



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2021

April is Grange Month



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

April is Grange Month. What is your Grange doing to celebrate this month? Let's promote our Granges by putting articles in newspapers, on Facebook or whatever you have to promote your Grange in our community. You could also invite potential members to join you on your Zoom meetings or to join your in-person meeting if you meet in your hall or meeting place. Have your Lecturer put on a special program to promote Grange month. Let's celebrate Grange month!

As the Governor is starting to reduce restrictions on our State, Granges should be getting back to meeting regularly, either in person or by Zoom and we should be planning our spring fundraisers. We must continue to practice the COVID protocols by self-distancing, wearing our masks and keeping hand sanitizer available for our members and guests. The Governor is talking about reducing self-distancing from 6 feet to 3 feet, so we will wait and see. I know there are a lot of Granges already active and doing their fundraisers. Remember, the loan/grant money of \$1,000 is available to Granges that own



their halls to catch up on their bills. Just send your request to the State Secretary.

We've had our second Pink Sash Meeting at the end of February and invited the Subordinate Presidents. One of the major issues that we discussed was the cost of owning and running a Grange Hall. It was suggested that we have a questionnaire sent out to the Grangers to fill out and return on what it costs them to run their halls.

I have sent out a questionnaire to all the Granges to fill out and return to me by April 15. I will set up a Zoom meeting in May so we can go over the various costs of running a Grange Hall if you own your building or if you rent a hall. So please fill this out and get it back to me. I would appreciate it.

So, in closing let's remember to keep our spirits up and get back to work and finish out this Grange year on a high note. Stay safe and healthy and don't forget to get vaccinated.



Jodi Ann Cameron
State Lecturer

Ekonk Community Grange #89
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

Let's have fun

No one really wants to come into office under these circumstances, but I do appreciate the opportunity to serve the Connecticut State Grange in the capacity of Lecturer. No one can fill the shoes of Marge. Her dedication to the office and love for the Grange was evident in everything she did.

In thinking about how I can make the best impact while carrying out the program set by Marge, as Lecturers we need to focus on unity. How do we use our abilities and our office to keep ALL members engaged and their interests piqued during, what we hope to be, the final stages of this unprecedented pandemic.

...Continued on page 2

Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange
American Values. Hometown Roots.



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due April 15

Let's have fun

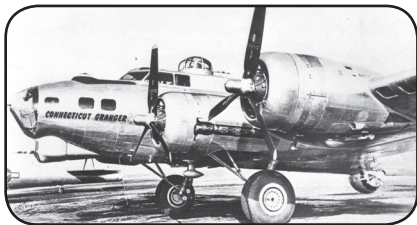
Continued from page one...

I challenge every Lecturer and Program Director to involve your members in your programs. Bring in outside speakers to address your Grange and community on the hottest of topics in your community. This is a great use for ZOOM!

We need to be creative and innovative in keeping our membership involved, and our job is easy, all we have to do is make it interesting and fun, and who doesn't like FUN?

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Ag News

Irene Percoski, Ag Committee

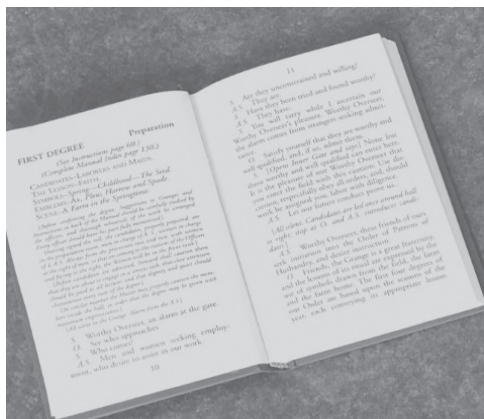
During this pandemic I have been fortunate enough to spend time going through old program books for Enfield Grange starting with the 1906 issue and thought I would share some of the program ideas with you. A debate for and against the question: Could the sheep industry be made possible in this state? How about the topic: would the farmer be benefited by systemizing his work? And the discussion: Which has the greater influence on people, wealth or character? And: What are the relations of agriculture to manufacturing and commerce. They held sessions for the keeping and breeding of chickens for profit, how to plant , care for and harvest your tobacco crop, and is there more profit to own 100 chickens or one cow?

They didn't overlook the farm wife either. Would a course at a cooking school benefit the practical housekeeper? Best methods of canning and preserving, the best way of overcoming the heat, or how to plan the work in the house

so as to keep cool. How to market your home produce, and last but not least : what the ladies will wear this Fall.

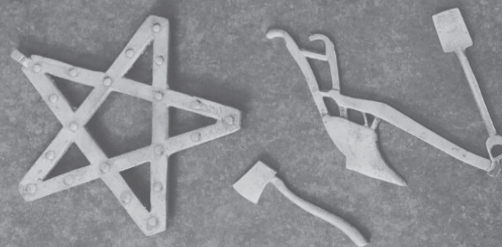
On neighbor's night: Each member was to entertain the Grange for three minutes or pay a fine of 5 cents. Members were also expected to take part in any program the Lecturer selected. No excuse!

This was only a tiny peek into the past but it got me thinking about today's Grange. How often does your Grange plan and discuss or debate an agricultural issue? It doesn't have to be about you, how about something that is a problem in your Town, State or National news? Does your Ag. Committee worry about how the weather is affecting crops near or far? What are the consequences of climate change? How can we help the poor and hungry? How can we educate the next generation of farmers? These are the continuing topics about agriculture that should be included in your Grange's programs. It doesn't take much imagination to get your members thinking. What have you got to lose?



"The first and highest object of our Order is - 'to develop a better and higher manhood and womanhood.'"

PLANT SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR LIFE THIS SPRING.



NATIONALGRANGE.ORG



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Rethinking your Grange after COVID Mandates lift

By Terri Fassio,
Public Relations Co-Director

As COVID mandates lift across the state, Granges will soon be able to meet in person again, host activities and events, and raise some much needed funding and income. Some Community Granges are already beginning to reopen by meeting safe and socially distant while others have been meeting continually via Zoom during the past year. Now is the time to take stock of your Grange's values, principles and mission, and evaluate the status of your Grange and how it has changed and evolved over the past year. How does your Grange look in the future, to the public in which it serves?

Financial Implications

The uncertainty of the COVID pandemic has caused many people to either have their employment hours cut, lose their jobs altogether, or transition to a different work environment. The same trends apply to all organizations, including the Grange. Volunteers now have to deal with changes at home, as well as changes at their Grange. Perhaps folks may not be available to give as much time and resources as they once did pre-COVID, while others may be able to volunteer more of their time and resources to the Grange. Granges need to take a look at their membership as it stands in 2021, and evaluate the availability of their officers, committees, and members looking forward, and how that may impact the Grange financially. Granges may have to look to alternate funding options (i.e.: grants, St. Pauly Shed, donations, etc.) to keep their group afloat. Don't overlook the impor-

tance of public relations when considering how to raise needed funds.

Resiliency

Businesses have found that during COVID they have had to streamline roles, adjust and be flexible, and alter workflows to increase efficiency. Granges are no different. They have had to respond to the situation around them, and adapt in order to survive. Granges are resilient, and have endured many journeys over the years, from the Great Depression to World Wars I & II, even the 1918 Flu Pandemic, and so much more. Granges have redefined themselves over and over to meet the challenges, and even thrive as they prepared for the "new normals" in their paths. Granges need to evaluate the services they offer to their local communities, and integrate what may need to be added or changed as a result of the past year.

Community Service a Priority

Granges historically have been important resources for their communities. They have played an indispensable role reaching out through service projects and activities. Granges are perfectly suited for a collaborative effort reaching out and reimagining community service priorities. This could be honoring front line workers, making masks, donating to the food bank, animal shelter and homeless group, hosting a fundraiser for local veterans, or cleaning the local cemetery, picking up trash along the

road, brightening nursing homes with flowers, and mobilizing volunteers for a specific local project. As communities adjust post-pandemic, service projects become more important. Be sure to promote your Grange service projects within your community so that locals are aware of the efforts your Grange is putting forth.

Zoom is here to stay

One of the advantages of meeting virtually is that members who are not local, members who are housebound, or those who cannot attend in person for whatever reason, can join and participate in meetings. Granges need to think about incorporating Zoom into their regular meetings, to continue to be open and inviting to those who can't attend in person.

Looking Forward ...

Once COVID mandates are lifted, your members will need guidance on how to get involved again. Consider various engagement strategies - such as a basic phone call list or email list, creating a newsletter, holding brainstorming sessions on Zoom, updating social media and more - and apply these strategies to your Grange's recovery period. Planning for returning to a new normal is important to the continued well-being of your Grange.

Need help? The officers and committees of the Connecticut State Grange are here for your Grange. Don't hesitate to contact them - to lend a hand or just be a sounding board. Need help getting the word out about your Grange and its activities? Send a note to information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.

Many opportunities to participate



Dawn Anstett
 State Youth Director
 Riverton Grange #169
 Youth@ctstategrange.org

There are many opportunities for Youth to participate in the following contests. Please check out the link on our web page to download the National Grange Youth Program Guide for more information and contact the Connecticut State

Grange Youth Director to help you explore these programs: Grange Inter-State Youth Exchange (GISYE), Washington, D.C. Experience, Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship, Youth Community Service Award/ Application, Junior Mentor Award/ Application, Youth Membership Recruitment Award, and to apply to be part of the National Grange Youth Officer Team.

This year I was asked to find

our past royalty and ambassadors. Many of the names below you may recognize as we continue to serve the Grange in many different ways. The National Youth Team is looking to update their information. If you can send me any information on anyone listed below - current address or email, please send it to dawnanstett@gmail.com or Dawn Anstett, 235 Old North Road, Barkhamsted, CT 06063. And for those of you who find your name listed below and can send me a picture of you then and now, that would be great!

<u>Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>National Session Location</u>
1967	Prince	Phil Prelli	Syracuse, NY
1967	Princess	Sue (Emmons) Gray	Syracuse, NY
1968	Prince	Adolph Halbach	Peoria, IL
1971	Princess	Carol Hnath	Charleston, WV
1971	Young Couple	Robert & Camile Bertrand	Charleston, WV
1972	Prince	Gordon Fraser	Hartford, CT
1972	Princess	Laurie Cotnoir	Hartford, CT
1972	Young Couple	Henry & Barbara Kulisch	Hartford, CT
1973	Prince	Benjamin Barr	Lincoln, NB
1974	Prince	Leslie Laputz	Sacramento, CA
1981	Prince	Dale Clark	Spokane, WA
1981	Princess	Kathy Armstrong	Spokane, WA
1984	Ambassador	Jodi Ann Bloom	Portland, ME
1984	Ambassador	Jody Cameron	Portland, ME
1984	Young Couple	Wayne & Susan Smith	Portland, ME
1985	Ambassador	Amy Brayman	Eugene, OR
1985	Young Couple	Roy & Betty Jane Harrington	Eugene, OR
1986	Princess	Robin Engel	Madison, WI
1987	Ambassador	Dawn Anstett	Syracuse, NY
1989	Young Couple	Kenneth & Sonia Klemm	Greensboro, NC
1991	Ambassador	Donald Lanoue II	Burlington, VT
1992	Young Couple	Brian & Evelyn Howard	Denver, CO
1993	Ambassador	James Hnath	Cleveland, OH
1993	Ambassador	Karen Warner	Cleveland, OH
1994	Ambassador	Joe Bernhardt	Peoria, IL
1994	Ambassador	Kathy Palmer	Peoria, IL
1995	Ambassador	Dawn Deojay	Harrisburg, PA
1995	Ambassador	Jonathan Hnath	Harrisburg, PA
1998	Ambassador	Deborah Gray	Greensboro, NC
1999	Ambassador	Roy Eggers	Portland, ME
1999	Ambassador	Veronica Brown	Portland, ME
2000	Young Couple	Kevin & Karen Annis	Fresno, CA
2000	Ambassador	Stacy Stearns	Fresno, CA
2001	Ambassador	David Carter	Cedar Rapids, IA
2001	Ambassador	Jacqueline Hnath	Cedar Rapids, IA
2001	Young Couple	Jody & Jodi Ann Cameron	Cedar Rapids, IA
2002	Horizon Leadership	Allyson Malo	Portland, OR

Membership On the Road



Faith, Barbara, Shelley and Karen would like to set a date to attend one of your meetings to discuss new members and member retention. A letter has been sent out to every Grange membership chairperson or designee and we look forward to getting on your meeting schedules. We have new tools and ideas to bring with us and a notebook and pencil to record your feedback.

Please contact us with your meeting information. We will need at least 15 to 30 minutes of your meeting time. You may reach out to any member of the Membership Committee below to schedule a date with us.

Faith Quinlan, Dir.: Membership@CTStateGrange.org; 518-698-2785.

Barbara Prindle: cebbp@netscape.net

Karen Macdonald: genokaren@aol.com

Shelley Cameron: Membership_Shelley@CTStateGrange.org

We are your team for all things membership. We look forward to hearing from you.



Front Line Heroes

The Riverton Grange Community Service Committee is sponsoring an initiative from National Grange called Front-Line Heroes. Recognition pins were purchased (at no cost to Riverton Grange) for our members and friends to recognize those individuals who we believe have gone above and beyond the call of duty during this pandemic to serve others; thus the name, Frontline Heroes.

To date, we have honored: Riverton Postmaster Janet Pease Anstett; City of Waterbury Hunger Coordinator Maureen Torrence; Barkhamsted First Selectman Don Stein; Barkhamsted Town Staffer Debbie Brydon; Barkhamsted Town Staffer Erica Dyndiuk



2021 NATIONAL GRANGE *Virtual* LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

Wednesday, April 7, 2021





Hillstown Grange Seed & Plant Swap

Hillstown Grange held a Seed Swap on Feb. 27. Pictured at left, Mrs. Agriculture USA Danielle Shapiro shows off the donation to the Back Porch Bucket Gardens of E. Hartford Program. Right, a customer makes her seed selections.



Bridgewater Scholarships

Bridgewater Grange will make one award in the amount of \$500.00 to assist in the educational expenses of an eligible student who is pursuing agriculture-related studies and who

- Demonstrates hands-on knowledge of and interest in farming through extra-curricular activities, work experience, family background, or other experience, and

- Embodies the Grange values of character, citizenship, and community service.

ELEGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Student must be a full-time resident of Bridgewater, Roxbury, Washington, New Milford or Woodbury (CT), and

- Student has been admitted to and plans to attend, or is attending, a recognized program of study to further their agriculture-related education.

APPLICATION DUE DATE IS MAY 1, 2021. See the 2021 Bridgewater Grange Scholarship Application for more information or email any questions to info@bridgewatergrange.org.

Scholarship Application Download Link: <http://www.bridgewatergrange.org/>

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO YELLOW STRIPEY THINGS



CARPENTER BEE

- ACTS LIKE IT'S TOUGH, BUT CAN'T ACTUALLY HURT YOU
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF WHAT GLASS IS
- LIVES IN YOUR FENCE
- FLIES AGGRESSIVELY TO TRY AND SCARE YOU AWAY



HONEYBEE

- IS THE BEE THAT NEEDS HELP THE MOST
- EXCELLENT POLLINATOR
- VERY FRIENDLY
- CAN ONLY STING ONCE



BUMBLEBEE

- ALSO POLLINATES STUFF VERY WELL
- SO FAT IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY
- WILL LET YOU PET IT WITHOUT GETTING AGITATED
- ACTUALLY A FLYING PANDA



HOVERFLY

- WEARS YELLOW STRIPEY UNIFORM TO SCARE YOU
- ACTUALLY CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU
- HANGS OUT IN FIELDS
- FOLLOWS YOU IF IT LIKES YOU



PAPER WASP

- LOOKS SCARY, BUT WILL ONLY ATTACK IF PROVOKED
- STING HURTS LIKE THE DEVIL
- WILL CHASE YOU IF YOU SWAT AT IT
- HAS NO CONCEPT OF PERSONAL SPACE



YELLOW JACKET

- WANTS YOUR FOOD AND WILL FIGHT YOU FOR IT
- NEVER LEAVES YOU ALONE
- WILL STING YOU JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT
- IS JUST A JERK



CICADA KILLER

- LOOKS LIKE SATAN'S NIGHTMARES
- EXCLUSIVELY EATS CICADAS
- CAN STING YOU, BUT USUALLY WON'T
- STILL PRETTY TERRIFYING



DIRT DAUBER

- ALMOST NEVER STINGS ANYTHING EXCEPT SPIDERS
- BUILDS NEST IN THE GROUND
- HOARDS SPIDERS IN SAID NEST
- COOLEST LOOKING OF THE WASPS



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

Glastonbury Grange will meet next on April 1st on ZOOM, thanks to our members Herb and Ruth Grommeck. It does give 8 of us a chance to meet and “see” each other until we are able to meet at the hall. I have been informed that Don Wills and others in the Masons’ have been busy cleaning the hall and getting it ready for when they (and we) will be able to meet in person. April 1st the Lecturers program is “April Fool’s Day”. Ann will have something for us about that subject. Spring is right around the corner now and we all want to get out. BUT remember we still must wear our masks and observe 6 feet and wash our hands. Be sure to get the vaccine shot when you can. We have this virus almost under control.

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Apr. 18: Composting for Beginners
Apr. 21: Distracted Driving

We have held our regular meetings with masks and social distancing. Our February meeting was American Heart Health. We enjoyed a healthy dinner of vegetables and chicken and vegetables with turkey kielbasa before our meeting. We discussed the leading causes heart disease including obesity, diabetes, unhealthy diet, lack of exercise alcohol. We held several fund raising meals including a take out soup dinner and a shepherds pie dinner. We are gaining some interest from members of the community and hopefully they will join. These great meals were organized by Amy Monahan and

had many advance reservations. This makes it so much easier to plan. At our soup dinner we sold out shortly after the starting time. This was exciting for us.

We will be holding classes on quilting and crocheting and knitting. In advance the interest seems to be very positive. We will continue to hold open house on every Thursday from 1-5 PM with games, books, crafts and coffee. So many in the community are interested in getting together now that the weather is better and the Covid vaccines are being done. We have plans for breakfast with the Easter Bunny is planned.

We are still working on getting the hall ready for larger groups.

We hope that all will stay well.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 9: Spring Cleaning.
May 7: In Bloom

Our hands have been busy again writing 120 cards of appreciation to a local nursing home, and 102 cards to the staff and volunteers at the food pantry. Our program director knows how to keep us moving forward. We celebrated most of the colors of the spectrum in March and were delighted to welcome The State Legislative Director Alma Graham to the meeting along with a regular visit from Deputy Ted Beebe. If I missed anyone , my apologies. April is always the time for Spring cleaning and I can only think of dirty windows right now. Cherie will generate more ideas to keep us on our toes. Nancy Strong continues to host our Zoom

meetings which start at 7:00p.m. sharp. Please contact her for the Zoom information if you would like to visit. I can’t wait to meet in a Hall again. Let’s hope that happens soon.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Apr. 9: April Days of Yore
Apr. 23: Honoring Members

On February 26 we were very happy to be able to meet for the first time since October 30. Of course, we all wore our masks and Steward Jeff Barnes, made sure our stations were six feet apart; but we held a meeting! Of course there was a great deal of business to come before us. We were able to address several requests for the use of the grounds and make some important donations. Due to the plethora of business Sue’s program had to be abbreviated; but she passed out some very good information about heart health, cardiovascular disease and eating a balanced, heart-healthy diet.

Sue tells us to bring something old to our April 9th meeting and be prepared to talk about it. this sounds like an interesting program and we hope you will come and enjoy. We voted to cancel our Community Citizen this year as the program usually brings out a large crowd and we would be unable to follow COVID guidelines. We will be honoring longtime members in April, however. And if the forecast frigid temperatures don’t nip my emerging daffodils, next time we’ll tell you all about merry March.



Greenfield Hill Tulip & Daffodil Sale

Greenfield Hill Grange has an assortment of Spring Daffodils and Tulips available for sale. They will be available on Saturday April 3 from 10-2. They will also be available if you are attending the Fish Fry on April 2.



WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

Winchester Grange was pleased to welcome its two newest members to our March Zoom meeting. It was well-attended and allowed us to take care of business and catch up with our fellow members. We were happy to welcome State Master George Russell and other state officers to our virtual Grange. Our next meeting will be held on April 13 at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. We always welcome guests. Let us know if you need the Zoom information. (info@winchestergrange.org).

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Apr. 2: Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forest (FALPS) Board President Ralph Scarpino

May 7: Youth & Junior Program

Riverton Grange continues to play a valuable role in the local community despite this horrific pandemic. We meet monthly via Zoom with members attending from as far away as Florida.

For our March 5th meeting, the Legislative Comm. was responsible for the program and Phil Prelli arranged for newly elected State Rep. Mark Anderson (62nd District) from Granby (formerly from Hartland) to speak virtually to our grange members about the current legislative session and proposed legislation of interest to Grange

members. On March 8th, the Grange filled a “tote bag with kindness” (food, drinks, candy and games) for the upcoming Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities (ECAD) Client training class to be held in early April in Winchester. Clients come from all over the United States for a 13-day training class during which they are matched with their forever service dog and each client is furnished a tote bag of kindness when they arrive on campus. The Grange was the FIRST group or family to complete filling their tote bag which included a card from the Grange wishing the client well and letting them know that the Grange was rooting for their success. ECAD service dogs are taught skills for supporting individuals with physical or mental challenges, including veterans with PTSD.

On March 17th, our Grange participated in our 8th USDA Farmers to Families Food Box distribution program, collaborating with the Town of Barkhamsted, Barkhamsted Senior Center, Barkhamsted Lions Club, and Northwestern CT Cyber Lions Club. For this event, we delivered over 3,000 pounds of food and milk to 100 local families! Barkhamsted First Selectman Don Stein designated our Grange Community Services Chair as the town POC for food distribution and for the eight events we have distributed over 25,000 pounds of food and milk. Recently, a local couple saw an article on our 7th food distribution event and contacted the Grange to donate a \$50 gift card for a local family with food insecurity.

On the third weekend in March, the Grange promoted the Statewide Maple Weekend after State Master George Russell discussed the importance of the maple syrup industry to our local agricultural economy. For this weekend,

Grangers were encouraged to visit a local Sugarhouse.

The Grange continues to collect jars of peanut butter (no xylitol) for the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation (Bloomfield, CT) that uses it to train their seeing guide dogs. To date, we have collected over 100 jars. One member from Florida donated cash to the campaign which resulted in the frugal purchase of 32 jars of peanut butter. Collection boxes are located on both the Riverton Grange porch and the Barkhamsted Senior Center porch.

Recently, our Community Services Chair met with the Barkhamsted Community Food Bank and learned that their greatest current need is toilet paper, Kleenex and paper towels. Of course, our Grange family and community sprung into action and donated over 100 rolls of toilet paper, 2 dozen rolls of paper towels and over 1 dozen boxes of Kleenex.

At our next meeting on April 2, the Grange will vote on our 2021 Community Citizen Awards. It will be difficult to pick just two honorees this year.

Plans are underway for our 2021 Riverton Grange Fair in August. Brother Dennis Jasmine will again serve as Chairman of the Fair this year and our very first Chair from many decades ago, Laura Marek, has been chosen to serve as Fair Secretary. Lecturer Raine Pedersen will also greatly support the fair, which we still hope can be held in person at our Grange Hall.

If you would like to “visit” our Grange for an upcoming meeting, just e-mail Community Services Chair Dave Roberts at daveroberts.org or call him at 858-775-9241 for the Zoom details. We love visitors! Now, go get those COVID-19 vaccines so that we can hopefully get back to “normal” real soon.



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The members of Nutmeg Pomona are still shocked over the passing of Sister Marge Bernhardt, our Treasurer. Marge was a true Granger in every sense of the word. She leaves many shoes to fill, all will be difficult to replace. Our sympathies to her children and their families and the members of Cheshire Grange.

I can't report on our meeting as it is not until next Sunday, March 21st. Will tell you what a good meeting we had in the next Granger.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Apr. 7: Regular Meeting and Program

February 13th was a very dark day for all of us at Cheshire Grange. It was the day Marge Bernhardt passed away, leaving an enormous vacancy in our Grange, as well as Nutmeg Pomona, and the Connecticut State Grange, where she has been State Lecturer for many years. She was the backbone of Cheshire Grange. Her contributions to our fraternity are many. She was very known throughout Connecticut Grange circles as well as on the National Grange level. The Grange was her life. She followed her husband Carl as our treasurer and was an assistant to our secretary. Our Chaplain Charles Dimmick and myself did the Grange Burial

Service at the cemetery which her family had requested. I could go on, but I would like to call your attention to a memorial article for Marge in the March issue of the CT Granger written by our State Grange Secretary, Todd Gelineau. It is beautifully written and tells all you need to know about Marge. She will be sorely missed by all of us.

We held our March meeting via Zoom. We draped our charter for Marge Bernhardt. My thanks to Faith Quinlan who set it up for us and attended our meeting, and to Phil Prelli for joining us. We will stay with Zoom for our April 7th meeting. With things looking to open up a bit more later this month and with some of our members getting vaccinated, I would hope we can get back to meeting in person in our hall. At this point, we are not certain if there will be a 2021 fair season.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We are still waiting to hold an in-house meeting. We are shooting for May 14th (fingers crossed). At this meeting we are hoping to make plans to formally greet the members of Prospect Grange who recently merged with our Grange.

In the meantime, we are collecting used clothes for a clothing drive and items for a tag sale.

Members are reminded that dues are payable and should be sent to Secretary Cindy Legg. Don't wait for a bill.

The dark cloud continues to stay over our Grange. The latest, Thomas Honyotski, Jr., the son of our Assistant Steward Thomas Honyotski. Our sincere sympathies to Tom and his wife Pamela.

From all the members of BVG, we wish you a Happy Easter. Celebrate but please stay safe.

HIGGANUM GRANGE #124

Corr: Richard A. Prescott

The March meeting, held in regular form, was our second

consecutive in-person meeting held at the Grange Hall. With more than a quorum present, in-person, there was another member who participated by telephone.

Regular business conducted: Financially we are in good shape. Collected dues are up-to-date and all taxes will be paid by mid March, Directories and the annual word received from State Grange and Quarterly Reports up-to-date. Community Service hours were a more than respectable 159 hours, showing that our individual members are very active in community events

Helen Luk is working with a member of the State Legislature's Environmental Committee regarding trash being shipped out of state and improving recycling efforts. Helen is also involved in reviewing gun control laws and mandatory vaccine laws without religious exception. We are happy to note that all of our active members have received one Covid 19 vaccination or have completed the series. We are more than proud of this fact and can meet together in confidence while continuing to follow all the mandatory safety protocols. Our world is slowly getting back to "normal" operations with a ways to go. All of us are looking forward to more active participation in warm weather community events such as the town's Farmer's Market which will operate this coming Summer and Fall. Stay Safe, and get your vaccinations! The next regular meeting of our Grange will be April 2nd, 7:00 PM at the Higganum Grange Hall.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 9: CWA

Apr. 23: Omitted, unless reg. mtg. is canceled

May 14: May Flowers

May 28: Omitted, unless reg. mtg. is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meetings.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 6: Meeting

June 3: Meeting

July 1: Meeting

Well, I feel like a puppy “got all my shots”, no reaction at all.

Spring must be right around the corner. Snow drops are up and the ones in the front of the stone wall are in bloom.

We can hope, with the virus and continued wearing of masks will

Keep those hands busy



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

Well, in this modern world of zoom meetings, sometimes not all goes as planned. We have to be able to take things in stride when that happens and do our best to persevere. After trying to log in for our Last Regional Meeting in February (and failing), I put my best foot forward and moved on. The CFA committee held a separate meeting to conduct our business and then we held the raffle. The best part of moving forward was the big smile on Pat Tarca when she finally drew the winning ticket and announced the name. We want to give a big shout out to our winner, Daniel Lauttenbach of Wallingford Grange #33. Congratulations! We hope that Daniel really enjoys the basket. We also want to send a huge thank you to everyone who participated in buying raffle tickets. It was greatly appreciated and our committee was able to raise some much-needed funds! We were not sure if it would work and you did it and we thank you!

The Needlework contest will be held on the weekend of August 20-22nd. Some of the highlights for the weekend - it will be held at Hillstown Grange #87. All entries need to be dropped off at the Hall

bring us closer to normal sometime soon.

Our Grange has not met as of now but we’re looking forward to in the near future. There is so much to catch up on. Mostly business but friendships top the list. We all miss each other a lot.

Keep up social distancing, wearing masks, washing hands and above all get your shots when your age group becomes available.

on Friday. Saturday will be the judging for all of the contests and Sunday will be the final event which will include a teacup auction and one of Hillstown Granges Famous Pancake breakfast. We put together a newsletter with a lot of detail with what we hope is a lot of flexibility for all of the different Granges and mailed it out to all of the CFA Chairman which will hopefully answer your questions. We will have more information coming up in future Granger articles



The Family Activities Committee recently held its Basket Raffle and congratulations go to Daniel Lauttenbach of Wallingford Grange. Congratulations, and we hope you enjoy all the goodies!

as well. Until then continue to stay safe and keep those hands busy

Senexet Grange
628 Route 169, Woodstock, CT

COME AND LET'S TALK

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE
EVERY THURSDAY 1-5

Coffee, Snacks, Book Exchange,
Puzzles, Games, Community Resources
and More! All Welcome!!

Easter Deviled Eggs



Deviled Eggs are a classic appetizer any time of year, but fit in perfectly during the Easter season. This easy recipe from AllRecipes.com adds a fun and colorful twist.

INGREDIENTS:

12 large eggs	4 drops red food coloring, or desired amount
1/4 cup creamy salad dressing (such as Miracle Whip)	4 drops blue food coloring, or desired amount
salt and ground black pepper to taste	4 drops green food coloring, or desired amount
hot sauce (Optional)	3 cups water, or as desired
1/4 teaspoon dry mustard	

INSTRUCTIONS:

Place eggs into a large saucepan, cover with cold water, and bring to a boil. Let eggs boil for 3 minutes; turn off heat, cover pot, and let eggs cook in hot water for at least 20 minutes. Drain and cover eggs with cold water. Peel cooled eggs.

Cut hard-cooked eggs in half lengthwise and remove yolks; mash yolks in a bowl with creamy salad dressing, salt, black pepper, hot sauce (optional), and dry mustard until smooth.

Place red, blue, and green food coloring into 3 different bowls and add about 1 cup water to each bowl. Steep 8 egg white halves in each bowl, tinting the egg whites pink, light blue, and green. If color is too pale, add more coloring to bowls. Drain colored egg whites on paper towels.

Pipe or spoon egg yolk filling into colored egg white halves; cover and chill before serving, at least 30 minutes.

Note: Substitute your favorite mayonnaise for the salad dressing.

SOURCE: <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/231590/easter-deviled-eggs/>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

It's finally Spring! And the State seems to be slowly opening up more and more thanks to vaccines and COVID mandates. Let's hope that Granges can get back to meeting in person (safely) soon! I miss going to meetings and seeing my Grange friends across the State.

Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button to follow all of my adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro> - and don't forget to let George know when your Grange is meeting - in person or on Zoom - and we might just stop by and see you!

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.

FEBRUARY PHOTO

We heard from Richard Campbell from Pachaug Grange with a correction on the name of the gentleman on the right with Jim Granby in the February photo. His name is Allen Cowan (not Collins as originally listed). We also heard from Tom Sheldon from Granby Grange with the same correction, stating that the gentleman's full name is Dr. William Allen Cowan, yet everyone called him "Al", and he was a professor and the former Head of the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Cowan had a long career in Agriculture across the state, holding a number of prestigious positions including the Director of the National Cattleman's Beef Promotion and Research Board. He passed away in 2009.

MARCH PHOTO

We heard from Mike Fiske, from Killingly Grange but who now lives in Texas, regarding the March photo. "The woman in the front row, the last lady on the right, looks a lot like my Grandmother Doris Hartley from Danielson." Mike also said that in the October 2020 issue, the man on the right is Mervin Whipple, Mr. Christmas.

We heard from Ben Barr with the following answer on the March 2021 photo -- "A picture of Past Master's of Tunxis Grange #13. Back row L to R: Sarah (Sally) Whittaker, Fred Macholz, Joseph Cleary, Benjamin Barr. Middle row L to R: Robert Long, Susan Height, Deanna Otkowski, Russell Kelly. Seated L to R: Barbara Case, Phyllis Hocking, Margaret LeHane, Joan Goetjen."

We heard from Susan Haller Kelly Height & Dee Otkowski with answers as well --

"This month's picture is from Tunxis Grange #13 and it appears to be past masters and it was most likely taken in the 1990's. The people are as follows - left to right - 1st row - Barbara Case, Phyllis Hocking, Margaret Lehane & Joan Goetjen. 2nd row - Bob Long, Susan Height, Dee Otkowski & Russ Kelly. 3rd row - Sally Whittaker, Fred Macholz, Joe Cleary & Ben Barr. As a foot note only Ben Barr, Dee Otkowski & myself are the only ones left of the ones in the picture."

Next, we heard from Carol Hnath on the same photo -- "Obviously an event at Tunxis Grange #13. (Possibly Past Masters?) Front row, left to right, Barbara Case, Phyllis Hocking, familiar but not sure of name, Joan Goetjen. Middle row looks familiar but only possible name that comes to mind is Russell Kelly (last on right). Back row: Sarah (Sally) Whittaker, two familiar faces but no names come to mind, and last Benjamin Barr Jr.

Then we heard from Scott Goetjen --

"The picture is from what was Tunxis Grange #13 in Bloomfield, CT. The individuals that I know in the picture are from left to right: Front row -- Barbara Case, Phyllis Hocking (my Aunt), unknown, Joan Goetjen (my Mother). Second Row -- Unknown, Susan Kelly, Deanna Otkowski,



Unknown. Back row -- Sally Whittaker, Unknown, Unknown, Benjamin Barr."

We heard from George Kotowicz as well on the photo, confirming that it is definitely from Tunxis Grange and most likely Past Masters event. He was surprised that Doris and Don Shaw were not in the photo though.


We also heard from Nancy Kelly Spaulding (formerly of Tunxis Grange) -- her Dad is Russell Kelly, Sr., and is on the right in the second row. She confirmed the names of the others as listed above. Then her sister, Susan Kelly Kotowicz called, and also confirmed her Dad in the photo, as well as many of the others pictured.

We heard from Al Forster from Tunxis Grange, and John Kotowicz in New York as well, who confirmed the people in the photo too.

We heard from Janet Haller on the photo as well, confirming the names in the Tunxis photo, and then stating that the February photo with Jim Granby and Al Cowan was taken at State Session at the Holiday Inn in Meriden. She was not sure of the year, but thought it could be 1972.

We heard from Mary Charles Howe ("Charlie") from Glastonbury #26. She spoke of her love for the Grange and that the reason she joined is because of the recommendation of John Waterhouse. She said the woman on the left in the March photo front row is Barbara Case of Tunxis Grange.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



Virtual
Social Hour

Thursday, April 22nd • 7:00 PM

We'll be talking Earth Day and Sustainable Agriculture. Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

WEBINAR

New Facebook Strategies: A Guide To Managing Your Grange Page

NEW DATE! Learn all the tips and tricks for using the new "Facebook for Business" to manage your Grange Facebook Page, then learn how positive Facebook strategies can help you maintain and grow your Grange membership.

Saturday, May 1st
4:00 - 6:00 PM

A Public Relations Committee & Membership Committee Joint Event

Send an e-mail to information@ctstategrange.org or membership@ctstategrange.org for the Zoom Meeting Access Information

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153



Lunch to Go

Saturday, April 10, 2021
Noon to 2 p.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 5 Main St. S., Bridgewater

\$10.00 Lunch includes:

Choice of:

- Rich Monda's award-winning chili,
- New England clam chowder, or
- Chicken and rice soup

with oyster crackers and a Carol Wilbur gourmet Oreo cupcake

Take out only.

Pre-orders recommended:
call Pam at 203-470-8013 or email info@bridgewatergrange.org



Fish Fridays

March 19, 26 and April 2, 2021
4:00 - 6:30pm

Meal Includes
Baked Fish, Baked Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Tarter Sauce and a Roll



\$12.00 / Meal
PICK-UP ONLY

Limited Number of meals so to Pre-order dinner call (860) 412-9811

Show receipt at the door or Pay by cash, by check made payable to Killingly Grange



VIEW FROM THE HILL

by *Burton Eller,*
National Grange Legislative Director

WASHINGTON OVERVIEW

With major COVID-19 relief in the rear-view mirror, Congress and the Biden administration are turning their focus toward other major priorities, including infrastructure, and a slew of smaller miscellaneous bills.

Infrastructure

As part of the ‘recovery’ aspect of President Biden’s campaign promise to “Build Back Better” the White House and Congress are turning their focus to a massive infrastructure package. Currently, the contours and budget for an infrastructure bill remain unknown because the administration and Congressional Democrats are still in the process of drafting a proposal. However, general themes and a timeline for such a package can be predicted. Beyond traditional infrastructure investments in roads, bridges, and waterways, it is certain that any large infrastructure package would include significant investments in projects to address climate change such as increased support for electric vehicles, and the deployment of renewable energy resources. With regard to rural America, the Biden administration has hinted that investments in broadband could be included in a potential package.

Importantly, Democrats have also hinted that they may include tax provisions in this bill in order to defray the high expected price tag. The timeline for this infrastructure bill is expected to consist of debates, hearings, and negotiations throughout the summer, culminating in a final vote in September of this year to coincide with other important annual votes surrounding the budget and debt ceiling.

Miscellaneous Priorities

While infrastructure is expected to be the major Presidential legislative priority for the next many months, Democrats also plan to advance bills addressing issues such as gun control, immigration, equal protection for the LGBT community, women’s rights, and most prominently voting rights and democracy reforms. The fate of these priorities varies greatly, with many likely to put moderate Democratic Senators into a tight position as the Democratic base calls for them to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure their passage, including reforming the legislative filibuster in the Senate.

THE RELIEF PACKAGE

In mid-March President Biden signed the long-expected American Rescue Plan, a \$1.9 trillion bill he proposed to Congress which is intended to address the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic downturn, with key provisions affecting rural America. In the bill, Democrats included \$22.7 billion in agriculture and nutrition assistance provisions, including \$3.6 billion in aid for the food supply chain and \$4 billion marked for assisting minority farmers in paying off USDA direct and guaranteed loans, a provision pushed by recently elected Senator Raphael Warnock (D-GA) who garnered crucial support from Georgia’s black agriculture community. Outside of agriculture, the bill also targeted significant sums towards rural broadband. For example, the new law created an Emergency Connectivity Fund of \$7.2 billion to reimburse schools and libraries for providing free broadband service during the pandemic, a reality which has

played out across rural America as schools and work have gone remote. Yet more, the \$220 billion which the bill allocated for state and local governments was changed at the last minute to allow funds to be spent “to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure” meaning that a state could use some funds to expand broadband access in rural America.

In selling the American Rescue Plan to the country, the Biden Administration has also placed an emphasis on how other provisions of the bill could help rural Americans. For example, in tweets following the passage of the bill, White House economic advisor Brian Deese, who was a lead writer of the bill, argued that changes to the Child Tax Credit under the bill would benefit roughly half of all children living in rural areas and that the expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit could benefit as many as 1 in 4 childless adults in rural areas. Time will tell if these policies achieve their intended goals for rural America, but the intended appeal to rural America from the Biden administration is clear.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD

Continue Farmers to Families Food Box Program

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Grange urged USDA to establish a food chain link directly between food producers and food consumers. The resulting Farmers to Families Food Box Program became a major source of food for those in need. Because the pandemic is not yet over, National Grange president Betsy Huber is asking Secretary Vilsack to continue the popular food supply program. Huber also suggested removing barriers to small producer participation and allowing the content of boxes to reflect local preference and local food availability.

Free Meals Extended

USDA will extend free meals to children nationwide when schools are out of session this summer through September 2021. The summer meals

Continued next page...

programs will allow parents and guardians to pick up meals for their children, including bulk pick-up to cover multiple days of feeding.

Bills Support Local Meat Processing

National Grange is supporting the bipartisan bicameral Strengthening Local Processing Act for technical assistance and cost-share programs to expand local consumer demand. Sponsors of the Act are Senators Thune (R-S.D.), Merkley (D-OR.), Collins (R-ME.), King (I-ME.), Rounds (R-S.D.), Smith (D-MN.), Casey (R-PA.), Cramer (R-N.D.) and Representatives Pingree (D-ME.), Fortenberry (R-NB.), and Küster (D-N.H.).

Ag Research Lagging Behind

Investment in research has enabled American agriculture to be the Breadbasket of the World for many decades. But that investment has not kept pace with the times. USDA funding increases have generally been less than half the rate of increase for other departments. The National Grange has joined a large contingent of agriculture and food groups, professional societies and land grant universities to encourage the Senate and House budget committees and appropriations committees as well as Secretary Vilsack to restore appropriate levels of research and development funding to USDA.

Grange Welcomes EPA Administrator Regan

National Grange president Betsy Huber congratulated Michael Regan on his Senate confirmation as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Huber noted Regan's previous working relationship with agriculture and the State Grange in North Carolina and said the Grange looked forward to working with him and the administration to advance environmental policies which benefit rural America.

WOTUS Wins in Court Again

A further clarification of the definition of Waters of the United

States by the Navigable Waters Protection Rule issued in mid-2020 has again been upheld in court. An administrative stay by a district court judge in Colorado has been lifted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth circuit. With the stay lifted, the National Waters Protection Rule is now effective nationwide which is good news for farmers, ranchers and landowners.

The Many Sides of Climate Change

Clean energy, carbon sequestration and methane gas emissions are on the top tier of the Biden administration agenda. All agencies of the federal government have been charged to create a climate action plan. The first question in the discussion is always what are we going to do about climate change? The tougher questions follow; how are we going to do it? Are the goals realistic? What's the time frame to accomplish certain goals? Are we using U.S. data, not worldwide data, to set benchmarks and timelines? What will be the economic impact of certain climate actions? Are there health and well-being benefits to meeting certain goals and timelines? Will carbon markets selling carbon credits supplied by agricultural lands become a major force to capture carbon and move the needle on climate change?

Rural Needs Vaccine Options

We need additional vaccine delivery options as rural and underserved communities struggle to immunize their populations according to National Grange president Huber in a letter to the research and development director at HHS. Government-backed innovation helped create an effective COVID vaccine in record time. Rural communities are in desperate need for more innovative vaccine methods of delivery, including an oral option, to facilitate more robust distribution methods.

Medicare Should Cover New Cancer Test

The National Grange and an enormous number of patient and health care organizations are voicing

strong support for the bicameral, bipartisan Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act. A groundbreaking new category of cancer screening can detect many deadly cancers in earlier stages through a simple blood draw before it spreads throughout the body. However, even when this new procedure is approved by FDA, it may take years to achieve Medicare coverage as a preventive procedure. This legislation, introduced by Senators Crapo (R-ID), Bennett (D-CO), Cardin (D-MD), and Representatives Sewell (D-AL), Arrington (R-TX), Ruiz (D-CA) and Hudson (R-NC), would authorize Medicare to cover patients' cost for the screening test when approved.

Ag Labor Bill Clears House

The House has passed the Grange-supported Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R.1603) by a bipartisan vote of 247-174. Sponsored by Representatives Lofgren (D-CA) and Newhouse (R-WA), the Act allows 20,000 year-round worker visas per year, provides for these numbers to increase or decrease depending on demand, streamlines the H-2A application process, and helps farms renovate or build worker housing. Existing farmworkers in the country can get temporary legal status if they've worked in agriculture at least 180 days over the past two years. Farmworkers can also earn a green card by paying a fine and continuing to work in agriculture for an additional period of time.

Farmworker Fate Uncertain in Senate

As the ag workforce debate moves to the Senate, it's not yet clear what strategy positions Democrats and Republicans will take. Will a bipartisan vote be possible? Will Senate leadership allow a stand-alone vote on a farmworker bill or insist farmworker provisions be rolled into a larger comprehensive immigration package? Under either scenario, Agriculture will look to make improvements to some of the House-passed provisions.

Faith without works



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”
Romans 3:28

“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”
James 2:24

A number of people will take a single line of scripture out of context for the purpose of justifying their behavior or their beliefs. The practice is called proof-texting, and has been used in the past to justify slavery and the taking of Native Indian land. The two passages at the beginning of this article have been used separately as follows: The first passage supposedly supports the claim that if you believe in God then that is all that is required to get into Heaven. The second is used to claim that God lets you into Heaven only because of all your good deeds, not by faith. They cannot both be right, and in fact there is no conflict between them if only one looks at them in the full context of the longer passages in which they are embedded.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans was making the point that Faith in God was the path to salvation, not



by doing all the commandments laid down in scripture. Note that it is faith that does this, not merely believing in God's existence. James, a few verses before the one quoted above says “You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder!” Further scripture reading shows that Paul and James are in agreement, just not using the same words. In the letter to the Galatians Paul says, “The only thing that counts is faith, expressing itself through love”. In the original Greek, the word that Paul uses for love is *agape*, which

means totally unselfish love, giving of oneself to others without restraint. A person of faith will express that faith by unselfish love towards others. He or she will express that faith in good works, a visible sign of their internal Faith. If you have true faith then the Holy Spirit dwells within you; and Paul goes on to say: “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control.” Good works are the outward sign and consequence of your faith, not means in and of themselves to obtain salvation. If you say you have faith and do not do good works, then your faith is dead.

In Memoriam

Genevieve “Jean” Bysiewicz
Hemlock Grange #182

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

CALL
FOR
VENDORS

Local vendors outside
along the Norwalk River

Bake Sale inside the
historic Grange Hall

89th Agricultural Fair
information table inside

CRAFT FAIR

June 6, 11:00am-4:00pm



Free guided Tai-Chi
lessons out on the lawn
@ 11:30 & 3:00

Ribbon-cutting ceremony
for New Little Library
along NRVT route @1:00

Info Session on renting
the historic Grange Hall
@ 3:30

Free Entry ☀️ Rain or Shine
25 CANNON ROAD, WILTON, CT 06897