



# Connecticut Granger



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July 2015

## “Make your sifting tell”



**Noel T. Miller**  
State Master/President  
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Its summertime on the farm and in our lives. We are finishing up Degrees and Inspections across the State. I thank all Grangers for their hospitality given to the inspecting Deputies. Reports will be going out soon. In the Degrees I always like the “Sifting Song”. Especially the second verse, “Sift out fair virtue, love and truth, From envy, hate and strife, Write deeds of love and charity On each fair page of life. Sift to the right, sift to the left, sift backward, too as well. Sift up and down and forward sift, and make your sifting tell.” To me this song tells us that we as Grangers are to not judge others but to accept them for the potential good they have to our grange family. We should all re-read the degrees and songs for the

vital lesson they offer us to be good Grangers.

Let’s Celebrate was well attended and many enjoyed the talent contest in the afternoon. I thank the CWA Committee for their hard work on the needlework contest and the decorated flower pot contest.

I thank the Youth and Junior committee for the Shepard’s Pie luncheon, even though we ran out of salad, the dessert made up for that. I thank our Chaplain Charles Dimmick for the Grange service in the morning and our worthy Lecturer for hosting the A Number and talent contest. The weather was hot and the friendship of all was comfortable. Congrats to the winners.

The National Grange is seeking our support in donations for the Trademark fund and legal costs for the California State Grange Lawsuit. Letters have been sent to your Granges asking for your donations. The National Grange is looking for a \$10.00 donation from every Grange member in Connecticut. Please give if you can, this may delay another dues increase in the future.

The New England Grange Building at the Big E, will

be selling jams and jellies and needlework items again this year, the building will showcase new windows, columns, and a fresh coat of paint. The Grange rooms upstairs will be opened on the weekends and only it staffed, so I will be asking for volunteers to staff the rooms and those attending Grange Day, Sunday September 28.

A reminder to all Granges, read the digest before any decisions are made, in selling property, liquidating funds through donations, and selling Grange halls, and surrendering of your charter. The Digest is the rule book of the National Grange, which we all operate under State, Pomona, and Community Granges all. If you have questions ask the State Master or the State Board of Directors for answers. They may not be the answers you want to hear but they will not get you in trouble with the National Grange.

In closing this month I want to get back to the “Sifting Song”, for all of us to reflect upon. “And while your’s sifting don’t forget to always sift yourself.” Happy summer too all.

## Legislature needs special session

Gordon Gibson, Legislative Liaison

The 2015 session of the Connecticut General Assembly is now history, but a special session has been called to take care of the essential financial matters that were not acted on before the session had to adjourn at midnight on June 3. The session was called to order just after the regular session adjourned and was then immediately recessed until all the financial matters are in a form all sides agree is the best they can do. The problem is that there is not enough money to go around without substantially raising taxes. Governor Malloy submitted

a proposed budget that would have drawn money out of many special funds to help balance the general fund, but the advocates for the special funds lobbied long and hard to protect funds that have been dedicated for specific purposes from being siphoned off into the general fund.

From the Grange’s point of view, along with many other organizations, one of the biggest raids proposed was to transfer of the funds from the Community Investment Act to the general fund. The Community Investment Act is funded by a surcharge on every deed, mortgage, release or other document filed on the land records

throughout the state. The funds are then used to preserve agricultural land, provide grants to farmers to keep their farms viable, purchase land for parks, forests and other state conservation areas, historic preservation and affordable

*Continued on page 2*

## Ekonk joins parade



Members of Ekonk Community Junior Grange No. 101 participated in the Sterling Memorial Day Parade by riding on their annual float.

## Increased prevalence of Lyme disease found in Connecticut

New Haven, CT - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) announced today that 34% of blacklegged ticks (*Ixodes scapularis*) submitted to the Tick Testing Laboratory thus far this year have tested positive for the Lyme disease agent, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. This represents an increase of nearly 7% from an average of 26% over the last five years of testing, 2010 to 2014.

Also announced was an expansion of the program to include testing for two emerging tick-associated pathogens for the first time: *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, the causative agent of Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis, and *Babesia microti*, the causative agent of Babesiosis, for which 12.0% and 3.6% of ticks have tested positive, respectively.

“These findings highlight the growing risk of human infection with tick-associated diseases throughout the state and the importance of taking precautionary measures to avoid tick bites” said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director, CAES.

The CAES Tick Testing Program was established in 1990 as a service to local health departments and districts in order to assist physicians and Connecticut residents concerning treatment. Each year, an average of 3,000 ticks are submitted for testing. In the past, testing was limited to the Lyme disease agent, but in view of increasing human cases of this and other tick-related illnesses in the state, testing has been expanded.

“The expansion of this program to include three important tick-associated pathogens that cause human disease represents a significant enhancement of our tick testing services” said Dr. Goudarz Moleai, who directs the

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### Next Issue...



Articles and Photos for the next issue are due on JULY 6.



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

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# Budget requires special session

*Continued from page one...*  
housing grants. The Working Lands Alliance, of which the Grange is a member, lobbied long and hard to protect these funds. We have been reasonably successful so far, but we are waiting to see what is proposed in the budget presented to the upcoming special session of the General Assembly.

State agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, asked the General Assembly for additional funding in their 2014-2015 budgets to cover unanticipated costs. The Finance Committee a hearing on these requests where each agency pleaded their case. After the agencies were done the hearing was opened to the for comment, but the only public present were all representing organizations connected through the Working Lands Alliance. In the end none of the agencies received any funds, but those of us who spoke feel our presence at the hearing will help protect some of the community investment act funds.

One important bill that was passed and signed into law by Governor Malloy allows the Department of Agriculture to reimburse farmers who are leasing State or town owned land for up to 90% of the cost of implementing a farm resources management or plan provided the lease runs for at least five more. Over the years the State has purchased many acres of productive farm land and pasture which has since grown over into brush and trees because it was not

farmed. The intent of this law is to bring what was once productive farm land back into usable land. Anyone interested in obtaining such a grant should contact the Department of Agriculture and reference Public Act 15-22. Similar grants for preserving or restoring privately owned land are authorized for up to 50% of the project cost or 20,000, whichever is less. The remaining big question is how money the Department of Agriculture will have available to fund these grants.

A bill was filed that, if passed, would have exempted the value of land under the so-"490 program" from being included in a person's estate for purposes of calculating the inheritance tax the survivors must pay. In too many cases a family wants to preserve their farm but finds they must sell part or all of it to raise the cash to pay the inheritance taxes on the farmland. The bill passed the Environment

Committee and was put on the House Calendar for debate, but was then referred to the Finance Committee where it died without coming back to the House

Last year at State Grange we passed a resolution opposing people driving cars while animals were in their laps. An almost identical bill was filed in the State Senate this year and was referred to the Transportation Committee. I was the only person who gave testimony in support of this bill. The public hearing that day also included a bill concerning the restoration of tolls on major highways, so the hearing was well covered by the press. My testimony was picked up by the Associated Press and was reported by newspapers across the country. While the bill died in the Transportation Committee the Grange got more public mention out of the bill than we could ever afford to buy.

## Paradigm honored



Prospect Grange #144 presented certificates of recognition to the 151 employees of Paradigm Health Center for dedicating their lives to helping the disabled and elderly. This was part of our Grange month program.



**Granger Shout Out**



**Cannon's Michele Clark - for organizing our Grange to participate in Wilton Go-Green**



**From Cannon Grange, Sarah Shepherded - for preparing the packets of green bean seeds for giveaway at Silent Movies and Go-Green**



**From Cannon Grange, John Mucci - for a great presentation of Silent Movies**



**From Cannon Grange, Bil Mikulewicz - for preparing our Hall rental brochure**



**Nancy Arena (Killingly #112)- Auction Event Chairperson - for her hard work for a very successful event!**



**Congratulations Jaimie Cameron & Jacob Gervais-winners 2015 Quinebaug Pomona Scholarships!**



**To State Master Noel Miller for visiting with Granby Grange at the June 9 meeting held at Windsor Locks Restaurant.**



**Thank you to Barbara Standley of Harmony Grange for donating a large collection of vintage patriotic pins for the jewelry sale in the State Grange Store.**



**Ekonk earned \$783.00 for RELAY FOR LIFE!**



**From the Social Connection Committee - To everyone who attended our Fun Fair. We hope you had a good time.**

**Submit your Shout-Outs today!**

Granger@CTStateGrange.org  
Mail to: P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, Connecticut 06069

# Prevalence of Lyme disease increases in state

County	Number Ticks Tested	Percent (%) Positive		
		<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	<i>Babesia microti</i>	<i>Anaplasma phagocytophilum</i>
Fairfield	610	31.1	14.2	4.8
New Haven	189	38.1	15.6	3.9
Hartford	75	32.0	19.4	3.0
Litchfield	46	50.0	15.2	8.7
Middlesex	36	30.6	5.6	2.8
New London	17	35.3	5.9	5.9
Tolland	10	60.0	20.0	0
Windham	3	66.7	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>986</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>

*Continued from page one...*

program. "With the introduction of new molecular-based methods the average turnaround time has now been reduced to three days or less".

Lyme disease is the most prevalent arthropod-associated disease in the U.S., with an estimated 300,000 cases per year. From 2010 to 2014, 13,983 human cases of Lyme disease, 659 cases of Babesiosis and 286 cases of Anaplasmosis were reported in Connecticut.

**Table: Prevalence of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Babesia microti*, and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* in *Ixodescapularis* ticks tested at the CAES Tick Testing Laboratory, 2015**

## Excelsior Pomona No. 7



- ✓ Beacon Valley No. 103
- ✓ Bethlehem No. 121
- Prospect No. 144
- ✓ Bridgewater No. 153
- Wolcott No. 173
- ✓ Oxford No. 194

### MISSION STATEMENT

Excelsior Pomona's collective voice is used as an effective tool to further the Grange's good works locally and throughout the state.

### BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Our program for July 10<sup>th</sup> is "Hawaii 5-0"- Neighbor's Night. Come and shake your hips. We have a new portable air conditioner so our hall hopefully will be cool.

### BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

July 27: Exchange Officers Night; Ref. John – Ellen Samoska

Our Flea Market was successful despite our table spaces being down.

We honored Joe Shapanis as our Citizen of the Year with a good number of guests and a talk on Post Roads and Iron Horses by Richard DeLuca.

Eloise Osuch, Rob & Maggie Buck and I went to Nonnewaug Vo-Ag and gave them potato seed and beans for their garden. Produce will go to food banks in the area.

We also had an information table at the Bethlehem Memorial Day Parade.

A memorial service was held for five of our members who passed last year. The graces placed roses on the altar for them.

Save the date: August 16, Sunday, for the Pomona Picnic at noon at the home of Al Maddox. This is a potluck and all are welcome.

### BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Charles Perry

The Bridgewater Grange will have a roast beef dinner on Sat July 18th. The dinner will go from 5:30 to 7:30 PM and will be held at Saint Marks Church. The price will be 15 dollars. If this dinner goes well we may continue with the roast beef dinners maybe twice a year. We will have other types of dinners this Fall such as a farm to table type dinner. Whatever events we have they will be in Saint Marks Church or some other building other than our Grange Hall. The town has condemned the building but the future of the site is still to be determined. Despite this problem the Grange is alive and kicking and will remain a part of the Bridgewater community.

We will have our regular monthly meeting on Wednesday July 8th at 7:30 in Saint Marks Church.

### OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Maggie Buck

Oxford Grange in conjunction with the Oxford Cultural Arts Commission is having a potluck supper followed by an open mic night on July 13, 2015, at 6:00 pm. We have held a number of these open mic nights and the musicians are very nice, would like to see a larger audience here to enjoy them. We are also expecting a few actors/musicians from the Renaissance Fair group to visit us that night. If the weather is nice there will be an opportunity to sit outside in the gazebo too.



Todd A. Gelineau  
State Secretary  
secretary@ctstategrange.org

The Grange year is moving along quickly! We will be at the Sheraton in Rocky Hill before we know it! Registration information will be out soon to allow all to make their plans to attend State Session. The Sheraton was very comfortable for us last year and we can look forward to several more years at this very convenient and beautiful location.

Soon letters will be going out to all Granges asking for complete mailing lists of members. As always, the lists compiled by the State Grange are not sold to marketing companies. The Digest does require that all Granges file copies of their lists quarterly. We ask Secretaries to provide the initial complete list when the letter comes out and then each quarter simply submit a list of changes/corrections/additions for us to update the list you have previously provided.

The Quarterly Report forms that have been used by the CSG for quite a long time will be changing. I expect to roll out the new forms for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter (when reports are filed for the quarter ending September 30). I don't take this process lightly and want to create a form that is simple to understand and easy to use. Getting it right before introducing it is extremely important as I know many of you are used to the old forms and will have difficulty in making the change. Along with those new forms, a change/correction sheet will be attached that you are asked

# State Secretary

to fill out each quarter with changes to the mailing list that you have previously provided. Please give me a call or send an email if you have any questions.

Two other mailings also went out in the last couple of months. We sent out State Directory update sheets to each of the Granges. We ask that all Granges mark the changes on the sheets as directed and get them back to me at the Central Office as soon after you hold your election as possible. It is my goal to get the Directory out to the Granges as soon after State Session as possible but that can only happen if we have all of the information back from the Granges.

A form was sent out asking Granges to let us know how many dues receipt booklets are needed for the 2016 Grange year. Please fill it out and send it in or simply send me an email to let me know. I would like to have these out to all Granges prior to Sept. 1 but that can't happen if we don't hear from everyone.

I was also asked by the Social Committee to

send out applications for the Granger of the Year contest. I know that the committee would love to have many more nominees for the award. There's no reason why each Grange in the State cannot come up with at least one nominee for the award. Put on your thinking caps and submit your entries soon!

Get them while they last! There are only five t-shirts remaining. XL is the size and \$15.00 is the price (plus shipping). Please email or call if you would like one—time is running out. We are already talking about new items to offer for sale in the CT Grange Store—more info as it becomes available.



## Hank's Stars and Stripes Cake

Ready, set, celebrate! Go patriotic with this all-American cake. This is easy to make, and perfect for Grange refreshments and picnics, and is all the reason you need for a summer-time get-together.

### Betty Crocker's Stars and Stripes Cake

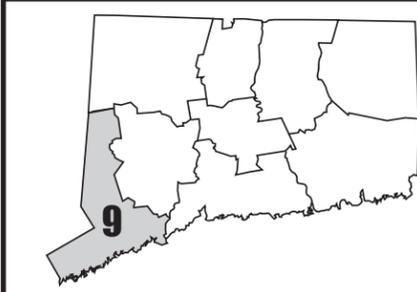
- 1 box Betty Crocker™ SuperMoist™ yellow cake mix
- Water, vegetable oil and eggs called for on cake mix box
- 1 container Betty Crocker™ Rich & Creamy or Whipped vanilla frosting
- 1/3 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 pint fresh strawberries
- Heat oven to 350°F (325°F for dark or nonstick pan). Make and bake cake as directed on box for 13x9-inch pan. Cool completely, about 1 hour.
- Frost with frosting. Arrange berries on frosted cake to make flag design. Serve immediately. Cover and refrigerate any remaining cake.
- Source: <http://www.bettycrocker.com/recipes/stars-and-stripes-cake/7052e392-a539-4eb4-8bf9-473d9a8eed4f>

**PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. Thank You!**

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**DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS**  
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## Fairfield County Pomona No. 9



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

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Fairfield County Pomona* is made up of Community Granges with a special interest in leadership development, who come together to share information and fellowship and through legislative action addresses the needs of all its members and communities.

### NORFIELD GRANGE #146

Corr: Ruth L. Hickcox

**July 14:** Stars&Stripes/ Fourth of July Celebration 7:30

**Aug. 11:** Grange Barbeque (All are welcome!) 6:30

On May 12 at our monthly meeting we met with State Officer Gene Piacentini and his wife Karen McDonald for our annual review and "traditional" meeting. Our Community Tag Sale was on May 29 through 31. Our Fair will be on September 13. We also discussed plans for the Norfield Grange 120th Anniversary celebration which will be held on January 29, 2016 - with the idea of having a Barn Dance and dinner.

The Girl Scouts are going to build a fire pit for Norfield Grange, and we will be painting the outside of our hall. Finally, congratulations to Laura Clark, who won our strawberry Cupcake contest!

### CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

July 2 - Pot Luck Supper at 6 PM

July 16 - Business Meeting August 6 - Business Meeting

August 30 - Annual Agricultural Fair

December 5 - Holiday Market

Two fabulous events in May were enjoyed by our members, and neighbors and friends from the community: Silent Movies presented by John Mucci and Cardiac Health presented by Nancy Capelle. Both events were part of our year-long series of events and programs on "Healthy Living". The Silent Movies provided an opportunity to pause and relax from our busy lives and to enjoy the hilarity of the movie story-line. Laughter is good for our health. Nancy shared her personal story of surviving cardiac arrest and a heart attack (both events happened simultaneously). Based on this program, some of our members have taken

action to become certified in doing CPR and using an AED. One of our members is already a state-certified EMS professional with Wilton EMS.

Our Grange participated in the Wilton Go-Green event in early May where we provided membership information, and gave away packets of bush bean seeds; including details on how to plant them and then to enter the green beans in our summer fair!

Our annual Agricultural Fair is planned for Sunday, August 30th from 10 AM to 4 PM. It's a great little Fair that attracts 2500+ people throughout the day. We'll have musical entertainment and food throughout the day, and a nice assortment of vendors selling their wares. The main attraction, of course, will be the many judged exhibits inside the Hall of horticulture, baking, sewing, photography, eggs and crafts.

Looking ahead, please note that our Holiday Market will be on Saturday, December 5th. This event is reminiscent of the European Christmas Markets, especially those found in Germany where one can purchase beautiful handmade items, flowers & plants, candies, baked goods, and of course enjoy holiday music & food while shopping.

Please note our event schedule. Visiting Patrons are always welcome -- won't you join us?

### GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Dennis Rich

**July 20:** "Picnic/Fair Planning"; Picnic 6 P.M., Meeting 7 P.M.

**Aug. 22:** Annual Agricultural Fair, 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

May was both a busy and festive time for us. It started with an enjoyable concert with the "Benefit Street Band" and E.C. Bradley. Mid-month, we had Seedling Exchange, with an increased participation as compared

with last year. Meanwhile the future Junior group was active making "Saw Horse" style devices to support climbing gardens. In the evening we enjoyed a "Spring Fling Pasta Night" capped off with a talk by Lee Ganim, "That Garden Guy." He has a radio show at 8:30 A.M. on WICC 600 on Sunday mornings.

Anyone needing a fair booklet for exhibit categories should contact Steve Golias, our chairman and lecturer, should call him at 203-367-4373. He also will have information for anyone interested in vendor space.

The summer will be highlighted by a celebration of the Fairfield Community

Garden. Date and specifics will be available from Eric Frisk at 203-256-8439. Plant Science Day will take place August 5<sup>th</sup> at Lockwood Farm off Route 10 in Hamden, CT.

Let's look forward to a productive summer. All of our Grange friends are welcome to our meetings and activities.

## Severe Gypsy Moth Outbreak

**New Haven, CT** – The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) announced today that there has been widespread gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, activity and some tree defoliation this summer across areas of Connecticut. Reports of activity have been most notable in New Haven, Middlesex, and parts of Hartford and New London counties. In 2014, aerial surveys in late summer and early fall by CAES found relatively little gypsy moth defoliation; 1,337 acres, mostly in New Haven County. Unfortunately, with a very dry spring in 2015, there was no early control of the gypsy moth by the gypsy moth fungus *Entomophaga maimagia*. Moisture is required for the fungus to infect the gypsy moth larvae (caterpillars) and little or no precipitation was available for the fungus to provide control of young caterpillars. With current rains, however, we are now seeing caterpillar mortality from the fungus. "It is likely that this pathogen will knock back the gypsy moth population and help prevent a possible large outbreak in 2016" said State Entomologist Dr. Kirby Stafford. The impact of the fungus on any gypsy moths in 2016 will be dependent on weather conditions in May and early June of next year. Observed tree defoliation in southern New London County, however, is likely due to a different forest pest, the winter moth, *Operophtera brumata*, which also damaged trees in the southeastern part of the state in 2014.

The gypsy moth was first detected in Connecticut in Stonington in 1905. The high level gypsy moth activity this year shouldn't mark a return to multiple years of widespread gypsy moth defoliation and the tree mortality experienced in the early 1980s. In 1981, 1.5 million acres were defoliated in Connecticut. Christopher Martin, Director of Forestry at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, noted that in general, "partial or even complete defoliation of a tree in any one year does not mean the death of the tree. Healthy trees can tolerate some defoliation". During a large outbreak in 1989, scientists at CAES discovered the entomopathogenic fungus *Entomophaga maimagia* was killing the caterpillars. This fungus has been the major agent suppressing gypsy moth activity since then. However, the fungus is not expected to prevent all outbreaks and occasional high activity and outbreaks can continue to occur, particularly in years with little rainfall during the spring and early summer. The last outbreak of gypsy moth activity in Connecticut was in 2005 and 2006. In 2005, gypsy moth caterpillars caused 64,273 acres of defoliation, mainly in Middlesex County. A more widespread outbreak in 2006 caused 251,946 acres of defoliation, largely in Middlesex, New Haven, and New London counties. It was eventually brought under control by the fungus and the arrival of early summer rains; a pattern similar to this year. There

was substantially less gypsy moth activity in 2007 with defoliation of only 3,203 acres.

There is only one generation of the gypsy moth each year. Caterpillars hatch from the buff-colored egg masses in late April or early May. An egg mass may contain 100 to more than 1000 eggs laid in several layers. A few days after hatching, the ¼ inch long caterpillars will ascend the tree and begin to feed on new leaves. These young caterpillars deposit silk trails as they crawl and, as they drop from branches on these threads, may be distributed on the wind. Larger caterpillars generally crawl up and down tree trunks and feed mainly at night. They seek cool, shaded protective sights during the day. However, under outbreak conditions with dense populations of caterpillars, they may feed continuously day and night and crawl at any time. The caterpillars generally complete their feeding sometime around the end of June and the first of July and seek a protected place to pupate and transform into an adult moth in about 10 to 14 days. Male moths are brown and can fly. The female moths are white and cannot fly. The female moth will lay a single egg mass and die. These eggs will pass through the winter and larvae will hatch the following late April or early May.

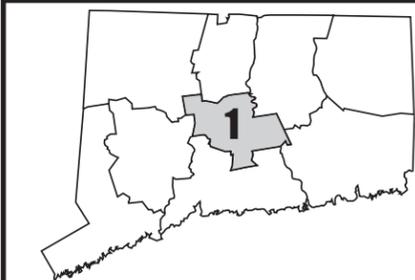
It is past time for management or treatment options to control the gypsy moth this year. This fall, one control measure would be to remove and destroy egg masses, if any, found on tree trunks, decks, vehicles, outdoor furniture and other locations around the property before the larvae hatch next spring. The difficulty is that many egg masses may be located in inaccessible areas (i.e., high in the trees). While there are a number of insecticides labeled for the control of gypsy moth on ornamental trees and shrubs, they need to be applied early in the season and thorough coverage of the treated trees by a licensed arborist is necessary for good control.

Questions can be addressed to Dr. Kirby Stafford at (203) 974-8485, Dr. Victoria Smith at (203) 974-8474 or to Dr. Gale Ridge in our insect information office at (203) 974-8600.



Close-up of gypsy moth caterpillars with many dying or dead from the fungus, *Entomophaga maimagia* (Photo by Dr. Gale Ridge, CAES).

# Central Pomona No. 1



- Southington No. 25
- Meriden No. 29
- Higganum No. 124
- ✓ Hemlock No. 182

### MISSION STATEMENT

Central Pomona No. 1 will support its Subordinate/Community Granges through programs and activities by actively contributing its talents and resources. Central Pomona supports local, State and National charities; educational and youth programs.

### HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

July 10: Our River

July 24: Omit- Summer Vacation

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

## Better provisions needed in Feds Broadband plan

Today's global economy demands that every participant have access to reliable, high-speed Internet in order to attain a level playing field to actively participate in the virtual business marketplace. Although rural America constitutes 15% of our total population, it is these men and women and families who keep food on our tables, fuel in our cars and provide energy for our homes and businesses. We owe it to them to implement the infrastructure to provide broadband internet services. Americans living in rural areas still lack access to this vital resource.

Historically, rural areas have been the last to gain access to new conveniences. Broadband Internet, however, is not merely a convenience—it is essential to the business of agriculture, farming and ranching and nearly every other aspect of life in rural America. Rural communities are profoundly and adversely affected by poor access to high-speed Internet. Right now we have the chance to change that once and for all with appropriate reforms during Phase II of the Connect America Fund (CAF) plan; it's up to the Federal Communications Commission to make the right choices.

There's a lot at stake with the CAF initiative, so we must get it right; the consequences, good or bad, could stretch over decades. The National Grange has always advocated for updating rural infrastructure, as it did for the railroads and rural postal delivery, and now the emphases is with rural broadband Internet. Modern farming and ranching is like any other business; it relies heavily on technology and information. Dairy production and crop yields can be monitored and data shared in real time between different farms and the marketplace. Commodities prices can also be followed to help determine what crops to plant and when to harvest.

The plan is centered on more than doubling required download speed from 4 Mbps to 10 Mbps. That would be fantastic, but it won't make a big difference if other related aspects of the CAF plan are not improved as well.

Providers still need better incentives to build out the infrastructure to reach rural areas, the most isolated, and hard-to-reach areas. Connect America Fund (CAF) resources can be used to share some of the financial burden for those efforts. Providers should be held to elevated but reasonable standards and need enough flexibility to handle the unexpected hindrances that are bound to occur with a project like this.

Perhaps most important, our families and communities can be strengthened through better access and higher download speeds. Jobs can be created and local economies improved. Services that eliminate some travel over large distances in many rural areas, such as telemedicine and distance learning, can save energy, develop a better rural workforce and improve quality of life.

Rural Americans need and deserve equal access to top-notch broadband Internet service. As a fifth-generation Granger myself, I urge the FCC to enact the "right rules and regulations" to get the most out of the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II represents.

Joan C. Smith is President of Potomac Grange #1, Washington, DC.



By Hank the Burro

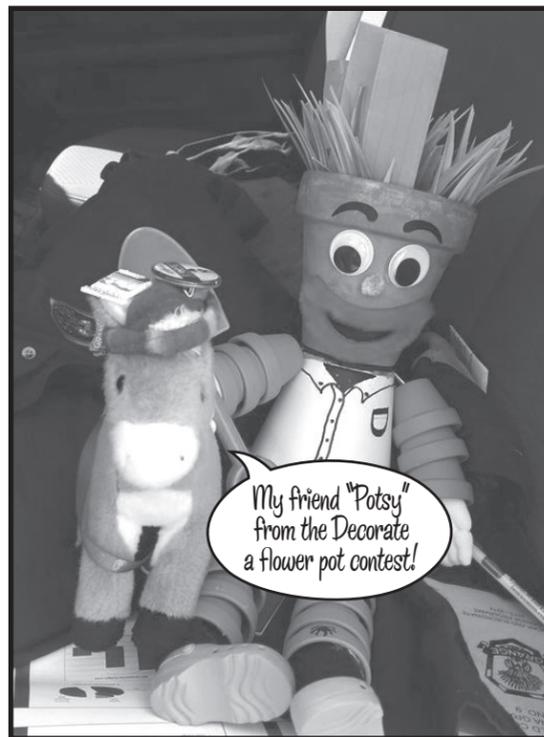
Hello Grange Friends!

June was time for Let's Celebrate Day. I had a great time seeing all of my Grange friends. I even was a judge for one of the contests too!

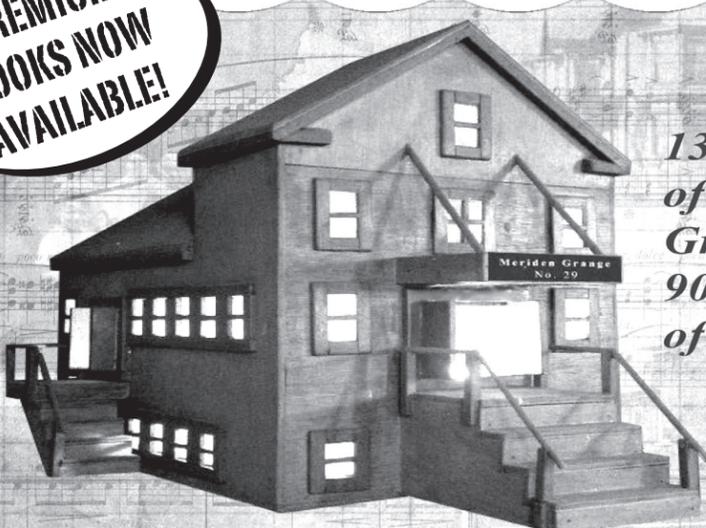
We then visited Winchester Grange on June 21st for their Strawberry Festival. I got meet a new friend name Potsy who's Sue Addison's entry in the decorated flower pot contest. I was stuffed after eating strawberry shortcake!

Where will we go next??? Send me an invitation and maybe we will go to your Grange! And if you haven't already liked my Facebook page, please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>

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



**PREMIUM BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE!**



*130<sup>th</sup> Anniv. of Meriden Grange and 90<sup>th</sup> Anniv. of our Hall*

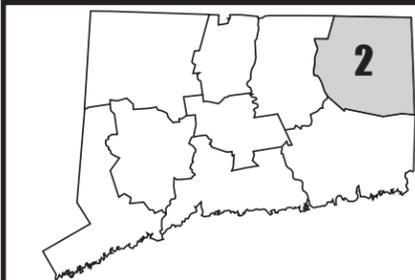
## 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Fair

Sponsored by  
**Meriden Grange, No. 29**

**September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015** - From 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM  
At the Meriden Grange Hall, 540 Broad Street, Meriden, CT

[www.meridengrango.org/grangeagfair.asp](http://www.meridengrango.org/grangeagfair.asp)

## Quinebaug Pomona No. 2



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

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Quinebaug Pomona* supports and assists the communities within its jurisdiction through a financial and physical presence. We offer the Community Granges assistance and support for their programs and activities.

### EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

*Corr: Sue Gray*

We continue donating to the Oneco family that is in dire straits. Members keep stepping up to the plate with money and food donations. Link Cooper, Jody Cameron and David Griffiths led the 15 member team that diligently worked to provide all of the food at the Plainfield Relay for Life-earning \$783.00 that was donated to Relay for Life at the event's conclusion! The Cameron's invited us to their new home for our July meeting--bring a pot luck item. The Cameron's will provide the meat. You can also bring your bathing suit and enjoy their pool. Thanks to the Sebastian family for their generous donation of a chest freezer!

Several new faces in our line officers for the coming year. Bill Sebastian-Vice President; Natasha Ignacia-Steward and Carly Sebastian-Greeter! Jody Cameron is President-elect and Link Cooper will serve as our Program Director! Katie Molodich will now serve on the Executive Board. A date of Sunday, July 19th was set for our Awards Luncheon. Link Cooper and Paulette Craig volunteered to Chair the event. We have 545 years of Grange membership awards to be presented: 5 to 75 years and eleven members being honored! Our July 18th Blueberry Supper will feature stuffed chicken breast and Blueberry Crisp with vanilla ice cream.

### KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

*Corr: Julie Jussaume*

**July 15:** (Wed.) Dinner 5 to 7 P.M.

**July 20:** (Mon.) 6 P.M., Picnic and Paper Bag Bingo

**July 22 & 29:** (Wed) Machine Sewing for Beginners 6:45 P.M.

**July 25:** Flea Market at the Grange (\$20 per table)

We would like to thank Glenna Bruno for her dedication to our Grange and congratulate her on 50 years of membership. Glenna has been very active in the Grange and writing articles for the Granger for many years and is now stepping back. We wish her well. Congrats to Josie Stenback for 50 years and many more.

On June 6 we had a very successful Roast Pork Dinner and Silent Auction. Thank you for supporting us.

### WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

*Corr: Elsie Johnson*

**July 8:** Neighbor's Night – 7 P.M., Ref. All

**July 22:** Picnic

**Aug. 12:** What's New? Membership Committee

Well, summer is here – hot, humid, thunderstorms!

Dan has a good crop of strawberries and peas are in blossom. As for other vegetables- who knows; can only hope. Tabs and labels are coming in.

Master has been in contact with P.C. School and will go to visit when notified to present English awards when notified what night and time.

Due to Chicken Flu- egg products are going up in price. Like gas prices – up again.

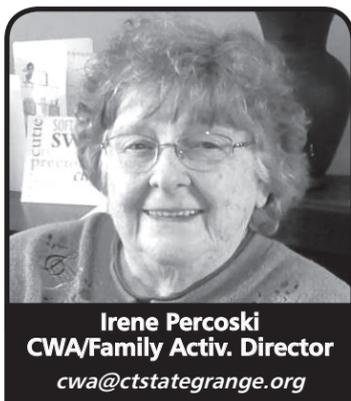
Beware of bikes and kids on the move with school out for the summer. Always be on the watch for ticks. Brush your pets afterwards- then bring them in. Happy summer.

# Stenback honored by Killingly



Congratulations to Josie Stenback for 50 years of continuous membership with Killingly Grange #112. Sister Stenback receives her Golden Sheaf from Killingly Master Pat Valys.

## Thanks for entering



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

*Corr: Margaret Sendewicz*

The CWA and the Big E. The Connecticut State Grange CWA entrants were judged at Cheshire Grange on July 13. The first place winners in

each category will be going to the New England Building at the Big E in West Springfield, Mass. This September for judging in the Northeast Connection.

I hope that you won a blue ribbon. The Big E is a very large stage for these entries to be seen. They will be viewed by thousands of visitors to the New England Grange Building during the Big E Fair. The first place winners there will go on to the National Grange Session this November.

The CWA entries are not the only displays visitors to the building will see. The building is full of all the creative

talents that the members of the Granges in the Northeast Connection have donated to the building for sale. The afghans, quilts, mittens, scarves, baby sets, crafts and everything imaginable are on sale there. The sale of these items constitute the sole revenue of the building and along with all the literature and knowledgeable staff exemplify the purpose of the Grange to the public.

I hope that if your entry didn't make it this year you will try again next year and I hope to see many of you at the New England Grange Building this September.

# 2015 CSG CWA Winners

### Class A – Afghans

- 1- Elizabeth Lubin . . . . . Beacon Valley #103
- 2- Maryalce Lee . . . . . Cheshire #23
- 3- Diane Lieth . . . . . Colchester #78

### Class B – Doilies

- 1- Josephine Fazzino. . . . . Beacon Valley #103
- 2- Maureen Taylor . . . . . Colchester #78
- 3- Carol Nelson. . . . . Vernon #52

### Class C – Embroidery

- 1- Shirley Moore . . . . . Riverton #169
- 2- Edith Schoell. . . . . Manchester # 31
- 3- Susan Marin . . . . . Beacon Valley #103

### Class D – Baby Set

- 1- Mary Tischofer . . . . . Colchester #78
- 2- Lois Evankow . . . . . Lyme # 147
- 3- Bernice Niro . . . . . Southington #25

### Class E – Plastic Canvas

- 1- Joan Ziegler . . . . . Redding #15
- 2- Marita Rand . . . . . Lyme # 147
- 3- Shirley Moore . . . . . Riverton #169

### Class F – Counted Cross Stitch

- 1- Mariellen Baxter . . . . . Vernon # 52
- 2- Barbara Foskett . . . . . Cheshire # 23
- 3- Cindy Legg . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103

### Class G – Adult Garment

- 1- Cindy Legg . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103

### Class H – Latch Hook

- 1- Dorothy Joselovitz . . . . . Redding # 15
- 2- Lois Evankow . . . . . Lyme # 147

### Class I – Quilted Wall Hanging

- 1- Lois Evankow . . . . . Lyme # 147
- 2- Karen MacDonald . . . . . Redding # 15
- 3- Cindy Legg . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103

### Class J – Stuffed Toy

- 1- Maryalce Lee . . . . . Cheshire # 23
- 2- Lois Evankow . . . . . Lyme # 147
- 3- Cindy Legg . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103

### Class K – Baby Afghans

- 1- Dorothy Joselovitz . . . . . Redding # 15
- 2- Elizabeth Lubin . . . . . Beacon Valley #103
- 3- Dorothy Mrowka . . . . . Colchester # 78

### Craft Contest – Needlework

- 1- Joan Ziegler . . . . . Redding # 15
- 2- Doris Johnson . . . . . Cheshire # 23
- 3- Shirley Moore . . . . . Riverton #169

### Craft Contest – Other Media

- 1- Cathryn Russi . . . . . Colchester # 78
- 2- Michelle Burnhardt. . . . . Cheshire # 23
- 3- Doris Johnson . . . . . Cheshire # 23

### Baking Contest

- 1- Clarissa Mathewson . . Groton Community # 213
- 2- Barbara Roberts . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103
- 3- Mary Lee Manning . . . . . Coventry # 75

### Decorate A Flower Pot – Most Original

- 1- Robert Sendewicz . . . . . Redding # 15
- 2- Rev. Robert Corwell . . . . . Stonington # 168
- 3- Nancy Rotman. . . . . Cheshire # 23

### Decorate A Flower Pot – Prettiest

- 1- Cathryn Russi . . . . . Colchester #78
- 2- Cindy Legg . . . . . Beacon Valley # 103
- 3- Mina Meehan . . . . . Prospect Hill # 144

### Junior Baking Contest

- 1- Grace Ehrhorn . . . . . Stonington # 168

### Junior Craft Contest

- 1- Angelina DeDominicus Hillstown Jr. Grange # 87

### Junior Decorate A Flower Pot

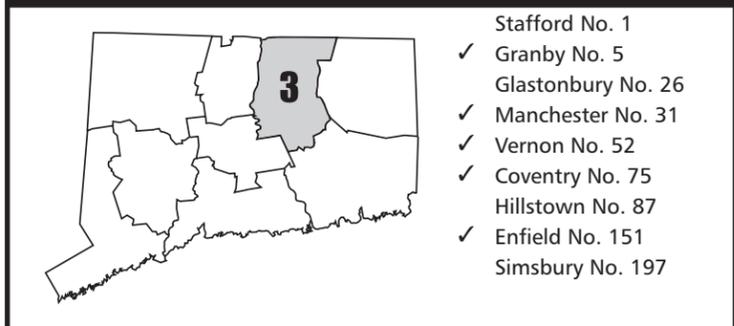
- 1- Angelina DeDominicus Hillstown Jr. Grange # 87
- 2- Noella Burette . . . . . Hillstown Jr. Grange # 87

Thank you one and all for the wonderful response to our contests. The judges were very impressed with the quality of the workmanship that went into your entries. All first place winners will be forwarded on to the Judging at the Big E in September. I have no doubt more ribbons and prize money will be awarded to our entrants there.

Next Year's contests are being planned already so keep an eye on the Granger for some changes and I hope some surprises.

– Irene Percoski

## East Central Pomona No. 3



- Stafford No. 1
- ✓ Granby No. 5
- Glastonbury No. 26
- ✓ Manchester No. 31
- ✓ Vernon No. 52
- ✓ Coventry No. 75
- Hillstown No. 87
- ✓ Enfield No. 151
- Simsbury No. 197

### MISSION STATEMENT

East Central Pomona supports the Community Granges by helping one another; through legislative advocacy and by supporting community service efforts.

### E. CENTRAL POMONA #3

Corr: Noel Miller

No summer meetings. See you on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Coventry Grange hosts.

Congratulations to Hillstown Grange for winning the A Number contest at Let's Celebrate and Jon Hykes for third place in the talent section of the contest. We are looking to move our June meeting to Vernon and close our January and February meetings due to snow cancellation in the past two years. It will be discussed in September. Have a great summer to all.

### GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Vivian Shaw

Granby Grange will hold its annual Agricultural Fair on Sept. 4 & 5 with the chicken Barbecue being held on Friday with music after the meal. On Saturday, all can enjoy the exhibits of fruits, vegetables, baking, canned items. Later on... more comics and music!

### MANCHESTER GRANGE #31

Corr: Maryanne Stone

July 7: Liberty and Justice For All Program All Members  
Aug 18: Flip Flops and Sun

Lotion Paula

Manchester Grange #31 was inspected on June 2 with State Master Noel Miller doing the inspection. Hank was present and as always a great guest.

Hank and the Millers also visited us May 19<sup>th</sup> for our 103th Anniversary Program.

It is hard to believe that summer is already upon us and another Grange year is coming rapidly to a close.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> we visited with Vernon Grange and presented a program for them.

### VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Nancy Strong

July 10: Antiques Road Show

All members are asked to bring along their special items with stories that they would bring to the Antiques Roadshow. If you know the value, the other members can guess and if you don't, the younger crowd with smartphones will try and find information. August 7 will be our picnic and if it's good weather it will be at Strong Family Farm.

### COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

Summertime is here and many will be traveling on vacations. Congratulations to Marilee Manning for her third place winning at Let's Celebrate's Strawberry Cupcake contest.

### ENFIELD GRANGE #151

Corr: Irene Percoski

Aug. 8: Mystery Ride, Ref. Jim & Dawn

Congratulations to our Master Jim Percoski on his Graduation from UCONN. We wish you the very best of luck. In other good news two of our members, Judy and Richard, had a very successful day

selling cookbooks outside a store and kicked off the season in a great way. Our application for the Enfield Farmer's Market will go in shortly with our participation from July to October on alternate weeks. Craft item and jams are in the making.

It's said the best laid plans of mice and men can always be spoiled, and so have our plans for the Hilltop Farm garden. With a change in leadership at the Farm on what the land will be used for it was decided to allow us only a small area within the community garden,

instead of the larger plot. We hope for the best and will look for alternatives.

Our baking contest winner was Dawn. She will bake again for Celebrate. Teacup auctions are doing very well with all the proceeds going to My Sister's Place. Dawn also took first place with her afghan which now goes to Pomona for judging. Last, but not least, we enjoyed a visit from our State Master Noel Miller and Hank. Come join us for our "Indoor" picnic in July and have a great summer.



## How do you pitch your Grange?

by Terri Fassio

Public Relations Co-Director

Do you sell your Grange to the media, and to prospective members? What methods do you use to get your Grange into the spotlight? With the media cycle passing by at lightning speeds, and attention spans shortening, information is often forgotten as quickly as it appears. This is where a strong pitch becomes an important part of your Grange public relations toolbox.

What is a pitch? A pitch is a short statement detailing a potential story, event, activity or project, with the goal being to catch the attention of the target audience (such as the media, the public, and even members).

In order to navigate the communication waters, your Grange needs a creative, innovative and interesting pitch to be sure to stand out in the crowd.

Here's a few tips and tricks to crafting that perfect pitch and get your Grange noticed.

- Stay Timely. Your Grange might have a vault of historical information you can draw off of when selling your Grange, just be sure to only use past information as a foundation. Stay relevant to today's Grange when crafting your pitch. Keeping up-to-date with trends and news stories is important for your Grange, so that you

can execute a pitch that not only catches attention, it is current to the audience.

- Be Creative and Original. Thousands of pitches are sent to your local media on a weekly, if not daily, basis. These pitches are continually read and heard by the people you want to join and support your Grange. If your Grange does not stand out, it will be lost in the crowd and not gain the attention it deserves. Think beyond the boundaries of what you want to say, and how your Grange can make an impact with the reader.

- Be Human. Make your Grange personal. People relate to emotions - it's a fact of life. If you are

pitching your Grange on a level that hits below the surface with your audience, there is a good chance your Grange will not only engage but garner good coverage in the media.

Make a lasting impression by encouraging your audience to say "Aww" or "Wow" when they read/hear your pitch.

The manner in which you pitch your Grange story is important - and can make all the difference in the amount of attention your Grange receives. Pitch your Grange in a timely, creative, and human angle, and the likelihood of making an impact on your audience will increase ten-fold.

## Thank you to all!



Joanne Cipriano  
Social Connection Director  
Social@ctstategrange.org

Being prejudiced, I think everyone who attended our Fun Fair had a good time. And from all reports the food was enjoyed. Special thanks to Barbara Robert, Eloise Osuch, Jean Meehan for making the favors, Todd Gelineau for printing the tickets and Pat and Ron Fischer and Cindy and Ray

Legg for coming early and helping with set-up. There are so many others I could thank but it would fill a page in the paper and I would get into trouble because I skipped someone.

We thank the Granges who have sent us shoe boxes for our "Reach Out Project." We look forward to getting many more.

I am also checking my mailbox for "Granger of the Year" applications. Every Grange should have someone they can nominate.

From this committee we wish you a very pleasant summer.

# SIMSBURY GRANGE

## AGRICULTURE FAIR

**Saturday 10 AM - 3 PM**

**September 12, 2015**

- BAKE SALE and CRAFT FAIR
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- FLAMIG FARM HAYRIDES
- REFRESHMENTS
- CONTESTS - BAKED GOODS, PRODUCE, FLOWERS
- CASH PRIZES

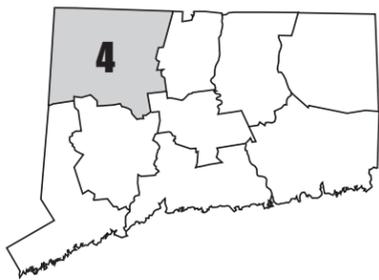
LOCATION:  
Simsbury Grange Hall  
236 Farms Village Road (Rt. 309)  
West Simsbury, CT 06092

ENTRIES AND FAIR:  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
ADMISSION IS FREE!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.SimsburyGrange.org

## Mountain County Pomona No. 4



Cawasa No. 34  
Whigville No. 48  
Eureka No. 62  
✓ Winchester No. 74  
Taghannuck No. 100  
Litchfield No. 107  
Beacon No. 118  
Riverton No. 169

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Mountain County Pomona No. 4* has strong leadership, a keen sense of community and many skills and talents which we use to promote and support our local Community Granges through citizenship, legislative and agricultural policies within our Pomona.

### MOUNTAIN COUNTY POMONA #4

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

Elections are over and the most significant change this year is the election of Lin Erickson as our new Lecturer. We know all of the Granges will support her as they have supported the Pomona in the last year by providing programs for each of the meetings that require them.

June is also the meeting where the annual "Spring" Drawing tickets are distributed to the officers and members. Tickets are \$1.00 each and give buyers a shot at winning many different gift cards—gas, food, restaurants, etc. This correspondent doesn't win many of these drawings but have been fortunate to have won several gift cards in the past—take a chance... you won't regret it. And... you'll be supporting the Pomona in our only major fundraiser for the year!

The drawing will be held at the September 14 meeting of Pomona to be held at Riverton Grange Hall. It will also be our installation of officers when George Russell will again be installed as our Master.

Until then, Mountain County will be on summer vacation—enjoy the warm weather while we have it!

### WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**July 14:** Are You Hot Enough? – Ref. Craig Leifert

**July 28:** Anything Goes, Country Store – Ref. All-Ramona Fassio, Chr.

**Aug. 8:** 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Winchester Grange Fair & Flea Market

**Aug. 11:** Fair Time—Set-Up for the Fair, Ref. Women

Another successful Strawberry Festival is in the books! Despite the torrential rain and wind the evening before (and part of the morning) plenty of people came to the hall on Father's Day to enjoy their traditional GIANT strawberry shortcake and

fellowship. We also were pleased to have 2015 Laurel Queen Olivia Ortman with us along with her court to help serve shortcake.

Looking ahead- our 65<sup>th</sup> Grange Fair and Flea Market is rapidly approaching. Premium flyers will be out soon with newly INCREASED PRIZE MONEY!!! If you're not in Winchester Center anytime soon, the flyer will be available at [www.WinchesterGrange.org](http://www.WinchesterGrange.org). We'd love to see you at the Grange on Aug. 8.

Calling all vendors: the Flea Market at the Grange Fair is again looking for vendors to fill the Green. For more information, please email [info@winchestergrange.org](mailto:info@winchestergrange.org) to receive an application and to get vital information.

Plans are also underway for the 2015 Winchester Center Day to be held in September. An exciting addition to this year's event is an Art Show which will fill the Grange Hall. Are you a starving artist? Do you like to create art in your free time? Contact us as if you would like more information about exhibiting and/or selling your art at Winchester Center Day. The Grange will also have a tag sale on the lower level of the hall along with our hot dog stand and homemade apple crisp for sale. The church will hold a car show on the green and the historical association will also have events throughout the day. It's a great community day – even for those that don't live in Winchester Center. Join us for a great day!

Iceland Affair also returns to Winchester Grange for the third time this October. Gerri Griswold does a wonderful job bringing Icelandic artists, musicians, speakers and more to the Grange Hall for a day that celebrates a culture many of us know very little about. Mark your calendars for October 17, 2015. You'll be glad you came!

# Congrats to the Winners



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer  
[lecturer@ctstategrange.org](mailto:lecturer@ctstategrange.org)

It was nice to see so many of you at Grange Sunday as we celebrated the Grange and all that it stands for.

We had a tie for first place in the Talent Contest. Gail Prelli and Mary Lou Keefe representing Mountain County Pomona

Grange tied with Jane and Ruel Miller from New Haven County Pomona. Both plan on attending Lecturers' Conference in Maine this August.

The "A Number" contest was won by East Central Pomona with a skit entitled "Animal Rescue". First place winners in the Photo Contest were:

Grangers in Action – Barbara Foskett, Cheshire Grange

Animals – Shirley Moore, Riverton Grange

America the Beautiful – Lois Evankow, Lyme Grange

Family Celebrations – Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton

Historic Places or Events – Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton Grange  
Lois Evankow's picture was awarded Best in Show and will go on to National this fall.

Now is the time to start thinking of next years contest. As you travel or have family cookouts or parties this summer don't forget to get your camera out.

Enjoy your summer and appreciate every nice day we have. Hope to see you in Maine at Lecturers Conference and around the State.

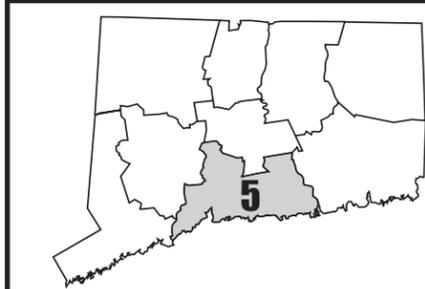


Members of Hillstown Grange #87 (representing East Central Pomona No. 3) perform their first place winning A-Number Skit "Animal Rescue" at Let's Celebrate in June.



IT'S A TIE! - From left: Ruel & Jane Miller (representing New Haven County Pomona #5 with their song "Be Sure It's True", State Master Noel Miller, and Mary Lou Keefe and Gail Prelli (representing Mountain County Pomona No. 4 with their number "Medley of Roses" pose for a picture after becoming co-winning Pomonas in the State Talent Contest at Let's Celebrate. All four now have the opportunity to represent Connecticut at Northeast Lecturer's Conference.

## New Haven County Pomona No. 5



- ✓ Cheshire No. 23
- ✓ Wallingford No. 33
- North Haven No. 35

### MISSION STATEMENT

*New Haven County Pomona* through the strength of its Community Granges offers collective wisdom and experience to enhance the individual leadership skills, pride in Grange ritual and camaraderie to all citizens in the communities in which we serve!

### CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**July 1:** No meeting

**July 15:** Annual Picnic at the Bernhardt's 6PM

Our annual barbecue in late May was successful in enhancing our treasury, and was enjoyed by all. Our election of officers went very well with no changes other than electing Barbara Kulish to the Executive Committee.

We hosted the annual Celebrations event in June sponsored by the State Grange which included a Shepards Pie dinner at noon, and the afternoon program consisting of the talent and A Number was in charge of our State Lecturer, Marge Bernhardt.

Plans continue for our August fair as well as weekly craft nights making items for our shut-ins for Christmas, as well as seasonal items for a local retirement home.

We hope you all enjoy the summer. It will be gone before we know it.

### WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33

*Corr: Dan Lauttenbach*

**July 9:** Annual Picnic at Wallingford Grange Hall at 6pm. Bring a covered dish. Hot dogs, hamburgers and soda will be furnished. Please feel free to bring family or friends.

**July 25:** "Ice Cream Social" Noon to 4pm. Come on down and join us for some ice cream and for some socializing!

May 14 – "Gardening Know How" Anne Cella explained some new things to try in the garden. One of the interesting things to try is a spiral garden. Basically it's something akin to a raised bed gardening.

Where with a normal raised bed is a square or rectangle box that is filled with soil, the spiral

appears at first to be a little bit more complicated but is really not too hard to do. Basically you run a barrier such as a fence in spiral on itself leaving about a foot to two feet between each turn of the barrier. Then starting from the middle fill it in and let it taper down as you work around the spiral. Then you can plant flowers or vegetables or both on each level. It allows you to do more within a confined space and looks very attractive. Later we planted in our own pots tomatoes, impatiens and marigolds. Mine are still alive after all of this dry weather; so we must have been instructed properly.

May 28—"130<sup>th</sup> Wallingford Grange Anniversary Celebration" Vern Grant reported that we are shy almost four inches of rain this month. This has been the driest it's been in recent memory. Besides this spring being cold for so long delaying planting time; now we are dealing with this dry weather.

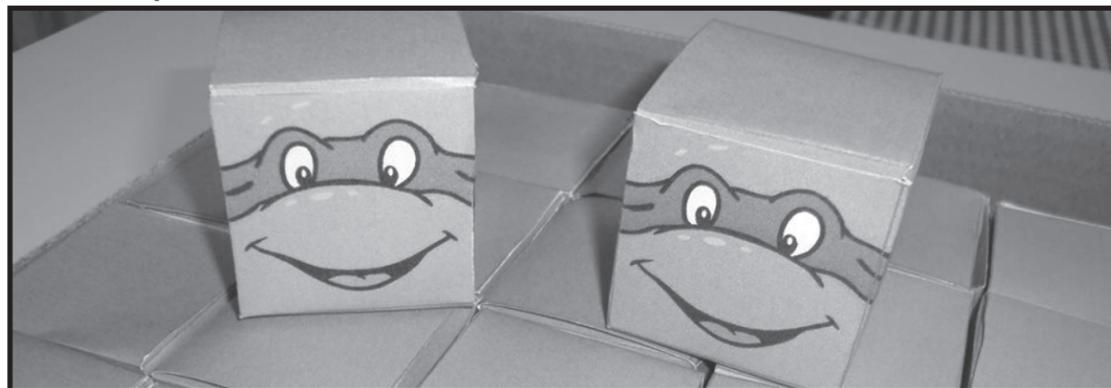
Janet Haller reported that Robin McCoy and Anne Cella entered the state baking contest and that Anne would represent our grange at Let's Celebrate. I thought they both made great cupcakes and it was really difficult to decide on a winner. We discussed the pricing of the fair barbecue tickets.

We decided on \$13 for an Adult ticket and \$6 for a child. Now the tickets can be printed and posters can be made. Carl and Marge Bernhardt, our Pomona deputy and state lecturer were also present. Afterwards we all celebrated the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with some chocolate anniversary cake.

# Cheshire BBQ & Card Party



A Barbecue/Card Party was held at Cheshire Grange on May 30th. Our Thanks to all who helped and to those that attended and made this event a success.



Tray Favors for June have been completed and delivered to Marbridge.

# Winchester Grange No. 74



2015 Laurel Queen Olivia Ortman (Second from right) helps to serve Strawberry Shortcake at the Winchester Grange Strawberry Festival held on Father's Day.

# Riverton Grange Dairy Dinner

*By Jesse Williams, Tri-Corner News*

RIVERTON — The Riverton Grange held a dinner and evening of music and celebration in honor of National Dairy Month on Saturday, June 13.

"We're gonna do some singing, then some talking, then we're gonna do some more singing," Grange member Mary Lou Keefe said at the dinner, describing the agenda.

The meal included macaroni and cheese, lemon pound cake, mint pea soup and strawberries that were picked two days ago, according to Amanda Freund, who sponsored and catered the event.

Freund and her family own Freund's Farm in East Canaan.

More than 50 people filled the building. Fresh courses of food were interspersed with information sessions with Freund, discussing the importance of dairy farming and practices of her farm. Music was provided by Keefe and members of the Center Congregational Church choir of Canton.

"All these towns were all farmland back then the grange was a social club for farmers," Keefe said. "Now anyone can join and you don't have to be a farmer."

"You're all required to partake," Freund added.

Each table was provided with a card containing a different fun fact about dairy farming. Freund engaged the audience on a variety dairy-related topics, included proper technique, nutritional values and the definition of terms such as "organic."

Also available were recipe cards, provided by local dairy farms, containing family recipes for various dairy-involved meals.

Music was selected from various popular theater productions, according to Keefe, who played piano for the event. The choir provided entertainment between courses of the dinner as Freund set and cleared plates.

**64th Annual  
WINCHESTER GRANGE  
FAIR AND  
FLEA MARKET**

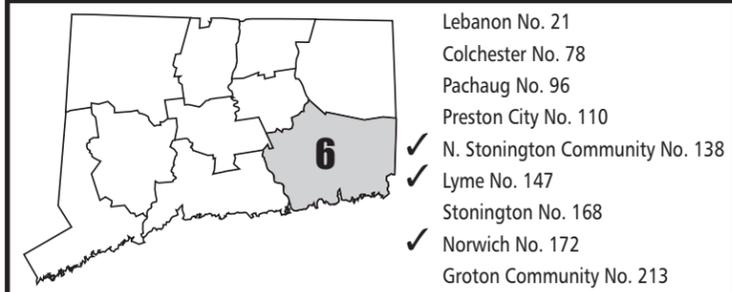
**SATURDAY  
AUGUST 8, 2015  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Winchester Grange Hall  
100 Newfield Road • Winchester Center**

**Contests & Exhibits  
Food from Café 74  
Book Sale • Bake Sale  
Kid's Games • Fun**

[www.WinchesterGrange.org](http://www.WinchesterGrange.org)

## New London County Pomona No. 6



Lebanon No. 21  
Colchester No. 78  
Pachaug No. 96  
Preston City No. 110  
N. Stonington Community No. 138  
Lyme No. 147  
Stonington No. 168  
Norwich No. 172  
Groton Community No. 213

### MISSION STATEMENT

To cultivate and nurture the flock while encouraging their advancement to the degree of Pomona.

### NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**Aug. 8:** Picnic

**Sept. 17:** Remember Labor Day – Pachaug Grange

Our picnic will be held at beautiful Bluff Point in Groton on Sat., Aug. 8. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. There are picnic tables where you can sit in the shade and chat with your friends; dor, if you are so inclined, you can walk on the many hiking trails available. Festivities begin at 11:00 A.M. Come and enjoy the day.

Our September meeting will be held at Pachaug Grange. It's lovely out in the country in September. Please come.

It's summer! It's summer! The winter is done.

So come to the picnic! We've all have some fun.

Just pack up your hiking shoes, maybe a game,

And don't be the person who just never came.

### N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**July 10:** "Bowled Over" It's Fair Time! No meeting.

**July 17:** "Speechless" – CWA Program

At our May 22 meeting we honored Mary Ann and Bill Ricker as our Community Citizens for 2015. The hall was filled with their admirers and supporters, with many testimonials to their good works. Master Robert Miner and State Master Noel Miller presented them with a plaque and certificates from the Grange and from the State of Connecticut.

The 2014 Queens and Princesses from the North Stonington Agricultural Fair rode our Grange float in the annual Memorial Day Parade. The sun came out and they sparkled their way through the throngs of people who lined the streets of town. Many thanks to Richard and Gloria White for the use of their beautiful truck and hay wagon.

Don't miss the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual North Stonington Agricultural Fair, July 9-12. There is lots of fun, food and entertainment for the whole family. Ride specials by Rockwell Amusements are featured some days. New parking arrangements get you off the street and into the fair faster. Hope to see you there. And if those big, black ants will just stay out in the yard, next time I'll tell you about jolly June.



Marcia Miller and State Master Noel Miller recently visited Lyme Grange No. 147 with Hank the Burro.

### LYME GRANGE #147

We had our food and plant sale in May. Proceeds were down as were our customers. Never the less it was successful.

Our next event is our Hamburg Fair in August (21, 22 & 23) on our Fairgrounds. Our Fair association is working hard getting local entertainment and vendors. There is also the usual Grange-run snack bar with Jim & Edie Pirnell

in charge. Handcraft, vegetables, home goods exhibits and contests run by the Grange.

The election gave us a new Master, Kathy Tefft, congrats Kathy.

Hank visited our meeting with his caregivers for Neighbor's Night. He sure is a busy fellow.

The weather turned out being nice then turned on us again – COLD – Maybe summer will come soon. Once again, nothing we can

do about the weather but complain.

### NORWICH GRANGE #172

*Corr: Susan Kenney*

Norwich Grange held its June meeting. The lecture was on berries. The Grange is still collecting food, soda tabs, and box tops for various charities in the area. The Grange will be having its annual fair on Aug. 1, 2015 from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. We are accepting vendors. Tables are \$10.

## Successful Taghannuck Sale



GRANGE RUMMAGE AND PLANT SALE was held at Taghannuck Grange on Saturday June 6th and 7th at the Grange Hall in Sharon. There was a large variety (over 1300 plants) of flowers and vegetables ready for planting. Kitchenware, dishes, cooking equipment, glassware, clothing, curios, many lamps, electric heaters, frames, electronics, rug shampooer, paintings, needlework, clocks and much more.

All funds raised benefit our numerous community service projects, donations, and future programs and activities of Taghannuck Grange including the Dictionary Project where we give dictionaries to each 3rd grade student in the towns of Sharon, Cornwall, Warren and Kent.

## Urgent need for Big E Sales Items

Handmade mittens and hats are urgently needed for the store in the New England Grange Building during the Eastern States Exposition (Big E). Also needed are kitchen towels, scrubbies and Christmas ornaments. For more information, please contact Irene Percoski: perkigirl35@att.net or you can contact us at the Granger for more information.

## Past Deputies Picnic Scheduled

The Past Deputies Association will hold their picnic at the home of Carl and Marge Bernhardt on Saturday July 25th. Bring a pot luck dish for supper.

We have new officers: President Jody Cameron; Vice-President Noel Miller; Secretary Joanne Cipriano; Treasurer Carl Bernhardt and Executive Board Robert Sendewicz.

Plans are in progress to have all meetings in handicapped accessible halls and centrally located.

# Cannon Candidate's Forum



On Thursday, June 18, Cannon Grange #152 hosted a Legislative Forum, with the three Connecticut legislators representing Wilton -- Sen. Toni Boucher, Rep. Gail Lavielle (a Cannon Grange member) and Rep. Tom O'Dea -- discussing the recent legislative session, the state budget and coming tax increases. Around 40 people attended the lively 90 minute session.

# S. Connecticut Past Masters

We have a new slate of officers installed by Marge Bernhardt at the May meeting in Wallingford. President – Cindy Charbonneau; Vice-President Marge Sendewicz; Secretary Joanne Cipriano, Treasurer Robert Sendewicz and Executive Board Cindy Legg.

Our meeting place schedule has been changed to make it possible for the handicap to attend meeting. Our picnic will be held at the home of Marge and Carl Bernhardt on Saturday July 18th. Come and have a good time. Bring your bathing suits. We will have a pot luck supper.

# Old MacGranger



Members of Cheshire Grange (representing New Haven County Pomona #5) perform their second place winning skit, "Old MacGranger" at Let's Celebrate in June.

# Medicare Rebates

The National Grange has joined a large number of patient health and elderly care organizations on a letter to the U.S Congress opposing proposals to weaken programs for seniors and persons with disabilities. One of these proposals would mandate rebates on Medicare's Part D drug program. But these are not rebates to patients as one might assume. This money would be treated as a tax paid by drug manufacturers direct to the Federal Government with no resulting new drug development or lower patient prescription costs.

# USPS targets rural America with cuts

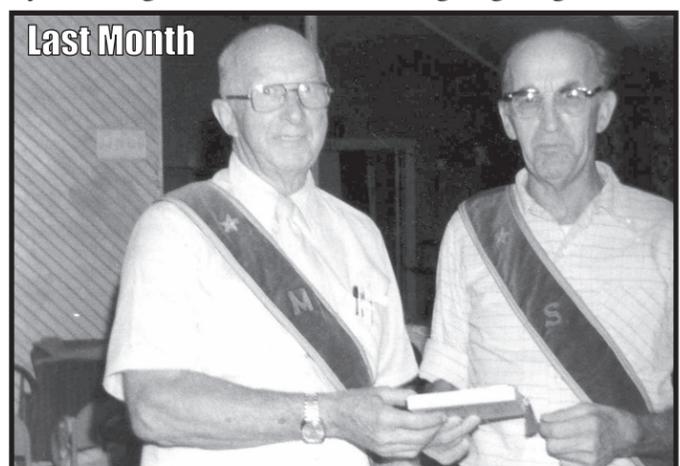
Despite three cautionary reports by the Postal Regulatory Commission, The Postal Service's Office of Inspector General, and an internal management report, the U.S. Postal Service has moved ahead to reduce its service standards for First-Class Mail. These new policies will create a two-tier network with service to rural areas and small towns downgraded much more than large urban areas. Several state and local Granges are objecting to the Postmaster General with copies to their Senators and Representatives.



## Deadline for next issue: July 6!

# WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



We heard from Forest Smith from Bridgewater Grange on the June photo. Pictured is Charlie Smith (Master) and Ted Smith (Steward), who belonged to Metichewan Grange. He believed the photo was taken in the early 1970s.



**This Month**



**Michelle DeDominicis**  
State Junior Grange Director  
juniors@ctstategrange.org

# Junior Grange

of our “candy-toss-ers” were a bit enthusiastic in their candy tossing. :) Jenna’s grandfather, Jack led us on an interesting hike in Voluntown, around Green Falls. We hiked part of the Narragansett trail Easterly to the Old Spool Mill and Peg Mill Brook. It was amazing to see so much of the stonework still up. Jack estimated that the Spool Mill was built in the mid-1800’s. We hiked over whale’s back, a huge piece of ledge, and we saw a cave. Very interesting hike, now we need to learn more about the spool mills. -- Does anyone know anything about them? We also held the last of our sign-language classes. We will resume sometime in the future. - Phew, May was busy!

At our June meeting, we brought in two more new

members: Lilly Bessette and Krista Kettle. We also elected our new officers: President -Evelyn Dexter, Vice President -Connor Sebastian, Program Director -Abbey Dexter, Steward Lilly Bessette, Assistant Steward -Brianna Gervais, Chaplain -, Treasurer -Casey Ferns, Secretary -Lillian Sharpe, Greeter -Ariella Bessette, Lady Assistant Steward - Kayla Bonin, Membership Chairman -, Family Activities Chairman -, and Community Service Chairman -Krista Kettle. We planted our garden, hopefully we get rain for it to grow. One of our new honorary members printed Ekonk Community Junior Grange on our shirts, so now when we go places we will all match.

## EKONK JR. GRANGE #101

Corr: Rebecca Gervais

Ekonk Junior has had a couple of busy months! In May, we held our plant sale and made a profit of \$295.00. Thanks to LoPresti Greenhouses and Betsy’s Stand for helping make it a success. We brought in new members: Tyler, Hailey, Kylie, Brady, and Ariella! Welcome!! We also had a float in the Sterling Memorial Day Parade. Thanks to Ethan Jordan for, once again driving the tractor and pulling us on the hay wagon. We tossed lollipops to the crowd. Some



Members of Ekonk Community Junior Grange No. 101 recently hiked the Narragansett Trail and around Green Falls.

# Camp is ready to roll



After 48 gallons of stain ALL of the cabins and other buildings are painted at Camp Berger. Thanks to all who’ve volunteered to help with 3+ months of spring clean up, leaves & brushwork, opening water systems, painting, etc. - alumni, campers, camp families, camp staff, Grangers & volunteers! Next are the bathrooms, moving the dumpsters & putting in the swim & boating docks!

## In Memoriam

Robert West      Vernon Grange #52  
Patricia Conger      Vernon Grange #52

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

## State Chaplain

*Faith  
in  
God*

*Charles Dimmick, State Chaplain*

As Grangers we are told to have faith in God. But having faith can be a rather tricky business. After all, we cannot see God, and except in rather rare instances we cannot hear God. And when disasters strike some of us ask “Why didn’t God step in and prevent this from happening?” In fact, several people have written books to examine exactly that question. One is called “Why do bad things happen to good people?” and one is called “When bad things happen to good people”. I recommend both of them for their discussion of this question. The question is ancient, and is the background for the Old Testament Book of Job. Job, you may remember, was a happy and prosperous resident of the land of Uz, somewhere in the Middle East, and a faithful worshiper of God, when a series of disasters wiped out his flocks and his family and eventually caused him to be covered with boils. His “friends” came to visit him and supposedly “comfort” him, but mostly they kept trying to convince him that his troubles were caused by his sinning against God and that he needed to repent. He rejected their persistent advice and insisted that he had done nothing wrong to provoke God’s wrath. His wife told him that he should reject God and die. He ignored that advice also. Job kept faith with God, although he complained bitterly to God about his troubles and kept asking God why all this had happened to him, what justification was there behind his troubles. God himself eventually shows up, rebukes Job’s “comforters” for their misguided advice, and restores Job’s former fortunes.

Several things are of note in this: the prologue to the Book of Job shows that God did not inflict these disasters on Job, but rather He allowed Satan to inflict them. Secondly, God never answers Job’s question as to “why me?” but implies that the answer to that question is beyond human understanding. The poet Robert Frost wrote a play called “The Masque of Reason”, set in Paradise, where Job again gets a chance to ask that question directly of God, and again does not receive a direct answer, but instead is told “There is no connection Man can reason out between his just desserts and what he gets.”

I wrestled deeply with these questions when my wife died 4 ½ years ago. My final resolution was that God does not directly cause any human suffering, but that He does allow bad things to happen, and expects us to be the ones working to prevent suffering and disasters. The message is that we should not depend on God to prevent those things which we are capable of making preparation for ourselves. And our prayers to God should be to give us the guidance, wisdom, and enlightenment that allows us to see the way to do so.