



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 65, No. 4

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

January 2025

## From the President's Desk



**Robert Buck**  
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Naturalists tell us this was a mast year for acorns so hopefully this abundance will keep the wild critters well fed over the winter. Likewise, I hope that this was an abundantly productive year for your Grange. While some Granges are succeeding, I know others are in hard times. My hope is that you will persevere in the spirit of our Fraternity and stick together to succeed in your projects and other events and continue to grow together as you reap the many benefits that the Grange gives to you. Now that winter, the season of reflection, has arrived, think about what your Grange can do differently in the coming year; new community service, fundraisers, and ideas to have fun at your meetings. I never cease to be amazed at the warm welcome received upon visiting Granges in any town or state.

Remember the installing officer in the installation ceremony says, "Be cheerful, be united. Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

In the Connecticut Farm Bureau October issue of "From the Farm", challenges facing both US and CT farms were written up as taken from the latest Ag Census. This is taken every five years and we complete them for our farm here in

Southbury. In CT, farm production expenses were up more than 13% (17.8% nationally) from 2017 to 2022 for an average increase of \$26,000 per farm. Across the country, agriculture is slipping with losses of family farms and farm acres, income and government support. Increased regulations, increased cost of supplies, and lack of available labor are making it tougher for farms to be profitable. Another problem is dealing with unpredictable weather events. The adaptability of farms and farmers to new markets has led some to respond by providing products based on their local market needs like pick-your-own berries and



corn or sunflower mazes. Passage of a new farm bill by Congress is important to the long term sustainability of agriculture across the US.

From National Grange President Chris Hamp's Internal Address at  
*...Continued on page 2*

## New Year's Resolutions

by Terri Fassio, Co-Public Relations Director

As we welcome the new year, it's a perfect opportunity to take a moment to reflect on the past year for your Grange and to set some resolutions for 2025.

- **Make it a goal to promote your Grange.**

Share the news about your Grange by sending out a press release, posting on social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, putting up a few posters, or simply making a call. Your efforts can lead to great rewards!

- **Aim to be more visual.**

Remember, a picture is worth a thousand words. Utilizing photos and videos in your Grange's marketing can draw in more interest from the public and engage your existing members even further.

- **Commit to improved communication with members.**

Regularly updating your members keeps them informed about your Grange's activities and projects. Open lines of communication foster enthusiasm and community spirit.

- **Encourage creative thinking.**

Explore innovative ways to engage your members and the community. Seek inspiration and think about how to integrate new ideas into your

*...Continued on page 7*



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



**NEXT ISSUE:**  
Articles Due January 15

# From the President's Desk

*Continued from page one...*

the 158th National Convention, she encourages a forward looking vision to make the Grange stronger tomorrow than it is today. At the same time, we must try to avoid the deficit mindset by focusing on our richness from the past legacy of the Grange while looking forward with positivity and new ideas to try out in our communities. Another hot button topic of discussion is dues. Our dues structure is grossly outdated and can be seen in that many Granges have not significantly increased their dues in the 36 years

I have been in the Grange. We all complain about increases and loss of membership, but dues must increase if we are to remain viable. The only other way is if your Granges start raising more money to offset expenses. What goes out shouldn't exceed what comes in. A third topic from the address is that of what the National Grange does for us. Many think far too little is done by National which is not true or fair to them. Instead of complaining about

this, try looking at the National Grange website and all the resources as well as the options for webinars on a variety of topics to help you promote your Granges and get ideas from others.

It is time once again for the Northeastern Leaders' Conference. This year it is in Danvers, MA at the Double Tree Hilton. The field trip and seminars sound great. We will visit a local vocational agricultural school for a tour- something new arranged by Mass. State Grange President Corey Spence. I can't wait!

## Hole In The Wall Gang Camp

I wanted to give you more information on this year's special project: The Hole in the Wall Gang. We feel that this charity meets the needs of not only children but the whole family.

The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp was founded in 1988 by life-long Connecticut resident Paul Newman with one simple premise in mind: to provide opportunities for children with serious illnesses to experience the transformational spirit and friendships that go hand-in-hand with camp. The Goal is to create ongoing Camp connections that build a joy-filled, inclusive community where children – and families in all the forms they come in – are not alone in their challenges and more than a diagnosis. All programming is intentionally designed to meet every individual's unique needs and offered at no cost to families thanks to the generosity of others.



**Dawn Percoski**  
Family Activities Dir.  
Vernon Grange No. 52  
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Our Impact: Through overnight camp experiences supported by a significant, yet unobtrusive medical presence as well as off-site Family and Hospital Outreach programming, Hole in the Wall serves more than 20,000 children and family members annually throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Located in Ashford, Connecticut, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp-Connecticut is a playful, kid-sized Old West filled with traditional camp activities adapted

so all campers can participate. From the Pool to the Boathouse, from the Horse Barn to the Theater, our Connecticut location is a magical setting for summer and year-round programs.

They have a number of Programs: Summer Program, Family Weekends, Adolescent & Young Adult programs and Bereavement

A full description of these programs was sent out to your Family Activities Chairperson. We hope you have an interest in this year's choice and you also can look online to find out more about this great charity. We wish you a very happy new year. Stay safe and warm in the coming months.

### the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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#### 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  
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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



# Are You Grange Strong?



**Jody & Jodi Ann  
Cameron**  
Membership Co-Dir.  
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Are you Grange Strong? Is your Grange “Grange Strong”? What does it take to be Grange Strong? Do you support your Grange by stepping up and being a supportive participant? Do you join any committees or teams? Do you ask to learn? Are you an inquisitive new Officer? Are you a seasoned Officer or member looking for your future

successor? Do you mentor?

Jodi Ann and I have had the opportunity to have heard National Grange President, Christine Hamp speak on many an occasion lately and she has asked the members, “are you going to be last one?” We have seen in our State Grange that in almost every instance when a Grange closes it is because they were not Grange Strong, their membership and every aspect of how the Grange operated, and when it operated, was controlled by one person or family, the “last one.”

How many times have you referred to a Grange by a person’s

name? Oh, that’s Marta’s Grange, not that’s Bethlehem Grange. If you don’t see that as a problem, we need to talk. We cannot be Grange Strong if we are not inclusive in our decision making, our activities, our outreach. We cannot be Grange Strong if we are not “allowing” new members to share their time and talents to make us stronger, more relevant in our community. We cannot be Grange Strong if we do not keep “looking through the windshield,” but always referring to was in the rearview mirror. Folks, our history is written, it is up to us to write our future. It is up to us to Live a Connected Life and be Grange Strong.

## Influential Connecticut Grangers:

# Judge Dwight A. Lyman

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

Like many of the Grangers highlighted in this column, Judge Dwight A. Lyman’s interests and activities were diverse and eclectic.

Dwight Lyman was born in a log hut in the town of Barrie in western New York (30 miles west of Rochester) on November 11, 1843. He was a direct descendant of Richard Lyman who emigrated from England to Boston and in 1635 joined Rev. Thomas Hooker’s group of faithful who left their church in Boston to establish Hartford in 1636.

His family moved in 1850 to Columbia, CT, purchasing a farm where young Dwight worked while attending school until 1863 when he moved to Hartford.

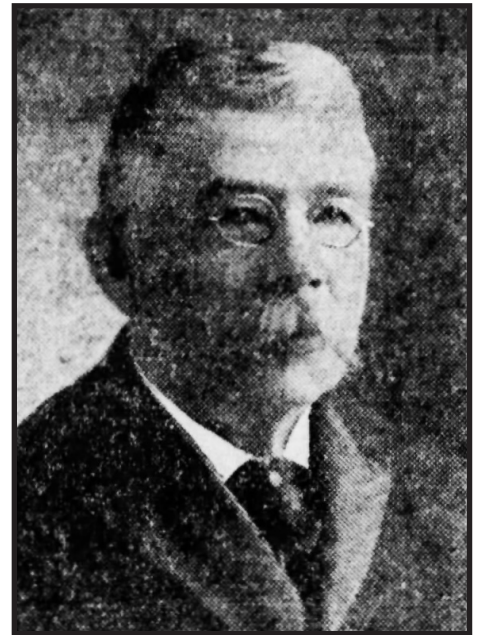
Arriving in Hartford, Lyman went to work at Samuel Colt’s Willow Ware factory. At the time, Samuel Colt had established his factory for manufacturing the guns in a section of Hartford known as “Coltsville”. Coltsville was a self-contained factory town that offered housing for workers and all of the amenities they would need. Colt would provide jobs that would generate paychecks for the workers which could be spent

at the various enterprises operated by the Colt Company.

Colt’s Willow Ware factory manufactured wicker furniture using a manufacturing process created by Samuel Colt which more efficiently stripped willow branches, speeding up the manufacturing process.

Dwight Lyman worked for Colt for two years thoroughly learning the process of creating the furniture. German craftsmen were recruited by Colt to come to Hartford and work in his factory. To make the proposition more attractive, Colt constructed homes in Coltsville that closely resembled the styles of homes found in Germany. Many these homes still stand today.

On New Year’s Eve 1872 the factory caught on fire. With the tremendous amount of flammable material inside, the building was quickly engulfed in flames burning to the ground. Sam Colt did not rebuild the company. By 1915 nearly all of the former workers had either died or left the area leaving Dwight Lyman the only person left who knew how Colt’s Willow Ware was manufactured.



**Judge Dwight A. Lyman**

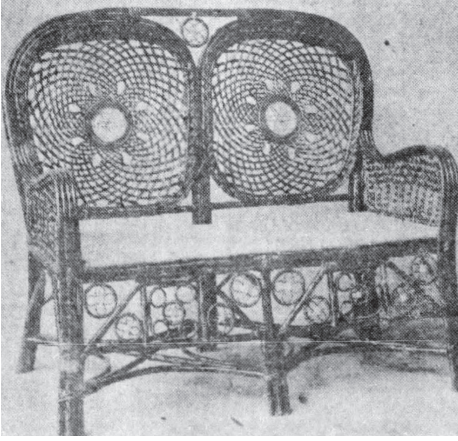
In 1871 Lyman worked in the railroad business, serving as station agent and freight clerk for the H.R.&F. Railroad until 1873 when he became a traveling salesman for the American Basket Company. In 1877 he moved to Baltimore and worked as an instructor in basket making for convicts in the Maryland State Penitentiary.

After a year in Maryland, Lyman moved back to Columbia where he was appointed superintendent of the Windham Almshouse. Almshouses were homes built by charities for

*Continued next page...*



### the Connecticut Granger



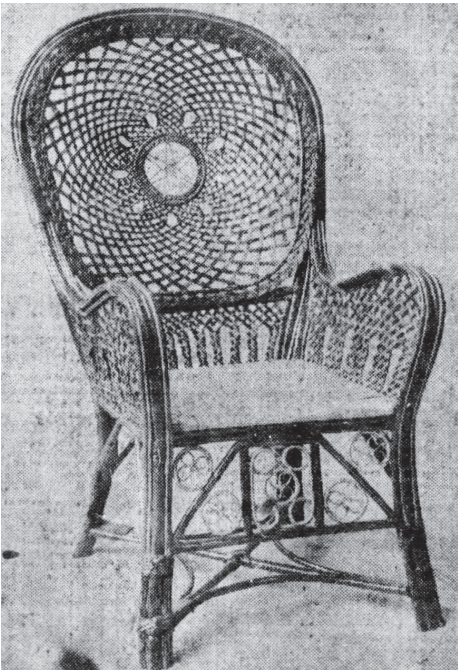
A Willow Ware settee made by Dwight Lyman in 1915.

**LYMAN**, *Continued from prev. pg.*  
residents in need of housing.

In the spring of 1891, Lyman had joined forces with George E. Stiles to organize the Willimantic Building and Loan Association, serving as its Secretary and Collector for many decades.

Beginning in 1891, Lyman began reporting as a correspondent for the *Hartford Courant* working for famed editor and writer Charles Dudley Warner who most notably authored "The Gilded Age" with Mark Twain.

Lyman's editors credited him with a great dedication to writing stories without "fluff" or exaggeration. Lyman would later become Editor



A Willow Ware chair made by Dwight Lyman in 1873.

of the *Willimantic Journal*.

In 1897, the General Assembly elected Lyman to be deputy judge of the Willimantic police court. He became the full judge of this court four years later.

During this time Lyman also teamed up with James P. Mustard to form a fire insurance company, D.A. Lyman & Co.

From the *Norwich Bulletin*, Sept. 17, 1915:

"Judge Lyman was elected first selectman of Columbia in October, 1914 and has been nominated by the republicans to succeed himself this fall. In politics, Judge Lyman has always been a staunch republican, his first presidential vote being for General Grant. He was about a week too young to vote for Abraham

Lincoln for his second term. Both Judge and Mrs. Lyman have more than 50 years been staunch believers in Spiritualism, Mrs. Lyman being in her early years a very convincing medium, although never appearing in public or outside of the home surroundings. Judge Lyman has for many years been the managing trustee of the First Spiritualist Society of Willimantic and is now serving his second term as president of the Connecticut State Spiritualist Association."

Judge Lyman was a lifetime member of the Masons and both were members of the Columbia Grange serving on committees and in officers positions over the years.

Dwight Lyman passed away on March 3, 1930 at the age of 87.

## Lyman - Baseball Pioneer



Willimantic baseball team from the turn of the 20th century.

The *History of Windham County (CT)* tells the story of the earliest days of baseball in Connecticut...

"Baseball underwent another boom in 1901 and for several years following there was a great deal of interest taken in the sport. It was the first time in the history of the game that thorough records were kept of the finances and players. The meeting of organization was held on April 18, 1901, and in a short time a working capital of \$796 was raised. The grounds were located off West Main St., on the property of the old Windham Manufacturing Company, now known as the Quidnick-Windham Company. The grounds were fenced in and a commodious grandstand built. The organization was perfected in the office of Dwight A. Lyman, then local correspondent for the *Hartford Courant*. Danny Dunn, later mayor of Willimantic, was chosen manager of the team... The Willimantic Baseball Association, as it was named, weathered through six seasons. The first five seasons a fine financial account was made at each annual meeting."



Influential Connecticut Grangers:

# Rev. Albert S. Woodworth

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

In the June issue, we told you about Rev. Albert S. Woodworth, Past Chaplain Emeritus of the Connecticut State Grange. Brother Woodworth served as State Chaplain for twenty-two years.

Since publication of that article, members of the Woodworth family have provided additional information and photographs of Brother Woodworth that we wanted to share with you.

In a book of family recollections entitled "Forgotten Memories", Brother Woodworth reflected on his Grange work...

"Meanwhile children all grown and married. Met a beautiful and attractive lady (Ada Malcolm) and invited her to become my wife. Married (Sept. 15, 1953) and after short period retired from pastorate and we went to live on the farm in Middlefield, Conn. where Ada was born and where some of the most happy years of my life have been.

Meanwhile have been State Chaplain of Connecticut State Grange for 22 years while portion of those years have been Chaplain of Mountain County Pomona Grange, Quinebaug Pomona Grange, and Central Pomona Grange as well as Past President of Central Past President's Association. Served as Church Visitor and Director of Elderly Citizen's work at First Baptist Church in Meriden, Conn. for several years."

In an additional entry, Brother Woodworth elaborated on his Grange connections.

"During these years have served the local Grange consecutively and was President in Southington (Union Grange), now Southington Grange, and while President led the steering, financing and purchase of the hall.

Here let me express my deep sense of God's blessing in the members of my family: four sons, four daughters

and now 30 grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren, plus a wonderful wife (Ada) with her two sons and 13 grandchildren (the last as near my own in attention and affection) with a most attractive and comfortable home on the Middlefield Farm for my remaining days assured. Also the freedom from financial worries through the M.M.

Board Social Security and Sister Zella's estate. God has been indeed good to me. Am a member of First Baptist Church in Meriden where I joined after (resigning) my pastorate in Plantsville."

Brother Woodworth lived an exemplary life caring for his family, his flocks at the various churches he served and in the Grange for which he worked tirelessly for through the years. We hope you enjoyed hearing more about Albert through his own words and reflections.



**Rev. Albert S. Woodworth and his second wife, Ada Winter Malcolm, in September 1962.**



**The Rev. Albert Woodworth Family in St. Johnsbury, VT in 1920.**

# Wreaths Across America



**Dave Roberts**  
State Lecturer

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Happy New Year, Grangers!

At our recent Lecturers' Roundup, I reminded all the attendees about our 2024-2025 Lecturer Program Guidelines. As we begin a new calendar year, I wanted to re-emphasize our guidelines, which can also be found on the Connecticut State Grange website.

Lecturer programs should last up to 30 minutes and incorporate music, information, participation, inspiration, and humor when possible. While only some programs must include all these components, they are essential to creating an engaging presentation. Virtual programs via Zoom are also welcome, with a minimum length of 10 minutes. These programs should include quizzes or interactive elements to encourage active participation.

## AWARDS PROGRAM

### Lecturer's Appreciation Award

To earn this award, Lecturers must:

- Provide a suitable program at every meeting.
- Ensure programs last up to 30 minutes.
- Collaborate with Grange comm.
- Submit timely reports to the State Lecturer.
- Participate in at least one Connecticut State Grange Lecturers' Roundtable.

### Honor Lecturer's Appreciation Award

Earn this award by meeting the Lecturer's Appreciation Award criteria and participating in at

least three additional contests or projects. Also, attend two or more Roundtables and submit a "Grange in Action" or "Distinguished Grange" nomination.

## Additional Contests or Projects Ritual Programs

The National Grange's 158-year history includes many cherished rituals. Lecturers should present one complete program or six 5-minute segments on Grange Ritual each year. With Grange no longer performing degree work, educating members on rituals is more critical than ever.

### Heirloom Program

The National Grange launched a five-year program in March 2022 to teach Grange rituals, history, and beliefs. Short monthly lessons are offered each year, corresponding to the degree season. Year C (March 2024–February 2025) and upcoming Years D and E are available at [bit.ly/grangeheirloom](https://bit.ly/grangeheirloom). Materials include pamphlets, posters, social media posts, and suggested activities. Lecturers are encouraged to use these materials to supplement regular meetings, newsletters, or discussions. Share your success stories and ideas with me!

### Photo Contest

The photo contest is open to all Grangers, with categories for adults and juniors, youth, and 1+ members. Judging occurs at the State Grange Family Festival, with winning photos displayed at the State Grange Convention.

Adult Categories: America the Beautiful, Agriculture/Farming, Say it with Flowers, Bridges

Junior, Youth, 1+ Categories: America the Beautiful, Agriculture/Farming, Animals/Pets, Water

Rules:

Only prints accepted.

Limit of one entry per category.

Photos must be taken between October 1, 2024, and the State Grange Family Festival.

No glass or frames allowed.

Photo size: 4"x6" to 11"x14".

Include the entrant's name, contest category, Grange/Grange number, and phone number on the back.

Prizes: First place – \$6, Second place – \$4, Third place – \$2.

## Complete Program

The theme for 2025 is "The Grange is Important Today Because," and the program should be up to 45 minutes long. Submit the complete program to the State Lecturer by September 30, 2025, for consideration. Prizes: First place—\$50, Second place—\$30, Third place—\$20.

## Honoring Our Elders Program

Assist a convalescent, nursing, or rest home at least four times yearly in the name of the Grange. This may involve programs, gifts, or other requested support. Report due by September 30 each year.

## A Word From Home Project

Could you write to service members overseas to let them know we care? Letters and packages should be sent in the name of the Grange, and addresses can be found at [www.anysoldier.com](http://www.anysoldier.com). The report is due by September 30 each year.

## Initiate a New Program Contest

Initiate a new program in your area, such as a Veteran of the Month or Youth Outreach Activity, based on local needs. Submit your report by September 30 each year.

Let's have a fantastic 2025 year and commit to making our Connecticut State Grange #GrangeStrong!



# Legislatively Speaking



**Noel Miller**  
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75  
millernoel434@gmail.com

As I write this article, a school shooting has taken place in a Madison, Wisconsin Christian school. A teacher and student were killed and six others were injured and the shooter is dead. The question to ask is, "What have you done to prevent this needless act in our schools, if it is a psychological problem, what funding did you approve for mental health? If it's access to a gun, what action did you vote on to keep guns out of children's hands? Thoughts and prayers are not the answer to the problem we have prayed over since Columbine, Sandy Hook and the Parkland school shootings (among too many others). It's time for the legislators of this country to do something to stoop this loss of life.

The 47th President of the United States will take the Oath of Office on Jan. 20, 2025. It is our hope his actions involving the world and our nation will be for the common good for all.

The University of Connecticut has cut online classes with student enrollment, yet tuition will remain the same and student activity fees will increase. The football team will be in Fenway Park for a bowl game... good luck. Yet Rentschler Field, the stadium in East Hartford, which is twenty years old, is in need of repairs and upgrades. Our tax dollars paid for this structure. Why didn't UConn set aside funds for the maintenance and upgrades for this facility. We see this with every facility under UConn's control. Gampel Pavilion was built in 1991

and 20 years later the taxpayers paid for the new roof and upgrades to the floor and locker rooms. With all the money brought in from television, tickets, NCAA funds, income from UConn merchandise, why doesn't the University set aside funds for the future expansion and upgrades of facilities rather than hitting up the taxpayers?

As 2025 is at the door, we all await what will happen. Will Project 2025 become a reality or was it a lie? Will tariffs be placed on imports? Will our family farmers continue to struggle and the corporate farms take it all? Will corporate greed continue to raise prices in grocery

stores and all stores for that matter. I don't have a crystal ball but I hope this is not the vision I see for our future. I have faith that we will survive this, we have seen this before and have pulled through the tough times, it's in our blood.

The latest item not to buy is raw milk. Avian bird flu has been found in raw milk. Pasteurization kills the pathogens in raw milk. Local dairies heat milk to 145 degrees to kill the pathogens and bottle milk without homogenization, so you get the heavy cream. We should all beware of organic, free range, local labels. We have to read and do our homework.

Happy New Year and may you get all that you wish for.



Installation Ceremony; Installing Officer

**PATRONS, CARRY WITH YOU A FEELING OF  
COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO STRIVE TO  
MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.**

## New Year's Resolutions

*Continued from page one...*

Grange. Don't hesitate to experiment with fresh approaches.

- **Strive to enhance your Grange experience.**

Enjoy being together as a group. Share laughter, contribute to the community, stay curious, volunteer, and lend a hand to others. Focus on a favorite project, stimulate your mind, practice tolerance, and embrace new experiences. Remember to express gratitude, and above all, share your passion for the organization with others.

# Wreaths Across America



## SENEXET GRANGE #40

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Jan. 22:** Making Valentines for the Community a 6PM

Winter has arrived and we continue to stay warm in the hall with a real fireplace. We had a wonderful Thanksgiving pie sale with 186 pies ordered.

The annual Woodstock Winter festival was held on Saturday Dec. 14 and we were hosting several craft vendors as well as wonderful items made by our members. We had a special wreath making evening and made wreaths for sale as well as those for Grange members. It is always wonderful to get together to celebrate the holiday with a gift exchange and a pot luck dinner before Christmas. The Christmas pie sale is another of our holiday fund raisers and getting so many to help especially when the students are available.

Groups continue to use the hall including yoga, line dancing and corn hole. It is so good to have an upstairs hall that is ideal for these groups. We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Thanks for all the help from members and friends for our fundraisers.

## EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Jodi Ann Cameron*

Ekonk has had a busy last few weeks. We had a wonderful turnout at our annual Turkey Supper the week before Thanksgiving. Had a great team as always prepping for two days and putting on a delicious



**North Stonington Comm. Grange #138 participated with National Wreaths Across America Day on Dec. 13 with a wreath laying at a local cemetery. Jeff and Debbie Barnes (of North Stonington Grange) are pictured reading the names of veterans during the ceremony. Everyone participating went back to the Grange hall afterwards for coffee and pastries provided by the Grange.**

dinner. For our December meeting we started with an invitation to our members and to the 11 Membership Awards recipients to come early for dinner then presentation of awards. The Cameron's made a soup and salad dinner. Tried to prepare meal with local ingredients such as beef hamburger for soup from Cameron Farmstead, and some other ingredients locally sourced.

Unfortunately we only had 3 recipients able to make it but it was a nice event. President Jaimie Cameron presented Elena Hermonot with 25 yr certificate; Janet Exley with 50 yr Golden Sheaf and seal; and Dennis Anhberg with his 65 yr seal. Total was 2 @25 years, 40, 45, 2 @ 50, 3 @ 55, 60, 65.

After dinner and presentations we held our meeting with a program on Christmas Trees.

We also took part in decorating a tree for the Sterling Rec. Dept. Tree Lighting Event. Trees were "purchased" by local groups/organizations and decorated then all lit on Dec. 13th at a special ceremony

with music, singing, cookies & cocoa, and heard that Santa even stopped by to check it out.

Next meeting is Jan. 6th at 7:30pm. Program is on Forestry. All are welcome.

## NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Jan. 10:** Hawaiian "Rebellions"

**Jan. 24:** Snow Date for January

We hold only one regular meeting in January and February, saving the fourth Friday in case of inclement weather on the second Friday. Please call before you come. Our interesting "War" programs continue in the new year. Our January program sounds very interesting!

During November we purchased Thanksgiving meals for needy families in town. This year we made a complete dinner possible for ten local families.

Our November program was all about the "Sheep Wars" in America. Although not officially a war, it did see the death of many sheep and cattlemen out west, and the deaths of many more thousands of innocent animals. Sue's programs are so interesting and informative. We

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.



wish more of you would find your way to our meetings. And if that white stuff that looks so beautiful but causes so darn much work will just stay away, next time we'll tell you all about delicious December. Just a gentle reminder (and saving a stamp), if you haven't paid your dues, please do.

#### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**Jan. 3:** Sense of Wonder (Zoom)

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

**March 7:** Coventry Grange Presents Program (Zoom)

Due to the weather, Vernon Grange had its holiday program "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" on Zoom. We heard the stories of many charming legends about animals at the manger at Christmas, the comfort of predictable Hallmark movies many enjoy, and even sang a few Christmas carols. We still were able to share holiday spirit and even managed to do some cookie swapping the following week. The meeting ended with wishes for a wondrous Christmas filled with the light of the star of wonder, reminding us that we all have that perfect light within us to shine into the world.

We send our condolences to Sister Elizabeth Robertson on the loss of her brother, Robert Smith. Robert was an active, long-time member of Tolland Grange.

Our scheduled meetings will be on Zoom for the next three months. Please join us, we would be glad to send you the link.

May the peace and joy of this holiday season be with you throughout the new year.



**Cannon Grange decorated for the Holidays**

## **Ekonk Grange Peace Flags**



At our recent Eastern CT Pomona Grange meeting, members of Ekonk Grange took part in The Peace Flag Project. One of the ways to part is to make Peace Flags. We chose to display them on a tree we decorated at the Sterling Town Hall for their Holiday Tree Lighting.

Peace Flags provide you with a special way to express some of the most important wishes of your heart. In words or pictures, you can display positive wishes for yourself, your family, friends, community, or the world. You may wish to convey something especially for one person or affirm a concept you would like to see manifested in the world.

Peace Flags were inspired by the Prayer Flags of Tibet. According to ancient tradition, the prayers printed on the flags are carried on the wind. The traditional flags are blue (for sky), white (for air or clouds), red (for fire), green (for water) and yellow (for earth).

We hope the flags provide you with a visual reminder that we live in one world and all share similar hopes and dreams.

## **Ekonk Membership Awards**



**At their December meeting, Ekonk Community Grange honored members for longtime service. L to R: Janet Exley (Golden Sheaf/50 Yrs.); Elena Hermonot (Silver Star/25 yrs.) and Dennis Anhberg (65 yr. seal).**



# 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).



We heard from Robert Warner with the answer to the November issue photo - On the left is Annie Foote and on the right is Robert “Bob” Foote. He believes that the photo was taken in the Hebron Grange Hall in the Gilead section of Hebron.

Charles Dimmick replied to the December photo - “I can’t be certain of this, but the photo looks like a December meeting of Southern Connecticut Past M. Association, and it is possible that the person sitting at the table behind Santa is me, which means it was one of the years that I was President of this association. The other faces look very familiar, but I cannot remember the names.”

We heard from Nancy Hills on the November photo - “Dear friends, I am Nancy Hills. I currently live in NY but am from Thompson, CT. My husband who is from the Gilead section of Hebron, CT took one look at the photo from last month and instantly said “that is Annie Foote (a relative of his) and a friend he grew up with by the name of Bobby Links” both from that area. I hope this helps solve your mystery of who they are! Have a safe and happy holiday season.”



# Community Cookie Plates



## MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

*Corr: Debbie Vail*

I would like to thank all the members who attended the Pomona Grange luncheon and meeting at Winchester Grange celebrating Christmas. A good time was had by all including those on Zoom. We received many donations of mittens, scarves etc. for our areas schools and the pets supplies for Little Guild in West Cornwall. We received many thanks. When Little Guild opens their new building they said they will schedule a visit for us. This will be open to all CT members. If you have any suggestions as to future projects we would love to hear from you.

Hopefully our meetings will grow by each of the Granges in our Pomona send 2 representatives. If you have any questions please give me a call. (860) 482-5077.

## WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

**Jan. 14:** National Soup Month, Ref. Bill & Betty Ahrens

**Jan. 28:** Oatmeal Month, Ref. Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

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

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

Winchester met on Dec. 10 for our annual Christmas Meeting. A good time was had by all with a Christmas Country Store and a \$10 grab bag gift exchange.

Coming up in the new year, Winchester will be trying a Baked Potato Bar event. Stay tuned for more information in the next issue.



**Officers of Taghannuck Grange No. 100 (Sharon) are pictured making 24 cookie plates which were delivered to Social Services in the towns of Sharon and Cornwall and to some shut-in Grange members.**

Winchester Grange wishes everyone a safe, healthy and happy new year.

## TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**Jan. 9:** Wreaths Across America by Bill Dinneen with Ref. by Bill Dinneen

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

**Feb. 13:** Love One Another by Ruth Schnell with Ref. by Ruth Schnell.

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

**Note:** Refreshments and Social Time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

At our December meeting we heard a report about the Mountain Laurel Pomona meeting followed by a discussion of why we have Pomona.

We are again, this being our 19th year, giving dictionaries to the third graders in Sharon, Cornwall, Warren and Kent. Master Chris Hopkins asked for a volunteer for each town to give a presentation this year in each school.

As we do each year, we made up "cookie plates" for Social Services in surrounding towns and for members who can no longer come to meetings. This year we delivered 24 plates.

Then we had our gift exchange with lots of laughs and comradery.

Grange members, from other Granges, have been asking about our dances. You do not need to know how to square or contra dance. The caller will walk everyone through the steps of each dance. If you make a "mistake" it does not matter since the object is to have fun and exercise. I hope to see some of you at our dance on February 1st.

## BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

*Corr: Dorothy Fairchild*

Best wishes for a Healthy and a Happy New Year. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 12.

The Bethlehem Fair will be 100 years old in 2025. Our Bethlehem Grange started this fair in 1925. We are planning an exhibit to highlight the 100 years. Anyone interested in displaying items for this fair, please contact Al Maddox. We are planning to have a gift raffle at the fair also.

## RIVERTON GRANGE #169

*Corr: David Roberts*

**Jan. 3:** Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon (\$5); Noon; Riverton Grange Hall; Goulash; Bingo following lunch

**Jan. 3:** Birthday Potluck Dinner (6:00 PM) & Program (7:00 PM): Riverton Grange's 117th Anniversary

**Jan. 10:** Barkhamsted Seniors

## the Connecticut Granger

luncheon (\$5); 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM; Riverton General Store (members can select either one sandwich, one cup of soup, or one cup of chili and a non-alcoholic drink for \$5)

**Jan. 17:** Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon (\$5); Noon; Riverton Grange Hall; Soup & Sandwich; Bingo following lunch

**Jan. 24:** Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon (\$5); Noon; Riverton Grange Hall; Pizza

**Jan. 31:** Barkhamsted Seniors luncheon (\$5); Noon; Riverton Grange Hall; Meatloaf; Member Meeting following lunch

Happy New Year! We are pleased to report that historic Riverton Grange continues to evolve with the times as we begin a new calendar year. On Thanksgiving Day, members partnered with other community groups to cook turkeys and prepare and deliver meals to 45 seniors in our region. This is the third year our Grange has participated in this initiative to help others enjoy Thanksgiving.

From December 6-8, we participated in Christmas in Riverton with our Annual Tree Festival, wreath and crafts sale. We were also the Wine Tasting Walk start and finish location (all co-chaired by Dawn Anstett and Tim Sweeney). We raised over \$700 and many pounds of non-perishable food for the Barkhamsted Community Food Bank. Many members volunteered to help! On December 20th, SEVEN new regular members joined Riverton Grange and were obligated following a memorable holiday celebration.

Barkhamsted Forks Senior Club (aka Barkhamsted Seniors) continues to rent our hall and is now hosting a public lunch for just \$5 every Friday at Noon. These lunches are open to all and have been an excellent resource for recruiting new members. Twice a month, bingo is offered to all attendees. It is so great to see our hall open and full of people again. Many attendees tell us stories about the “glory days” of Riverton Grange. In addition, AA used our hall for three weeks in December while their usual meeting location was occupied. We continue to look for other partnering

opportunities.

We have begun Phase 1 of our Kitchen Renovation Project (planning, design, pricing) and have raised almost \$4,000 to provide a new kitchen for our use. Once our plans are finalized and our permits secured, we will begin the fundraising phase of this project.

On January 3rd, we will be celebrating Riverton Grange’s 117th Anniversary. Our first Grange organizational meeting in 1908 was an icy night, yet over 30 hearty souls, including my great-grandfather and great-grandmother, braved the weather to start Riverton Grange. Seeing so many families with multiple generations of members still involved with Riverton Grange is fantastic. So, on January 3rd, we will begin with a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM, with members and guests sitting at one of four tables, depending on their birthday. Each table will have attendees sit at their birthday month table. Each table will have a host who will decorate the table for those three months. For example, I will host the October – December table. Following the meal, we will have our regular meeting (both in-person and virtual), and our program will focus on our anniversary.

At the 158th National Grange convention in Bettendorf, Iowa, President Chris Hamp issued a powerful challenge to Granges across the country: Take action to promote food security. This initiative, called Project Sustenance, encourages local Granges to find simple yet impactful ways to contribute to the fight against hunger in their communities. Riverton Grange decided to participate in this challenge by hosting a non-perishable food box on the front porch of our Grange Hall. This simple yet effective initiative was designed to make it easy for community members to donate non-perishable food items as they passed by. It also allowed for the donations to be accessible to anyone, whether they could attend a meeting. The concept was straightforward: provide an open and visible location where people could give, and in turn, those who needed food could benefit from

the generosity of others. The local community has received the project well. It quickly became evident that the most straightforward ideas are sometimes the most effective. The food box filled up soon with donations from Grange members and residents, illustrating that small acts of kindness can ripple into more significant impacts. In addition, the visibility of the food box encouraged conversation about food insecurity and inspired other individuals and organizations in Riverton to think of additional ways to get involved.

### SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

*Corr: Marguerite Smith*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! It’s hard to believe 2024 is gone and 2025 is here - a brand new year full of grange activities and service to our communities.

December 9 - We had the pleasure of welcoming a new grange member at our monthly meeting and will officially welcome them along with one other new member next month. Many of our members contributed items being collected by the Simsbury Public Library to help supply our local food pantry. Personal items along with diapers and non-perishable foods are being donated on behalf of the Simsbury Grange.

Tallying our monthly service hours are now a regular part of our monthly meetings. Members are involved in volunteer opportunities such as Dogstar Rescue, our local food pantry and various church committees among other activities in the Hartford area.

A few ongoing items on our agenda include work needed on the hall floor and how to handle a change in grange phone number for rentals. We continue to discuss future programming around music, dancing, food demos and knitting/crocheting projects that help our community. We will soon be planning our Seed Swap/ Lego Build event currently scheduled for Sunday, March 30. Also up for discussion is featuring a local farm at our June 2025 agricultural fair.

Next meeting - Thursday, January 9, 2025.



# New Sixth Degree Members



## NUTMEG POMONA #16

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

It's hard to report on the activities of the Pomona meeting when you miss the meeting but the grapevine has been great. Members reported a good meeting and delicious refreshments- chili made by a member of Wallingford Grange and delicious sweets made by the members of Cheshire Grange. If you have ever been to Cheshire Grange, you know that is a true statement. They always have plenty of them.

I had car trouble. I think this is the first Pomona meeting I missed in at least 20 years.

In the last Granger I said when we turn the calendar page the conferral of the Fifth Degree was not far away. We are now in 2025 and our next meeting is March 16th. Get your candidates signed up.

In looking through our handbook, I find some interesting programs at the various Granges in Nutmeg Pomona. Cheshire- Feb. 5, "Make Kindness Contagious!", Beacon Valley- Feb. 15 "Snakes" and Greenfield Hill- Feb. 17 "National Cabbage Day" just in time to get you ready for St. Patrick's Day. All Granges love visitors.

## CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**Jan. 1:** Omitted

**Jan. 15:** Agriculture

We held our Christmas program at our December meeting to include a Grab Bag and Card Exchange. The local AA Alkathon will hold their Christmas and New Years events at our hall as they have been doing for



**Members of Greenfield Hill Grange were proud recipients of the Sixth Degree at the 140th Annual Session of the State Grange. From left: Becky Purcell, Janet Rotunda, Charles MacMath, Cathy Raynor, Carol Gudzik, CT State Grange President Robert Buck, Pat Golias and Lori Golias.**

many years. Some of our members attended the December Round Table Pomona Discussion. Nine of us attended the Nutmeg Pomona Christmas meeting and program on December first at our hall.

We all are looking forward to 2025.

## WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Stephen Fengler*

At our November Grange meeting, 146 pounds of holiday sides were collected for Master's Manna. Thank you to our Grangers, for making the Thanksgiving holiday a bit brighter for dozens of families, and thank you to Bill and Kathy Barnes, for bringing the collected holiday sides to Master's Manna.

Wallingford Grange also has had a couple of successful, fun activities recently. First, we had an awesome Night of Wonders Magic Show. This was thanks to the magicians Adam Parisi, David Garrity, Dave Wyskiel, Mike Gagne, and Arthur Guagliumi for memorable performances! Second, many thanks to Chris from Caseus Provisions (aka Crispy Melty grilled cheese sandwiches) for a fun and informative night tasting

cheeses. It was great to learn about the many different types of chesses and the history of cheese while also trying some samples of cheese during the event. Thank you to all who came and contributed to each of these events!

## BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

It seems every time I write the news for the Granger I have to make excuses. Our Christmas Party scheduled for December 13 had to be postponed to Dec. 27th as so many were having problems. LAS Pat Fischer had pneumonia, Secretary Marilyn Maxwell's father William Maxwell, a Golden Sheaf member of Beacon Valley, passed away on Wednesday. Pomona Jean Meehan is scheduled for breast surgery Wednesday and President Joanne has a pulled muscle in her leg and is having pain and trouble getting around.

Our next meeting is Saturday, Jan. 18 at 2:00 PM. The program "Pigs" is in the charge of Jean Meehan, Refreshments by Joanne Cipriano.

The Tag Sale will be held on the

## the Connecticut Granger

same day from 9 AM to 3 PM.

Our sincere sympathies to our Secretary Marilyn Maxwell and her family on the passing of her father William Maxwell. Bill is a Golden Sheaf member and a former member of Prospect Grange.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

*Corr: Jim & Lori Golias*

Greenfield Hill Grange wishes all Grangers and friends a blessed, happy, healthy and prosperous 2025.

Please save the date for:

January 11, 2025 --Planning your Garden. How Does your Garden Grow? This is the first in a bi-monthly series of luncheons with presentations on different aspects of gardening. Look for more dates to come.

We will host our Souper Supper (and Brown Bag Bingo) on January 25 & our Valentine Dinner on February 8th.

All are reservation only events.

Call Jim. 203.259.8023.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**Jan. 10:** It's a New Year

**Jan. 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is omitted.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



The advertisement for 'Good Day!' magazine features a large, stylized title 'Good Day!' with a trademark symbol. To the left is a logo for 'P-H GRANGE' featuring a sheaf of wheat. Below the title, it says 'SUBSCRIBE FOR JUST \$16 A YEAR!' and 'GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OR START YOUR OWN TODAY'. The website [www.nationalgrange.org/goodday](http://www.nationalgrange.org/goodday) is listed. A note mentions that past issues are available digitally at [www.issuu.com/grangegoodday](http://www.issuu.com/grangegoodday). At the bottom, there are four small images of magazine covers: one with a woman's face, one with a garden, one with people at a table, and one with a group of people in front of a building.

## Senexet Winter Festival



**A cozy scene at Senexet Grange (Woodstock) during their annual Winter Festival.**



## IRS 990N A L E R T

A communication has been sent to all Grange Secretaries regarding the annual filing of the 990N E-Postcard with the IRS. We are asking all Granges to respond to this communication no later than:

**JANUARY 31, 2025**

We cannot file your report with the IRS without hearing from your Grange. As part of the filing, we have to certify that your Grange's income for the year is usually less than \$50,000 and is determined on a three year average.

As we file all 990s on behalf of our Granges, we need to be certain we are filing factual information. Failure to file your 990 can result in the forfeiture of your EIN, fines and a costly (in time and money) process to be reinstated.

It is important that you give us your income figures (as requested on the form) for the last three years. We need to see the actual numbers rather than just saying your income is less than \$50,000.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd A. Gelineau, Secretary



Greenfield Hill Grange ~ 1873 Hillside Road ~ Fairfield CT

**FUNDRAISER**

## Souper Supper Fundraiser

**Soup, Bingo and Souper Prizes!**

**January 25, 2025**

**Dinner at 6:00**  
Doors open at 5:30

Featuring a variety of delicious soups & Grilled Cheese Soda Coffee & Dessert


**\$20.00 per person includes Brown Bag Bingo**

Call Jim 203.259.8023  
Or Steve 203.367.4373  
for reservations and info

**This will be a RESERVATION ONLY event ~ reservations must be made one week in advance.**

Cut off to reserve January 20

Come One, Come All, INVITE A FRIEND



**BINGO**

[www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange](https://www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange)  
[@GHGrangeFfld](https://www.instagram.com/GHGrangeFfld)

# Chess Nerds

First Saturdays, 9 -11 am  
All levels welcome!

**Wallingford Grange**  
586 Center St  
Wallingford CT




## Sound Healing & Reiki

Toni McGovern, Yoga & Sound Healing Instructor, and Barbara Stainton, RN & Reiki Master

**Sunday, January 12, 2 to 3 pm**

**\$20, limited seating**

**Wallingford Grange**  
586 Center St  
Wallingford




**GET ON BOARD!**



**Carnival GIFT CARD**

**15th Annual National Grange Convention**  
November 8-10, 2025  
CONAUE, CONNCTO

**SET SAIL FOR THE 2025 NATIONAL GRANGE CONVENTION ~ AT SEA!**

## 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)



## 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)

**JANUARY 11**  
**PLANNING YOUR GARDEN**

**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.

**Future Discussion Topics:**

3/29	PLANTING SEEDS INDOORS
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

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

**\$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 BOLINS 203 259-8023

**PARKING IN REAR OF THE GRANGE BUILDING**

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

## Hatred and Love



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

*Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses. Proverbs 10:12*

*If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20*

The older I get the more I appreciate the wisdom contained in the Book of Proverbs. It took me many years of experiencing life to finally be convinced without doubt that hating someone else does more harm to me than it does to the other person. And even more years than that to realize that mere indifference to someone else was not a suitable substitute for hatred, but that one should go beyond that state of mind to an attempt to love other people that one might otherwise instinctively hate or dislike. By "love" I mean that word which the Greeks call "Agape", selfless, unconditional love. I'm still working on putting that into practice, so don't expect to see a halo on me yet. But slowly but surely I'm moving in that direction. It isn't easy.



The above wisdom also applies when one encounters someone who, for no fault of your own, shows hatred towards you. The most famous quote concerning this problem comes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who wrote: "Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." This was part of a longer statement, where he wrote: **"Returning hate for hate only multiplies hate, adding a deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that."**

What does hating another person do to your own mental health? When you hate others that hatred can significantly negatively impact your own mental health. Hate leads to increased stress, anxiety, depression, and even physical health issues. Continual hatred causes a constant release of stress hormones. Holding onto hate can be detrimental to your overall well-being.

Finally, when others, particularly members of your own family or close friends, observe your hatred towards some people, it also affects your friends and family negatively. It is similar to what happens to the family of an alcoholic or addict, who end up suffering from being near the addicted individual through no fault of their own.

So, for your own good and the good of society learn to return hate with love.

## In Memoriam

**Gary Brown**  
Whigville Grange #48

**Mary (Sturm) Sullivan**  
Winchester Grange #74

**William Maxwell, G.S.**  
Beacon Valley Grange #103

**Patricia Schach Van Wittenau**  
North Stonington  
Community Grange #138

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