



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 65, No. 5

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

February 2025

## From the President's Desk



**Robert Buck**  
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121  
president@ctstategrange.org

While we don't yet have a new Farm Bill, Congress has compromised on a funding package to extend the 2018 Farm Bill. This, in spite of the news reporting that Elon Musk as head of President (-elect as of time of writing) Trump's (yet to be created) DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) being against it. Time will tell whether we get a new Farm Bill or not.

Health insurance coverage should hopefully start to cover obesity care and treatment. This is a hot-button topic in healthcare and the National Grange has been lobbying for it. Important to Medicare beneficiaries, bills HR2407 and S2075 concerning early cancer screening were not included in end of year funding for 2024, but moving forward so that Caitlin B. Kubler, MS. of the Prevent Cancer Foundation hopes to see these signed into law by the 119th Congress. National Grange has been lobbying hard for these.

Immigration is another hot button topic and one of the reasons why Donald Trump was re-elected. Immigrants are two thirds of the nation's farm workers and two in five (40%) are illegals. That amounts to 27% or just over a quarter of farm workers are here illegally. It makes sense that labor and immigration

reforms are not just desirable, but necessary to our agricultural industry in the USA.

This month, the phrase from National President Chris Hamp's "Speak Like a Champ" series is "Pass the Baton." It refers to passing on leadership roles in any organization to new people. This requires new blood making membership recruitment a needed and continuous activity that should be on all our minds all the time. As new potential leaders are brought into the Grange, they ought to be scouted out for their talents, mentored in Grange ways while looking for new more efficient ways to do things, and put to work

## Peter Keefe

*Todd Gelineau, State Secretary*

Once again our Fraternal circle has been broken by the unexpected passing of Brother Peter Keefe after a brief illness on January 6.

Peter was the current General Deputy of the Connecticut State Grange and was Past President of Winchester Grange #74, Riverton Grange #169 (his affiliate Grange) and Mountain County and Mountain Laurel Pomona Granges. He loved ritual done well and was a great ritualist himself in the Grange and in Masonry. All who knew Peter got to experience his dry sense of humor which set people at ease in his presence.

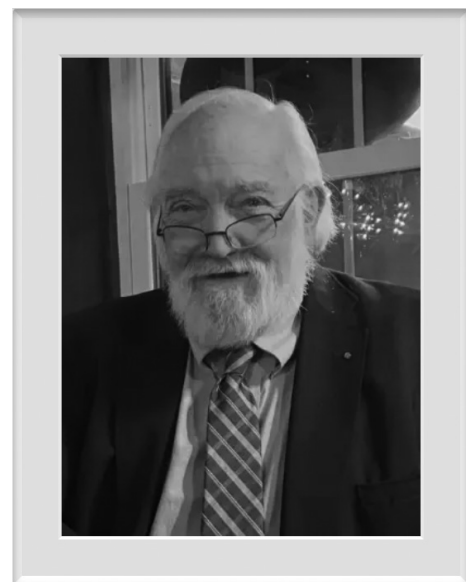
Many evenings while the hall is quiet before a Winchester Grange

meeting, I can almost see the members who have gone on before us occupying those various stations, as I am sure many of you can in your own halls. Peter is now seated

where their talent and potential can help move Granges forward into the future.

The 2025 Northeast Leaders Conference in Danvers, Massachusetts was very successful with great attendance. Twelve from Connecticut attended. On Saturday morning, in addition to the snowfall, we were treated to a tour with breakfast (items from Culinary Arts Program) of the Essex North Shore Agricultural & Technical School. The facility is state of the art and very impressive with over 500 students. They have agricultural, construction, health sciences; manufacturing, engineering, and technology; and service programs.

...Continued on page 2



meeting, I can almost see the members who have gone on before us occupying those various stations, as I am sure many of you can in your own halls. Peter is now seated

...Continued on page 2



**Connecticut State Grange**  
A part of the National Grange



**NEXT ISSUE:**  
Articles Due February 15

# From the President's Desk

*Continued from page one...*

In the agricultural department, there are programs in plant (e.g. sustainable horticulture) and animal sciences (e.g. equine science and veterinary science). The tour took us through labs for the various subjects of study: the culinary arts program commercial kitchen, the machine shop, animal barns for equines and livestock, green houses (traditional and hydroponic growing), the equine riding arena, veterinary sciences area, a dog grooming room, to name most of them. We heard a bit of the history of the school, as well as some

new plans for expansion of programs with various grant monies.

In the afternoon, we attended two workshops: Finding Hidden Potential and Empowering Members, and Aligning Your Strategic Plan to Your Core Values. In the former, discussion was about learning the talents of members by mentoring and working with them, then putting those talents to their best use. Developing talents and leadership skills in people creates a sense of their belonging to the group. In the latter workshop, the presenter talked about defining core values, mission (internal and external) and vision statements, all leading to a Strategic Plan. While the Mission Statement is basically a reason for being, the Vision is more long-term idea of where you are going. The Strategic Plan is your 'road-map' to get to the Vision. These are "living" in the sense that they can change. Their importance is reflected by the fact that without them, and organization can wander aimlessly and without purpose.

Sunday morning, the Chaplains present performed the traditional worship service which was nicely done. The entire event closed with the Northeast Connection Business Meeting where we heard all the reports of committees. Next year

the Leaders Conference will be in Vermont.

In February, the National Leaders Conference will be held in California from the 14-16th.

I close with a thought from the Grange Heirloom Program: Hope is the heavenly light that gilds our labors. Were we deprived of that source of consolation, life would indeed be dreary (Fourth Degree, Pomona).

## Peter Keefe

*Continued from page one...*

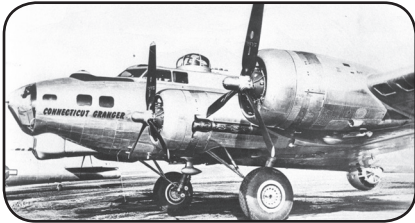
among those distinguished Patrons.

The Grange President at the opening of the Grange Burial Service says the following: "We recall that all flesh is mortal and therefore must know death; but the spirit is immortal and returns to God who gave it. Therefore, we are not cast down, but abide in that eternal Hope which illumines and overcomes the dark valley of death."

Please keep Sister Mary Lou Keefe and her family in your prayers. If you would like to send cards and notes to the family, please send to: Mary Lou Keefe, 79 Littlebrook Rd., New Hartford, CT 06057. A burial service will be held in the spring.

### the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

#### STAFF

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

#### DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the  
**15th Day** of each month  
and should be sent to:  
Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road  
P.O. Box 3

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

#### the Connecticut Granger

is published monthly for \$10.00/yr. by:

Connecticut Granger, Inc..  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Periodicals postage paid  
at Winsted, CT 06098

#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:  
Connecticut Granger,  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094



# GRANGE PROJECT SUSTENANCE

GROWING FOOD SECURITY, SELF-SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE IN AMERICA'S HOMETOWNS

As your Grange creates projects and performs service projects or events that align with Project Sustenance, make sure you submit them to our database so we can share with members nationwide. Use this link to submit your project: [grange.biz/pjsubmission](http://grange.biz/pjsubmission)

Not sure what Project Sustenance is or how to get involved? Read and learn more about the Grange's signature project at <http://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance>



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# Reinterpreting the Teachings of the Fourth Degree

"In winter, the season of rest from active toil, we sit down with our families, our friends and neighbors, and enjoy together the good things our labors in the lower degrees have brought us." (*Fourth Degree Steward*)

The Fourth Degree teaches the value of reflection and connection during winter — a season often seen as a time for rest and introspection. As Grange members gather with family, friends, and neighbors, it's an ideal opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs and activities. This period of self-assessment encourages Granges to determine what strategies yield positive results and to consider innovative ideas, rather than clinging to traditional methods. By taking time to reflect on past successes and setting new goals for 2025, Granges can maintain the positive momentum generated during the busy fall harvest and holiday seasons.

In Connecticut, the snowy months serve as a crucial time for both individual reflection and organizational growth within the Grange. Effective Grange leaders inspire confidence among officers and members by fostering connections that extend beyond the organization to embrace supporters, the media, and the local community. They should also focus on identifying future milestones, such as anniversaries or new initiatives, which can serve as the basis for engaging programs and events. It's equally important to acknowledge and share past accomplishments, reinforcing the value of collective efforts.

"What a child sees makes the

most lasting impression. We may tell them of the pleasures and independence of the farmer's life; but if their daily intercourse with us shows it to be tedious, irksome, laborious, without any recreation of body or mind, they will soon lose all interest in it and seek enjoyment elsewhere." (*Fourth Degree Overseer*)

The teachings emphasize the significant impact of visuals and experiences, stressing that if the daily realities of Grange life appear tedious and laborious, interest will dwindle. To combat this, Grange leaders must cultivate a captivating vision for the future, inspiring members to partake in this shared journey. Outstanding leaders set ambitious goals and create a vibrant culture that motivates members to exceed expectations.



"Let the Agate be to you an emblem of FIDELITY. May your principles of manhood and womanhood be as firmly impressed as the lasting colors in the stone, and may our friendship be as firm as the stone itself" (*Fourth Degree President*)

Fidelity, a core theme of the Fourth Degree, is defined as loyalty and commitment to a person, cause, or belief. To enhance member loyalty, Granges should emulate successful brands by embedding themselves deeply into

their members' lives. The goal is to create an experience so integral that members cannot envision life without being part of the Grange. In a world filled with competing activities and commitments, this level of engagement is crucial.

To ensure that Granges remain appealing, the benefits they offer must be meaningful and valuable. They should cater to the professional aspirations and personal interests of each member, acting as a tangible symbol of the organization's appreciation for their commitment. When members feel valued and supported, their loyalty to the Grange strengthens.

"When the ripened fruits and falling leaves of Autumn give place to Winter, as Husbandmen and Matrons - Patrons of Husbandry, indeed - we can enter into the enjoyment of that rest from physical labor which gives us leisure for mental and social culture; and which, in our Order, brings us into that circle where unbounded confidence prevails, and where the welfare of each is bound up in the good of all. Let us treasure up the lessons we have learned, both by successes and failures, plan wisely and hopefully for the future, and strive to make our lives as harmoniously beautiful and bountiful as are the works of Nature's God." (*Fourth Degree President*)

Granges should reflect on the lessons learned from both achievements and setbacks. Leaders are encouraged to plan wisely for the future, aiming to create enriching experiences that reflect the harmony and abundance that the Grange represents. Grange members should take pride in their affiliation, actively promoting the organization and its benefits at every opportunity.

By incorporating these teachings into their marketing perspectives, Granges can enhance member engagement, foster a supportive community, and ensure a prosperous future.



# Energized for Exciting 2025



**Dave Roberts**  
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169  
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

## Updates from the North East Region Leadership Conference

I've just returned from the North East Region Leadership Conference in Danvers, Massachusetts, and I am energized and ready for an exciting 2025! This conference was an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow Grange leaders, share ideas, and get a firsthand look at what's in store for our future.

One of the event's highlights was a workshop focused on Project Sustenance, a new initiative launched by the National Grange in January 2025. I am excited to be helping with this project and will share more information with your Granges soon. This initiative promises to greatly impact our communities, and I encourage you to get involved.

It was also fantastic to see all seven State Grange Lecturers in attendance. During the conference, Brenda Noble from the New York State Grange was elected President of the North East Lecturers Association, and I was re-elected Treasurer. I am looking forward to another year of collaboration with this dedicated group. Additionally, I am excited to announce that the New York State Grange will host the 2026 North East Lecturers Association Conference.

On the Connecticut front, I've been working closely with Dawn Percoski, our State Grange Family Activities Director, to coordinate our upcoming State Grange Family Day Celebration in August. Stay tuned for more details as we finalize plans. We will also host the State Lecturers Photo Contest at this event, so start preparing your best work! Details can be found on the

CT State Grange website.

As always, I encourage you to keep your reports coming—whether by traditional mail or electronic submission—so I can stay informed about all the fantastic programs you offer. Your efforts are truly inspiring, and I want to ensure we continue to share and celebrate

the extraordinary work being done across the state.

Finally, I am always happy to visit your Granges! If you'd like me to attend one of your meetings or events, please don't hesitate to contact me at Granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or by phone at 860-469-5067.

Here's to an amazing 2025 and all the great things we'll accomplish together!

## Community Service Change



The National Grange has set a new rule for the Community Service program. Community Service books cannot have more than 10 pages. Those 10 pages can be two sided. Granges not wishing to submit a book should send in their hours instead.

**Send your books and/or hours to:**

Ted Powell, 1024 E. Lake Rd., Oakdale, CT 06370

**NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION**

**GRANGE**

**MONTHLY on the 7th**

Connect: <https://grange.biz/newmemberzoom>

GRANGE MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

# Did You Grange Today?



**Jody & Jodi Ann  
Cameron**  
Membership Co-Dir.  
Ekonk Comm. Grange No. 89  
membership@ctstategrange.org

Keeping with the Living a Connected Life and Grange Strong focus, we ask this month 'Did you Grange Today?'

Do you know what it means to Grange? Does your Grange, Grange?

There are so many ways we are instructed on how to Grange, the Grange way. The most impactful, in our opinion, is the Granges Motto, "In essentials Unity, in non-essential Liberty and in ALL thing Charity."

What does this mean, to us, the authors, it means:

## **In essentials UNITY:**

Let us be unified on the essential things, the core of truth in our union with ourselves, our family and friends, our community, and our Grange. But especially those who are in need, physically, mentally, emotionally and economically. What do we need in our life, our home, our community, state and nation? How do we provide for ourselves and our neighbors to make a stronger community? How do we advocate for those who cannot? How do we GRANGE?

## **In non-essentials LIBERTY:**

Non-essential, not the unimportant, but those things that if lacking do not prevent our unity, this calls for liberty so that all might follow their consciences. Let us not judge, nor be judged, but be understanding of others' ideas and perspectives. We have strength in numbers, we have many from varied social, economic, cultural and educational backgrounds. We cannot focus on "getting our way" we must focus on what is best for our Grange, our members, our community. That will mean listening to others' ideas and perspectives and trying new things.

By not doing this necessarily the way you'd do it can build greater camaraderie and respect and make everyone feel valued, hence, inclusion.

## **In all things, CHARITY:**

In all things, however, there must be Charity. In this case, charity can also be interpreted as love, respect, understanding and empathy. Let's do things for the right reasons. Let set ourselves up for success, all the time. Let's do them selflessly, for the only goal being a stronger community.

Do you as members Grange every day? Does your Grange, Grange

every day? We challenge every Grange to have an open discussion on how they Grange and how they will Grange in the future. There are a few Granges in Connecticut that are taking in larger numbers of new members, are we going to encourage them to Grange? I can assure you they will not Grange the same way you Grange, who's right in that instance? How will you handle it? Well, we already answered that question, didn't we? The answer is simple, you will lead a CONNECTED LIFE while always remembering our Motto:

In essential, UNITY, in non-essentials, LIBERTY and in all things CHARITY.



Installation Ceremony: Installing Officer

MONTHLY

# OPEN MIC

OXFORD GRANGE

482 Oxford Rd Oxford CT

## Tuesday Feb 18

Sign up 6pm Music 6:30

All skill levels and Everyone's welcomed

Snacks & drinks available and byob

You can RENT The Grange  
It's easy and very affordable  
203-521-5806  
oxfordctgrange@gmail.com

With a little help  
from our friends at:



The Oxford Grange is a non-profit that encourages Townspeople to economic and social well being



# Finding your daily “Awe”



**Dawn Percoski**  
Family Activities Dir.  
Vernon Grange No. 52  
CWA@ctstateGrange.org

Here we are in February already! Look on the bright side of everything and try to find your AWE daily. We had a wonderful Lecturer's program at Vernon Grange last night. All

about finding your awe. Think back on experiences of awe and wonder. New experiences increase the odds we will find something awe inspiring. As Roald Dahl said: “and above all watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you.” Finding awe around you will lift your spirits.

While doing that you may find something that has been discarded.

Can you think of something to make with it? Do you have something broken from Christmas? Can you remake it into a nice craft for our Recycle a craft project? It doesn't have to be something large; it can be anything at all. Google is your friend here once you see something you want to try. It can give you all kinds of ideas. How are your needlework entries coming along? Stuck for ideas? Try asking your fellow Grangers for patterns and ideas.

## New Contest Announced



### We Want your “G Notes”

Family Activities is announcing a NEW Contest and challenge for all Granges. This contest will be to help offset the cost for our State Session. I tried to come up with a way to help in some small way and decided we will be collecting “G” note Dollars. This has been done in the past, in 2016 it was to help offset the cost of National Session.

What is a “G” note Dollar? If you look at the front of a one-dollar bill, to the left of Washington is a Seal with a letter in it. It is also the first letter in the serial number. The letter is also the first letter in a serial number located in two places on the front of the bill. We are looking for a “G” for Grange, that denotes a bill from the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank. Start collecting these bills and the Grange that Donates the most will receive a prize at this year's State Grange Banquet. There will be two winners announced. Com-

munity Granges with 50 members plus, and Community Granges with under 50 members. Prizes will be announced shortly.

This Contest starts NOW! It will end September 30, 2025. We are asking the Pomona Chairs for their assistance to contact their subordinate Granges throughout the year and keep track of each Grange's donation. We hope that you will take up this challenge and have fun in the process.



## RSV is serious for older adults.

Vaccines are available for all adults 75+ and those 60-74 who are at increased risk of severe RSV.

RSV vaccines can be given at the same time as other vaccines—and are free for most.

**CVEEP**  
Champions for  
Vaccine Education,  
Equity + Progress

To learn about your  
risk for RSV, visit  
[CVEEP.org/RSVReady](https://CVEEP.org/RSVReady)

# Legislatively Speaking



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

January 2025 started off with a huge wildfire in Southern California, a three month drought and winds of 80 to 100 miles per hour. This is the perfect storm for disaster and it happened.

Residents evacuating were forced to abandon cars in the exit roads, preventing fire trucks in getting to the area to fight the fast moving fires. Bulldozers were called in to open the roads. This caused hours of delay in the response. Because of the size of the fires, fire hydrants went dry due to the amount of water being pumped to subdue the ever-growing fire. It was three days before the winds were safe for aircraft to fly and dump water and retardants on the fires. As of this writing, over 5,500 homes have been destroyed and the fire is still raging. Many Monday morning quarterbacks are spreading the blame, posting fake photos and information. As in all disasters the good, the bad, the ugly journalism is out there 24 hours a day, seven days a week. False information causes death and unnecessary harm to those who are suffering huge losses.

Some have stated these fires are the wrath of God. If true, the Bible's last wrath of God was Noah's flood, all the evil dies. God built the world in seven days and left Adam and Eve to care for the animals and care for the forest, plants and flowers. I think Mother Nature is letting us know that we are not good husbandmen of Earth, as the "I Can't Believe It's Not Butter" commercials of the 1980's. "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature."

Natural disasters are growing into more frequent events. In Connecticut, our brush fire season is usually March to May, yet this year we had major brush fires in October

and November with numerous Red Flag Days.

In other news, Prospect Medical Holdings, which acquired Manchester, Rockville and Waterbury Hospitals in 2016, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. This holding group has been known to close services, layoff staff and in 2013 had a ransomware attack which crippled the hospital computer systems. Hospitals had to return to paper charts, lab work, and records and were unable to retrieve patient history or insurance information. This event turned typical two hour emergency room visits into seven to nine hour events.

Our community hospitals should not be operated by for-profit groups. They don't know how to run hospitals and are jeopardizing our community healthcare system.

In January, the 47th President of the United States took office. We are all waiting to see what he and his appointees are able to accomplish along with Congress. After watching some of the confirmation hearings, it seems to be a huge waste of time and money.

All I can say is "Buckle Up Buttercup!" It's going to be very interesting.

Valentine's Day is great for the economy. Take out the one you love. Think spring!

## CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

# Virtual

# SOCIAL HOUR

2025

MARCH

MAY

JULY

SEPTEMBER

NOVEMBER

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20 - 7:00 PM EST**  
TOPIC: CT STATE GRANGE SPECIAL ZOOM -  
UPDATE ON THE HISTORY BOOK PROJECT

**THURSDAY, MAY 22 - 7:00 PM EST**  
TOPIC: PHOTOS & GRAPHICS -  
THE BENEFITS OF EYE-CATCHING VISUALS

**THURSDAY, JULY 17 - 7:00 PM EST**  
TOPIC: "NOW THAT'S A SPICY MEATBALL!" -  
FUN WITH BRANDING THROUGH COMMERCIALS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 - 7:00 PM EST**  
TOPIC: PUBLIC RELATIONS BOOT CAMP -  
THE ESSENTIALS OF COMMUNICATIONS

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - 7:00 PM EST**  
TOPIC: HOW TO KEEP IT FUN AND INTERESTING  
AT GRANGE MEETINGS

13

22

17

25

20

**JOIN US FOR A FUN AND CASUAL SOCIAL GATHERING.**

**A BRIEF PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED.**

Send an e-mail to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org)  
for Zoom Meeting Access Information

You don't have to be a Connecticut Grange Member to attend!



# Senexet Grange #40



## EASTERN CT POMONA #14

*Corr: Jaimie Cameron*

Eastern CT Pomona will hold their first meeting of 2025 at Hillstown Grange on March 1st at 7pm. As part of our Community Service project we will be collecting cleaning products: disinfecting wipes, paper towels, sponges, laundry detergent, etc. We ask each Grange in and out of our Pomona that would like to contribute to collect these items at their Grange meeting and bring them to our meeting on March 1st. We hope to see you there!

## SENEXET GRANGE #40

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Feb. 26: 6PM - Plan a Program**

Staying warm in the winter season. We continue to meet and enjoy working with groups in the community. We made thank you bags for the nursing staff at the local hospital. We had a very successful Christmas pie sale and enjoy meeting the families that come in to purchase the pies. We are grateful to our members and friends that make this fundraiser possible. We will begin our special monthly suppers fundraisers. This will include Shepherd's Pie and other hearty meals. Our emergency stairs are being worked on as well as the pellet stove. Both will certainly make our hall more comfortable. The local yoga group, corn hole group and other groups continue to use our



**Senexet Grange is excited to have a freshly painted upper hall and a brand new pellet stove downstairs in their fireplace.**

hall. We were saddened to receive word that our Golden Sheaf member Georgia Ballard has passed away.

## EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Jodi Ann Cameron*

We jump into 2025 in full swing already planning all of our Grange events and making some awesome updates to our Grange Kitchen. March 2nd from 8-10 or while supplies last we will be having a Free Pancake Breakfast in memory of a non-member who passed away last year and his family asked us if we would accept the donations in his name as we are a community and agriculture fraternity and that's what he loved, his farm and agriculture and his community. We will also be handing out seeds to those who attend in his memory to plant in his memory or in the memory of their loved ones. Then we jump into our first supper of 2025 which is our Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. \$17 at the door



all you can eat doors open at 5pm! Our next meeting is March 3rd at 7:30pm. We hope you join us on the hill!

## KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

*Corr: Penny Bennett*

Greetings from all of us at the Killingly Grange!!! Stay warm and if life gives you snow build a snowman! This little piggy went to the market, this little piggy didn't stay home, last night Saturday January 11 This little piggy was served at Pat's delicious homemade pork roast dinner.

We will be hosting Livestock and Shady Creek bluegrass bands on January 25 at 7:00 pm. Join us for a fun time and enjoy our delicious snacks from hot chowder, chili dogs, and a variety of sandwiches and a few delicious surprises by our favorite fry cook Leon. By the way we have these toe tapping and hand clapping concerts the 4th Saturday every month through April.

To save on oil we will have our monthly meeting at 2:00 pm that same day. We try not to see \$ signs

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.



## the Connecticut Granger

every time the furnace goes on.

On February 8 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm we will be serving Lasagna just like your Mama makes! Come and enjoy Take out or eat in and join us for a fun time. MANGIA!!!

### **NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Feb. 14:** The Rough Riders! The Spanish-American War

**Feb. 28:** Snow Date for Feb. (otherwise no meeting)

December was a busy month. We purchased many gift cards to donate to needy families to help them have a happier holiday. Our Christmas

party was attended by 14 happy children (and their parents) and Santa was there with gifts. The town garden club used our hall to put their lovely creations and we caroled around town delivering fruit baskets to members and friends. It was suggested we substitute "Singin' in the Rain" in place of the traditional carols; but the carols won out in the end. We even sang a chorus of Happy Birthday at one stop.

This year we participated in Wreaths Across America. Debbie Barnes arranged for a most impressive program at Wheeler Cemetery on December 14. The ceremony included town officials,

family members of the 59 veterans interred there and many volunteers. Grange members read the name of each veteran; then family members and volunteers placed a wreath on each grave. At the end of the ceremony, a trumpeter played Taps. This program had its beginnings in 1992 when a gentleman named Morrill Worcester, a wreath maker who found himself with 5,000 surplus wreaths on his hands after Christmas decided to donate them to Arlington National Cemetery. However, in 2007 it became an official non-profit and now there are more than two million volunteers and supporters involved every year. Debbie arranged for donations from the Connecticut State Grange, the Rotary Club and the town cemetery committee and we thank these organizations most sincerely. The Grange paid the rest. This will be an annual event with our Grange. And if Ol' Man Winter will just be gentle with us this year, next time I'll tell you all about jolly January.

### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**Feb. 7:** Love Languages (Zoom)

**March 7:** Coventry Grange presents Program at Vernon Grange (Zoom)

As the wind howls, with subfreezing daytime temperatures, we are thankful that we have warm and safe homes. We are distributing scarves, hats, mittens and gloves into our community. By the time this is printed, we plan to have more than a hundred warming items gifted.

We are busy crafting: creating blank handmade greeting cards for donation to a number of organizations, our knitting and crochet pros have already made hundreds of items for sale to support the Big E Grange Building. We have plans for lots more creations as we hibernate this winter.

Join our meeting on Zoom. We promise to be welcoming, entertaining and informative to all visitors! Just let us know, we will send you the link.

Hope to see you soon.

The Hillstown  
Grange Presents

# Valentine's Day Art Market

Sunday, Feb 9  
10 am-2 pm

\$20 for an indoor  
6ft Vendor Spot

The Hillstown Grange  
will be having lunch  
for sale as well!

617 Hills Street East  
Hartford

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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

*This Month*



*Last Month*



No answers were received for last month's "Window to the Past."

## Preston City Grange



Members of Preston City Grange No. 110 gathered on December 10, 2024 for their final meeting. The members have voted to merge their Grange with North Stonington Grange #138.



# 150 Years at Granby Grange



## MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 will be on March 1 at Riverton Grange Hall. Meeting will begin at 2:00 P.M. Vistors are always welcome.

## GRANBY GRANGE #5

*Corr: Carol Innes*

**Feb. 9:** 2 p.m.: The Art of Storytelling: Sharing Grange and Community Histories

**Mar. 9:** 2 p.m.: Local Heros Recognizing and Celebrating Community Champions

**March 29:** Grange Contra and Square dance, refreshments, all dances taught, all ages welcome. 7-9 p.m.

Please note meetings are held at 2 p.m. with refreshments afterwards

We welcomed in 3 new members to our Grange.

Our January 12th meeting was the actual 150th anniversary of the founding of Granby Grange, to the day. We are grateful to the founding members, including Harvey Goddard, our first President as well as the first State Grange President.

At our January meeting we set the date for our 3rd annual (rubber) duck race and spring flower sale for May 10th at the Salmon Brook Park. We also voted to hold a contra/square/line dance on March 29th where everyone is welcome to dance to Jim Gregory's fantastic calling. No experience necessary. A fun way to end the cold winter months and get ready to welcome spring.

We decided to hold our Ag Fair the same day as the Granby Open Farm



**On January 12, members and friends of Granby Grange #5 celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Grange, first organized under the first Connecticut State Grange in 1875.**

Day on September 13th this year.

We are still meeting at our hall for the winter months and everyone is welcome to our handicapped accessible hall.

## WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Feb. 11:** Be My Valentine, Ref. by Sara Bement & Sue Addison

**Feb. 25:** Library Lovers Month, Potluck at 6:00 PM

**March 15:** Baked Potato Dinner, 5-7 PM.

**TBA:** CPR/Defibrillator Training

Please see above for the upcoming meetings in February and don't forget the second meeting will have a potluck at 6 PM prior to the meeting. All are welcome, as always.

Our first Baked Potato Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 15 from 5-7 PM at the hall. More details to come.

Winchester has a newly installed defibrillator machine at the Grange Hall. As it is important to have people trained in its use and in CPR, we will be having a training conducted by staff from Sharon Hospital. The training will last approximately three hours and all participants will receive a certificate following the training. If you are interested, please send an email to [secretary@winchestergrange.org](mailto:secretary@winchestergrange.org).

Once we have an estimate of the participants, a date will be set.

Until next time, stay warm and think spring!

## TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**Feb. 1:** Grange Square & Contra Dance by Dance Committee with Ref. by All. Note: 7-9PM. All dances are taught, and all ages are welcome.

**Feb.13:** Dictionary Project by All with Ref. by Ruth Schnell

**Mar. 13:** Line Dancing by Barbara Prindle with Ref. by Jill Drew

**Apr. 10:** Spring Cleaning In & Out by All with Ref. by Chris Hopkins

**NOTE:** Refreshments & Social time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30PM

We were very happy to have Ted Powell, the State Grange Overseer, visit us at our January meeting. He drove over two hours, and he had to stop for a bear in the road on his way here. As is our custom we put him in a vacant station, Assistant Steward in this case. Ted brought us a National Grange plaque that will be engraved with our name, number and starting date. When it sounded like the outside front door may have blown open again, Ted reminded us of the money available every two years from the State Grange for repairs in the Hall. This is much appreciated.

## the Connecticut Granger

Bill Dinneen's presentation/program was Wreaths Across America. He gave a short history of the program that started in 2007 and related his experience this year when he participated at the New Milford cemetery. He was amazed by the number of people and kids that were there and how well planned it was to lay the wreaths.

We are looking forward to warmer weather and longer days.

### **BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Dorothy Fairchild*

**Feb. 9:** Roses is the theme by Fred Fairchild

Cheryl and Ray reported that they had a good time at the CT State Session. Bethlehem won 1st Community Service Award, CWA Activities Award, and Lecturer's Appreciation Award.

A good turnout of 15 friends and associates attended our Christmas dinner at a local restaurant.

The theme of January's lecturer's program was "Pine trees" which was presented by Cheryl and Ray. We were amazed to see a real live pine cone that was 12 inches long.

We received thank you notes from Bethlehem's third graders for the gift of dictionaries.

Grangers: Any ideas to help our Grange acquire items to exhibit at the One hundred Year Birthday Celebration of the Bethlehem Fair, would be appreciated. Although it evolved to be the town of Bethlehem's Fair, our Grange founded it in 1925.

### **BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153**

*Corr: Dean Perry*

Despite dwindling membership, we have been active. We hold our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at Saint Marks Church located at 5 Main St. S., Bridgewater.

Every month we have two to four members volunteer at the "Loaves and Fishes" soup kitchen in New Milford. We have members that are very skilled at cooking, baking, and running events where food is served.

We served cookies and hot cocoa at the Congregational Church of Bridgewater after the Christmas

Tree Lighting on Dec. 6th. Santa, Mrs. Claus and their helpers were there.

We will have a roast beef dinner this April 5 at St. Marks Church. This is both a fundrasier and a community event with the emphasis on community (in case we don't make much money).

We make visits to homebound friends and people in nursing homes. we bring Easter flowers in the week before Easter and Thanksgiving baskets before Thanksgiving. We have many people in this situation that we keep in touch with year round.

On April 19th we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Bridgewater Recreation Area. Kids can run for the candy, then get a picture with the Easter Bunny.

We plan on helping other local organizations. The Bridgewater/Roxbury Garden Club has a plant sale in May and we sell baked goods. Saint Marks has fundraising meals and Grange members will volunteer.

### **RIVERTON GRANGE #169**

*Corr: David Roberts*

Riverton Grange celebrated its 117th Anniversary on Jan. 3 with nearly 40 in attendance. The celebration began with a potluck dinner with soft music playing in the background, evoking memories of past community events held at the hall.

Connecticut State Grange Vice President Ted Powell was the special guest speaking on the Grange's role in strengthening local ties. Powell helped welcome eight new members into Riverton Grange, underscoring the organization's vibrant future. Today, the Grange boasts over 75 members, ranging in age from 12 to 100. Lecturer Raine Pedersen presented a program on the history of Riverton Grange from that wintry, icy night 117 years ago to the current success of today's Grange, which recently won multiple awards at the National Grange convention in IA.

The celebration featured a unique touch. Attendees sat at tables divided by their birthday months, with decorations reflecting the holidays

during those months. Following a festive rendition of "Happy Birthday", a large sheet cake was cut, and the room erupted in cheerful applause.

Riverton Grange remains a vital part of the community, with its unwavering commitment to service, fellowship, and the values of the Grange. The 117th Anniversary celebration was a fitting tribute to a legacy that continues to thrive.

### **SIMSBURY GRANGE #197**

*Corr: Marguerite Smith*

On Jan. 9 we met online via Zoom, voted in new officers to our board and welcomed a new member at this meeting. We are excited about and happy to report lots of fun programs in the coming months. These include a series of five Music Mondays and the return of our popular Beaver Pond Wildlife film series by local filmmaker, Ray Asselin.

**Monday, Feb. 3rd** - Joel Weik and Grancin Dorsey, guitars- Doors open at 6:30 pm, music from 7:00-8:00 pm. These musicians are fabulous! You won't want to miss this!! Be sure to register through the Simsbury Public Library. More music to come on Mondays - March 3rd, April 4th, May 7th and June 6th

**Friday, April 4th** - Beaver Pond Wildlife film series - Film #1 - Doors open at 6:00 pm for social hour, film from 7:00-8:00pm. More information in the next issue.

**Sunday, Feb. 23rd** - We are hosting our first Food and Fun at the Grange: Learning from Local Experts Join us from 6:00-7:30 pm. as we say hello to Jonathan Gorski, owner of Amoroso's Pizzeria in Avon, CT. He will demonstrate making gnocchi and have focaccia bread and Utica greens for us to taste. Sign up through the Simsbury Public Library Calendar of Events. Doors open at 5:30. Location: 236 Farms Village Rd. West Simsbury. Parking in Farms Village Plaza. Donations welcome. For more information: Email: info@simsburygrange.org Website: www.simsburygrange.org

**Sunday, March 30th** - Our 3rd Annual Seed Swap and Lego Build - 2:00-4:00 pm. More to come regarding this annual event.





### **CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**Feb. 5-**Make Kindness Count

**Feb. 19-**Presidential Trivia

We started out the new year with our Legislative program reviewing upcoming issues for the new session that started on January 8th. It looks like a very busy session is in store. We continue to meet downstairs during the winter to keep our heating costs under control. We have been doing this for the past few years, just a part of the winter doldrums. Our meeting programs and upcoming events are in place for the new Grange year.

### **WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33**

*Corr: Stephen Fengler*

The New Year has started off well with some fantastic new events! Our first Wascal Wednesday play date was a success! Little kids ages 2-5 got their energy out with a ton of balloons and then got crafty in making their own snowmen. Special thanks to the six families for coming out in this cold to join us! Also special thanks to Wallingford Grange members Tim and Stephanie Fengler for organizing this activity! Save the date for our next Wascal Wednesday event on Wednesday, February 12th!

A Reiki and singing bowl meditation class was also hosted at Wallingford Grange in January. It was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks for coming and thanks to Toni and Barbara for leading us through the session. The first monthly Chess Nerds meet-up was also fun with people of all ages coming

# **Wallingford Wascal Wednesday**



**Wallingford Grange held a Wascal Wednesday play date event for little ones aged 2-5. After getting their energy out playing with tons of balloons, the children then made their own snowmen. Next date is February 12th at Wallingford Grange Hall.**

out to play chess. Chess Nerds meet-ups, that are open to people with all skill ranges from beginner to expert, will continue to occur throughout the year on every first Saturday of the month at 9am-11am. Quilts of Valor, who just celebrated their 1st year anniversary as a group, will continue to meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 6:30pm throughout the year to complete more comforting quilts to veterans of all wars.

In February and March, some special community events Wallingford Grange is looking forward to having include a Book Folding Event (February 5th - 6pm-8pm), Pancake Breakfast (February 12th - 8:30am-11am), History and Flavors of Maple Syrup Event hosted by the Miller Sugar House (February 25th - 6pm-8pm), Sourdough Educational Event (March 6th - 6pm-8pm), and Cake Decorating Event (March 20th - 6:30pm-8pm). Hope to see you at one of these events!

### **CANNON GRANGE #152**

*Corr: John Kriz*

As part of its holiday celebrations, Cannon Grange #152 held a Breakfast with Santa event in its historic 1899 Grange Hall, with 169 guests packing the hall for pancakes, hot cocoa and coffee. Also available was face painting and an opportunity to sit with Santa (and his chief elf!) and tell him your holiday wish list in a family-friendly

setting. Cannon Grange's Santa was part of the Connecticut Society of Santas, which seeks to enhance the spirit of Christmas by fostering fellowship among its members and community groups. In addition, nine tickets were gifted by Cannon Grange to local families in need.

### **HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day

**Feb. 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

**Mar. 14:** Color Green

**Mar. 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is omitted.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.



**Cannon Grange held a Breakfast with Santa event in Dec.**



# Redding Contra Dance



Redding Grange teamed up with The Granite on North Main Street in Redding to host a New England Contra Dance on Jan. 17. Based on the tradition of New England's earliest settlers, the evening featured a night of live music and community dancing. Admission was free and donations collected will support the missions of The Granite and Redding Grange.

*from an article by Jessie Wright.*

# Hank the Burro



Rob and I went to the Northeastern Leaders' Conference in Danvers MA last weekend. Eleven from CT! Woo-hoo! Workshops were great as was the tour of Essex Northshore Vocational Agricultural School. The Doubletree Hilton was a great hotel for the event. Easy to get to.

# Quilts of Valor



Wallingford Grange's Quilts of Valor Foundation group just celebrated its First year anniversary! Meeting every first and third Monday at 6:30, these ladies make comforting and healing quilts for area veterans. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome - you do not have to be a Grange member. You don't need to be an expert either, we can coach you. And if you are not a sewist at all, QoV accepts tax deductible donations on our behalf. This helps us buy fabric, batting, and supplies. Email: [fenglersj@gmail.com](mailto:fenglersj@gmail.com)

## Chess Nerds

First Saturdays, 9 -11 am  
All levels welcome!

Wallingford Grange  
586 Center St  
Wallingford CT





## Questions about preparing for the future?



Visit  
[seniorsurgeryguides.com](http://seniorsurgeryguides.com)



Do you have questions about preparing for the future? Seniorsurgeryguides.com provides vital information about asking questions before surgeries, preparing your home and much more. Visit seniorsurgeryguides.com today to learn more! Granges - Don't forget that you can receive a financial incentive for presenting this information in your community. Just fill out and submit the report form available on the "Downloads" page of the website.



Greenfield Hill Grange #133  
1873 Hillside Road  
Fairfield, CT



### ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNEB BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

## March 15, 2025

6:00 pm  
(Doors open 5:30)  
\* Snow date: March 16<sup>th</sup> \*

FOR RESERVATIONS call  
This is a reservation only event:  
Jim at 203-259-8023  
Steve at 203-367-4373

Reservations by March 6<sup>th</sup>  
No tickets sold at the door  
Donation \$23.00 per person

 [www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Granger](https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Granger)



## GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE

BI-MONTHLY ROUND TABLE LUNCH-TIME DISCUSSIONS

# HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

A SERIES OF 6 LUNCHEONS AND DISCUSSIONS FOR LOCAL GARDENERS, FARMERS, AND EATERS (BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED)

**MARCH 29**  
12:00 NOON - 2:00PM  
**PLANTING SEEDS INDOORS**

FUTURE DISCUSSION TOPICS:

5/24 PLANTING SEEDS AND PLANTS OUTDOORS

7/19 WEEDING AND WATERING

9/20 HARVESTING AND REPLANTING FOR A FALL GARDEN

11/15 CLEANUP AND WINTER PREP

CORNELIA OLSEN

GRANGE MEMBER AND BACKYARD FARMER

JAMES FLINT

GRANGE MEMBER, GARDENER, AND COMPOSTER

THE SPEAKERS WILL TELL YOU HOW THEY DO THEIR GARDENS AND THERE WILL BE OPEN DISCUSSIONS OF EACH TOPIC, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO FOLLOW THE GARDENING YEAR.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133  
1873 HILLSIDE ROAD  
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

PARKING IN REAR OF THE GRANGE BUILDING

**\$20 PER PERSON PER SESSION**  
LUNCHEON INCLUDES CHOICE OF  
SANDWICH (TUNA OR EGG SALAD),  
BEVERAGE, & DESSERT

RSVP AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR  
SO WE KNOW HOW MUCH FOOD TO ORDER  
TO CORNELIA OLSEN 203 571-8673  
(TEXT IS OK, TOO) OR  
JIM GOLIAS 203 259-8023

SEND YOUR \$20 RESERVATION CHECK MADE OUT TO  
GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE, c/o JAMES GOLIAS, 80 OLDFIELD DRIVE, FAIRFIELD, CT 06824

[www.grangestore.org](http://www.grangestore.org)



## GOOD DAY!™ JANUARY 2025

The January 2025 issue of *Good Day!* magazine covers our 158th Annual National Grange Convention, previews the 2025 Convention, highlights member accomplishments - including a living history of Grange memorabilia, and much more. This issue includes the final article in our United States agritourism feature, and also includes recipes that take you from stock to soup!

**\$5.00 PER ISSUE**

(plus shipping)

or subscribe at [nationalgrange.org/goodday](http://nationalgrange.org/goodday)

Order online through the Grange Supply Store at [grangestore.org](http://grangestore.org) or call Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.



## ERNESTINE "ERNIE" KEISER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications Due March 1, 2025

- Scholarship is available for Grange members in good standing, who are graduating high school seniors or continuing two-year community college, four-year college/university, or postsecondary vocational school students attending an accredited school. Students pursuing graduate degrees or higher vocational certifications are also eligible to apply.
- Scholarship is available to full time or part time students.
- Application includes essay and letters of recommendation.

LEARN MORE AT [HTTPS://GRANGEFOUNDATION.ORG/ERNESTINE-MEMORIAL-SCHOLARSHIP/](https://grangefoundation.org/ernestine-memorial-scholarship/)

# Sharing



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

## Proverbs 22:9

*"The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor"*

## Deuteronomy 15:7-8

*"If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be"*

## Hebrews 13:16

*"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God"*

One of the earliest lessons we should have been taught even before we started Nursery School is the need to share with others. Children need to learn to share so that they may make and keep friends, play cooperatively, take turns, and learn to deal with disappointments. Part of growing up is to make sharing a part of your continuing relationship with others.

If we are to fully follow the two great commandments of loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself, then it is necessary that you follow them in deed as well as in thought. This means, among other



actions, sharing what we have with those who are in need. Whatever you have has been given to you through God's grace. I am speaking not only of material wealth but of your other assets: time, talent, and treasure.

In many ways sharing of your time and talent may mean more for other people than sharing of your material wealth. This can be as simple as giving a person a ride to a doctor's appointment or to church or as complicated as volunteering to help found and run a charitable organization. Sometimes sharing means taking time to listen to another person's stories or complaints so that they are provided with the feeling of companionship. Sometimes it means sitting and reading to an invalid or person with visual problems.

One of the things that I have observed through this long life of

mine is that sharing with others has its own rewards. In general, those who share live much happier lives than those who do not share. How much better it is to have somewhat less in time and material wealth and be happy than to have more material wealth and more time on your hands and be gloomy. In fact, since sharing and giving increases the number of your friends and opens doors that otherwise might be closed to you, you might say that your total wealth has increased.

## *In Memoriam*

**Peter Keefe**  
Winchester Grange #74

**Georgia Ballard**  
Bethlehem Grange #121

**Normand Manning**  
Higganum Grange #124

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*