Grange

This month the state judging for needlework, crafts and baking will take place at Hillstown Grange #87 in East Hartford on July 30. Our "Harvest of Handicrafts" will also include the State Junior contests. (Please check with the State Director). With all the smart phones and GPS devices, I'm confident everyone should be able to locate the hall on 617 Hills St. Judging starts at 11:00 A.M. The hall be open at 9:00 to receive entries. Everyone is welcome to watch

the judges as they deliberate who the winners will be.

Sunday starting at 11:00 A.M., the Junior Grange will host a picnic style luncheon of hamburgers, hot dogs, corn on the cob, salads and much more. All the proceeds of the lunch will benefit Junior Grange activities throughout the state. The needlework, craft, baking and Junior contest entries will be on display. We look forward to seeing you there.

Molodich Farm, steadily improving since 1923

By Kristen M. Castrataro, Country Folks

In 1923, Mike Molodich's grandparents headed East from Ohio due to his grandfather's battle with black lung. The Connecticut realtor showing them farms was starting to get frustrated when property after property failed to catch their attention. In response to the realtor's suspicion that they were never going to purchase one, Molodich exclaimed, "You show me a farm, and I'll buy it!" The next farm they visited is still the home of Molodich Farms in Moosup, CT.

Two generations later, Mike and his four brothers—Jim, John, Joe and George—as well as Mike's son Andrew, are carrying on the family tradition. Eight hours of each day are devoted to milking the 264-head herd of Holsteins in their stanchion barn.

They hire three high-schoolers to help with the milking.

Despite generations of success, the Molodiches are committed to upgrading every aspect of their business. The milking barn is one example. Andrew states it succinctly: "I don't want to milk in a stanchion barn for the rest of my life." The milking parlor holds 88 cows at one time, so the herd is cycled through in 3 batches. One solution they are considering is going robotic.

They like the idea that robotics could potentially free up four hours a day. Rather than spending all that time under a cow, they could spend it making other

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NEXT ISSUE ... AUGUST



Happy ☆☆☆
 Independence
 Day! ☆☆☆



A part of the National Grange
 American Values,
 Hometown Roots

Scan this QR
 Code and join
 us on the web!



132nd Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

October 20, 21 & 22, 2016 • Holiday Inn Norwich



Reservations:
860-889-5201

Conn. State Grange Rate:
\$92.00/night, plus tax



Whether you are here for work or play, feel completely at home within the contemporary, newly renovated accommodations at the Holiday Inn Norwich. Each of the 134 spacious rooms provide a number of amenities designed with your comfort and convenience in mind.

Enjoy an excellent location when you make the newly renovated Holiday Inn Norwich your vacation or business lodging choice. Our full-service Norwich, Connecticut hotel is convenient to a multitude of shops and restaurants.

Discover great nearby entertainment options like Mohegan Sun Casino and Ocean Beach Park, which features a boardwalk with arcade games and rides. And recreational activities, such as boating, fishing, golfing, and hiking are just a few miles from our contemporary suburban Norwich hotel.

Mohegan Sun Casino (3 miles away) and Foxwoods Resort Casino (8 miles away), two of the world's largest casinos are only minutes away. Dodd Stadium, host of the minor league Connecticut Tigers is within 5 miles away. Nearby cities include: New London (16 miles), Groton (18.5 miles), Mystic (25 miles), and Ledyard (8 miles).

The Holiday Inn Norwich is an easy ride from Bradley International Airport (45 miles), Providence (T.F. Green Airport – 45 miles), Groton-New London Airport (18 miles) and Train (10 miles).

MAKING RESERVATIONS:

Making reservations at the Holiday Inn Norwich is easy. Just call the hotel number **860-889-5201**. You may also call the Holiday Inn corporate reservation line but we recommend using the Connecticut number. When calling refer to the Connecticut State Grange Convention to be held on October 20, 21 and 22, 2016. This will ensure you will receive our group rate for the convention. Please make your reservations as soon as possible to be certain to receive the specific accommodations you desire (especially if handicapped or special locations are required).

Two Queen Beds

Twice as nice! That's how you'll find our newly renovated Double Queen, which features two queen-size beds with crisp white linens and your choice of firm and soft pillows along with all the great features and amenities offered in our standard guest rooms.

One King Bed

This newly renovated, family-friendly guest room provides one king-sized bed, one queen-sized sofa bed, and plenty of space to

relax. You'll find crisp white linens with firm and soft pillows, and all the other great features and amenities offered in our standard guest rooms.

ADA Accessible Rooms

At the Holiday Inn Norwich, every effort is made to accommodate everyone's needs. Our newly renovated wheelchair accessible rooms are available for our physically-challenged guests. We offer One King, Two Queens, or One Queen accessible rooms. When booking online, tick the "Accessible Room" box under "Refine Your Results" on the right hand side, then click apply.

Hotel Room Features & Amenities

- All rooms are newly renovated
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Microwave
- Mini-Refrigerator
- Coffee & Tea Maker
- 32" flat screen HDTV with DirectTV and over 40 channels
- Work desk with ergonomic chair
- Telephone with voicemail
- Granite bath vanities
- Complimentary Bath & Body Works amenities
- Hair dryer
- Iron and ironing board
- Black-out drapes
- Roll-away beds, only available in Standard Rooms upon request (\$15.00 fee, please call in advance due to availability and room assignment)
- Room service available for breakfast and dinner
- "Forget Something?" Program
- For Platinum IHG Rewards Club members, comp. USA Today
- Wheelchair accessible rooms
- 100% smoke free hotel

DIRECTIONS:

From Bradley International Airport: Take I-91 South to Route 2 East. Then take I-395 South to take Exit 11 at end of ramp take a right. Hotel is on the right at 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich.

From I-395 North: Take Exit 11 at end of ramp take a left. Hotel is on the right at 10 Laura Boulevard.

From I-395 South: Take Exit 11 at end of ramp take a right. Hotel is on the right at 10 Laura Boulevard.

From Providence, RI: Follow I-95 South to Exit 84 to Route 32 North then merge with I-395 North. Take Exit 11 at end of ramp take a left. Hotel is on the right at 10 Laura Boulevard.

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

(USPS 563-220)

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

or

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State Secretary
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State Secretary

Inn in 2013. It's a beautiful facility with a very attentive staff and excellent food.

Please remember State Session is not just for State Officers and delegates. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in your State Session.

GRANGE STORE

There is an article in this issue that tells more about the changes happening with the Grange Store at National. Please read the article and remember many of the things available through National and Monroe Classic are available closer to home in the Central Office. Please give us a call.

CAMP BERGER

As this issue goes to press, Camp Berger is opening for the first of seven sessions this

summer. We do have a limited number of Camperships available by contacting the Central Office. Please do so as soon as possible. They will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

A reminder to all Granges and members—the full cost to attend Camp Berger for a single session is \$400. We, of course, will accept any amount and put it toward other money contributed for camperships. We have received a few that were \$350 and it seems that these donations were made with old pricing in mind.

STATE DIRECTORY & BLUE BOOKS

Information regarding officers and committees should be sent in to the Central Office as soon after you hold your election as possible. The forms

should be returned regardless of whether or not there are changes. Simply mark the form "no changes" so we know that we have the most up to date information.

Beginning with the next Blue Book, the State Board of Directors has voted to make it a TWO YEAR program. This means we will print the book once every two years and all programs will remain the same for two years. Most programs are now carried over for more than one year so this will not be a great inconvenience for most committees.

BIG E MAP

For those of us who have hosted the Connecticut Room in the New England Grange Building, questions about items on the big map can be difficult to answer when it comes down to small pieces of hardware and other items that are not the most well known. Sister Alma

Brook's son, Glenn, recently donated to the State Grange papers and collections of items handed down to him by his mother. Among those items is a notebook that contains her original notes regarding each item on the map. A new listing will be compiled and placed in the CT Room for future reference by fair-goers.

LEONARD H. HEALEY

The Woodstock Historical Society has also recently made a donation to the State Grange of a number of historically significant Grange items. Among them is the Past Voting Delegate's Sash worn by Leonard H. Healey, Sate Master from 1908-1911. This sash is in such perfect condition it could have been made yesterday! It was made by the Pettibone Mfg. Co. of Cincinnati, OH. Typically sashes of this vintage are somewhat frayed, the metal fringe and tassels have tarnished and the embroidery has faded... not on this sash! It also features on the bottom rosette where the sash clasps, one of the original logos for the Grange—a seven sided circle with the names of the seven founders around it and the initials "O" and "K" for Oliver Hudson Kelley overlapping each other in a script in the center of the circle. It is gorgeous!

Also among the items is a Quinebaug Pomona Past Master's Pin that is also in beautiful condition and of a style that we have not seen before. It was likely custom-made for Brother Healey.

We thank Brother Jody Cameron for working with the Historical Society. We also thank the Woodstock Historical Society for their generous donation.



Healey Past Master Badge

Leonard Healey Sash



132nd Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange

State Session is not just for the officers and delegates. All members are encouraged to attend all or part of the Connecticut State Grange convention to help celebrate our accomplishments during the previous year and start a new Grange year inspired and energized.

ALL MEMBERS (Delegates and Non-Delegates) are required to register to attend most sessions/activities of the convention. The exceptions are the Sixth Degree on Friday evening and the Lecturer's Program during the Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening. All other events require payment of a registration fee and/or purchase of a ticket. Registration for Friday and Saturday also includes admission to that days' buffet luncheon. The Celebration Banquet is a separate ticketed event. Please contact the Central Office if you have any questions. Make additional copies of this form, if necessary.

REGISTRATION

Grange Name _____ No. _____

Name _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____
Name _____	Jr. _____	Adult _____	Banquet Choice # _____

FULL SESSION (Full Session Registration includes lunch on Fri. & Sat.)

Adult Registration - \$30.00	# of Members _____	x \$30.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$20.00	# of Members _____	x \$30.00 = _____

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

of People _____ x \$30.00 = _____

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

- 1) Roasted Prime Rib of Beef Au Jus with Fresh Horseradish Aoli
- 2) Parmesan Dijon Crusted Chicken Breast
- 3) Roasted Atlantic Salmon and Shallot Jus
- 4) Vegetarian Lasagna

All entrees include Freshly Tossed Caesar Salad, Warm Rolls & Butter, Chef's selection of Vegetables, New York Cheesecake, Coffee, Tea, Soda, Water

THURSDAY, OCT. 20 & FRIDAY, OCT. 21 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Friday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00	# of Members _____	x \$15.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$10.00	# of Jr. Members _____	x \$10.00 = _____

SATURDAY, OCT. 22 (ONE DAY Registration includes lunch on Saturday)

Adult Registration - \$15.00	# of Members _____	x \$15.00 = _____
Junior Registration - \$10.00	# of Jr. Members _____	x \$10.00 = _____

TOTAL = _____

Please make checks payable to the Connecticut State Grange

Mail to: Connecticut State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033

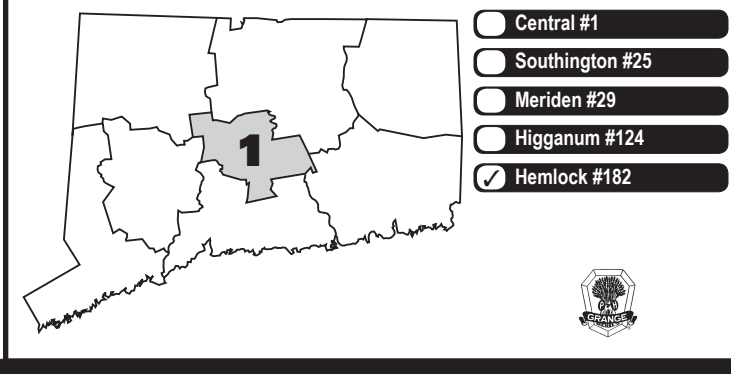
Questions: Please call the Central Office at 860-633-7550 or the State Secretary's Cell 860-307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

SESSION & HOTEL ROOM REGISTRATIONS DUE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 5

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS:

Call the Holiday Inn Norwich at 860-889-5201 (mention the Connecticut State Grange to receive our group rate)

Central Pomona No. 1



HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

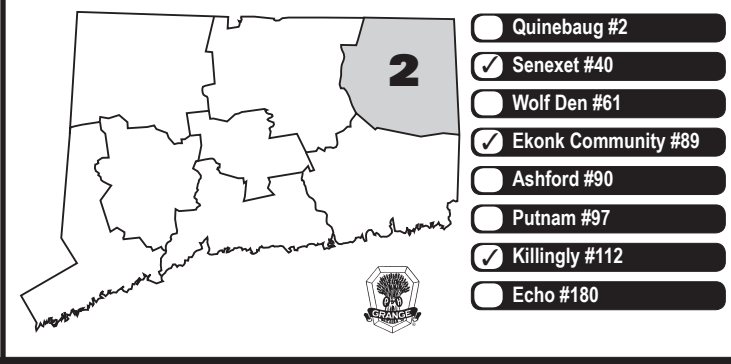
Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Aug. 12: Picnic and Meeting

Aug. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



SENXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

July 20: Surprise

We have been busy with meetings and in May we had election of officers and welcomed two new members. Lela Miller, a high school senior and Ciri Miller, a high school sophomore. We hope to have them work at the Grange Hall this summer for their community service work. We will be having a Christmas in July Yard Sale.

The 4H continues to meet at our hall. We voted to donate \$25 worth of pet supplies to the local animal shelter.

We will hold our Award Ceremony August 4 for scholarship recipients.

EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

Our very active Junior Grange will meet at 6 p.m. Friday, July 1st. The boys will provide a fun program! Over \$900.00 was donated to Kaycee Chesters and family from two fundraisers spearheaded by our Juniors. Kaycee, 10, is in the 5th grade at Sterling Community School and is battling cancer. Kaycee has returned to school, has a prosthetic leg, and is jumping rope! She is one brave little girl! She has also become a Junior Granger! Hurray!

July 4th our regular meeting is cancelled due to the Holiday, so we will hold our monthly meeting on Monday, July 18th. Appropriately, the

program theme is, "Happy Birthday, America!" On July 16th, beginning at 5:00 p.m., we will hold our annual Blueberry Supper. The meat featured will be baked stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes, fresh seasonal garden vegetables, rolls and butter and blueberry crisp (from native berries), topped with real whipped cream! Adults \$12.00, children 12 and under, \$6.00 and preschoolers admitted for free. As with all suppers at our Grange, please bring non-perishable food item(s) for distribution to Sterling families in need. Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm generously donated a gift certificate for each Grange event and a lucky winner is drawn (from among those bringing items) at each event. Our hall is handicapped accessible and located at 723 Ekonk Hill Road, Sterling, CT. August 1st we meet again (program "Fairs, Fairs, Fairs!") 7:30 p.m. meeting time--all welcome!

The Juniors meet August 5th ("program "Getting Ready for the Fair!"). Then on Sat., August 13th, we hold our 34th Community Grange Fair! This year the local Fire Departments have agreed to participate as well as the Scouts! We will also be entertained by "Animal Experiences" with a variety of hands-on animals. As always, great food in the Grange kitchen! Everyone is welcome to bring entries Friday, August 12th 3-6 p.m. The Fair runs from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Questions on the Fair, call President, Link Cooper 860-564-1821. Our Grange will have a booth at Brooklyn Fair August 25th-28th--stop by and say hello (and enjoy our food too)!

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

July 18: Grange Picnic

Aug. 15: Vacation Supper

Killingly Grange #112 held its regular meeting May 2 with 11 members present. Joan Perry, Master of Senexet, filled in as Assistant Steward.

The Blueberry Muffin

Contest and the Hat Contest were brought up. So get your recipes and craft stuff out and put something together to enter. Our Pauley Shed is continuing and earning a good amount which our Grangers don't have to work so hard for each month.

Our telephone, cell phones or land lines was discussed and tabled. Still undecided.

The Pomona designation for our members of Pomona #2 was discussed. Have a choice of New London #6 or East Central Pomona #3.

A yard sale is coming up

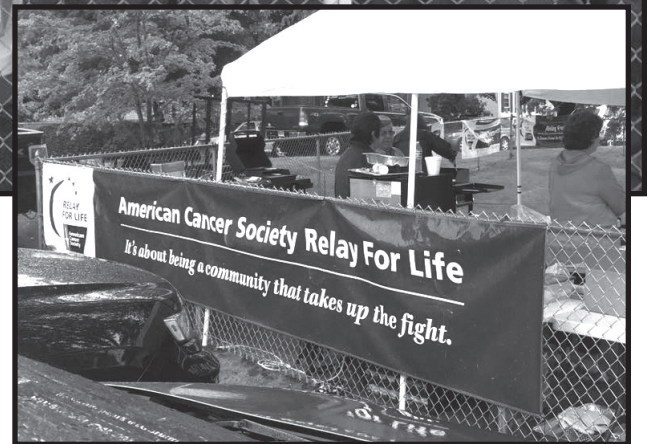
was discussed with David Griffith to head it up. More on that later. Keep tuned.

Our breakfast times were not as successful as we had hoped but we found that a "jug" donation brought in more than a set price. The Bluegrass later in the evening was quite successful. We did well financially for the day. Bluegrass is now off for the summer. Mother's Day and May Baskets were discussed. Everyone had a nice story to tell about May Baskets. A sad thing of the past.

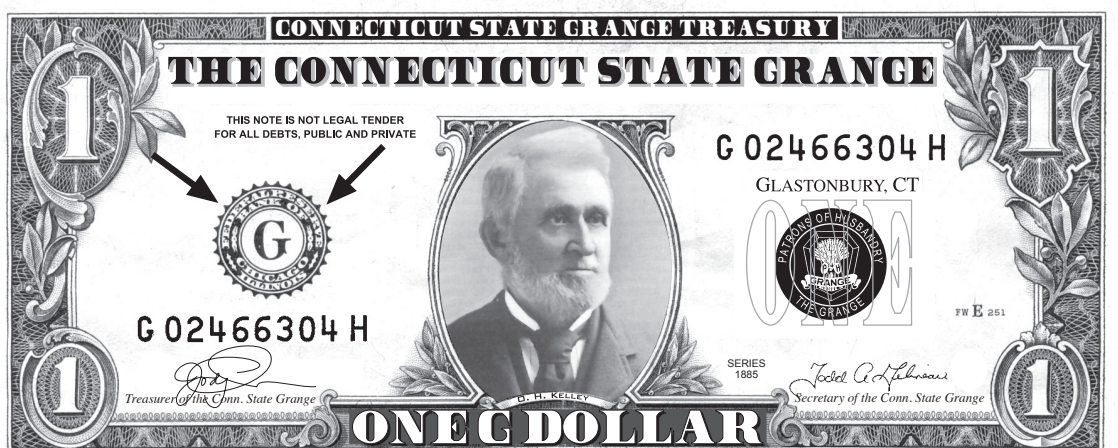
Ekonk supports Relay for Life



June 11th — Ekonk has a strong group of members that have endured the cool temps and the rain today to be the food service for the Plainfield Relay For Life event.



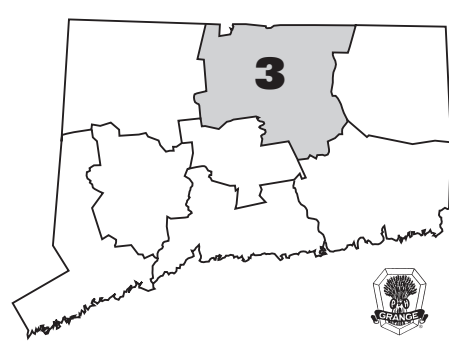
G Note Leader Board



Vernon Grange #52	\$325.00
Cheshire Grange #23	238.00
Prospect Grange #144.	175.00
Winchester Grange #74	157.00
Meriden Grange #29.	72.00
North Stonington Community Grange #138	41.00
Riverton Grange #169	35.00
Oxford Grange #194	9.00
Harmony Grange #92	3.00
Miscellaneous Donation	1.00
	\$1,056.00

These totals represent all Granges who have turned in G Notes to the State Secretary as of June 16, 2016. We know there are many other Granges collecting notes and are saving them up to turn in at a later date. A check may be submitted in lieu of turning in the actual notes. Checks may be sent to the Central Office and made out to the Connecticut State Grange with a memo that says "G Notes". This program will continue until State Session when the last of the money may be turned in. *Thank you for your support of this program!*

East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

No meeting until September. Congratulations to our new officers elected at the last Pomona meeting. September's meeting will be installation of officers. Have an enjoyable summer.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

July 7: Sparklers, Ref. Doris & Bob Nordstrom
Aug. 4: Meeting 6:00 P.M. Peachy Picnic at 6:45 P.M. Chef: Tom Breen. Salads provided by all members.

Not much new at this time of year. Just a reminder to all members that we are collecting bedding for Baywood Kennel in West Willington. I am sure folks will forget to bring the bedding at the June meeting so we will extend it to the July meeting.

The August picnic meeting is usually a good time. If you have not attended recently, mark it on your calendar, and join us.

I am typing this on June 27th. I went to Rocky Hill and Glastonbury this morning putting geraniums on my family plots. It was a nice morning and it was nice to see folks out decorating the cemetery for Memorial Day. I hope all had a nice Memorial Day weekend.

MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

July 12: Fishing in the Dark

Aug. 16: America the Beautiful

On June 3rd five members traveled to Vernon Grange to present the program. The program was "Tis the season for Crazy Politics" presented by Sister Maryanne. On July 12 we will go "Fishing in the Dark" led by Sister Paula. Hopefully we will catch a lot of fish. On August 16 we will learn about "America the Beautiful: presented by Sister Maryanne.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

July 8: Election of Officers

Vernon Grange had a wonderful June meeting.

in which the State Master presented several 25, 50, 55 and 80 years (Geraldine Strong) honors of several Vernon Grangers. Also, the final 7th generation of the Strong Family, Stefan Strong Schirmer, was obligated into Vernon Grange. Manchester Grange presented our program. We have been exchanging programs for 2 years now and it's always been a fun time. Our next meeting is Election of Officers and we look forward to some new officers in our Grange.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

July 7: Fourth of July, Ref. M. Manning

Thanks to all for the generous donations in memory of Claudia Miller. They will be used for a project that she would approve of. We are still working on improvements to the hall and grounds and inviting members back to our meeting.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

July 9: Picnic - Salad Days

Aug. 13: Show & Tell

I do believe summer is here to stay. July starts the Enfield Farmer's Market and as usual we will have our booth ready to go. This constitutes a great source of income for our Grange and helps promote us in the community. The market is held on Wednesday afternoon from 4 to 8 p.m. on Main Street across from the Community Center. We feature handmade items and small home baked treats.

Our Election of Officers was held in June, as was our inspection, but I have no news for this column yet. Our collection of "Diapers for Daycare" is growing and we should have a very nice donation for our friends at the Enfield Day Care. Thinking ahead for August, bring something for Show and Tell. It's always a favorite program.

Vernon's Grange Family



4th, 5th, 6th and 7th generations of Vernon Grange members. l-r Michael Nelson (25 year member), Geraldine Strong (80 year member), Christian Schirmer, Carol Strong Nelson (55 year member), Stefan Strong Schirmer (new member), Nancy Strong (50 year member) and Addison Nelson. .



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Importance of "Word of Mouth"

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

People today demand more from brands. Customers/consumers have a need to be satisfied with not only their purchases, but with their experiences. Brand trust is important, and referrals go a long way to building that brand trust. How does this effect my Grange? The bottom line is that the Grange is a brand. How does your Grange build up a level of trust with its members and with those who patronize Grange dinners and activities?

According to a study by the American Marketing Association, "53% of Americans are highly likely to believe the credibility of recommendations from people they know when making a donation or getting involved with an organization."

One of the best way to establish trust for your Grange is by a positive "Word of Mouth" campaign. If Jane Doe goes to your Grange meeting and does not have a good time, then she conveys that experience to her friends. Why would you want to attend a meeting at that Grange if Jane didn't enjoy herself? As her friend, you trust and value Jane's word.

1.) The first step - and the most important - is to promote a positive image of your Grange. Even in the worst of times, it is best to take the high road and look for a positive outcome within each of the negatives. It's the glass half empty vs. half full analogy. Brainstorm ways to improve your Grange instead of just falling back to the excuses of why something is not working. Always keep conversations

about your Grange positive and forward-thinking.

2.) Consider the impression that your Grange leaves on non-members. Does your Grange appear professional? Are the interactions between members and non-members friendly? Does your Grange appear "clique-y" to outsiders? Take a look at the overall attitude and appearance of your Grange when viewed from the outside looking in.

3.) Would you refer your Grange to a friend? As a member of your Grange, would you ask a friend to join? If the answer is no, there is a problem that needs to be addressed. What does your Grange need to change so that you would ask your non-Grange friends to become part of the organization?

4.) Is your Grange attentive to suggestions? Does your Grange discuss ideas for improvement when they are made - by both members and non-members - or do you ignore them, or even worse, put them down? Not every idea is suitable or even attainable, but EVERY idea should be discussed keeping in mind the well-intention with which it was made.

With a little bit of effort, Granges can be projecting a positive brand image that will have people talking about the positive aspects of the organization. Through positive Word of Mouth, your Grange will gain credibility while building the loyalty of members and non-members alike.

It was a fun evening...



Joanne Cipriano
 Social Connection Director
 Social@ctstategrange.org

Our "Teamwork" evening is now history. If you didn't attend I want you to know you missed a fun evening. Lots of delicious hot soups: chicken

made by Barbara Robert, chili by Jodi Ann Cameron, tomato by Jane Miller and beef barley by yours truly. This plus plates of sandwiches and dessert all made by volunteer Grangers. Barbara and I would like to thank Marge Bernhardt, Eloise Osuch and Cindy and Ray Legg for helping us set up and everyone who helped with the clean-up.

Also special thanks to Todd Gelineau for printing the tickets. He has come up with all the clever designs for all our events. Also to MaryAlyce Lee for the

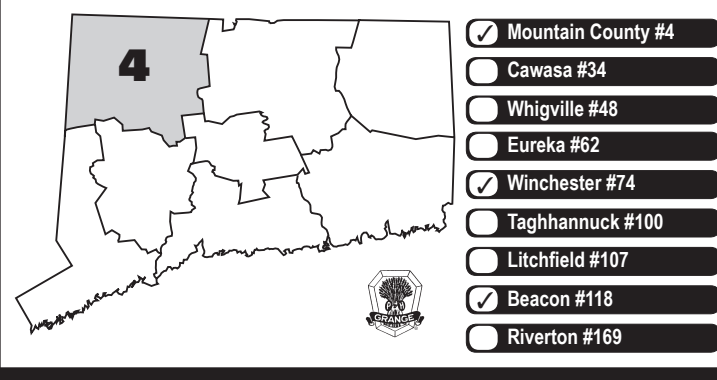
favours and table decorations and Jody Cameron for being our score keeper.

We have received a few applications for the "Granger of the Year" Award and look forward to receiving many more.

Our next event will be "Around the World" We need volunteers to make some ethnic foods. Any takers. We don't need these tomorrow but we like to plan early.

We hope you are enjoying the nice weather and look forward to meeting with you soon.

Mountain County Pomona No. 4



MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Mountain County Pomona takes the summer off but the summer is the perfect time to sell as many Gift Card drawing tickets as possible. Money to purchase the cards is donated by the officers and members. If you haven't made a donation yet, please do so by contacting Earl Phillips, George Russell or Todd Gelineau. The more money available means the more gift cards to be drawn in September.

Tickets for the drawing were distributed at the June meeting of Pomona and are available from each Pomona officer and envelopes of tickets will be made available to each Grange in the Pomona. Tickets are only \$1 each. This is the only major fundraiser of the year for Mountain County... please support it and sell as many as you can. If you would like your own booklets to purchase or sell, please let Todd Gelineau know by calling 860-307-1522 and we will be happy to get booklets to you.

As of this writing, the June meeting of Pomona has yet to happen. It is our annual trip to Sharon and Taghannuck Grange. As it is an off election year, we will elect one member of the Executive Committee and will have a regular Lecturer's program. The sun stays up much longer this time of year so driving in the dark isn't so much of an issue... we would love to see you!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

July 12: Hot, Hot, Hot; Ref. Craig Leifert

July 26: Time for Summer to be Gone; Ref. Mary Lou & Peter Keefe

Aug. 9: Set-up for Fair; Ref. Linda & Ted Benedict

Aug. 13: 66th Annual Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market

This spring featured our annual Craft & Bake Sale, Tag Sale, Super Prize Party and Strawberry Festival. The first two events were well supported by our members and we thank them sincerely. Unfortunately, attendance at the Craft & Bake Sale and Tag Sale weren't very strong but

things really picked up for the Super Prize Party and Strawberry Festival.

While we made just under what we did last year, profit-wise, the attendance was much, much greater than last year. Our doors opened at 2:00 P.M. and the lines did not let up until 3:45 P.M. When I say they didn't let up, I mean that the line stretched from the serving line at the back of our dining room, through the dining room, up the front stairs, out the front door, and down the front walk to the street. It's really an amazing thing to see. People, in years past, purchased multiple servings of shortcake at a time. This year it was more of one shortcake per person. It was still an excellent turnout for the Festival and an excellent profit to fill our treasury.

It was also a pleasure to have the newly crowned Laurel King Ryan Weiss and Queen Joanne Harrington with us this year to serve shortcake. It's become a great tradition each year to have them and their runner-ups with us to serve shortcake and greet our guests. Thank you!

On the evening before the Strawberry Festival, Winchester Grange hosted a special concert presented by Gerri Griswold. The concert featured Icelandic recording artist Lay Low. It was a wonderful evening of beautiful music. If you missed it, you will have another chance in October when another Icelandic musician will be featured at Winchester Grange. Watch this column for details as October 7 draws near!

At our second June meeting, our annual election of officers was held and there were BIG CHANGES! For the first time in 19 years, Winchester Grange will have a new Master, William LaTulipe will take the Master's chair as this writer will move over to the Chairmanship of the Executive Committee. Congratulations to Billy and all members of Winchester Grange stand ready to help him settle into his new job.

BEACON GRANGE #118

Corr: Chuck Bezio

July 2016 regularly

scheduled meeting on July 1, 2016 was canceled and rescheduled to July 22, 2016.

August 2016 regularly scheduled monthly meeting is Friday August 5, 2016.

Beacon Grange #118 is selling firewood for \$650.00. If interested in the firewood Contact Treasurer Ron Neri at 860.782.1492 for more information.

Grange member Makenzie Bezio celebrated her 14th birthday party at the grange.

Chuck & Jen donated to the Grange, 2-antique, Connecticut made pewter candle holders. The candle holders were wrapped up and put up as a raffle for a \$1 per guess and the amount of noodles in a jar. Grange member Janet had the closest guess and donated the mystery prize to the grange for the penny auction. Thank you Chuck, Jen & Janet for your donation.

Donation cans have begun being placed at our entrance and Grange events for maintenance of the Beacon Grange #118 facility located at 670 Northfield Road, Route 254, Northfield CT 06778. A GoFundMe account has been set up for this. For more information on donations for maintenance to the Beacon Grange #118 facility please contact Chuck Bezio at 860.806.1535. Link to the GoFundMe account: www.gofundme.com/27vybzuc. We would like to Thank all the Crafters who attended our Spring Fling Craft Fair on 5/14/16. For pictures, please visit our Facebook page.

We still have space open for our Christmas in July event on 7/30/16.

Torrington Area Health District recently inspected Beacon Grange #118, kitchen. Beacon Grange #118 passed the Torrington Area Health District inspection with a an almost perfect score.

Granger Chuck Bezio was elected and installed as the new Overseer at the June 2016 meeting.

Beacon Grange #118 Community Outreach: Thank you for supporting the Beacon Grange to all the crafters, sponsors and contributors. Beacon Grange #118 is actively seeking donations from the local patrons & businesses.

Beacon Grange #118 Youth Initiative: Chuck & Dan Bezio are working on the goals in order to provide educational resources for the purpose and future direction of the Grange. We also would like to involve the next generation of Grangers in the direction, we as an organization, is heading.

Beacon Grange #118 Facility Maintenance: Beacon Grange #118 is in need of new front doors and entrance, kitchen & safety updates for the facility. If you are aware of possible organizations who may be interested in contributing. Please contact Chuck Bezio at 860.806.1535 or chuck@cbezio.com for more information.

Scheduled Beacon Grange #118 Events

Annual Summer Picnic - July 23, 2016 from 11am to Dusk, Located at the Northfield Dam, on Route 254, Northfield CT. For more info & potluck sign up, contact Bea at 860.733.5818. Grange members are welcome to bring a guest. Donations for the event and volunteers are requested.

Christmas in July - July 30, 2016 from 10am - 3pm. \$20.00 per.space. For more info contact Bea at 860.733.5818.

Pending Beacon Grange #118 Events: Annual Fair on September 10.

Haunted Halloween - Costume and Dance

Party. For more info contact Jen at 860.733.5818. Date to be determined.

Penny Auction - Beacon Grange #118 is looking for donations for our Annual Penny Auction this fall. Contact Treasurer Ron Neri at 860.782.1492 for more information.

Get Well Soon: Scott, Bea, Jen, Janet & Dave

Beacon Grange #118 Member Birthdays: Janet Winter on July 10, 2016; Ron Neri On July 17, 2016

New Beacon Grange #118 Member: Makenzie Bezio, Sponsor Jen Bezio, Joshua Tito, Sponsor Chuck Bezio, and Peggy Watson, Sponsor Judy Benedict were initiated as new members of the Beacon Grange #118 at the June meeting.

Amanda Bezio became a candidate, Sponsors By Chuck, Jen & Makenzie Bezio.

7th degree Granger Mary-Irene Clark, sponsored by Chuck & Jen Bezio became a new member Beacon Grange #118 at the June meeting.

Strawberries & Icelandic Music

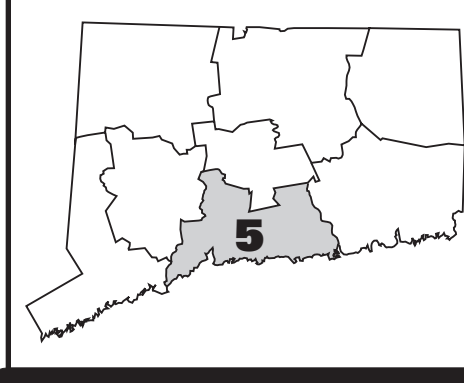


Laurel Queen, Joanne Harrington, serves Strawberry Shortcake to visitors to Winchester Grange on Father's Day. Looking on are Laurel King First Runner Up, Cassius Pac (center) and Laurel King Ryan Weiss. Not pictured but also helping serve shortcake was Laurel Queen First Runner Up Isabelle Rein.



Iceland took center stage at Winchester Grange the night before the Strawberry Festival with Lay Low performing original Icelandic music and covers of favorites. If you missed this concert, another concert featuring a musician from Iceland will be held in October.

New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- New Haven #5
- Cheshire #23
- Wallingford #33



CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

July 6: No Meeting

July 20: Picnic at Marge Bernhardt's, 6 P.M., Potluck at 6:30 P.M.

With our men's bake-off in May and our CWA program, May was a busy month. We had our election of officers in early June with a few changes, nonetheless, we have a good core of officers ready for our new Grange year. We will be inspected at our last meeting in June by our Deputy, Ron Fischer. We continue along with planning for our Fair and weekly craft nights. We wish you all an enjoyable summer.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Dan Lauttenbach

May 14th - Originally was to be "Gardening Know How" that was changed to the "President's" program that Jim Lamoureux was to put on in February. Vern under Agriculture said that the late cold weather that we had late this spring destroyed the peach crop here in New England. Jim mentioned that the Durham fair was going to celebrate their 100th anniversary on June 16, 2016 at 6:30pm with a grange meeting of that period. This is because the Durham Fair was started by the Durham Grange. In Jim's

President's day program he says that the bundling of the Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays was a relatively recent event. This was spurred by economic reasons for example to sell cars and mattresses.

May 28th - "130th Wallingford Grange Anniversary" Special Deputy Marge Bernhardt did our inspection tonight and she found that all was well. Dan gave a short program on "Keeping Kitchen Staples Fresher Longer". On spices most people have spices that probably should be discarded. How many of us have spices on our shelves that are years old. To check freshness of spices crumble a small amount of the dried herb between your fingers and take a whiff. If it releases a lively aroma then it's still good. If not then it's time to restock. But if you have vanilla don't discard it too fast. It long lasting because of its high alcohol content makes it extremely shelf stable. Tests have shown it can last up to ten years.

Meetings and Events in July:

July 9th - Annual picnic at the Grange Hall at 6pm. Bring a covered dish. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soda will be furnished. Please feel free to bring family or friends.

Old Grange songbooks get new life



Anyone recognize the old black Grange Songbooks? Cheshire Grange is recycling them into wreaths for out shut-ins this Christmas. Have a long way to go making them and decorating them but are real pleased with the results so far.

Deep cuts made budget-wide



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The Connecticut General Assembly finished its 2016 session to only go right back into special session to complete adjustments to the second year of the state budget. The budget did take \$1 million from the Community Investment Act funds this year. Considering the fiscal status of the state, this could have been worse. The Department of Agriculture's budget was cut about \$400,000 but the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station experienced a \$1 million cut. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) was also cut over \$7 million.

On the plus side, one bill which would expand the FarmLink and Ag Viability grant program, that we supported, did pass and was signed by the Governor. This will give the Department of

Agriculture more flexibility to use and fund partners to do the ground work needed for farmland owners. This program connects existing farmland owners with potential tenants, lessees, and the next generation of farmers. The bill also allows the Ag Viability grant to fund programs which promote farmland access and farm transfer.

Another bill opens the opportunity to present a constitutional amendment restricting the General Assembly's ability to siphon off dedicated funds such as the Community Investment Act for general use. It was passed by both the House and Senate but it did not receive the 3/4 majority of the vote which would allow it to be placed on this falls ballot. It will be readdressed next session where it will only need a simple majority vote to move on to the ballot.

There were a couple of other bills that that I was watching which were interesting. One created a new pollinator law in reaction to concern about the loss of pollinators such as bees and butterflies. This law will restrict certain pesticides that impact a pollinator's nervous

system. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) working with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) will define a restricted use list of these pesticides. The bill also requires CAES to develop a citizen's guide which will provide information on flowers, vegetable, herbs and other plants which will attract honeybees and other pollinators. They also opened the way for the Department of Transportation to plant flowers and other flowering vegetation along highways for increase pollinator habitat.

Another bill passed concerns the stiffening of animal cruelty laws for repeat offenders. The punishment for a first offense is a Class D felony punishable by up to 10 years prison and/or a \$5,000 fine. Repeat offenders increase from a Class D felony to a Class C felony which is punishable by imprisonment of one to 10 years and/or a fine of up to \$10,000. Other animal cruelty offenses are punishable by imprisonment up to 1 year and/or fines up to \$1,000.

Granger Address Changes

Name: _____

Grange: _____ No. _____

OLD ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please clip and mail to:

Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,
Glastonbury, CT 06033

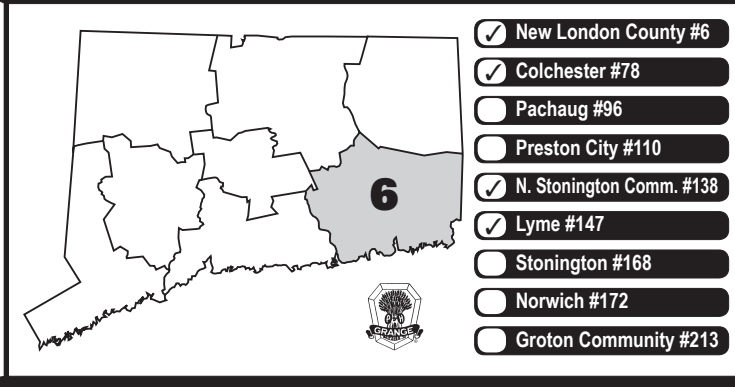
or email: Granger@CTStateGrange.org

Flag day tray favors in Cheshire



Cheshire Grange - Table/Tray Favors for Marbridge delivered in time for Flag Day.

New London County Pomona No. 6



NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
Sept. 15: Groton Grange

After a delicious spaghetti diner cooked and served by Ted Powell, Master of Lyme Grange, all officers were returned to their positions at our June meeting. As there will be no need of an installation our September meeting will be a regular meeting and will be held at Groton Grange on September 15. Groton meets in St. Andrews Church on Route 1. Groton will hold a short meeting prior to our meeting which will begin at 7:30. Congratulations to all the returning officers, and thank you, Ted.

As we look to the sky through leaves that are chewed

We hope for a year of Pomona renewed.

Please come to our meetings. We need everyone.

The more people there, the more we have fun.

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Treccarten

We welcomed our regular guests, Ted Beebe, Master of Norwich Grange and Lois Evankow, Lecturer of Lyme Grange. As always, we thank them for their participation at our meetings. We would also like to thank our previous month's guest, George Rood for his piano playing and for making our singing sound almost good. George, you are welcome anytime.

We continue with our volunteer work at Harrington Court and Apple Rehab., and thank Eva O'Connell for her beautifully decorated May baskets for the Apple Rehab residents. They were very much appreciated.

Our float in the Colchester Memorial Day Parade won first place this year, and thank you to everyone who helped to make it another successful year.

Our members received several awards for their afghans. Baby Afghan winners were: Dot Mrowka, 1st place for Ruth Tallman 2nd place and Diane Leith 3rd place. Afghan winners were: Diane Leith, 1st place, Tara Violette and Barbara Hock 2nd place. Baby Set winners were: 1st place, Maureen Taylor and 2nd place, Sue Haas. Congratulations to all for all the beautiful entries.

Gardening implements were donated to the Bacon Academy Environmental Club for their Academy Arts Program to use for their

gardening activities.

We continue to collect used stamps for Veterans programs and plastic containers for the Willimantic Soup Kitchen.

We received thank you letters from our Scholarship recipients: Katherine Hageman who will be attending the University of Vermont, and Michael Rumbel who will be attending Western New England College. We wish them well in their studies.

Don't forget to save those "G" dollar bills, and let's all enjoy the summer weather.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
July 8: Meeting Omitted – Fair Time

July 15; "Hi-Five Yourself"

We are saddened by the loss of Past Master Dayton Trehern. Dayton was a fine man and a good friend.

The annual North Stonington Agricultural Fair will be held July 7-10 at our Grounds. There will be lots of animals, food, and fun for all. Admission is just \$9.00 for a full day's entertainment. Family passes are available at local stores. Parking is free.

Our July meeting will be held on the third Friday and will be in the charge of the CWA. And if there are any leaves on our oak trees when the gypsy moths have finished dinner, next time I'll tell you all about joyous June.

LYME GRANGE #147

Aug. 4: Watermelon weather. Hot dog time. Picnic at 6:30 P.M.

Aug. 19-21: Hamburg Fair
Sept. 1: Summer Capers – Besides the Fair, what else did you do this summer?

On a lovely evening in June, we held our June meeting with 14 in attendance. Due to health reasons, several were absent.

It was voted to make our annual donations to various charities, Warm the Children, soup kitchens, Salvation Army, Future Farmers of America, Farmland Trust, and all four CWA charities.

We also voted to send our Lecturer to Lecturer's Conference. Several people offered a GPS instrument but she declined and hopefully will not get lost using Mapquest.

Our food and plant sale was a huge success. Many peopled worked hard and baked. It netted \$1,251.81. It worked out well with the church across the street

having their rummage sale the same day. We let them use our dining room while we moved into the kitchen and a tent outside. Lots of traffic made the excellent revenue. The blueberry muffin contest

was held with four entries using our own recipes.

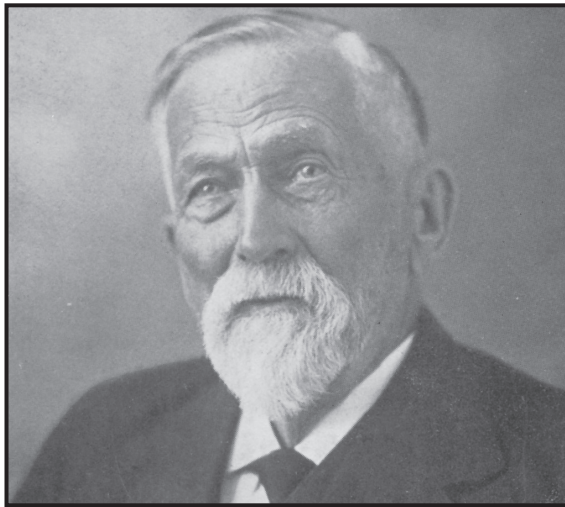
We voted in a new member of the Executive Committee and a new Pomona.

A speaker came and spoke to us on the Vietnam War

and recognizing certain people. The Chaplain did her Memorial Service and the Lecturer had her program with Father's Day in mind.

It was a very enjoyable evening.

State Master Burton C. Patterson



Burton Patterson as a young man and later in life.

This month we look at the life of Past Master Burton C. Patterson. In the Lida Ives history of our State Grange officers we find a notice of Brother Patterson's passing which reads:

"Born, Cornwall 1841 – Died, New London 1930. The passing of brother Burton C. Patterson removes one of the outstanding members of the Order. The Connecticut State Grange loses one who was very active in Grange work for over a half century. He held many minor offices and was elected Worthy Master in 1900 and served four years very acceptably.

As a member of the Executive Committee for fourteen years he helped to build up the order and put it on a firm financial basis. He held many positions of public trust and always performed the duties enjoined with credit to himself and to those he served.

It was said of him "He never spoke an unkind word."

The Ives history continues...

Burton C. Patterson was born on September 10, 1839 in Cornwall, Connecticut. He was the son of Sherman Patterson and Polly (Gilbert) Patterson.

In 1872, he was married to Hattie M. Beach in Goshen, Connecticut. She was the daughter of Amzi Beach. She died shortly after the birth of a son, Silas B. Patterson.

Later he married Anna M. Merwin of New Milford. She was the daughter of Samuel Merwin.

They had two sons, Burton M. and Edson B. Patterson.

He owned the 270 acre Golden Farm in Torrington which he operated at the same time as he acted as purchasing agent for the Connecticut State Grange. His farm in Torrington consisted of a dairy of 60 cows, from which a milk Station furnished milk for the retail trade. He also did an extensive business in a mercantile way, being a wholesale and retail dealer in grain, flour and baled hay,

agricultural implements, wagons, carriages, sleighs, fertilizers and coal.

The duties of Purchasing Agent of the State Grange were very arduous as he handled a great number of car loads of feed and seed for the Patrons of Connecticut, buying and selling to them on a cooperative basis. He represented his town in the General Assembly, served as assessor of the town for many years and was its First Selectman at one time. He was a Republican and a member of Center Congregational Church in Torrington.

He was a member of Hope Grange No. 20. Hope Grange has the distinction of having furnished two Masters of the Connecticut State Grange, I believe the only Grange in the State to have that record so far (there have been others since this was written, Ekonk and Winchester included). He served as Secretary of this Grange and although asked upon several occasions to become its Master, declined to do so. He served Mountain County Pomona Grange as a member of the Executive Committee for a number of years. He was a member of the Connecticut State Grange Executive Committee for 1886-1899. He was the fifth State Master of the present State Grange and served during 1900-1903. He was Priest Mystagogue of the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange during 1901, 1902 and 1907 and 1908. He was Priest Guardian of the Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange during 1903-1905; Gatekeeper of the National Grange from 1903-1905 and a member of the Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee during 1918 and 1919.

Mr. Patterson also rendered most acceptable service as director and treasurer of the Patrons Mutual Insurance Company of Connecticut since the formation of that company. The other fraternal orders with which he was associated are the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the U.O.A.M., in which he served as trustee, but declined all other offices.

During his administration he had the honor of having the first Juvenile Grange ever to be organized within the State started. It was Banner Juvenile Grange No. 1 (located in Amenia Union, NY). Although he did not organize any Granges himself, the following were organized during his administration: Konomoc No. 41, Rocky Hill No. 155, Bridgewater No. 153, Kent No. 154, New Fairfield No. 155, Danbury No. 156, East Lyme No. 157, Chester No. 158, Salisbury No. 159 and Housatonic Valley Pomona No. 10.


He was an extremely busy man, but always seemed to find time for one more duty as his many offices will attest. In 1930 he was called to the Great Grange above and was buried in Hillside Cemetery, Torrington, Connecticut.

Colchester Grange Scholars




Colchester Grange was pleased to present scholarships to Katherine Hageman who will be attending the University of Vermont and Michael Rumbel who will be attending Western New England College in Springfield, MA.

Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Corr: Karen Mowad

Happy 4th of July! We hope you are all relaxed and enjoying your summer.

Go Fund Me – We have just launched a new campaign through gofundme.com. It is so easy and safe to make a donation. Visit www.gofundme.com and search “Wolcott Grange” and our page will be displayed. Click “donate now” and enter your information. The donation can be as little as one dollar. Every little bit counts. You can have your name displayed or make it anonymous. We are in the process of restoring our beautiful historic building. Go ahead and make your mark!

Garden Update- The sunflowers are sprouting up front. Our lettuce and her box is overflowing. The tomatoes, peppers, beans, peas, and squash are filling up our main garden beautifully. Soon it will be time to pick and deliver to the food share. The you to all of our volunteers who donated plants and flowers, supplies, equipment and tools, funds, and tons of time and effort to get this project up and running again.

Rental Information – Imagine you are hosting a small gathering, meeting or event. What is the most convenient location in the center of town that you are able to rent for a low cost? --- the Wolcott Grange of course. We have rented to other nonprofits, wedding day lessons, fashion shows, birthday parties, showers, weddings, etc. Contact Paul

at 203-510-5615.

As always donations can be mailed to Wolcott Grange, 313 Boundline Road, Wolcott, CT 06716.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Rob Buck

July 1: Summer Fun
July 15: Summer Picnic

By this time, the Open Mic schedule should be weekly on Thursday nights @7:00 PM.

June 3 was our annual inspection for the year by Deputy Ron Fischer. We did it a little differently this time as the majority of our active members are all new and not familiar with Grange ritual.

Stepping aback to May, we had a good Festival of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment (F.A.C.E.) on May 20-22. The Grange was involved in the opening ceremony Friday night at Stephen B. Church Memorial Town Hall. We had the honor of presenting a second place award in the juried art show to Tyreece Gary, a very talented young man. The Grange hosted musical acts, a poetry salon, and a skit entitled “You Should Join the Grange” written for us by Nancy Weissmuller. Acting in the skit were Maggie and Rob Buck, D. Raye Hodgson, with prop management by new member Rena Kerrigan. Thanks to Nancy Weissmuller. We plan to re-use this skit next year.

Between the open mic, and F.A.C.E., it seems we will be picking up some additional new members in Oxford.

Molodich Farm, steadily improving since 1923

Continued from page one...

improvements on the farm. It could also reduce overhead by allowing them to hire fewer milkers. Additionally, they like the side benefit of less stress on the cows.

Robotics is not a simple solution, however. The cost for the system alone could run over a million dollars. The existing barns would also need to be refitted. For five brothers in their 60’s and one 18-year-old son/nephew, that’s a large debt to assume. One farm professes to have seen the payoff in 7 years. Would it be the same for them?

While weighing their options, the Molodiches can rest easy in the fact that the changes they have made in recent years have paid off handsomely. For the past 15 years, the family has been attending Empire Farm Days, and many of their innovations have arisen from their experiences there. One such was the addition of a pasteurizer for the milk for the calves. With the price of milk so low, it makes sense to feed it to the calves as opposed to purchasing milk replacer.

The pasteurizer allows the morning’s milk to be heated throughout the day and be ready to feed at night. The Molodiches feel the lack of bacteria in the milk offers the calves a better start. The machine washes automatically and has the added benefit of being able to mix replacer should they decide to do so.

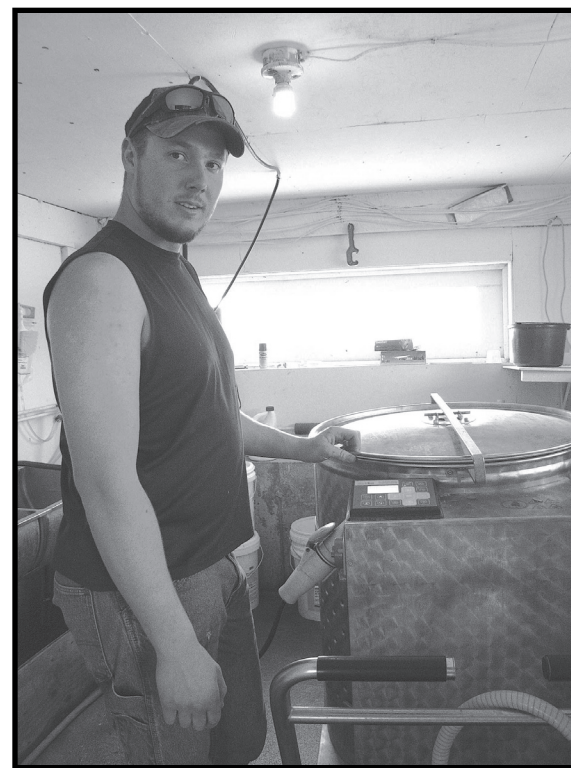
The health of their calves has been of primary concern over the past few years. Their calves were struggling and calf mortality had reached approximately 33 percent. After visiting two different calf barns, one with single stalls and one with group housing, the family decided they preferred the single stalls.

They came up with a plan for converting the hay barn into a calf barn. Due to the purchase of a wrapper, they no longer required the barn for hay storage. After agreeing on the plan, time passed without progress being made on the structure. Andrew decided to jump-start the project by tearing into one of the walls. With the demolition begun, the rest of the family moved in and helped complete the reconstruction.

The new calf barn is open and airy, with roll-up sides along the length of the building. Each calf has an individual pen. Each batch of calves stays in the barn for two months before being moved into hutches. Before another group is moved in, the cages are taken down and disinfected. The sand is stripped, and the walls and floors bleached and limed. A 6-8” layer of clean sand is then put in, the cages are set up, and the new calves come in.

Since the conversion, the Molodiches have seen a dramatic decrease in illness, and calf mortality has dropped to 2 percent. This fall, the first batch of calves raised in this system will be freshening.

This success had an unexpected effect: they began to experience overcrowding



elsewhere. Their veterinarian also noticed that the calves initially thrived, but then dropped weight when they were placed in larger batches of 16 heifers. She suspected the problem was that the calves had not acquired sufficient socialization skills to transition from a solitary system to a large group. She recommended an intermediary hutch system.

Last summer they put up the hutches and started housing the calves in groups of 5. The calves continued gaining weight and were successfully able to move into the larger groups after a few months. In addition to enhancing animal health, the hutches are easy on personnel. One person can clean the hutches with a Bobcat. The hutches lift easily, and the cages around them are mobile.

Rather than keeping all the calves as they had been doing, the Molodiches now sell most of the bull calves for veal. They do keep one or two home-raised bulls for breeding. The bulls cover the heifers, and only stay on the farm for a couple years to reduce the chances of aggression-related accidents. George, the acknowledged herdsman, artificially inseminates second-calf heifers and the bulls can be used for backup.

The next project facing the Molodiches is adding no-wall roll-up sides to the heifer barn to improve air circulation. Andrew once again got the project underway by tearing off part of the wall. Roll-up sides will be forthcoming.

Andrew strongly believes that “every year you should be improving something.” Whether it’s a new chopper with processor that enables the cows to get more nutrients from their feed (and increases milk production by over 2,000 lbs. a day) or milling their own lumber to reduce the cost of building projects, improvement is clearly the guiding principle at Molodich Farms.

Editor’s Note: The Molodich family belongs to Ekonk Community Grange No. 89 in Sterling, CT.

Angels Among Us

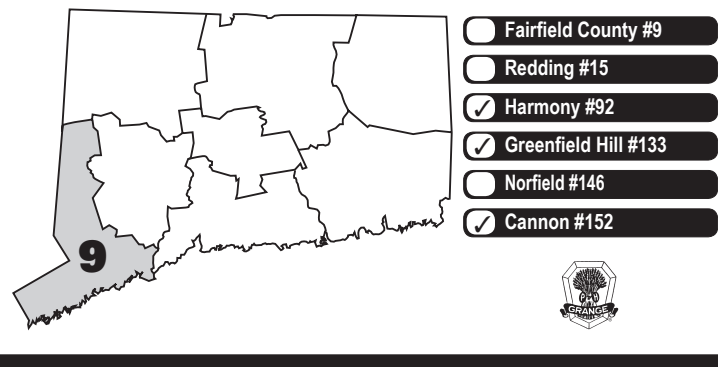


Don Lanoue performs his first place winning entry in the State Talent Contest, a sign-a-song number “Angels Among Us”

Granger Of the Year

Every Grange has a member or members who go above and beyond what is expected and make their Granges better through their contributions. The Social Connection Committee is looking for nominations from every Grange in the state. Forms were recently sent to each Secretary along with the revision sheets for the State Directory. Winners will receive their awards and recognition at the Celebration Banquet to be held at the October State Session. Nominations are due to Joanne Cipriano by September 30.

Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

July 8: Regular meeting at 7:30 P.M., Refreshments; Picnic at 6:30 P.M. Lecturer's program to be announced.

Our Spring Sale on May 7 was a success. The attendance was good and Grange members supplied the help needed at the tables and in the kitchen.

We have started planning for our Agricultural Fair scheduled for August 13. Signs will be made and posted for exhibitors and vendors.

Our big concern is the roundabout at the intersection of Routes 111 and 110. Plans are scheduled for completion in January 2017 and construction to begin Spring 2017. Harmony Grange is involved in the present plans. A cul-de-sac is planned near the rear door of the hall which will take some of the land on which the building is situated. Hurd Avenue, on which our parking lot is located will be closed to entering and exiting traffic from 110. To get to the Grange Hall, from Rte. 110, under the present plans, one would have to use Moose Hill Road and Ruth Street to reach Hurd Avenue. From Route 111, one would take Jeannette Street to Hurd Ave. A meeting with the Monroe Zoning Board of Appeals is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7 at the Monroe Town Hall. If the town approves the variances, Harmony Grange will lose land for the cul-de-sac along Hurd Ave and some more land along Rte. 111. If the variances are not approved, the State could purchase Harmony Grange land and building and we would be relocated to a different place. Our Agricultural Fair will not be effected this year but could be seriously effected next year.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

July 18: Picnic, 6 P.M.

July 18: Fair Planning Meeting, 7 P.M.

Aug. 15: Fair Planning Meeting II: 7 P.M.

Aug. 27: Annual

Agricultural Fair, 10-4

Sept. 7: Hosting Pomona – Dinner 6 P.M., Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Sept. 19: Fair Review, Meeting 7 P.M.

After a flurry of fundraising dinners in March, April and May, which included availability of comfortable chairs each month that could be had for \$20 to recognize their donation or honor or remember another Granger, we are turning our attention to the rest of the Grange year for planning, organizing, and advertising our Annual Fair, which will include behind the scenes hard work!

The Fair will have competition for ribbons and awards for the usual flowers, fruit and vegetable as well as home baking and canning. Talks on old tools and raising chickens can be enjoyed by Fair visitors. Informal education continues with a seed and seedling exchange in May, a garden tour across from Parish Court on July 30 and a Tomato Tasting in early September. Cindy Wakeman De'Andrea continues to work with the Juniors and future Junior Grange.

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

July 7: Business Meeting

July 21: Business Meeting

Aug 4: Business Meeting and Fair Planning

An informative legislative program featuring our three state legislators (Rep Gail Lavielle, Sen Toni Boucher, and Rep Tom O'Dea) was attended by a large audience of area residents. Following the legislators' presentations reviewing the just-ended session, a lively Q & A period was held. Rep Lavielle is also a member of Cannon Grange and was instrumental in organizing and promoting the event. Thanks Gail! We look forward to next year's legislative review.

Earlier this Spring, Cannon member, Bil Mikulewicz, gave a sequel program on raising backyard

chickens. His program last year excited several members to consider having their own chickens. Nothing like having fresh eggs!

We're in the planning process for our Ag Fair slated for Sunday, August 28th. Please red circle

the date on your calendar; we'd like to see visiting Grangers come and enjoy our authentic agricultural fair of judged exhibits, vendors, and entertainment. The admission price is reasonable, and there is plenty of free parking

at the nearby railroad station. We'll be looking for you!

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

And the winners are...



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org



East Central's 1st place skit "Shady Pines"

My thanks to all who attended Let's Celebrate and my congratulations to all who entered the contests. The winners are:

Talent Contest

- 1 - Don Lanoue, New Haven County
- 2 - Bob Charbonneau, Central
- 3 - Jason Miner, New London County

"A Number" Contest

- 1 - "Shady Pines", East Central
- 2 - "I Went Walking", New Haven Cty
- 3 - "The Ground Hog", Fairfield

County

Photo Contests - Junior Winners

America The Beautiful

- 1 - Angeline DeDominics, Hillstown
- 2 - Violet Donihee, Lyme

Animals

- 1 - Angelina DeDominics, Hillstown
- 2 - Violet Donihee, Lyme
- 3 - Chole Donihee, Lyme

Junior

- 1 - Chole Donihee, Lyme
- 2 - Violet Donihee, Lyme
- 3 - Chole Donihee, Lyme

Grangers in Action

- 1 - Chole Donihee, Lyme

Family Celebrations

- 1 - Violet Donihee, Lyme

Historic Places or Events

- 1 - Angelina DeDominics, Hillstown
- 2 - Chole Donihee, Lyme

Adult Division

*Our first place Animal Picture was named Best In Show and will go on to National.

America The Beautiful

- 1 - Raine Pederson, Riverton
- 2 - Shirley Moore, Riverton
- 3 - Phil Prelli, Riverton

Animals

- 1 - Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton*
- 2 - Barbara Foskett, Cheshire
- 3 - Maureen Prelli, Riverton

Grangers In Action

- 1 - Barbara Foskett, Cheshire
- 2 - Lois Evankow, Lyme
- 3 - Ted Powell III, Lyme

Family Celebrations

- 1 - Ted Powell III, Lyme
- 2 - Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton
- 3 - Shirley Moore, Riverton

Historic Places or Events

- 1 - Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton
- 2 - Maureen Prelli, Riverton
- 3 - John Alexander, Cheshire



Celebrate your red, white and blue with this patriotic Fourth of July dessert recipe from Betty Crocker. Perfect for your Grange refreshments, potlucks and celebrations!

Berries & Cream Dessert Triangles

Crust

- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) Betty Crocker™ sugar cookie mix
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 egg

Filling

- 1 cup white vanilla baking chips (6 oz)
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened

Topping

- 1/2 cup sugar

- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 1/2 cups sliced fresh strawberries
- 2 cups fresh blueberries

Directions

Heat oven to 350°F. Spray bottom of 15x10x1-inch pan with cooking spray. In large bowl, stir cookie mix, butter and egg until soft dough forms. Press in bottom of pan. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until light golden brown. Cool completely, about 30 minutes.

In small microwaveable bowl, microwave baking chips uncovered on High 45 to 60 seconds or until chips are melted and can be

stirred smooth. In medium bowl, beat cream cheese with electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Stir in melted chips until blended. Spread mixture over crust. Refrigerate while making topping.

In 2-quart saucepan, mix sugar, cornstarch and water. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture boils and thickens. Cool 10 minutes.

In medium bowl, gently stir strawberries and 1/4 cup cornstarch mixture together until well mixed. In another bowl, gently stir remaining 1/4 cup cornstarch mixture and blueberries together until well mixed. Spoon strawberry mixture lengthwise over half of cream cheese mixture and blueberries over remaining half of cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate 30 minutes.

Cut bars in half lengthwise; cut each half into eight 3 1/2-inch triangles. Store in refrigerator until served.

Source: <http://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/berries-and-cream-dessert-triangles/7d6eda71-9aeb-4ad8-a8c8-3378cd28830f>

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



We heard from Pat & Jim Palmer on the May Window photo — “Don’t know the gentleman on the left, but the one in the middle is Ed Mendehlson from North Haven Grange and the one on the right is Bernie Borgerson from Hamden Grange.” Arline Tolette of the former North Haven Grange (now Cheshire) said, “Do not know gentleman on left. Center is Ed Menelson, North Haven. The beauty on the right is Bernie Borgeson of Hamden (nice hairpiece)!”



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

Warm weather has finally arrived! We attended the Let’s Celebrate Day / Grange Sunday event at Cheshire Grange. It was a great day looking at all the photo entries, listening to the beautiful service by Chaplain Charles Dimmick, having a delicious lunch, and then watching the Talent and A Number competitions. Congratulations to all the winners!

Where will Noel, Marcia and I be off to next? Be sure to follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the “Like” button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Say Hello if you see me around the State!

Invite Hank to your next meeting or Grange activity!



It's not too late to sign up!
Camp Berger
 Adventure, Fun, Friendship & Discovery

Camp Berger is a Co-ed Overnight Summer Camp for Ages 8-14, CIT 15-17
 We offer a wide variety of activities including Archery, Arts & Crafts, Sailing,
 Fishing, Canoeing, Forest Golf, Rocketry, Sports & more....
 7 Weekly Sessions from June 26th to Aug 13th
 One of the Best Values in Overnight Summer Camps in New England!
 Directors Lyn & Chris Kimberly 860-238-7949 or CampBerger@gmail.com
 134 Wahnee Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094
 www.CampBerger.com www.facebook.com/camp.berger





Junior Grange

The Juniors meet August 5th ("program "Getting Ready for the Fair!"). Then on Sat., August 13th, we hold our 34th Community Grange Fair! This year the local Fire Departments have agreed to participate as well as the Scouts! We will also be entertained by "Animal Experiences" with a variety of hands-on animals. As always, great food in the Grange kitchen! Everyone is welcome to bring entries Friday, August 12th 3-6 p.m. The Fair runs from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Questions on the Fair, call President, Link Cooper 860-564-1821. Our Grange will have a booth at Brooklyn Fair August 25th-28th--stop by and say hello (and enjoy our food too)!

LYME GRANGE JUNIORS

Corr: Ted Powell

Lyme's Junior Grange

EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Sue Gray

Our very active Junior Grange will meet at 6 p.m. Friday, July 1st. The boys will provide a fun program! Over \$900.00 was donated to Kaycee Chesters and family from two fundraisers spearheaded by our Juniors. Kaycee, 10, is in the 5th grade at Sterling Community School and is battling cancer. Kaycee has returned to school, has a prosthetic leg, and is jumping rope! She is one brave little girl! She has also become a Junior Granger! Hurray!

Changes to the National Grange Store

We have received notice from the National Grange of their new partnership with Monroe Classic in California as their primary Grange Store and supplier of merchandise not at the core of their fraternal business. Core items that will still be available from National Grange will be songbooks, demit cards, certificates, treasurer's books, and related items. Items now available exclusively through Monroe Classic will be jewelry and promotional items.

What does this mean to our Community Granges?

This means orders for hats, mugs, clothing, pens, etc. will be filled through Monroe Classic. Items like Golden Sheafs, 75 year certificates, etc. will still be available through National Grange.

All items will continue to be available through the Connecticut State Grange Central Office. If it is an item we have in stock, it will be shipped out right away. However, if it is an item we have to order from National or Monroe Classic, there will be a delay to allow

for delivery but we are happy to make the arrangements for all of your needs. In addition, we continue to add items to our inventory at the Central Office and hope to have a catalog out to all Granges in the not too distant future.

You can call the Central Office at (860) 633-7550 and leave a message (Cell 860-307-1522) or you may call or visit the office on most Tuesdays and Thursdays after 10 A.M. if you would like to speak with the State Secretary. You may also email the Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.

In the long run, this will be a very positive change for the members and Community Granges across the country as Monroe has greater flexibility and availability of products. For those who may not be aware, Monroe Classic has been the exclusive provider of sashes for Granges for many years now and the State Grange has purchased items through this company for sale through our own Grange Store.

In Memoriam

Edith J. Pasquariello
 Riverton Grange #169

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

State Chaplain

ARGUING WITH GOD



I have heard people say one should not argue with God. I respectfully disagree. Arguing with God has a long and honorable history. Who can forget Abraham arguing with God as to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Moses argued with God on several occasions; so did Jeremiah and Job and other Old Testament figures. And approximately a third

of the Psalms center on either arguments with God or complaints to God about how he does things (or doesn't do them). Take a look at the 44th Psalm, for example:

"Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?
 Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.
 Why do you hide your face
 and forget our misery and oppression?"

And the 142nd Psalm:

"With my voice I cry out to the Lord;
 with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.
 I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble
 before him."

There are lots of other examples; many of them come closer to bitter complaints, rather than real arguing, something for which the Yiddish word "kvetching" probably is appropriate. Arguing with God has a long tradition in Judaism. In fact, the name Israel literally means "wrestling with God".

Some will say that arguing with God or complaining to God is necessary to let God know what we really think about things. But I believe God already knows what we think; rather arguing with God is one way to reveal to ourselves what we really think. Sometimes we hide our real feelings not only from others but also from ourselves. Telling God how we feel and then opening ourselves up for His reply is a wonderful opportunity for a two-way communication. God always is more willing to listen to us than we are willing to listen to him; and once we open up to God, even by arguing with him, God has our ear and has a chance of explaining things in ways that perhaps even we ignorant mortals can understand.

In several places in scripture God invites us to bring our arguments [in the sense of a legal argument] and complaints to him. But God prefers that we present our complaints in a logical fashion, and ask for help and relief, not just grumble. In Isaiah we read "Come let us reason together". Paul's letter to the Philippians states: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." And finally St. Peter says: "Cast all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you." So, feel free to argue with God, just do it respectfully, and remember that God has the last word in any argument.



State Chaplain Charles Dimmick



**Deadline for next
 issue: July 5!**