



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

June 2019

## From the President's Desk



**George Russell**  
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169  
president@ctstategrange.org

May is starting out cold and wet and everybody seems to be waiting for Spring to arrive. The farmers in our area are having a difficult time trying to plant their crops because of the cold and wet weather. On Mother's Day there was wet snow in the northern parts of Connecticut. Hopefully by the time you read this article we will at least have a couple of eighty degree days and we'll see a little more summer-like weather heading our way.

My General Deputy and Pomona Deputy are inspecting the three Pomona Granges in Connecticut. Mountain Laurel Pomona conferred the Fifth Degree for nine new members on the first Saturday in May. On the second Saturday in May, Eastern Connecticut Pomona put on the Fifth Degree. Nutmeg Pomona will be inspected on June 2 and this will complete the inspections for the year.

The Community Granges have been sent a questionnaire to fill out and send back to me by June 1. If you haven't returned the questionnaires, please do so as soon as possible. That way we can evaluate our Granges in Connecticut. I am also looking for the 2018 Executive Committee Report which you will find in the center of last year's Blue Book.

The Connecticut State Grange Youth Committee Director, Dawn

Anstett, has been working on setting up the Northeast Youth Conference which will be held July 12-14 at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. If you are interested in being a judge or helping out that weekend, please let Dawn know.

On May 16, I attended the annual meeting of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. It is known to most of us as the Big E. The 2018 exhibition attendance was the biggest in Big E history with the highest total attendance of 1,543,470 for the 17 days of the fair. On Saturday, Sept. 22 the fair had what was the biggest single day record of 172,659! They are hoping for another good year in 2019. I am looking for volunteers to help at the New England Grange Building during the Big E. Each of the six New England states and New York have two days to cover the sales room. Connecticut is responsible for Sept. 26 & 27. If you are interested in working in the building, I need eight volunteers for each shift that run from 9 to 3 on those two days, so please let me know so I can get parking and fair passes to get you into the fair.

This will be the last call if anyone is interested in chairs, tables and Grange stations. We will be putting Good Will Hall on the market in June and we need to get it cleaned out.

Since this has been such a cold and wet May, I remember this saying from long ago: "a cold wet May; a barn full hay." I hope it dries out so farmers can make hay!



## Remembering Edith Schoell

*Todd A. Gelineau, State Secretary*

This month we say goodbye to Edith Schoell, Secretary Emeritus of the Connecticut State Grange. Edith passed away quietly at home last month. At her request, there were no calling hours or services. For those of us who knew her well, this was a very "Edith" request. She didn't ever want to have a fuss made about her.

Edith loved the Grange and served the Order in many capacities that included State Secretary, State Lecturer, Connecticut Granger Secretary/Treasurer, Pomona Deputy, State Grange Historian, and many others which also included running her own Installing Team for many years.

As I pack up the Central Office in Glastonbury, readying it for our move to the new office in Winchester Center, I have been thinking about the day when the State Grange moved

*Continued next page...*



**The Connecticut State Grange**

A part of the National Grange

*American Values,  
Hometown Roots*

**NEXT ISSUE ...  
Articles Due May 15**

# Remembering Edith Schoell

*Continued from previous page...*  
from the Patrons Mutual building on Hebron Ave. to Naubuc Ave. Edith was a lady and would never be seen in public without a dress or skirt on. That morning we knew Edith meant business when she arrived wearing JEANS, a plaid flannel shirt and a knit cap. While that would not have been all that surprising on anyone else, this was almost startling to see on Edith.

Edith became State Secretary at an incredibly difficult (read: impossible) time. Secretary Marion Beecher had become ill and could not continue. In fact, she had the dubious task of stepping in during State Session the morning Marion had been rushed to the hospital. Marion was Secretary for decades and definitely had her own way of doing things and it was now Edith's responsibility to unravel all of that and keep the machine of the Connecticut State Grange running. I'm sure she met tremendous obstacles and was frustrated but she got the job done and done well.

Five years ago, when Edith and Phil Bergquist left the offices of Secretary and Treasurer respectively, the Executive Committee continued to pay both during a three month transition period. Edith, as always, went above and beyond to work with me. She had the office working so well that the real "training" period was only a couple of weeks. She continued to come in every day I was there even though we both knew there wasn't much for her to do. I think she just enjoyed spending time there. As I have experienced in the last few years, we State Secretaries have a very solitary existence in the office. I will always fondly remember those mornings with Edith.

My favorite recent story of Edith was related to me by State Treasurer Jody Cameron. His transition from Phil Bergquist continues to this day converting bank accounts from Phil's name to his own as a signer. One account still remained at Webster Bank which had been throwing up wall after wall as we attempted to gain access to the account. One of their last challenges to Jody was to get the last remaining signer on the account (Edith) to come to the bank to sign paperwork. This was going on

just a few weeks ago. By this time Edith had a caregiver was not leaving her home much but Webster Bank demanded her presence. Edith was a trooper and couldn't turn down a request to help the Grange no matter what condition she was in. Jody was both embarrassed to ask her and furious with the bank for requiring it.

After completing the paperwork, Jody complained to the bank officer about how awful it was to drag this frail lady out of her home just to sign some paperwork. Edith was silent.... until they got back to the car. Without missing a beat she asked, "So you think I'm frail?" That was Edith!

Even members who didn't know her so well were always amazed at the way she was able to recite the installation charges letter perfect from memory. She was a wonderful pianist playing for Grange meetings around the state, the Rose Drill, National Session in Connecticut and many other occasions. She also played the accordion and many of us

had the privilege of hearing her play at Grange events through the years.

These few stories really don't do justice to the memory of Edith Schoell. All of us have our own reminiscences of her and I hope you will think of her in the coming days. She leaves a tremendous void in the Grange but I'm grateful to have known her.

While Edith may not have wanted a formal service in her memory, it does not feel right not to pray for her. The following is the closing prayer of the Grange Burial Service: *"Almighty God, we give you thanks for the good example and friendship of our Sister who has finished her course and now rests from her labors. But let us also pray to the Lord for ourselves. Fill us all with the spirit of service and may each new reminder of the uncertainty of this earthly life inspire us to greater zeal and renewed efforts, until that day when we shall be reunited with our departed Sister and share the joys, the peace, the life and the completeness of that Kingdom where You live and reign now and always, forever and ever. Amen."*

Farewell, Edith.



Playing accordion at a meeting.



With National Master Bill Steele.



Playing piano at Grange Sunday.



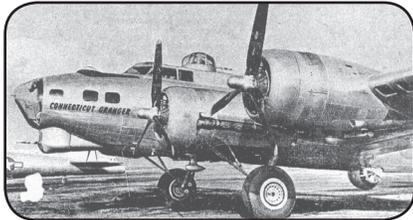
With one of her Installing Teams (center)

Finding Our Hero Self



Northeast Grange Youth Conference  
July 12-14 2019 \* Storrs, CT

the Connecticut Granger  
Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the  
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and should be sent to:

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# Time is Running Out



**Marge Bernhardt**  
State Lecturer

Cheshire Grange #23  
Lecturer@ctstategrange.org

The year was 1938 and our local Grangers met to give their Lecturers a royal send-off to the New England Lecturer's Conference. I'm sure today's vehicles are a lot more comfortable and make better time. That year the conference was held in Randolph Center, Vermont. This year it will be in Devens, Massachusetts, a lot closer than Randolph Center. Information on the Conference has been sent out to all Lecturers and to those who attended two years ago. Time is running out. The deadline for reservations is June 10<sup>th</sup> for the 2019 Northeast Grange Lecturers' Conference. This will be a totally revised conference

planned by the response we got on the questionnaires filled out after the last conference. I'm hoping you can make it.

With summer here it is time to start thinking about our Essay Contest, "A Word from Home," and Should Auld Acquaintance. Has your Grange had a Ritual Program or 6 five minute ritual numbers this year? Our ritual is very beautiful and our newer members who did not go through the first four degrees shouldn't miss out on this.

What do you think of your Grange? Why not enter the essay contest and tell everyone about it. It should be 150 words or less and entitled, "My Grange."

Please remember, you don't have to be a Lecturer to enter these contests.

Hope to see you at Let's Celebrate and around the State.

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

# 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).



*Last Month*

George Kotowicz called, and says that the man in the May photo is Oscar (Whitey) White. He said that Whitey was known for playing his guitar, and would often play it at many State Grange functions including State Session. We also heard from Kay Ruff who said, "the gentleman in the picture is Oscar White, but I do not know who the young lady is."



### **GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26**

**June 6:** Election of Officers  
7:30 p.m. Refreshments: Doris Monaco & Mario Accornero

**June 15:** Monte Carlo Card Party  
7:30 p.m.

**July 11:** "Red, White and Blue"  
7:30 p.m.

Our May meeting went very well. We are asking our members to bring in some non-perishable food item that will be delivered to the Glastonbury Social Service Department.

We had a communication from a member of the Board of Directors of the Glastonbury Historical Society, Dr. Brian Chiffer. The Historical Society is voicing interest in featuring the Grange as part of their program during this year. They asked if we would be interested in this event and would we also help with this program. We certainly were very pleased to hear this and responded YES we certainly are interested. We are now waiting to hear from Dr. Chiffer and will meet with him to outline the event. Ann Posuniak and Kay Ruff will meet with Dr. Chiffer. Dan Posuniak and Ann Gilnack also voiced interest in helping.

June 6th is Election of Officers. Don't let the election scare you away. We need you all to help elect who will serve Glastonbury Grange for the coming year. Doris and Mario always serve

Strawberry Shortcake for the refreshments. This is one of my favorite desserts. Hope to see you there.

There are no Card Parties scheduled for July, August and September. See you on October 19th 2019.

### **SENEXT GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

**June 19:** Flag Day

We continue to be busy with things to do in the hall. We hosted the annual dart ball dinner in April and are planning to hold a tag sale on June 8 along with the community wide tag sale. We will offer space to outsiders who would like to set up. We continue to work on our membership list. We have submitted applications to the local high school for the two scholarships we have available. We have been able to continue to work on the area around the hall to keep it looking good. We enjoy the company of our members and friends at our meetings.

### **VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Cherie Robinson*

**June 7:** Norwich Grange brings Program to Vernon Grange, Refreshments: All

**June 12:** Vernon Grange brings Program to Norwich Grange

Vernon Grange has draped our charter for members who have received that plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant".

At our May meeting, we learned the history and basics of the GPS system and geocaching. Then, flashlights and GPS devices in hand, we trudged outside to find our first cache. That geocache is pending approval from Geocaching Headquarters in Seattle prior to publication. While that publication is pending, why not try your hand at finding geocaches in your area or as you travel? It's a worldwide outdoor

and family friendly activity that requires only a sense of adventure, a GPS enabled device and a pencil. Details are at [geocaching.com](http://geocaching.com).

Speaking of great finds, come on over to the Vernon Grange table at the Strong Family Farm Big Bad Barn Sale on June 22 from 9AM to 1PM (rain date June 29). We are sure to have exactly what you are looking for at the best prices anywhere!

We continue to collect toiletries and non-perishable food items for the veterans at Phelps Village in Rockville and plans are underway for us to host a BBQ there.

We hope to see you in Vernon. We welcome visitors!

### **HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87**

*Corr: Frank Forrest*

The Hillstown Grange is holding the last Gardening Workshop for the spring on Thursday May 30, 2019. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The 1 hour workshop will start at 7 pm. Topics will be on getting the garden going. Garden workshops are freewill donation and open to the public and for experienced as well as new gardeners

The Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester, since 1888. The Grange is the oldest Agricultural group in the United States.

For more information call Frank at 860-690-2845 or email: [hillstowngrange@aol.com](mailto:hillstowngrange@aol.com).

### **KILLINGLY GRANGE #112**

*Corr: Glenna Bruno*

April may have gone but we

*Continued from previous page...*

still have “April Showers” and some May flowers.

Our Fish Fry’s were a success with help from the Lion’s Club. Everyone worked hard, had fun, made new friends and made a profit for both organizations. Good job, Donald and team.

A Spaghetti & Meatball Supper for the 4H Camp was planned for May 17. At this point, I’m not sure if it’s spaghetti and meatballs or lasagna.

In June, we plan to have a yard sale co-hosted with friends from neighbors at Primrose Crossing Elderly Housing.

This week, St. Pauly, the collection company for used clothes, came to collect what was donated in our shed. We do receive a decent profit from that every month or two, of which we are grateful.

Our Stewards John Bennetto, mother Celia have been hospitalized recently but are doing better, convalescing. Also, this correspondent, Glenna Bruno, has been hospitalized once for gall stones and then for a heart issue. Guess she needs a new Energizer Bunny battery. Hopefully better health for all in the coming days, weeks, and months.

Killingly’s Silent Auction was discussed for June 8. We need baked goods to sell. Nancy Arena is in charge. Call her at 860-455-5083.

We purchased and installed much needed new toilets for the hall.

We welcome a new member, Emily Griffith - welcome!

On the sick list are Bunny

(Bernice) Pacitto, who is recuperating at a local conv. home. Nancy McCoombe is also on the list. Hope all will be feeling better soon.

**N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**June 14:** “Ritual”

**June 28:** “Summer Beach Party”

We are sorry to report the loss of another Golden Sheaf member. Charles Ames joined the Great Grange Above on Apr. 25. He will be sadly missed.

We have been learning a lot about ships and watery things during the month of April. Lecturer Sue Pianka and her son, Charlie and daughter, Jenn constructed a magnificent map of the world on a huge blue tarp that covers the entire floor of the hall from

the Lecturer to the Chaplain and Graces to the Overseer. After using it to teach us about currents, ship routes and other watery things, Sue turned it into a life-sized game that had contestants walking the perimeter answering questions about all things oceanic.

We will hold election of officers on June 14 with a short program on Ritual. Our annual picnic will be held on the 28th. Bring a dish to share to augment the delicious hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by our chefs extraordinaire. The fun begins at 6:30 with games for the kiddies following the meal. And if Jeopardy would just have six categories about the ocean and ships, maybe (and we could just remember all we have been taught) we could enter and beat the amazing James.

# Thank you Grangers!



**Christian Schirmer of Vernon Grange #52 presenting his thesis project in the School of Engineering and graduated from the University of Connecticut. He wants to thank the Connecticut State Grange Scholarship Committee and all Grangers for supporting him through his college years.**



**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

Mountain Laurel Pomona was thrilled to confer degrees on a class of nine new members. We welcome them all and hope they enjoy Grange membership.

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel will have happened by the time this issue is received. The meeting is to be held at Whigville Grange on June 1 at 4 P.M. We'll have more on the events of this meeting in the next issue.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd Gelineau*

**June 11:** Strawberries, Ref. Fran & Charlie Cooper

**June 16:** Strawberry Festival, 2:00-5:00, P.M. (FATHER'S DAY)

**June 25:** Election of Officers, Ref. TBD.

It's almost here! The 2019 Winchester Grange Strawberry Festival will be held on Sunday, June 16 beginning at 2 P.M. at the Grange Hall in Winchester Center. If you've never been, why not try us out this year? We serve the area's largest servings of fresh strawberries, freshly whipped cream on a home-baked biscuit. It's an early summer tradition in Winchester Center and one of the largest fundraisers for Winchester Grange. So as our slogan says.... "Take Dad Out for Dessert" on

Father's Day!

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Al Maddox*

**June 24:** Hop Into Spring by Maggie Buck. Ref. by Cindy Finch and Linda Coad.

Donations have been made to the Dawn and Bella Fund in memory of Dawn Hochsprung who died in the Sandy Hook School shooting. A memorial is being built at the Bethlehem Elementary School for her dog Bella.

Donations were also made to the Bethlehem Food Bank and to a Bell Choir.

Seed potatoes and string bean seeds have been given to VoAg at Nonnewaug High School.

Rich Wood was honored as our Citizen of the Year with the bell choir providing the entertainment for the program.

State Master George Russell presented certificates to Malcolm MacDonald and Eloise Osuch for 25 years, Barbara Robert and

Robert Buck for 40 years and Fred Camp and Al Maddox for 50 years.

**ENFIELD GRANGE #151**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**June 15:** Tribute to Dad

**July 13:** Pizza party

Aug. 17: Watermelon Daze

Please note the date changes for our June and August meetings. We welcomed our State Master George Russell to our April meeting and had a very good time. He encouraged us to keep up our good work and was happy to meet some of our members for the first time. We talked about methods of getting new members.

Our program was show and tell some of the items were; a very old Grange Past Master's pin, a collection of Anna Lee Dolls, A piece of the Berlin Wall, Hank the Burro and a very special 3 tined fork. A wonderful lunch followed. Our door is always open to visitors - so please stop by.

**Bethlehem to honor Sandy Hook teacher**

*From Fox61 News:*

**BETHLEHEM** — A group of residents in the Connecticut town where the principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School once worked is raising money for a statue to honor the victim of the massacre.

The Bethlehem residents don't want a statue of Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung — they want to erect a statue of her dog, Bella, who played an important role in lives of the town's children.

Hochsprung was one of 26 students and educators killed in the Dec. 14, 2012 attack in Newtown.

She was previously a teacher and principal in Bethlehem. Bella was a certified therapy dog who would visit schools to sit with children and be their reading buddy.

Thomas Brayton tells the Republican American the goal is to raise \$35,000 for a statue of Bella to be placed in the courtyard of

Bethlehem Elementary.

Donations can be sent to the Dawn and Bella Fund, to the Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation Inc., 2 Washington Square, Newtown, Ct., 06470.



The statue planned to honor Dawn Hochsprung's dog Bella. Dawn was one of the victims of the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012.



### **NUTMEG POMNONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Nutmeg Pomona #16 met at Beacon Valley Grange on June 2. As I am writing this it is too early to report on what happened. We will be having a picnic during the summer months so watch the Granger for date and place. Notices will also be sent out to each Grange.

Have a safe and healthy summer. See you at the next meeting.

### **CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: A. Ruel Miller*

**June 5:** Regular Meeting. 6pm pot luck supper, memorial service and Election of officers.

**June 19:** Strawberry Patch

We had a very successful CWA program on May 15 on the circus which is the State Committee theme this year.

We will be hosting the annual State Grange Celebrations event on Saturday and Sunday, the 8th and 9th of the month.

Our Monday craft nights continue as well as sending packages to our troops which they appreciate as evidenced by the thank you notes we receive from them.

Plans for our August fair continue.

### **MERIDEN GRANGE #29**

*Corr: Cindy Charbonneau*

**June 14:** Regular meeting - 7:30 Pm

**June 15:** Ham and scalloped potatoes Dinner from 5 to 6:30 PM -

\$10 Adults and \$5 for children. Call (203) 237-4617 for info.

**July 12:** Picnic and Meeting at 6 PM - Location TBD

**Aug. 9:** Picnic and Movie Night at 6 PM - Meriden Grange Hall - Movie TBD

Meriden Grange will celebrate its 90th annual Meriden Grange Fair on September 7th. More info. Will be available towards the end of June.

Meriden Grange is located at 540 Broad Street in Meriden, CT. Refreshments will be served after the regular meetings.

### **BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Our June meeting is on the 14th and is the most important meeting - Election of Officers. At this meeting we will be electing the officers who will be leading our Grange for the next two years. Hosts for the evening are Ron and Pat Fischer.

We will also be making final plans for our bake sale to be held at WalMart on Sunday, June 23. Volunteer bakers are needed.

Our June Open Mic is on Saturday, June 15 from 2 to 5.

Hall Clean-Up Day is held the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00. I hope I see you there. "Many hands make light the work."

### **CANNON GRANGE #152**

*Corr: Don Offinger*

**June 6:** Business Meeting

**June 20:** Business Meeting

**June 27:** Fair Committee Meeting

**July 18:** Business Meeting

**July 25:** Fair Committee Meeting

A wonderful celebration of Cannon Grange's 120th anniversary was held on May 18th during an Open House for members, friends and the public. The festivities included an anniversary baking contest featuring rhubarb as a typically old-fashioned ingredient from 120 years ago. A variety of great exhibits were on display and refreshments provided for all to enjoy. We'll see

what we can do for our 125th.

Events and Activities for our upcoming agricultural fair planned for August 25th are shaping up nicely. Advertisements for the Fair Book have surpassed the printing costs. New this year at the fair will be "early morning snacks" (not quite breakfast, but close!) that is being coordinated by Pat Kennedy and his family. Pat is one of our new members who has jumped right in with great ideas and a helping hand. Also new, will be the menu at our food court. Dearta and Justin Fusaro are coordinating this important aspect of the fair: keeping our fairgoers happy and well-fed are the keys to a successful fair. Another new feature to our fair will be a series of different "Tent Talks". Similar to a TED talk, the Tent Talk will feature an individual for a 15-minute presentation on a topic in which they are an expert. Laurie Skornia of the Association of CT Fairs will be presenting a tent talk about the various state baking contests and what it takes to win a ribbon. Michele Clark is coordinating this growing list of presenters and topics! Be sure to circle August 25th on your calendar to attend the Cannon Grange Agricultural Fair: it's the only authentic Ag Fair of its size in Fairfield County!

At this date, we're not sure which of our two June meeting nights will be our annual legislative wrap-up forums led by our own Gail Lavielle, who represents our town in the state legislature. Check our website for an accurate date and time for this important public forum.

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

### **HIGGANUM GRANGE # 124**

*Corr: Richard A. Prescott*

At the regular May meeting we elected and filled all the chairs as required, and again had good attendance. All required reports

to the State Grange have been filled. We again discussed our role regarding the town's purchase of the Haddam Elementary School, A town-wide vote will be held on June 4th regarding the town's purchasing of the property. We will support the farmer;s market by providing supplies and equipment which we presently have in storage Our support of the town Sustainability Committee was again discussed. Since this committee supports the preservation and conservation of the town's natural resources and programs to support such efforts, we feel it is an very important activity. Member Gail Reynolds is a member of this committee. We have to give time to planning our program and project activities for the rest of the year.

Our next meeting will be the first Friday in June at 7:00 PM All are welcomed.

#### **LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr; Lois Evankow*

**July 4:** Omit- Happy Birthday USA  
**July 11:** Celebrating the Fourth a week later.

**Aug. 1:** Dog Days of Summer, Picnic 6:30. Gearing up for our Fair.

**Sept. 5:** Installation, How did we do this year?

On a lovely warm evening (about time), we held our May meeting.

We voted to pay part of our Lecturer's expenses so she can attend Lecturer's Conference in August.

Our Lyme Grange Fair was discussed (a.k.a. Hamburg Fair) at great length.

A shock to all of us, our Secretary and Steward announced they would not be able to serve the next two years. They have served faithfully since coming to us from Old Lyme Grange.

We sang "Happy Anniversary" to Marilyn and Norman Stitham (our Sec. & Steward) who on May 23 will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. Congrats to both of

them!!!

#### **HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**June 14:** Memorial

**June 28:** Omitted, unless reg. meeting is cancelled

**July 12:** Picnic

**July 26:** Omitted, unless reg. meeting is cancelled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

#### **OXFORD GRANGE #194**

*Corr: Rob Buck*

Please note new meeting night, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays. GOMAD is

still on final Friday each month.

**June 5:** Business Meeting/Election of Officers

**June 19:** Social Meeting/Program TBA

**June 28:** (Friday)-GOMAD potluck and music, 7:00 PM-12:00 AM

For the eighth year, Oxford and Bethlehem Granges co-sponsored the donation of 50 lbs. of seed potatoes and 1 lb. of bush bean seeds to the Ellis Clark Regional Agriculture and Technology Program at Nonnewaug HS. The presentation was made Monday morning May 13 by Robert Buck during John Dominello's Farm to Table class.

## It was a "circus" in Cheshire



Gary Pegg, a long time Circus fan presented a program on the circus at the May meeting of Cheshire Grange. He's associated with the P. T. Barnum Museum in Bridgeport and member of Circus Fans of America.

Gary first talked about the Clyde Beatty Circus. Clyde Beatty was an animal trainer and head of his circus. Gary also talked about circus day - when the circus came to town, it was like a holiday. Gary passed around a giant's ring - The "Giant" would give out the ring during his show. Gary also passed around a framed illustration of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, circa 1932. He told a story [Jackpot] about helping with a Burt Lancaster movie, in Montreal about P T Barnum's life. He told more stories about life on the circus train and his trips on them. He talked about some of the acts. Some of the stories he told are in the book, "Water for Elephants" by Sarah Gruen.

He concluded his talk with a story from the movie premiere of "Water for Elephants" in Manhattan. Gary was asked about The Hartford Circus Fire in 1944. He referred to a book - "A Matter of Degree" (2001) which he felt had the most facts about the fire. He is certain a movie of the same name will come out soon, which would also bring out facts of the fire.



**Dawn Anstett**  
State Youth Director

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**Finding Our Hero Self**



**Northeast Grange Youth Conference**  
July 12-14 2019 \* Storrs, CT

We are just wrapping up all the details for this year's Northeast Regional Grange Youth Conference and are excited to be hosting this year's conference. Our conference is running the weekend of July 12-14, 2019 at the University of Connecticut, on their Storrs campus. Packets will be available on the Connecticut State Grange website, on the Youth Connections page.

This spring many of the Northeast Youth Directors met at the Leadership Conference and decided to extend our National Grange Public Relations theme of "Grangers are Heroes in Our Hometowns," and we are asking you to bring your "Hero Self." This includes your own cape/costume or making one during the conference, creating a grange hero alliance and telling your story. Prizes will be awarded.

As far as accommodations, we are going to be housed in an older dormitory. Linens (bed sheets) will be provided but you should bring your own pillow, towels, and toiletries. You may bring small fans. The dorm we will be in is no air conditioned and you may want to bring a fan. I suggest you all check with your state youth director about where to send your completed packet. If you have any questions please email Dawn Anstett, CT State Grange Youth Director at youth@ctstategrange.org.

We are looking forward to hosting you this year! Please get those packets into your youth director as soon as possible.

# Oxford & Bethlehem donate to Nonnewaug



Oxford and Bethlehem Granges donated 50 lbs. of seed potatoes and 1 lb. of bush bean seeds to the Community Garden Project at Nonnewaug High School. In the picture: Robert Buck, Grange representative (2nd from left), Culinary Arts/Farm to Table Teacher John Dominello (back right), teacher Tyler Cremeans (back second from right).



## Let's Celebrate Day

Contests • Exhibits • Food • Fellowship • Entertainment • Fun

### Sunday, June 9, 2019

### Doors Open at 10 AM

Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire, CT

- Non-Denominational Fellowship Service at 11:00 AM
- Lunch by the Youth and Junior Committees
- Talent and "A Number" Contest Run-offs
- Contests and displays including needlework, baking and crafts, photography and more!

**FREE**  
Admission  
and Parking

Contest Rules and Information  
are available on the  
Connecticut State Grange website:

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

**FUN**  
for the  
Whole Family





# Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

## Business Cards, Printing and Email for your Grange

*Terri Fassio, Public Relations Dir.*

### Business Cards --

As you may know, the CT State Grange Central Office is moving its location, and as such, will have a new address and phone number. Due to this change, we will soon be printing newly designed business cards for all CT State Grange Officers and Committees. If you are an Officer or Committee member, and would like any changes to your information that we have on file, please email us those changes ASAP. If your Grange would like business cards utilizing our new design, now is the time to get on board! Please email us the information you would like on the card (contact person's name and title, phone, e-mail, address, meeting information, etc.). This is a special offer for Connecticut Granges at NO COST to the Grange for the printing. After this offer passes, if Granges would like business cards, there is a charge involved that will be passed on to the Grange, based on quantity. The deadline to take advantage of this special offer and to get us your information is July 1st. Send your information to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org).

### Custom Printing --

The Public Relations Committee offers custom graphic design and printing services to all Connecticut Granges in black/white and color at no or low costs and quick turnaround times. Custom Brochures, Flyers, Posters, Banners and Signs and much more are available! Any of our existing pieces can be customized for your Grange. We can also create one-of-a-kind custom pieces as well. If you just need graphic design services and will use your own printer, that's okay too! Send an email to [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) with your needs.

### Grange-specific E-mail Addresses--

All CT State Grange Officers, Committees, and Community Granges have been assigned a FREE e-mail address and mailbox (ie: [yourgrange@ctstategrange.org](mailto:yourgrange@ctstategrange.org)). Instructions on how to access these accounts were given to all Granges in their Public Relations Packs, or were given to each person when an office turned over. Currently, nearly 100% of Officers and Committees are regularly accessing their Grange e-mail, but only

approximately 1/2 of the Granges in the state are using their e-mail address. Using a Grange-specific e-mail address supports branding of the Grange in Connecticut while providing a professional "face" to the public, the media, and also to the State Officials and Representatives. When a Grange member sends out a "Grange" e-mail, it will be taken more seriously coming from [yourgrange@CTStateGrange.org](mailto:yourgrange@CTStateGrange.org) than it does from [hotlips@yahoo.com](mailto:hotlips@yahoo.com) (I know the yahoo e-mail is an extreme example, but we actually know of some folks who have similar style e-mail addresses and use it for official Grange business.) If you are not already using your Grange e-mail, please contact [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org) or [publicrelations@ctstategrange.org](mailto:publicrelations@ctstategrange.org) and we will send you access instructions. You can access the email using the easy-to-use web interface, or you can set-up the email on your computer via Outlook or Mac Mail, and even on your smart phone and tablet! The more Granges that use their e-mail addresses, the more efficient we can communicate as a group. Plus, every e-mail sent and received saves printing and mailing a letter - thus saving in postage alone.

We offer these specific tools and resources available at low or no cost, to enable Granges to centralize communications, and thus better promote themselves as a unified group, and get their name out onto the tips of everyone's tongues.

# New video is a success!



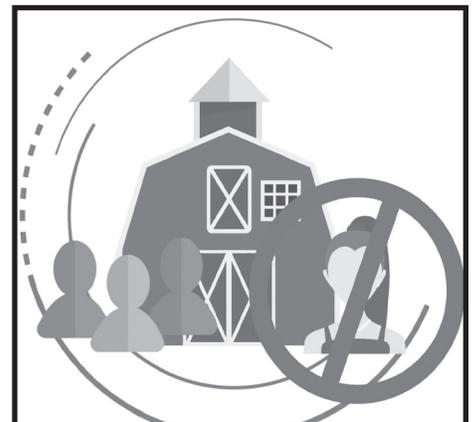
**Faith Quinlan**  
Membership Dir.  
Winchester Grange #74  
[membership@ctstategrange.org](mailto:membership@ctstategrange.org)

In April we ran the new membership/marketing video on Facebook. Using the video to create an advertisement targeted to potential members. The video reached 1865 people and because technology likes data from Facebook we learned a few

things about who watched it and/or were engaging with the video.

Of the 1865 people who the video was in front of, 213 hit play and watched at least 10 seconds of the video. We learned that 64.7% were female and 35.3% were male. The ad targeted ages 18-65+ and the group who interacted the most with it were 65+ but the 35-44 and 55-64 year olds were also engaging at a higher level.

This information is helpful to get an idea of who may be interested in our organization.



<http://bit.ly/GrangeMem2019>

# As the 2019 Session winds down...



**Alma Graham**  
Legislative Director  
Coventry Grange #75  
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

As of this writing, the 2019 Connecticut General Assembly is in its last days of its session. The General Assembly must by statute adjourn on June 5th. Any bills that have not passed both the House and Senate will be considered dead. Of course, the budget is the primary issue in these last few days. Along with the budget, the discussion of reinstating tolls in the state has become a main focus. As of today, the Governor released a summary of what he is proposing for tolls and how they would be managed. The Governor is also calling for a special session dedicated to the toll bills. This may be prudent so that the legislators will be focused on one topic only.

There have been some bills that have made it through the General Assembly. A notable bill that passed is SB 893 which addressed the regulating, growing and harvesting of industrial hemp in Connecticut. The 2018 Federal Farm Bill redefined industrial hemp as a raw agricultural product that could be marketed. This legalized the growing and harvesting of industrial hemp by farmers across the nation. Many states had already started addressing this but Connecticut had not set up a Hemp program.

SB 893 was passed on May 18th with the Governor signing it on May 9. It is now addressed in Public Act 19-3, An Act Concerning A Pilot Program for Hemp. This act authorizes the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) to implement a Hemp research program. DoAg must then submit this state plan to the United States Secretary of Agriculture for their approval. Once approved, the research program will expire and DoAg will then regulate the commercial production of Hemp as an agricultural commodity.

DoAg is now holding informational meetings around the state for potential growers and processors of hemp. They will review license applications and agreements along

with guidance and compliance of the new laws.

DoAg has also implemented a web page where growers can find the application, compliance and Licensing Information. That site is <https://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1367&Q=608506>. If you go to the DoAg front page you should be able to find a link there. [www.ct.gov/doag](http://www.ct.gov/doag)

Public Act 19-3 also addressed the use of hemp products used for human consumption. The Department of Consumer Protection will license and regulate hemp products intended for human ingestion, inhalation, absorption and other internal consumption.

Any hemp use for animal drugs will be regulated by the FDA Center of Veterinary Medicine.



## Lemon Blueberry Cake

Picnics, barbecues, potlucks and pool parties are all the rage during the warm weather months. Granges also get into the spirit as well! This recipe for Lemon-Blueberry Cake from Delish, is the perfect easy dessert that can be made ahead of time.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (15.25oz). box vanilla cake, plus ingredients called for on box
- Juice and zest of 1 1/2 lemons, divided, plus more zest for garnish
- 1 3/4 c. fresh blueberries, divided
- 3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 3 c. powdered sugar
- 1/4 c. heavy cream
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of kosher salt
- 2 Thin lemon slices, for topping

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350° and grease three 9" cake pans with cooking spray. Line with parchment. Prepare cake mix according to package directions, then stir in juice and zest of 1 lemon.

In a small bowl, toss 1 cup blueberries and flour until completely coated (to keep the berries from

sinking). Gently fold blueberries into the batter.

Divide cake batter evenly among prepared cake pans and bake until a toothpick comes out clean, 18 to 20 minutes.

Let cool in pans for 10 minutes, then invert onto a wire rack and let cool completely.

Make frosting: In a large bowl using a hand mixer or the bowl of a stand mixer using the whisk attachment, beat butter and 2 1/2 cups powdered sugar. Add remaining lemon juice and zest and heavy cream and beat until combined, then beat in vanilla and salt. (Add remaining 1/2 cup powdered sugar as desired for texture and flavor.)

Place a dab of frosting on cake plate (to keep cake in place) and place parchment strips on each side of the cake plate. Place down first cake and top with frosting, then top with second cake and frost. Repeat with third cake and frost sides.

Garnish with remaining blueberries, lemon slices, and zest and serve.

**SOURCE:** <https://www.delish.com/cooking/recipes/a52625/lemon-blueberry-cake-recipe/>

# State Secretary



**Todd A. Gelineau**  
State Secretary  
Winchester Grange #74  
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

By this time, all Granges should have received their Blue Book/Directory packets for the next two years. Rather than spend a tremendous amount of money printing the information in a bound book, we have decided to provide packets of information from the various committees. Please keep in mind that this material covers TWO YEARS. Please make copies of the packet material as needed. We do not have a lot of extra copies in the office, so please keep this in mind. We are trying to print less and reduce the waste involved in over-producing materials.

The move of the Central Office from Glastonbury to Winchester Center is moving along-- maybe not as fast as I would like but we are making progress. The biggest problems we are facing now involve what to do with the surplus of furniture in the hall. The State Master as put one more plea in his report this month for Granges and members to let us know if you would like anything from Good Will Grange Hall. This offer is also made to individuals as well. We are not asking for money, we just want to clean the hall out. If you would like to make a donation to the State Grange Foundation, we would certainly accept those gratefully. Please give me a call (860-307-1522) if you are interested. If you would like to come to the hall to see what might be available, we will try to accomodate those requests as well. It is extremely important we get the hall cleaned out as soon as possible.

The other major problem is whittling down the 135 years of items collected by the State Grange. We can't possibly keep everything we have. There are dozens and dozens of staves, boxes of gavels, song books, totes and totes full of sashes, and much, much more. Difficult decisions will have to be made to get our "collection down to a reasonable and manageable level.

The new office in Winchester

Center is shaping up nicely. The cable company arrived last week to install internet and telephone (our new telephone number is listed below). Once the cabinetry in Glastonbury is cleaned out, we will hire a moving company to move the office furniture across the state.

While the new office is well off the "beaten track" for a good number of our members, it will make my life tremendously easier, reducing my commute to the office by nearly two hours each trip.

The Executive Committee will continue to meet centrally each month. We have an arrangement with Hillstown Grange to meet at their hall on the last Wednesday of each month. This will make travel equal for most of our Board members. If there are items needed from the office that can't be sent by mail, I can always arrange to meet with members on those evenings, if necessary.

The Scholarship applications are ready to go out to students in need of them. If you know of a Grange member who would benefit from a Grange Scholarship or Studen Loan, please have them get in touch with

me. We have a generous Student Loan and Scholarship that should be better utilized by the membership.

In the last couple of issues I have explained the difficulty with the IRS in filing our 990N ePostcards. Fortunately the website is now up and running again and I am in the process of filing for all Granges. Receipts from those filings will be sent in a separate mailing to each Grange once filings are complete. When they arrive, please put them in a safe place. I have had calls and emails from Granges throughout the year asking for copies of this paperwork. While I don't mind providing the information, I am concerned about what is happening to sensitive tax documents that are disappearing. Please treat them as you would your own tax return documents.

In closing, I would like to apologize if things are not being done as quickly as they ordinarily would. It's extremely crazy right now with parts of the Central Office in Glastonbury, Winchester Center and at my house in Sharon. Hopefully, once the move is complete, things will settle down into a new routine.

Until next time, get out and enjoy the beautiful weather.

## ***We're moving!***

**New Address:** Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3,  
Winchester Center, CT 06094  
**Telephone:** 860-909-1101



# Snapshots



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange friends!

We are now officially into the warm weather months! We had the pleasure of going to Bethlehem Grange's meeting where I got to help present 50-year Golden Sheaf Certificates to Al "Skip" Maddox and Fred Camp. We also went to the Mountain Laurel Pomona conferral of the Fifth Degree.

I ask each of you to follow the link to my Facebook page, and then click the "Like" button once you are on the page. You can follow us on all of our fun Grange adventures. <http://www.Facebook.com/CT-GrangeHanktheBurro>



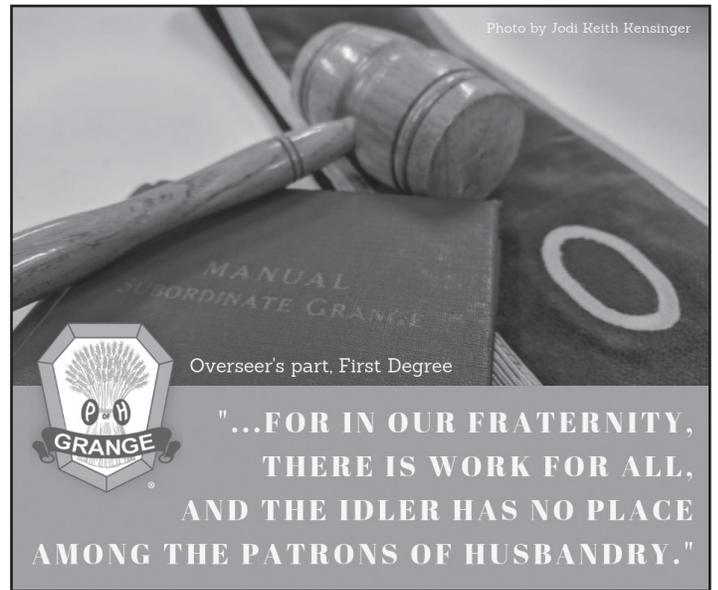
Cannon Grange members celebrate 130 yrs



Bridgewater Grange Bake Sale at firehouse.



Ekons Jrs. at the Foster Ctr. Firehouse



# Greater Lyme Disease risk in Connecticut

In a recently published study in the journal *Ticks and Tick-Borne Diseases*, a team of researchers at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station found a strong relationship between the prevalence rate of *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the agent that causes Lyme disease, in nymphal ticks submitted by state residents for testing, and the subsequent incidence of Lyme disease in humans across the state.

The findings were based on analysis of more than 30,000 blacklegged (deer) tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) submissions by state residents to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's Tick Testing Laboratory over the past 20 years.

"The primary aim of this study was to determine if passively collected data on human-biting ticks in Connecticut could serve as a useful proxy for Lyme disease incidence based on cases reported to the Connecticut Department of Public Health," said Dr. Goudarz Molaei, a research scientist and senior author on the paper who also directs the CAES Tick Testing Program.

Analysis by Dr. Eliza Little, a postdoctoral scientist at the CAES also found that while residents in densely populated counties of Fairfield and New Haven submitted the highest number of ticks, the prevalence of infected ticks was greater in the least populated counties of Windham, Tolland and New London, where the incidence of Lyme disease was also highest.

Annual infection rates in nymph-

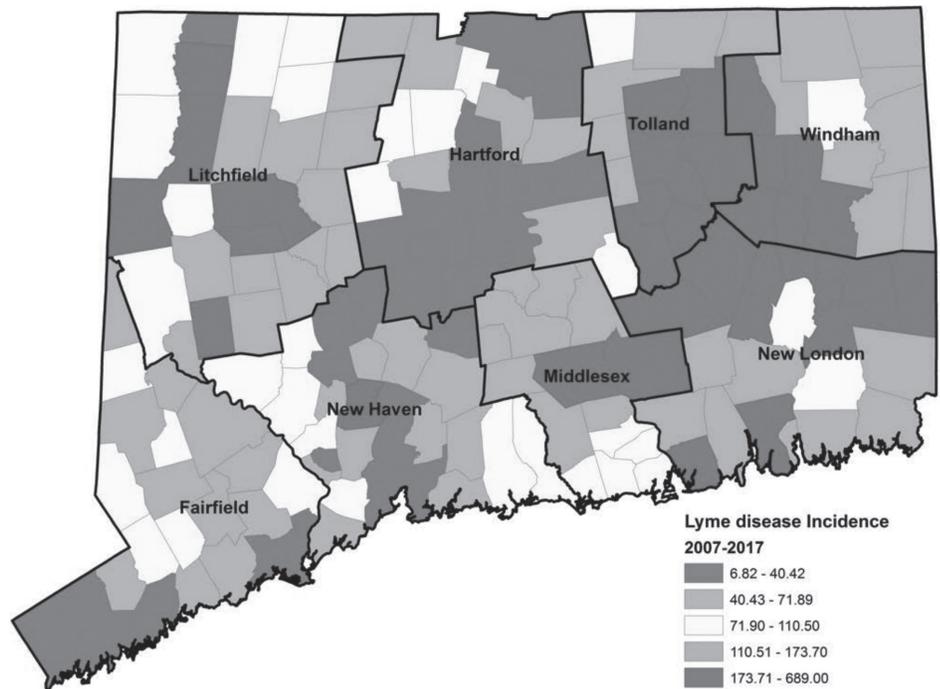
al ticks ranged from 15% to 41% with a twenty year average of 21%, while infection rates in adult ticks ranged from 27% to 39% with annual mean of 33%.

"The results of this study underscore the value of our state-supported tick testing program which is highly predictive of Lyme disease incidence for each town or county and may effectively be used to guide informed decisions concerning prevention and treatment of tick-borne diseases" said Dr. Theodore Andreadis, Director of CAES.

"We are currently in the midst of the peak activity season for adult blacklegged (deer) ticks, and nearing the season for increased nymphal activity, which are often more difficult to detect because of their small size and propensity to quickly attach and feed," said Dr. Molaei.

"Reducing exposure to ticks by using tick repellants when hiking or camping and conducting tick checks remain the best defense against Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections," added Dr. Molaei.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the United States that affects an estimated 329,000 people annually, and can cause severe damage to joints and the nervous system. Connecticut is among the 14 states from which nearly 95% of Lyme disease cases in the United States are reported, and it had the 8th highest incidence per 100,000 population (n=2051, number of confirmed and probable cases) in 2017.



Lyme Disease incidence. Cumulative (2007-2017) total Lyme Disease incidence (per 100,000) broken into quartiles and mapped by town. Source: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES).

100 Newfield Road, P.O. Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

Address Service Requested

## Love yourself but don't be selfish



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

The one who acquires good sense loves himself; one who safeguards understanding finds success. Proverbs 19:8

“You are not to seek vengeance or hold a grudge against the descendants of your people. Instead, love your neighbor as yourself.” Leviticus 19:18

Do nothing out of rivalry or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves. Philippians 2:3

As children, most of us have been told on numerous occasions: “don't be selfish; share what you have; be nice to other people.” Some of us have been scolded for our selfishness to the point where we might think of ourselves as no-good selfish brats. This can lead to a feeling of not being worthy. This in turn can lead to unhappiness. We have lost our self-respect. Others we know may have reacted in the other direction, becoming more and more selfish. Neither one is the correct way to go.

There is a huge difference between self-respect and Ego. Self-respect is

the respect you have for yourself while ego is a feeling of self-importance. Self-importance leads inevitably to selfishness and a disregard to the needs of others. Self-respect leads to happiness. There is no need to be ashamed of oneself. We read in Genesis “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

The Bible quotes above pretty much set the boundaries on loving oneself. We are made in God's image, and we should love everything that God has made, therefore we should love ourselves. But we are also instructed to love other people as much as we love ourselves. In the Gospel of John, Jesus, at the Last Supper, tells his disciples “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

And lastly, a warning: Examine yourself. Are you doing nice things for others just to make yourself feel good or to make you look good in the eyes of others? Rather we should be kind to each other and do good for others with complete lack of selfishness. Consider others to be at least as worthy as yourself, if not more so.

## In Memoriam

Edith Schoell, G.S.  
Manchester Grange #31

Barbara Moses, G.S.  
Leona Wilson, G.S.  
Vernon Grange #52

Arthur Everett Pinney  
formerly of Bolton Grange

Annic Harris  
Harmony #92

Charles Ames, G.S.  
N. Stonington #138



Past First Lady Sharyn Wetmore was memorialized in the last issue, but we did want to share this 1988 photo of Sharyn with Past State Master Duane Wetmore during the State Grange Installation ceremony.

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”