



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

July 2020

Let's get back to work



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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As the Fourth of July approaches, the State of Connecticut is just starting to open up more businesses. Churches have opened but are only allowing 50 parishioners in the church. Governor Lamont has increased the social gatherings to 25 inside and 100 outside. I have heard that some of our smaller Granges are looking to meet in person because they are unable to meet on Zoom. With the 25 inside increase, I think it is time that our Grangers can get back to meet in person but we have to take the precautions and keep social distance at least 6 feet between, wear masks and have hand sanitizer, sanitize countertops and so forth. I suggest for the time being we do not serve refreshments because we have to be as safe as we can. I would encourage the Granges that wish to continue to use Zoom to continue using it. The Connecticut State Grange has two Zoom accounts so just call or email Faith, our Membership Director, and she will set you up. Phone: 518-698-2785 or Email: Membership@CTStateGrange.org.

As I am writing this article we are planning the 2020 Annual State Session. We are looking at having a one day session. It has yet to be determined if there will be an in-person event or a virtual one. Many factors will go into making this decision and we have to wait

to see what our limitations are in October. A committee of State Secretary Todd Gelineau, Chairman Jeff Barnes and myself are working on the format that can be either used in person or virtual. We are also working on a date and a facility to hold an in-person State Session. We will not be going to the Holiday Inn in Norwich this year. This is where we need our Grangers input.

We need you to select your two delegates as soon as possible and submit the delegate form to the State Secretary. We need you to answer the two questions and return them by August 1.

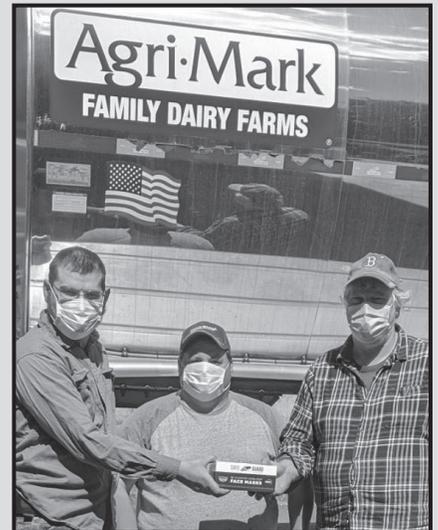
If your Grange has any resolutions to submit, we would like to have them by September 15. We will try to keep you informed as there is a lot of work for this committee to do between now and October. So please get your information in as soon as possible.

I am planning to have a State Officer, Executive Committee, Deputy and Committee Chairman Zoom meeting on Sunday, July 12 at 7:00 P.M. We will discuss the State Session and use your input. The State Secretary will be sending out the Zoom information by email.

As I end my monthly President's Report, let's keep our fingers crossed that we can have an in-person, one day session. It is hard to plan since we don't know if there will be a second round of this virus in the fall. Let's hope not so we can persevere, good and faithful Patrons.

And remember, we're all in this together and we will get through it like good Grangers.

State Grange Donates Masks



The Connecticut State Grange Agriculture, Community Service and Membership Committees coordinated a project donating 4,000 personal protection masks to farms throughout the State of Connecticut. The project was funded through the State Grange Community Service Committee. The first box was delivered to Fairvue Farms, a dairy farm in Woodstock, CT. Pictured l to r: J. Allen Cameron, State Grange Agriculture Director; Wesley Smith, Dairy Herd Manager and David Miller, farm owner.

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

Don't lose your vote at State Session



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

As the State Master has mentioned in his column, we are working on plans that will enable us to have either an in-person or virtual State Session. COVID-19 makes our traditional procedure

for conducting elections problematic as it causes members to be in close contact while casting ballots. To keep everyone safe, this year's election will be conducted through the mail.

SELECT YOUR DELEGATES NOW

All Granges should have received forms for the selection of their delegates for State Session. It is imperative that delegates are chosen now. Due to COVID-19, there are things that have to be done well before State Session. The first mailing for State Session will go out directly to your Delegates after August first. If your Grange has not been meeting virtually, you will need to figure out how you will meet and select your delegates. Contact the Membership Director if you would like to set-up a virtual meeting on Zoom. Otherwise, in-person meetings (25 members or less) are now permitted provided all social distancing and sanitation recommendations are observed.

State Session. Both the suggestion form and the ballot will be printed on tamper resistant paper. Only the original ballot form will be accepted as a proper vote. Photocopies, computer generated or hand-written ballots other than the formal ballot form provided to delegates will be discarded.

DON'T LOSE YOUR VOTE

It has been a longstanding policy of the State Grange to only seat delegates from Granges whose dues are paid up to the second quarter preceding State Session. This is also the case this year. The second quarter of this year is just closing (June 30). Granges have until July 31, 2020 to pay dues for the second quarter (and any outstanding prior quarters) to avoid a late fee and to participate in the suggestions and balloting for the election. If dues remain unpaid at the time of State Session, your Grange's delegates will not be seated and will not be allowed to vote at the Session. If dues are paid after August 1, delegates will be allowed to participate in any activities whose deadlines have not passed and will be credentialed to be seated at State Session.

SUGGESTIONS

After August 1 (when the Delegate forms are due back to the State Grange Office), a mailing will be sent to each registered delegate containing a suggestion form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. The delegate will fill in any suggestions for State Officers they may have and mail the envelope back to the State Grange.

COVID-19 has taken us considerably outside of our normal "comfort zones." We have to re-think everything we do as Grangers to ensure all members are kept reasonably safe. While we may have some missteps along the way, we are doing our very best to keep the Connecticut State Grange moving forward... and beyond the pandemic.

BALLOTING

Once the suggestions are received, the State Secretary will prepare a ballot that will be mailed out to the delegates with a similar envelope addressed to the chairperson of a three person committee who will tabulate the votes and prepare an election report to be presented at

Please let me or the State Master if you have any questions or concerns.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
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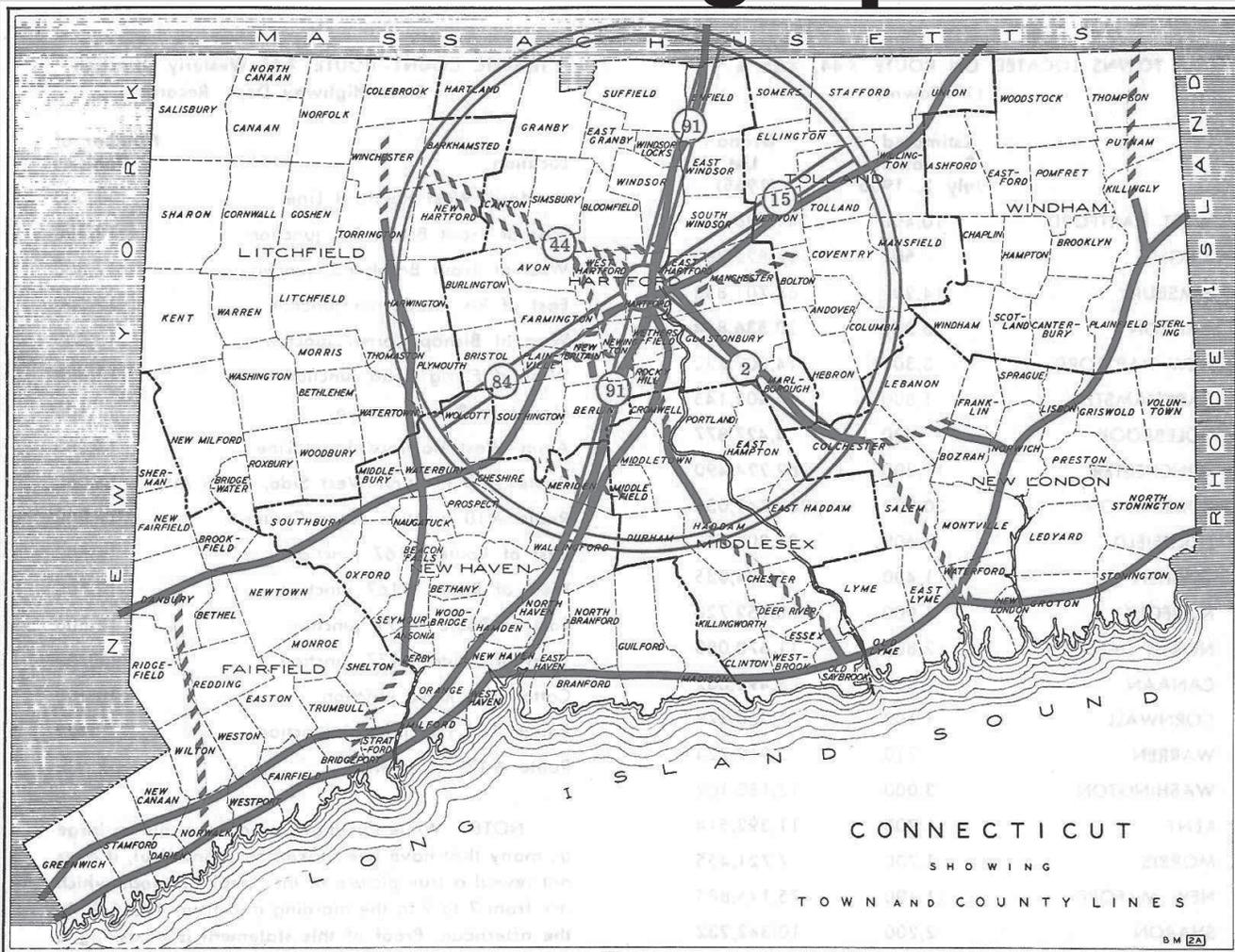
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The “Missing Spoke”



Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

Most of our older members are likely very familiar with “The Missing Spoke” program of the 1950s/60s era. One of its loudest proponents was former State Master and Mayor of Winchester, Kingsley Beecher. The above photo was part of a leaflet used to illustrate the issue and gain support for the construction of the missing stretch of road (the missing “spoke”).

The leaflet reads... *“The Missing Spoke” illustrates the sad story of a group of Connecticut Taxpayers who seem to have been forgotten. That is, forgotten as far as their everyday traveling needs. We speak of those persons who travel Route #44 to and from the Hartford area residing in the northwest corner of our state.*

This illustration also reveals that roads have been and are being built to carry non-residents across the state as rapidly as possible, motorists who pay no cost except that small portion each may deposit through Federal gas tax that finds its way back to us via the National Road Building Program.

“The Missing Spoke” further illustrates a disregard for the motorists traveling within the borders of our state, those persons paying the heaviest tax load through gasoline taxes.”

The campaign was ultimately unsuccessful as the “spoke” remains “missing” to this day. Routes 2, 84 and 91 have been completed and fill out those spokes of the wheel while access to the northwest corner is still constricted by Route 44 which remains a two and four lane road through most towns in that part of the state. (This is illustrated on the map by the dotted “spoke” in the northwest corner of the “wheel” marked with a circled “44”. The back of the leaflet also listed taxes paid by the various towns and vehicle counts for key sections of roads within the “missing spoke” area.

Most of those areas had an average daily vehicle count of between 13,000 and 15,000 cars. A check of those counts for an average day today is in the neighborhood of 25,000 cars... and the roads are essentially structured the same today!



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

July 2: Meeting 7:30 p.m. “Pilgrims Pride” (we have 3 descendants)

Ref: Pot Luck Desserts

Aug. 6: Meeting 6:00 p.m. Short business meeting followed by our Annual Picnic

Glastonbury Grange is still on “shut-down”. We are not sure when we will be meeting in person, but it will hopefully be by September . We have been informed that the Masonic Lodge is hoping to be meeting by September, also.. The Secretary has kept the members informed monthly of communications and bills that needed to be paid. Also trying to keep abreast of any member who should be receiving “thinking of you” and “get well” wishes from the grange. During this difficult time, I am sure it is nice to be remembered by the organization. We all need to keep our chin up and “remember- this shall also pass”.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

We are still trying to be active in the community. We were able to provide The John F. Duffy Memorial Scholarship to Grayson Walley a graduating senior from the Woodstock Academy. This award is given annually and was done in a virtual ceremony from the high school. Grayson will be attending

the University of Connecticut to study Mechanical Engineering. We are very proud to be able to make this scholarship available. On another note The Miller family, Paul, Diane and David, owners of Fairvue Farms were recipients of the Connecticut State Grange Agriculture Committee masks giveaway. The dairy farm will certainly make good use of the masks. Thank you to making this possible and J. Allen Cameron for making the presentation. Hopefully our Grange will be able to meet again in person. Monthly meetings certainly are needed to bring our membership together. So many projects had been planned and are now on hold. We are all in this together and hopefully everyone will Stay Safe.

N. STONINGTON COMM. #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

July 17: “When I look into your big brown eyes...”

We have not held any meetings since early March, so not much to report; but the Great Grange Above has welcomed one of the sweetest, kindest ladies North Stonington has ever known. Ellie

Banker, who would have received her 70 year seal this year had we been able to hold our special meeting in April, has been our Pomona for the last several years. Her health prevented her from attending meetings this past year; but her heart remained in the Grange. Ellie, born and raised in town, taught what used to be called Home Economics in our local high school for almost 40 years. She was a tremendous influence on young men and women in her classes, all of whom loved her. We have never heard a single soul speak about her with anything but love and appreciation. Her heart was so big it doesn’t seem possible it could be contained in a body so small. She will be sadly missed by every person who ever had the privilege of knowing her.

If we are allowed to meet in July we are not sure what the program will be. Sue’s program lists the above; but come and be surprised. And if that squirrel who keeps dumping my hummingbird feeder out on the deck will just move to Australia, next time I will try to tell you all about Jolly June.



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

Call Me!

Tel. 518-698-2785

 or email me

The weather has been amazing. These nice warm days with blue skies and puffy clouds make me feel like we have been let out of a cage. All the months of being sheltered indoors has made me and the kids a little stir crazy. So, as you will read about in other articles this month, we have the ability to meet again in person, with restrictions. Speaking to your membership, open communication will be critical to success. Remember you have a Zoom account available to use if you would like before heading back to a hall.

I would like to offer you to reach out and talk to me about fundraising, volunteer help you may need or any other need that I can work to help you with. What does your membership and community need that I can help you with? Please reach out, I would like that very much!

Governor issues Executive Order helping Granges

Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

COVID-19 has forced many Grange Fairs to suspend operations for 2020 with social distancing and sanitation practices difficult to uphold and enforce. Unfortunately, COVID-19 doesn't completely excuse Granges from maintaining their property tax exemption by holding an agricultural fair. Without an Executive Order from the Governor, municipalities would be within their rights to ask Granges to pay property tax for failing to uphold the requirements for maintaining their tax free status. This danger is even more likely due to the financial stress many towns are experiencing due to the pandemic.

Thanks to the efforts of Phil Prelli through Commissioner of Agriculture Bryan P. Hurlbut, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order No. 7AAA on June 17 giving relief to agricultural organizations (& Granges) who are unable to hold fairs in 2020. Incidentally, this is the Governor's 54th resolution related to COVID-19.

The section (#3) pertaining to Fairs is as follows:

“Waiver of Requirement to Hold Annual Agricultural Fair and Reporting Requirement to Maintain Agricultural Society Property Tax Exemption. Section 12-81 (10) of the Connecticut General Statutes is modified to (1) waive the requirement of holding of an agricultural fair during 2020 by an agricultural or horticultural society to maintain its property tax exemption under Section 12-81 (10) and (2) waive the annual agricultural fair activity report that must be filed by an agricultural or horticultural society with the Commissioner of Agriculture by December 31, 2020, to maintain its property tax exemption under Section 12-81 (10).”

Several Granges are working on virtual fairs or activities that will keep the name of the Grange and their fairs before the public. All Granges are encouraged to do something to promote the Grange in the absence of their usual fairs. This can be a virtual contest or a special community service project. Use your imagination. Your members would likely love to have something they can do beyond their normal COVID-restricted daily routine! Need help? Contact Membership Director Faith Quinlan for brain-storming ideas or the technical assistance needed to do your activities virtually. Contact her at Membership@CTStateGrange.org or 518-698-2785.

National Session a 2 Day Closed Event

The National Grange Executive Committee is very sorry to announce that the 2020 National Grange Convention will have many changes because of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore will be open for National delegates and officers only. No visitors or Grangers will be invited to attend in person this year.

The convention will be cut to two days and the only business will be voting on resolutions and electing two executive committee officers. Extra activities, such as the Evening of Excellence, Youth and Junior Public Speaking and Sign a Song, will take place virtually. The Seventh Degree will not be exemplified this year.

Other recognitions such as Community Service awards, Distinguished Grange, Grange Legacy Family, and the Quilt Block Contest, will be held and awards given, but there will be no ceremony. National Grange Department Directors will be sending out information regarding their programs and how they will be handled this year, so stay tuned!

The Valley Forge Casino Resort, site of the convention, has been closed since March 14 to this date (June 6). We don't know when it will be permitted to open, because the counties around Philadelphia are a hot spot for the virus. The hotel is willing to allow us to downsize our convention to two days, 80 people, hopefully without penalty, so we are exercising that option at this time.

Also we do not want to endanger any of our members by asking them to travel and to spend days in a large crowd. The health and safety of our Grange family comes first. We feel it may not be safe to gather, even by November. Many of your State Sessions will see major changes this year also. We hope you will understand this decision, and keep on working at the local level as much as you can to help your communities.

Fraternally,
Betsy E. Huber, National Master

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BY HIS EXCELLENCY
NED LAMONT
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 7AAA

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RESPONSE – MODIFICATIONS OF PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE ORDERS

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, I issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in the United States and Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such declaration, I have issued fifty-three (53) executive orders to suspend or modify statutes and to take other actions necessary to protect public health and safety and to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a respiratory disease that spreads easily from person to person and may result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) recommend implementation of community mitigation strategies to slow transmission of COVID-19, including cancellation of gatherings of ten people or more and social distancing in smaller gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 is higher for individuals who are 60 or older and for those who have chronic health conditions; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have determined that it is possible to transmit COVID-19 even before a person shows symptoms and through aerosol transmission; and

WHEREAS, public health experts have indicated that persons infected with COVID-19 may not show symptoms, and transmission or “shedding” of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 may be most virulent before a person shows any symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has recommended that people with mild symptoms consistent with COVID-19 be assumed to be infected with the disease; and



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Not much to report from Mountain Laurel Pomona #15. Our last couple of dates were canceled and it appears our next in-person meeting may be affected if the maximum number for an indoor meeting remains at 25. We'll have to wait and see what happens. We do know there are members in waiting for the Fifth Degree and we will do our best to see they receive the degree as soon as it is both safe and possible to do so. Hopefully by the next report we'll know more or will be able to tell you about an upcoming in-person or Zoom meeting of the Pomona. Until then... stay safe and stay well!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Winchester Grange was finally able to meet in June... virtually. It was nice to see 20 members join us for the meeting with Master Peter Keefe running the meeting from the Grange Hall. We even had guests with State Master George Russell, State Lecturer Marge Bernhardt and Public Relations Co-Director Robert Charbonneau in attendance.

The most important piece of business this evening was making a decision on the request to merge Eureka Grange with Winchester Grange. Unfortunately, a merger would have required Winchester

Grange to take on the sale of Eureka Grange Hall and bear the cost of maintaining the hall until its sale. With the cost of maintaining our own hall in mind, it was decided that it would be in the best interest of Winchester Grange not to merge with Eureka. Instead, the Connecticut State Grange will officially revoke the charter of Eureka and handle the sale of their hall. The current members of that Grange will receive demits that will allow them to take their membership to a Grange of their preference. The members of Winchester did vote to warmly welcome any and all members of Eureka who wish to become members of Winchester Grange. All in all, it was a successful meeting and I'm sure those unfamiliar with Zoom came away from the meeting feeling a less fearful of the technology.

A decision will be made in the coming weeks regarding when Winchester will resume in-person meetings. The Governor is now

permitting indoor meetings of 25 or fewer people, which the State Grange is now allowing as well. Our attendance does exceed this amount quite often. We would also have to observe all social distancing and sanitation requirements associated with opening our hall for meetings. All touch surfaces would have to be sanitized along with the rest rooms after each use.

Sandy Phillips and Todd Gelineau were selected as delegates for Winchester Grange for the upcoming State Grange Session which will either be a one-day in-person event or a one day Zoom meeting. We'll have to wait and see!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

July 9: Our meeting will again be a virtual meeting on Zoom.

On June 6 we had a very successful plant sale. There was no set time advertised, just Sat.

... Continued next page



Taghhannuck Grange #100 in Sharon was among the first Granges in the state to have a public event with their annual Spring Plant Sale on June 6 with a "Socially Distant" format.

& Sun. Our first customer came at 6:30 A.M. and we put it on the honor system and just checked the cash box (a slot in an actual wooden box) every hour or so to remove the money. We had it on the honor system Sunday and closed at noon.

The flowers sold out and we donated just over 100 vegetable plants to the Cornwall Food Pantry for people to put in their gardens. The best part was we talked to people about our Grange and got two applications to join.

On our regular meeting night of June 11 we held our second virtual meeting on Zoom for election of officers. After not being able to attend our virtual meeting in May three of our members, all in their 90s learned how to use Zoom and were there to vote. So you are never too old to learn new things.

The following officers were elected for two years: Master, Barbara Prindle; Overseer, Diane Palmer; Lecturer, Carol Knutson; Steward, Mike Taylor; LAS, Ruth Schnell; Chaplain, Debra Tyler; Treasurer, Brent Prindle; Secretary, Debbie Hanlon; Gatekeeper, Sharon Kroeger; Ceres, Barbara Bartram; Pomona, Barbara Rosenfeld; Flora, Millie Massey; Exec. Comm. (3 yrs) Harvey Hayden.

We have a Facebook page, "Taghannuck Grange No. 100" and invite you to visit it and like our page. Meanwhile, stay safe and healthy.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

July 11: No Program Planned

It is with a mixture of sadness and excitement that I write this column. Sadness because we will close our Grange. And excitement because we hope to merge with another Grange. We have started the process and will continue with meetings until all the paperwork is finished.

Resolutions are still needed



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

Now that State of Connecticut businesses are slowly reopening after our shutdown due to the virus, Granges are able to start with some meetings and limited activities. As we are reopening, Granges should be starting to discuss any resolutions that they wish to send to State Grange. This will be an unusual State Grange session that will be limiting the number of session days and attendees. It will be very important to get your resolutions in early. As of this time, I believe that the delegates of the session's committees will be given the resolutions before State Grange session convenes. This will allow time for the committee members to review and discuss resolutions assigned to their sessions committee before the State Grange session.

Remember, all resolutions that you plan on sending to State Grange need to be presented and voted on at your community Granges before being sent to State Grange. We usually ask that all resolutions also be passed to your Pomona Grange before being sent to State. I feel that this rule should be relaxed this year to speed up the process so Granges can send them directly to State. The deadline for submitting resolutions is still September 15h and all resolutions should be sent to the State Secretary.

Resolutions need to be written in a specific way with three sections. You need to start with a title. This should be relevant to the

subject matter of the resolution. The second set of sections are the WHEREAS sections. This is where you list concerns and details educating the readers about the topic you are writing about. The third section is the THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED sections. This is where you state what actions you wish to happen. This section should be able to stand alone when the WHEREAS sections are removed. It needs to state the topic of concern and the recommended actions. If it is a national issue and you wish it to go to National Grange state that in one of the resolved sections. At the end of the resolution note the Grange name that is submitting the resolution using "Submitted by: name of Grange".

If you need any help with your resolutions, you can contact any member of the Legislative Committee. There is also information on how to write a resolution on the Grange Website, ctstategrange.org. Look under Grange Information – State Grange Information – How to Write a Resolution. (<http://www.ctstategrange.org/HowtoWriteResolution.asp>)



Despite the "ugliness" in the world right now... look around for the beauty! This blossom was on the grounds of Wolcott Grange Hall.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Complying with the instructions of our State Master, everything in Nutmeg Pomona is on hold. As the saying goes, “no news is good news” so I guess everything in our Pomona is A-OK.

I can only say when we can schedule something we will let you know. So read the Granger, look for letters, answer the phone and read your emails.

Until we are able to meet together again, stay healthy.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Not a lot to report at this point since our last meeting in March. We are planning a drive through food collection for the Cheshire Food Pantry. Due to our inactivity, we feel this will get Cheshire Grange’s name out into the community. I have asked our members for their thoughts on considering a zoom meeting. Our July meeting is scheduled for our annual picnic. There still remains concerns with many about group gatherings, and I feel the picnic will be cancelled. We will see what the phase two protocols from the Governor will show.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Still can’t report our schedule for the next month. Have tried to keep

in contact with the members and so far, find them all well. Happy to report that as of yesterday (6-14-20) Chaplain Carole Mancini is feeling much better.

When things open, we are planning to have a tag, rummage and bake sale. We will also have a clothing drive. So as you are doing your cleaning remember the Grange. If you have items you want to get out of the house, call and someone will meet you at the hall.

Stay home and keep well- this will pass.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! to all our volunteers who helped clean the upstairs of our Grange hall on Feb. 29. The crew of volunteers helped clean the stage, washed windows and chairs, washed walls, hanged the pictures and put up new drapes. The much needed jobs went quickly with so many willing hands to help. Thank you again.

Events: All events including “From Pathways to Corridors” our Bee Talk luncheon, have been postponed. Dates TBD in the future. Sadly, we have decided to cancel this year’s agricultural fair. Pray for the END of this pandemic! Pray for the sick, their families, healthcare workers and all who are on the front lines during this crucial time. #StayHomeStaySafe!

Congratulations and best wishes

to all the graduates of 2020. May your futures be bright.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Aug. 6: Cool in the Lake- Picnic at 6:30

Sept. 3: Guess What?

I hope everyone is practicing social distancing.

Those of you who work from home and have a kitty cat- has the cat helped by pressing the wrong keys on your laptop? And doggie people, you do must enjoy company and the extra walks. The cooks out there – how about those wonderful home cooked meals! The quilters and seamstresses- how many masks have you created?

One good thing- the pleasant summer weather is here. Take advantage of trails, beaches, parks, your own yard. Tents are being set up for outside dining at restaurants.

I, for one, miss seeing all my friends, family and Grange meetings. Maybe someday we will all return to our normal activities. Till then- stay calm and persevere!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

July 10: Picnic

July 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Aug. 14: Camping, Boating

Aug. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Thank You

I have finally got back to Benchmark at Split Rock after approximately two months at St. Vincent Hospital and Lord Chamberlain for Rehab. I thank all my Brothers and Sisters for their concerns, prayers and cards that I received, all of which were greatly appreciated and I thank you.

George Ward, Harmony Grange #92



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Managing Expectations

Terri Fassio, Pub. Rel. Co-Dir.

Our Granges are comprised of members from all walks of life, and varied professions. In most cases, they joined because they want to contribute to the organization in a meaningful way and make a difference in their communities. Some Grange members are looking for personal benefits, such as networking opportunities, leadership experience, and even social interaction, friendships and fellowship.

Are your Grange meetings and discussions progressive and constructive? Do Grange members get along? Do their attributes and skills complement each other?

Since Granges consist of different types of people, all wanting different things, setting up and communicating clear expectations is a good idea for all involved. Grange members should be aware of their roles and responsibilities towards each other as well as to the organization.

Keeping this in mind:

- Always be an ambassador for the values, mission and vision of the Grange as a whole.

- Stay up to date and informed. One way to do this is through attendance at meetings (be it virtual or in person.). Also, Granges should look at alternate ways of communicating with members - ranging from Facebook and social media, email, newsletters, and reminder mailings, to even the old-fashioned phone call.

- Frequently remind all members of the Grange's connection to the community on each of the levels - local, regional (Pomona), State and



National.

- Support the charitable operations/projects of the Grange.
- Work in partnership with and respect the authority of the Grange's leadership and staff.
- Be mindful of the time commitment required by members.
- Agree to step down from a position if unable to fulfill the office for the greater good of the organization, without negativity.

It is important to communicate these basic expectations to the membership.

One thing that needs to be remembered is that our members are volunteers, many of whom may have little experience with this type of organization. For many Grange members, being in a leadership or management role may not come naturally. Yet at the same time, others have held positions of leadership, as well as having experience with public speaking, or managing groups/teams of people. Teach new members how the organization functions. Give all members a refresher on the duties, responsibilities and roles

of each office. (Contact the State Grange Secretary for a guidebook to help.)

When membership roles are defined, tasks can be accomplished keeping the core mission of the Grange always in sight.

This quote from Patricia Hudson of the Melos Institute sums it up -

“Working with a volunteer team that constantly changes presents real challenges. What is remarkable about most volunteers, however, is their desire to be effective. Yet over the years, we might just be pushing them away rather than tapping their potential... and giving them an enriched experience. People choose how they spend their time. The more we focus on leadership training and development, the more confident they become... and the more we can expect great things from our volunteers.”

When everyone understands their role in the Grange, knows what is expected of them, and has the necessary skills - either through training, development or by intrinsic knowledge, they function at peak performance, both individually and as a member of the group. Sometimes all that is needed is a jumpstart in order to get things moving in the right direction.

Effective communication is key, and a critical factor in improving the Grange's effectiveness as an organization. In order to successfully serve the interests of its members, each Grange and their membership needs to be well connected and have its collective finger on the pulse of the organization as a whole.

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

Sources: www.wildapricot.com and www.managementhelp.org

Changes to contests... as I know them now!



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

2020 is a year like non-other. Things keep changing. What I have here is correct as of today, June 15th. But, don't be surprised if it changes again.

Talent Contest – National Grange will be judging this as part of a virtual Evening of Excellence. If you are interested please let me know. Connecticut's judging will depend on what happens at our own State Session and how many entries I have.

The Photography Contest as we know it has been cancelled. In its place there will be a Virtual Photography Contest – open to ALL members and non-members, regardless of age. As soon as I get more information in I will get the word out. .

The "A Number" Contest will not be held this year.

The Complete Program Contest will still take place but you will no longer have to put it on at your meeting. It can be saved and used next year. The deadline is still October 1st.

Our Should Auld Acquaintance Project will continue but you do not have to visit six times. Any Grange that has visited a home should fill out the report and be recognized.

A Word From Home is as important as ever. Why not take some of the extra time we all have now and write to members of our military in harms' way. If you are doing this on your computer you could print several letters and send them to different bases. Remember if you don't have addresses, just get them to me and I will mail them for you.

The Essay Contest is still on.

In 150 words or less just write an essay on "My Grange". This is another way to spend the nights when you would normally be at a Grange meeting.

We will still recognize Lecturers with the Lecturers' Appreciation Award and the Honor Lecturer Award but the requirements will be lowered due to the circumstances we now face.

Have you attended a virtual meeting. If you have a computer you can be seen by others. If not you can call in on your phone. It is really easy. All our members should be able to do this.

Confused? So am I. If you have questions please do not hesitate to call or email me. Right now the most important thing is to stay safe and healthy.

Family Activities Contest changes

Cindy Legg, Family Activities Director

Hello everyone. Hope all of you are safe and well.

The decision was made by the New England Grange Building committee at the Big E that this year's Needlework Contests are canceled. So we will cancel the judging at Beacon Valley in August. Keep working on your projects. I have also canceled the baking contest for this year. They are not sure if they are going to have the Big E or not. If they do the New England Grange Building is not sure if they are going to open the building. I will let you know as soon as I find out. If you have any questions, please call me at 203-632-5532 or email: cmr1_1983@yahoo.com. Thank you!

Simsbury Grange rebuilds gardens



Thanks to Sustainable CT's Community Match Fund, the Simsbury Grange was able to rebuild garden beds at the Community Garden at Trinfo Café in Hartford just in time for the growing season. All garden plots are free and all events are open to the public. It is a wonderful oasis where we compost, host a successful bee colony and a Little Free Library (with books and seeds), and provide a place to relax in the shade.



Summer Lentil Salad

Summer is all about spending time in the sunshine, and stopping at roadside stands and farmers' markets to pick up the best fresh fruits and vegetables. What is your favorite summertime salad? If you're looking for something that's farmstead fresh but a little different give this easy recipe from SimplyRecipes.com for Lentil Salad with Summer Vegetables a try.



INGREDIENTS:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 cup Puy lentils | 3 stalks celery, diced small |
| 2 cloves garlic | 1 yellow pepper, diced |
| 1 bay leaf | |
| Handful of parsley stems,
tied together with a string | 1 pint grape/cherry tomatoes, halved |
| 2 1/2 cups water | 1/4 cup minced red onion |
| | 1 cup baby arugula |

For the vinaigrette:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3 tablespoons lemon juice | 1/2 teaspoon Morton kosher salt |
| 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil | 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano |
| 1 tablespoon fresh minced parsley | 1/4 teaspoon sugar |
| Zest from 1/2 lemon | 1 tablespoon minced shallots |
| Salt and pepper to taste | |

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Cook the lentils: In a medium pot combine lentils, smashed garlic cloves, bay leaf, a handful of parsley stems. Add enough water to cover the lentils by 1 1/2 to 2 inches (about 2 1/2 cups).

Bring to a simmer and cook uncovered for about 25 minutes. The exact time will vary based on how dry the lentils are. When you get about 10 minutes out from the finished cooking time, start sampling the lentils to check for doneness—when cooked, they should be tender, but still intact. Continue sampling every 5 minutes until they're ready.

When the lentils are done, drain them and discard the bay leaf, garlic, and parsley stems.

2) While the lentils cook, make the vinaigrette In a large bowl, whisk together lemon juice, olive oil, parsley, lemon zest, salt, oregano, sugar, and shallots.

3) Mix the hot lentils with the vinaigrette: Add the hot lentils to the vinaigrette, and stir to coat. By combining the vinaigrette with the lentils while they are still hot, the lentils will absorb more of the flavor from the vinaigrette making the salad extra tasty. Allow to cool.

4) Assemble the salad: Add the prepared vegetables and arugula. If your arugula is large, stack it and slice it into thick, short ribbons before adding it to the salad. Stir to combine. Add more salt and pepper to taste and finish with a drizzle of good quality extra virgin olive oil.

5) Serve room temperature or cold, as a vegetarian meal, or alongside a sandwich, frittata, chicken, or fish. This salad is best eaten the day it's made.

TIPS:

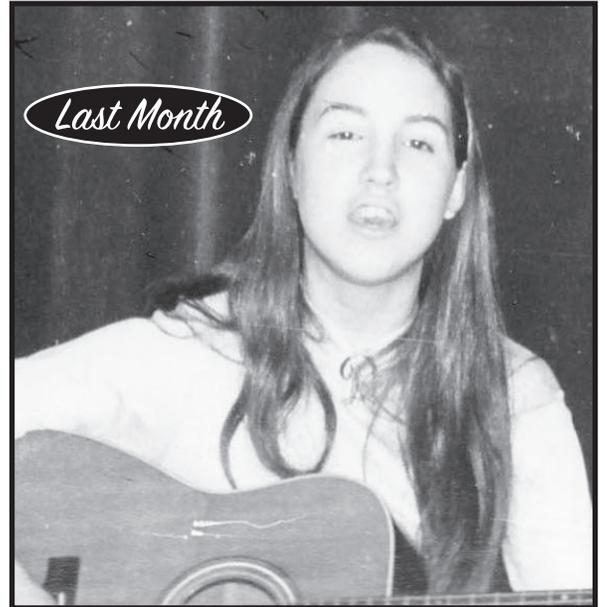
1) Use French Puy or Italian Castelluccio lentils because they are both tender, but keep their shape, which makes them ideal to use in salads like this one.

2) Cucumber makes a fantastic addition to this summer salad.

SOURCE: https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/lentil_salad_with_summer_vegetables/

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.



May Photo - We heard from George Kotowicz with the following -- "Bob Brockett from Granby Grange is second in on the right with the vest on."

April Photo - We heard from someone named Bill with the following -- "The woman standing third from the left is Mildred Bell. The others are her granddaughter, daughter, and her mother. Four generations!!"



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

Sadly, Grange meetings are still closed for the time being, but slowly the State is starting to re-open. Hopefully we'll be having Grange meetings again at some point later this summer. I've watched a lot of virtual meetings that George has been a part of. Has your Grange had Virtual Grange Meeting yet? Contact Membership Director Faith Quinlan for all the details at membership@ctstategrange.org.

Please follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page to see our updates on all my latest adventures in your FB timeline. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Conn. Plastic Bag Law to resume

(Hartford, CT) - The Department of Revenue Services (DRS) is reminding retailers that the temporary suspension of Connecticut's single-use plastic bag fee, originally implemented by Executive Order on March 26th, is set to expire on June 30, 2020. Retailers should prepare to resume collection of the state-level plastic bag fee on July 1, 2020.

Any Connecticut retailer that provides plastic bags to its customers in connection with a sale of goods is required to collect the plastic bag fee. The plastic bag fee, which applies statewide at the rate of \$0.10 for each single-use plastic bag, is collected by retailers and remitted to DRS on their state sales and use tax return.



As it has throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) strongly encourages state residents who use reusable bags for shopping to continue to do so. Over the past year, Connecticut shoppers have overwhelmingly embraced the use of reusable shopping bags, which helps reduce plastic waste that harms the environment.

According to guidance from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), given the most current scientific information available, reusable bags do not serve as a significant source of infection for COVID-19.

The primary route of spread of the virus is from person-to-person contact and airborne droplets, though it is important to clean and disinfect all surfaces commonly touched by people. Most reusable bags can be easily cleaned between uses through laundering, hand washing, or wiping with a disinfecting wipe.

Canceled Fairs

The following is a list of all Connecticut fairs that have been canceled (as of June 26, 2020). This represents 32 of the 39 total fairs in Connecticut that have suspended operations for 2020. Many of the 7 fairs not on this list are held late in the season and are likely waiting to see where we stand with COVID-19 as their fair dates come closer. We have indicated in parentheses the fairs that are doing some kind of virtual event in lieu of their usual events.

- Berlin Lions Agricultural Fair
- Bethlehem Fair
- Bridgewater Country Fair
- Brooklyn Fair
- Cannon Grange Agric. Fair (Virtual Event 2020)
- Cheshire Grange Fair
- Chester Fair
- Durham Fair
- Ekonk Community Grange Fair
- Four Town Fair
- Goshen Fair
- Greenfield Hill Grange Fair
- Guilford Fair
- Haddam Neck Fair
- Hamburg Fair (Lyme Grange)
- Hartford County 4-H Fair
- Lebanon Country Fair
- Ledyard Fair
- Litchfield County 4-H Fair
- Meriden Grange Fair
- Middlesex / New Haven County 4-H Fair
- New London County 4-H Expo (Virtual Event 2020)
- North Haven Fair
- North Stonington Fair
- Orange Country Fair
- Riverton Grange Fair (Virtual Event 2020)
- Terryville Lions Country Fair
- Wallingford Grange Fair
- Whigville Grange Fair
- Winchester Grange Fair (Virtual Event 2020)
- Wolcott Country Fair
- Woodstock Fair

The pandemic continues but Grange marches on



Betsy E. Huber, National Master

Greetings from your National Grange Headquarters, where we are beginning to welcome staff back at least part-time. We still hear peaceful demonstrations in the street every afternoon, but some of the plywood protection has been removed from store fronts nearby and things are very slowly opening up again, even though the pandemic continues.

It is still a strange time! While some Granges are again holding in-person meetings outdoors or with social distancing, many State Granges are making plans for state sessions with delegates only in attendance. Some are brainstorming totally virtual sessions in case that becomes necessary this fall. You will need to do what your state's Governor requires and what your own members feel comfortable with. My own Pomona is planning a July 11 picnic meeting outdoors, with social distancing and boxed lunches- no shared food! If you do decide to meet, just be wise and careful and protect our more vulnerable members.

Meanwhile, most fairs, festivals, and parades have been cancelled and it looks like it will be a quiet peaceful summer- although time seems to be flying by as quickly as ever. Your National Grange

staff and directors have been busy setting up contingency plans for contests and programs to replace the Regional conferences and National Convention activities.

And now that you have more time at home, I expect lots more entries in all our contests! The Youth sponsored Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song Contest deadlines have passed, but there's still plenty of time for quilt blocks, photography, and Community Service notebooks. Be sure to complete your Distinguished Grange application by August 1.

If you have generations of family in the Grange, check out the Grange Legacy Family application on the website and have your family recognized with a certificate of appreciation. And there's still time to practice that talent to perform in the Evening of Excellence.

Be sure to stay tuned for announcements about the daily Cultivating Connections programs and any announcements about your State Grange Sessions and other activities. Enjoy the wonderful summer weather!

Former Enfield Grange hall to become home

By Tim Jensen, Patch Staff

Enfield, CT – An historic building which served for a century as the Scitico School, and later the Enfield Grange Hall for 45 years, will soon be converted to a private residence for the first time in its 170 year history, following a vote by the Enfield Town Council to sell the property to a developer.



At its June 15 virtual meeting, the council 10-0, with one abstention, voted to allow Town Manager Chris Bromson to sign a Real Estate Purchase Contract, on behalf of the town, for the sale of the property at 2 Broad Brook Road to American Rehab, LLC.

The 2,187 square foot building, constructed as a school in 1850, became Enfield Grange No. 151 in 1965, and served in that capacity until the group moved their meetings to another site in 2010. The building's ownership reverted back to the town at that time, and has been put on the market several times in the past decade with no success.

Nelson Tereso, deputy director of economic and community development, told the council American Rehab, LLC, has agreed to buy the property and signed an "as is" rider. The buyer is also aware of the declaration of restrictive covenants if the sale goes through, a document which dictates the historic integrity of the exterior of the building must remain intact. He noted there are specific conditions regarding siding, windows, roof and cupola.

Bromson said the building would be converted to a single-family home, which is believed to be the first use of the property as a private residence.

All councilors voted in favor of the resolution except for Cindy Mangini, who abstained from participating in the vote due to her affiliation with Century 21 All Points Realty, the listing agency for the property.

Published in the Enfield Patch, June 24, 2020.

Lone Star Tick migrates to Connecticut

New Haven, CT – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) reports the rapid range expansion and established populations of the lone star tick, *Amblyomma americanum*, in Fairfield and New Haven Counties, and notes its potential for altering the dynamics of a myriad of existing and emerging tick-borne diseases in the state and throughout the Northeast.

Previously limited to the southeastern U.S., the lone star ticks have been detected in areas of the northeastern U.S. with no previous record of activity including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Established populations of this tick species have now been documented across most of southern New Jersey, Long Island, Fairfield and New Haven Counties in Connecticut, coastal Rhode Island, and on Cape Cod and the Islands.

According to Dr. Goudarz Molaei, a research scientist who also directs the CAES Tick Surveillance and Testing Program, the number of lone star ticks submitted to the CAES Tick Testing Laboratory increased by 58% from the period of 1996-2006 to 2007-2017, mainly from Fairfield County. Established populations of lone star ticks were discovered in Fairfield and New Haven Counties in 2018 and 2019, respectively, and further establishment in New Haven County was documented on June 17, 2020.

As an aggressive human biter with highly irritating bites, the lone star tick has been associated with several human diseases and medical conditions, including tularemia, ehrlichiosis, rickettsiosis, Heartland virus disease, southern tick-associated rash illness, red meat allergy and likely the newly identified Bourbon virus disease.

“Rising global temperatures,



ecologic changes, reforestation, and increases in commerce and travel are important underlying factors influencing the rate and extent of range expansion for ticks and associated disease-causing pathogens. It is anticipated that warming temperatures associated

with climate change may lead to the continued geographic range expansion and abundance of the lone star tick, increasing its importance as an emerging threat to humans, domesticated animals and wildlife” added Dr. Molaei.

Depending upon the annual weather condition, adult lone star ticks are usually active from mid-March to late June, nymphs from mid-May to late July and larvae from July to September. It is important that the public and practitioners develop a heightened awareness of the health risks associated with emergent tick vectors such as the lone star tick and their potential for changing the dynamics of tick-borne diseases in Connecticut and throughout the northeastern United States.

CAES to study apple disease resistance

New Haven, CT - The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded Dr. Quan Zeng and Dr. Blaire Steven of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) a three-year \$747,602 grant to characterize the functions of flower microbiome on fruit development and disease resistance of apple.

Flowers are the reproductive organs of most plants and have great significance for agriculture. While flowers produce nutrient-rich secretions (nectars and stigma exudates) to attract pollinators and facilitate pollen germination, such secretions also support the growth of large number of microorganisms, both beneficial and pathogenic, referred to collectively as the microbiome. In this project, scientists from CAES aim to understand how a flower assembles its microbiome during its life span, and how the microbiome impacts plant phenotypes such as fruit development, pollinator attraction, and resistance to plant diseases. “We found that a few days after petal open, the microbiome on each individual flower could be characterized into one of the three ‘signature states’ said Dr. Blaire Steven, Associate Scientist at CAES. “Under natural conditions, only about 60% of flowers become pollinated and developed into fruitlets, while others will wither and die. We will investigate if being in one of the three signature states is associated with a flower’s fate later in life.” “When encountering plant pathogens, some flowers are more susceptible than others, even they are all from the same tree”, said Dr. Quan Zeng, an Associate Plant Pathologist at CAES. Dr. Zeng notes that “we will determine if differences in their microbiome are a potential cause of such variations”. “If we can better understand what those microbes are doing on the plant, we may be able to better harness them towards helping plants to secure nutrients, attract pollinators, and resist diseases, thus producing more agricultural outputs, with reduced chemical inputs” said Dr. Zeng.

Contentment



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Proverbs 30: 7-9 *Two things I ask of you, O Lord; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

The above quote from Proverbs is worthy of much meditation. It occurs to me that many of us who feel that we don't have enough of something, whether it be money or other worldly goods, may already have more than we need. The truth is, the more we have of worldly goods over and above our actual needs, the more they tend to estrange us from God. This is not to say that we should not set aside savings for our old age or for emergencies, but rather once we have done so then what we have in excess is an interference and a burden. (And if we DO have an excess and yet have not set aside a savings plan for our old age, then we are foolish.)

What about the two extremes in



the above proverb? Firstly, what if through inheritance or good fortune our wealth increases far beyond our needs? Then our best recourse from a spiritual standpoint is to dispose of our excess in ways that are to the benefit of humanity.

In Memoriam

David Andrulot
Granby #5

Curtis Genest
Cheshire #23

Richard Doolittle
Cheshire #23

Irving Simons
Winchester #74

Eleanor Banker, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. #138

"Well done, good and faithful servants."

If very wealthy, we could set up foundations to distribute the excess where it will do the most good. If only moderately wealthy we should find our own good causes to support, such as Habitat for Humanity or Food for the Poor or our local food bank or homeless shelter. Or look around for people who have not enough for even their minimal needs and reach out and help them.

And if we find ourselves at the other extreme, with a struggle to meet even our basic needs? I have no easy answer for this but can only offer the following: 1, from our Grange ritual, "look forward to better and brighter days instead of mourning over the past". 2. Focus on all the positive things around you. Even if you don't have much, you may be rich in your own way. 3. "God will never forget the needy; the hope of the afflicted will never perish." (Psalm 9:18)