

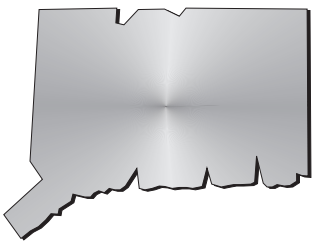


Merry Christmas

Address Service Requested, Periodicals Postage Paid in Winsted, CT 06098



# Connecticut Granger



Vol. 49, No. 3

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

December 2008

## State President



**Robert Sendewicz**  
State Master/President  
[president@ctstategrange.org](mailto:president@ctstategrange.org)

As I write this article Sister Marge and I are preparing for our third National Session. This one we are proud to be going to as it is in our home state. I hope to see many Connecticut members during the week and I hope those that do attend enjoy it and learn more about it.

Our State Session ended a short time ago and if you read the November Granger you already have some idea of what transpired. Your delegates conscientiously acted upon thirty-four resolutions,

three of which will be acted on at the National Session. I'm sure they will be reporting back to their Community Granges as to the disposition of each Granges Resolutions.

As each of you work through the year observe the needs in your community or what needs to be changed or done better and start writing resolutions for next year. Remember, resolutions you submit to the State Grange earn you points on your Honor Grange report.

This year was also an election year and you know the results of the election by now. I am honored that the delegates had enough confidence in me to elect me for another two years and with your continued support We will do our best to grow and move our Grange forward into the future.

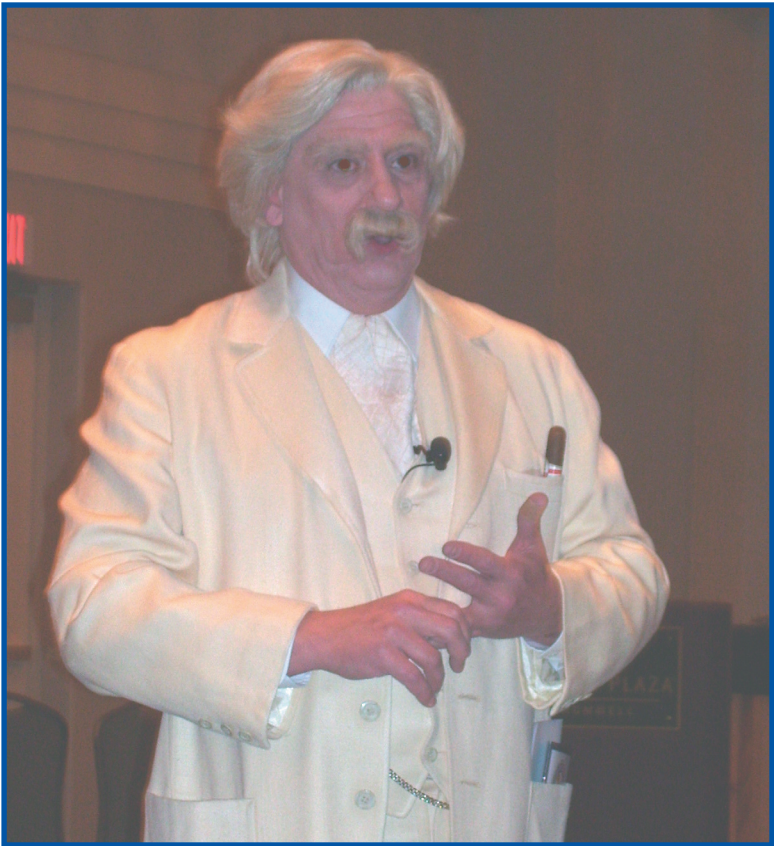
Another important

event last month was the Pink Sash meeting on November 22 at Cheshire Grange Hall.

Although as I write this it has not taken place yet but my January article will have many details about it. All of the programs and contests that were planned will be in the new Blue Book. Each Community Grange should spend at least one meeting reviewing the Blue Book and the Honor Grange Report to adequately plan their activities for the year. Join the contests, they are fun and you may win a prize.

This is a very joyous time of year for us all. Admits all our work and fun we take time out to celebrate two special holidays. I hope you shared Thanksgiving with your family and friends and as we look towards the end of the month Sister Marge and I wish all our Grange friends a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy new Year**.

## THANK YOU!



**Mark Twain, as portrayed by Ken Richters, entertains members during the Wednesday evening session of the National Grange. Mr. Richters is a nationally recognized actor having portrayed the Hartford native for documentaries on PBS. More photos inside.**

*Todd Gelineau, Publicity Chair., Hosting Committee*

**THANK YOU!** Those two words really say it all. The week we thought would never get here when the resolution was adopted more than 7 years ago has now come and gone. While the Northeast Regional Hosting Committee is responsible for a lot of the success of this event, the entire seven state region should be congratulated for working together to make this convention a memorable one.

Each state contributed a great deal of money, volunteers, and just about everything else they were asked to contribute. When Connecticut initially invited National Grange to meet in Connecticut, it was assumed the entire financial burden would be shouldered by the Connecticut State Grange. Connecticut Granges and members should be congratulated for raising over \$70,000 of the money needed to meet the Region's hosting obligations.

Every member of the Committee and every person who needed transportation during the Convention is grateful for the efficiency and competence of Sister Marge Bernhardt and the members of her family for keeping the wheels on the bus going "round and

...continued on page 2

## The Farm Bill explained



**Gordon Gibson**  
Legislative Director  
[legislative@ctstategrange.org](mailto:legislative@ctstategrange.org)

The 2008 Farm Bill is officially known as Public Law 110-246, The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. The farm bill, renewed about every five years, governs federal farm and food policies. Federal farm support, food assistance, agricultural trade, marketing and rural development policies are all governed by a variety of separate laws incorporated into one farm bill.

In addition to all the topics covered in the previous farm bill, the new law also covers horticulture and organic agriculture, livestock, crop insurance and disaster assistance, commodity futures and trade and tax laws. Bonnie Burr, State Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency, presented an overview of the 2008 Farm Bill at the Legislative Workshop during the recent National Grange convention in Cromwell.

It is important to note that the first word in the new law's title is "food." The underlying purpose of the entire act is to help provide enough food to feed our growing population. More than two-thirds of the act's funds go to nutrition programs,

with more funding for food stamps, food banks, locally produced food and programs to provide food for schools and senior citizens.

Many people do not realize that the food stamp program is a provision of the farm bill and is a program of the Department of Agriculture. It is the largest component of the farm bill budget. The new act provides a new name for the food stamp program. Effective October 1, 2008 the food stamp program was officially renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

More and more people want to know where their food is coming from and prefer locally produced products rather than

...continued on page 4

## INSIDE

Central Pomona No. 1 . . . . .	8
Quinebaug Pomona No. 2 . . . . .	9
East Central Pomona No. 3 . . . . .	10
Mountain County Pomona No. 4 . . . . .	11
New Haven County Pomona No. 5 . . . . .	3
New London County Pomona No. 6 . . . . .	4
Excelsior Pomona No. 7 . . . . .	5
Fairfield County Pomona No. 9 . . . . .	6
Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11 . . . . .	7
North Central Pomona No. 13 . . . . .	8

**Deadline for the JANUARY Issue: DECEMBER 5**



# THANK YOU!

*Continued from page one...*

round.” for the twelve days before, during and after the convention. There were many challenges but Marge rose to each one of them and got people where they needed to go.

On Friday evening, a traffic accident on an area highway delayed buses from arriving at the Hotel to take members to Central Connecticut State Univ. for the Evening of Excellence. Without batting an eye, her son was on the phone with an executive at Datto Bus Company getting the necessary permission to get “unscheduled access” to buses on a lot in a neighboring town.

We thank the members who brought ornaments for the Christmas trees, food for the Hospitality Suite, or volunteered to wash and iron costumes for the Seventh Degree, serve as Deputies, help confer the Sixth Degree and do the million and one things that come together to make a successful National Grange Convention.

The Sixth Degree Conferral by the Connecticut State Grange on Saturday morning saw **63** receive the Degree of Flora at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell.

We are delighted to report **328 received the Seventh Degree** at the Bushnell in Hartford on Saturday afternoon, with **96 from Connecticut!!!** The Bushnell seats a lot of people and it was wonderful to see the majority of the orchestra level filled with candidates and members witnessing this beautiful degree.

In case we haven’t said it enough... thank you to each and every person who did ANYTHING to raise a dollar or to fill a need anywhere along the line to make this convention a success. As Convention Coordinator Jody Cameron has said, “It’s been the ride of a lifetime” and our best wishes and luck go to the Hosting Committee organizing next year’s convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan!



The Crowne Plaza provided snacks and refreshments each afternoon of the convention.



The understandably exhausted Transportation Chair Marge Bernhardt seems to be asking the tree, “You want to go where?”



Victor Salazar of Eureka Grange talks with National Master Ed Luttrell following the Youth opening of the Friday morning Session. Victor was selected Master of the Youth Officer Corps.



Members wait outside the Bushnell before the conferral of the Seventh Degree on Saturday afternoon.



The Crowne Plaza was turned into an expensive laundry room on Wednesday as members put the finishing touches on the costumes for the Seventh Degree. Above left, David Allen from North Carolina and above right, Linda Sanderson of Vermont (left) and Alma Graham of Connecticut continue ironing.

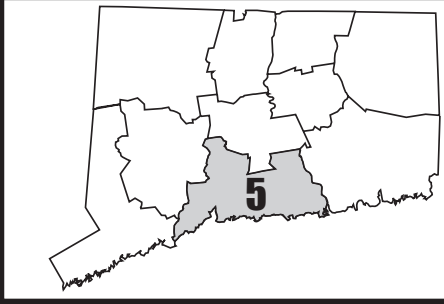


State Youth Director Donald Lanoue is ready to take the Christmas Tree and ornaments donated by the members of the Connecticut State Grange to the Cromwell Children's Home. All eight trees donated for the Convention found worthy homes in the area.

<p>(USPS 563-220)</p> <p><b>“Connecticut Granger”</b> is published monthly except combined July-August issue for \$3.00/yr. by:</p> <p>Connecticut Granger, Inc.. 170 Scoville St., Unit 14, Torrington, CT 06790</p> <p>Second Class postage paid at Winsted, CT 06098</p> <p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Connecticut Granger, P.O. Box 127, Winsted, CT 06098-0127</p>	<p><b>DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS</b></p> <p>News is due on the <b>5th Day</b> of each month except July and should be sent to: Connecticut State Grange P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033.</p> <p>Address corrections should be sent to the Winsted Post Office address listed at left.</p> <p><b>Connecticut Granger Staff</b></p> <p>President/Editor . . . . . Todd Gelineau Vice President . . . . . Brian Carptenter Secretary Treasurer. . . . . Edith Schoell</p>
---	---



New Haven County Pomona No. 5



✓

Cheshire No. 23

Wallingford No. 33

✓

North Haven No. 35

Totoket No. 83

✓

Old Lyme No. 162

**CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**  
*Corr: Charleen Dimmick*  
**Nov. 19:** 6pm--  
Thanksgiving turkey dinner  
**Dec. 3:** Hat Night. Wear your favorite hat. Neighbors' Night. Country Store  
**Dec. 17:** Christmas Party. \$3 grab bag. Card exchange. Everyone bring their favorite Christmas treat.

At our second meeting in October, our new members, Elizabeth Ryducha and Tina Marshall were welcomed to the Grange. They were escorted to the altar and the altar circles formed around them.  
Rosie Piller and John Bates received their 50-year certificates.

Marge Bernhardt was escorted to the altar where she was presented with several awards from State Session. Her Community Service book was awarded the Best in Show Award. Congratulations, Marge.  
Barbara Foscett's decorated pumpkin won 3rd at State Session.  
Sadly, we had to drape the Charter for Sylvia Sloat, the aunt of Sisters Jane Miller and Barbara Foscett.

The next night, several Cheshire members travelled to the Masonic Home in Wallingford to celebrate Dorothy Haller's 75th anniversary in the Grange and her 95th birthday.  
Many members of her family were present, as well as many Grangers. Several people spoke of Dorothy's many services to the Grange over many years.

At the first meeting in November, the program was about past elections.  
The Charter was draped in loving memory of Sister Marion Haney.

**NORTH HAVEN GRANGE #35**  
*Corr: A. Tolette*  
**Dec. 2:** What's Cooking with John?  
**Jan. 6:** Youth Night  
State Session is over and the National Session will be over when this is printed.  
We fixed a nice bag of Thanksgiving goodies for the CWA project.

Now we will be helping to fill and deliver Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes for our town's needy families. We have two more sisters who are added to those who have gone on to the Grange above, Edna (Dud) Brockett (our oldest member) and Helen Wronski. We will miss them.  
We have three brothers named John. I wonder which one is cooking something up?

Happy holidays to everyone and a healthy New Year!

**OLD LYME GRANGE #162**  
*Corr: Barbara Kulisch*  
**Dec. 12:** Christmas When We Were Young - Youth Night  
**Dec. 26:** Omit- Happy Holidays  
**Jan. 9:** Slip and Slide  
**Jan. 23:** Snow date for Jan. 9

Our members did us proud at State Session and we came home with quite a few certificates and awards. We may be small in numbers, yet we are very very busy Grnagers!  
We had at least two members take the Seventh Degree at National. With National Session in the neighborhood, our November meeting was on Our Seven Founders and National Grange itself. What do you recall about Christmas when you were young?  
Our door is always open, so come on down.

# The Farm Bill explained

*Continued from page one...*  
food that has traveled an average of 1500 miles to reach our northeastern consumers. The new farm bill authorizes approximately one billion dollars to support the horticulture and organic agriculture industry. Funding is authorized to support farmers markets, agri-tourism and other enterprises that result in direct producer to consumer sales.

The 2008 Farm Bill recognizes the livestock producers contribution to our food supply. The new law provides basic protection for farmers producing livestock and poultry by increasing the oversight of the stockyards and meat packing plants. The previous law, known as the 2002 Farm Bill, required country of origin labeling at the retail stores for beef, lamb, pork, fish, peanuts, fruits and vegetables. The 2008 Farm Bill adds goat meat, chicken, pecans, macadamia nuts and ginseng to the products that must be labeled. Funding for agricultural research and extension activities are made more competitive in the new law. Applicants, including state governments, will have to show that their proposed projects are worthy of being funded. The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES) will be reorganized into a new National Institute of Food and Agriculture, or "NIFA" Again, note that "Food" comes before "Agriculture" in the title.

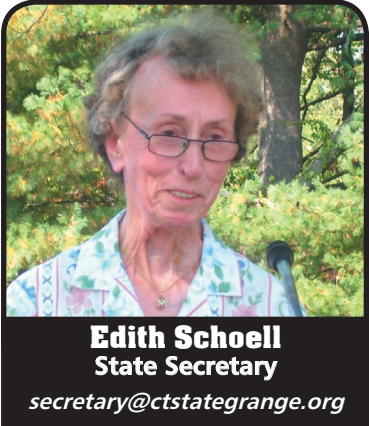
The new law includes \$200 million for the Environmental Quality Incentives

Program (EQIP) in 2008 to help farmers and ranchers solve natural resource problems on their farms and ranches, \$150 million for the wetlands reserve program and \$7.5 million for Agricultural Management Assistance. In fiscal year 2009, which began October 1, 2008, the Farm Service Agency will distribute \$1.8 billion in Conservation Reserve Program rental payments to participants across the country. In many of these programs, the funds are divided among the states according to various formulas. However, if a USDA state office does not use all of their allotment in any program, those funds may be reallocated to other state offices having a greater need.

We have two new members on our Connecticut State Grange Legislative Committee, Brother Bob Charbonneau and Sister Alma Graham. Both have been active in legislative affairs for many years and we welcome them as important members of our committee. Remaining on the committee are George Ward, Charles Dimmick and yours truly. The State Grange By-Laws provide that the members of the State Grange Executive Committee are also members of the Legislative Committee. I would be remiss if I did not include Brother Ruel Miller who has also been an active member of our committee. We are all available to assist you in your local or regional legislative efforts.

Thanks to Bonnie Burr, State Director for the USDA Farm Service Agency, for most of the material in this article.

## The close of the quarter is coming soon



**Remember:**  
**P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury 06033**  
**is our new address!**

National Session is now history and we can take a deep breath and relax. We all should give the Hosting Committee a hearty "Thank You!" for all they did to make the session a success. It took many months of planning, re-planning and everyone shouldered their assignments and accomplished their tasks. Thank you again.

Information for the Directories, Blue Books, and Journal of Proceedings has been forwarded to the printers, and hopefully they will be in your hands soon. In the meantime, check the various committee reports in the Granger for some of the upcoming events and contests.

The close of the quarter comes the end of the month. Just a reminder to work on your quarterly reports and forward them to me.  
Merry Christmas!

Appointments

The State Master announced the following appointments to fill committees at the Pink Sash Meeting held at Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday, Nov. 22:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Charbonneau  
Alma Graham

AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Ernie Finch, Chairman  
Dan Mutchler

CAMP BERGER TRUSTEES

Linda Coad  
Jerry Lemieux

The State Master expressed his appreciation to those who have completed their terms on these committees and welcome these new members of the Pink Sash Family.

Southern Conn.  
Past Masters Assoc.


Our Annual Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 13, at Beacon Valley Grange Hall. Social Hour from 5:30-6:30pm, Pot Luck Supper at 6:30pm followed by our meeting at 8:00pm.

Program to follow with a \$2.00 grab bag gift. Please remember items for the Coutry Store. Any questions, please call our President, Lou Godin at 1-203-879-9584.

*From all of us to all of you, Happy Holidays and a Happy and Healthy New Year.*



### New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21  
Colchester No. 78  
Pachaug No. 96  
Preston City No. 110  
✓ N. Stonington No. 138  
✓ Lyme No. 147  
✓ Stonington No. 168  
Norwich No. 172

**NEW LONDON COUNTY  
POMONA #6**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Dec. 9:** The Twelve Days of Christmas

We are sad to relate the passing of our Treasurer, William C. Medbery, on October 9. Bill was a Golden Sheaf member of our Pomona and of Pachaug Grange #96. He will be sorely missed.

On October 11 we conferred the Fifth Degree at North Stonington Grange.

Our new Master, Dan Mutchler, was letter perfect and we were very proud of him. All the officers did a fine job, and the Spector sent chills through our bones. Pomona’s court was lovely, as usual. Thanks to the generosity of Lopresti Farms, the stage overflowed with fall flowers and vegetables. Pomona Deputy East Jim Palmer, was on hand to inspect us. He and wife, Pat, are always welcome visitors to our Pomona.

We are looking forward to our holiday program at Preston City Grange on Tuesday, December 9. The meeting starts at 7:30. Hope to see a big crowd there to help us celebrate the season.

The holidays are here again, another year has passed. A new year is before us, ‘twill be better than the last. So come on down to Preston and join us in a song. And let’s all work together to make Pomona strong.

**N. STONINGTON COMM.  
GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Dec. 12:** “Babes in Toyland- 1934” (meeting 7:30, party 8:00)

**Dec. 26:** No Meeting- Merry Christmas/Happy New Year!

Helen Apicelli has

again donated a group of handmade laprobes to be donated to our various projects. Sister Apicelli’s busy hands have turned out dozens of these beautiful robes over the years. It’s time we sent a big “thank you” her way.

We continue to send pounds of coupons to Germany thanks to the donations by members and the efforts of Frances Miner to get them mailed. Flo Mullane made a lovely bag to hold the Thanksgiving food donated to the State Grange.

Scott Bill Hirst invited several candidates to the Legislative Program on October 10. They spoke and fielded questions on upcoming election issues.

Our hall, spookily decorated with witches, goblins and jack-o-lanterns, welcomed over 70 people to our Halloween party. We had costume parades in four age groups, from pre-school to adult, and games for the youngsters. There were prizes for all the participants, and a cup social was held at refreshment time. All in all it was a most enjoyable evening.

There will be a brief meeting before our Christmas party on Dec. 12. Please bring a wrapped, clearly marked gift for Santa’s bag if you are bringing a youngster to the party. The hall is always beautifully decorated for the holidays. Please come.

And if the ground doesn’t freeze and keep me from getting those bulbs planted, next time I’ll tell you all about nifty November.

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: Dick Chapman*  
**Dec. 4:** Christmas in Connecticut; Potluck Supper 6:30 P.M.

**Jan. 8:** Maine Lighthouses

Our State winning decorated pumpkins were on display in the Essex Savings Bank following their return from State Session. The other one went to the local library to enhance their fall decor.

At our December meeting we will gather the dimes for Andrew, award membership seals and certificates, enjoy “Connecticut” program numbers as well as numbers from our members, as well as enjoy a delicious supper.

January’s program (note date change) will feature “Show and Tell” plus information about the lighthouses of Maine. In keeping with the new theme of the Women’s Activities Department, Robert Stearns has a delightful new idea: Since each of us is blessed with only one life- why not spend it with a cat.

Also, Leonardo da Vinci said it best: “The smallest feline is a masterpiece!”

Season’s greetings!

**STONINGTON GRANGE  
#168**

*Corr: Jeff Barnes*

The program for our November meeting was Freedom’s Feast. It really give us the true meaning of Thanksgiving.

Our December meeting will be very special. Jim & Sandra Wright, the owners of Another Second Penny Inn and members of Stonington Grange will entertain us at the Inn. They are masters of open hearth cooking and will give a demonstration and lecturer on cooking in this method prior to our meeting.

The demonstration will be held at 6:30 PM and the meeting to follow at 8 PM. This should be a wonderful experience for our members.

We are sure glad they are allowing us this great opportunity and it is right in keeping with the Christmas season.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy 2009.

# Membership Awards

*Ted Beebe, State Membership Committee*

It is nice to hear that some of our Granges are conferring Degrees. It was a pleasure to attend Glastonbury Grange No. 26 on Sept. 27 for a degree night of all four degrees.

We hope to hear that more are conferring degrees and some of the Pomonas have had candidates for their degrees.

State Session is over and you will soon know who was the winners of all of our contests and you will also know about the programs in the various departments for the upcoming year.

**MEMBERSHIP CONTEST WINNERS**

**NEW MEMBERS**

Pomona Granges  
1- Mountain County #4

**NEW MEMBERS**

Subordinate Granges  
1- Ekonk Community Grange #89  
2- Glastonbury Grange #26  
3- Stafford Grange #1

**NET GAIN**

1- Ekonk Community Grange #89  
2- Beacon Valley Grange #103  
3- Stafford Grange #1

**YOUTH MEMBERS**

1- TIE - Coventry Grange #75  
Ekonk Community Grange #89  
2- Cheshire Grange #23  
3- Stonington Grange #168


**JUNIOR GRANGES**

Ekonk Comm. Jr. Grange #101

**POSTER CONTEST**

1- Lois Evankow  
2- Ann Marie Knochenhauer

# Youth Dept. Notes



**Donald Lanoue**  
Youth Director  
[youth@ctstategrange.org](mailto:youth@ctstategrange.org)

Hi everyone, I hope that all who attended the National Convention that was held in Connecticut enjoyed it. I want to thank all of the youth that came to the convention or who helped in any way. A special thanks goes to Victor Salazar, J. Allen Cameron and Caraline McGrane for filling youth positions at

the convention. Victor Salazar for being the Master of the National Grange Youth Officer Team, J. Allen for being a marching candidate for the seventh degree and Caraline McGrane for being a trumpet girl in the Seventh Degree.

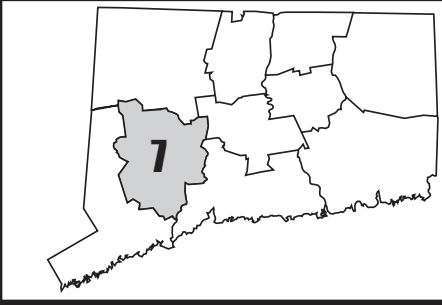
Looking forward to the new grange year, I am looking for some feedback on an idea of having a youth camping weekend at Camp Berger. I have had a few people approach me and ask if this could be tried again. I am thinking in August after the camping season has ended. Just an idea, think about it and let me know. I try my hardest to come up with new ideas but do not always succeed so if you have an idea please give me a call I will try to find a way to make it work.



**Joanne Cipriano**  
Membership Director  
[membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)



### Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 107
- ✓ Watertown No. 122
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- ✓ Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

**EXCELSIOR POMONA #7**  
*Corr: Mary Dubay*  
Excelsior Pomona does not meet in the month of December, but we would like to wish all our fellow Grangers a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**  
*Corr: Linda Coad*  
**Dec. 8:** Christmas Party, Canned Food Collection, 6:30 P.M.  
**Jan. 25:** Potluck Dinner, 1:00 P.M., Pomona meeting after dinner with Bethlehem’s meeting to follow. This should be a very enjoyable afternoon.  
**Feb. 22:** 2:00 P.M., Sunday meeting, “Hearts & Presidents”-Refreshments: Cindy & Ernie Finch

As of this writing we have not yet received the CWA packet of this years projects, but I expect they will be somewhere in the newsletter. We are looking for crafty members that will participate and enter the contests this year. Contact Eloise or myself for more information.  
We are also looking for new projects for community service. Sometimes it only takes an idea and the project will take on a life of it’s on. Do you have an idea?  
The Annual Dues letter was sent out to everyone. Those members who have not reached the Golden Sheaf status, a dues bill was attached. I am hoping

this year to have 100 percent paid by January 1st. To receive your dues receipt for Subordinate and Pomona, send me a self addressed, stamped envelope. Or, the receipts and Program books will be available at the meetings.

**WATERTOWN GRANGE #122**  
*Corr: Mary Dubay*  
**Dec. 5:** Bells of Old  
**Dec. 19:** Christmas Party  
First in December we have Pearl Harbor Day. We honor those who have served in the Armed Forces. Next is Christmas, such a busy time for all, shopping for presents, Christmas Parties, family get-togethers and of course Santa Claus.

Our first meeting in December is called Bells of Old and members are asked to bring in a bell for display.  
Our second meeting will be our annual Christmas Party starting at 6:30 P.M. Country Store and Grab Bag on the agenda.  
At the one hundred twenty-fourth session of the Connecticut State Grange Watertown Grange received the Honor Grange Bar and Community Service certificate. Lecturer Diane Barbieri received honor Lecturer Award and Denise Barbieri our Youth Chairman won many certificates for her work on Youth projects.  
We had our Fall Tag

Sale at the end of October and it went very well. Master Sharon thanks all who helped in any way.  
On Saturday, December 5th we will be having a Holiday Sale with all kinds of Christmas items for sale. Sounds like a good thing with plenty of time before the holiday.  
Watertown Grange wishes all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**  
*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*  
December will find our members partying. On December 12 we will have a catered Christmas party at the Grange Hall. Reservations are a MUST. Call Master Joanne. Supper to be served promptly at 6 followed by a short meeting and program.

On December 13 we will host the Christmas Party of the Southern Connecticut Past Masters. Festivities start with a social hour at 5:30 followed by a 6:30 potluck supper with meeting and program to follow. And for those of us who belong to the Past Deputies Association we will be heading to Riverton Grange on Decmeber 14th for their meeting and Christmas party.  
At the State Session we were proud to receive an Honor Grange Bar, second place in the Membership Contest for a net gain in membership and a certificate for our activities in the Should Auld Acquaintance Program.  
Thanks to all our members for what they do to help us get these awards.

**WOLCOTT GRANGE #173**  
*Corr: Cindy Legg*

**Dec. 1:** “Ritual” Refreshments by Steward, Country Store  
**Dec. 15:** “Christmas Party”  
Our first meeting in December will be on the first and our Lecturer will put on her ritual program. On 2nd meeting will be our Christmas Party, and that will be at the home of our Flora Lillian Shilling that will be on the 15th. We at Wolcott Grange have been busy getting ready for our 100th Anniversary. We will be celebrating on Sunday, March 15th. So keep that date open and come help us to celebrate. (More to follow).

Congratulations to everyone who took the Seventh Degree at the National Convention. It really showed the symbolism and ritual of the Grange.  
It’s hard to believe that the year is almost over. We at Wolcott would

like to wish everyone a safe and healthy Holiday Season.  
**OXFORD GRANGE #194**  
*Corr: Phil Rowland*  
**Dec. 5:** Holiday Cookie Swap, Each bring two dozen- pack extras for shut-ins.  
**Dec. 19:** Christmas Party, Potluck Supper at 7:00 P.M., Grab bag gift \$4.00  
We thank the Karate Class members and parents for planting mums in front of the hall. They look very nice!  
A Thanksgiving basket was made up for a needy family and delivered to State Grange by Master Rob Buck.  
The fall Red Cross Blood Drive was quite successful with 62 donors signing-in and 58 units collected. Grange members supplied refreshments and ran the canteen.  
Happy Holidays to all!

## You're the Cat's Meow!



*Ruth Herbele, State W.A. Committee*  
We hope many of you had the opportunity to attend one of our Regional Meetings. Now that winter is on the way and long nights are here it makes you want to start working on projects for the coming year’s contests.

Our ten classes in the needlework contest remain the same. Only the theme is new “You’re the Cat’s Meow.” Also our Connecticut CWA has added a new category- Dress A Doll. This is only for our state and winning entries will not go to the Big E. Should be fun.  
This year for Foster Families we are again asking for Memory Books and also a new gift which we call “Cat Nap Time.” This is a gift of pajamas, toothbrush and toothpaste in a cloth bag, sizes from babies to teens.  
To Covenant to Care we wish to give Comfy Covers and good toys. (Not from China and sold in Dollar Stores). All gifts to Foster Families and Covenant to Care are to be brought t State Session in October where they will be presented to one o their representatives.

Our State Projects for monetary donations along with Connecticut Granger Trust Fund, Student Loan Fund, and Camp Berger Maintenance Fund will be The Foster Teen Fund. This fund provides tickets, rides, etc. for entertainment for the teen-aged foster children. Please donate whatever possible. Keep up the good work.  
Keep those hands busy and needles flying working on items for the Needlework and Craft Contests.  
Remember, when you have all that craft and needlework material out please make an extra item for the Grange Country Store in the New England Grange Building at the Big E. It will be much appreciated.  
Happy Holidays to all.

## WE OFFER A LIFETIME OF MEMBERSHIP

Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union has opened membership to everyone who lives, works, worships, volunteers or attends school in Hartford, Tolland and Middlesex counties. The unique credit union advantage may actually make your banking easier. Call or visit our Web site to learn how our new charter makes us the credit union for everyone.

From savings accounts, low rate loans and retirement planning, to FREE checking, 24 hour banking, direct deposit, e-Pay, and FREE ATM/Debit transactions, we have something for everyone.

Call 860-513-5000 (local) ; 1-800-526-6933 (nationwide); or visit us online at [www.nutmegstatefcu.org](http://www.nutmegstatefcu.org) for more membership benefits.

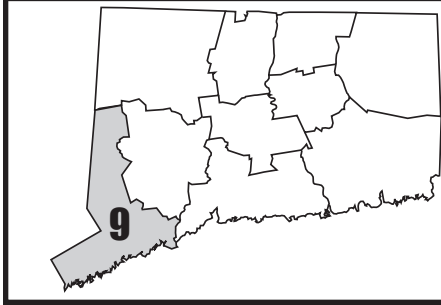


MAIN OFFICE:  
521 Cromwell Avenue, Rocky Hill, CT 06067  
BRANCH OFFICES:  
270 Broad Street, Manchester • 55 Curtis Street, New Britain





### Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



- ✓ Redding No. 15
- Harmony No. 92
- Greenfield Hill No. 133
- ✓ Trumbull No. 134
- ✓ Norfield No. 146
- Cannon No. 152

**FAIRFIELD COUNTY POMONA #9**

*Corr: Karen Macdonald*  
**Dec. 3:** 6:00 P.M., Norfield Grange Hall, Potluck Supper- Desserts, bread & beverages by Norfield & Cannon; 7:30 P.M.- Business & Master’s reports, Christmas Program, Country Store

What fun we have been having with the new Grange year, with Hobo Stew night and then Bingo night at Redding Grange. It was good to see our friend Pearl Gunther feeling well enough to join us again, she is a shining joy to us! We have closed out our garden and planted bulbs for next year, additional signs of hope as our country moves forward after the Elections. Best wishes to all as we join in the deep spiritual awakening, honoring the blessing of Christ’s birth.

**REDDING GRANGE #15**

*Corr: Marge Sendewicz*  
**Dec. 8:** Merry Christmas  
**Dec. 22:** No Meeting  
**Jan. 12, 2009:** Happy New Year

Our last pancake supper and bingo of the year is history. I guess we picked the wrong night to hold it because it was sparsely attended. The good news is that many people went home with numerous prizes.

It is difficult to plan events into the future not knowing what is happening elsewhere in the state. We will have to study this very carefully next year.

Bob and I are getting ready for the National Session. Along with all the work we are planning on having a lot of fun. A lot of work went into this event and we hope you shared the fun with us.

December is here and that means fall is ending. As you can see above, Redding Grange is having only one meeting this month and that will be our Christmas party. Its

early in the month so if you want to take a break from everything come and join us. Be in good voice because we will be singing Christmas Carols.

January 12 we will be returning from the North East Leaders Conference just in time to celebrate the New Year with our Grange friends.

Bob and I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

**TRUMBULL GRANGE #134**

*Corr: Susan Carol Sulier*  
Hi fellow Grangers and welcome to December, the month associated with the most sacred and major Judeo/Christian holidays of the year.

I have a story to tell you about the most memorable Christmas Eve of my life. I had just turned 8 and my brother Georgie was going on 3. We were so excited – visions of Christmas presents danced in our heads. Mom was just finishing reading “T’was the Night before Christmas” to Georgie, while he was nestled all snug in his bed, when suddenly our door bell did clatter and we rose from where we were to see what was the matter. Dad opened the door and what to our wondering eyes did appear none other than Santa, his helpers, without Rudolph and his team of reindeers. Santa bellowed “Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas”, then his entourage sang “We Wish You a Merry Christmas”, while one jubilant member rang a shiny brass bell in tune with the music. In the backdrop, pure white flakes of snow had just begun to gently fall, which under the glow of the street lights made it appear as if millions of mini glittery diamonds were descending from heaven to tenderly caress the earth. When the song was over, Santa said “Ho, Ho, Ho - Merry

Christmas to All and to All a Good Night” and then he and his entourage went on their way. Of course that night, sleep did not exist for me and my little brother. What an incredible experience it was to have Santa visit us for Christmas Eve, we were beyond thrilled. The next morning, at daybreak, Georgie and I raced downstairs and were delighted to see all the beautifully decorated packages waiting for us to tear open under our magnificently appointed Christmas tree. Each year Dad would search from lot to lot until he found the largest, most perfectly shaped tree; he was very particular in choosing our tree because he felt only the best would do for his family. On that Christmas morning, as always, my brother and I got all the gifts we asked for. More importantly we were given gifts so precious no amount of money could buy: the gifts of the love we shared for each other and the unconditional love of our parents, who absolutely adored us. Talk about a perfect childhood Christmas memory! Wow! Sheer joy still resonates in the minds and hearts of Georgie, Mom and me every time we reflect on this magical Christmas Eve. (Dad went home to the Lord 26 years ago). To this day, I have never seen such joy in my brother’s face, as I did on that special night. Years later, I repeated the special experience of having Santa arrive for Christmas Eve for my son Tommy and his cousin P. J. and it was as exciting for them as it was for me and my brother. I considered my family to be a wealthy family; certainly not in the monetary sense, but rich in the love we shared with each other, our extended family, our neighbors and our countless number of cherished friends.

Now on to the Grange stuff - Sadly 3 of our beloved Grangers, Val Barrachina, Connie Birois and Mary Bourdeau recently sustained injuries due to serious falls. Val and Mary suffered fractures and Connie suffered a facial laceration. Connie and Val are recovering

nicely and as of this writing Mary is still in the hospital. We extend our deepest sympathy to Yvonne Wannop on the recent loss of her beloved brother. Val, Connie, Mary B., and Yvonne are in our thoughts and prayers. On a much happier note, in November, Pat Gerckens and her crew delighted us with their annual “Soup and Sandwich Night”, something we Trumbull Grangers look forward to every year. As always, a good time and great food was enjoyed by all.

In closing, I wish you all a very “Merry Christmas” and a “Happy Hanukkah” filled with great food, good health and most importantly love.

**NORFIELD GRANGE #146**


*Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox*  
**Dec. 9:** Holiday Supper, 6:30, Santa, Grab Bag  
**Jan. 13:** Winter Fun

At our October meeting we learnd that Cecile Renzulli donated \$25 in memory of our deceased long-time member, Ethel Keene. Also at that meeting we voted to send a bag of groceries and a \$10

gift certificate to the State Session for Thanksgiving Dinners. Randy Miller attended the Session as Norfield’s Master, and Ted Coley was our Delegate.

We are very much relieved to report that Clark Hanford is slowly recovering from a serous motorcycle accident on September 2. We was traveling at night on the side of the road when his cycle went into a wobble and he smashed into the ground head first, his motorcycle on top of him. Fortunately, he was holding a bicycle lamp with one hand, and someone coming from the other direction saw his light shining in the road. The man called 911, and Clark was transported to the hospital with a broken scapula and a broken bone in his face. The knuckles in his right hand were scraped down to the bone. He now has half a cheek bone, and is undergoing extensive therapy for his hand. In true Hanford fashion, he realizes how lucky he is- and is amazed at the intricate workings of the human body. We wish him well.

# Publicize your success



**Carl Bernhardt**  
Information Director  
[publicity@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicity@ctstategrange.org)

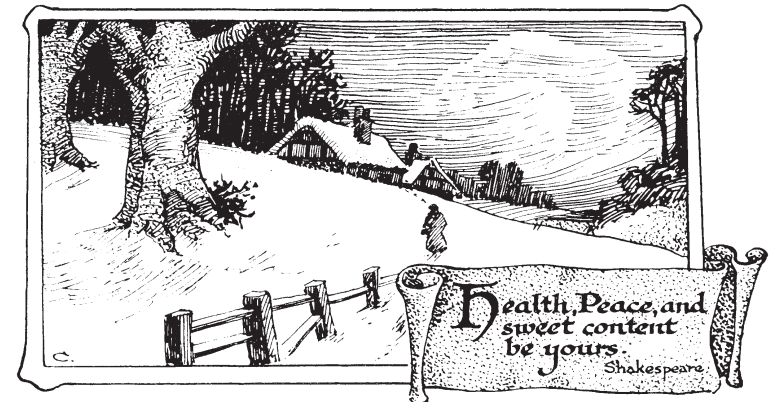
As I am preparing this news article, the National Grange Convention is in the back of my mind. The deadline for this article is only four days away. By the time you get to read it, the Convention will be history. Our State Session saw many Granges receive awards for the work they

have done during the past year. We should remember to broadcast to the general public all the work that you and your Grange have done.

Our Committee had numerous entries in the Best Single Article Contest. The Judges had a difficult time selecting the prize winners. The winning articles were submitted by:

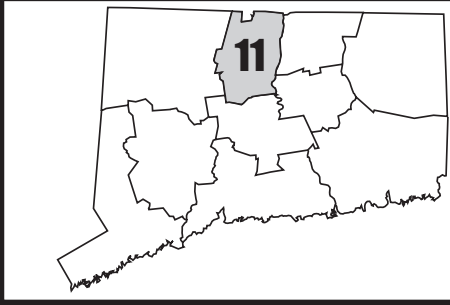
- First Place - N. Stonington #138
- Second Place - Glastonbury #26
- Third place - Old Lyme #162

The Committee will again have a Best Single Article Contest. We hope to have many entries from all of the Subordinate and Junior Granges.





**Farmington Valley Pomona No. 11**



✓ Granby No. 5

Tunxis No. 13

✓ Cawasa No. 34

✓ Simsbury No. 197

✓ West Suffield No. 199

Cherry Brook No. 210

**FARMINGTON VALLEY POMONA #11**  
*Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner*

**Dec. 15:** The Giving Time (at Simsbury Grange)

Some of our members attended all (or part) of the National Grange Session held in Cromwell with Connecticut and the other six northeastern states serving as hosts.

The CWA regional meeting was held and several of our Granges were represented.

A new year of work is underway- in the meantime we hope you all will enjoy the holiday season.

**GRANBY GRANGE #5**  
*Corr: Vivian C. Shaw*

**Dec. 4:** Jack Frost

**Dec. 18:** Family Christmas Party, 6:30 P.M., Potluck Supper. Please bring in items for the Food Bank.

**Dec. 26:** Bloodmobile at S. Congregational Church sponsored by Granby Grange

At the Connecticut State Grange Session, delegates were Bob and Fran Brockett. On October 24 the Granby Grange provided volunteers and refreshments for the Red Cross Bloodmobile.

**CAWASA GRANGE #34**  
*Corr: Maggie Schofield*

This is the month we do our Christmas cards and gifts to our Golden Sheaf members. Santa's Helper (Helen) is going to give us a book of stamps to put in each envelope. Well appreciated by our Golden Sheaf members. May you all have a wonderful holiday and happy and healthy New Year.

**SIMSBURY GRANGE #197**  
*Corr: Betty Jane Gardiner*

**Dec. 11:** Holiday

Festivities  
**Dec. 6, 13, 20:** Card Parties

Our Grange received on Honor Grange Bar and an Honorable Mention for the Community Service Report at the October State Session.

We were very pleased to present our Lecturer with the certificates she was awarded in her department.

The CWA Certificate of Excellence was given to the committee.

Master, Frances Sarnecki, is getting back on her feet following surgery. We wish her well.

Our Christmas meeting is always enjoyable with our young friends playing the music of the season and fun and games under the direction of the Overseer, Al Kansas.

**WEST SUFFIELD GRANGE #199**

**Dec. 9:** Holly in the Home- Christmas Party

On October 14, our Lecturer told how her credit rating was being lowered because wrong information was put in her report because of the possibility that information from another person of the same name was included in her report. It pays to check your credit report once a year! The Lecturer also gave facts on how to avoid your identity from being stolen.

In December, we will have our Christmas Party with our game called "Left and Right." Everyone enjoys it! We will be meeting at the West Suffield Congregational Church through March. Come and visit us. We love to have visitors.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

# Junior Grange Corner



**Joan Perry**

Junior Director

[juniors@ctstategrange.org](mailto:juniors@ctstategrange.org)

Well the Holiday Season is here. We had the National Convention in November and two of our Junior Grangers received their Super JG Awards. They were Katy Molodich and Brandi Hawkins of Ekonk Community Junior Grange. We also had all three of our Junior Granges

represented in The Junior Degree on Saturday. Thanks to all who helped and participated during the National Session. Programs have been distributed for the Juniors and we hope to have many participants. Happy Holidays.

**EKONK JR. GRANGE #101**  
*Corr: Mike Molodich*

Many juniors entered state contests and won prizes. Jaimie Cameron was named junior granger of the year. A few juniors also entered National contests. Katrina Sebastian won first place at the state grange talent

contest this past year. Jaimie Cameron received honorable mention for her public speaking at New England level. She was asked to give her speech at the National junior breakfast.

The juniors put together a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family in town. We are playing volleyball on Sunday evenings from 6-8pm using the equipment we donated to the Sterling recreation department.

We did the welcoming ceremony for our newest member Conner Sebastian.



Connecticut



New York



Massachusetts



Vermont



New Hampshire



Maine



Rhode Island

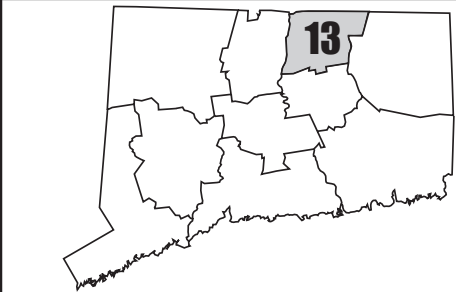


Under the direction of Betty Jane Gardiner, the seven states in the Northeast Region were asked to provide trees and ornaments to decorate the lobby of the Crowne Plaza. After the Convention, all of the trees were donated to area groups and one was given in appreciation to the hotel.





North Central Pomona No. 13



✓

Stafford No. 1

✓

Tolland No. 51

✓

Vernon No. 52

✓

Enfield No. 151

**STAFFORD GRANGE #1**  
*Corr: Maude Emhoff*  
**Dec. 14:** Sunday Christmas Party, Location to be announced; Exchange of gifts  
**Dec. 16:** 7:00 P.M. Memories of Christmas Past. Bring homemade cookies

Good to hear that Gloria and Edna are home from the hospital and recuperating. More good news: Mark Glazier our new Master attended the State Session and did fabulously. He brought home three awards for our Grange; Honor Grange, third prize in the largest net gain in membership and third prize for the largest new membership for the year. Milo has spent some time in hospital but hopefully he is on the mend now.

Happy Anniversary to Shirley and Milo who have just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Hard to believe but Thanksgiving is almost upon us and we will be giving the Stafford Food Bank three turkeys for the needy.

Hope this finds Edgar Hunnicutt feeling better. Sounds like we are all feeling our age. Happy Thanksgiving to all! Don't eat too much turkey!

**VERNON GRANGE #52**  
*Corr: Nancy Strong*  
**Dec. 5:** Ornament Show and Tell

Vernon will have it's crazy Christmas party again this year. Members are suppose to bring an ornament with a story to the meeting to share with others. They will also bring an item for the CRAZY GIFT EXCHANGE - it has to be a worthless item that you want to get rid of and wrapped up pretty for the

holidays. We then have a killer exchange of these items in which you can either keep the unwrapped present, or trade with someone who has already opened theirs. Numbers are drawn ahead of time to determine the order of opening. We have a feeling that some items will be revisited from last year. The refreshments by the Congers to set us off for the holiday season.

**ENFIELD GRANGE #151**  
*Corr: Irene Percoski*  
**Dec. 13:** Holiday Happenings; Ref. Irene & Florence  
**Jan. 10:** Pins and Needles, Ref. Dawn & Louise

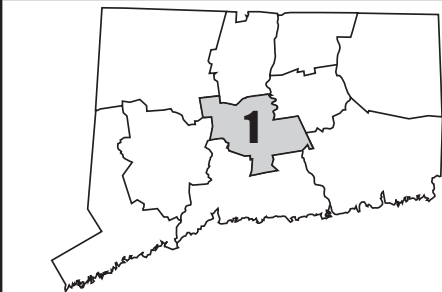
Pots and pans were brought in by members along with some great stories and memories. This was a really interesting meeting with a cast iron frying pan, a copper bottom pot, roasting pans and some rather odd pots that certainly had seen long good use. Thank you all.

Congratulations to all the officers of the State Grange on their re-election. Two years seemed to fly right by. Certainly by the time this is printed we will have a new President, and I for one will be glad the campaign is over. Makes one think about a resolution to limit the time of campaigning.

Our December meeting may be the last in our hall until March. I will keep you posted. I would like to ask that everyone bring Christmas cookies to exchange, and one of our projects this year will be children's socks, so start bringing them in please.

Come visit, we always love to have company at our meetings.

Central Pomona No. 1



✓

Southington No. 25

✓

Meriden No. 29

✓

Westfield No. 50

✓

Higganum No. 124

✓

Hemlock No. 182

**CENTRAL POMONA #1**  
*Corr: Dianne Clark*  
Our Pomona meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11 at Hemlock Grange Hall. The title for the program is "Northern Exposure." For the CWA table, bring Christmas Decorations. Have a Merry Christmas from Pomona and Happy New Year.

**SOUTHINGTON GRANGE #25**  
*Corr: Lisa Lamoureux*  
**Dec. 8:** Business Meeting/ Holiday Party – Everyone  
**Dec. 22:** Omitted (Snow Date)

Can you hardly believe that it is that time again?!?! Where does all the time go to? Didn't we just have the holiday seasons? Well, I guess Southington Grange is just having too much fun that the time just flies. So on December 8, Southington Grange will have its annual Christmas Party unless if we get (should I say the "S" word??) SNOW and then our party will be changed to December 22.

Did you miss the Southington Grange Waffle Breakfast held on November 1? If you did, you really missed a great breakfast. Our chefs, Paul and Ray made fabulous waffles and sausage. Our next one will be in March, 2009. So make plans now because your mother always said "Breakfast if the most important meal of the day".

If you are looking for a fun and very inexpensive way to enjoy an evening out with the family, why not visit Hubbard Park in Meriden which has a light display that starts Thanksgiving weekend and goes all the way past New Years. There is no charge to drive thru the park. It is one of the most beautiful displays that you will see. Play a game and try to name all of the different animals in the park.

Southington Grange would like to take this

opportunity to wish every member of the Connecticut State Grange, a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. Enjoy the time that you spend with your family and friends and don't forget about the less fortunate.

As always, our doors are open for anyone and everyone who would like to join us for a meeting. Remember we meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays (except December, January, February – if we get snow on the 2nd Monday) at 7:30 p.m. at the Southington Grange Hall located at the corners of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue in the Plantsville Section of Southington.

**MERIDEN GRANGE #29**  
*Corr: Diane Clark*

On Oct. 10th we had a program on autumn, a successful Harvest, a short skit on married humor, the meaning of the flag draped coffin, put on by Dianne Clark.

On October 24 we will or did have Halloween skits and the meaning of Halloween.

On November 1 we are having a meatloaf dinner with corn, potatoes, cole slaw and cake. On Dec. 6 we are catering Pratt & Whitney at 1:30.

On Oct. 4 we put on a pork roast dinner, with green beans, cole slaw, potatoes, apple sauce and

was successful for Pratt & Whitney's retirement party for Cindy Hupper.  
On Nov. 14 we held a Veteran's Day program. On Dec. 12 we are having Christmas in American and invite all the other Grangers to join us.

**WESTFIELD GRANGE #50**  
*Corr: Phyllis Redford*  
**Dec. 4:** "Twas the Night Before..."  
**Jan. 15:** A New Beginning

The November program at Westfield was entitled "What Happened at 1600 Penn. Ave." and brought to "Life". Some interesting characters who once occupied that American "Palace." For example, consider: Cousins... one a conservative, the other, very liberal; the president who dreamed of his own death and was actually assassinated during his second term; and the first lady who rushed into the burning mansion to rescue the painting of George Washington... this brave lady also buried the official presidential silver in the garden for safe keeping.

All is well at #50. We are "Making Do" with our one meeting only per month and expect to move into a Sunday School room for December through March.

A very happy and safe New Year to all.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**  
*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*  
**Dec. 12:** Christmas Program  
**Dec. 26:** Omit-Christmas

Nancy McBrien is in charge of the program. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

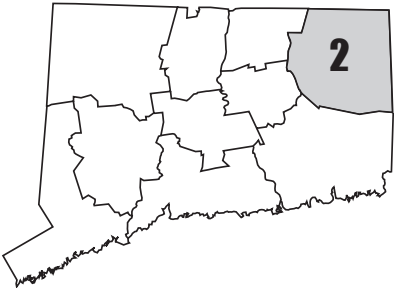
## Southington Award



Jim Lamoureux, Master of Southington Grange, presents Melynda Naples of Deerfield Farm with the 2008 Southington Grange Community Citizen Award.



### Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



- ✓ Senexet No. 40
- ✓ Brooklyn No. 43
- ✓ Wolf Den No. 61
- ✓ Ekonk No. 89
- Ashford No. 90
- Putnam No. 97
- Killingly No. 112
- Highland No. 113
- Echo No. 180

**SENEXET GRANGE #40**  
*Corr: Diane Miller*  
**Dec. 17:** Christmas Party  
**Dec. 24:** Pie Sale

We kept busy this fall with CWA events. We were saddened to receive word that our Worthy Secretary Nancy Ebbs passed away on Oct. 23. She served as Secretary of Quinnatisset prior to her election to our Grange. A nice evening with the Dusty Adams Blue Grass Show in Oct. and a great fall Apple Pie Sale were held. Members were active in getting the Dictionary Project to the local third grade classes. Over 250 were distributed thanks to Joan, Tom and Debby. Visit us.

**WOLF DEN GRANGE #61**  
*Corr: Elsie M. Johnson*  
**Dec. 10:** Tis the Season-Ref. Christmas Treats  
**Jan. 14:** Brrrr- Whats'ch Doing? Ref. John, Dick & Dan

Time for winter coats and hats is upon us. When I think of winter I think of snow. Halloween is past and nearly a thousand people visited

the pumpkin display at the Carter Farm which some of us members had a helping hand in. Now it's time for Turkey and Christmas shopping. The lawn mowers cleaned and put away and shovels have been taken out. Feed the birds. We've seen the blueprints for the renovations of the Grange Hall and it looks good. Construction is to start soon. The Senior Center at the hall is open now on weekday afternoons. A delegation went to the Pomfret Community School and handed out dictionaries to the third graders and the kids were excited and pleased to get them. Veterans Day program we had two veterans- Ted and Dan who spoke on their tours of duty. Candles were lit and some readings and one was the meaning of the thirteen folds of our flag. Glad to see gas prices coming down with the holiday traveling. Hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving. Don't forget the shut-ins. Happy birthday to all. We

**EKONK COMMUNITY GRANGE #89**  
*Corr: Sue Gray*  
**Dec. 1:** "Those Fabulous 50's!" 7:30pm  
**Dec. 12:** "Christmas by Katrina!" 6:30pm  
**Jan. 5:** "Phycodelic 70's" 7:30 pm  
**Jan. 23:** Annual Casino?Game Night 6:30pm

We had an awesome Halloween Party/Haunted Trail Hayride & full hall of delighted families~many, many children!!! Thanks Mike & Betsy & helpers for a job well done! Our annual Awards Luncheon was made extra special with the guest of honor, Eagle Scout, Joshua Chandler and his family as our guests. Josh was our Community Citizen of the Year. Jody Cameron and Betsy Molodich presented Subordinate and Junior awards garnered at the State convention ~ we are very proud of another good year of service rewarded. Congratulations to Junior Granger of the Year, our own Jaimie Cameron! The hall is looking much brighter, thanks to volunteer labor force and members donations of paint, stain, time and talent...We are ready to host the National delegates ! Mason Gray suggested an officer "switcheroo" and it proved great fun! President Jody put the names of all officers in a bowl before the meeting started. In turn, those wishing to participate drew the name of an officer & held that office for the entire meeting! Our youth once again proved their weight in gold: Katie Molodich, Vice President; Katrina Sebastian, Steward; J.Allen Cameron, A.S.; Brandi Hawkins, Chaplain; Katie Hermonot, Secretary...the remaining officers were us "young at hearters"...

We presented the Girard family of Voluntown with a Thanksgiving Basket. This family suffered the

tragic loss of father and oldest son (drowning accident) and lost their home in a terrible fire too~our Juniors & Subordinate joined forces for this project. Our program on the "Roaring 20's" was enjoyed by all. Katie Hermonot portrayed the first Miss

America, Janet Hawkins- prohibition, Robin Cousens-Aviation and Betsy Molodich-the spirit of American patriotism in the closing tableau. Come up on the hill for any of our events: we will greet you with a warm smile!

## Ekonk Grange No. 89






Halloween fun at Ekonk Community Grange.



Jacob Gervais, winner of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Leadership Experience trip to Washington, D.C. Jake will spend a week in Washington learning and earning high school credit. Jake is a sixth grader and last year's Junior Granger of the Year.






Eagle Scout Joshua Chandler and Ekonk President Jody Cameron. Ekonk Grange recognized Chandler as the 2008 Community Citizen.



## THE PATRONS GROUP

769 Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
(860) 633-3942 ★ 1-800-800-0863


*Protecting our Connecticut policyholders' financial security since 1833*



## Next Issue: Deadline is January 5<sup>th</sup>



### East Central Pomona No. 3



- ✓ Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- Coventry No. 75
- ✓ Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Marlborough No. 205

**EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3**

*Corr: John Waterhouse*  
**Dec. 6:** 7:30 P.M., Regular Meeting  
**Jan:** No Meeting  
East Central Pomona #3 will hold a regular meeting on December 6th at 7:30 P.M. in Good Will Grange Hall. The title of the program is “Bells are Ringing” - which is sure to get us into the holiday spirit.  
In October, we conferred the Fifth Degree on six candidates and took another ten by demit! We hope all will take the Sixth Degree and later the Seventh Degree in Hartford.  
We close our hall in January and February so we’ll not be meeting. The Connecticut State Grange office will be open in the lower level as usual during the winter months.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

**GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**

*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*  
**Dec. 4:** Glastonbury Grange will meet at 6:00 P.M. The meeting will be followed by our annual Holiday party.  
**Jan. 8:** Regular business meeting, 7:30 P.M.  
**Jan. 10:** Monte Carlo Whist Card Party- 7:00 P.M.  
Our December 4th meeting will be a short business meeting at 6:00 P.M. Our “Chef” Bob Nordstrom will prepare a Holiday Dinner for us with the help of several members. Members are asked to bring in “Books for Kids” in place of an exchange of gifts. These books will be delivered to Glastonbury Social Services Dept. We will enjoy holiday music, fun and games and the sociability of just being with good friends for our holiday meeting.  
Glastonbury Grange wishes all a very Merry

Christmas and a Happy and Joyous New Year.

**MANCHESTER GRANGE #31**

*Corr: Diane Small*  
**Dec. 3:** Needles and Pins (CWA)  
**Dec. 17:** Favorite Foods  
**Jan. 7:** Wood Stoves vs Oil (Cons. Safety)  
Say good bye to fall and hello to winter. Get the gloves, hats, boots, scarves and that new shovel that I’m sure you’ve bought, out and to the ready.  
Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy New Year. Hope everyone has done most of their Christmas shopping. Has anyone ever cooked a Christmas goose???

Just a brief write-up this time. Don’t forget to get your Cwa projects started. With the cold winter months, now is the time to also think about something extra for the Big E. Betty-Jane and her committee appreciate everything that our talented members donate. Good work everyone....

The next issue of the Granger will welcome in the new year....

**HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87**

*Corr: Rita J. Schaefer*  
**Dec. 7:** Christmas Party  
**Jan. 4:** 2009 Is Fine-Weather Permitting  
**Jan. 23:** Thank You MLK (CWA in Charge)

Everyone is looking forward to National Grange coming to Connecticut.

Now that State Session is over we can relax a little for what lies ahead for us in November. We will be having our Craft Fair and Baked Goods Sale on November 22 from 9am to 2pm. Donations and help are needed from our members. We have added some new members to our list and are still contacting others to join us. We will have only one meeting in December. Our January and February meetings

will be held weather permitting.  
With winter here we will be starting to meet to decide what projects we will do. We will be contacting our shut-ins during the holidays... our list gets longer and longer.  
Our Junior Grange is alive and working. They will be going on a field trip and possibly to the National Grange convention.  
On behalf of Hillstown Grange we wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.  
**MARLBOROUGH GRANGE #205**  
*Corr: Ruth K. Posuniak*  
**Dec. 4:** Regular Meeting - Time 11:00 AM - at the home of Barbara Cosgrove, 20 West Rd., Marlborough; Holiday Joy is the program - Everyone

bring a \$5.00 Grab Bag Gift; Ref: Barbara Cosgrove  
December’s Holiday Outing will be held. Date, Time and Place to be Announced.  
Two members of Marlborough Grange attended the CWA meeting on Nov 6th. A Merry Christmas and Healthy New Year is wished for all our Brothers and Sisters of the Grange.

**Wolf Den, Senexet donate dictionaries**

*by Chenoa Pierce, Villager Staff Writer*

Local third graders received an unexpected surprise as members of the Senexet Grange in Woodstock and Wolf Den Grange in Pomfret stopped by their schools Tuesday, Oct. 28 to give each student their very own dictionary.  
The visits were part of a nationwide program started five years ago that gives dictionaries to third graders every year. The dictionaries are to be kept at school during the year; unless otherwise specified by the teacher. at the end of the year, the students get to take the dictionary home.  
“These are for them to keep; they’re not just donated to the school,” said Senexet Grange member Tom Perry, who was on hand at Putnam Elementary School to help deliver the dictionaries to the four third-grade classes there with his wife Debby and mom Joan. A total of 97 dictionaries were given out at the school.  
All together, more than 250 dictionaries were given out to third-graders this year at Putnam Elementary School and St. Mary School in Putnam, Woodstock Elementary School and Pomfret Community School.  
Each dictionary comes complete with a special place for every third grader to write his or her name, which was the first thing Joan Perry pointed out to the children when visiting the classrooms. She also pointed out the U.S.A. map of states and capitals, the Roman numerals chart, cursive writing helper and the five big words sections at the back of each dictionary.  
“We always point that out,” said Tom Perry of the five big words, noting that Mary Poppin’s word “supe rcalifragilisticexpialidocio us” - the word to say when there is nothing to say- is included in the dictionary.  
According to Tom Perry, the dictionary may be small, but the knowledge



Above, Mrs. Blair's class receives its dictionaries. Below, students in Mrs. Heilmann's room are thrilled to receive their dictionaries.

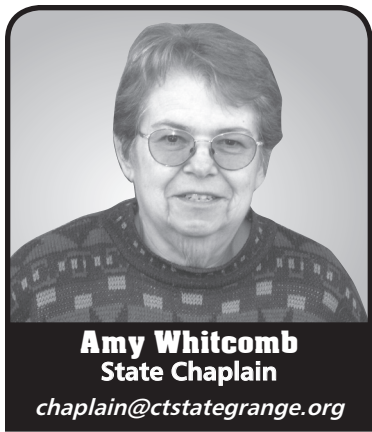


contained within is priceless.  
“It’s a very simple dictionary, but it’s got everything” they need, he said.  
The Senexet Grange got involved in the Dictionary Project during its inception, though not all of the schools they now give dictionaries were recipients at first.  
“[This is the] second year for the dictionary project,” said Tom Perry.  
This is also the first year the Wolf Den Grange in Pomfret has climbed on board with the project. Members from the Senexet Grange have handed out dictionaries to Pomfret Community School in the past.  
Wolf Den Grange member Sybil Williams visited Pomfret Community School with Tom Perry and Joan Perry. According to Joan, it was through her encouragement that the Wolf Den Grange got involved.  
“We have given to Pomfret in the past,” Joan Perry said. “I encouraged

them to take over.”  
The Wolf Den Grange gave out a total of 54 dictionaries to the three third-grade classes at Pomfret Community School and, much like the students at Putnam Elementary School, the PCS students were thrilled with their gifts.  
Even the teachers get excited about the dictionaries.  
“This is the perfect age for this because they are so interested,” said Dana Heilemann, third-grade teacher at Pomfret Community School.  
And the children love it when the Grange members stop by.  
“Most of the time, it’s a surprise,” said Joan Perry.  
The responses always come as a surprise to the Grange members as well.  
“You wouldn’t expect this much excitement [about a dictionary],” said Tom Perry.  
For more information about the Dictionary Project, visit [www.thedictionaryproject.com](http://www.thedictionaryproject.com).



# Chaplain's Message



As we welcome in this season of joy and birth may we turn our hearts away from ourselves and to others. Soon after we are born we develop a basic flaw- self centeredness. We think the world revolves around us and everyone else is here to make us happy and comfortable. First we get all our needs taken care of and then we start getting things from these people. Then we start getting more things and we cannot seem to get enough. As we grow older we not only see all the things others have, we hear all the things we should have and deserve.

Then some of the harsh realities of life set in. Two of the first lessons we learn are "No" and "Share". Talk about hard lessons! So as we mature we come to realize we are not really the center of the universe, even though we would like to be. It also occurs to us that the people we like the most are the ones who are caring, loving and giving. Another thought that occurs to us is that the people that we would much rather be around are these people, rather than the ones that are uncaring, cold and selfish. And somewhere along the line we face the important question, "Which kind of person do we want to be, givers or takers?" This battle rages on for a lifetime.

Our problem is when those things become too important. It's what happens when we do not understand that giving and receiving, sowing and reaping, are all part of the natural flow of life. May you and your families have a blessed holiday season.

### Mountain County Pomona No. 4

- ✓ Hope No. 20
- ✓ Whigville No. 48
- ✓ Eureka No. 62
- ✓ Winchester No. 74
- ✓ Taghannuck No. 100
- ✓ Litchfield No. 107
- Beacon No. 118
- ✓ Riverton No. 169

## MOUNTAINCOUNTYPOMONA #4

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*  
**Dec. 8:** "Follow the Star"- Gift Exchange \$5.00 value. Winchester Grange Hall. Coin collection for Connecticut Children's Hospital

Mountain County Pomona should be back on its regular meeting calendar when we gather for our Christmas Program "Follow the Star" at Winchester Grange Hall on December 8. A gift exchange will be held with the value of the gifts to be \$5. We will also hold our traditional coin collection to benefit the Connecticut Children's Hospital in Hartford.

Please note that a vote will be taken at this meeting to raise dues from \$2.50 to \$5.00. The decision to bring this issue to a vote was made at the November meeting and

held over for one meeting as provided in the By-Laws of the Pomona. No one likes the idea of having to raise dues but the Pomona has run a deficit consistently over the last couple of years even with the Spring Gift Fundraiser each year.

Happy Holidays to all from Mountain County Pomona No. 4.

## WHIGVILLE GRANGE #48

*Corr: Joyce Relihan*  
**Dec.. 10:** Holiday Potluck, 6 P.M.

Both of Whigville Grange delegates reported that they were pleased to represent their Grange at State Session and were delighted to see old friends and to make many new ones, and hopefully be able to represent Whigville Grange again next year.

Whigville Grange had 3 members take

## In Memoriam

Sylvia Sloat	Cheshire #23
Marion Haney	Cheshire #23
Nancy Rowe	Manchester #31
Helen Wronski	North Haven #35
Dorothy Miller, G.S.	Senexet #40

*G.S. denotes Golden Sheaf (50 Year) Members*

*Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed on page 2 of this issue. Thank you.*

the 6th degree at State Session and will have 6 taking the 7th Degree at National Session. We are very proud to have our youngestmemberCaraline McGrane be one of the Trumpet Girls, and to be taking the 7th Degree. She is very fortunate to have been picked for this, and to represent the State of Connecticut.

Some of our members have started working on projects for next year. We at Whigville Grange "WISH ALL OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS HAPPY HOLIDAYS."

## WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*  
**Dec. 6:** Pasta Dinner, 5-7pm (\$10 adults, \$5 children)

**Dec. 9:** "Deck the Halls"- Holiday Country Store, \$5 Gift Exchange, Toy Collection, Ref. Kim & Vinnie Mele

Out with the chicken and IN with the PASTA. Winchester is trying something new in December-- a Pasta Dinner! The dinner will be held on Saturday, December 6 from 5 to 7pm at the Grange Hall in Winchester Center. We would love to see you there!

The next regular meeting of Winchester Grange will be the only meeting of the month with the second meeting night falling very close to Christmas. December 9 will be a program entitled, "Deck the Halls." A holiday country store will be held along with a \$5 gift exchange and a toy collection to benefit area charities. Visitors are always welcome at Winchester Grange!

## RIVERTON GRANGE #169

*Corr: Gail Prelli*

Riverton Grange elected and installed Sister Cynthia Prelli as Secretary. Sister Gertrude (Peggy) Prelli had held this position for several years and Cindy Prelli said it would be her pleasure to assume these responsibilities in honor of Peggy. Our next meeting, Friday, November 21st, is a planned Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner in charge of Sisters Tilly Jackson and Shirley Moore. The harvest feast will be followed by a presentation by Brother Peter Keefe sharing the art of surveying 100 years ago. Brother Keefe, a surveyor, will talk about the equipment used in early days as he shows members and guests antique equipment used by Brother Rujo Moore's father.

In December we celebrate, "Joy to the World", the title of our lecturer's program on the 5th. This will be a regular meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. December 19th is our Christmas program and pot luck supper. We encourage members and friends to join us for the is open meeting and party. Riverton is fortunate to have many young families and often the hall is filled with joyfulness of little children for our Christmas meeting.

As we move into our 101st year as a Grange, Riverton starts 2009 with a regular meeting on January 2nd. What better way to start the New Year than joining friends at 7:30 for the singing and literary program entitled, "Auld Lang Syne".

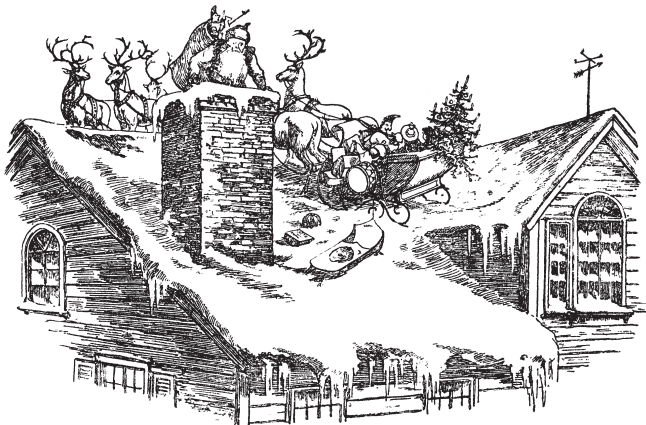
# State Lecturer



"I joined the Grange so I could meet new people --- square dances, drill teams, ball games and fairs. And there was so much involvement in the Community. Through the years it has been a very rewarding experience, and I now have many new friends. I'm glad I joined the Grange."

The above was written by Ethel Harris of Coventry Grange. She's glad she joined. I hope you are too.

Aaaaaaahh!! I bet you could hear the big sigh all over Connecticut. By the time you read this National Session will be over for 2008 and all our lives can get back to normal. I hope it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone.







**Wishing you a  
Joyous Holiday**  
*Earl & Sandy Phillips*

**Merry  
Christmas!**  
*Victor Salazar*



**Christmas & Holiday  
Greetings from**  
*Maggie & Rob Buck*

**Season's Greetings**  
*from the  
Meehan Family*

**Season's Greetings  
to All**  
*Central Pomona #1*

**Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year**  
*Anonymous*

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

**Happy Holidays**  
*from the Officers & Members  
of East Central Pomona*



**Happy Holidays  
from**  
*Killingly Grange #112*



**Greetings  
from**  
*Redding Grange #15*

**Good Health  
& Prosperity**  
*Marge & Bob Sendewicz*

**Wishing all a  
Very Merry Christmas**  
*Norfield Grange #146*

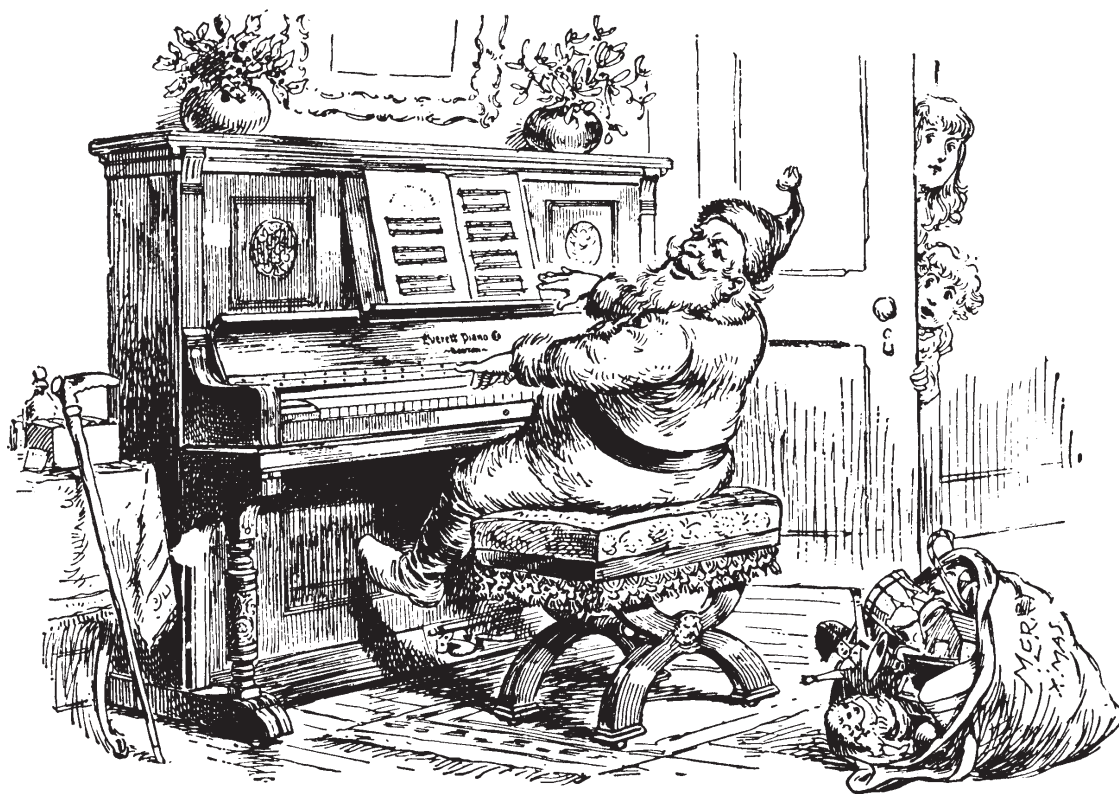


**Merry Christmas  
May God Bless America**  
*Louise Malatesta  
& Trumbull Grange #134*

**Merry Christmas**  
*from  
Cannon Grange #152*



**Merry Christmas  
to Everybody**  
*Norwich Grange*



**Merry Christmas &  
A Happy New Year**  
*Harmony Grange #92*



**Happy Holidays  
from**  
*Bethlehem Grange #121*

**Happy Holidays  
to All**  
*Kay Ruff*

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year to All**  
*Enfield Grange #151*



**Merry Christmas  
to All**  
*Gordon Gibson*



**Happy Holidays  
from**  
*Cindy & Ernie Finch*



**And to all a  
"Good Night"**  
*Jim & Pat Palmer*



**Blessed Holiday  
Season from**  
*Wolcott Grange #173*



**Happiest Christmas  
and Merriest of New Year**  
*Cindy, Ray, Amanda & Andy Legg*



**Season's  
Greetings**  
*Wallingford Grange #33*

