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# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 56, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2015

## State Master



**Noel T. Miller**  
State Master/President  
president@ctstategrange.org

Grange in Rhode Island.

The National Junior Grange is having new programs this year and one is using jump ropes, so find those old ropes in the closets and the bottom drawers and start practicing now.

Hank had a grand time and picked up some new red sneakers from the Montana Junior Grange. This year, many animals were rustled with Willy the Sheep being held for \$1,000.00 ransom. It is sad that these things happen even if you think you're safe... thieves strike. Hank was well guarded.

Next year's convention will be the 150<sup>th</sup> in the Washington, D.C. area, November 15-19, 2016. Many exciting tours are being planned for the special event. So mark your calendars.

This year's events for the Connecticut State Grange are being worked out now and meetings are being set up for our Pink Sash family.

New England Leaders' Conference will be January 15-17 in Milford, MA. Stephanie Tiller, National Grange Operations Officer, will be there to discuss the 2018 Convention to be held somewhere in the Northeast Region.

As we come into this Holiday Season, our Grangers should be commended for the extra work they do, by food donations, Christmas gifts for shut-ins, crafts and baked goods that they sell, to tree lightings and caroling events. You all do great work and I thank you for your energy, courage and spunk to get the job done. By us being visual in the public let's not forget to ask people to join us, membership should always be in our minds, "Just ask to join" should be our motto for the upcoming year.

To all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

The 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Grange, in Lincoln, Nebraska, is in the rear view mirror. What a great place and people from the Plains Region. The food was great, the Cornhusker Hotel was gracious, the events exciting and the weather almost perfect. A new National Master was elected, Sister Betsy Huber of Pennsylvania, is in charge after four rounds of voting. A new National Lecturer, Amanda Brozana (formerly the Communications Director), were the only new officers to the National Grange. Brother Phil Prelli retained his place on the Executive Committee for another three years. Thank you, Phil. The resolutions presented at this year's session has the National Grange leaning to the right in our policy statements, though we believe in State rights, and smaller government, we must be open minded and hospitable to people, our neighbors or potential members. The other phrase we heard was "The National Grange has no money," while we are winning in the California litigation and closing in on the end of the Trademark litigation it must come to a conclusion soon or we will be broke.

Congratulations to Ekonk Community Grange for receiving the 2014-2015 Distinguished Grange Award for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. This year's community service award went to Little Compton

## Betsy Huber elected Master of National Grange

Lincoln NE - During the 149<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the National Grange, delegates from each state elected a new slate of national officers. Among this group was Betsy Huber, the newly elected President and the first woman to hold that office in the history of the organization.

Ms. Huber is currently employed by the Pennsylvania State Grange as the Government Relations Director where she works to advance the policies of the Grange within the PA State Legislature. She is a member of Chester-Delaware County Pomona Grange #3 and Goshen Grange #121. Betsy started her Grange involvement at a very young age as a member of the Juvenile (now known as Junior) Grange. She has held numerous positions with her local Grange and with the Pennsylvania State Grange, including serving eight years as President, the first woman to hold that position.

As the National Grange President, Ms. Huber will work with the National Grange staff to advance Grange policies in Washington D.C.; as well as oversee the day to day operations of the organization. The Grange, legislative work, and agriculture have always been an important part of her life. She previously

served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Grange (chairperson 2007-14) and is also the executive secretary for the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association. She has also held various positions in the agricultural community that include serving on the boards of the PA State Council of Farm Organizations (President 2011-12), the Governor's Census 2010 Advisory Panel, the PA Department of Agriculture Fertilizer Advisory Committee, the PA Department of Environmental Protection Ag Advisory Board (Chair 2007), and PA Farm Link. She was employed as district aide to State Representative Arthur D. Hershey from 1992-2002.

She has also served her community as township supervisor for Upper Oxford Township for 24 years, chairman of the Township



**National Master Betsy Huber**

Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee, treasurer of the Chester County Association of Township Officials and as member of the PSATS Land Use Committee and Resolutions Committee. She has also served the Avondale Presbyterian Church as Elder, Deacon, Trustee and choir member.

*Continued on page 2*



Ed Luttrell receives his Past Officer pin from National Master Huber following the Installation of Officers at National Session.

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**Next Issue... January 2016!**

# 2016

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



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

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!





The 2015-2016 officers of the National Grange pose for a group photo in Lincoln, NE.

# Betsy Huber

Continued from page 1...

Ms. Huber was elected to the Penn State Board of Trustees by the delegates from agricultural societies in 2005 and serves on the Committee on Outreach, Development, and Community Relations and the Governance and Long Range Planning Committee.

The Grange, founded in 1867, is a nonprofit, non-partisan, fraternal organization that advocates for rural America and agriculture. With a strong history in grassroots activism, family values and community service, the Grange is recognized as America's number one rural family organization. There are nearly 80,000 members in 2000 local community Granges across 41 states. It is the oldest agricultural and rural organization of its kind in the United States.

## Farewell to a father

By Terry Jones (Sat., Nov. 7, 2015- Connecticut Post)

On the farm, it's been an amazing fall. Nature has given us a menu of intensely colorful foliage; dishing it out course after course, nourishing us the entire month of October.

It is the first autumn of my sixty-eight years I have not shared with my father.

He passed away in August after nearly ninety-seven years of life-loving our farm, our community and our Connecticut.

This morning I am sitting on a bed of moss in one of my father's favorite tree fields.

For me, it's an inspired moment amongst the natural landscape my father enjoyed for nearly a century.

Today, however, the wide blueberry foliage seems redder, the birch bark whiter, and the cedar berries bluer. In the distance, the salmon and bright yellow leaves are glorious. The breathtaking vista symbolizes the richness of my father's long life, beautifully lived.

Philip planted his first trees on what is now the Jones Family Farm in Shelton as a teenager during the Great Depression.

From his dream as a UConn 4H member, grew the iconic business that has brought joy to so many. Generations of young people pursued their first job working with him caring for the Christmas trees.

A student worker once exclaimed "Philip is the oldest teenager I ever knew!" He never seemed to age. His spirit remained playful. He was forever young. As an octogenarian, he took service on Shelton's Juvenile Review Board to heart – always with joyful hope, as he helped troubled youth find a better path.

Philip died peacefully in the home he built on the farm as a young man.

Hospice care guided his last days. During the early evening of his final day, I held his hand and shared this found farewell, one of countless memories I cherish.

"You taught me the joy and adventure of 'playing in the dirt.'

What kid could resist the opportunity to join his father at the farm's gravel pit. You'd lift me into the seat of the old farm truck and we'd be off to patch the roads and barnyard. Remember that spring morning when your shovel uncovered some leathery-skinned, oblong eggs?

You suggested they would hatch into turtles and that turtles deserved some reverence in the hierarchy of God's creatures. Carefully, we placed them in a pail of sand and brought them to your tree nursery in our door yard.

We made a little nest amongst the sprouting Christmas trees and gently covered it with sand. Every morning I'd go and look. You taught me to be patient.

Each day, the miracle of the little spruce seeds sprouting and shedding their seed coats would captivate me; and then one day, a dozen little turtles cracked their way to life outside their shells!

After a week, you suggested we bring them back to their 'home' by the pond.

Thank you, Dad, for all your wisdom, inspiration, and memories.

During my father's last few days, I reflected on all the ways his life had touched me so powerfully.

He believed it was important to give back to our society and our community.

His service to church, community, and philanthropies made a positive difference for countless people.



A winter view of Jones Farm in Shelton, CT

As a young 'pup,' sixty-five years ago, Philip taught old dogs new tricks as a freshman legislator at our Connecticut Capitol. During a quarter-century of leadership on Shelton's Library Board, he convinced town leaders and voters to greatly expand the facilities of the Plumb Memorial Library. Philip helped the Connecticut Forest and Park Association to grow to become the most respected advocate for the working forests of our state.

And, he dedicated many years to the Institute of American Indian Studies in Washington, Conn., to grow and sustain it as a significant museum and cultural center.

In 1960, Philip helped create the Connecticut Christmas Tree Growers

Association, and as editor of its Journal, he inspired hundreds of folks to grow Christmas trees. He traveled to the Carter White House to help a colleague deliver the Presidential tree.

Even playwright Arthur Miller came to seek his advice on starting a tree farm in Roxbury. (I think Marilyn Monroe talked him out of it!)

So many inspiring memories!

Near his death, I gave Dad's hand a squeeze and kissed his forehead. My father slipped away peacefully shortly after midnight.

The August night air was soft with the quiet hum of crickets as I walked to our hilltop for some time of reflection.

A crescent moon was rising and the big dipper lay horizontal and seemed to float above a distant ridge of trees. Symbolically they cradled and were filled to the brim with happenings of a long lifetime.

Behind me stretched row after row of evergreens.

The air was filled with the scent of balsam fir, my father's first and favorite Christmas tree. He was at peace.

*Terry Jones should be familiar to many Grange members as Chairman of the Working Lands Alliance Steering Committee. He is a fifth-generation Shelton farmer, father and grandfather. He is also a member of the State Board of Education.*

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 Vice President . . . . .  
 Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell

# The new officers of National Grange

Master. . . . . Betsy Huber . . . . . Pennsylvania  
 Overseer. . . . . Jimmy Gentry . . . . . N. Carolina  
 Lecturer. . . . . Amanda Brozana . Washington, D.C.  
 Steward . . . . . Chip Narvel . . . . . Delaware  
 A. Steward . . . . . John Plank. . . . . Indiana  
 L.A. Steward . . . . . Chris Hamp . . . . . Washington  
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 Secretary . . . . . Judy Sherrod . . . . . Tennessee  
 Gatekeeper . . . . . Christopher Johnson . . . . . Michigan  
 Ceres . . . . . Claire Logan . . . . . Rhode Island  
 Pomona . . . . . Susan Noah . . . . . Oregon  
 Flora . . . . . Marie Nicholson . . . . . Montana  
 Exec. Comm. . . . . F. Philip Prelli . . . . . Connecticut  
 Exec. Comm. . . . . Joe Fryman . . . . . Nebraska

# Cannon Grange wins national award for conservation

WASHINGTON --- Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognizes the waste reduction accomplishments of 29 participants in and endorsers of EPA's WasteWise program and EPA's Food Recovery Challenge. These collaborative initiatives apply sustainable materials management practices to decrease wasted food and municipal and industrial wastes in the United States, leading to economic and environmental improvements. EPA provides tools, resources and support to help participants establish baselines, set objectives, track progress and realize their waste prevention and reduction goals. EPA reviews the data submitted by participants by employing an extensive quality assurance process. "Food Recovery Challenge participants diverted nearly 606,000 tons of wasted food from entering landfills or incinerators in 2014, nearly 88,600 tons of which were donated to people in need," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "These innovative efforts will help us achieve our ambitious national wasted food reduction goal -- a 50 percent reduction by 2030. I encourage other organizations to follow their lead by joining the Food

Recovery Challenge." In 2014, nearly 800 governments, businesses and organizations participated in EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, including grocers, educational institutions, sports and entertainment venues and restaurants. These entities diverted wasted food from entering landfills or incinerators through a variety of innovative actions, including creative re-use of trimmings by university dining staff; donating excess, wholesome food to food banks, shelters and soup kitchens; composting in urban settings; and using wasted food to produce electricity. EPA recognizes Food Recovery Challenge participants and endorsers with awards in two categories: data-driven and narrative. The data-driven award recipients achieved the highest percent of wasted food prevention and diversion in their sector in 2014. Narrative award winners excelled in the areas of source reduction, leadership, innovation, education and outreach, and endorsement.

**2015 Food Recovery Challenge National Award Winners:**  
 Colleges and Universities: Salem State Univ., Salem, MA  
 Schools: Pearl City High School, Honolulu, Hawaii  
 Grocers: Sprouts Farmers Market, Tucson, AZ  
 Hospitality: White Sands Trading Company, Alamogordo, NM  
 Restaurants and Food Service Providers: Serendipity Catering, Denver, CO  
 Sports and Ent. Venues: Savor... Chicago-McCormick Place S., Chicago, IL  
 Orange County Sheriff's Dept., Theo Lacy Facility, Orange, CA

**Narrative Categories:**  
 Source Reduction Winner: University of CA (UC), Santa Cruz, CA  
 Source Reduction Honorable Mention: Clark University, Worcester, MA  
 Leadership Winner: MB Financial Park at Rosemont/Village of Rosemont, IL  
 Innovation Winner: Cystal Creamery, Modesto, CA  
 Innovation Honorable Mention: City of Philadelphia, PA  
 Education and Outreach Winner: Keene State College, Keene, NH  
 Endorser Winner: Massachusetts Dept. of Env. Protection

WasteWise participants also reported impressive results in 2014, preventing and diverting more than 6.7 million tons of municipal and industrial waste from being disposed. These colleges and universities, federal, local and tribal governments, businesses and non-profit organizations implemented a variety of waste prevention and recycling initiatives to both reduce waste and increase efficiencies throughout their operations.

EPA recognizes exceptional WasteWise participants for their annual improvement, overall improvement and waste prevention performance by sector in 2014. Additionally, the endorser award recognizes outstanding efforts to promote WasteWise as a means to help organizations reduce waste and promote overall sustainable materials management.

**2015 WasteWise Program Awardees:**  
 Federal Government Winner: U.S. Postal Service Hdq. Facilities, Orlando, FL  
 Federal Government Honorable Mention: The Presidio Trust, San Francisco, CA  
 Tribal Government Winner: Chumash Casino Resort, Santa Ynez, CA  
 Local Government Winner: City of Fort Lauderdale, FL  
 Small Business Winner: Exel Lockport, Lockport, NY  
 Small Business Honorable Mention: Command Packaging, Vernon, CA  
 Mid-Size Business Winner: Madison Precision Products, Madison, IN  
 Large Business Winner: Commonwealth Edison Company, Terrace, IL  
 Large Business Honorable Mention: Rooms to Go, Suwanee, GA  
 Very Large Business Winner: Toyota Motor North America, Torrance, CA  
 Very Large Business Honorable Mention: Kohl's Dept. Stores, Menomonee Falls, WI  
 College and University Winner: Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO  
 College and University Winner: Clark University, Worcester, MA  
**Non-profit Organization Winner: Cannon Grange #152, Wilton, CT**  
 Endorser Winner: Global Fiberglass Solutions, Inc., Bellevue, WA

**For more information on WasteWise:**  
<http://www2.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food>

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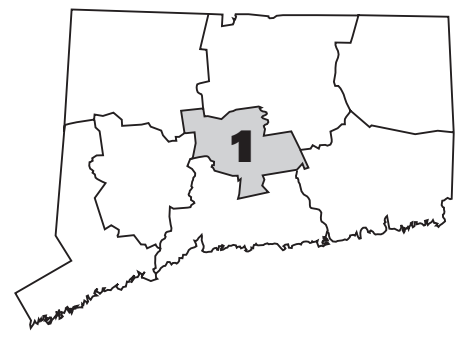
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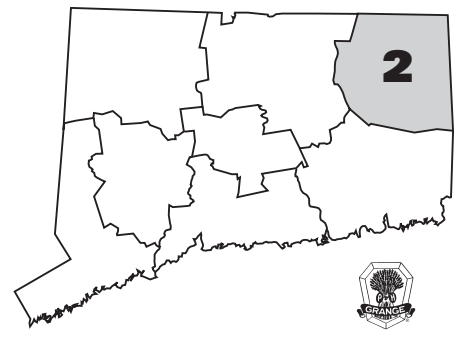
## Central Pomona No. 1



- Central #1
- Southington #25
- Meriden #29
- Higganum #124
- Hemlock #182

No reports were received from Central Pomona this month. We would love to see 100% of Central's Granges reporting in the next issue!

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- Quinebaug #2
- Senexet #40
- Wolf Den #61
- Ekonk Community #89
- Ashford #90
- Putnam #97
- Killingly #112
- Echo #180

**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**Dec. 16:** Christmas Traditions

We continue to hold member meetings. We hosted the annual meeting of the Windham County Farm Bureau and served a delicious roast beef dinner to over 65 farmers.

We had a successful food booth at the Celebrating Ag event here in Woodstock. We prepared and sold apple pies at the Big Little Apple Festival in Killingly.

We will be having a Christmas pie sale on Dec. 24.

We continue to work on getting new members and are promoting the use of the hall for events.

**WOLF DEN GRANGE #61**

*Corr: Sybil Williams*

**Dec. 9:** Christmas Contest, Ref. Christmas Cookies

**Jan. 14:** Begin Anew, Ref. "Try Something New"

I am going to be reporting for Wolf Den as Elsie Johnson has "retired."

We had a good time at our Nov. 11 meeting. We honored the veteran member in attendance at our meeting as well as all Veterans. We voted to give a generous donation to the Pomfret Food Pantry as we do yearly. Our Master gave a nice report on the State Session he recently attended. We also had a discussion on the future of Quinebaug Pomona. It was reported that the gardens are done for the year except for a few root vegetables. We ended the

evening with the Master giving us the "punch line" from old commercials and we had to guess the product or company that it was about. Only one gave us trouble. We sang some of the answers out and some we just gave the name of the product or company. It was a lot of fun remembering.

At our Oct. 28 fun night we had a nice potluck with baked ham to hold us over until we start them again in the spring. We had John's trivia to awake the brains and keep us thinking for a long time after the questions ended.

Stop in to join the fun on the second Wed. of the month during the long cold winter months. No second meetings in the winter months as we will all be bundled around the home fires the 4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the month until April.

Deer are starting to "pop" out of the woods so drive carefully.

**ECHO GRANGE #180**

*Corr: Gloria John*

**Dec. 8:** Christmas Cards

**Dec. 22:** Omit

**Jan. 12:** Happy New Year

We will be getting ready for our new contests.

We are still making squares for "From the Heart" organization.

Two of our members are in nursing homes, Florence Palmer and Alice Jensen.

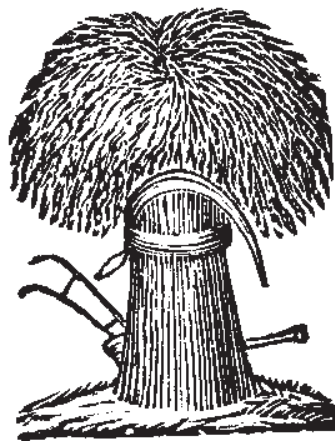
We are still collecting pennies for Christmas.

Everyone is still hoping for a mild winter this year.

# First Four Degrees

H X A G F C T U S F E A S T S N I A R G C W O  
 J E V T I F P Z H S A G Y E R E M L W G Y X F  
 I H A R V E S T E R P Q V R O T D Z Y W V O Q  
 V X H J W X M A P D N A Z H T A L G H A X F M  
 Y F O R I V F M H B N I D C A G Y T I R A H C  
 Y T E H F L A W E C E B X E V A P C M V H J V  
 V S I G B N U E R Z M Q F K I R O K Z O P W M  
 L C S L H S U A D Y D I T N T I B O T L O N A  
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 I R J R T N E Y P D G S P O K F W A P F D N S  
 A N U Q E B N U L S S I Q K K O W V R F Z I O  
 F I M P V G E I O O R T S A L E J G U A O R N  
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 W H I M N C C S L A B O R E R S L E I T I S V  
 H A M T X H A R V E S T E M H M N S N H C Y L  
 N R E M M U S N M A T R O N S E Q K G L K G V  
 L X S U M M E R P M R E T N I W W S P Z L H I  
 M F T M L R N V W E R V Y P I D E E S V E N K

**The words:**



- |             |            |               |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Agate       | Grain      | Pruning       |
| Autumn      | Harrow     | Ripened       |
| Ax          | Harvest    | Season        |
| Blossoms    | Harvester  | Seed          |
| Charity     | Hoe        | Shepherdesses |
| Childhood   | Hope       | Sickle        |
| Cultivators | Husbandmen | Spade         |
| Faith       | Knife      | Spring        |
| Farm        | Laborers   | Springtime    |
| Feast       | Maids      | Summer        |
| Fidelity    | Manhood    | Summer        |
| Flowers     | Matrons    | Winter        |
| Fruit       | Plant      |               |
| Gleaner     | Plow       |               |

## New State Masters elected

**Massachusetts State Grange**

The National Grange welcomes George Thomas III, elected Master at the 143rd Annual Massachusetts State Grange Session held in Milford, MA.

George has been a Grange member for 34 years at Ponkapoag Grange #231 in his home town of Canton MA. He has held various State Grange positions since 2001.

George and his wife Patti, have been married for 42 years and have four children; Zachary, Rachel, Andrew, and George IV. They also have nine grandchildren; Aidan, Brendan, Devin, Patrick, Morgan, Lily, Jacob, Liam and George V.

George is a brick & stone mason and owner of a second generation family masonry company specializing in custom residential construction in the Boston, MA area.

**Minnesota State Grange**

The Minnesota State Grange elected T.J. Malaskee Master at the 143rd Annual Minnesota State Grange Session held in Edina, MN.

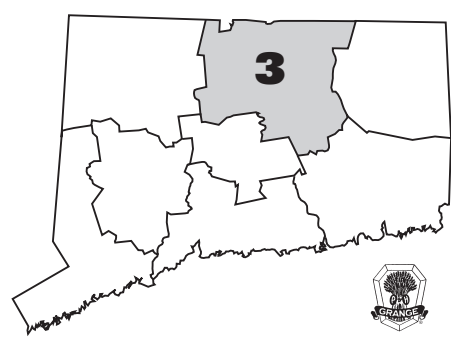


**T.J. Malaskee, Master  
Minnesota State Grange**

T.J. Malaskee is an eighth generation Minnesotan. As a cultural historian, he teaches the public about agricultural history for the Minnesota Historical Society at Mill City Museum in Minneapolis. He has previously served as a cultural historian at the Oliver H. Kelley farm where he organized the Oliver Hudson Kelley Grange, No. 834 in 2012.

Malaskee currently lives in Waconia, Minnesota on the historic 1855 Andrew Peterson Farm where he is working with the Carver County Historical Society to develop the site of Laketown Grange Member Andrew Peterson's influential farmstead and orchards into an agricultural historic site.

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- East Central #3
- Granby #5
- Glastonbury #26
- Manchester #31
- Vernon #52
- Coventry #75
- Hillstown #87
- Enfield #151
- Simbury #197

### EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

**Dec. 5:** "What's in the Box", Host- Hillstown Grange

Finishing up this year with a bang. Enfield Grange has challenged everyone to a craft contest for during the winter break, making something with 50 clothes pins. This is due at the March meeting so get crafting. Happy Holidays to all.

### GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

**Dec. 3:** Meeting at (time?)  
**Dec. 12:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 p.m.

December 3rd Glastonbury will meet at 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. (As I must have this article into the Ct. Granger be November 5th I am not sure what we will be doing. I guess we will decide this at our Nov. 5th meeting) I assume we will meet at 6:30 p.m. for a short business meeting followed by the Christmas Party. This will either be at a local restaurant or at the hall.

December 12th our Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you all there and bring a friend with you. Refreshments are always welcome.

Much "THANKS" to all who helped with the Bakeless Bake Sale we held back in October. It was a HUGH success. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all. Looking forward to seeing you then on January 7th, 2016. The Lecturers program is "New Year, New Time". Ref. Pizza and Salad.

Jan. 9th Monte Carlo Whist Card Party at 7:00 p.m. at the hall. More later.

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Leona Wilson

**Dec. 1:** Shopping

**Dec. 15:** Christmas Cheer  
**Jan. 5:** Snow and Sleigh Bells

Our December 1 program "Shopping" will be presented by Sister Edith Schoell. On

December 15 we will have Christmas cheer start with a potluck supper at 6:00. On January 5 we will learn all about "Snow and Sleigh Bells." This program will be presented by Sister Leona. Our Manchester Pizza Contest did not happen due to a lack of support from our local pizza shops.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

**Dec. 4:** "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" with crazy gift exchange.

It's hard to believe that it is the holiday season again. Where did the year go? Vernon will have its holiday program and crazy gift card exchange again. Something new this year, Vernon Grange members will be collecting DVD's to send over to military servicemen through the Hall Memorial Library in Ellington program this holiday season.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

**Dec. 3:** Christmas, Ref. M. Manning

Coventry Grange is buttoning up for winter. Brother Glenn Miller's daughter had a baby boy November 14, 2015 so possible 4th generation here. Coventry Christmas in the Village will be December 5, 2015. Marcia and Noel will be in the live nativity scene again. Hope it's warm. Happy Holidays to all.

### HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 6 as part of the Holiday Fest in East Hartford. Pancake special will be a holiday surprise with cranberries and walnuts. Same time of 8:30 to 11:00 A.M. Five dollars gets you a plae of holiday pancakes, sausage, juice, unlimited regular pancakes and a bottomless cup of coffee, children 14 just \$3.

Grandma's attic and book sale will be open during breakfast.

For more information on this event, call Helene at 860-568-6268, Frank

at 860-690-2845 or email: hillstowngrange@aol.com.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

**Dec. 12:** Old Man Winter – Show off your favorite ornament.

**Jan. 9:** Lions & Tigers & Bears Oh My

The leaves have changed and are falling and the acorn crop looks like it will be a record. Cold mornings are the norm and winter

weather will be here before you know it. One of our indoor activities will be teaching to crochet preemie hats. Anyone can learn and it should be fun.

Our Master Jim and I were delegates to the State Session and gave our reports at our Nov. meeting. Lots to think about and new things to try. Our collection of hats and mittens is growing and the December meeting will be the last day to bring them

in before we deliver them to the Enfield Day Care. To be ready for next year's collection start looking for after Christmas sales. There are lots of bargains out there. Don't forget to bring your favorite Christmas ornament to show off.

Meeting at 10:00 a.m. takes a little getting used to, but we still encourage visitors to come and neighbor with us. The welcome mat is out for all.

## Curtains Without Borders



For the last fifteen years, "Curtains Without Borders" has been working with Granges in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine to document and restore (whenever possible) the kind of painted stage curtains that generally look like this one in Woodstock, CT. We have now started a national project to locate as many curtains as we can all over the country. Ed Luttrell at the National Grange is our partner in this effort and I have talked to your own State Master about appealing for your help. We are a non-profit group dedicated to documenting and restoring curtains- we don't want to acquire them!

If you have a curtain, whether still on stage or in storage, of if you know where there might still be one in a Grange Hall that has become something else, or if you even think you know where a curtain might

be, please contact me so I can follow up and add it to the national inventory.

Our website is [www.curtainswithoutborders.org](http://www.curtainswithoutborders.org) if you'd like to see how we're doing so far. Since we started in Vermont and moved on to New Hampshire and Maine, we've found about 500 curtains in town halls Grange Halls and opera houses. I don't expect to find as high a concentration in other parts of the country because we northern Yankees just don't throw anything out, but I do hope to build as complete a list of Grange curtains as possible.

Please call or email me with any information you have. Of course, photos are particularly welcome! Thank you.

Chris Hadsel, Director, Curtains Without Borders, Burlington, VT. 802-863-4938 or [chris.hadsel@gmail.com](mailto:chris.hadsel@gmail.com).

## Colchester Grange plans trips

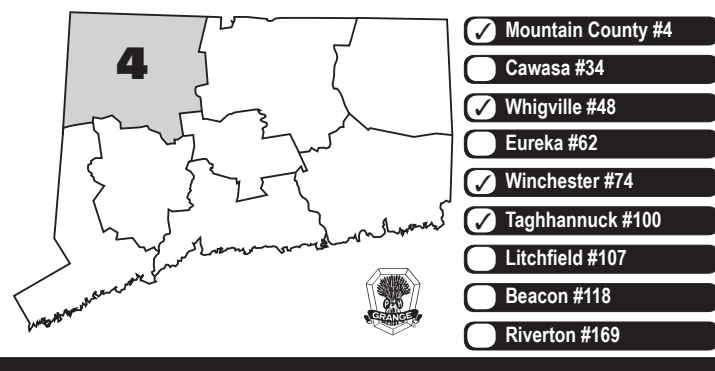
Colchester Grange #78 is offering two trips to help raise funds for our scholarship fund. We offer two scholarships yearly to two local high school students. People will find both trips very interesting.

**PANAMA CANAL AND CARIBBEAN CRUISE:** Departing March 7 - 18 2016. You will be transported from Colchester to the airport for a flight to Fort Lauderdale. Transfers to and from the pier and enjoy 11 nights on the beautiful Zuiderdam. You will visit Half Moon Cay (private Island) Aruba, Curacao, Cartagena, Colon, Panama, Costa Rica and enjoy a partial Panama Canal Transit. Prices start at \$2199pp twin for an inside cabin, plus \$365 Taxes.

New trip being offered this spring. It is early but we must book early for rooms and theater space.

**New production at the SIGHT AND SOUND THEATRE IN LANCASTER, PA:** May 3-5, 2016 - in the heart of Lancaster PA. staying at the Historic Cork Factory Hotel, Enjoy reserved seats for the brand new show "SAMSON". When Samson stands between two colossal columns in a godless temple and start pushing this immersive scene will literally bring the house down! Enjoy a designed "Heritage Tour" as a authentic experience of local culture - a GUIDED AMISH VIP (VISIT IN PERSON) tour. Travel the back roads to an Amish home where you will be invited into their home. Visit a local schoolhouse and talk to the teacher. Enjoy a narrated horse drawn carriage ride through a covered bridge. Contact Cathy by calling 887-9621 or [crussi45@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crussi45@sbcglobal.net) to learn more about the three day visit including motorcoach ride, 2 nights hotel, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, sightseeing and admissions and tip for the escort and driver for \$441 pp double.

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Dec. 14:** Meeting at Winchester Grange Hall, 7:30 P.M., \$5.00 grab bag

The next meeting of Mountain County Pomona will be our Christmas meeting to be held at Winchester Grange Hall. This meeting is frequently a victim of the elements.... Let's hope 2015 is better to us! Please bring your \$5 grab bag gift along to join in the festivities.

### WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

Corr: Debbie Brown

Whigville Grange will hold a cookie walk at Terryville Congregational Church in Terryville, CT on Sat., Dec. 5 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Hand-dipped chocolates will also be featured, along with a teacup auction. Cookies and chocolates are sold by weight. Each customer selects the types and amounts they would like. Dozens of types of goodies will be available. Proceeds will benefit the projects of Whigville Grange.

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

**Dec. 4:** Holiday Super Prize Party and Cookie Sale

**Dec. 8:** Christmas program, \$5 Grab Bag exchange

**Dec. 22:** Omitted for the holiday

Bring the entire family for an evening of holiday cheer and community fun! Winchester Grange will be hosting a Holiday Super Prize Party on Friday, December 4 with doors opening at 4:00 P.M.

The event will be held at Winchester Grange Hall, located at the intersection of Newfield Road and Route 263 in Winchester Center. New to the Super Prize Party this year is a holiday cookie sale.

Donations of clothing, shoes and textiles continue to be most welcome at Winchester Grange. Our clothing shed is located just beyond the Post Office entrance at the hall. Winchester receives a percentage of each pound of clothing/textiles donated, so your used items will help support Winchester Grange and will provide clothing for those in need.

Until next time—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Our Harvest Dinner was a great success with both members and non-members enjoying the abundance of food at our potluck and the musical entertainment afterwards. Thank you all for helping with the "clean up" and getting the hall back in order.

At our regular meeting on Dec. 10, Taghannuck Grange will have our cookie exchange. Each member brings 4 dozen of one kind of cookie and many members bring 4 dozen of more than one kind. We will be making up eleven plates of cookies for "Ella's Pantry." Social Services gives them to individuals who need cheering up. We also make up plates for members who

can no longer attend our meetings. Then we each get to make up a plate of



**Todd A. Gelineau**  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

Time takes its toll on regalia, implements, and other Grange possessions. Are you in need of replacement gavel, blocks, songbooks, Bibles, staves, implements, etc., etc.? Unfortunately, we have accumulated an extensive supply of these and many more items as Granges close and their property is transferred to the Central Office.

If your Grange is in need of specific items or would like to learn more about what is available, please contact me. Most items turned in by Granges are then offered free of charge to other Granges for their use. We will be happy to work out a way to get items to you and will be even happier to free up much needed space at the office.

There still are a number of Granges who are very late in submitting their Quarterly Reports for the quarter ended September 30. As I have mentioned in this column before, we as a State Grange are required to submit our quarterly report and payment regardless of whether or not all of our community Granges have reported for the quarter. As a result, we end up paying dues on actual numbers and numbers submitted from the previous quarter.

We, as a State Grange, are assessed a 1% fee of the total amount of dues paid if our report to National is late. This is a foolish way to spend hard earned Grange dollars so we opt for paying based on the best numbers available to us.

At the State Session in October, a resolution was adopted changing the penalty for late Quarterly Reports. Beginning with the report due on Dec. 31, all late reports will

cookies to bring home. The snow date is December 18<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to participate

in our cookie exchange and if you come bring a \$5 wrapped gift for our grab bag.

## State Secretary

be assessed a flat \$25.00 fee when the report has exceeded 30 days past the close of the quarter. It is hoped that this penalty will be greater encouragement than a 1% fee that amounted to one dollar or less.

Christmas gifts abound at the Connecticut State Grange Store. As we have promoted in the last several issues—the new limited edition Grange Hall Calendars are available for \$13.00. If the demand is demonstrated, this will be the first in a series of calendars over 5-7 years that will feature all of the Granges and Grange meeting places of the Connecticut State Grange past and present.

The new Past Lecturer and Past Master pins. In addition, we have many pieces of Grange jewelry, courier bags with the Grange emblem, re-usable Grange shopping bags and much more.

We recently ordered new supplies of 55, 60, 65 and 70 year seals through National Grange. These are the seals that are affixed to the inside cover of Golden Sheafs as members reach each 5 year milestone in membership longevity. We, unfortunately,

are unable to continue offering these seals at no charge to the Granges as our cost has climbed to \$2.50 each plus shipping. The membership recognition forms will be updated and re-distributed to Granges in the near future. However, please include \$2.50 for each seal ordered from the Central Office. If the additional money is not included in your order, don't worry! We will ship your order as usual, but the Treasurer will send an invoice with the charge for the seals. We hope will understand why this change is necessary.

The new Blue Books for 2016 have been printed and the 2016 State Directory of Granges will follow soon. We will have these out to the Granges as soon as possible so everyone can get a "jump" on their entries and projects for 2016!

As always, you can contact me through my email address: secretary@ctstategrange.org, Cell: 860-307-1522 (anytime) or by "snail" mail: CT State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Until next time, have a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year holiday... with only a white Christmas!

## Whigville Grange



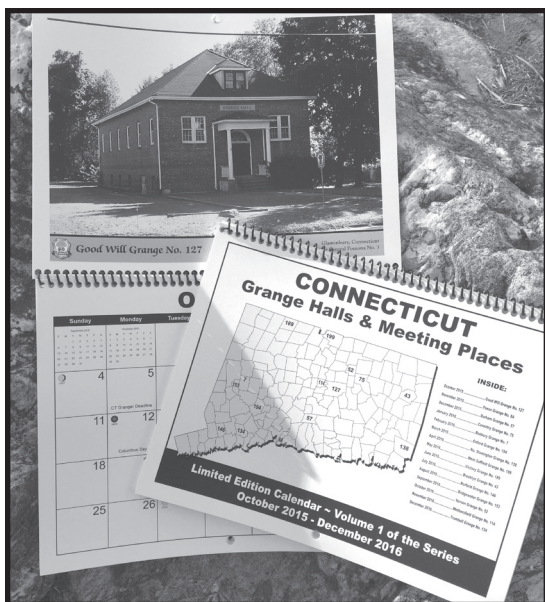
Gary Brown of Whigville Grange (white shirt in center of picture), getting ready to participate in the Hunger Walk for St. Vincent De Paul in Waterbury on Oct. 25. Gary and Debbie Brown participated with their 10th grade Confirmation students from St. Thomas Church, Thomaston. The group was the largest group participating, and also raised the largest amount, receiving a trophy for their efforts.

## Past Master & Lecturer Pins Now Available!



These new Past Master and Lecturer pins are \$10.00 each plus shipping and handling (if applicable). Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org for more information.

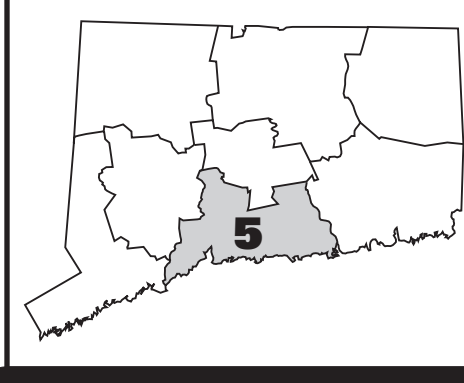
## A great holiday gift...



The 2015 - 2016 Connecticut Grange calendars featuring historic pictures of Grange Halls and meeting places across our state are now available. GET YOURS WHILE THEY LAST! Sales at State Session were even better than expected! The first edition spotlights 15 Granges representing 11 different Pomonas. These collectible calendars are now available for sale through the state office for \$13.00. Supplies are limited so get your copy soon!

Please call (860) 633-7550 or (860) 307-1522 or email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org for more information.

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- New Haven #5
- Cheshire #23
- Wallingford #33



### NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

*Corr: Wesli Dymoke*  
**Dec. 6:** (Sunday), 4:00, Open Meeting. Program: Christmas Celebrations. Bring a \$3.0 gift to exchange. Potluck supper to follow.  
**Jan. 25:** Regular Meeting. Program: Our Youth

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Ruel Miller*  
**Dec. 2:** Neighbor's Night/Hobo Night dress like a hobo  
**Dec. 16:** Christmas Party Open Meeting, \$3 grab bag and card exchange. Bring your favorite dessert.

November was a busy month. We took in two new members, put on one of our annual fundraising dinners for a local hiking club, enjoyed our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at our Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, and concluded our craft night project for the holiday season putting our gift packages together which contained our crafts and baked goods for our shut-in members and others. We continue to collect food items for our local Cheshire food bank. We hope some of you can join us for our Christmas meeting.

We extend our best wishes

to all our Grange friends for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Dan Lauttenbach*  
**Dec. 10:** "Christmas Program." Open meeting. Card exchange. \$3 grab bag. Ref. All Members  
**Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve. No meeting. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Wallingford Grange #33

**Oct. 8:** "Connecticut Tree Challenge: Bill Austin, a Landscape Architect and a Wallingford Grange member gave a talk about the state of trees in the town of Wallingford. Some of the challenges the town faces is placing the right kind of tree so that they will be decorative but yet not upset sidewalks or get too large that they block views of businesses. Then there is the issue of a homeowner's rights vs. town rights. The town tree warden is supposed to oversee all the trees on town properties. The tree warden also oversees a public hearing when a citizen(s) write letters to the warden within seven days of a notice of tree removal. Bill also mentioned that a lot of trees were lost in this year's June storm that took

down a number of trees in Marcus Cook park and that the Grange should get involved in seeing that some new trees get planted to replace the lost ones. He also mentioned in New York City area there are Citizen Pruners that go around trimming and take care of trees in the city.

**Oct. 22:** The Harvest Supper was postponed to

November 12. We had a business meeting and prepared for the upcoming tag sale.

**Oct. 24:** Tag & Bake Sale was held from 8 A.M. to Noon. We had a steady amount of people dropping by and the bake table was busy and sold most of the items our members brought for the table. Vern was kept busy serving up breakfast

hot dogs and can't believe I was eating hot dogs before 9 A.M. All in all we made out well and I would like to thank all the members who brought in items for the bake sale and Marcia Cutrole keeping it all going and of course Vern for getting in early to open up and fire up the kitchen.

## Taghannuck presents dictionaries



Brent and Barbara Prindle of Taghannuck Grange #100 presented third graders with dictionaries at Sharon Center School. In addition, dictionaries will be presented to third graders at Kent, Cornwall and Warren.

## My Favorite Place in Connecticut



**Marge Bernhardt**  
 State Lecturer  
 lecturer@ctstategrange.org

### My Favorite Spot in Connecticut

*Essay by Sue Gray, Ekonk Community Grange #89*

Our farm home kitchen is always busy, especially at meal time. We always have four, but most often seven family members or more gather, finding their way to our table to join us. The circle of life as

four generations join in eating, talking, laughing, storytelling. Here, love abounds!

Birthdays, anniversaries, holidays are joyous with the 15 of us gathered together around our long farmhouse table, enjoying the bounty prepared and the family united.

We are a meat and potatoes family, beef being the meat of choice, but there is always room for desserts – pies are the most favored, but carrot cake and cheesecake are also family favorites.

So, my favorite place in Connecticut has to be our farm home kitchen, where merriment is plentiful and don't forget, a happy home

is noted for fidelity!

You have just read the second place entry in our essay contest. Congratulations, Sue.

It's hard to believe that it is December already and time for all our Grange Christmas parties. Enjoy these festivities with your Grange Family. Our Grange friends are an important part of our lives. Let's all get out and visit with our Brothers and Sisters of the Grange.

If I don't see you in person this month, please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and above all, stay healthy.

## WINCHESTER GRANGE

# HOLIDAY SUPER PRIZE PARTY & COOKIE SALE

Friday, December 4th

- Cookie Sale Begins: 4:00 PM •
- Super Prize Party Begins: 6:00 PM •

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

Free Admission

26 Chances to win for \$1.00

Winchester Grange Hall

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

www.WINCHESTERGRANGE.org



## CSG Student Loans Available

Did you know the Connecticut State Grange offers Student Loans to Grange members? To be eligible, an applicant must be a member in good standing of a Connecticut Community/Subordinate Grange. All applications must be signed by the Secretary and Master of the applicant's Grange, certifying that the applicant is a member in good standing and is worthy of the loan.

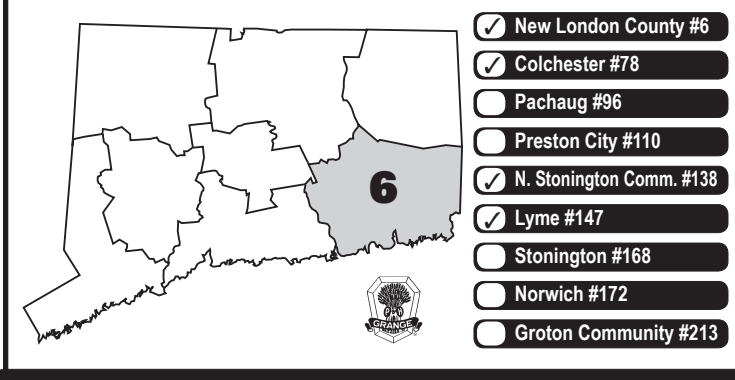
Upon approval of the Board of Trustees, a loan, not to exceed \$1,000 may be made to a Freshman after successfully completing the first semester; a loan not to exceed \$2,500 may be made, upon correct application, to a Sophomore, Junior and Senior. A Graduate Student may receive a loan not to exceed \$2,500 a year. Loans of not over \$2,500 may be made to Patrons desiring to enter training for certain professions.

All notes must be endorsed by two financially responsible persons (not husband and wife), who are acceptable to the Board of Trustees. If the borrower is a minor, the note must be co-signed by the parent or guardian.

Interest will not accrue on any loan while the borrower is attending undergraduate school, Upon graduation or leaving school, interest will be charged at a rate of 5% per annum. Payments will begin immediately after graduation to the Secretary of the State Grange.

For more information contact the Central Office at (860) 633-7550 or Secretary@CTStateGrange.org.

## New London County Pomona No. 6



### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

**Dec. 14:** "Reindeer Games"- Colchester, 7:30 P.M.

We hope for good weather for our annual holiday get-together at Colchester Grange on Dec. 14. So dress in red and green or blue and silver or red, green and black (or whatever you please); but do come and enjoy good fellowship, good fun and delicious refreshments. I'm sure we will hear a report on the results of the raffle which will have been drawn at North Stonington on November 13.

It's not too early to plan your talent or A-Number for the talent show to be held at North Stonington Grange on March 12. Time will fly by and it will be here before you know it.

As the winter closes around us

We snuggle in for the storm

And although it might be a hard winter,

Our friendships will keep us warm.

### COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

At our November meeting we welcomed Jeff Barnes, Vice Chair State Executive Committee., Ted Beebe, Master Norwich Grange and State Membership, Lois Evankow, Lecturer Lyme Grange and Flora East Central Pomona, and Ted Powell, Master Lyme Grange, Chaplain New London County Pomona, and Executive Committee New London County Pomona. Thanks to all for your continued participation and contributions to our Grange.

Jeff Barnes gave out award certificates to members Joan Toomey for Lecturers Appreciation, Cathy Russi for CWA Excellence and Chris Bourque for 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Agricultural Growing Contest. All well deserved.

We continue our community service projects with emphasis on our Veterans project for the Veterans in Jewett City with donations for gifts for the upcoming holidays. As always we provide for local soup kitchens and contribute time with volunteer work at local facilities, Harrington Court and Apple Rehabilitation Center.

We also wrote short messages on Holiday cards for Veterans. Thank you to Lois Evankow for supplying the cards and helping to make the Holidays brighter for those in service to our country away from home for the Holidays.

We would like to extend a get well wish to member John Brown as he recovers from a recent illness. All the best for a quick recovery.

For travelers don't forget to contact Cathy Russi our CWA representative for details on two exciting trips being offered next year. One to Amish Country and the other a cruise to the Panama Canal.

We look forward to hosting Pomona at our December meeting and hope all had a Happy Thanksgiving!

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

**Dec. 11:** "Don't Waste a Precious Minute"- brief meeting at 7:30 followed by Christmas program and party.

**Dec. 25:** "You Can Do It and You Know It"- No Meeting - Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

We are sorry to report that Golden Sheaf member John Ames has joined the Great Grange Above. John was a member of our Agricultural Fair from its inception in 1965 and contributed greatly to its early success.

On Oct. 9 First Selectman Nick Mullane familiarized us with the intricacies of the upcoming election.

At our Halloween party the judges had a difficult time deciding on the

prettiest, funniest, scariest and most original in each of four age groups in the costume parades. After games and a hilarious Mad Lib all adjourned downstairs for refreshments and the annual cup social which raises money for our Christmas baskets. To quote the familiar, "And a good time was had by all."

Please bring the youngsters to our annual Christmas party. Sue always has an enjoyable program and Santa will be dropping by. Be sure and bring a wrapped gift clearly marked with your child's name so Santa will have something in his sack for

him/her. Leave the gifts in the kitchen before you go upstairs. And if those huge acorns will stop hitting my roof and making me think I've been shot, next time I'll tell you all about neat November.

### LYME GRANGE #147

**Jan. 7:** Cabin Fever. Do you have a small antique or hobby to share?

**Feb. 4:** Love makes the world go round. Youth and Young at Heart.

On a lonely evening in November our meeting was held with our Secretary sick and our Treasurer absent, filling in was Nancy Beebe as Secretary and Sandy

Petersen as Treasurer.

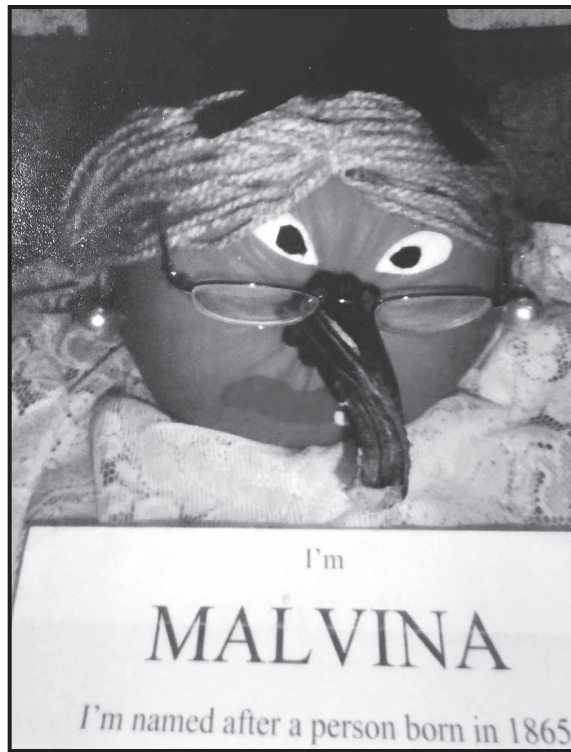
Our Master and Overseer gave reports as delegates to State Session.

We voted to purchase a computer program to help keep our financial records.

The expected speaker was sick so the Lecturer did an agricultural program.

Congratulations to all our members who were presented awards at State Session.

Old wives tales "Winter will not set in until the wells are full." I hope so as it has been touch and go with the dry weather for us in the country.



Malvina the Pumpkin was created by Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange. Malvina is named after a person born in 1865.



Cookies and the holidays go hand-in-hand. Cookies are also perfect for Grange Christmas parties, refreshments and even potluck suppers. Pillsbury has this super-cute and easy reindeer cookie recipe using refrigerated cookie dough.

### Reindeer Cookies

1 roll (30 oz) Pillsbury™ refrigerated gingerbread cookies  
 120 small pretzel twists  
 120 semisweet chocolate chips (about 1/2 cup)  
 30 candied cherries or gum drops, cut in half, if desired

### DIRECTIONS

Heat oven to 350°F. Divide dough in half; refrigerate one half until needed. With hands, shape one half of cookie dough into 7 1/2-inch-long triangle-shaped log. (If dough is too soft to cut, place in freezer 30 minutes.)

With thin sharp knife, cut dough into 30 (1/4-inch-thick) triangular slices; on ungreased cookie sheets, place 2 inches apart. Place 2 pretzel twists on each triangle near corners for antlers.

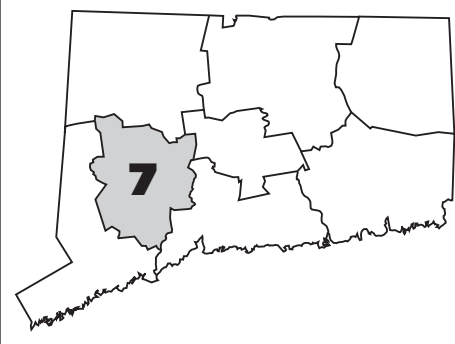
Bake 7 to 11 minutes or until set. While warm, lightly press 2 chocolate chips into each cookie for eyes and 1 cherry half or gumdrop half for nose. Remove from cookie sheets. Let stand until chocolate chips are set, about 15 minutes. Repeat with remaining half of dough. Store between sheets of waxed paper in tightly covered container.

**Source:** <http://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/easy-reindeer-cookies/63d29328-c4ba-4d8b-a3dc-29277aefea63>






### Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- Excelsior #7
- Beacon Valley #103
- Bethlehem #121
- Prospect #144
- Bridgewater #153
- Wolcott #173
- Oxford #194



**EXCELSIOR POMONA #7**

*Corr: Cindy Legg*

Excelsior Pomona received the top honor for Pomona grange of the year at the recent Connecticut State Grange Session. Several other awards were also received. Good work and cooperation by all our members made it possible.

We hope all our grange brothers and sisters had a safe and happy holiday season. We now look forward to a new grange year and some new ideas we can all work on.

January 20, 2016 Excelsior Pomona will hold its meeting at 7:30 pm at the Prospect Senior Center with the Lecturers program "Town in Connecticut". Visitors are always welcome.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Cindy Legg*

Can you believe it's almost Christmas? It's hard to believe, isn't it?

Beacon Valley has been busy lately. Holding tag sales, and "Open Mikes". We are planning a "Holiday Bizarre" on Saturday, December 6th, at our Grange Hall, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. We will have something for everyone. Hope you can come.

Our meeting in December will be on Friday, December

11. It is our Christmas Party entitled "White Christmas."

The following day, Saturday the 12th we will be hosting (along with Bethlehem Grange) the Southern Connecticut Past Master's Christmas Party. Everyone is invited.

We, at Beacon Valley, hope everyone has a very happy and blessed holiday season.

**PROSPECT GRANGE #144**

*Corr: Jean Meehan*

Prospect Grange distributed dictionaries to 116 Third Graders of the new Prospect Elementary School for the 16th year. 7 Grange members were on hand for this occasion. This is the one project that is well worth the efforts.

We continue to make tray favors for the residents of the Paradigm Health Center and the Senior Center. We visited and brought cheer to our shut ins with holiday gifts.

We want to welcome three Junior Grange members to our grange and hope they will continue with the enthusiasm and bring new ideas to our grange. Welcome Brianne Dugan, Sherry and Ayden Wilson. We meet the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Visitors are always welcome.



*By Hank the Burro*

Hello Grange Friends!

I started the month by helping to clean up the leaves. The leaves are pretty when they are on the trees, but sure make a mess on the ground.

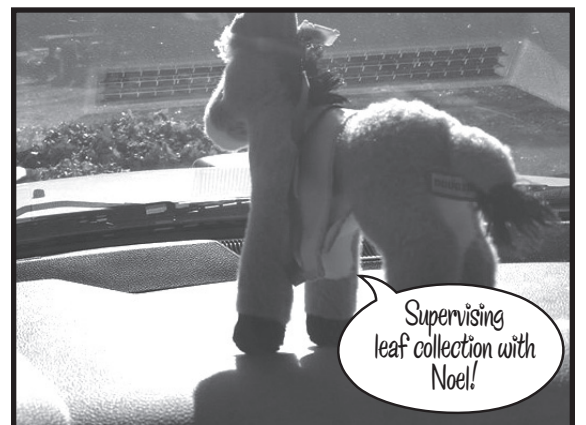
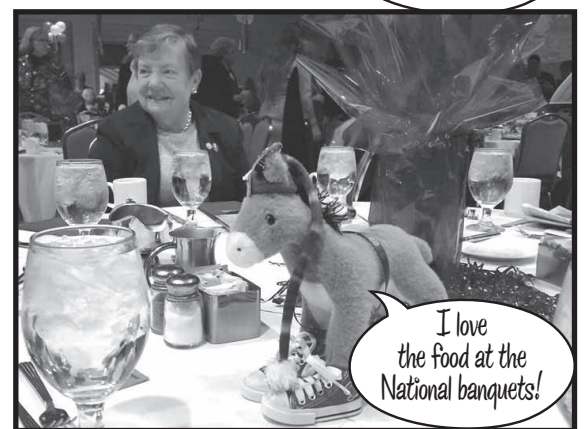
I received a wonderful present of new Junior Red Sneakers from the Montana State Junior Grange. They look great! Then we were off to the Annual National Grange Convention in Nebraska. I need to practice my walking in my new shoes - I'm all left feet!

While at National Grange I got to see some of the winners from Connecticut. Congratulations to Alma and Lois! Great job ladies! I also got to attend the Evening of Excellence. Wow! So much talent is in the Grange!

It was so much fun to see all of my Grange Herd friends. We had a great time catching up about the happenings of the last year. The Banquet was also a lot of fun - great company with Shirley Lawson and good food too! The Convention went by very quickly. Congratulations to all the newly elected and returning National Officers!

What adventures will December hold? Follow me on Facebook to keep track of all of my adventures. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

Be sure to say Hello if you see me around the State!



## Connecticut takes top two prizes



Alma Graham of Echo Grange (left exhibit) and Lois Evankow of Lyme Grange (right exhibit) won first and second prizes, respectively, at National for their quilted table runners.

### Granger Address Changes

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grange: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

**OLD ADDRESS:**

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW ADDRESS:**

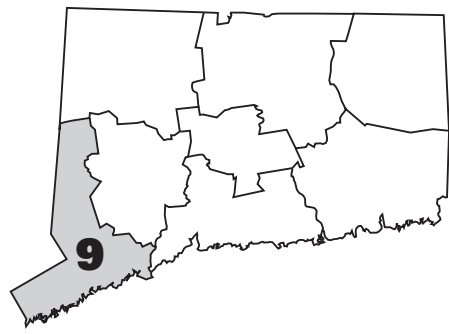
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please clip and mail to:*

**Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 1393,  
Glastonbury, CT 06033**

or email: [Granger@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:Granger@CTStateGrange.org)

## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- Fairfield County #9
- Redding #15
- Harmony #92
- Greenfield Hill #133
- Norfield #146
- Cannon #152



### HARMONY GRANGE #92

Corr: George Ward

**Dec. 11:** Regular Meeting, Refreshments at 6:30, Meeting at 7:30. Lecturer's program to be announced. Visitors are always welcomed.

Sister Ward and I were delegates from Harmony Grange to the Connecticut State Grange annual session in October. Harmony Grange submitted four resolutions for action. One, Emissions, was adopted. The other three, Delegate Response, Income Tax, and Accident Report Fees were rejected.

Our Harmony Grange members are busy sorting out and displaying on tables

Christmas items for our Christmas Boutique to be held December 5 at the Grange Hall. The Boutique will include food, baked goods, Christmas items, jewelry, and a Chinese auction. We will have Santa Clause greet the people who come to the Boutique.

After the Christmas Boutique we will again begin serious work to make our 125th anniversary a huge success. As mentioned in the November issue of the Granger, the date of our anniversary was postponed to Sunday April 3, 2016 to give our members more time to fully plan, prepare, and organize the event to meet the dual purpose of celebration and new member recruitment.

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

**Dec. 16:** Christmas Party and Grab Bag/Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Our installation of officers took place at our regular October meeting. It was directed by Robert & Marge Sendewicz, Pomona and Redding Grange officers. The 24<sup>th</sup> of the month was a busy day! In the morning the future Junior Grangers enjoyed a pumpkin carving. In the evening the "Oktoberfest" dinner provided great food, fellowship, and a concert by Fairfield area musicians. A special thanks to Cindy Wakeman and Jim Golias for making everything happen. Many members were at our hall for most of the day including the all-important clean-up.

For information on the latest with the Junior Grange, contact Cindy Wakeman-D'Andrea at 203-243-1887 or email her at cwak631201@aol.com.

Our Christmas party and meeting will be on the 16<sup>th</sup>, a Wednesday to give us more time before the holiday and as a time "cushion" in case of bad weather. Before we get lost in all the hustle of the season, we need to remember to use our time, talent and treasure to be employed in volunteering, aiding causes such as food banks and self-help groups and efforts to rebuild lives near and far. It all started in a stable in Bethlehem!

All are welcome at our meetings and activities. Best wishes for the holidays and New Year!



## Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

# Using the past to promote Grange

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

It has often been said that knowing our history is important and that we should make more of an effort to preserve our past. The majority of the Granges in Connecticut are either nearing, or older than, the 100-year mark. Do you know your Grange's past history? Have you seen photos of past Grange presidents, or of the construction of your hall? Maybe you've heard stories and seen photos of events your Grange has held, such as picnics, agricultural fairs, meetings and more. Where are these historical documents and photos stored, and have your newer members seen these photos and been given a history lesson of the milestones in your Grange's past?

Why is the past so important? Old photos, articles, clippings and documents are messengers from the past. They tell us stories about the Grange and the people who made up the organization. Although these people may have lived a hundred years ago, undoubtedly they had many of the same needs and concerns, hopes and fears, and enthusiasm that we experience in the Grange today.

What is your Grange doing today to document the present for future generations? Are you saving newspaper clippings, writing down important milestones and fond memories, collecting mementoes, and thus preserving history? Are YOU taking photos of your present and future Grange events and activities?

Digital photography is now more popular than using a traditional film camera, both in the amateur as well as in the professional field. Most smart phones have good quality built-in cameras. Digital cameras are affordable, convenient, durable, flexible, and the quality is constantly evolving. Digital images are now equal to, and often better than those taken with a film camera. Stores such as Big Lots and WalMart sell Digital cameras for as low as \$20 or less. Digital photography gives each Grange the ability to not only document their activities, meetings and projects for historical purposes, but explore the art of creativity

through photography.

Every Grange should be regularly taking photos. (And don't forget to always make backup copies to avoid a digital disaster).

Here's a few tips on making the most of digital photography for your Grange:

- Always carry your camera to every Grange meeting, activity and event- and even when you visit other Granges.
- The outside of Grange halls and meeting places should be one of the items on the top of your photography list. Be sure to capture the location in various seasons, and from different angles.
- Explore your creative side through your photos! There's a lot of things at every Grange meeting you can take artistic photos of: sashes, station scarves and badges, songbooks, the piano, the flag, the implement box, and even the fruit, wheat and flowers of the Graces. Don't be afraid to try out new perspectives.
- Don't forget to photograph special occasions, such as award nights and presentations. Be sure to get a photo of the Grange President presenting the plaque or certificate to the honorees.
- Activities and events involving food are perfect for taking photos. There's always the shot of the person holding a plate of food, or the cooks in the kitchen- but don't forget to photograph the food itself, such as a full table of goodies at a bake sale, a plate of cookies artfully arranged, a beautiful pie or cake, or even a creative shot of a buffet line or the numerous dishes at the potluck supper.
- Use your imagination when taking photos, but more importantly, just take photos, and lots of them. Then share your photos at your Grange meetings. Post the photos to your Grange's Facebook page. Make a Grange scrapbook. Hang photos on a bulletin board in your hall. Be sure to send your photos to the Connecticut State Grange website to be added to the Virtual Scrapbook. Preserve your Grange memories for the future.

## Legislative "hot button" issues



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
[Legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:Legislative@ctstategrange.org)

Thanks to all who sent in resolutions for this past State Session. We had some interesting discussions on the difficult topics. We ended up with 35 resolutions which included restructuring dues late fees for Granges and some Pomona redistricting. That one re-defined which towns were under the jurisdictions of East Central Pomona and Mountain County Pomona since there has been multiple Pomona Grange merges in those areas.

One hot topic was the possible return of tolls on Connecticut roads. The original resolution came in support of returning tolls on our roads. It was pointed out that the states around us all have toll roads and that we are not taking advantage of that potential income. The new toll stations are nothing like the old ones we remember. New ones may not require the cars to stop at all and may not require even slowing down. The members were very mixed on this and voted to return this to committee. The committee re-submitted a resolution opposing tolls but this was also returned to committee. The

final resolution that was approved requests that all revenues that are collected from the gas tax remain in the transportation fund and be used for improving our highway infrastructure before the state considers reinstitution of tolls on major highways. We asked that these funds not be diverted to the general fund. This is similar to a past resolution which had been passed at a previous session that requested funds such as taxes, tolls and emissions that have been diverted to the general fund be returned to their initial funds for their intended uses.

The delegates restated our support of maintaining the Community Investment Funds and oppose any diversion of these funds to the state's general fund.

The Legislative Committee will be incorporating these new resolutions into our Legislative Policy Guide. These will be distributed to all of the Legislators along with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the beginning of the session.

The next Legislative Session will begin on February 3, 2016 and is a "short session" which is "supposed" to only act on bills concerning budget changes. Connecticut officials are predicting a large budget deficit so there will be many recommendations coming out of both parties as well as the Governor's office. The Governor and both parties are actually presently working together to come up with a solution to cover our present budget deficit.



# Healthcare Concierge Service

The National Grange is now offering a new member benefit, "Health Insurance Concierge Service" for 2016 open enrollment.

Dental Insurance: \$16.00/child; \$19.00/adult  
Vision Insurance: \$9.00/individual; \$25/family  
Gap Medical Insurance: \$7.50/individual

To visit their web page: <http://sales.chesapeakeplus.com/nationalgrange/surebridge.aspx>.

For more information call toll free 855-533-1776 or email: [maryann@nationalaffinity.net](mailto:maryann@nationalaffinity.net)



## State Chaplain

*Charles Dimmick  
State Chaplain*

The musical "Godspell" begins with the blowing of the ram's horn, the shofar, immediately followed by John the Baptist singing "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." This beautifully sets the tone for the musical which follows. It also sets the tone for Advent, the four weeks preceding Christmas. Christmas, the coming of God Incarnate in the form of a new-born babe, is best appreciated if properly prepared for. We should carefully set the stage, both in our minds and our hearts, for the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us.

If we were expecting a visit from a favorite aunt or an old dear friend we would certainly make preparations, whether it be freshening the guest room, stocking the pantry, or just cleaning the house and putting things in order. In preparing to welcome the Christ Child we also need to make suitable arrangements. But in this care the arrangements we need to make are different. It is our internal house we need to put in order, the house that dwells within us rather than the house we dwell within. Too many times we let the holiday frenzy, the shopping, the meal planning, even the extra activity of church bazaars and Christmas pageants get in the way of meditating on the real meaning of Christmas.

On what should we meditate? The first Christmas occurred a long time ago. As we prepare for another celebration of that great event let us look both backwards and forwards: look back upon that great miracle of the birth of our Savior and

forwards to the time of Christ's second coming in glory at the end of the ages. Let us give thanks to God for both of these. Next let us meditate on the coming of Christ as the fulfillment of the promises made in ancient time to Abraham that through him "all nations on earth will be blessed." This promise of a savior yet to come was repeated to Israel by many of the prophets. Most of you remember Isaiah saying: **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called WONDERFUL, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.** And at last this child WAS born, in the little town of Bethlehem, in Judea.

Thirdly, let us meditate on what it will mean when Christ comes again in glory. In the Revelation to John we read: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'"

And lastly, let us give thanks to God for the miracle of the Incarnation, in which God himself humbled himself to come to us in human form as a newborn babe, so that God might dwell among us. Thanks and praise be to God.

## In Memoriam

Linda Niederwerfer	Vernon #52
John Ames, G.S.	N. Stonington #138
Diane Barbieri	Prospect #144
Susan Kenney	Norwich #172

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

## Get out your recipes



**Irene Percoski**  
CWA/Family Activ. Director  
cwa@ctstategrange.org

Now is the time to start those needlework and craft entries for judging next July. If you are the CWA chair in your Grange please encourage your members to try and of the needlework, craft or baking contests.

The baking contest this year is blueberry muffins, **YOUR OWN RECIPE.** We are not providing the recipe, we want yours.

Your recipe must be attached to your muffin dish. It can be typed or hand written on a recipe card. If there is no card included, your entry will be disqualified. The winner from each Grange will then make it again for judging at the Harvest of Handicrafts in July. Place 3 muffins on a paper plate with your name and Grange on the back and your card attached.



The Family Activities Comm. regional meeting at Winchester Grange.

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

We had a call from Marilyn McQueen, whose grandmother was Myrtle Larch. She said that November's photo featured Don Beard and Ruthola Stott, but she could not remember the other two people in the photo. She believed the photo was taken at Indian River Grange, and the event had something to do with the building fund.

We then heard from Janet Haller, who found that the photo was published in the July/August 1982 issue of the Connecticut Granger. She said the caption confirmed that the photo was taken at Indian River Grange, and featured Don Beard (who was the Treasurer), Ruthola Stott (who was Master from 1982-83), Marian Peterson (who was the CWA chair) and Winthrop Pratt (who was Secretary). The photo was taken during Grange Week, and they honored a long line of Grange families as all were Golden Sheaf members. The caption said that "over 215 years of Grange service was represented." As a side note, Janet believes that the little building is now being used as the Birthday Bank at Cheshire Grange.

We also heard from Sue Gray on the October photo. She said the photo featured Ellsworth and Helen Weeks and their 3 children, and also Ellsworth Covell on the right.



## This Month

## Last Month






# The Joy of CHRISTMAS





Have a Happy Jolly Holiday  
*Mary Lou Raymond*  
Prospect Grange #144

Happy Holidays from the  
Officers and Members of  
*East Central Pomona #3*

A happy holy season to all  
*Enfield Grange #151*

Happy Holidays from the  
Officers & Members of  
*Coventry Grange #75*

Christ is Born  
*Geno & Karen*

A blessed holiday season  
to one and all.  
*Earl & Sandy Phillips*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from  
*Eloise Osuch and  
Malcolm MacDonald*

Good Health &  
Happy Wishes  
*Redding Grange*  
*Bob & Marge Sendewicz*

A blessed holiday season  
to one and all.  
*Earl & Sandy Phillips*

Happy Holidays & 3 Cheers  
to 2016, our 61st Camp Season  
of Fun, Laughter & Friendship on  
Park Pond!!!  
*from Camp Berger*

Have a Happy, Healthy & Joyous  
Holiday Season & Prosperous  
2016 from your friends @  
*Norfield Grange #146*

Have yourself a  
Merry Little Christmas  
*Joanne Cipriano*

Happy Holidays  
*The Stands Family - Ross, Lisa & Nicole*

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

Merry Christmas from  
*Higganum Grange #124*

We wish all of our Grange friends  
a very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New year  
*Jane & Ruel Miller*

Merry Christmas from  
*Central Pomona #1*

Santa's on his way!  
*from Meriden Grange #29*

Blessings of the Season  
*from Russell & Sue Gray*

May the blessings of Christmas  
bring you Peace and Joy  
*Gordon Gibson*

Wishing everyone a  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy & Healthy New Year!  
*Phil & Maureen Prelli*

Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
*Carl & Marge Bernhardt*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!  
*Lisa & Jim Lamoureux*

*Holiday Greetings from*  
Lois, Peter, Marie, Steven, David  
& Paul Evankow  
also Lynn Freudenthal

Happy Holidays from  
*N. Stonington Comm. Grange #138*

Best wishes for a happy holiday  
season to all of our Grange friends  
*Rob & Maggie Buck*

From our Grange to yours, enjoy  
the Holidays to the fullest.  
*Beacon Valley Grange #103*

May you all have the rosiest  
of holiday seasons ever.  
*Your CWA Family Activities  
Committee*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year to All!  
*Kay*

Season's Greetings to all!  
*Cindy Finch*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from  
*Groton Comm. Grange #213*

Wishing Everyone a Happy  
and Healthy Christmas  
Season!  
*Jeff & Debbie Barnes*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
*Edith Schoell*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
*George & Gloria Ward*

Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from  
*Wallingford Grange #33*

May you have a blessed  
Holiday Season  
*Ray, Cindy & Omar Legg*