



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2026

From the President's Desk



Robert Buck
State President

Bethlehem Grange No. 121
president@ctstategrange.org

A significant part of the new Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is to increase our Granges' membership across the state. The goal has been set for three (3) new members per Grange which would give us an increase of almost 100 new members statewide. We felt this was reasonable and attainable.

As your CSG Vice President Ted Powell visits Granges around Connecticut, he has been talking up this membership recruitment program, and its importance to our very survival. We cannot survive at the current rate of attrition unless we act to reverse the trend. So while Ted has let the cat out of the bag, so to speak, I must admit that early reports coming back to me from various Granges are promising. Riverton #169 has a possibility to take in some new plus one members. Granby #5 has one new member, Cheshire #23 has five new members, and Harmony #93 took in three new members last night (March 20) and has one more in the pipeline as well as a new affiliate, both of whom couldn't make it last night.

Since the passing of the President Rich Franzino of Oxford #194 on February 18, a call has gone out to the town for new members and I understand seven people expressed an interest in joining. These are a

few successes and I'm sure there are others.

Spring is finally here after a cold and snowy winter and the Granges are starting to hold special events: Harmony #93 and its Spring Fair, Greenfield Hill #133 had its corned beef dinner, Bridgewater held its annual Easter egg hunt, and Granby #11 held a chili contest, to name a few. Consider a new event to bring people to your hall. After the snowy winter, folks want an excuse to go out and have fun. Carry on a tradition like Bridgewater or start a new one in your Grange.

Ag Day at the Capital has once again come and gone. It was held Wednesday March 18 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Ted Powell, Noel Miller,

Dave Roberts, Patrick O'Brien, and Aili McKeen represented the Connecticut State Grange by hosting a display and talking to visitors at the event and I thank them all heartily for their dedication in representing us to this annual event that represents the face of agriculture in our state.

There has been some discussion in the state about our State Grange Annual Session and cost cutting measures. As you may well be aware, our Session costs over \$30,000.00. Your Board of Directors has been addressing this topic for some months now. State

State Secretary Todd Gelineau has attacked the issue by re-organizing meals at Session with less costly alternatives, how we count numbers of attendees for

...Continued next page

What are you talking about?

Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron, Membership Dir.

Over the years, it has been said that the Grange is the best kept secret. This is partly because many of our longer-term members were trained, or taught, the Grange was a "secret" organization.

Imagine with me, if you will, holding our ideals, events and activities a "secret" today. You approach someone and ask them to join the Grange:

Us: Hey friend, would you like to join the Grange?

Friend: What do you do?

Us: I can't tell you, it's a secret!

Friend: Can I come to a meeting to see if it's something that interests me?

Us: No, what we do at a meeting is a secret!

Granted, this was back in the days when we believed we were a "secret" society. Ooooh, I said society. Shame, shame- like it or not the definition

...Continued on page 2



©David Gaylor, Dreamstime.com image



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE:
Articles Due April 15

From the President's Desk

Continued from page one...

meals, and restructuring of banquet prices. Several other things such as flowers and piano rentals are being reviewed to save money. Overall, the Annual Session is an expensive venture, and it has been decided that drastic changes to how we do things, such as the venue, might cause logistical problems that would discourage more from attending instead of encouraging an increase in numbers. A large stumbling block is the high cost of lodging in the state which limits our choices. We the Board of Directors want a convention

of which we can be proud and feel like that is being done. Another issue is that because planning starts a year ahead of time, sudden or last minute changes are not possible. We continue to encourage discussion on the topic and welcome member input.

From the Grange Heirloom Program: Even though it's for March, still apropos: "Courage then, and patience, when gloom broods over your pathway." (First Degree, Vice President)

For April: "Our Fraternity, being agriculturally based, family oriented and dedicated to the pure principles of equality under Constitutional Law, we appeal to all good citizens for mutual cooperation and assistance toward reform that we may remove

from our midst the last vestige of inequity and corruption. We believe that harmony, equitable compromise and earnest cooperation are essential to future success." (*Grange Declaration of Purposes*)

These statements have always been wise and true but seem to apply evermore in today's world.

I would like to have some sort of program on grants and writing them. Perhaps those of you whose Granges have received grants could reach out to me to share your experiences on sources of grants, application processes for them, and types of grants with which you have had experience (matching, non-matching). Many Granges have expressed interest on this subject. Some have had great luck with it while others don't know quite where to go looking for money for hall repairs and projects.

What are you talking about?

Continued from page one...

of Society is "an organization or club formed for a particular purpose or activity." The Grange, your Grange, should indeed have a particular purpose, for if not you cannot be relevant, and you might as well be that secret society we were taught we are, and promoted, poorly I might add, years ago.

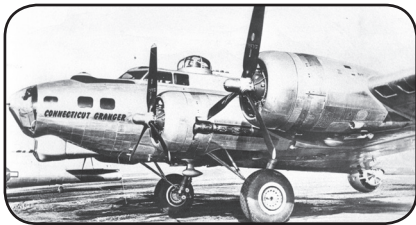
There was a time when your procedures were indeed kept a secret, but those days had better be behind us. We need to boast about our activities and accomplishments. We need to make sure we are relevant in meeting the needs of our community. We are competing with less available time; more desire for work/life balance and technology.

Go to the National Grange website and get information on Project Sustenance <https://www.nationalgrange.org/projectsustenance/> this program encompasses every ideal, purpose and mission of the Grange. It's simple, it is what you are already doing, or should be doing, with all the tools to promote and publicize your community involvement.

This is worth talking about, no secrets, no ceremonies, nothing but raw community support and hopefully involvement. This is how we retain our relevance, this is how we Grange!

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

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:

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P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094
or Todd Gelineau, Editor

P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069
Granger@CTStateGrange.org
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Harmony Grannge presents

THE MINDFUL HERBALIST

Learn how to infuse carrier oils with herbs
for the purpose of medicinal, culinary and skincare uses

Take home your own
herb infused oil

May 16, 2026. 4pm-6pm. \$45.00

103 Hurd Ave, Monroe, Ct

April is Grange Month: Make it Count!

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

April isn't just about spring flowers and warmer weather. For Grangers across the nation, it's Grange Month — a special time to celebrate who we are, strengthen our communities, and grow our organization. And here in Connecticut, where we've got a proud Grange heritage and some truly vibrant local Granges, this is our moment to shine.

Grange Month is more than a calendar designation. It's a nationwide initiative designed to raise awareness about the Grange, celebrate our accomplishments, and energize our membership. Whether you're a seasoned officer or a newer member, April gives us a focused opportunity to reflect on our impact and recommit to our mission of supporting agriculture, legislative initiatives, community service, education, and fellowship.

Membership recruitment is a natural fit for Grange Month. If your Grange has been thinking about reaching out to neighbors or inviting friends, April is the perfect time. National Grange provides promotional materials and talking points that make it easier to explain who we are and what we do. Consider hosting an open meeting, a community service project, or a casual social event — something that shows potential members the real heart of your Grange.

Boost your Grange's visibility in your town. Partner with local libraries, other organizations, community centers, or town events to share information about your Grange. A simple table at a farmers market or a community fair can spark conversations and plant seeds for future membership.

Strengthen internal programs too. Use April to launch or refresh initiatives that matter to your members — whether that's youth programs, agricultural education, community service projects, or social activities. When members see their Grange actively engaged, they stay engaged.

Tap Into National Grange Resources

Here's something many members may not realize: National Grange offers substantial support that's often underutilized. This April, take advantage of:

- Program resources such as Rural Life Initiative and Project Sustenance for Community Granges to explore (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/programs/>)
- Community service ideas to help you organize impactful local projects (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/community-service-programs/>)
- Educational materials on agricultural literacy, civic engagement, and other programs (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/lecturer-programs/>)
- Networking opportunities to connect with Grangers in other states and learn what's working elsewhere (<https://members.nationalgrange.org/events>)
- Member benefits programs that add real value to membership (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/>)

member-benefits/)

Visit the National Grange website (www.nationalgrange.org/grange-month) for specific Grange Month resources, or reach out to Connecticut's State Grange Public Relations Team to explore what's available. These resources are designed specifically to help Granges succeed.

Connecticut Pride

Connecticut Granges have a legacy to be proud of. We've built strong communities, supported agriculture and rural life, and created spaces where neighbors become friends. This April, let's honor that tradition while building toward the future. Our state's Grange network is a resource — lean on it, learn from it, and contribute to it.

Don't let April pass by as just another month. Whether you're an officer planning your Grange's spring initiatives or a member looking to get more involved, make Grange Month count. Recruit a new member. Host an event. Strengthen a program. Connect with National Grange resources.

The Grange thrives when we're intentional about our growth and engaged in our communities. April gives us permission — and a platform to do exactly that.

Here's to a vibrant Grange Month in Connecticut. Let's make it memorable and make it count.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026 • 12:00 NOON

ADVENTURESOME FARMING PART TWO



**THE STORY OF GREEN VILLAGE INITIATIVE
AND
CREATING RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FARM
IN BRIDGEPORT**

**LUNCHEON & PANEL DISCUSSION FOR
LOCAL GARDENERS, FARMERS, & EATERS**

**PIPPA
BELL ADER**
BOARD MEMBER,
GVI

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133
1873 HILLSIDE ROAD
FAIRFIELD, CT 06824
PARKING IN REAR OF THE GRANGE BUILDING

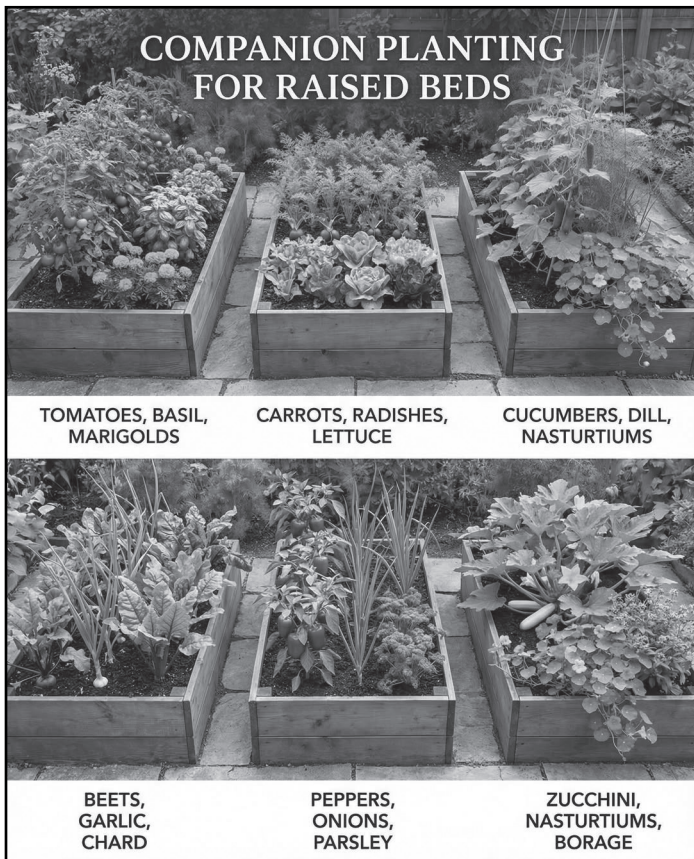
\$20 PER PERSON
LUNCHEON INCLUDES SANDWICH,
SALAD, BEVERAGE, & DESSERT

PLEASE RSVP
TO CORNELIA OLSEN 203 571-8873
OR JAMES FLINT 203 858-2187



On March 24 we had a great time visiting the folks over at Harmony Grange in Monroe. They're doing great things over there. We love to go there because it's so close!

On March 15 I took Rob and Maggie to Hemlock Grange to hear Sue Bransfield, President of the Portland Historical Society talk about upcoming projects including renovation of an old store building.



COMPANION PLANTING FOR RAISED BEDS

TOMATOES, BASIL, MARIGOLDS

CARROTS, RADISHES, LETTUCE

CUCUMBERS, DILL, NASTURTIUMS

BEETS, GARLIC, CHARD

PEPPERS, ONIONS, PARSLEY

ZUCCHINI, NASTURTIUMS, BORAGE

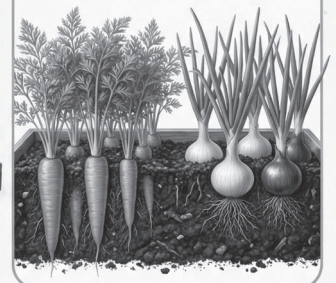
Plant Side by Side

Harvest Twice as Much!

Tomatoes + Basil



Carrots + Onions



Strawberries + Garlic



Cucumbers + Dill



TINY GARDEN HABIT
TINYGARDENHABIT.COM

WINCHESTER GRANGE

TAG

SALE

SATURDAY - APRIL 25, 2026

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM



WINCHESTER GRANGE HALL

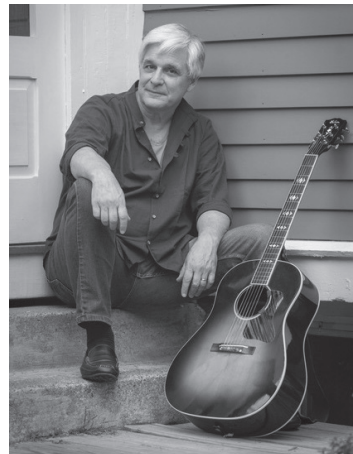
100 Newfield Rd., Winchester Center, CT

www.WinchesterGrange.org

Support the Winchester Center Congregational Church too! Across the Green from the Grange Hall!
WCCC Quilt and Needle Arts Show - April 25, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM / April 26, 12:00 - 5:00 PM
Raffle Quilt • Quilt of Valor Display • Vendors • Soup and Sandwich Cafe • \$10 Adults, \$7 Seniors/Students, Exhibitors and children under 12 FREE
For more information visit www.winchestercentercongregationalchurch.org

Troubadour of Happiness presents House Concerts Series at the Grange

Sunday, April 12 - 4:30 - 6:30 PM



Doors open at 4:30.
Concert from 5-6:30.
No charge; donations welcome! BYO food and drink (carry-in, carry-out).

Massachusetts based singer/songwriter, Rees Shad, has had a prolific 40+ year career with 32 releases and 17 solo albums. He has made a name for himself as a wordsmith troubadour, crafting songs that are often both poignant and profound. He is dedicated to the creating short-story songs that cross genre lines in order to serve the spirit of each tale he weaves and deeply engage with audiences. Shad's latest release *Porcelain Angel* spent three months on the FAI Folk Chart top ten list, with the single, *Ain't That The Way*, sitting in the #1 spot for April and May and the title track, *Porcelain Angel*, holding the #1 spot in June. The album ended the year #23 of the top100 Folk albums of 2025 having been lauded for its, "grace and elegance", (*Americana UK*), "all-knowing tonality", (*Americana Highways*), and for, "pushing the boundaries of musical storytelling". (Rogovoy Report).

Visit <https://www.reesshadmusic.com/> and <https://www.facebook.com/ReesShadMusic> for more information! For additional parking, you can use the lot just up the street (same side of the street as the Grange - please park in back).

2026 Northeast Regional Youth Conference Registration Form - June 12-14, 2026

ELMM Community Center, Winchester, NH

Hosted by NH State Grange
Acsavage3@gmail.com

Andrew Savage, Youth Director
603-686-6404

Submit completed form and \$30 registration fee payable to the New Hampshire State Grange Youth by June 1, 2026.

Send to: Andrew Savage,
837 Bennett Way, Newmarket, NH 06857

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Grange & State: _____

Which meals will you be present for:

☐ Friday Snacks ☐ Saturday Dinner
☐ Saturday Breakfast ☐ Sunday Breakfast
☐ Saturday Lunch

Are you participating in any
National contests that you would like to exemplify?

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.

OUTCOME-DRIVEN

Outcome-Driven means focusing on results rather than activity. It emphasizes clarity of purpose, intentional planning, and measurable impact. Being **outcome-driven** ensures that time, energy, and resources are directed toward efforts that meaningfully advance the mission. It requires defining success in advance, tracking progress, and adjusting course when needed. For the Grange, being **outcome-driven** means evaluating programs, meetings, and initiatives by the difference they make in our members' lives and in the strength of our communities – not by tradition or habit.

Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

On March 18th, on the way to Ag Day at the State Capitol, the gas price at the Citgo station in town was \$3.47 per gallon. On the way home the price at that same station was \$3.69 per gallon. Six hours later. This event in Iran will have a great cost to us the taxpayers. By the time you read this article gas prices are expected to be \$4-5.00 per gallon and diesel to be \$5-7.00 per gallon.

Our farmers are beginning to plant for the upcoming season and fertilizer shortages are expected because much of the fertilizer is imported from countries cut-off by the stoppage in the Strait of Hormuz.

The event in the Middle East seems to be a disaster from the start. No planning, no alliances formed, no reason for attack, no Congressional approval, and no exit plan. It's a problem seeking help from our European allies after the fact and then blame them for not wanting to get involved. Our Secretary of War describes the actions as a "good will" crusade.

There is an effort to force the Save Act through the Senate and voter ID to show citizenship. We all did the Real ID to travel by plane. This requires birth certificates, marriage licenses, social security numbers, and residential information. That's not good enough. Now a birth certificate and passport are what you need to vote. What happens to the married women who take their husband's surname? Now the name doesn't match on the birth certificates and now are ineligible to vote. Do not let them steal the election and take away your rights. Fight back and let your voice be

heard.

A meeting was held between farmers and the Secretary of Agriculture at the beginning of March. Secretary Rollins talked about eminent domain. Farmers talked about power companies seeking to build high tension power lines across open farmland. Eminent domain would be needed to get the project completed. Secretary Rollins brought up the Kelo v. New London, CT Supreme Court case in 2005. Pfizer wanted to build a corporate headquarters in New London and the city tried to use eminent domain to take a neighborhood to give land to the project. Susette Kelo sued stating eminent domain cannot be used for economic enhancement, and won. We hear that the new projects for artificial intelligence (AI) and data storage plants will be in every state and will require large volumes of electricity and water,

natural gas and land. With the overturning of Clean Air standards, water discharge rules, and asbestos regulations, we should be very concerned about who is benefiting from these actions... not likely the taxpayers.

The US Postal Service has announced they need more money to operate. Amazon just stated they are scaling back postal deliveries. Postage stamps are to rise to 95 cents. Letters will be postmarked at the first automated machine they reach. In Connecticut, mail is sent to either Hartford or New Haven (and in some cases Springfield, MA). This means there will be a two day delay on your postmarked letter. Keep this in mind when trying to meet a deadline with letters and payments that require a specific postmark date.

Happy spring, get out and plant a garden. It will help your pocketbook as we are not a farm to table country, we are truck to table.



Dave Roberts, Aili McKeen, Ted Powell and Noel Miller pictured at the State Capitol on Ag Day. Below, the State Grange booth at Ag Day.



Women's Health Progress Must Reach Rural America

by Beth Battaglino & Christine Hamp

This Women's History Month, we want to reiterate the urgent need to invest in women's health — after all, it makes good sense! For every \$1 invested in women's health, there is an estimated \$3 return in economic growth. That return extends far beyond individual patients, strengthening families, communities, and the broader economy. Recent reports by Women's Health Access Matters and AOA Dx confirm what HealthyWomen and the National Grange have long known: investing in women's health is an investment in a healthier nation.

Women make up more than 60% of caregivers and guide roughly 80% of healthcare decisions for their families in the United States. They help choose providers, navigate insurance, coordinate care, and manage treatment decisions. When women have access to timely, comprehensive healthcare, the ripple effects benefit everyone who depends on them — and that makes the case for investment more urgent than ever.

Yet the reality for women in the United States remains troubling. As of 2022, women here had the lowest life expectancy compared with women in other high-income countries and were more likely to experience chronic and preventable conditions such as heart disease, stroke, autoimmune disorders, diabetes, depression and certain cancers. The gap between what is possible and what women experience in our healthcare system is wide — and it is even wider for women living and working in rural America.

Nearly 23% of women in the U.S. live in rural or non-metropolitan areas, where they face higher rates of poverty and uninsurance, poorer maternal and infant outcomes, lower uptake of preventive screenings, and fewer options for obstetric and gynecological care, often requiring long travel times. Together, these disparities reveal a healthcare system that too often fails to account for rural women's realities and needs.

HealthyWomen has taken steps to better understand these gaps by collaborating on one of the few studies examining the menopausal experience of women in rural America. The findings were striking: rural menopausal and postmenopausal women reported higher rates of mood swings, muscle and joint pain, and urinary problems than did their urban counterparts — yet they did not report greater use of hormone therapy. This disconnect highlights a broader lack of education, resources, and specialized care for rural women that increased research and targeted investment could help address.

And the barriers extend well beyond specialized care. Even basic preventive services remain out of reach for too many rural women. In recent years, cervical



cancer rates have increased in rural communities while declining in urban areas, despite the widespread availability and coverage of Pap tests, HPV tests and HPV vaccines that can prevent nearly 93% of cervical cancers. Rural women are also more likely to die from this largely preventable disease.

This is not just devastating. It is a serious and solvable public health challenge.

In 2025, the National Grange introduced a new tool designed to help policymakers, clinicians and communities better understand healthcare in rural America. The 2025 Rural Health Report revealed a consistent underlying issue across nearly every rural health challenge: lack of access. Whether it be access to diagnostic and preventive services, full-service community hospitals, health clinics for specialized medicine or the convenience of pill-based treatments from the community pharmacy, all are equally critical to a healthier outcome for women. For an organization with deep roots in rural communities for almost 160 years, this finding reinforces what rural families have been saying for decades: access determines outcomes.

The National Grange and HealthyWomen share a long history of recognizing women as strong, resilient, and resourceful. But strength should never be mistaken for invulnerability. Rural women deserve sustained investment in research, education and healthcare access that reflects their lived experiences and addresses the systemic barriers they face.

HealthyWomen and the National Grange work every day alongside policymakers, healthcare providers, innovators, and community organizations to reimagine what women's health can and should look like, including for those living in rural and underserved areas. We call on policymakers, healthcare systems, industry leaders, and community partners to commit to expanding access to care across the continuum — from prevention and screening to diagnosis and treatment — for women in the places where access is most limited.

Because when all women thrive, rural and urban alike, all of America thrives.

Beth Battaglino is the President and CEO of HealthyWomen, and Christine Hamp is the President of the National Grange.



Cheshire New Members

As Spring approaches, Cheshire Grange # 23 had their March 18th meeting with the obligation of five new Grange members. Cheshire Grange President Ruel Miller made this official at tonight's meeting, welcoming new members John "Farmer John" Carmody, Chris Aliano, Emily Douyard, Jonah Schaeffer, and John Jalbert (owner of Wilderness K9 that meets at the Grange on Thursday nights). We are excited to add our new friends to our Grange family.

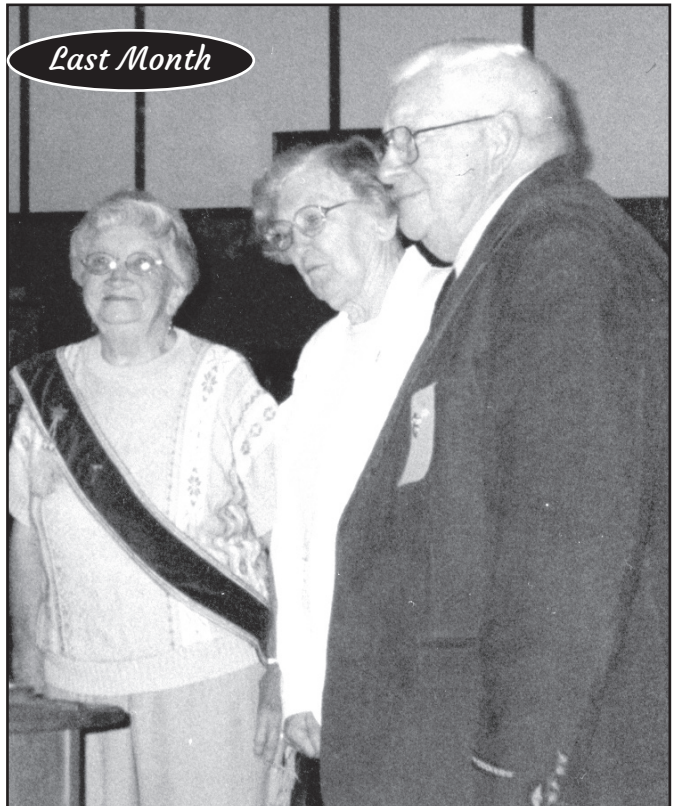
WINDOW TO THE PAST

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.

This Month



Last Month



January



We once again heard from Philip Birkett from Morris. He called about the January 2026 picture that he helped identify last month. We apparently had misinterpreted his message about his father, Frank Albert Birkett, and he wished to correct it. His father is in the middle, not on the right. "I still don't know the other men, but it's nice to see my father."



E. CONNECTICUT POMONA #14

Corr: Carol Hnath

Eastern Connecticut Pomona will not be holding a special meeting on May 2nd due to conflicts with the National Grange meeting for Masters, etc. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree on June 6th at our regular meeting with the location changed to Killingly Grange Hall at our regular time of 7 pm.

We will be assisting Habitat for Humanity on April 25th. For more information, please contact Cherie Robinson, Lecturer.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

April 22: American 250 Discussion

We did have a regular meeting on Feb. 25 to discuss the events that we will be participating in this spring and summer. We will be advertising our 140th anniversary and the 90th anniversary of our hall. We will be writing letters to the editor of the local newspaper to provide information on What is the Grange. Also spotlight Grange activities and events. Our monthly dinners will continue for fundraising. We will be part of the Buy Local event to support our farmers. The new heaters were installed in the downstairs and are working. We thank the Corn Hole club for the installation. We are so grateful for this group to provide the much needed updating of the building.

Further discussion is being held to determine the possibility of using the

hall for a local senior center. We offer our sympathy to the husband and family of long time member Myrtie Blackmer. We will be providing applications to the local schools for the John F. Duffy and the Helena B. Duffy Memorial scholarships. We hope to see our members and friends at our meetings and events.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Cherie Robinson

April 10: Dandelions

May 1: In Memoriam, Election of Officers

Our March meeting on Zoom featured a program on forest health in Connecticut. Frank Cervo, CT DEEP forester presented an extremely interesting and informative overview of the history and composition of Connecticut forests, passive and active forest management and so much more. Did you know that Connecticut, with 71% of forest privately owned and only 17% as state owned, is the 14th most forested state and the 4th most populated? We are grateful to Frank for an excellent program.

We plan to be back in person in our hall for our April meeting. We welcome your visit, please check to

be sure we are meeting in person.

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

April 10: Change is in the Air

April 24: Community Citizen and Seals and Certificates

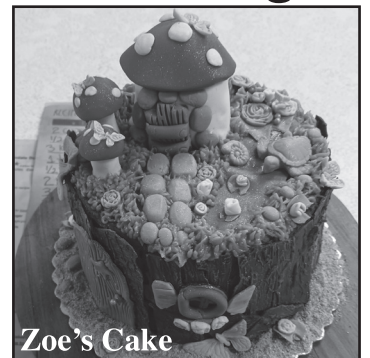
Our February 13 program was full of Valentine fun. Dick and Camilla Tarryk hosted a program of music that included many of the sweetheart songs we all know and love with Camilla on the guitar and Dick on the harmonica. We also had a Valentine quiz (with prizes) and learned a great deal about the origin of Valentine's Day. What a wonderful addition these two lovely people have been to our Grange. Refreshments were in charge of Jeff and Debbie Barnes, always a special (delicious) treat.

We look forward to welcoming our Community Citizen in April and honoring long-time members. This is always a very enjoyable program and we hope to have a nice crowd. And if these three foot drifts of white stuff will just (please) magically disappear, next time we will tell you all about marvelous March.

Ekonk Comm. Junior Grange

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Junior Grange recently held their Indoor Fun Night with baking contest. The kids had fun with the games, especially the balloons! They also impressed the judges with their baking skills!! All the recipes had to be from scratch, with taste, difficulty, creativity, and appearance taken into account. 11 year old Zöe blew all away with her cake. It was yummy and beyond impressive with the detail she added.



At our March meeting, we brought in a new member. It is always nice to have new people join.

In March a moonlit hike is planned. We are hopeful to find someplace to hike that is dry-ish.

In April we will meet in Sterling's municipal building as there is a Chowder and Clam Cake dinner at the Grange. In April we are planning on doing random acts of kindness while also promoting Grange, as April is Grange month.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: David Roberts

Mountain Laurel Pomona held its second meeting of the year on February 28 at Bethlehem Memorial Hall. 30+ members were present, representing eight of the ten Community Granges, as well as affiliate and associate members. Bethlehem Grange served as the host and provided refreshments following the meeting.

Community Granges shared updates on their local activities. Reports included building improvements at Granby Grange, accessibility upgrades at Whigville Grange, and successful fundraising events at Winchester Grange. Taghhannuck Grange highlighted its community service efforts and plans for a new seasonal educational "Grange Farm School" series. Riverton Grange reported on its upcoming 118th Anniversary celebration, and kitchen renovation fundraising efforts. Simsbury Grange shared plans for several community events connected to the upcoming America 250 celebrations.

State Vice President Ted Powell encouraged continued focus on membership growth, youth participation, and involvement in state programs.

Members also discussed the possibility of launching a new Pomona communication initiative, with the Executive Committee planning to review ideas and report

back at the next meeting.

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona Grange No. 15 will be held Saturday, May 9, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Whigville Grange Hall, 153 South Main Street, Whigville, Connecticut. Members and guests are welcome.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: David Roberts

April 12: Monthly Membership Meeting; 2:00 PM

May 2: 4th Annual Granby Grange Rubber Duck Race; Noon – 2:00 PM

Granby Grange #5 held its March 8th meeting via Zoom with President Judy Doyle presiding and Connecticut State Grange Vice President Ted Powell attending as mentor.

Members reviewed progress on the ongoing renovation of the Granby Grange Hall, including new electrical outlets and continued planning for accessibility improvements and potential historic preservation grants. The Building Renovation Committee will continue evaluating needed upgrades.

Planning continues for several upcoming community events. The 4th Annual Granby Grange Rubber Duck Race will be held Saturday, May 2, at Noon at Salmon Brook Park (Pavilion 2). Lincoln Tech will again sponsor the event and assist with ticket sales.

Duck race tickets are available by contacting Dave Roberts at Granbydavidroberts@gmail.com or 860-469-5067. Tickets are \$5 to sponsor one duck or \$20 to sponsor five ducks. More than \$1,700 in prizes and gift certificates will be awarded to the first twenty ducks to cross the finish line.

Members also voted to establish a special committee to coordinate the Grange's participation in Granby's upcoming 250th anniversary celebrations, including the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades.

During the Lecturer's program, Dawn Percoski presented an

educational and entertaining program on the history of Daylight Saving Time and St. Patrick's Day traditions.

The meeting concluded with members continuing their focus on community service projects, hall improvements, and upcoming public events.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 14: The Pink Moon (Country Store), Ref. Mary Lou Keefe

Apr. 25: Tag Sale, Grange Hall, 9-1

Apr. 28: Baseball is Here, Ref. Kim & Randy Carlson

May 12: To all the Moms Out There, Potluck Supper at 6

Winchester Grange has been able to hold all meetings in March with the winter weather subsiding. We will hold a Tag Sale at the Grange Hall on Saturday, April 25 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Join us!

Looking ahead, we are working on a brand new Pet Event to be held in June. More on this in upcoming issues.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Apr. 9: Spring Cleaning In & Out by all Members. Cleaning begins at 6PM, Ref: Debbie Hanlon.

May 14: Bring your favorite picture by Mike Taylor. Ref: Lynn Cline

June 3: Cultivating/Care of Soil 4:30PM-6:00PM

June 6 & 7: Rummage and Plant Sale 9AM-3PM

June 11: A Collaborative Effort by Lynn Kearcher. Ref: Barbara Prindle

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

Taghhannuck Grange believes in having events in our Grange Hall as that promotes Grange membership. We held a successful Craft Night, open house, where both members and non-members decorated picture frames to be taken

Continued next page...

to and displayed at State Grange Session in October. The Farm School Committee held a "Spring Open House" with an information and skill sharing session on saving seeds for home gardeners. Grange members and others demonstrated how to save seeds from bush beans, corn, tomatoes, house plants, herbs, nasturtiums, and more... with actual plants and fruit. Learning what types of seeds breed true and why we choose to save our own varieties of seeds!

Ted Powell attended our March meeting on short notice; during this visit, he did not encounter any wildlife such as bears, deer, raccoons, or elk on the roads. He spoke about growing the Grange, bringing Resolutions to State Grange and nominations for teachers, firemen and policeman recognition at State Session. Sharon Kroger is putting together a Resolution on "bees" which we will take to Pomona to be approved before State Session. We will talk about the nominations at our April meeting.

If you are beginning to collect for our Rummage Sale, we thank you. We do not accept furniture or electronics, and everything must be clean and in working order.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Dorothy Fairchild

Next meeting held at Memorial Hall on April 12, Sunday at 2 PM.

Program Scotland - Barbara R.
Refreshments - Carol W.

Our March program was on Italy and presented by Dot Fairchild.

Springing into Spring with several of our members contributing their time to assist with the making and setup of luminaries around the Green for Easter weekend.

We encourage all of our members to support the NAUGATUCK DUCK RACE & FESTIVAL fundraiser. This year we also plan to use the option to sell virtual tickers on Duckday.com as well. Duck Race raffle tickets will be sold for \$5.00 each and all non-

profit organizations will net \$2.50 for each ticket sold. Every ticket (both physical & virtual) purchased is assigned a sticker number that corresponds with a rubber duck that will be entered in the race. Tickets may be purchased until the day of the race which is June 7th.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

April 10: Special Riverton Grange monthly membership meeting. Social at 6:30 PM; meeting at 7:00 PM. In-person meeting with Zoom option available; contact President Dave Roberts at 860-469-5067 or dave@daveroberts.org.

April 11: 6:00 to 10:00 AM in Riverton, CT: the 76th Annual Fishing Derby on the West Branch of the Farmington River. The event begins with the traditional 4:00 AM pancake breakfast at the Riverton Fire Department, followed by the Derby at 6:00 AM. Prizes for youth and adult participants will be awarded at 10:00 AM. First held in 1949, the derby continues to draw generations of families. The ten-and-under division is held at Zak's Pool just upstream from the Town Bridge.

April 17-19: North East Lecturers Association Conference in Cortland, New York.

Members and guests gathered at Riverton Grange Hall on March 6 to celebrate the 118th Anniversary of Riverton Grange No. 169 with a dinner and membership meeting. Guests were welcomed by creatively decorated seasonal tables hosted by Judy Doyle (January-March), Carol Innes (April-June), Dawn Anstett (July-September), and Raine Pedersen (October-December).

Distinguished guests included new Barkhamsted First Selectman Meaghan Cook, CT State Grange President Rob Buck, State Vice President Ted Powell, Executive Committee Member Noel Miller, and General Deputies Earl and Sandy Phillips. A new Riverton Grange video was also premiered on

the hall's recently installed 65-inch television.

During the membership meeting, Dawn Anstett and Tim Sweeney updated members on the Rural Life Initiative Grant application submitted to the National Grange. Judy Doyle reported on progress toward the Grange's Kitchen Renovation Project and introduced a new initiative with the Barkhamsted Forks Senior Center Lions Club to expand services for seniors while raising funds for Grange and community programs.

State Vice President Ted Powell also conducted the annual Grange inspection following the dinner program.

Organized January 3, 1908, with 36 charter members under State Master O. S. Wood and Deputy J. H. Putnam, Riverton Grange takes its name from the village where two branches of the Farmington River meet. The Grange was incorporated on September 24, 1934, and its hall was dedicated on December 7, 1934. Membership once reached 162 in 1953; today the Grange has 78 members and continues more than a century of community service. State President Rob Buck presented Riverton Grange with a National Grange medal in recognition of its distinguished community service.

Current President Dave Roberts' great-grandparents were charter officers Carlton Roberts (Steward) and Dora Roberts (Secretary), and five generations of the Roberts family have belonged to Riverton Grange.

SIMSBURY GRANGE #197

Corr: Marguerite Smith

March 2nd - Music Monday - featured Melanie Champagne and Riva Jean. These two fabulous musicians are singers/songwriters from the local area. We are getting quite a following now a year into our monthly music events. We had a great crowd and are looking forward to April.

March 9th - We held this month's meeting at the Grange and were delighted to welcome another NEW member. Welcome, Beth! Discussions centered around community service hours, changes to our fair brochure and poster for our June 13th fair, setting up/planning for our March 29th seed and LEGO event, and a potential game night with a surprise new game coming out soon. Stay tuned for more info in the coming months.

April 6th - Music Monday - Gracin Dorsey and Joel Weik are back! Our local community LOVES these two musicians. Gracin is an accomplished guitarist, singer and songwriter. You will love his deep voice! Joel is a FABULOUS Fingerstyle guitarist and you won't be able to keep from smiling as he plays. Yes! It's that much fun. Please join us as we listen to these wonderful performers and welcome spring! Doors at 6:30, Music from 7:00-8:15. Can't wait to see you!

April 9th - Thursday - Simsbury Grange Meeting at 7:00 pm at the grange.

May 4th - Music Monday - Ava Grom, guitarist and singer Ava is a music student at Trinity College and plays acoustic covers and originals in the styles of Folk, Blues, and Indie. She spends her weeknights gigging at local open mics such as the Mapletree Cafe in Simsbury, Talcott Mountain Collective and Almost Famous Brewing as well as private parties. She started a band called The Lady Fingers at Trinity and loves to attend Jam nights where she can rock out on the electric guitar with fellow musicians. Come and relax with an hour of live music. Let's give Ava a warm Simsbury Grange welcome. Parking available in Farms Village Plaza. You can see videos of Ava's live performances below, and find more videos on her YouTube, @AvaGromGuitar <https://www.avagrom.com/about-ava> See you there!

Try the new Baking Contest



Dawn Percoski
Family Activities Dir.
Vernon Grange No. 52
CWA@ctstateGrange.org

Hi everyone,

It looks like winter is finally loosing it's hold! Happy Spring. I thought I would just send out a reminder to talk about our contests during your meetings. Maybe you held a craft night to make things, or that you have one scheduled. Bake the contest recipe and bring it along with you for snacks!

I wanted to tell you a couple of things. I have sent out the pattern

for nylon crocheted scrubbies to several people. I am attaching the pattern so that you can ask if anyone at your Grange is able to make them for the big E. Unfortunately the ladies that had been making them have passed on and we need the next generation to see if they can make them for us as it's one of the staples that people coming into the building look for.

Remember the needlework brochures are for this year and next year. If you need any and can't print them off, just send me an email and I'll put some in the snail mail for you.

Nylon Net Scrubbies

Tool Used: K-hook

Cut 72 inch wide course net into 2 inch strips.

Tie together 6 strips and roll into ball. Put rubber band around to hold it until you are ready to use.

Chain 4 or 5 – Do NOT Join

Put 2 SC in a second chain from hook, then

Do 2 SC in back loops of each chain stitch.

Keep crocheting 2 SC in each SC back loop, until

First 2 strips are used, SC in back of each SC for next 3 strips/

6th Strip – make 1 SC in 2 stitches SC 1 in every other stitch until circle is almost closed.

Turn inside out so all knots are inside then continue

SC until closed. Put ends inside holds.

CSG Blueberry Tea Cake Baking Contest

Ingredients:

- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs separated
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1 1/2 cups blueberries
- Small amount of flour to cover blueberries
- Small amount of confectioner's sugar

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350° - grease and flour an oblong baking pan
1. Lightly flour blueberries until

they are covered, set aside

2. butter and sugar together until well blended

3. Beat egg yolks and add

4. Add flour alternately with the milk.

5. Beat egg whites. Fold them into the batter

6. Put half of the batter into the baking pan

7. Add the floured blueberries, then add the remaining batter on top. Bake for 35 minutes. Sprinkle with powdered sugar while still warm and cut into 2 inch squares.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

As I write this Nutmeg Pomona will be meeting tomorrow for a Degree rehearsal in preparation for the meeting and Conferral of the Fifth Degree next Sunday March 22nd. Let's hope for a good class of candidates. I had a call for one application, let's hope for more.

The next Pomona meeting is June 28th "Election of Officers" at Beacon Valley Grange.

In between why not check on some interesting programs being held at the Granges in Nutmeg. Cheshire Grange April 15 "Imprecise Measurements" and May 20th "Family Night", Harmony Grange April 17th "Core Values of the Grange", Beacon Valley Grange June 12 "Celebrating 137 Years", Greenfield Hill Grange April 20th "Earth Day" and May 18 "Share your Favorite Recipe" and Hemlock Grange April 10th "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet". These are only some of the programs at these Granges. Granges not listed did not submit programs for their Grange.

Until next month, enjoy the nice weather that I hope is coming.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

April 1: Awards Night Open Program and Tea Cup Auction

April 15: Imprecise Measurements We will again present our Cheshire Community Citizen of the Year Award on April first followed by a formal reception. Plans for our fair this year

are under way along with a fund raising dinner. We intend to involve the community with the fair over what we have done in the past. Several people have approached us as to being part of the fair. We are pleased to have the dog obedience folks using our hall for their weekly meetings. We, like everyone else, are looking forward to a hasty exit of this weather.

WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

Corr: Stephen Fengler

We hosted a youth event for youth to learn how to make their own ice cream in a mason jar. This involved lots of shaking of the ingredients in a mason jar to make the ice cream with the right consistency. Thank you to all who came and helped organize this event!

We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday at our most recent pancake breakfast where we made "Truffula" pancakes to correspond with Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax". We also gave away free books and Dr. Seuss treats for all children who attended.

Some special events Wallingford Grange is looking forward to hosting this spring include a lecture all about Alpacas (April 7th 6pm-8pm), our April pancake breakfast (April 11th 8:30am-11am), a History of Wallingford Farms Lecture (April 14th 6pm-8pm), a Youth Learning basic Embroidery Event (April 18th 10am-12pm), a Barn Quilts Events (April 22nd 6pm-8pm), Battle of the Best Pizza in Wallingford (May 2nd 11am-1pm), Family Planetarium Night at Sheehan High School (May 7th 6pm-7pm), Bird Watching Hike (May 9th 10am-12pm), Weave a Colonial Rug Youth Event (May 16th: 10am-11pm), Salads that aren't Salads Hands on Event (June 10th), Youth Event for making recipes from our past (June 19th), and a Metal Detecting Lecture (June 23rd).

To stay informed about these different happenings and upcoming events at Wallingford Grange, please follow our "Wallingford Grange" Facebook page. Hope to see you at

these events!

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our meeting schedule for Feb. 13th was postponed until Feb. 27th. This meeting was canceled because of the ice, snow and limited parking.

We had hoped that our meetings would be back on schedule at the Grange hall for our March meeting. This was not the case. We met at Master Joanne's house. My thanks for everyone who attended. We had a good meeting. The program was to be in charge of CWA but the Chair-lady Marianne Nielsen could not attend so the program schedule for our February meeting was put on by Pat Fischer. Her letter was "V". The program center around "Vicks" It was very interesting how many uses Vicks has. Everyone commented on their use of Vicks.

Unfortunately the frozen pipes did a little more damage than we initially thought. The pipes have been repaired and the furnace has been running good again. Our problem, when the pipes thawed the water damaged the ceiling tiles in the bathrooms and kitchen and need to be replaced. At this meeting the problem was addressed and hope by now have been replaced.

We had to keep the furnace on a higher degree to thaw everything out.

We received a \$1,000 grant from the Connecticut State Grange Foundation. We thank them most sincerely. This surely help to pay a \$1,200.00 oil bill

Our next meeting is April 10th. Refreshments and program theme letter "A" in charge of Jean Meehan. Deputy Patrick O'Brien will be present for Inspection. Our May 8th program is the letter "F" in charge of Marie Sousa.

Save the date June 12th . We will be "Celebrating 137 Years". More on this in the Connecticut Granger.

Tag Sales and Open Mic are back on schedule – April date April 18th. Come and check out our treasures and enjoy some good music.

Oxford Grange Open House & Seed Swap

Sunday, April 12, 2026 - 2:00 PM



Come and tour our beautiful hall and learn about the Grange. This is a FREE Event, but bring some seeds/plants to share if you have extras! Interested in volunteering for Open Mic night? Helping out with rentals? Or help at a table during the Oxford Nature & Arts Festival? Leading a Fundraiser? Or a Fun community event?? Become a Member at the Open House!

GAME NIGHTS ARE BACK!!

15TH APRIL | 6:00PM -9:00PM

29TH APRIL | 6:00PM -9:00PM

13TH MAY | 6:00PM -9:00PM

27TH MAY | 6:00PM -9:00PM

10TH JUNE | 6:00PM -9:00PM

24TH JUNE | 6:00PM -9:00PM

ALL ARE WELCOME

\$2 ADMISSION FEE | MAX \$10 PER FAMILY

FOOD AND DRINKS FOR SALE

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153 SOUTH MAIN ST BURLINGTON CT 06013

Vice President, First Degree

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118 Years in Riverton



Riverton Grange #169 celebrated its 118th Anniversary on March 6. Top Right: State President Robert Buck presents Riverton President David Roberts with a medal from the National Grange in recognition of its distinguished community service efforts. Lower Right: Members and guests enjoy Riverton's traditional birthday dinner. The tables are divided up by months and decorated appropriately. Everyone is then seated by their birthday month and are served a seasonal meal prepared by a designated member.



BROOKLYN SWAP MEET ★ MENU ★

★ BREAKFAST ★

Egg Sandwich \$4.00
(with cheese & sausage patty or Canadian bacon)

Muffin \$3.00

★ LUNCH ★

Corn Chowder \$5.00

Soup of the Day \$5.00

Hot Dog \$3.00

Chili Dog \$5.00

Coney Island Dog \$5.00

Soda \$2.00

Water \$2.00

Hot Coffee \$2.00

Hot Tea / Hot Chocolate

★ FRIDAY NIGHT VENDOR MENU ★

Pasta (with sauce & meatballs) \$5.00

Meatball Sub (6") \$5.00

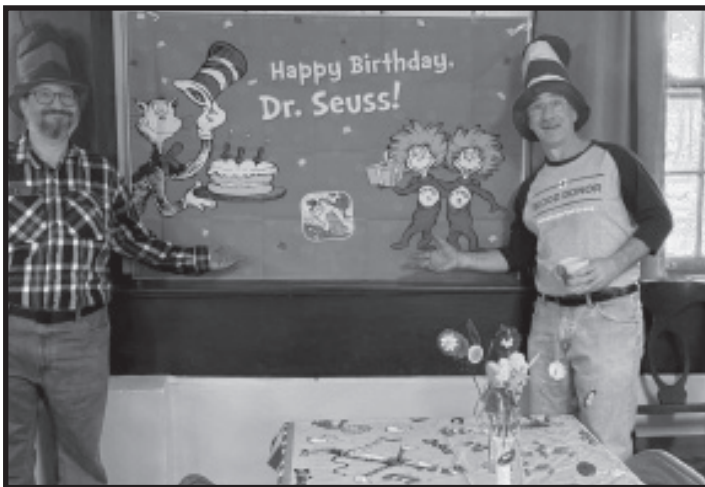
Soup of the Day \$5.00

Soda / Water \$2.00

Hot Coffee / Tea / Hot Chocolate \$2.00

Ekonk Community Grange -- You don't have to wait for August to get your favorites from our booth! We will be serving up our fair favorites at the April Brooklyn Swap Meet April 18th-19th, Brooklyn Fairgrounds.

Wallingford Grange



Wallingford Grange hosted a youth event teaching how to make ice cream in a mason jar. Above: Wallingford celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday at their recent pancake breakfast serving "Truffula" pancakes to correspond with "The Lorax."



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

Nun's Prayer

In my readings I came across a prayer ascribed to a 17th century nun that seemed worthy of greater dissemination. I was unable to verify the source, but it has been in print for at least 80 years. I have read through it four times, and with each reading I get more meaning out of it, and find more and more that it also applies to my own life.

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and someday will be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind free from then recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare



not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory but for a growing humility and lessening cock sureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint; some of them are so hard to live with. But a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the

devil. Give me the ability to see the good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

In Memoriam

Doris Johnson
Cheshire Grange #23

Myrtie Blackmer GS
Senexet Grange #40

"Well done, good and faithful servants."



GROWING FROM
THE GROUND UP



GRANGE MONTH - APRIL 2026