



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

August 2020

Moving forward



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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As we enter the dog days of summer, COVID-19 is still the main topic of discussion which will impact our State Session in October. As of mid-July, we are planning to hold a one-day session on Saturday, October 17 beginning at 10:00 A.M. The officers and staff, such as deputies and spouses, will meet in-person at Ekonk Community Grange and delegates will join in virtually via Zoom. Unfortunately this year's session will only be open to officers and delegates. The Session will open in the Fourth Degree to conduct our business. Reports will be given by the Master, Overseer, Treasurer, Secretary, Lecturer, Executive Committee and Membership Director. In the afternoon, we will have a memorial service, adopt a budget, work on resolutions, hear the results of the officers election and finally the installation of officers.

The Election of Officers will be done before the session but will not be counted until the day we meet in October. The Secretary will mail out suggestion forms to the delegates for them to nominate who they would like to see in all positions. After they are returned to the Secretary, a ballot will be generated and sent out again to all the delegates to vote for one person in each office. It will be in an envelope that will be opened by the counters the day of the session.

This is a new way to vote on the officers for the coming two years. Let's hope this works. There will be no Sixth Degree this year. This is all a new format for us so let's work together and see if we can get that one day session completed and get back to normal next year in 2021.

These are our plans as of August 1. We will wait and see what happens with this virus in the coming months. If the governor decides to close the state down again, we will do the whole session with officers and delegates as a virtual meeting.

On July 12 we held a State

Officers, Deputy and Committee Directors informational meeting. I was very pleased with the turnout. I am planning to have two additional meetings on Sunday, August 16 and Sunday, September 13 allowing the officers and delegates to get used to the Zoom format and to prepare for the upcoming session in October. Both meetings will begin at 7:00 P.M. Delegates, State Officers, Directors will automatically receive the credentials for joining the meeting. If you are interested in attending (open to all), please contact Faith Quinlan at 518-698-2785 or email: membership@ctstategrange.org.

Some dates to remember- get
...Continued on page three

Welcome Grange apprentices

*By Faith Quinlan,
State Membership Director*

We proudly welcome our three new Simsbury Grange Farmer Apprentices! Sue Masino of Simsbury Grange was able to get funding for this program and candidates were selected through an application process. This program helps farmers and our communities at a time when they are most in crisis.

MARGARET REED

Margaret Reed is a teaching professional in the Hartford Public Schools and lives in Torrington. She is working at George Hall Farm (www.georgehallfarm.com/) helping at the farm for many years and has learned many helpful and interesting things about agriculture. She came to the farm when she was having difficulty with her own garden and she finally gave up because she had enough of the woodchuck who kept

...Continued on page three



Margaret Reed is shown trimming and drying shallots. In the background is garlic prepared the previous week.



THE CONNECTICUT GRANGER
60 YEARS
1960-2020

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

**NEXT ISSUE ...
Articles Due July 15**



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

Love where you live

Connecticut Granges are finding ways to social distance, remain safe and clean up the streets, beaches, parks and community areas of our usually beautiful state. At this time of year hosting a cleanup is a great way to get involved in our community, and a great way to get your community involved in Grange activities.

Hosting a cleanup can feel pretty daunting, but I'm hoping I can break it down into a few simple steps to get you ready to organize by setting you up with the supplies you need and marketing to increase community participation.

To begin: Where in your community is clean-up most needed? What day would be best to schedule that clean-up for the largest percent of your Grange volunteers? September and October are good because of weather being cooler and it gives us time to gather volunteers.

If you choose a weekend day you may have the best day to for availability amongst your community

You are not arranging this alone. You have a partner, the Membership Committee, to help you with supplies like pickers, gloves, trash bags and masks. We

will also work with the volunteers as a contact person and help to arrange with whatever entity may need to be contacted or arrangements made to get the job done.

We can contact the public works department. The public works department typically handles illegal dumping which is tied to cleaning up. They can sometimes point us in the right direction of where to go to rent or borrow things like pickers and gloves. Also, let's find out who our local volunteer groups are so I can request their assistance. You might find there's a group who specializes in cleaning up we can partner with.

We will need to know where the trash is going and arrange who is going to pick it up and take it and where they will take it. If you don't already know I will contact your local waste management facility. Usually pick-up can be arranged for

free.

We will also want to consider where there may be bathrooms. If you're cleaning up a park or a beach, there's probably public bathrooms available, but we need to check if they are open during these times. This piece is not critical but helpful in our planning.

Lastly, something to consider is should we offer refreshments? These Granges and Community Volunteers came all the way to help you with your clean-up. It'd be really nice to have something to offer them

as snacks. Something they can take with them or if there is a space at the park where everyone can eat and stay distant. It also goes a long way in helping to recruit people coming to your clean-up. If you have any bakers at your Grange this is a nice way to include them



in the event.

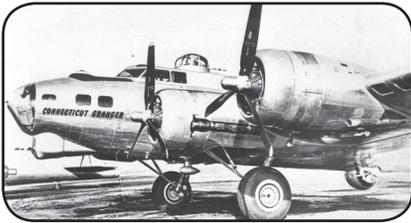
Once you've made your decisions and you are ready for me to get started please call or email me with the following details:

- What Grange or Granges are involved?
- Where's do you plan to clean-up?
- What day and time?
- Rain or shine?
- In what town is the clean-up located?
- At this moment do you know how many at your Grange are willing to help?

We can definitely discuss how to attach a fundraiser to this event as many Granges have a need to raise money as well as continue their Grange work in these unprecedented days. I ask you to kindly email me at Membership@CTStateGrange.org or call/ text me at 518-698-2785.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Treasurer Jody Cameron
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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
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Simsbury Grange apprentices

Continued from page one...

eating everything! Margaret was even a camper at our own Camp Berger in her youth.

She signed up for the CSA because it was organic and in time developed a friendship with the father, Mr. Hall. Over the past 25 years she has developed a friendship with Darren Hall and she explains how things are very different now and Corona has changed things so much. CSAs are delivered to people wearing masks and gloves. I asked her about something she finds interesting or surprising about her work at the farm and she mentioned that so much of the crop can't be sent to market or event to CSAs because it is oversize or "ugly" or "weird" in appearance. Things need to look a certain way or people do not want them.

She is very proud of this farm. When organic is a term that has been stretched from the original meaning it is good to get your food from an ethical farm. Margaret told me she thinks people should understand why organic produce is higher in price. She has learned that keeping the soil clean and organic is difficult and time consuming and contributes to the higher price. She is there 3-5 days a week depending on their need and enjoys what she call the "after hours" tips to growing success she has been sworn to secrecy to keep.

When asked about her long-range plans as it relates to agriculture and farming she said she would like to start a Grange in Hartford. She believes that people need to know where food comes from. She would want this Grange to be a place to teach people, a place where people learn where their food comes from and to teach children about plants. Hartford has a large population of people of color and people who have lives their entire lives in the city or urban areas and have not been exposed to farms or planting and growing in a relatable way. She says that she believes if a farmer

came to talk to the kids about his plants or better yet brought them to the farm, "Kids are hungry to learn about farming." She would choose Darren Hall to be the teacher.

I am excited to keep working with Margaret to make that Grange a reality and collaborate with farmers and the community to create a rich educational program for adults and children. We are wishing Margaret continued success through the season and maybe if we're lucky she will give up some hints we can use in our own gardens.

KOEHLEY CZECH

Koehley Czech, of Cromwell, CT, is a UConn student working on a double major in Environmental Science and Sustainable Plant and Soil Systems. She works at George Hall Farm, www.georgehallfarm.com/, picking crops, irrigation, cleaning, weeding and some planting. She does a lot of work for the CSA program and getting things ready to bring to market. The CSA program sold out this year. She has been most surprised at the volume of work and amount of time it takes to get things picked and cleaned. She has spent many hours picking squash and cucumbers. At a young age Koehley became a vegetarian and her interest in organic and safer farming grew. She hopes to use her apprenticeship to learn more about what is done in farming and why it is done so that she can help develop systems that help the farmer, earth, humans and animals. It is a pleasure to have her working in the apprentice program and we are excited to follow and support her as she continues in agriculture. Wishing her a great season and best of luck as she completes her degree.

JACK GALT

Jack Galt is a high school junior at Simsbury High School and is working with Flamig Farm in West Simsbury (flamigfarm.com). He has been helping with maintenance projects. He has an interest in mechanical work and is looking to get a degree



Koehley Czech shows off some tomatoes at George Hall Farm.

in Mechanical Engineering when he graduates high school. Flamig Farm owners Julie & Nevin Christensen are members of Simsbury Grange. Their farms has a memorable EGGS sign on the roof of their barn, they have a petting zoo, pony rides and many events plus products for sale. We wish Jack a great season with the Flamig Farm and all the best for his future!

State Master

Continued from page one...

your community service books to Noel Miller by September 1 and all resolutions should be sent to the secretary by September 15. Any Grange resolutions received after that will be returned to the Grange for submission at a future session. The CWA Sewing and Craft contests have also been canceled for this year. We will have the Honor Grange awards so I need a count of the virtual meetings by September 1st. Honor Pomona will not be awarded this year.

As I end this month's column, this is not the way we would like to run our State Session but with the pandemic still active in our state, we feel this is the safest way that we can do it and still get the job done! So bear with us and hopefully 2021 will be a better year.



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Aug. 6: Short Business Meeting, 6:00 P.M. followed by our annual picnic.

Sept. 3: Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Installation of Officers, Ref. Ann & Dan Posuniak

As I am writing this we still do not know if we will be meeting at the Masonic Hall. I have written to all the officers and members who attend our meetings and asked if

they thought it possible for us to meet and be able to observe all of the necessary guidelines passed down by the Governor. As of today, July 9th, no reply. Time will tell.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

We continue to try to stay connected with the community. We are working together to keep the hall taken care of. Keeping the bills paid and staying in touch with members. We were thankful to see the executive order from the Governor giving the waiver to the organizations to not have an agricultural fair. This is very important for us. Having a Grange fair in the past has shown our town what is being done in our organization. Our young members want to see us open the hall for activities. There are lots of things they can do to support the membership. We all miss seeing our members in our hall but we shall meet again as soon as it is safe to do so. Our regular meetings are

the third Wednesday of the month.

NORTH STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Aug. 14: Memorial Service

Aug. 28: Lecturer's Program, State Contest Entry

As we have not been meeting these past months we have missed some important programs. At the first August meeting, Sue will be combining the April and May programs, honoring our longtime members and those members who have moved on to the Great Grange in the Sky. She will be presenting her entry in the Lecturer's State contest at the second August meeting. She has come in first the last few years and we are confident this will be another winner. Hope to see a good crowd there- practicing social distancing, of course! And if we could just get a little rain so the earthworms will come out and join my worm farm, next time we will tell you about jolly July.

Thank You



We the members of Ekonk Community Grange would like to say a heart-felt THANK YOU to our secretary Sue Gray. She has decided to not take another term as secretary after 49 years in that position. She leaves a very big job to fill and will be missed in that position. WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL GRANGER. Best wishes in your retirement.

Ekonk Grange gives thanks



As a special thank you, Ekonk Community Grange #89 in Sterling provided pizza for the Sterling and Oneco Fire Companies. Thank you essential workers!

No shortage of work to do in the office



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

There are many topics to cover in this month's article so I've broken them down into separate topics.

THANK YOU

I would be remiss if I did not mention the retirement of one of our longest serving Subordinate Grange Secretaries... Sue Gray of Ekonk Community Grange #89. Sister Gray has served her Community Grange for 49 years in the office of Secretary. An amazing achievement all by itself that is all the more impressive considering that during much of this time Brother Russell Gray was making his journey through the chairs of the State Grange, finally arriving at the Master's Station with Sister Sue at his side as First Lady. I'm sure all of you join me in thanking her for her service to the Grange and hope she will enjoy "retirement." That word is kind of misleading in the Grange. No one ever really retires in the Grange. There's always something more to do!

QUARTERLY REPORTS

Thank you to all of the Granges who have caught up on their Quarterly Reports since the last issue. The list was considerable and we understand that COVID-19 has delayed things considerably. There are still a number of Granges still outstanding. I hope they will be working on their reports and will get them in to me soon. The next quarterly will be due on SEPTEMBER 30. Not too far away. It's difficult when reports are filed late because that next one is right on its heels.

As mentioned previously, outstanding Granges will not be able to participate in the election or have their delegates seated at State Session until all dues are paid up to the June 30 report.

ELECTIONS

The State Master has talked about the elections in his column but I wanted to touch on it a bit more. All delegates (registered as of August 1, 2020) should have received their packets containing the suggestion forms for the election. Delegates are not required to make suggestions. However, all delegates should have the opportunity to do so if they desire, just like our usual in-person elections. This will serve as a sort of "dry run" for the balloting which will take place a little later. Please fill out your suggestion form and return it in the stamped and addressed envelope provided. ONLY this suggestion form, printed on security paper and mailed in with the envelope provided will be accepted as a proper suggestion. All other forms of suggestions (copies, photos of the form, emails, telephoned messages) will not be accepted. This will be the case as well when the actual election ballots are sent out in September.

Once the suggestions are received in the State Office, I will compile a ballot which will go to the State Master. He will then contact each member suggested for office and ask them to accept or decline the suggestion. If they accept, they will be listed on the ballot. If they decline, they will not be listed. If your suggestion does not appear on the final ballot, this likely means the suggestion was declined.

The envelopes are coded. The suggestion forms and ballots are not. The codes allow me to track which Granges have responded to the suggestions and check for duplicate forms.

The election ballots will be mailed by the delegates directly to the Election Chairperson, Maureen Prelli, who will only know which Granges received ballots and how many delegates each Grange has. She will not know or receive the names of the delegates, preserving the secret ballot.

The ballots will not be opened

until the day of State Session when they will be tallied by Sister Maureen's committee. The results will be reported directly to the Session, much in the same way we do during an in-person session.

VIRTUAL DELEGATES

We asked delegates (when filling out the registration form) if they would be willing to attend virtually or in-person. There were several delegates who responded they would not do either OR they would like to do all voting through the mail. Unfortunately we cannot do all voting through the mail. The election is the only part of session that will be done this way.

All delegates, other than those who serve as State Officers or Deputies, will have to participate in the Session through Zoom. This is the only way we can keep the number of people in Ekonk Grange Hall below the 25 mark set by the Governor.

Keep in mind, this is the number as I write this on August 1. This could increase in the meantime, or the Governor could close the state down at any time including the day of State Session. So we have to be prepared at all times to shift gears and move to a 100% virtual session if it becomes necessary.

Joining the meeting through Zoom can be done via video link OR through a phone call using a number we will provide. So technology should not be a tremendous hurdle.

The State Master has set up two Zoom meetings on Sunday, August 16 and Sunday, Sept. 13 at 7:00 P.M. All delegates will automatically receive the information needed to attend. Others interested, should contact Faith Quinlan at 518-698-2785 or at Membership@CTStateGrange.org to receive the electronic invitation to attend. This will be a great opportunity to "get your feet wet" and find out the latest developments regarding State Session and the State Grange.

Until next time... enjoy the rest of your summer and stay well!



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

As soon as there is news regarding a meeting of the Pomona we will get that out to you through the Granger and our Secretary Carol Jean Swanson. Until then, enjoy the summer and keep safe!

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

The Whigville Grange has started holding meetings again. The new well is in, thanks to the Whigville Preservation group's efforts. Through the kindness of a local Eagle Scout, Albert, the interior has been painted. His project included new curtains as well. Our next meeting is August 19 at 7:00 P.M. This is one week later than usual. Everyone is welcome, as we can certainly social distance! We have held a successful "no bake" bake sale. This involved contacting members and friends who usually support our efforts, and asking them to donate what they would have spent. No pie day this summer to prepare the delicious pies we offer at our fair and Burlington Tavern Day. Stay safe brothers and sisters. May your gardens thrive, but not your weeds!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

As of this writing, a decision for the first in-person meeting of Winchester Grange has not been made but we will keep you all posted. Earlier, we did hold a virtual meeting on Zoom to resolve some business that's been hanging since

March and to select delegates for State Session.

Winchester declined the offer of Eureka Grange hall with too much risk involved in managing another hall while trying to sell it. We did vote to welcome any and all members of Eureka Grange who wish to join our Grange. Winchester and Eureka Granges have always been close so it's more like family for both Granges.

Todd Gelineau and Sandy Phillips will represent Winchester at the upcoming one-day session of the State Grange in October.

Until next time... stay well!

TAGHHANUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Taghhannuck Grange has been holding our monthly meetings via Zoom. As the months progress and our members get used to this new normal, members participation has increased each time.

Rightfully Hers



Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

Going through some files, I located these photos of William Gardiner (left) and Bud Beecher(right) and Betty Jane Gardiner (left) and Marion Beecher doing one of their classic skits. This one involved women's right to vote at the 1989 New England Lecturer's Conference. 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote. This anniversary is being promoted with displays being distributed by the National Archives to organizations throughout the

We are very happy to announce that at our July meeting we had the obligation ceremony for two new members. They are a welcome addition to our Grange and both are very active in community service. Also, a new application for membership was approved.

Our Master and Secretary were chosen as delegates to the 2020 Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange. It will be different this year.

August 13- Our meeting will again be a virtual Zoom meeting. There will be a short program about Lamas/Midsummer Celebrations.

August 27: This was going to be our annual picnic. Instead of the picnic the members at our July meeting agreed that a donation of food or money would be given individually to local food banks in their area in the name of the Grange. A notice will be sent to all members about this and we hope to have everyone participate.



country. The exhibit "Rightfully Hers" is available at Granges in Connecticut. The photo here, shows the exhibit in the Winchester Center Post Office in the Winchester Grange Hall. The State Grange has two more exhibits available to Granges that may want to display them in their communities in Post Offices, Libraries, local businesses, town halls, etc. Contact State Secretary Todd Gelineau at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or by calling 860-307-1522 to learn more. *Thanks to Lois Evankow for providing Beecher/Gardiner photos.*



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Master Donald Lanoue and Treasurer Marge Bernhardt will be our delegates to the Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange. I'm sure they will keep us informed about what happened.

Sorry to hear that Marge Bernhardt has had a stay at the hospital but is now home as I am writing this. We wish her a speedy recovery.

As I have written for the last few months, we will let you know when the next meeting is scheduled in plenty of time to add to your schedule. Until we are able to meet together again, stay healthy.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We are still collecting for our tag and rummage sale which we plan to have as soon as things open up.

Our Delegates for the State Session are Master Joanne Cipriano and Secretary Cindy Legg. This will be quite a new experience as the Session is going to be both virtual and both of us are computer illiterate.

Our sincerest sympathies are extended to Ellen and William Brush and family on the passing of their son Andrew. Our prayers are with all the Brush family.

No meetings have been scheduled at present. We will keep you informed. And quoting from the Irish blessing "Until we meet again – May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Sept. 3: Guess What?

Congrats to all the recent grads who missed formal graduation ceremonies, proms and parties.

As of today, the start of the second week in July, Connecticut should be proud of themselves. Between masks and social distancing our COVID-19 cases continue to decline. However, in the next couple of weeks we will hear about the celebrations of the Fourth of July. Maybe it will still decline.

We have listened to our Governor and health professionals in Washington and it has been working.

Miss everyone. Can't wait until we get the O.K. to get back to normal. Our fairgrounds have been mowed. Thanks everyone.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Aug. 14: Camping/Boating

Aug. 28: Omitted unless regular meeting is cancelled

Sept. 11: Installation

Sept. 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Aug. 5: Business Meeting

Aug. 19: Social Meeting

Aug. 10: GOMAD, 6-9 PM

Aug. 31: GOMAD, 6-9 PM

Oxford Grange resumed its bimonthly meetings in July meeting, and immediately began planning for fundraising events by fall. Our focus has changed slightly with a change in leadership, but the mission remains the same. One goal of our order that we aim to push is marketing the Grange more aggressively in town by our involvement, events, and outreach. We need to attract attention and people to the hall and encourage them to be involved. Our new members, Tanya and Ed Carver, will lead us to a degree in these aims. While closed down from March through June, bills were paid, and matters concerning the hall addressed. GOMAD has resumed with proper social distancing, masks as desired, and sanitary procedures (no shared snacks or other food, BYOS(nacks)). There will be two events per month through the summer in the gazebo on the second and final Fridays from 6-9 PM. Come and join us.

WHAT DOES
We're in this together
MEAN TO YOU?

.....

"Being "In this together" means we all coexist in the same space. It is incumbent upon each of us to look out for the welfare of all of us...Above all, we must respect one another. That's what being "in this together" means to me."

-Michael Martin, Valley Grange #1360

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ORDER YOUR SHIRT TODAY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

SEE ORDER INFO IN CAPTION

Looking for a way to put the "unity" in Community? We still have "We're in this Together" t-shirts left! Go to <https://inthistogethershirt.weebly.com>



Zoom Etiquette: Tips to look like a pro

Terri Fassio, PR Co-Director

With many Granges holding virtual meetings on platforms like Zoom, Skype, Go To Meeting, Adobe Connect and Facebook Messenger Rooms, it becomes increasingly important for participants to not only be able to navigate the technical waters, but look like a pro while doing it. If you are new to virtual meetings, it can be a jarring experience versus in-person meetings until you get used to it. Practicing good virtual etiquette is crucial to a successful meeting.

When talking face-to-face is a necessity (or face to screen in this case) - here's some tips and guidelines that participants can easily achieve to help turn the meeting from a train wreck to a positive experience.

-- Use the video option if possible so people can see you. We know that not all users have computers with cameras, or even tablets like iPads or smart phones. But when those who do are able to use the video option successfully, it helps to make the meeting a more visual and socially comfortable experience. Unless you have bandwidth or internet problems, don't hide.

-- Test your camera and connection ahead of time. Don't wait until 5 minutes before the meeting to try out your camera and the software for the first time. All of the various virtual platforms give you the ability to test your camera and audio to ensure the image being projected and the sound quality are acceptable.

-- Dress for the occasion - at least from the top up. You wouldn't wear your pajamas or your bathing suit - or even just your underwear - to a regular Grange meeting. Be sure to be dressed appropriately during virtual meetings. Remember - others CAN see you.

-- Make the area around you more appealing. This is called staging. Remember, everyone can see not only you, but the area that comes into the view of your camera. People are nosy and want to see what else is in your area. This includes directly behind you, and at least a few feet on either side of you. No one wants others to see unfolded laundry, an unmade bed, a messy office, or an overflowing garbage pail. A bookcase, wall art, a blank wall or plants look nice while on camera and are not distracting to others. If you are technically savvy, Zoom allows users to change their background to a pre-determined virtual photo or video. This is how all the professionals have you thinking they are in a studio, but they are really at home.

-- Keep lighting in mind. Professionals always use lights to illuminate themselves when on camera to eliminate shadows. You don't have to have professional lighting equipment to achieve the same effect. Remember that more light is better - but the light needs to be in front of you (behind the camera) and not behind you. When light is behind you, this is called backlighting, and will actually make it more difficult to see you. Also - be sure not to sit in front of a window. If moving away from the window is not an option, draw the blinds, shade or drapes closed.

-- Don't get too close to the camera. Position yourself far enough away from the camera so you are viewed from the waist or chest up, not just your face. This is more natural for others watching you. This is especially important if you talk or gesture with your hands. If the camera is too close, your hands won't be seen.

-- Be sure to join the meeting at least 5-10 minutes early. This

allows time for everyone to chat and get comfortable BEFORE the meeting starts, not interrupting the business at hand. If you are the host, be sure to give your members enough time to connect and get comfortable.

-- Try to look at the camera. This is especially important if you are speaking. It might take a bit to get used to looking at the camera and not the picture on the screen. Looking into the camera gives the appearance of having eye contact with those you are talking to, and that you are engaged in the conversation. Place your camera at eye level instead of above you facing down or below you facing up. This makes looking into the camera easy and seamless, and as a bonus helps hide a double chin!

-- Be conscientious of your actions while on camera. Don't keep rustling papers, eat your dinner or a snack, corral your kids, check your cell phone, move in and out of the camera's view, or even get up and walk away then come back into view. "For Lizzie Post, the author of *Higher Etiquette* and the great-great-granddaughter of Emily Post, coffee, or tea are OK, but 'slurping' definitely isn't."⁽¹⁾ The meeting will not last very long, so plan ahead when it comes to bathroom breaks, meals, and preparation of notes, agendas, and other necessary items. Also - refrain from private behavior - i.e. scratching your armpits and picking your nose. Others can see you!

-- Virtual Meetings can be boring. You might be tired, or not interested, but remember that people can see your actions. Actions from yawning to facial expressions are magnified. Since you're on camera, you want to at least look like you're paying attention. Support your fellow members through non-verbal cues that you are in the moment. Nod your head, smile, laugh when appropriate, give a thumbs up, etc. Others will be able to read your body language and appreciate your responsiveness. Also, when the meeting is over, be

...Continued next page

Zoom Etiquette

Continued from previous page...

sure to exit politely not abruptly. Waving goodbye has become the standard. The host of the meeting should be the last one out and close the connection - as if they are shutting off the lights.

-- The mute button is your best friend. Unless you are the person talking, keep your connection on mute at all times. Barking dogs and screaming kids are annoying to others. Muting allows for others to speak without hearing any background noise from your connection. It also helps to eliminate people talking over each other, making it easier to hear and understand each person.

-- Most importantly, relax. Technical glitches happen. Forgetting to mute and your dog starts barking happens. Your cat hijacking the picture happens. UPS deliveries happen. Kids running in and out of the room happens. Be understanding with yourself and others, and laugh it off. Accept what happens and roll with it, then move forward.

Practicing good etiquette when attending virtual Grange meetings is important to ensuring that meetings are efficient and thus valuable. It also ensures that you come across positive to other Grange members.

For assistance setting up a virtual meeting for your Grange, contact CT State Grange Membership Director Faith Quinlan at membership@ctstategrange.org.

If you or your Grange needs additional assistance, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

Sources:

(1)<https://digiday.com/marketing/dont-lurk-dont-eat-please-mute-the-new-etiquette-rules-of-zoom/>

<https://www.gend.co/blog/best-practice-tips-for-using-zoom>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/seven-rules-of-zoom-meeting-etiquette-from-the-pros-11594551601>



We hope you will join us for a movie while remaining socially distant on Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 from 7:30-10:00 P.M. As the Annual Fair and events have been cancelled due to COVID-19, this is an important fundraiser for the Grange. All donations and proceeds will support Greenfield Hill Grange #133. Family donation of \$20 is suggested. Concession stand will be open offering popcorn, soda, water, candy and snacks.

I am here to help you



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer
Cheshire Grange #23
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

GREETINGS – Another month has gone by and we are still in the midst of the unknown. Hopefully your Grange has been able to meet, either in person or via ZOOM.

As of today (July 15th) the information is still the same in the Lec-

turer's Department. Please, just remember if you have any questions to call me. I am here to help you.

My next Newsletter is scheduled to be out on September 1st. Included with this will be a revised form for all Lecturers to fill out. This will cover all of our contests and projects and will be due on October 1st – the same date as the Essays and Complete Programs are due.

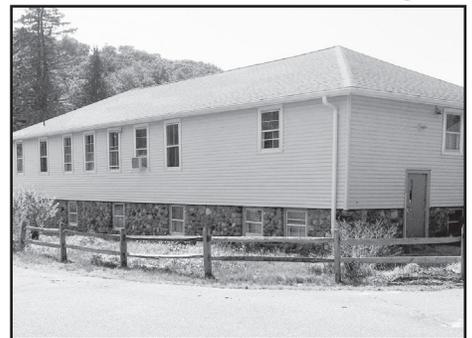
Take Care. Stay Safe.

Thank You

THANK YOU. I sincerely appreciate all the cards I have received from Grangers and Granges around the State. Every single one of them has meant a lot to me. Grangers are wonderful people and great friends. Thank You.

...Marge Bernhardt

Oxford Grange



Dan Golias and Rob Buck worked to replace broken and rotted rails in the Grange split rail fence around the back of the hall and down the side. Just a few more sections in front. Rena found the rails on her postal route and got them for free. I believe Glenn retrieved them in his pickup. Thanks to you all for getting the materials and Dan for all the work; also to Kathy for bringing us sandwiches to eat. It's looking much better now with an intact fence mostly repaired.

National Grange leery of drug price controls

Washington, DC (July 24, 2020)

Today, the National Grange released the following statement expressing concern with the Trump Administration's announced executive order on implementation of an International Pricing Index.

National Grange President Betsy Huber said in the statement: "The National Grange, on behalf of rural communities across the United States, is urging the Trump Administration to reconsider its proposed Executive Order that would implement an International Pricing Index (IPI), importing price controls and restrictive health care systems from foreign countries. While we support the Administration's effort to lower health care costs, the IPI



model will not directly reduce out-of-pocket costs for patients but instead restrict patient access to essential treatments and medication. There are better ways to cut drug costs – a serious concern for our nation's most vulnerable populations including America's rural citizens and agricultural producers. Furthermore, this change would compound issues already affecting rural communities. In a recent 2020 Rural Health Report, we provide a thorough review of health care in rural communities before

and during COVID-19. This report highlights the systemic issue of rural health disparities, and implementing IPI will increase those disparities and only create new health care obstacles in rural areas. We urge the administration to instead focus on policies that expand rather than take away resources for those most vulnerable populations and improve rather than stunt innovation that can improve care for all patients. This is especially important as our nation is in the grips of a pandemic the likes of which we have never before experienced, when we have called on our pharmaceutical researchers and manufacturers to bring about solutions in innovative ways."

National management of acute/chronic pain

The following is a letter sent by the National Grange to Sandra Cushman, Executive Secretary of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta regarding access to care and pain management.

The National Grange is the oldest general farm and rural life organization in the United States. Now in its 153rd year, the Grange has worked on the local, state and national level to address the needs and concerns of its members, their friends and neighbors, and their communities. The health concerns of rural America have been and remain one of our organization's highest priorities. The impact of dealing with chronic pain is no exception.

Pain management is a very real challenge for patients, caregivers, and clinicians everywhere, but life in rural areas presents additional obstacles including a higher incidence of arthritis; a higher percentage of older adults; fewer practitioners, especially those providing specialty care; the need for patients to travel longer distances to get care; the closing of many rural medical facilities; and limitations

to broadband access which restricts the use of telemedicine options. We believe that every discussion involving rural health must first begin with acknowledgement that rural Americans face these disparities.

The statistics relating to access to care are startling:

Percentage of Americans living in rural areas: 20%

Percentage of physicians practicing in rural areas: 12%

Percentage of specialists practicing in rural areas: 8%

Primary Care Physicians per 100K urban dwellers: 53.3

Primary Care Physicians per 100K rural dwellers: 39.8

Specialty care physicians per 100K urban dwellers: 263

Specialty care physicians per 100K rural dwellers: 30

Another aspect of our concern is that rural America has tragically and devastatingly been affected by the opioid crisis. Identifying and supporting effective ways to address it is a health imperative. In that regard, it is important to keep in mind some data from the 2016 CDC

National Health Interview Survey. It found that 24% of rural adults suffered from chronic pain (18% in urban areas). Rural America clearly has an exceptionally high percentage of adults suffering from chronic pain and a great shortage of health care clinicians, particularly specialists including those who deal with pain and addiction. We see this nexus as one of the causative factors that must be addressed. There is such a need for new therapies, new medicines, access to care through telemedicine and other innovations that can deal effectively and safely with the issue of chronic pain. Special attention should also be given to understanding why a greater percentage of rural adults experience this serious condition.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our interest and concern and our willingness to work with educational and research institutions, government agencies, non-profit groups and rural Americans to finding new solutions.

Respectively Submitted,
Betsy Huber, President
The National Grange



Creamy Broccoli Slaw

When the temperature rises, the last thing most people want to do is cook dinner over a hot stove, or turn on the oven and heat up the kitchen. This recipe for Creamy Broccoli Slaw from Southern Living is not only easy, but a perfect side dish to everything from BBQ grillin' favorites to deli sandwiches.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup chopped toasted pecans
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 1/2 cup chopped scallions
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons grated lemon zest plus 2 Tbsp. fresh juice (from 3 lemons)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 (12-oz.) pkg. broccoli slaw mix

INSTRUCTIONS:

Stir together mayonnaise, pecans, raisins, scallions, vinegar, lemon zest and juice, salt, and pepper in a large bowl until combined. Add slaw mix; toss gently until thoroughly coated. Refrigerate 30 minutes. Toss gently and serve.

SOURCE: <https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/creamy-broccoli-slaw>

National Quilt Block Contest

RULES:

The National Grange Quilt Block Contest is open to everyone. All contest entries must be received by the National Grange Lecturer by Oct. 31, 2020.

Send entries to:

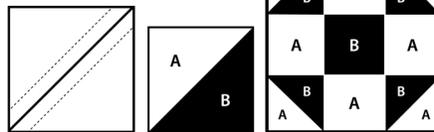
Christine Hamp, National Lecturer
16418 N. Birdie Road
Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026

Any entries received after the deadline will not be judged.

The quilt block you enter in the contest for judging must be made by you.

There is no limit on the number of quilt blocks a person may submit, but choose one quilt block per person to be judged.

All entries will be retained by the National Grange to be made into finished quilts and other items to be



sold at a later date to raise funds for the Grange Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity.

A 2020 Quilt Block Contest Entry Form must be completed for the block to be judged.

Groups:

Group I: Adult (Age 14+)

Group II: Junior (Age 13 and under)

Group III: Men (Age 14+)

PRIZES:

Monetary prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each group. Ribbons will be awarded to all entrants.

Color:

Each block should incorporate teal or turquoise

Fabric A: use a light color

Fabric B: use a dark color

Fabric:

All fabric used should be cotton

Constructing the Quilt Block:

Fabric A: Cut four (4) 4-1/2" squares and two (2) 5-1/2" squares

Fabric B: Cut one (1) 4-1/2" square and two (2) 5-1/2" squares

Place a 5-1/2" square A and a 5-1/2" square B with right sides together. Make a pencil line diagonally on back of fabric. Sew a 1/4" seam on both sides of the line. See diagram 1 (dotted lines are sewing lines). Repeat with other set of 5-1/2" squares. Cut on pencil line and press toward the dark fabric. Now trim the four (4) A/B blocks to measure 4-1/2" square. See Diagram 2 below.

Assemble in horizontal rows as shown below in Diagram 3. Sew the block together using 1/4" seam allowances. Each finished quilt block should measure 12-1/2" x 12-1/2".

Press all seams. Clip and remove all threads.

*The Choice block must also incorporate teal or turquoise and finished should measure 12-1/2" x 12-1/2".

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



July Photo -- We heard from May Royce from Stafford Grange. The two ladies in the photo are Marion Wallbridge (past Treasurer of Stafford Grange) and Florence Wallbridge (past Secretary of Stafford Grange.)



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

Many Granges are still either not meeting, or meeting virtually, but there are a few that are beginning to meet again in person - outside and with socially distant measures in place. I was able to attend a few virtual Grange meetings, and with software like ZOOM virtual meetings are a great platform for Granges to utilize. Hopefully we'll use the findings of the Granges that are trying to meet in person, and share how it went across the state, so that all Granges can have modified Grange meetings again at some point this summer. Has your Grange had a Virtual Grange Meeting yet, or willing to try a modified in-person meeting? Contact Membership Director Faith Quinlan for all the details at membership@ctstategrange.org.



For updates on all my latest adventures, please visit my Facebook page, and click the "Like" button while you are there too. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Cancelled Fairs

CT Fairs Cancelled (as of July 30)

LOCAL/GRANGE FAIRS

- Cheshire Grange Fair
- Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market (Virtual Event 2020)
- Wallingford Grange Fair
- Meriden Grange Fair
- Whigville Grange Fair
- Greenfield Hill Grange Fair
- Ekonk Community Grange Fair
- Riverton Grange Fair (Virtual Event 2020)
- Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair (Virtual Event 2020)

MAJOR, DISTRICT & 4H FAIRS

- Hamburg Fair (Lyme Grange)
- Ledyard Fair
- Bridgewater Country Fair
- Brooklyn Fair
- North Stonington Fair
- Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair
- Guilford Fair
- Durham Fair
- Chester Fair
- Brooklyn Fair
- Woodstock Fair
- Lebanon Country Fair
- Four Town Fair
- Goshen Fair
- Hartford County 4-H Fair
- New London County 4-H Expo (Virtual Event 2020)
- Litchfield County 4-H Fair
- Middlesex / New Haven County 4-H Fair
- Tolland County 4-H Fair (Virtual Event 2020)
- Terryville Lions Country Fair
- Haddam Neck Fair
- Bethlehem Fair
- Wolcott Country Fair
- North Haven Fair
- Orange Country Fair
- The Big E
- Portland Agricultural Fair
- Riverton Fair
- Hebron Harvest Fair
- Wapping Fair



Riverton Grange

Victory Gardens 2020

A Socially Distant Fair

We are not able to host our annual Riverton Grange Fair in our Grange Hall due to the pandemic, but you can still participate and win prizes by showcasing your Victory Garden!

There's still time to enter. Entries are due by August 15, 2020. Winners will be announced virtually on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Complete rules and information are available by visiting Riverton Grange No. 169's Facebook page:

<https://wwwfacebook.com/RivertonGrangeNo169>



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

I hope you all have been staying safe this summer as we adjust to our new normal. Last year we were starting discussions on potential issues for the upcoming legislative season. We were looking at banning plastic straws and Styrofoam food containers. There were discussions on expanding the bottle bill

COVID ripples through the State

beyond soda and water bottles to include juice, iced tea, and sports drinks. Two major topics that were introduced in the 2020 session were highway tolls and the legalization of recreational marijuana. These topics are very likely to reappear in the 2021 session.

In July the Governor convened a special session to address some new major issues that have arisen. Some of these topics were due to adjustments that must be made due

to the COVID-19 pandemic. Others were addressing political activism issues occurring in our society.

The pandemic has forced us to look at healthcare coverage, accessibility, and practices. We are now seeing an increase in the use of medical appointments occurring remotely using “tele-health” computer access. This has required us to adjust some medical insurance rulings to include payment for “tele health” appointments.

This is a Presidential election year. Our Governor has already signed an executive order allowing the excuse for “COVID-19” as a reason for requesting absentee ballots in Connecticut for the upcoming primary voting. The Legislature will now be addressing allowing the COVID-19 excuse to expand absentee ballot access in the Presidential elections at the special session.

Rules and procedures will be changing for the upcoming Legislative session as the pandemic continues. We will probably end up seeing more public hearings done remotely with fewer in-person meetings. The Grange will still be monitoring bills and issues that will be presented to the Legislature. We need to have you, as members, let us know your feelings on the various topics so we can accurately communicate these concerns to the legislators. This is done through your resolutions submitted to the State Grange.

Resolutions should be submitted to your local Grange for action. The deadline for resolutions to be submitted to the State Grange is September 15. It is very important that these resolutions be submitted on time this year due to the adjustments we have had to make for the State Grange convention this year. Please remember that individuals cannot submit resolutions directly to State Grange. They must go through a Community or Pomona Grange.

WINCHESTER GRANGE

VIRTUAL FUN FAIR SCAVENGER HUNT

• Complete only 5 items within the division to be entered •

Adult & Child Divisions. You do not have to be a Grange Member to participate.
The more you enter, the better your chances of winning.

Also - LIKE the entries you feel are worthy of winning! Submissions with the Most Items Entered and Most Likes Win!

<p>DIVISION: ADULT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 or more Specimens of Tomatoes <small>(any varieties - does not have to be all the same)</small> 2. 2 Ears of Corn <small>(displayed so some kernels are showing on at least one ear)</small> 3. 2 or more Specimens of Any Squash 4. 5 or more Specimens of Strawberries 5. 2 or more Slices of Watermelon 6. 3 or more Specimens of Apples <small>(must be different varieties)</small> 7. A Photo of your Garden 8. A Vase of Roses <small>(any color - must have at least 3 specimens)</small> 9. A Sunflower Head 10. 3 Specimens of Wildflowers - Any Color 11. 3 Specimens of Wildflowers of the Same Color <small>(may be the same or different)</small> 12. A miniature arrangement of any flowers <small>(under 4 inches in size)</small> 13. Any Annual or Perennial Flower - Single Specimen 14. A Holiday-themed Arrangement <small>(any holiday of your choice - any flowers of your choice)</small> 15. An Arrangement with a Non-Holiday Theme <small>(any type of flowers with other props - any size larger than 4 inches)</small> 16. A Centerpiece of Flowers Only <small>(any size larger than 4 inches, any flowers, any color, no props)</small> 17. A Cornucopia filled with any fruits and vegetables 18. 1 plate of three or more different vegetable or fruit specimens of your choice 19. Build a Burger <small>(meat or meat substitute, bun, and your favorite toppings)</small> 20. Build a Salad <small>(may be any ingredients)</small> 	<p>DIVISION: CHILDREN (Aged 14 and Under)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build a Lego Car 2. Build a Lego Animal 3. Showcase your Favorite Teddy Bear 4. Drawing of your Favorite Pet 5. Drawing of a Farm Animal 6. Any Flower Arrangement in a Vase or Basket 7. 3 Specimens of your Favorite Flowers <small>(any varieties - does not have to be 3 of the same)</small> 8. 3 Specimens of your Favorite Fruits <small>(any varieties - does not have to be 3 of the same)</small> 9. 3 Specimens of your Favorite Vegetables <small>(any varieties - does not have to be 3 of the same)</small> 10. 3 Specimens of your Favorite Cookies <small>(any varieties - does not have to be 3 of the same)</small> 11. 3 Specimens of your Favorite Candy <small>(any varieties - does not have to be 3 of the same)</small> 12. Trash to Treasure Crafts <small>(recycling and reusing material that would otherwise go to waste to create something new)</small> 13. Decorate an Egg 14. Share a photo of your Pet <small>(Creative approaches are encouraged.)</small> 15. Take a photo of a car emblem, insignia, or logo 16. Dress Up a Doll 17. Display a Collection 18. Make a Friendship Bracelet <small>(any type, any color)</small> 19. Make a Toilet Paper Roll Animal 20. Pavement Chalk Drawing
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DEADLINE: August 8, 2020 • Upload Entries at:
www.WinchesterGrange.org/VirtualFair

Gift Card Prizes Awarded
First: \$30 / Second: \$20 / Third: \$10

Complete Rules & Info at winchestergrange.org/grangeagfair.asp

88TH ANNIVERSARY

Cannon Grange
Virtual Agricultural Fair & Exposition



Member of
The Association of Connecticut Fairs, Inc.
CANNON GRANGE HALL
25 CANNON ROAD
WILTON, CONNECTICUT
SUNDAY – AUGUST 30, 2020



Enter the Cannon Fair & Exposition Virtually!

Are you missing the Fairs like the rest of us? Cannon Grange will be holding their Agricultural Fair & Exposition virtually. Left is the cover of their virtual Fair Book. The complete book is available online at CannonGrange.org. Learn how you can enter your exhibits and help keep the tradition alive during these uncertain times.

SHOUT OUT!



Shout Out to Mary Bathrick of Cheshire Grange for the hundreds of masks she has made since mask wearing became a necessity.



Shout Out to Cheshire Grange for their very successful Food Drive to help those in need in their community.



Shout Out from Taghannuck Grange to all the Connecticut State Grange officers, committee members and others who are putting in so much time planning our Annual Session in these difficult times.

Send your "Shout Outs" to Granger@CTStateGrange.org and we'll print them in an upcoming issue of the Connecticut Granger.



THE CONSUMER'S
RIGHT TO CHOOSE

**PAPER
OR DIGITAL?
IT'S YOUR
CHOICE.**

90% of people believe they should have the right to choose how they receive communications.

83% of consumers believe they should not be charged more for choosing to receive a paper bill or statement.

27% of American adults do not have internet access at home (33.5 million households).

34% of those over 65 do not use the internet.



WHO WE ARE

Keep Me Posted North America is a coalition of consumer groups, charities and businesses that advocate for the right of every consumer in North America to choose, free of charge, how they receive important information - on paper or electronically - from their service providers.

JOIN US

We invite consumer groups, charities and businesses that value paper-based communications and consumer choice to join our coalition.

For more information, go to:

keepmepostedna.org

✉ info@keepmepostedna.org

☎ 855-896-7433

Sign up for our newsletter:
keepmepostedna.org/sign-up

God's love for his children



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld his love from me. (From Psalm 66)

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God. (Paul's letter to the Romans)

A question which may come to any of us in times like these is "If God loves us, why do all these bad things happen?" Attempts to answer this question go back thousands of years, all the way back to the biblical Book of Job and perhaps earlier. But I am persuaded, as was Paul, that nothing outside myself can separate me from the love of God.

Is there an answer to this apparent paradox? I dare to offer a few things to consider.

Firstly, God has given us free will, the ability to make choices, whether they be good or bad choices. God is not a "helicopter"

parent, constantly hovering over us, telling us what to do or what not to do. (This should not prevent us from asking God's advice as to what we should do or should not do; indeed, we should be asking far more than we do.)

Secondly, this is an imperfect world. God made the world, and "it was good", but we and all who came before us have done much to make it less than good. According to Genesis, God put us in charge of this world to take care of it, and often we have done a poor job of caretaking.

Thirdly, we are supposed to take care of each other, to love our neighbors as ourselves. It seems to me that we have sinned grievously in failing to obey this commandment. Many bad things happen to people at least partially because other people are not looking out for them. I have mentioned before the maxim which I learned in childhood: "We are born not for ourselves but to help others".

And lastly we have a bad habit of taking things for granted, which includes tending to ignore the many benefits God has bestowed upon us. In fact, it is all too common for those for whom all is going well to

declare that they don't need God, because they are doing just fine without Him. I believe that God will not directly cause Evil to fall upon people, but will in some cases allow Evil to occur, just as a reminder that it exists and that we, as God's people are responsible for fighting against it, by helping others, by taking better care of the World that God has entrusted to us, and by remembering to call upon God to help us.

In Memoriam

Helen Palmer
Glastonbury #26

Calista Goodfield
Gladys Backes
Orlando Scopino
Whigville #48

Marion Hurlbut
Winchester #74

Edward Wathley
Taghannuck #100

Eleanor Banker
N. Stonington #138

Grace Jones
Riverton #169

Ruth Taylor
Oxford #194

"Well done, good and faithful servants."