

CONNECTICUT GRANGER

From the Master's Desk



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As I begin to write this for January, I am preparing to leave the 157th National Grange convention in Niagara Falls for home. For the first time in my life, I got to see the Falls, both Canadian and American, and they are awesome! It has been a great convention, but first there needs to be a wrap on the 139th Connecticut State Grange Session. Our attendance for State Session was great and I thank you all for your dedication. Thank you to the Family Activities Committee for the gifts given to Maggie and me. You likely noticed my errors; a gift has been sent to our National Grange representatives, Chris and Duane Hamp (four bottles of CT wine) and gratefully received. The lack of an Agriculture Committee report has been addressed and we have new members on that committee. We have new members added to Membership as well. I look forward to working with the new Fundraising Committee and the Board of Directors as we address the budget deficit. The Convention was truly made whole by Mary Lou Keefe's music. I wish to also thank BJ Harrington for her service on

the Youth Committee. Also thanks to Brother Roy for all his work in support of the Grange.

The rebirth of a partnership between CSG and the American School for the Deaf was due to State Lecturer Dave Roberts obtaining a \$1000 grant from National Grange. The Trunk of Treat went well. Stay tuned for future events.

Six resolutions from CT went to National Grange. Number 1 on computer based technology and # 12 on artificial intelligence, #16 on healthcare security, #22 on limitations on subordinate memberships were adopted. Number 11 on student loans was withdrawn. Number 23 on Assembly of Demeter titles was quite contentious and put off for future consideration by being

put into Grange policy.

This year was an election year for National Grange and there was a significant change in the officer lineup. We have a new National President in Chris Hamp, our National representative to State Grange Session. The new Vice President is John Benedik (NJ), Executive Committee-no changes: Lynnette Schaeffer (IL), Susan Noah (OR), Leroy Watson (NH), and Buddy Overstreet (TX), Lecturer Tom Gwin (WA), Secretary(no change) Debbie Campbell (PA), Chaplain Kay Hoffman Stiles (MD), Steward Christopher Johnson (MI), Assistant Steward Walter Hartley (RI), Lady Assistant Steward(no change) Kathy Gibson(MA), Treasurer (no change) Joe Goodrich (VT), Gatekeeper David Allen (GK),Graces (no change): Ceres Cindy Greer (CO),

...Continued on page 2

Hamp elected National President

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chris Hamp, National Representative to the October Annual Session of the CT State Grange was elected President of the National Grange in November. Our congratulations to Chris and Duane as they embark on this exciting journey leading our organization.

We also congratulate Phil Prelli who has completed a long run in various offices in the National Grange (Treasurer, Vice President, Exec. Comm., Priest Archon).

The following article was printed in the convention edition of

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From the Master's Desk

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Pomona Barbara Foster (WV), Flora Welina Shufeldt (OK), Assembly of Demeter: High Priest of Demeter (no change) Roger Bostwick (KS), Priest Archon Chip Narvel (DE), and Priestess Annalist (no change) Martha Stefanoni (CA). With a change in leadership, I expect to see some changes in National Grange. With these capable leaders, I expect great things to come about.

Five people from CT took the Seventh Degree in a class of 153. Twenty five sat for the beautiful Sixth Degree put on by a special session of the New York State Grange lead by Past State President Stephen Coye to qualify for the Seventh. The degree this year was done a bit differently. As the costumes are aging and not in good condition, they were not used as only the Seventh Degree collars were worn over suits by those acting out the degree parts. The degree was performed on the level instead of on a stage to cut out the expense of renting staging. The entire CT delegation to National Grange convention consisted of 13 people, a good showing for the state.

Judy Doyle of Riverton and Granby Granges along with Ailli McKeen of Wallingford Grange led a Grange revitalization seminar which they were pleased to give and was well received. For all the positive things happening in CT, the Connecticut State Grange received the Cultivator Award. Coventry Grange received 3rd place in the Community Service Contest due to activities of the Junior+1 members. Granby Grange received 1st place in the National Lecturer's garden contest for their group garden. Lecturer Dave Roberts was named a 2023 Grange Advocacy in Action participant. Grange in Action awards went to Riverton (Golden G IA), Granby (Golden GIA), Ekonk Community Junior and Senexet Granges. Honor Granges for membership gains were: Granby, Ekonk Community, Hillstown, Simsbury, Groton Community, Riverton, Wolcott, Greenfield Hill, and Killingly. Granges sponsoring a Junior Grange or having Junior+1 members posting gains were: Ekonk Community, Granby, Groton Community, and Hillstown. Keep up

the good work everyone. We would like to see more Granges in Action as six would qualify us for being a State Grange in Action. It is also a goal to increase the number and therefore percentage of Community service Reports being submitted even if you only complete the form to supply community service hours for our total count.

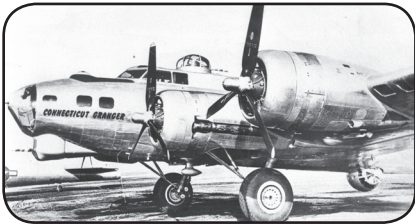
By now, many if not all of you will have received a letter from National Grange about the free accidental death and dismemberment insurance benefit. This is legitimate and a benefit from National Grange and a partner, American Income Life Insurance Company. It is not a scam. If you are interested, submit the form for the \$4000.00 benefit; if not rip up and throw away. You can choose what is best for you, but there is no charge for this so take advantage of it if is in of interest. Stay tuned for a new Leadership Training program being planned by Jody Cameron and Todd Gelineau. It will continue in the vein the Leadership Academy. Stay tuned for more details. Plan to sign up as it will be very worthwhile I can assure you.

In recent conversation with new National President Hamp, there is intention is to make the Pomona Study committee continue to explore avenues to reinvigorate the Pomona Granges and give them new purpose to make them more applicable to the modern world. Perhaps they will be optional to the areas where they work but not required where they are not felt to be useful. I look forward to continuing the work of this committee.

I hope to see many of you as I disburse the various awards around the state as I continue my visitations. As we enter a new year, continue all your hard work. Next year, National Grange goes to Bettendorf, Iowa and the Quad Cities area.

Happy Holidays to all. Enjoy the time with family and friends.

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Chris Hamp

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National Grange's *Patron's Chain* by Communications Fellow Mandy Bostwick.

The sound of scratching pens tallying the votes echoed around the room as the election of National Grange Officers started on Thursday morning and continued through Friday.

In a close election, the Delegate body elected Christine Hamp (WA), who stepped into the role of Vice President in 2021. "Thank you for your trust and honor in electing me as your President," she said. Hamp has served as a National Officer for more than a decade.

John Benedik (NJ) was elected as the next Vice President. Tom Gwin (WA) was elected as the National Grange Lecturer. Gwin says, "I welcome the opportunity to serve as the National Grange Lecturer, working toward building and informed, enlightened membership for the future of the organization. We have excellent programs in place for 2024. We will continue those programs and begin searching for our next signature program."

Walter Hartley (RI) was elected as the National Grange Assistant Steward. Hartley says "I am very honored to have it. I've always said it's a Junior Grange members dream. It's always been my favorite position at any level of the Grange in which I've held. Any Junior member out there that is the Assistant Steward, you can see where you can go with it."

Kay Hoffman Stiles (MD) was elected as the National Grange Chaplain. Stiles served as National Grange Pomona from 2018-2023.

David Allen (NC) was elected as the National Grange Gatekeeper, and Barbara Foster (WV) was elected as the National Grange Pomona

Re-elected to their offices were Executive Committee members Lynette Schaeffer (IL) and Buddy Overstreet (TX), Lady Assistant Steward-Kathy Gibson (MA),

Treasurer - Joe Goodrich (VT), Secretary - Debbie Campbell (PA), Ceres- Cindy Greer (CO), and Flora - Welina Shufeldt (OK).

On Thursday evening, the Assembly of Demeter met for their annual business meeting.

As a part of their meeting, election was held. Bostwick was re-elected as the High Priest of Demeter.

Phil Prelli (CT), Priest Archon, announced that he would like to take a step back "After 18 years [as a National Officer] it was difficult for me to step back. It was a decision that I thought over long and hard. I think that we all have to know when it is time to give others a chance and I wanted to make sure that others had this chance to represent our National Grange and wish everyone the best."

William "Chip" Narvel (DE) was elected as Priest Archon. Narvel served as National Grange Steward from 2011-2023. Martha Stefenoni (CA) was elected into her second term as Priestess Annalist.

The Assembly of Demeter of the National Grange is responsible for organizing and presenting the Seventh Degree, as well as handling matters of Grange Law and ritual.

Chris Hamp elected President

A member of Tualco and Five Mile Prairie Granges in Washington, Hamp has served as Vice President of the National Grange since 2021, Program Director/Lecturer for four years before that, and has been a National Grange officer for more than a decade.

In early 2023, Hamp retired as a chief officer in the fire service after more than 30 years in state and local government. She brings with her a strong background in leadership, team and committee management, and strategic planning.

With a strong belief in the work of the Grange and a vision for the future, Hamp said "How awesome would this country be if every community had a strong, vibrant and relevant Grange! Imagine the impact we could make when we prioritize and actively work towards enhancing the experience and value we provide to each and

every member of our Granges and of the communities we serve."

Currently, Hamp is a proud member of the Board of Directors of the Quilts of Valor Foundation, which she was appointed to in 2022, after establishing a connection between the Quilts of Valor and the National Grange.

Hamp earned a bachelor's degree in public policy and administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington; a Master of Public Administration degree from The George Washington University in Washington, DC; and an associate degree of technical arts in Fire Command Administration from Edmonds Community College in Edmonds, Washington.

Hamp is a proud fourth-generation Grange member. Earlier in her Grange life, Hamp was named the Washington State Outstanding Junior Granger in 1981, the Washington State Outstanding Young Granger in 1986.

Hamp and her husband Duane, a past President of the Washington State Grange, live outside Spokane, Washington. She succeeds Betsy E. Huber, who was the first woman elected to the office of National Grange President in 2015.

"I want to thank you all for the last 8 years, the best years of my life," Huber said. "I wish Chris the very best, and I will help her however I can. Grange has been my entire life for 21 years, from being State President in Pennsylvania through National President, but I'm still [active] in my Community Grange... and I'm not going anywhere."

The Grange has been America's strongest agricultural and rural interest group for more than 150 years. Looking toward the next 150 years, Hamp is interested in securing the future of the organization as caretakers of its legacy, with a focus on resilience and renewed relevance. Hamp stated that "we must continue to do our part to ensure that we are stronger tomorrow than we are today."

Moving on to the new year



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.

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Well, so much for Fall, another season gone. We had our annual basket raffle at State Session, thank you all for your participation. We had a lot of fun and the winners were Sandy Phillips for our Garden Basket. Judy Doyle was especially lucky and won both the Happy New Year's and Craft Baskets. Congratulations to you both. Some of our ticket money was donated to the State Grange Foundation again as we continue to support other committees. We are also trying to help save by keeping costs down. Since this is the 2nd year of our 2-year theme of "Lets make a Snowman" I will not resend all of the blue book copies out. You should still have them and if you lost them, please go to the State Grange Website as it has all the information there.

I will be sending out the new Pamphlets for the needlework contest as well as a letter for the NEGB and this year's tallies. There are only a few changes: On the baby set, the wording has been changed from "jacket" to "sweater".

The teacup craft was such a huge success, the directors from all the states are continuing this craft for another year. We have updated the rules so you can let your creativity flow! Only 1 teacup and 1 saucer may be used, but they do not have to be glued together. Committee members (excluding the director) are allowed to enter items in the needlework contest. Craft contest all members are allowed.

For the state contests, this year instead of the sock creature, you will be decorating a bird house. The baking contest is Oatmeal Snowballs. I will re-send the recipe in your mail package along with

your report form as there was a correction to the Monetary Donations. I will be holding a zoom session in February, which will be announced in the next Granger. If you can't

find the information you are looking for before then, please email me familyactivities@ctstategrange.org or dawnrose1432@gmail.com

On behalf of the Family Activities Committee, we wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday.

Riverton ramp connector



Life Scout Gavin Lavalley and his fellow scouts executed his plans for building a new connector ramp between the Peggy & Frank Prelli Memorial Walkway and the driveway at Riverton Grange. It's an Eagle Scout project that the members appreciate so all can enter the hall with as little difficulty as possible.

Time to think about Ag Awards

Irene Percoski, State Agricultural Committee

We are an organization based on agriculture, yet there were no awards given out at this year's State Session. Why? Is there not one single person worthy of Professional of the Year, or Young Professional, or Agricultural Promoter? Have we all distanced ourselves from looking for those people who excel at a job? The award is not exclusive to the farm industry. Anyone who has worked hard and demonstrated leadership and professional skill in ANY field of work is eligible for the award if they are a Grange member. The Promoter award is not confined to being a Grange member. It could be someone who advocates or supports agriculture in the State. It may be a friend or neighbor or someone in a government position who truly supports local farmers or the farming industry. All three of these awards are important to the Grange and to you as an individual. NOW is the time to start looking around for that special person, so open your eyes and ears and look for someone you think is worthy for the 2024 State session Award.



Grange Month 2024: It's Not Too Soon to Start Planning

By Terri Fassio, CT State Grange Public Relations Co-Director

April 2024 will be here before we know it, so it's not too soon to be thinking about what your Grange will be doing to celebrate and begin the planning process.

Community Granges are encouraged to participate in the month-long celebration by opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events and activities focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities. Granges will often celebrate Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens' awards, service projects, community displays, traditional pot-luck suppers and more. National Grange will release their packets in February or March.

Think outside the box when planning your Grange Month activities. Try something new and different. Or reinvent an old popular Grange event. Perhaps your Grange once hosted a Dairy Dinner or a Spaghetti Supper that was standing room only in its day. Or participated in a community service project that was well-received in the town, like cleaning the local cemetery or collecting cans and bottles. Members have fond memories of these past activities and events where they volunteered their time or attended and supported the organization. Why not take a look back, find something that worked for your Grange, and then host a new and improved "today" version of an event from the past!

Planning, implementation and execution are important. A good place to start once your Grange has decided on an event or project is to

establish a timeline, and post it for all involved to follow. Note important dates along the way, and do not miss them.

Grange Events should be memorable, make an impact, and offer an unique opportunity for the public to see your Grange up close and

Changes to the 7th Degree

By Mandy Bostwick, National Comm. Fellow

At the annual Assembly of Demeter Business meeting, High Priest Roger Bostwick (KS) announced that this year is the 130th anniversary of the 7th degree as presented to anyone having received the 6th degree. Up until that point only delegates on their second year to the National Grange were able to receive the degree." It was also announced that the 7th Degree would be moving away from the stage presentation and to a version of the original floor presentation of the 7th degree. "The original floor presentation of the 7th Degree was written by Frances McDowell, and was prepared by John Thompson. We are working on a version of the floor presentation using that as a guideline to present a new 7th Degree from the floor presentation," says Bostwick. The purpose behind this is that the costumes have become old and fragile and, in an effort, to save the costumes for historical



preservation the elected officers and appointed officers of the Assembly will be wearing the 7th Degree collars during the Convocation of the 7th Degree.

Gene and Maria Edelen, Seventh Degree Directors, announced that due to limitation of stage size that the 7th Degree will be done at a floor level, but will still be the current stage presentation of the degree work.

Priestess Stefenoni has asked the National Grange Foundation to include in their accounts a 7th Degree Presentation and Preservation Fund so that fundraising be directly specifically at the preserving and presenting the 7th Degree. That fund is now available for anyone to donate to.

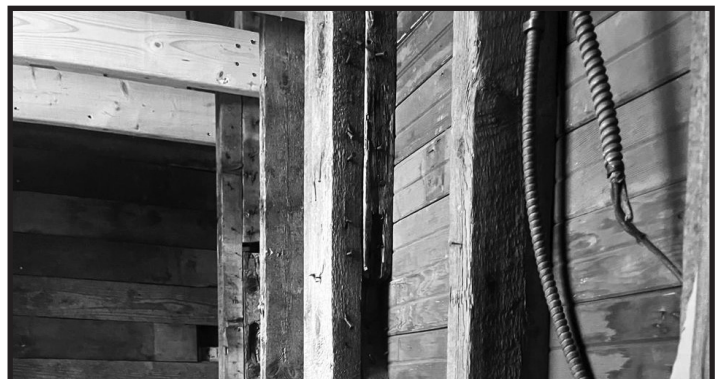
She encourages people to donate a money amount based on the year they took the 7th Degree. For example, if you took the 7th Degree in 1984 you could donate \$19.84. Stefenoni also says "if you want to donate that amount times the number of years that you've been a 7th Degree member that doesn't hurt either."

Update to the Grange Plot project



The Town of Barkhamsted has helped to prepare the boulder for the plaque that will designate the Connecticut State Grange Plot in People's State Forest. The CT DEEP has done a great job of clearing the brush to make the marker more easily accessible from the road.

Granby Grange works on renovations



Thanks to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, renovations projects at Granby Grange have begun. A new unisex bathroom will be installed on the main level and a handicap ramp will be installed leading to the front door. Granby Grange's mission is to make their hall a community gathering location for all.



Phil Prelli (CT & Priest Archon) Left and Burton Eller, National Leg. Director greet a Niagara Falls Mayor Robert Restaino.



State Steward Jaimie Cameron, represents CT as LAS on the State Youth Team opening the Friday morning session.



A group photo of the night tour of Niagara Falls on the weekend prior to the opening of the Convention. Ontario is visible in the background.



Outgoing Officers of the National Grange.



Opening Session Parade of Northeast Flags



E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol B. Hnath

Dec. 2: Dinner, 6 PM, Meeting at 7 (approx.)

All members of Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange are invited to a dinner which will be held before the regular meeting on December 2nd at 6 pm. Reservations are required and should be made with jodycameron2000@sbcglobal.net or jodianncameron@sbcglobal.net or by calling Jody at (860) 576-2150. The dinner and meeting will be held at Ekonk Grange Hall, 723 Ekonk Hill Road, Moosup.

The regular meeting will start after the dinner at approximately 7 pm. This is the first meeting for our officers installed at the last meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the Pomona, please come, join us, and share them. The Lecturer, Cherie Robinson, will present her program "Peace". Our Christmas program is always excellent!

Remember if you are joining us for the supper you must make a reservation - this will ensure that sufficient food is prepared. We hope to see you there.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Dec. 7: Holiday Party 6:00 p.m. short business meeting followed by 6:30 p.m. Christmas Buffet

Jan. 4: "Happy New Year to All" 7:30 p.m. Ref. Tom Breen, Kay Ruff

January 18th Social Gathering 7:00 p.m.

By the time you read this

Glastonbury Grange would have held our first Social Meeting on November 16th. The public has been invited to a fun evening. We will have a table set up to sell some crafts and raffle tickets on a few items. All will enjoy socializing and then Bingo followed by light refreshments.

December 2nd we will be setting up a couple of tables at Killam & Bassets Farmstand on Main Street in South Glastonbury to sell Crafts, Homebaked items and Knick Knacks. We will be there from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00?? p.m. At both of these events we will be handing out Grange brochures and inviting folks to join us.

December 7th is our Holiday Party . We have a short business meeting at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Christmas Buffet beginning at 6:30 p.m. Non members are always welcome

Glastonbury Grange wishes all a very " Merry Christmas " and a Blessed and Healthy New Year.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Dec. 27: Christmas Party

The members of our Grange are busy doing projects for the hall as well as for the community. We hosted the Candidates for local election and showed the community our hall and what we do. We are having several groups use the hall. We have continued to update the interior and make it more inviting for groups. We have coordinated with the Conservation Commission to plant a pollinator garden on the edge of our property. This is going to look great and provide a help for the environment. The annual meeting of the Windham Farm Bureau had their annual meeting in our hall with a buffet meal prepared by our members. We are still looking for new and old ideas to use for our meetings and help us all learn more about the world around us. Our Grange hall is an historic building in our town and we want to continue its symbol for the future. Members make all the difference for any organization and

its future.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Dec. 1: Peace -Refresh, Irene

Jan. 5 or 12: Short program on Zoom

Feb. 1: Bluebirds

Our November meeting was held up by yours truly being late. Well, there is a first time for everything. We welcomed back Claudia who is recovering from surgery and four members were on zoom. Cheri had an excellent program on the bread of life. and instructed us on the sign for Peace. She was presented with the lecturer's Award certificate which was well earned. Nancy presented the check that Vernon Grange received for winning the Community Service award to the secretary and a motion was made to use those funds for the next year's community service projects. Then all played grocery bingo. There were 2 or 3 large bags of non-perishable goods to donate to the local food shelf. Our donation of ditty bags to the Police dept. was delayed as we still need a few items and will complete the task next month. Our meetings are always on zoom, if you would like to be included, please contact President Nancy Strong and she can add you to the email list. To one and all we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Dec. 8: Here Comes Santa Claus

Dec. 18: Caroling around town

Dec. 22: No meeting. Merry Christmas/Happy New Year

We are sorry to report the death of Paul Penley. When Paul was our Steward he organized our Steward's closet so there was a place for everything and everything is now always in its place. He will be sadly missed.

Our annual Halloween party was its usual pandemonium, but oh, so much fun. A new game this year was a scavenger hunt to find the parts

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of two large skeletons. The green team won but the purple team was not far behind. The children bowled for candy corn, fed Frankie, played musical mats and so much more. There were prizes for costumes and for the games; then everyone enjoyed the refreshments and the cup social

downstairs.

Please note the date change for caroling this year. Barring rain (or, gasp!! snow) we will show up on Monday night with fruit baskets and song. Santa will fly in for our Christmas party. Please bring the children (and a wrapped gift with

their name clearly written on it for Santa's bag). And if those dratted leaves that insist on covering the driveway would just blow away by themselves, next time we will tell you all about nice November.



Hank's Carrot Casserole



Carrot casserole is a great holiday side dish that's both creamy and savory with just a touch of sweetness from the carrots. Carrots are highly approved by Hank as one of his favorites! Coriander and dry mustard add lovely background flavors to the cream sauce. Microwaving the carrots gives them a jump-start in the cooking process and ensures they're cooked through. The carrots should all be sliced thinly so they cook evenly. If you have one, a mandoline can make quick work of the slicing, but a good sharp knife will also do the trick.

by Amanda Stanfield of "Eating Well"

Active Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 Hour

Ingredients:

- 5 med. Carrots, peeled and thinly sliced (about 4 cups)
- 1 Tsp. water
- 1 Tsp. Extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 Cup Whole Wheat Panko breadcrumbs
- 2Tsp. finely chopped fresh Thyme
- 2 Tsp. finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
- 1/4 Tsp. Salt, divided
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 Cups whole milk

- 1-1/4 Tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 Tsp. onion powder
- 1/4 Tsp. ground pepper
- 1/8 Tsp. ground coriander
- 1 Cup shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

Directions:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 375°. Lightly coat a 9x6 inch baking dish with cooking spray. Place carrots and water in a large microwavable bowl. Cover with plastic wrap; microwave on high until crisp-tender, 4 to 5 minutes.

Step 2: Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add panko, thyme, parsley and 1/8 teaspoon salt; cook, stirring occasionally, until the panko is golden brown, about 3 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a small bowl. Wipe the pan clean.

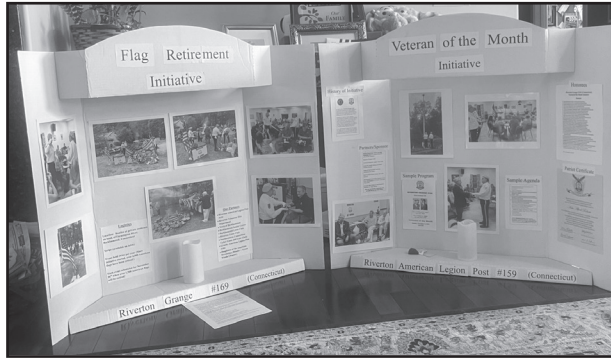
Step 3: Melt butter in the skillet

over medium heat. Whisk in flour. Cook, whisking constantly for 1 minute. Gradually whisk in milk until a smooth and slightly thickened sauce forms, about 1 minute. Add mustard, onion powder, pepper and coriander. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the sauce thickens, about 4 minutes. Remove from heat.

Step 4: Pour half of the sauce into the prepared baking dish. Add half of the carrots; top with 1/2 cup Cheddar. Repeat with the remaining sauce, carrots and cheddar. Top with the panko mixture and sprinkle with the remaining 1/8 teaspoon salt. Cover with foil.

Step 5: Bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake until the sauce is bubbling and the carrots are tender, about 10 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Riverton Grange #169



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

As of this writing, the Dec. 2 meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona was just a week away. We had a lunch catered by Jimmy's Store in Torrington (provided by the Pomona) followed by the Christmas meeting. We will have more on this meeting in the next issue. Until then, have a wonderful holiday season!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Dec. 12: Christmas Gift (\$10) & Party, Ref. Rae Fassio

Dec. 26: Meeting Omitted for Christmas

Jan. 9: A New Year, Ref. Sandy & Earl Phillips

Jan. 23: Under the Stars, Ref. Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

Winchester held a holiday themed Tea Cup Auction in November with an excellent turnout. We thank all of the members who donated prizes and reached out to community businesses and organizations for the larger items in the auction.

Join us for our December meeting. It will be our Christmas meeting with a gift exchange (\$10 value). Visitors are always welcome!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Dec. 14: Cookie Exchange by All Ref. Cookies and Milk by All. (Bring 4 dozen cookies of 1 kind.)

Jan. 10: Three Magi by Debra Tyler Ref. by Debra Tyler

Feb. 3: Grange Dance 7:00pm-9:00pm by Dance Committee Ref. by All.

Above Left: Riverton Grange's display in the Idea Fair at the National Grange Convention in Niagara Falls, NY. Carol Buice (right) shows off her first place ribbon from the Association of CT Fairs Baking Contest. Her Apple Pie was the best out of the entries from 34 fairs statewide.

Feb. 8: All About Love by Ruth Schnell Ref. by Ruth Schnell

Note: Refreshments & Social Time begins at 7pm and meeting at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.

There was an interesting mix at our November 4th Square & Contra dance including many new people/dancers some from "generation Z" (or at least I think so) who do not carry cash. They asked to pay by venmo. We are not set up for that. They had a good time dancing adding energy to the night.

At our November meeting Barbara Prindle donated a \$100 check made out to her from the CT. State Grange. This was given each member of the State Membership Committee as an "incentive bonus" for the state net gain in membership. She also gave a report on State Session. We had a good discussion on the Resolutions that were or were no passed at State Session with many questions and comments. Ideas for next year were put forward. Master Chris Hopkins had the program "Change" and talked about how change is a normal thing. We need to get comfortable with change and use it as an opportunity to grow. He also would like to start a Lecturers Series of programs "Helping the Helpers."

At our December meeting on the 14th we will again be making up plates for the people suggested by Social Services in Sharon and for our members who can not get out to meetings. We would welcome you to come to this fun event and ask

that you bring 4 dozen of one kind of cookie to help fill the plates plus have cookies & milk for refreshments.

We wish you all a happy and healthy winter holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Bethlehem Grangers sponsored and donated an entire Thanksgiving dinner to a local family.

We have a tradition of donating dictionaries to third grade students in our town. They still accept them gratefully.

We have planned to go to a restaurant for a Christmas Party Dinner. Anyone interested may call Al Maddox.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Happy to announce that two Bridgewater Grange members received their 7th degree this weekend at the 157th Annual National Grange Convention up in Niagara Falls, NY.

Congratulations to Renee Siana and Aaron Jacques on your degree, and a huge thank you to Shirley Siana and Don Richards III for also attending and representing our Grange.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Dec. 1-3: Christmas in Riverton/
Continued next page...

Grange Tree Festival; supporting the Pleasant Valley Community Food Bank

Dec. 3: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted, 06063); 6:00 PM

Dec. 15: Meeting & Program: Holiday Traditions via Zoom only (NOTE: Meetings now start at 7:00 PM)

On Friday, November 3, Riverton Grange held its monthly hybrid meeting using the “new” 2013 version of the Blue Book. The members all enjoyed the new streamlined opening and closing, along with the streamlined agenda. It was agreed that this “new” version would be used in the future.

Grange member Tim Sweeney, Commander of Riverton American Legion Post 159, created a tabletop display for the Riverton Fair. The display will be shown at the National Grange Convention and a new backdrop was built with the help of Terri Fassio and Dave Roberts.

Thanks to the hard work of Grange member Judy Doyle, Riverton Grange has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Northwestern CT Community Foundation to renovate our hall’s two restrooms.

So proud of Carol Buice who represented our Riverton Grange Fair at the 2023 CTagFairs (CAF) annual fall meeting and won first prize (out of 34 fairs represented) in the apple pie contest this past Saturday. Carol’s First Place pie was auctioned off for \$300 with the funds going to the CAF scholarship fund.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Our October meeting was held on the 26th with one potential new member visiting. Members who attended the state session in Norwich shared information from the various meetings. Other meeting topics included: state resolutions passed, 6th degree ceremony, youth program is active at Hillstown grange - would be a good model, creating a google doc to keep track of community service, contacting town

social services to see how our grange can help for the holidays, repair of cement step outside building, timing of December meeting.

In the last month, we had one member help out at the American School for the Deaf Halloween maze along with seven fellow Grangers. On Thursday, November 9th, we held the last of our 5 part Beaver

Pond Wildlife films. Once again, we had a great time hosting a social hour with food and attendance at the film. On Saturday, November 11th, a local artist/seamstress displayed her clothing for sale. We hope to turn this into an annual event.

Next meeting: December 14th, 2023

Happy Holidays!

Winchester Grange Penny Auction



Winchester Grange held a successful Penny Auction on Friday, Nov. 17 with excellent attendance and lots of great prizes.

The Connecticut State Grange will again offer the 10 module 1.0 series of the Leadership Academy from May 2024 to September 2024. This highly interactive 10 module training gives participants an introduction to various leadership topics as well as allows participants the opportunity to interact with each other while learning from each other’s experiences, good and bad.

We are also excited to present Leadership Academy 2.0. The 2.0 version of the Leadership Academy will be a much more in-depth curriculum on leading a functional team with a strong focus on effective communication. Leadership Academy 2.0 will begin in February 2024 and run through May 2024. There will be three 4 hour Zoom sessions and one 6 hour in-person session. Each participant will be required to complete tasks and projects as part of the curriculum. This will be a highly interactive experience.

Please contact Todd Gelineau to reserve your spot in Leadership Academy 1.0 and 2.0 and to ask any and all questions about both programs. We look forward to seeing so many of you at both Academies ~ Jody Cameron & Todd Gelineau

Email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org or call 860-307-1522.

Wallingford entries win awards



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

At our September meeting we celebrated our 5th anniversary. Our agenda was what a celebration should be – a good business meeting, an entertaining program, a huge country store and something good to eat.

Our Delegates to the State Session were Master Donald Lanoue and Overseer Charles Dimmick. We look for to their report at our next meeting.

Congratulations to Maryalyce Lee of Cheshire Grange and Pat Fischer and Joanne Cipriano of Beacon Valley Grange who won prizes at the BIG-E

From the Officers and Members of Nutmeg Pomona we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will not be meeting now until Sunday March 17th. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Now is the time to starting lining up your candidates.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Dec. 14: December Things Christmas Card Exchange and \$5.00 Grab Bag

As noted above, we will have the one meeting in December. Several our members attended the annual session of the Connecticut State Grange in Norwich in October. It was a very well run session with interesting resolutions and good debate. We had a very successful fund raising roast beef dinner in early November which aided our treasury nicely. We had good support and a busy crew working on the dinner. We are collecting food for the Cheshire Food Pantry which will be delivered



Two of Wallingford Grange Fair State contest winners were awarded placements in the Association of CT Fairs statewide contests! Congratulations to Jr. baker Gianna for second place! Quilter Marci won an honorable mention. Well earned, ladies!

prior to Thanksgiving.

Cheshire Grange will move forward in our new Grange year. We wish all of our Granges and members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

A new Grange year, a new theme. This time “Fruits and Vegetables”. Our Delegates to the State Session were Ron Gunther and Marianne Nielsen. We are proud to say we placed first in the Community Service Contest at the State level. We thank Chairperson Jean Meehan who keeps track of the hours, comes up with new projects and makes sure the report is filed on time.

Congratulations to Treasurer Ron Fischer who was honored by the students at Bungay Elementary School in Seymour at their Veteran’s Day recognition. Ron, a navy veteran, is very active in promoting the military and has spoken at many schools.

With Sadness we report the passing of Diane Godin a 54-year member of Beacon Valley Grange. She first joined Seymour Grange. When they closed, she joined Rock Rimmon Grange and when they turned in their Charter she joined Beacon Valley. She was Gatekeeper for many years, a position her husband Victor said she really enjoyed.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party on December 8th. Pot Luck supper to be served promptly at 6 o’clock. For those who would like to participate we will have a \$5.00 grab bag.

BVG wishes all our fellow Grangers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

Jan. 4: Meeting

Feb. 1: Meeting

March 7: Meeting

Lyme Grange has been plagued wit several members having medical problems. However, long-term planning is a Food and Plant Sale in May and a Tag Sale in June using the fairgrounds for people to come with their items to sell. We are still discussing our furnace problems but we are keepin up with all the necessary paperwork.

We wish everyone a wonderful, healthy Christmas and the new year will bring good health to everyone.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Dec. 8: Christmas Decorations

Dec. 22: Omitted for Christmas

Jan. 12: Boy It’s Cold Outside

Jan. 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Congratulations to all!



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

The Connecticut State Grange was honored to receive a 2023 deaf awareness grant from the National Grange Foundation for \$1,000. Following months of planning, the two day event was held on the campus of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford.

The Planning Committee included ASD Staff and school resource librarian, as well as Judy Doyle from Riverton Grange, Carol Innes from Granby Grange and myself.

In order to expand the relationship between the American School for the Deaf and the Connecticut State Grange, we decided to host two events that could unite the two communities and also help the surrounding community understand the special relationship between these two organizations.

Day #1 was held on Monday, October 30, and included an outdoor campus-based Trunk or Treat event for ASD students, their siblings and family members. Grangers from Granby, Riverton, Winchester, Mountain Laurel Pomona, and Rhode Island State Grange participated in this event by decorating their car trunks with special displays and passing out goodies. Over 45 vehicles participated in this event, despite the rain. Over 100 kids enjoyed the event and were presented with a specially designed Connecticut State Grange drawstring backpack designed by Terri Fassio. In addition, Grange stickers, pens, note pads, comic books, sign language books and other items were distributed.

Day #2 was held on Tuesday, October 31, and included an indoor costume parade and maze through

the ASD resource center. Based on five children's Halloween books, students, teachers, parents and invited guests were able to journey through the maze of five handcrafted sets with live Grange actors playing parts in the books. Grange themes were emphasized. Granges represented included Granby, Simsbury, Riverton, and Mountain Laurel Pomona. Special thanks goes to the creative talents of Granby Grange Lecturer Judy Doyle who helped design all five sets in the library.

A video was created and edited by Terri Fassio of this event and can be viewed at <https://youtube/1wC3hELfV6U>. This video

is also available on the Connecticut State Grange Facebook page.

The best part of this collaboration with the American School for the Deaf was rebuilding bonds and relationships for years to come. If you are interested in helping on future projects with the American School for the Deaf or on deaf awareness initiatives, please let me know. Riverton Grange actually recruited new member Margot Fischer from our deaf awareness activities and Margot portrayed a witch on the Harry Potter set during our event.

Please let me know if you need any help for your Grange or a speaker, as I enjoy visiting other Granges as your State Grange Lecturer.





Loaves & Fishes

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE: The usual fun times helping out New Milford Loaves and Fishes. Open Faced roast beef sandwiches on garlic toast or white bread with mixed veggies and mashed potatoes were on the menu this evening. And for dessert we served up some bread pudding and ice cream. We cannot thank my fellow grangers Dean and Carol and her friend Julie for coming down and helping out. Always a good time

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



Last Month



This Month

There were no answers for the November photo. Please contact us if you have any info on this month's or any of the previous month's photos.

Holiday Greetings

Wishing
you peace and joy
this Christmas,
and an amazingly
awesome 2024!
*Chris & Quane
Hamp*



Happy
Holidays
*Rob & Maggie
Buck*

Happy Holidays
from
**The Connecticut
Granger**

Merry
Christmas
and a Happy
New Year from our
Grange to Yours.
*Beacon Valley
Grange*

May the excitement of this Christmas
Season stretch into the New Year for you.
Joanne Cipriano

Merry Christmas and a Happy,
Healthy New Year!
Earl & Sandy Phillips

Merry
Christmas &
Happy New Year
*Phil & Maureen
Prelli*

Merry Christmas
from your
friends at
**Hillstown Grange
and
Hillstown Junior
Grange**

Happy Holidays from
North Stonington Grange #138

Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!
The Knatts

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!
*George & Sharon
Russell*

Merry Christmas
and a Very Happy
New Year to All
our Grange Friends
*Jane & Ruel
Miller*

May your
Christmas be the
Merriest... and your
New Year more joyous
than the last
*Jodi Ann
& Jody*

Merry Christmas
& Happy
New Year from
**Denise Barbieri
& Donald Tyler**

Happy
Holidays from
Taughannuck Grange
May your New Year
be Happy, Healthy
and
Prosperous

Happy Holidays
from
Groton Comm. Grange #213

Happy Holidays
from All of Us at
Vernon Grange #52

Family Activities
wishes everyone a Safe
& Happy Holiday Season

Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
from
*Noel & Marcia
Miller*

Season's
Greetings
from
**Todd, Faith,
Quinlan
& Noelle**

Holiday
Greetings from
your State Grange
Lecturer
*Dave Roberts
& Family*

Wishing all
Granges a Happy
& Healthy
New Year
Killingly Grange

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
*Winchester
Grange*

Happy Healthy
Holidays from
the Officers
& Members
*Coventry
Grange*

Benedictions



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Holy Father, you have blessed us with an abundance of the fruits of the earth. We are about to participate in the enjoyment of a share of this abundance. We give you heartfelt thanks for the same and ask you to bless this food for our use and us to thy service. *AMEN*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth and Father of all your people: We give you glory for your goodness and for your living care for us. Bless this food and grant that all who eat of it may be strong in body and grow in your love. Blessed are you, Lord our God, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

Loving God, bless all those gathered here today as we come together in friendship and



fellowship. Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger; for our faith in a world where many know fear; for friends in a world where many know only loneliness. Please bless this food we are about to share, and may the strength it imparts be used in thy service and that of humanity.

AMEN

Heavenly Father, who openest Thine hand to satisfy the desires of every living thing, make us grateful for Thy present provision, and may the strength it imparts be used in Thy service and that of humanity.

AMEN

Remembering Rosalynn Carter

National Grange joins the country and the world in mourning the loss of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. Mrs. Carter was a fierce advocate on behalf of mental health issues, and she was also a friend of the Grange.

In 1979, the First Lady contributed this "Plains-Special Cheese Ring" recipe to our "National Grange: Family Cookbook from Country Kitchens" cookbook, which was printed as the first recipe. It honors her hometown of Plains, Georgia. Rest in Peace, Mrs. Carter.



Library of Congress (Pub. Dom.)

PLAINS-SPECIAL CHEESE RING

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 lb. grated sharp cheese | Pepper to taste |
| 1 C. finely chopped nuts | Dash of cayenne pepper |
| 1 C. mayonnaise | Strawberry preserves (opt.) |
| 1 sm. onion, finely grated | |

Combine all ingredients except preserves; mix well. Place in lightly greased 5 or 6 cup ring mold. Refrigerate for several hours until firm or overnight. Invert on serving plate to serve. Fill center with strawberry preserves. Serve with plain crackers.

In Memoriam

Diane Godin G.S.
Beacon Valley #103

Paul Penley
N. Stonington Grange #138

Mark Leonard Prelli
Riverton Grange #169

"Well done, good and faithful servants."