



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

November 2025

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

The 141st Annual Session of the Connecticut State Grange is now in the history books as they say and went rather well. On that subject, how many of you know why it was the 141st if we've only been around for 140 years? Find out and let me know when I see you.

Our National representatives, National Grange Treasurer and spouse Lisa Goodrich were welcomed by all present and added positivity and some reflections on how we operate compared to Vermont. An important point Brother Joe made in addressing the delegates was that as we grow in our Grange journey through the 4th, then perhaps the 5th, 6th an even 7th degree, the circle of friends we possess keeps growing larger and larger. Also growing is our knowledge from associating with these diverse people from across the country. To me this emphasizes the importance of being part of the larger whole of our fraternity. He also emphasized that partisanship should end outside the Grange hall and is not to be brought inside. In our neutral spaces, we can discuss issues amongst ourselves and remain friends even though we don't necessarily agree on everything. Respect for other

opinions is important. He pointed out how much more could be achieved if all politicians thought this way. At the banquet, Maggie and Lisa really hit it off on a shared love of horses.

Several Granges were absent from the roll call and you know who you were and your particular reason for not attending. Believe me when I say I understand what those reasons are for those various Granges in absentia. Where strained feelings

keep some away, surely you can find someone willing to attend. Where other obligations interfere, you know the schedule for the convention long ahead of time and ought to be able to plan accordingly to attend. For those that feel no connection to the State Grange because this body has no value, I would ask you to re-evaluate your position as part of a larger fraternity and the importance of participation.

Thanks to the Agriculture Committee under Kristina Donihee

...Continued next page

Creating a Memory Jar

Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

A memory jar is a decorative jar, often glass, used to collect and store memories for a specific period of time. It could be a one-year project or a multi-year project. Memories are written down on notes, and can even include small keepsakes, photos, clippings, drawings or cards. The jar acts as a time capsule, allowing Granges to reflect on and revisit those cherished moments at a later date when the jar is opened.

A simple glass memory jar can be beautiful, but it's so much fun to personalize the project for your Grange. First, decide if you want your jar to be transparent or opaque. If you want the content hidden until it's open, you could completely paint or wrap the outside, or use stickers, glue, or paint to decorate the outside of the jar. You could also consider attaching a special fabric, such as lace, to trim your memory jar. The ideas are endless.

Your Grange memory jar should be on show at all times, waiting for new memories, messages of hope and gratitude, or embracing Grange stories and reminders of special members. This prompts members to add their own special moments. Choose somewhere prominent but safe — you don't want the jar to get knocked or smashed!

The biggest payoff with the memory jar comes at the end of the cycle, when you get to open it up, read the notes, and reminisce.

The more involved your members are with your memory jar project, the more it will mean as the years go by.



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due November 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

with help from daughters Chloe and Violet to have a full complement of awards for all categories. I want to congratulate again Al "Skip" Maddox of my own Bethlehem Grange #121 for being named (Adult) Agricultural Professional of the Year. I also want to thank the Youth, Juniors, Family Activities, Public Relations, and Community Service Committees for their programs and recognitions of accomplishments. Our Scholarship Committee continues to further our fraternal support of higher

education as well.

While no resolutions from the session will be going on to National Grange, the hot button topic was the proposed National Grange dues increase. Three Granges in particular expressed their strong opposition to the proposed increase. We (Ted and I) as your delegates plan to vote the wishes of the majority of Grangers in the State and may of may not necessarily reflect our own feelings on the matter. After all, we represent you.

This year, all the elected State Grange officers were present. Ruel Miller and George Russell were re-elected to the Executive Committee and along with Don Lanoue (unable to attend and be installed last year) were installed by Jody Cameron and his team. Mary Lou Keefe was unable to attend as pianist, but Sue Pianka of North Stonington Grange graciously filled in and did a wonderful job providing us with music.

Terri Fassio and John Yeski were able to make it out from California to attend the 141st Annual Session. It was good to see them both. I had the honor to obligate John in the 5th degree in Reno in 2022 so that he could take the 6th and 7th degrees. Terri previewed the Grange history she has been working on entitled "Perseverance: Connecticut Granges Make Their Mark On History." Due to the volume of information assembled, the work will be split into two volumes and the first is scheduled for release in February 2026. It can be pre-ordered now. We are in the process of proof-reading the preliminary copy. It is quite impressive in its depth of coverage of our history. I urge every member to order a copy and for Granges to purchase copies to place in local libraries.

With all the changes taking place in Grange nowadays, our Membership

and Publicity Committees thought this issue warranted a seminar at Session to explore the ramifications further. Jody Cameron and Terri Fassio presented a two hour program called "Where Tradition Meets Reality." In an open discussion, we explored what makes a Grange a Grange, what Granges do, and why they do what they do, as well as for whom they do it. No two Granges are alike nor do they do the same things for the same people or reasons. As Granges change away from the traditional concept, we must adjust our thinking to accept the new reality if the Order is to continue in existence. Either we can bemoan the passing of the traditional Grange or welcome the future by accepting the alternate style Granges developing in our time.

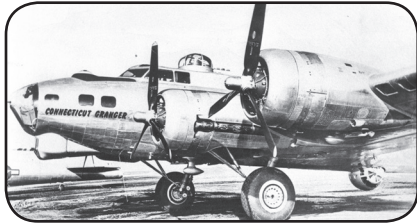
I want to thank the Family Activities Committee for the gift of an adorable gnome which will go out soon with the Christmas decorations. Thanks to my deputies for a Dunkin Donuts gift card. Receiving these gifts from my Grange family touched my heart! Thank you all for your dedication and hard work.

The Northeast Leaders Conference this year will be held in January in Colchester, VT which is near Burlington. These are always valuable learning experiences and enjoyable to attend. We in New England have a special bond.

Soon, in only three weeks, We embark on a new adventure as far as National Grange Conventions go: the ABC Cruise. Once again, Ted and I will be your delegates. It is new to me never having been on a cruise and it may be my only as Maggie is not enamored of them. It will be a learning experience as I have never seen the Caribbean Sea or any of its islands before. We visit Aruba, Bonaire, and Curacao which are all Dutch. While some were opposed to this idea, I have kept an open mind and hope to have a good time.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

STAFF

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

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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and should be sent to:
Connecticut State Grange
100 Newfield Road
P.O. Box 3

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

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**Robert Buck addresses the
141st Annual Session**

*Brothers and Sisters of the
Connecticut State Grange,*

As much as we have some successes in our State Grange, we also have many struggling Granges. While many struggle, some continue to get by while others are hanging by a thread. I will repeat what I said in my 2024 President's Address: We need to change the way we do things as doing what we have always done does not seem to be working universally. I would re-enforce the fact that we have successful Granges and I would encourage all to look to them for help, ideas, and inspiration. There is no one size fits all solution to success for the Granges. One bit of evidence that Grange is changing is seen in the observation that some Granges stick very closely to the ritual for running their meetings while others use some if it and yet others have put it to rest. While I prefer to see some use of the Opening and Closing ritual and the Grange Order of Business, I do see that some members have rejected its use for whatever reasons. One could say that the Grange IS changing as we speak by virtue of the effects of its members. I would caution those Granges that this deviation from the prescribed manner of running of our meetings does place your chartered

Annual Address of State President Robert Buck

status per the IRS as a 501.c.4 or 501.c.8 fraternal organization at risk of revocation as a technicality of those provisions. That said, I do not know who if anyone enforces this, but neither would I like to find out.

In the recent election of Mountain Laurel Pomona #15, Dave Roberts will replace me as President of the Pomona and I move over to the Executive Committee. I continue as Lecturer of Bethlehem #121 and Secretary of Oxford #194. Timing has allowed me to attend more of the Bethlehem meetings, but other commitments and events dictate that I miss some of the Oxford meetings. This has been a good year for visitations and special events like the Music Night at Hillstown #87, the Wallingford #33 140th Anniversary Program, the Mystery Ride with Vernon #52, and the Beacon Valley #103 136th Anniversary where President Joanne Cipriano received her 75 year membership award and various other citations.

Dave Roberts put together a dedication program for the Grange Plot in Peoples State Forest which was held August 24 and followed by a dinner at Riverton Grange.

Finances continue to be concern for the Connecticut State Grange and your Board of Directors does its best to act as stewards the of the Order. In the long run, we must cut our costs of operation and increase our income. The best way to do this is to grow membership. There has been some controversy this year over the financial condition of the Grange and what some thought ought to be done with that apparent wealth. This issue has been explained to the membership in detail by the State Secretary Todd Gelineau. Meanwhile we have seen once again another example of what the spread of untruths on social media can do.

MEMBERSHIP

At the close of the first quarter, we had 30 Granges in Connecticut and while some saw membership gains, more saw losses leaving the state with a 2.2% decrease in membership. Growing our Community Granges is the only way we will survive. Attracting new members is a constant endeavor which demands that your Grange remain RELEVANT in its community and thus able to attract interest and members. By being vital and relevant, you can be CONNECTED to your communities, thus the idea of a CONNECTED LIFE.

Preston City #110 relinquished their charter and the remaining members joined in with North Stonington #138. The status of Cawasa #34 is in limbo as we continue to try to determine the legal status of their 501.c.3 scholarship fund corporate entity.

In order to aid the Lecturers and promote fraternalism among Grangers, State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts holds regular Lecturers' Roundups to promote various programs and aid the Subordinate and Pomona lecturers in providing programs. Also to promote fraternalism and help Grangers with promoting Grange and its activities, Publicity Co-Chair Terri Fassio holds regular Social Hours, usually quarterly, to provide useful information to us. Several of her programs have highlighted the new Grange book which will be released at this State Session and available for pre-order. Thank you Terri! Also in the vein of bringing us together, the Family Activities Committee under Dawn Percoski and fellow committee members sponsored the August Family Festival at Hillstown

Continued next page...

Grange Where the State Grange contest entries were exhibited and judged. This event also featured a pancake breakfast. Dave Roberts culminated the process of locating the State Grange Plot in Peoples Forest in Barkhamsted, organizing the clearing of land and re-placing the memorial plaque on a boulder in plain view. The rededication ceremony was held on the afternoon of August 24 and followed by a dinner at Riverton Grange. Dave also holds his regular Lecturers' Round-ups to help our lecturers and members, as well as to promote various programs and general fraternalism. Thanks Dave for all this work.

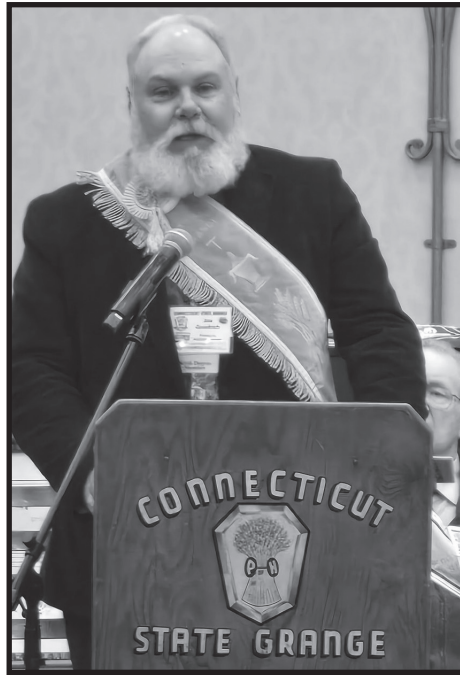
NATIONAL GRANGE

On October 22, just after State Session, Winchester Grange #74 hosted a visit from National Grange President Chris Hamp and First Gentleman Duane. It was an honor to their Grange and an enjoyable evening which Maggie and I attended.

I attended the 158th National Grange Convention in Bettendorf, Iowa and held at the Isle Casino Hotel Bettendorf right on the Mississippi River. The opening banquet luncheon was on a riverboat Monday and very well attended. Vice President Ted Powell was again my fellow delegate. One contentious issue was that of a dues increase. My assignment was to the Citizenship and Taxation Committee. In a few weeks we embark on an ABC Cruise (Aruba-Bonaire-Curacao) for the 159th National Grange Convention. I will chair Citizen and Taxation this year. This will be new for me never having been on a cruise and never having been to the Caribbean Sea or any of its various islands.

POMONA GRANGES

In my mind, I see a continuing need for Pomona Granges to connect the Community Granges to the State Grange. With less visitations going on among the Subordinate Granges, this is the one regular opportunity that brings people together from



National Treasurer Joe Goodrich gives his National Rep. address

different Granges on a regular basis. As the first four degrees are rarely exemplified these days, the new members are exposed only to the Fifth and Sixth degrees at Pomona Grange and State Grange respectively.

While the Pomona inspections for Mountain Laurel #15 and Eastern Connecticut Pomona #14 were held the same day in May for several years, Mountain Laurel decided to move its inspection to the August 23 meeting to give members joining later in the year a late year opportunity to take the Fifth Degree before State Session. It also makes the inspection schedule for the Deputies easier.

There has been no new move by National Grange to re-establish the Pomona Study Group. At a more local level we continue to support the continuance of the Pomona division for the reasons stated above without any further input from National Grange. We even held Pomona Roundtable discussions here in Connecticut on Zoom, organized by Terri Fassio, that attracted National Grange Attention to keep this topic alive and in view.

EDUCATION

The Connecticut State Grange continues to support education by way of its scholarship and loan program. Thanks to Dawn Percoski and Nancy Strong for serving on the Education Committee. We have had the opportunity to aid several young Grange members in pursuing their higher educational objectives by virtue of these programs.

This year, I was not invited to attend the FFA Leadership Training Luncheon as I was last year. Checking their calendar of events, it appears that is was not held this year. Likewise, I never received notification of the meetings of the Frank Roswell Fuller Scholarship Committee this year either.

Due to the historical connection between the Grange and FFA and 4-H, we will always stand in support of vocational agricultural education. Training new generations of farmers and agriculturally connected workers is a high priority of the grange due to the contribution of agriculture to the economy of the state and nation.

AGRICULTURE

This year, as previously, State Grange Legislative Director and Past State Grange President Noel Miller and Vice President Ted Powell manned the booth for Ag Day at the Capitol with help from Lecturer Dave Roberts. They talked to the public as well as various elected representatives from State government.

By virtue of my being a member of the Connecticut Farm Bureau and Connecticut Audubon Society, I receive legislative alerts regarding bills relating to farming and the environment as they come before the Senate and House of Representatives of the Connecticut General Assembly, and also bills in the Senate and House of Representatives of the US Congress. Consequently, I submit a lot of letters to our State

Continued next page...

as National representatives. Some bills of interest as they relate to local agriculture are: (1) Public Act 25-33 (SB 9)-Environment, Climate Resilience, and Restricting Neonics and Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides; (2) Special Act No. 25-12- An Act Concerning Riparian Areas (HB 7174); and (3) Public Act 25-125 (HB 5004)-Protection of the Environment & Development of Renewable Energy Sources.

At the close of the 2025 legislative session, Governor Ned Lamont signed into law what has been dubbed a Mini Farm Bill to help Connecticut agriculture. Highlights include: a farmer investment tax credit on buildings and equipment; a farm machinery property tax exemption increase, hoop house code relief from requirements for permanent structures, certification system for agricultural drone use, agri-tourism liability protections, grants for shipping container farms, prohibition on sale of soil or fertilizer amendments containing bio-solids or wastewater sludge containing the chemicals known as PFAS, and shellfish regulation updates.

Another issue of agricultural importance is the subject of invasive non native plants. One of our members in CT has asked me to push for the CSG to be an educational source on this important problem. I ask that Granges get involved in this area of education by hosting programs for the public on invasives and what can be done to control them.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

I thoroughly enjoy working with the State Grange Board of Directors under the leadership of Sister Alma Graham. Each brings something unique to the table. Ted Powell has been a great help in spear heading the Grange inspections and keeping me informed of items of concern around the state. Jody keeps the finances up to date and informs us all on trends and concerns. Todd

keeps the State Grange office running efficiently and completes the reports as required for the State Grange. Nancy Strong brings her knowledge of running a foundation to the table. Thanks to Noel for his work on the New England Grange Building and along with Ted for the carpentry work done there. Noel does his best to keep me in line out of his love for the Order. I need that. As always, Noel, George, Jody and Ruel are always willing to pick up the phone when I call and give sage advice from their years of experience and accumulated knowledge. Thank you to all of you for your hard work for our Grange.

CLOSING COMMENTS

This year, in January, I attended the Northeast Leaders' Conference in Danvers, Massachusetts. That was a productive event, between the workshops and the interesting

field trip to the local vocational agricultural school which was around the corner from the hotel. In February, the National Leaders' Conference was in Sonoma, California which I had to attend virtually. Again, there was a multitude of valuable workshops. The best was "On Being Un-Offendable," put on by Vic Stevens and Scott Lyle. Out of it came a valuable lesson we should all consider adopting into our personal philosophy of life.

In closing, I do believe every Grange should sit down together and analyze its Mission and Vision by first exploring the questions: What is our purpose? and What do we do? If you're going to go somewhere, after all, you do need a road-map, right?



2025 Officers of the Connecticut State Grange

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

What is your Grange doing for Fundraisers?

Share your Grange's ideas for fundraising by sending an email to: Granger@CTStateGrange.org. We will compile a list of your responses for the next issue. Feel free to submit your ideas for questions in future issues as well.



Results of 2025 Resolutions

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

- Res. 1 RE:** Support for Organizations Advocating for Public Act No. 25-33
Res. 7 RE: USA 250th Anniversary Tree Planting
Res. 12 RE: President's Address of Robert Buck
Res. 13 RE: Public Benefits Charges
Res. 14 RE: State Grange Mentors
Res. 15 RE: Alternate Delegates (Requires By-Law Change/Vote in 2026)

OTHER ACTION

- Res. 6 RE:** Tolls on CT Interstate Highways
Res. 9 RE: Leaking Above Ground Fuel Oil Tanks

****Both resolutions were referred to the State Grange Legislative Committee. They are to report on them at the 2026 Annual Session.**

TEXT OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS *(Not prev. printed in the Granger)*

The following resolutions were not previously printed in the *Connecticut Granger* and were adopted at State Session. Please refer to the previous two issues for any of the adopted resolutions not listed below. The complete text of adopted resolutions will be printed in the Journal of Proceedings.

Res. 12 RE: ACCEPTANCE OF ROBERT BUCK'S PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

WHEREAS the Master of the Connecticut State Grange has put much thought, feeling and direction into the future of the organization in the Master's Address, and

WHEREAS we need to keep our Granges RELEVANT in our communities to increase our membership, and

WHEREAS he has put the effort in to keep our "historical connection" between the grange and the FFA and 4-H.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegate body commends his efforts on producing a find Master's Address and the address be adopted and printed in the Journal of Proceedings for this session.

Res. 13 RE: PUBLIC BENEFITS CHARGES

WHEREAS Connecticut is one of the most expensive states for electricity behind only Hawaii, California, and Massachusetts, and

WHEREAS in August the State Bond Commission borrowed \$155 million to help offset the cost of resident's electric bills with an estimated savings of \$5.00 to \$10.00 per customer, per month, and

WHEREAS electricity is a public utility regulated by the State, and more specifically the General Assembly, and

WHEREAS the General Assembly recently required Eversource and United Illuminating to break out

charges on their bills for greater transparency resulting in the public becoming more aware of the "Public Benefits Charge," and

WHEREAS the Public Benefits Charge is a junk drawer of miscellaneous fees and charges for items like Millstone, energy efficiency, clean energy, EV's, Battery Storage, "Other Power Contracts", and hardship programs, and

WHEREAS in the private sector, delinquent payments are part of the cost of doing business, and

WHEREAS a considerable amount of hardship program money (roughly 25% of the Public Benefits Charge) is being paid by each rate payer every month, including those who are having difficulty paying their electric bills, and

WHEREAS the State's answer to astronomical electric rates is to put the State of Connecticut into greater debt, handing over more public money to the utilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Connecticut State Grange urge the Connecticut General Assembly and the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to eliminate the Hardship Program charges in an effort to give the utilities the incentive to reduce costs by sharing the burden if they don't, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the State of Connecticut work with the utilities to find additional ways to make electricity more affordable for all without increasing state debt.

Res. 14 RE: STATE GRANGE MENTORS

WHEREAS the State Grange does not have enough Deputies to visit and interact with all of the Granges in the State on a regular basis, and

WHEREAS Granges need to know they are not alone and questions can be easily asked and assistance can be requested when needed, and

WHEREAS the number of Granges in the State (currently 29) is a workable number for each elected State Officer to have the responsibility for mentoring at least one or two Granges by making themselves known to the Granges and by becoming a point of contact for them.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the State Grange President appoint each elected State Officer as a mentor to one or two Granges to increase communication between the Community Granges and the State Grange, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the appointments remain in place for the duration of the State President's term of office.

Res. 15 RE: ALTERNATE DELEGATES

WHEREAS the number of Granges in Connecticut is decreasing annually, and

WHEREAS in many of the remaining Granges the average age of their membership is over 70 years of age, and

WHEREAS due to the advanced age of the membership, once a Grange selects their delegates to act on their behalf at the annual meeting of the Connecticut State Grange there can be a host of causes preventing them from fulfilling their responsibilities as delegates.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Executive Committee of the Connecticut State Grange draft a by-laws resolution to be presented at the 2026 annual session of the Connecticut State Grange that each Grange eligible to select Delegates, also select alternates to serve in the event the selected delegate(s) are unable to perform their responsibilities, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that only the delegates answering the roll call be the voting delegates until the next roll call is taken ensuring each Grange has no more than the allocated delegates in the By-Laws of the Connecticut State Grange.

Wallingford Grange teaches life skills



A successful workshop for young drivers learning car care basics at the free community education workshop on October 11th at Wallingford Grange. Tire pressure, changing tires, checking oil and jumpstarting are a few lessons of the day taught by a licensed mechanic.

SPEAK LIKE A "CHAMP"

Speak like a "CHAMP" is a monthly message designed to get everyone speaking the same language to encourage positive teamwork as we Grange.

GRASSROOTS

Grassroots refers to the most basic or fundamental level of an organization or movement, typically involving ordinary people rather than leaders. It is often used to describe efforts that are initiated and driven by individuals or local communities, as opposed to top-down, organizationally controlled actions. Grassroots movements focus on building support, advocacy, or change from the ground up, starting with those who are directly affected by an issue or cause. Grassroots movements are powerful because they are often motivated by a shared sense of urgency or concern and can mobilize large numbers of people to advocate for change at local, regional, or even national levels.



Hank the Burro

We had a great 141st State Grange Session. Here I am watching out over everybody as the Worthy President starts the meeting. I also spent time with the beautiful Court of Flora after the exemplification of the 6th Degree. We had 11 candidates take the degree.

WE EMPHATICALLY AND SINCERELY ASSERT THE
OFT-REPEATED TRUTH TAUGHT IN OUR
CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, THAT THE GRANGE -
NATIONAL, STATE, POMONA, OR SUBORDINATE - IS
NOT A PARTISAN OR PARTY ORGANIZATION. THE
PRINCIPLES WE TEACH UNDERLIE ALL TRUE
STATESMANSHIP, AND IF PROPERLY CARRIED OUT,
WILL TEND TO PURIFY THE WHOLE POLITICAL
ATMOSPHERE OF OUR COUNTRY; FOR WE SEEK THE
GREATEST GOOD TO THE GREATEST NUMBER.

Grange Declaration of Purposes



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#GRANGESTRONG

National Rural Health Day®

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Save the date!

Celebrate Rural Health Day

National Rural Health Day is coming up on Nov. 20! Now's the time for Granges across the nation to start planning how you will celebrate and support the health of your rural communities. From hosting wellness clinics and blood drives to sharing information about local health resources or mental health awareness, every effort makes a difference. Let's show the nation that the Grange continues to stand strong for rural well-being because healthy communities are strong communities. Learn more and get inspired at <https://powerofrural.org>

We need
Red, White, and YOU!

Join in on the National Grange's campaign to showcase our members as we celebrate America's 250th Birthday in 2026! Submit a headshot-style photograph of yourself wearing red, white, or blue to:

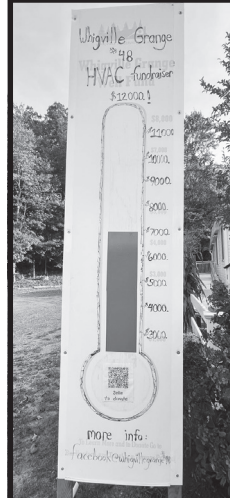
<https://grange.biz/redwhiteyou>
by December 4, 2025

AMERICA 250




Whigville works toward their goal

Whigville Grange #48 in Burlington, CT continues to work towards their new HVAC system with \$8,000 of the \$12,000 needed already in the bank. Their next event is a Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10-1 at the Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main St., Terryville.



 **IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR OUR ANNUAL CHILI CONTEST AT THE OXFORD GRANGE**

482 Oxford Rd Oxford CT
Next door to the Fire House

SAVE THE DATE
Sunday Nov 9 2pm-5pm
Family Fun - kids under 12 eat free

ENTER YOUR CHILI -IT'S EASY AND FUN
Here's how to enter

- There is no fee to you for entering.
- Anyone from any Town may enter.
- Please send us your contact info to: OxfordCTGrange@gmail.com
- Please arrive at 1:30pm or before on Sunday Nov 9, 2025.
- Please make about a Crock Pot amount of Chili..
- Any variety of Chili is welcome- spicy, mild, vegetarian etc.
- You can provide any sides that compliment your Chili.

Set ups provided by The Grange

All proceeds to benefit our Grange

NEW IN THE STORE!

 **SUPPLY STORE**

www.grangestore.org

VETERAN RECOGNITION PIN

Are you looking to honor a veteran in your Grange? This special .75" pin combines honoring their service in the military as well as honoring their Grange membership. Perfect for adding to a Quilts of Valor presentation or Veteran recognition ceremony.



Order online through the Grange Supply Store at www.grangestore.org or by calling Loretta at (202) 628-3507 ext. 109.

\$5.00
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E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol Hnath

Dec. 6: "Holiday Fun" at Ekonk Comm. Grange Hall, Sterling, 7 PM

The next meeting of Eastern Connecticut Pomona Grange #14 will be held on December 6th at Ekonk Grange Hall. The program will be "Holiday Fun". The collection items for this meeting will be non-perishable meals such as mac and cheese, granola bars, etc.

Our delegates to State Session are Jaimie Cameron, President and Carol Hnath, Secretary. Jaimie was the chairman of the Legislative/Insurance committee for the session. Both attended the pre-session committee meeting.

Our schedule of meetings for the year is: Dec. 6 - Ekonk, Mar. 7 - Hillstown (bad weather date of Mar. 14), May 2 - Killingly (Fifth Degree), June 6 - Stonington (Coastal Masonic Hall) and Sept. 12 - North Stonington. This calendar is found on page 3 of the Eastern Connecticut Pomona handbook.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Nov. 19: Business Meeting

Nov: 26: Thanksgiving Pie Sale

Dec.17: Christmas party

Dec. 24: Christmas Pie Sale

Busy month here. with 9 new members. This was due to our wonderful promotion of what the

Grange is. The welcoming Ceremony was administered to the 9 new members. An exhibit was created for the Woodstock Fair held Labor Day weekend.. This included the new digital picture display purchased with the Rural Grant. A great exhibit was also done at the very popular Celebrating Agriculture on Sept. 20. A meet the candidates will be held at our hall on October 18. On August 2 Locally Grown day was very popular with 15 local participating farms. The weather was perfect for this annual event. Our Thanksgiving and Christmas pie sales have been scheduled and are always very popular and a great fundraiser. On October 8, we hosted the Windham County Farm Bureau annual meeting and dinner. Thank all the members and friends for helping with all the great events and the great local farms that donated products to this event.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

Nov. 7: Coventry Grange Presents Program at Vernon

Nov. 14: Vernon Grange presents program at Hillstown Grange

Dec. 5: Holiday Fun. Possible Cookie Exchange

Four members attended Cheshire Grange to present a program on Aging. Then 3 members of Coventry Grange came to visit us. They brought Patty Platypus who will stay for a visit. She looks a little worse for the wear so we will have to spiff her up a bit. Our program was on Witches Past and Present. Our Community Service book was turned in and our delegates were selected. Next month more visiting with Coventry and Hillstown Granges is in order. Fall is here to stay with the beautiful colors of leaves and lots of pumpkins everywhere. Enjoy the views before it gets too cold. Hope to see many of you at our Dec. meeting and exchange

a dozen cookies. This will be our last in-person meeting before we Zoom through the winter months. Send an email to President Nancy Strong for the Zoom information if you would like to attend.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Nov. 14: Food and Other Things

Nov. 28: No Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving to All!

On September 12, Jeff Barnes installed our slate of officers in fine style. We are always impressed with his amazing memory. At our Sept. 26 meeting we learned the difference between goldenrod and ragweed. To those of us suffering from the effects of these interesting plants on our sinuses, the difference doesn't make much difference; but it is always nice to learn something new. Sue also passed out a list of exciting activities taking place in Connecticut in the fall. There are enough things to keep us busy every day of the week. And she gave us a fall word find in case we find ourselves with some free time.

We hold only one meeting in the months of November through February. This is due to the holidays in November and December and chancy weather in January and February. In those two months we hold our meeting on the second Friday, with the fourth one held in reserve in case of inclement weather on the second one.

The dictionaries have arrived and will soon be distributed to all the third graders in town. If any member is aware of a home-schooled third grader, please let us know so we can include them in the program. And if those pesky hurricanes forming in the Atlantic will just keep heading east, next time we'll tell you all about optimistic October.

Award Winning Lecturers



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

As the leaves turn and the days grow shorter, we mark the close of another fulfilling Grange year and eagerly step into the new one. I am continually inspired by the strength and spirit of our members, and this past year was no exception.

We recently concluded our Connecticut State Grange Annual Convention in Norwich, where I had the honor and privilege to once again chair the Lecturer's Appreciation Banquet and Awards Ceremony—a heartfelt evening celebrating creativity, commitment, and community across our Granges. Each year, the Lecturer's Appreciation Banquet gives us an opportunity to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond in supporting the Lecturer's Department—those who bring programs to life, nurture community connections, and embody the heart of our Grange mission.

2024–2025 Lecturer's Appreciation Award Recipients:

Robert Buck Bethlehem
Cherie Robinson . . . E. CT Pomona
Raine Pedersen Granby
Lori Golias Greenfield Hill
Nancy Swanson for Hemlock
Debbie Vail . Mtn. Laurel Pomona
Susan Pianka N. Stonington
Raine Pedersen Riverton
Cheryl Robinson Vernon
Ramona Fassio Winchester

It is with particular pride that I highlight this year's Honor Lecturer's Appreciation Award recipients—two individuals who exemplify excellence in leadership and innovation within their

Granges.

2024-2025 Honor Lecturer's Appreciation Award Recipients:

Raine Pedersen Riverton
Cheryl Robinson Vernon

Finally, a special commendation goes to Susan Pianka of North Stonington Community Grange for delivering a Complete Program—a model of dedication and engagement that truly enriches our statewide Lecturer efforts.

To all our honorees: thank you for your service, your creativity, and your unwavering support of the Lecturer's Department. You make our Grange stronger, more connected, and more vibrant.

As we enter the 2025–2026 Grange year, I look forward to building on the energy and achievements of this past year. May we continue to inspire one another, celebrate the richness of our Grange heritage, and create new opportunities for growth and connection in every corner of Connecticut.



Dave Roberts gives annual report



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Celebrating 140 Years of the Grange in Connecticut
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MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: David Roberts

Dec. 13: Meeting #1: Join us for a festive holiday celebration at Riverton Grange Hall, 17 Riverton Road, in Riverton. Wear your best holiday outfit and you might just win a prize. For our Pomona service project, please bring non-perishable food items for Project Sustenance. Prior to the regular meeting at 2:00 PM, Pomona will offer a hosted lunch served at 12:30 PM. For more information or to RSVP for this complimentary lunch, please contact Dave Roberts at Granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or 860-469-5067.

We will also be collecting gloves, mittens, children's underwear, including pull-ups for area schools. Please let the Lecturer know if your Grange has a community service project that Pomona can tackle or assist with.

On October 4th, Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 held a very special meeting filled with tradition, gratitude, and celebration. This unique gathering was called to officially install new officers for both Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 and Riverton Grange #169—a wonderful example of cooperation and shared spirit among our Granges.

The Installation Team was ably led by Past Voting Delegate Noel Miller, with skilled support from Marcia Miller, Ted Beebe, and Ted Powell. Their combined experience and warm



The officers of Mountain Laurel Pomona and Riverton Grange were installed jointly at a special meeting at Riverton Grange on Oct. 4. Pictured l to r: Installing officer Noel Miller (Past Voting Delegate), Dave Roberts (new President of Mountain Laurel Pomona and Riverton Grange) and outgoing Pomona President Robert Buck (State President).

delivery made the ceremony both meaningful and memorable. I was honored to be installed as President of both Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 and Riverton Grange #169, and I am grateful for the trust our members have placed in me.

During the meeting, we took a moment to express deep appreciation to our outgoing Pomona President Rob Buck. Rob has served our Pomona with dedication and heart, and I was pleased to present him with a thank-you note, a restaurant gift certificate, and a Past Pomona Master's Pin as tokens of our gratitude for his leadership.

The afternoon also included a truly special milestone: we celebrated the 101st birthday of longtime Riverton Grange member Shirley Moore. Shirley was honored with a birthday cake, a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday", and a selection of thoughtful gifts. Her presence and legacy continue to inspire all of us, and it was a joy to recognize her during this meaningful event.

The event was a beautiful blend of tradition and celebration, reflecting the deep bonds that tie our Grange families together.

WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Patricia Smalldone

Whigville Grange will hold a Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10-1 at the Terryville Congregational Church, 233 Main St., Terryville. Free parking and admission. We will be selling cookies by the pound. You select your cookies!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Nov. 8: Holiday Super Prize Party; Doors Open at 6; Drawing at 7

Nov. 11: Changing the Time - Again, Ref. Sue Addison

Nov. 25: Let's Give Thanks, Ref. All

On the day of the writing of this article, Winchester Grange was holding a Book and Bake Sale at the Grange Hall. Due to the overwhelming response of our members and friends, we had a tremendous supply of books left over from the Grange Fair and decided to hold an additional sale in October. Hopefully many books found new homes.

A few days later, Winchester Grange held an old-fashioned Neighbor's Night & Country Store. Sister Terri Fassio was in Connecticut

Continued next page...

for the month and volunteered to handle the entire evening, including the program. More on this next issue.

We will hold our annual Holiday Super Prize Party on Friday, Nov. 7. We already have tremendous donations of high value prizes in addition to the teacup auction items. It's a fun and inexpensive evening out, join us! Doors open at 6:00 PM and the drawing begins promptly at 7:00.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Nov. 1: Grange Square & Contra Dance (last one) 7pm-9pm

Nov. 13: Webetuck Historic District House in Amenia Union by Sharon Kroeger Ref: Debra Tyler

Dec. 11: Cookie Exchange – bring 4 doz. of 1 kind of cookie Ref: All

Jan. 8: Surprise by Bill Dinneen Ref. Bill Dinneen

Feb. 12: Something About Books by Barbara Prindle Ref: Lynn Cline

NOTE: Refreshments & Social time at 7:00PM with Meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

Our October meeting was a Halloween Costume Party. Debbie Hanlon did an excellent job with both the refreshments which were all Halloween themed including Clementines made into pumpkins. Members included a roaring 20's couple, a bird watcher, piglet, a schoolgirl, a pumpkin and scarlet-Ohh Hair-A.

We are still doing G-notes and hope to collect more for this Grange year. Our new service project for the year will be placing Christmas Wreath in the Cornwall Cemetery in December. There will be a ceremony for all military and 1st responders. We discussed the resolutions being presented at State Session so Barbara and Debbie could represent our members with our vote.

We hosted the Lime Rock Park Epic and were the pit-stop (both lunch and bathrooms) for 250 bicycle riders at our Grange Hall. There

Taghhannuck Grange No. 100



Above: Taghhannuck Grange held their annual Costume Party at their October meeting. **Below:** Taghhannuck hosted a Pit Stop (lunch and restrooms) for 250 bicycle riders in the Lime Rock Park Epic race.



were 3 bicycle races being run, 71 miles, 55 miles and 25 miles mostly on back roads that are dirt or gravel. Debbie set up an information table about the Grange and I got lots of questions about it. One rider gave us a donation and most everyone thanked on their way out.

As I write this, we are planning to have Ken Gladding as our Citizen of the Year on October 23rd with a pot-luck dinner. He is a farmer who lives in Cornwall. He has helped farms and people with milking, advice and getting young people started in

farming. He taught Vo-Ag at Wamogo school and took the girls basketball team to State Finals.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Nov. 23: Meeting on Sunday at 2 pm

Our new Grange year started in October. The Lecturer's theme for our new Grange year will be Countries. However, we decided to cancel our October meeting due to the impending Northeastern storm. November's program is Poland by

Continued next page...

Eloise/ref: by Al. M.

At our November meeting, please remember to contribute food items for the Thanksgiving Holiday family. Also, collecting additional donations for the food bank.

"The Best Dictionary for Students" is being ordered for elementary grade students. The Dictionary Project enables students to learn to find words in a dictionary and develops problem solving skills that will help children find the meaning of a word instead of asking their mother or using a computer.

Our Delegates to the CT State Session are Assistant Overseer Ray Johnstone and Ceres Cheryl Johnstone.

A Community Service Activity booklet of the past year, was compiled by Barbara R. It was finely made and we appreciate it.

We offer our sincere sympathies to our Chaplain Carol Womelsdorf on the heartbreaking loss of life of her son Christopher.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

Happy fall, everyone, from Simsbury Grange!

October 9th was our monthly meeting with a soon-to-be new member and guest, Dawn Anstett. It was wonderful seeing them both and we always appreciate Dawn's knowledge of all things Grange. Discussions centered around new members, collections of toiletries for donating, a community service idea for a local dog rescue, Grange items to include in a display at a local bank for the month of December, state session details, and upcoming events in November and December.

November 3rd - Music Monday - featuring Nikki Mira. Nikki is a singer-songwriter based out of Collinsville, Connecticut. Her songs are extracted from personal experiences. Your ears will be in for a musical experience like no other when you listen to Nikki's skillful guitar playing and moving vocals. Doors at 6:30pm, music from 7:00-

8:15pm. Donations welcome for musicians. Extra parking at Farms Village Plaza.

November 7th - Beaver Pond Wildlife Series Film #5 - Fall/Winter Don't miss the last film of the series with filmmaker, Ray Asselin. Social hour at 6:00pm, film at 7:00pm. Donations welcome. Bring your dinner or enjoy shrimp and other tasty hors d'oeuvres with us! Extra parking in Farms Village Plaza.

December 1st - Music Monday - featuring Gracin Dorsey and Joel Weik. Gracin and Joel helped us kick off Music Mondays back in February. If you missed them then, now is your

chance to see them. Gracin is a Folk, Country, Bluegrass singer/guitarist and Joel is a FABULOUS Fingerstyle guitarist. Donations are welcome for the musicians. Everyone is welcome to this last Music Monday of 2025.

December 5th - SPECIAL FILM - featuring a new film by local filmmaker, Ray Asselin. We can't wait to see what Ray has in store for us! Join us for a social hour at 6:00pm and film at 7:00pm. Yes! We will have shrimp and other tasty hors d'oeuvres/finger foods. Donations welcome. Extra parking is available at Farms Village Plaza.

WINDOW TO THE PAST

This Month



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.

For October's picture, we heard from Shirley Lawson of RI. She believes this is a group of the 6 New England State Presidents between 1968 and 1974, likely at a Leader's Conference. Bill Pearl (CT) is center right, J. Alfred Lawson (RI) is to his right (her father-in-law) and Kermit Richardson of VT. Far left is E. Norris Hall (NH). She does not know the Presidents of MA & ME.



Last Month



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Nutmeg Pomona No. 16 will be held at Wallingford Grange on Sunday, Dec. 7th at 2 PM. Lecturer Robert Charbonneau's program is entitled, "Christmas Treats." Wallingford Grange will provide the refreshments. We will have a \$5 grab bag for those who wish to participate. As with all our meetings, we will have a country store.

At the last meeting, Mary Blackwell of Harmony Grange was installed Flora. Cheshire Grange was the winner of our Community Service soup collection. Ruel Miller delivered the collection to the Cheshire Food Bank. Members are reminded to bring a can of soup for our collection.

REDDING GRANGE #15

Corr: Elizabeth Jensen

Redding Grange was blessed with an honor in our town this year. A separate organization, Redding Neighbors and Newcomers, creates an annual pewter ornament and sell them as a fundraiser for their own programming. They always pick an iconic building in town and create a collectible ornament with that image. This year they chose Redding Grange! Ornaments can be purchased for \$25 on their website: reddingneighborsandnewcomers.org.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Nov. 5: We Are Going To Mars-How Grange Principles Could Help

Nov. 19: Who Is Turning 250 Years Old Next Year?

We held a wrap up fair meeting in early October and some new ideas were discussed for next year. Necessary fair closing reports are done. We were well represented at the State Session. More on that in our next article. We are doing some house cleaning at our hall. A very worthwhile project. We will be putting on a fund raising Dinner on November 1st to help our treasury. We have had a few inquiries of late from groups inquiring about renting our hall.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Beacon Valley Grange can boast of two new members. Aili McKeen and Bruce Conroy demitted from Wallingford Grange to Beacon Valley Grange. We welcome them.

At the last meeting, Marilyn Maxwell presented the first of our new theme programs. Her letter was "M" and M&M candy took the spotlight. Who doesn't like M&M's?

Our November meeting is on the 14th and our letter is "Q" in the charge of Carol Brooks. She will also serve refreshments.

Our Grange mourns the passing of Constance (Connie) Brush, a 68

year member and Past Secretary. We extend our sympathy to her children Robert Brush and wife Susan and Kimberly Tompkins and husband James and sister-in-law Barbara Kirk. Robert, Sue, Kimberly and Barbara are long-time members of our Grange. The Brush family has been active members of our Grange for many years.

Our November tag sale and Open Mic is on the 15th. We will feature homemade Christmas gifts. Also, if we didn't sell out in October, we have a huge collection of mice items. Salt and pepper shakers, grated cheese shakers, figurines, etc. Come and take a look.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

The Greenfield Hill Grange would like to thank all who helped make our annual Agricultural Fair a HUGE success. Thank you to the volunteers and all in attendance. See you next year! Please save the date: August 22, 2026.

Our Tea Time Luncheon was also a huge hit. A special thank you to Linda from Bigelow Tea for the fun and informative presentation.

Thank you to all the helpers and all who attended. We will be planning more Tea Luncheons in the Spring.

Please SAVE THE DATE for our Holiday Boutique. Come shop for all things - Thanksgiving, Christmas, and beyond - November 22, 2025, 10 AM to 3 PM. See you at the Grange.

We wish to extend a happy and healthy Thanksgiving that is filled with bounteous blessings to the entire Grange family. May God bless you all.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Nov. 14: Making Holiday Pies

Nov. 28: Omitted for Thanksgiving

Dec. 12: O' Christmas Tree

Dec. 26: Omitted for Christmas

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



Local organization Redding Neighbors and Newcomers has honored Redding Grange with a pewter ornament for 2025. Details in the article above.

Photo Session With Santa Bill



November 8 & 9
8:30am - 4:00pm

\$100 Per
Registration

Scan to Register



15 Min Sessions
Min. of 4 Images Delivered Digitally
All New Backdrop

Location:
Cannon Grange
25 Cannon Road Wilton

All Fund Collected are Donated to
Local Charities

Sponsored by CT Santa Society



Dogs & Cats Welcome

Holiday Boutique



All things holiday
Thanksgiving to Christmas
to New Year's
Vendors, Crafts, Food

November 22, 2025
10:00 am to 3:00 pm



Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

Breakfast,
Lunch, &
Refreshments
available

For info:
Call Steve Golias
203.367.4373



Welcome to the Degree of Flora

Kathy Barnes. Wallingford #33
William Barnes. Wallingford #33
Teresa Barton Killingly #112
June Conrad. Hillstown #87
Violet Donihee. Coventry #75
Stephen Fengler. Wallingford #33
Lillian Hopkins Senexet #40
Karen Lazzaro Riverton #169
Michael Lazzaro Riverton #169
Carol Ritter Harmony #192
Jim Ritter Harmony #192

the
6th Degree



WINCHESTER GRANGE

HOLIDAY SUPER PRIZE PARTY

Friday, NOVEMBER 7

Doors Open: 6:00 PM • Drawing Begins: 7:00 PM

Penny Auction / Tea Cup Auction / Country Store
all rolled into one Super Prize Event!

Free Admission • Prize tickets will be available for purchase.
Coffee, soft drinks and snacks will be available.

Winchester Grange Hall

100 Newfield Road • Winchester Center, CT (Intersection of Route 263 & Newfield Road)



www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org



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

Who is a God like You,
Forgiving iniquity And remitting
transgression - Not staying angry
forever *[Micah 7:18]*

You shall neither take revenge
from nor bear a grudge against the
members of your people; you shall
love your neighbor as yourself. I
am the Lord. *[Leviticus 19:18]*

For if you forgive other people
when they sin against you, your
heavenly Father will also forgive
you. But if you do not forgive
others their sins, your Father will
not forgive your sins. *[Matthew 6:14-15]*

And the retribution for an
evil act is an evil one like it, but
whoever pardons and makes
reconciliation – his reward is
[due] from Allah. *[Quran 42:40]*

The concept of forgiving
pervades all three Abrahamic
religions. Buddhism also preaches
the path of forgiveness. Closely
tied to forgiving is the concept
of repentance. Open forgiveness
should always be given when the
sinner repents, but the theologians
disagree over whether one should
show open forgiveness towards



those who do not repent. I believe
it is better for one's own mental
and spiritual health when you are
willing to forgive others in your
heart, whether or not they show
repentance, but probably it is
better not to do so openly to those
who do not repent. Thinking they
will be or are forgiven whether
or not they repent may instead
encourage them to continue in
their sinful ways, thinking there
is no penalty in so doing.

So, true forgiveness should
follow true repentance. There
is one more step to the process,
one that some people find most
difficult. That is reconciliation.
Remember that we are told to
"love your neighbor as yourself".
Thus it is not enough merely
to forgive those who are truly
repentant. We must bring them
back into the circle of true love
and friendship, make them again
a part of the family [the larger,
human, family to which we all
belong]. Reconciliation is a two-

way process, and a continuing
process. The first step must
come from the person who is
forgiven, showing that they are
truly repentant, and asking to be
brought back into relationship.
It is difficult to genuinely restore
a broken relationship when the
offender is unclear about his
confession and repentance. But
once that has happened then it
is the duty of the other party to
move towards total reconciliation.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone
for their prayers and cards.
As of this writing on Oct.
12, I'm still in rehab and
expecting another 2 weeks.
I fell at home and broke my
femur requiring emergency
surgery in Hartford. I also
contracted COVID and am
still trying to get over that!

Debbie Vail