



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2022

Celebrate Grange Month



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
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Let's celebrate Grange Month. How are you celebrating Grange Month at your Grange? The Connecticut State Grange Membership Committee sent out a nice banner to each Grange last year. Let's display them at our halls and meeting places, letting our communities know April is Grange Month.

I would like to congratulate Dave Roberts, Lecturer of the State Grange and President of Riverton Grange for his appointment by the National Grange President Betsy Huber to represent National Grange on the United Nations Council of Organizations. The Council of Organizations was founded 75 years ago by Eleanor Roosevelt to engage non-profit organizations in the work of the United Nations. National Grange is 1 of 42 members of the original non-profit organizations in the Council. Today there are more than 100 non-profit organizations that belong to the Council. Dave Roberts also serves as the Lions Club Int. representative for this organization. Congratulations to Dave for this honor.

The Northeast Lecturers met by Zoom at the end of February and Dave Roberts was elected Treasurer,

filling the position previously held by Marge Bernhardt, former State Lecturer. The other officers are: President, Kristen Paulson (MA); Vice President, Matthew Clark (NH); and Secretary, Valerie Richard (RI). The Lecturers also voted to merge the Lecturer's Conference with the 2023 Leaders' Conference.

The Youth Chairpersons of the Northeast Connection met in March and decided to have a one-day Youth Conference at the New England Grange Building at the Big E on July 16, 2022. The Youth Committees are working on this.

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Senator John Minetto

By Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

It is truly astounding to see the longstanding impact Connecticut Grangers have made as we leaf through the pages of history and find the stories of Grangers making an indelible mark on their communities. Senator John A. Minetto was no exception.

John A. Minetto was born in 1891 in Naugatuck and soon moved to Torrington and would live in the Northwest Corner for the rest of his life. A member of Goshen Grange No. 143, Minetto served with the Army's First Amercian Expeditionary Force during World War I.

After the war, Minetto established a chain of gasoline stations in the Torrington area, which he sold in 1935. Having retired from business,

There will be more information in the coming months.

This year's Ag Day was held at the William A. O'Neill State Armory next door to the Capitol building due to COVID on March 25. I would like to thank everyone who helped that day setting up and manning the State Grange's booth.

Just a reminder that the Executive Committee reports are due. Please send them to Peter Keefe (Gen. Deputy) or myself as soon as possible. There are still quite a few grants that need to be reported.

To end this report, don't forget, April showers bring May flowers and the Granges will have more plants to sell for Mother's Day.



Minetto was ready to take on a new career in public service, serving in the General Assembly as a Representative for 8 years and another 12 years as a Senator.

His resume of accomplishments as a legislator are remarkable as his impact continues to be felt in our everyday lives.

Minetto was a member of the Appropriations Committee, chairman of the Veteran's Affairs and Veteran's Home and Veteran's Advisory Committee. He was Senate Chairman of the Veterans' Advisory

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What's Your Cause?



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
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Many of us are asked to give money for different causes. Homelessness, abused and hungry children, animals, elderly, veterans, education, illnesses, religion, political, clubs, the list seems



endless. What do you support, personally? I bet what you choose has a connection to a life experience or a belief you hold plus a belief that your contribution will make a positive difference.

What is our "effect" on the cause of our choosing? Do we have the capability to truly make a change for the organization or issue and if so, how do we know we made a difference?

Today, when there are so many ways to be cause-conscious and to make a difference we may take action in various ways without significant energy and time. With the advent of the internet, we do

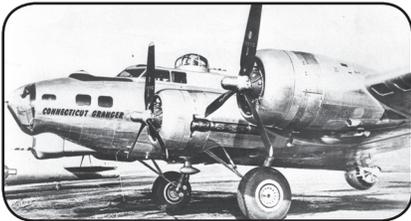
not have to travel to the other end of the globe, or venture into dangerous situations closer to home, to witness the plight of those who need our help. This is positive if the situation just needs money but can be less fulfilling for the donor.

I want to point out that the Grange is also a "cause." Our halls have operating expenses, of course. People who contribute want to support the services and donations we offer in our communities, and the events we put on during the year. It is with membership and donor support from of people who see our organization, our community Granges as their "cause." They believe in what we are doing and can see measurable and tangible results for their investment.

For the benefit of your Grange please remember to always share what your Grange is doing. remember people like to support locally and see, when possible, the actual effects of the work we are doing in our community. Lets give them good "cause" to support us.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Hello Spring, It's a beautiful day as I write this article. We are all feeling that relief that we are almost thru the long winter. Maybe you are planning your gardens and flower beds. Maybe you are starting up that next project for one of our contests. Whatever you are doing, it's always a great time of year.

Has your Grange made their donations to our projects? I just wanted to remind you that this year's special project remains the same as last year. It is the Community Renewal Team's Meals on Wheels program. With the cost of everything remaining high due to shortages and shipping costs, people are struggling now more than ever. This worthy program really can make the difference in people's lives. They not only do daily meals for our Seniors and Veterans; they do hundreds of "Grab and Go" meals. In addition to the Connecticut Granger Trust Fund and the Connecticut State Grange Scholarship Fund, we ask that you please consider making your donation for this year's State Project-Meals on Wheels/CT.

- CSG Scholarship Fund**
- Connecticut Granger**
- Meals on Wheels CT**

John Minetto

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and Military Affairs Committees, among many others.

He authored legislation for the World War II and Korean conflict bonus bills for veterans and similar benefit legislation for Vietnam veterans.

While serving as Senator, Minetto was a member of the State Grange Legislative Committee providing expert advice and support to the State Grange legislative programs. In 1972, Minetto was elected to a three year term on the State Grange Executive Committee.

If you have driven on Route 8 between Winchester and Bridgeport, you can thank “The Father of Route 8”, Senator Minetto, in part for its creation as he wrote the first bill proposing the relocation and reconstruction of the highway through northwest Connecticut. He also worked with, then State Master (and candidate for Winchester Selectman) Kingsley Beecher on the “Missing Spoke” project which encouraged the State of Connecticut to add an improved highway (Route 44) through the northwest corner of the state, the only section without such a highway with direct access to Hartford. For many reasons, this project was never completed, though many improvements have been made to Route 44, which continues to serve as a main artery through that section of the state.

Minetto championed improvement and creation of new parks and recreation areas around the state. “It goes without saying,” Minetto said, “That the more opportunities that our families have to play together and enjoy our state parks and forests, the better and stronger our family ties become.” “As our population grows and as our opportunities for leisure time activities increase, attention should be given to meeting these needs,” he said. “These are important things, because everyone is concerned and everyone can



John Minetto State Park in Torrington.

benefit whether he likes the shore, pond or lake or whether he likes to hunt, fish, boat or engage in other sports.” His advocacy paved the way for what was then known as Hall Meadow Dam (State Park) in Torrington.

He was co-sponsor of a bill in 1969 which provided \$6 million for the state’s non-public schools. He is also credited for getting the state to appropriate the money for the establishment of Oliver Wolcott

Technical High School in Torrington. In 1972, a scholarship at OWTHS was established in Minetto’s name.

As if he didn’t have enough to occupy his time, Minetto was a Colonel with the State Guard for many years, a Colonel on Governor John Lodge’s staff and Captain of the First Company Governor’s Foot Guard.

For those not familiar with it, the Governor’s Foot Guard was established in 1771 to protect the Governor in his travels between the two (then) state Capitols in Hartford and New Haven. It is the oldest American military formation in the United States with unbroken lineage. A second company was established in 1775 by none other than Benedict Arnold. The Governor’s Horse Guard was chartered in 1778 and is the oldest continuously active mounted cavalry unit in the U.S.

Minetto served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention twice in 1948 and 1952, was a Republican State Central Committeeman from 1950 to 1964, was past president of the Toga Club (composed of State Senators) and past commander of the Goshen Post of the American Legion.

In 1972, by unanimous action of the members of the General

Continued next page...



A Minetto campaign matchbook from the early 60’s

John Minetto

Continued from page 3...

Assembly, Hall Meadow State Park was renamed John A. Minetto State Park in his honor. Minetto was present in the House Chamber as the resolution passed with a standing ovation by all members. Immediately following, the same resolution was presented and passed

An Army of Zealous Patrons of Husbandry Converges on City

Grange Month is upon us and in recognition, we are re-printing a story originally published on the front page of the Hartford Courant in 1934, heralding the arrival of the National Grange for its historic convention which would see 15,000 members receive the Seventh Degree at the Bushnell in Hartford. Pages of this issue of the Courant (including the entirety of the front page) were devoted to coverage of the Convention.

*By Barbara Atwood,
Hartford Courant, Nov. 11, 1934*

Two evenings, at least, in every month, a total of 21,000 men, women and children in Connecticut gather in little groups for a few hours of social pastimes and serious discussion of community problems. Disregarding the counter-attraction of movies, roadhouses and other places where one sits back and is entertained, they meet to exchange ideas and entertain themselves. It is neighborliness in a broad sense of the word. They call it "going to Grange meeting."

The same custom prevails in nearly every state. From rural communities, and as some of these grew up, from towns and cities, men and women have backed the Grange movement, national in scope, since December 4, 1867, "the birthday of the Grange." Between 25,000 and 30,000 Grangers from 34 states have already begun to arrive in Hartford for the National Grange Convention which opens, Wednesday, November 14 and will continue until November 22.

in the Senate Chamber, again with a standing ovation from his former colleagues. He was also given the status of a visiting dignitary during his visit to the Capitol, a rare honor.

Senator Minetto passed away on June 26, 1975 at the age of 84 in Torrington.

Former State Public Safety Commissioner John E. Potter said, "Almost every segment of our society,

from the elderly to our veterans, yes, even down to our babies, has been touched beneficially, by his quiet, good planning and actions," adding that "his legislative record is positive and progressive and ranges from the first major bill on Rt. 8 to the wonderful recreation area at Hall Meadow Dam which now services literally thousands of adults and children."



Connecticut men and women, fathers and mothers and aunts and uncles have been "going to Grange meeting" since 1875, or earlier for the first Connecticut State Grange was organized in that year. There were subordinate Granges as early as 1870, among them a branch in West Suffield, Suffield, No. 27, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in February, and several Granges, among them Bloomfield and Stafford, have already marked that anniversary.

Keep Up With The Times

Grangers of long standing describe it as "the finest organization in the world," and a great benefit to rural communities." Children in the Juvenile Grange, conducted on the same lines as the adult order are, their parents say "thrilled" to be doing something that Mother and Father are doing too, and benefit by the training they receive. Young men and women are eager to develop their talents in Grange meeting and help in Grange movements for community betterment.

The Grange keeps up with the times and the members keep up with the Grange- or the members

keep up with the times and the Grange stays with them. One of the charter members of Suffield Grange No. 27, which was organized 50 years ago, Miss Antoinette Clark, is anticipating taking the Seventh Degree which signifies membership in the National Grange, here this week.

"Patrons of Husbandry"

Over the insignia of the Order on its letterhead and elsewhere appear the words, "Patrons of Husbandry." The insignia itself includes the plow, the sickle, sheaves of wheat and cornstalks. It was designed to be essentially a rural Order. Yet not one of a half dozen men and women in close touch with its activities selected somewhat at random for consultation, stressed its rural interests; they spoke of community betterment, of social evenings, of better roads for everyone to ride over, of training boys and girls, and incidentally keeping them out of mischief, of such community projects as roadside gardening.

The Founder

The founder of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry was O. H. Kelley, a self-described "Boston Yankee." Mr. Kelley traveled through the South on an observation trip for the very new Department of Agriculture early in 1866- so soon after the Civil War that the farmers of the North and the planters of the South were in need of something to promote their cooperation.

Nineteen of every 20 planters he met were Matrons, he found

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National 1934

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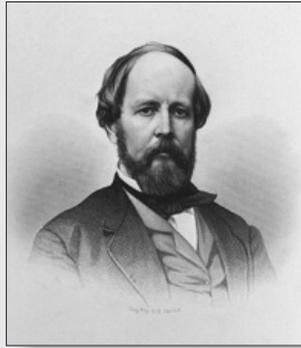
according to his account of his trip in "The Connecticut Granges," published in 1900 in New Haven. They talked "agriculture day and night but political questions were not to be thought of." Mr. Kelley decided that a farmers' fraternity would accomplish more than "the wrangling and quarreling" of politicians in Congress.

Women Included

Mr. Kelley's niece, a Boston woman, was responsible for the inclusion of women on an equal footing with men members. Being thus the idea of two natives of Boston, the Grange may well claim to be of New England origin. Mr. Kelley credits Connecticut with a large share in its start, for Senator Dixon of Connecticut was instrumental in making his Southern tour possible.

[The article continues with explanation of the structure of the Grange and action the Connecticut State Grange had taken on issues like "Get Connecticut Out of the Mud"

The Connecticut Senator who made O.H. Kelley's Tour of South Possible



Senator James Dixon

Republican & Whig Parties
State Rep. 1837-38, 1844,
State Speaker of the House 1837
U.S. Rep. & Senator 1845-49, 1857-69

which has been covered extensively in the Granger. The article continues...]

Many New Members Yearly

He (Louis G. Tolles, Past State Master) and other members pointed out the fact that the Grange antedates a great many pieces of amusement and instruction for people to go to and ways to get there as well. When

the first Grange was organized you didn't pick up a few of the neighbors in your car and run into town for a movie or a dance. Harnessing the horse to the buggy and driving in to the Grange meeting, or walking to it along the country roads was a much needed diversion and contact with the neighbors.

Three thousand and sixty persons have joined the State Grange this year. At the State meeting last January at Food Guard Hall they had to work the degree twice, the hall wouldn't hold the whole group at one time. It was the largest class of candidates ever present for that degree at one time- 1,670 men and women, boys and girls. Previously the largest class of candidates in Connecticut was 413. The prospect of a National Convention in Hartford this year was, of course, a tremendous stimulus.

But this week officers and degree team of the National Grange expect to work the seventh degree six times at Horace Bushnell Memorial Hall-capacity more than 3,000- for about 15,000 persons, the biggest class in all Fraternal history.



Eye on Communications
CLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Is your Grange participating in Grange Month?

by Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

April 2022 has been declared Grange Month by National Grange President Betsy Huber. This year's theme is "Raised Right Here." This theme is designed to focus on local resources, sustainability and resilience for rural areas and the hometowns where Granges are located. Community Granges throughout Connecticut are encouraged to participate in the month-long celebration by opening their doors to the public for family-oriented events and activities focused on the contributions of the Grange in their communities.

National Grange has distributed their resources promoting Grange Month via download this year. (<https://www.nationalgrange.org/grange-month-2022/>) New this year is Grange Spirit Week, April 3 - 9, with a different "challenge" each day. We

strongly encourage your participation to help spread the Grange story. National Grange is also presenting many virtual events from their Departments and Directors. These Zoom events are open to all members, so please encourage members to tune in by sharing National Grange's social media posts.

Community Granges will be celebrating Grange Month with open houses, lectures and programs, citizens' awards, service projects, community displays, traditional pot-luck suppers and more. Be sure to check out the Calendar of Events on the Connecticut State Grange website at www.CTStateGrange.org, Grange Social Media pages, and the calendar items listed in the Connecticut Granger for details.

If you need help promoting your Grange's Grange Month events - such as writing press releases and articles, designing posters and more - the PR Committee is just an e-mail away! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.

Questions about Grange Month? Contact Philip Vonada, National Grange Communications Director at pvonada@nationalgrange.org

Grange works with Postmaster



Alma Graham
Legislative Director

Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The National Grange has long supported reforms for the United States Postal service. Partially due to financial issues there has been a danger of services being cut from 6 days to 5 days a week. They are also struggling with outdated equipment and buildings.

In February the House passed a reform bill that included easements in some of the financial burdens that were placed with the 2006 Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act. The Senate passed their version in early March. The chief feature of the act is to wipe away \$57 billion in defaulted debt. The Postal Accountability Act had required the Postal Service to advance fund the employee retirement funds.

National Grange Legislative Director, Burton Eller, highlighted some of the conditions of the Act in the February View From The Hill. He stated; The Act does the following:

- Eliminates the requirement to prefund retiree health benefits
- Requires six-day integrated mail and package delivery
- Expands special rates for local newspaper distribution
- Requires regular Congressional reporting on operations and financial performance
- Other important provisions.

In early March the National Grange President, Betsy Huber, and Legislative Director, Burton Eller, met with Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, to discuss his vision for the postal service. During their meeting DeJoy outlined his ten-year plan which included “over \$40 billion in capital investments over

the next ten years to modernize the Postal Service, adapt to customers’ changing needs, and achieve the

Notes from the State Office



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

It’s finally spring and the temperatures are starting to match the season. Hopefully that means Granges will be meeting more frequently and holding more public events.

Early in March a couple of mailings went out to all Granges with important forms and information.

Each should have received a copy of the receipt from their 990N E-Postcard filing for the most recent tax year. Please place these receipts in a safe place as it is your Grange’s proof of tax filing. You may also need to produce this paperwork when proving your tax-free status with your municipality or transacting business with banks. Please let me know if you did not receive your copy.

Copies of official forms for Suspension of membership and application for reinstatement have also been provided. There is a common misconception that Granges can “drop” members for non-payment. This is actually not true. By majority vote at a regular meeting, a Grange may suspend a member who is delinquent in the payment of dues for one quarter or more. Before this vote, the member has to be contacted at least twice, with one being in writing. Until this vote, the member is still counted on the Quarterly Report to the State Grange. After the vote, the member should be notified using the forms provided.

universal service mission.” The Grange has long been concerned on how cuts in postal services will affect our rural communities. The National Grange will continue to work with Postmaster DeJoy.

Another misconception is that a suspended member does not retain continuous membership upon reinstatement. If the member applies for and is granted reinstatement and pays all dues required (past due and current) within one year, they are able to retain their continuous membership status. The Grange is also required to pay to the State Grange all dues paid for the period from suspension to reinstatement. If a member is reinstated after one year, continuous membership cannot be restored.

An important thing to remember-- all of these rules are available to all members in the National Grange Digest and the Connecticut State Grange By-Laws. All Granges received a copy of the most recent update of the State Grange By-Laws and the National Digest is available online through the National Grange website. Hard copies are available for purchase through the National website as well. You can also contact me and I will make sure you get a copy. All Granges should have copies of the Digest and By-Laws available.

If there are questions after reviewing the Digest, please contact me (if it pertains to the Secretary’s office) or contact the State President. We are happy to work with you... it’s our job!

Next month I will have more information on a revised version of the Resolution of Respect issued by many Granges when a member passes. These forms were sorely in need of an update. The new resolutions are foldover cards with mailing envelopes. More next time.

Until next month... enjoy the coming spring!



GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Apr. 7: April Showers, 7:30 P.M.,
Ref. Marycharles Howe

May 1: Semi-Annual Bakeless/
Foodless Sale

SENEXET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

Apr. 20: Garden preparation
Checklist and Well Water testing

We continue to meet in our hall now on the fourth Wed. We held a very successful Shepherd's Pie dinner serving a takeout dinner to 80 on Thursday March 10. It was nice to see so many community members who enjoy our meals. We held a very helpful work session on Saturday March 12 in the afternoon. This was a great time to inventory our supplies for future craft projects and especially for our teen nights held the second and fourth Fridays of each month. At the last meeting they made cookies, did some painting and a Mystery box was discussed. A paint night will be held this spring. We will continue the working meetings and the next one will be an open house. An art show to be held on Sat. March 26 for all local artists this will include a lunch and music. We will collect nonperishable food for our local food bank at the show. We will also participate in the town wide cleanup with a cleanup of the Greenway and the Elementary school.

Members would like to send thank you notes, birthday cards and get-well cards to keep our members in our thoughts. Pat Valys continues to make recycled



Vernon Grange recently honored members for continuous membership. From left, Nancy Strong (55 yrs.); George Kotowicz (40 yrs.); Irene Percoski (40 yrs.); Gordon Gibson (60 & 65 yrs.); Carol Nelson (60 yrs.). The awards were presented by Noel Miller, Past Voting Delegate and member of the State Grange Exec. Comm. Roberta AmEnde (55 yrs.) and Nancy Skinner Whitman (60 yrs.) will receive their awards at a later date.

bags. These are being sold.

We are grateful to have outside groups use our hall. This is important to show the community what the Grange is all about. We have very informative displays to show the Grange activities and our future events. The Cosmic Cat will have Mother's Day Psychic Fair. We are always welcoming members and visitors.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

Corr: Frank Forrest

Hillstown Grange will be holding a Spring Break Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, April 2, 2022 from 8:30 am to 11 am. Take a break from spring cleaning and getting the garden ready and come relax and enjoy pancakes, sausage, bottomless cups of coffee, tea and juice for just \$5, children under 14 just \$3. Special "kid-cakes" will be available with chocolate chips. Our featured pancake is "cinnamon bun" pancakes and local fresh 'Maple Syrup' will be available for a dollar extra.

Our upstairs hall now has a library which has opened with a special area for reading, playing games, puzzles, or just visiting with old friends. Books are available for

a donation to our building fund.

Local Girl Scouts will be setting up a cookie booth and will have all your favorite flavors available for sale to support their activities. Come to browse, eat, or just visit the historic Hillstown Grange Hall. Free Admission.

The Hillstown Grange will be hosting a workshop on Bionutrient Farming for Gardeners on Thursday, April 7, 2022 from 7:00 pm. - 8:30 pm. Caitlin and David Spatcher from the Hartford Chapter of The Bionutrient Farmers Association will be the featured speakers. We will be looking forward to hearing Caitlin and David speak on the ways and what it takes to get the nutrition levels in fruits and vegetables back up to where they were, not that long ago.

The Workshop is open to all and is free. The Hillstown Grange Hall 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 one of the oldest Agricultural groups in the United States.

Any questions or further information contact Frank Forrest;
Continued next page...

hillstowngrange@aol.com, 860-690-2845 or Dan Gallagher; daninct@yahoo.com

NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 8: Game Night

Apr. 22: Community Citizen Program

Our one meeting in February celebrated Valentine's Day. The Secretary gave a short history of the legend of Saint Valentine, followed by a quiz (provided by the

Lecturer) on various candies cut in half. One of the candies depicted (but unrecognizable to this writer) was a "peep". As a side note to this, a trip to the local grocery store last week uncovered something new in the world of peeps. Four of them skewered on a stick have become "Peep Pops." After the meeting all adjourned downstairs to make valentines. Members constructed many beautiful cards from the paper, doilies, glitter, lace, feathers, stickers, etc. provided for the task. All were encouraged to enter their

best effort in a contest, with three winners receiving prizes. Debbie's delicious refreshments added to the fun. The cards were delivered to a local nursing home on Valentine's Day. Game night should be lots of fun. Hope to see a large crowd there. Our Community Citizen will be honored on the 22nd. We will also present seals and certificates to longtime members that evening. And if the ice from that last horrible storm will just melt from my parking area, next time we will tell you all about marvelous March.

Redding unveils sign at open house



The newly reorganized Redding Grange No. 15 held an open house on March 19. With their membership now exceeding 50 members, the Grange continues to reach out to the community for support and membership. One of their members

generously volunteered to restore the front doors and the sign that has graced the front of the hall for

decades. The beautiful new sign was unveiled at the Open House on March 19.

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



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

June 5: Taghannuck Grange, "Colorful Days," 4 P.M.

Aug. 27: Bethlehem Grange, "Get Ready for Changes," 4 P.M.

The 2022 meeting schedule for Mountain Laurel Pomona is included in the 2022 Connecticut State Grange Directory for any members looking for the information as the Pomona did not print handbooks this year. Please watch the Granger and your email for information on the date, time and location of the Fifth Degree conferral to be held later this spring.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 12: Welcome Spring, Ref. Peter & MaryLou Keefe

Apr. 26: Take Me Out to the Ballgame, Ref. Betty & Bill Ahrens

May 10: Neighbor's Night, Ref. Potluck

May 24: Memorial Day Program by the Chaplain, Ref. Todd Gelineau

Winchester Grange continues to meet in-person on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. at the Grange Hall and on Zoom. If you would like to visit us, please do so. If you would like to attend virtually, please send an email to info@WinchesterGrange.org and we will be happy to send you the Zoom credentials.

Plans are moving forward for the first Strawberry Festival held since this whole crazy virus started two years ago. If all of our plans work out, it will be held on our traditional date of Father's Day, June 19 from 2 to 5 at the Grange Hall.

The Festival is a special tradition

of Winchester Grange but it is also a very expensive event to hold and our margin for profit is very thin. We are hoping to be able to secure strawberries from a new vendor at a price that will still allow us to make some money. Keep your fingers crossed. Drastic price increases are a problem with everything right now and we are sure the supplies to put on a Strawberry Festival will be no different. Watch this space for more information at Father's Day draws closer.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Apr.14: Spring Cleaning In & Out (this is an in-person meeting). We will meet at 6:30pm to start the cleaning of our Hall. Everyone brings cleaning products and rakes, cutters, etc. The meeting begins at 7:30. Ref. by Ruth Schnell

May 12: Painting presented by Diane Palmer. Refreshments TBA.

At our March meeting we draped our charter for Janis Downey who was a 30 year member and our members reminisced and told favorite stories. Our Chaplain adapted the ceremony for Zoom and it was inspiring.

Our members are getting good at sharing their screens and other zoom activity just at the time we are going back to in-person meetings starting in April. We had our first Heirloom presentation and discussion of the First Degree and what it means to each member.

Andrea Downs who is a paramedic with Northern Dutchess was a guest speaker during the Community Service part of our meeting. Northern Dutchess is our Town's "intercept" for our volunteer ambulance squad. She explained the value to our communities that our yearly financial aid to for the 60 hour EMR training will have. We learned that instead of needing two EMTs on our volunteer ambulances in the Northwest Corner to roll there can be 1 EMR and 1 EMT which encourages more volunteering.

Taghannuck is very happy to be able to have a Plant & Rummage

this year. It will take place at our Grange Hall on June 4th from 9:00 to 3:00.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

Apr. 1: Meeting & Program: April Fool's and YOU (Men vs. Women!)

Apr. 3: 11th Veteran of the Month Ceremony (Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road; 6:00 PM; refreshments before/after event)

April 9, 2022 - Opening Day of Fishing – Join Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts who will treat all Grangers to breakfast at the Riverton Vol. Fire Department to support their fundraising efforts; 8:00 – 9:00 AM

Our March meeting was held virtually due to the weather conditions and our parking lot. The Legislative Committee, chaired by Phil Prelli, led the program titled pandemic and the Lecturer's program was titled "State Capitol Watch 2022 and impacts on YOU!" Our special guest again this year was State Representative Mark Anderson from Granby who highlighted key legislation of interest to Grange members and talked about our state coming out of the pandemic. Despite his busy schedule, Rep. Anderson stayed for the entire meeting! Chair Prelli again hosted his annual political quiz and President Dave Roberts won first place and Rep. Anderson won second place. The program ended with Chair Prelli mentioning his service as a State Representative and also highlighted President Roberts' grandparents, the Honorable Laurence H. and Dorothy F. Roberts, who both were State Representatives and his grandmother was a long-time active member of Riverton Grange.

During updates, President Roberts announced that Riverton Grange would receive a \$150 grant from CT State Grange for our new composting initiative.

New Grange member Judy Doyle announced a new program called "Cooking with Riverton Grange" and the first installment would feature Orchard Hill Bakery in Riverton and show how to make Irish soda bread.

Promote your Grange with new theme



RAISED RIGHT HERE™

As announced in November, the National Grange theme for 2022 and 2023 is “Raised Right Here.” This theme is designed to focus on local resources, sustainability and resilience for rural areas and the hometowns where Granges are located.

Some ways the theme can be used are as follows:

Programming

- Encourage local Granges to do what they already often do: have local individuals with farms and businesses be part of their meetings and events.
- Encourage discussions about local sustainability and resilience
- Provide talking points for local Granges about the impact of farms and small businesses on local economies as well as challenges they face
- Provide (for fee) lawn signs and window stickers with the RRH tag/logo that can be personalized to a county or region to identify local producers and mom-and-pop businesses
- Sell shirts and other items with the RRH branding and Grange logo encouraging people to see Grange as a place where local talent is “raised” (products aren’t just physical things - they are also Human Resources)

Legislative

- Look for legislation to endorse or groups to partner with to advocate for funding and opportunities for small businesses and local farms/Ag businesses (again, just another thing

we do that can now fall under the umbrella)

- Lead or be significant part of coalitions to encourage options to keep people on farms or small businesses open (especially related to health insurance, grants and educational opportunities)

How will you use “Raised Right Here” in your 2022/2023 Grange programming?

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



Virtual
Social Hour

Thursday, April 21st  **zoom**
7:00 PM

**Words of Wisdom:
Grange Ritual**




Join us for an informational and casual social gathering.
Stop by and say Hello!

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

PILLARS OF G.R.A.N.G.E.
YOUTH FOCUS:
GRANGE  YOUTH
ACTION



During Grange Month, and in celebration of Earth Day, the National Grange Youth Department challenges Grange Youth and Young Adults across the country to organize a trash pick-up day in their community between April 1-30th.

You can make your event as big or as small as you want! Use just your Grange members or invite others from the community to join!

Send us pictures of your event to be featured on our social media pages and/or website. (Be sure to fill out and send a media release for the photos)

Not sure where to start? This website has 6 awesome steps to get you started! <https://trashcansunlimited.com/blog/6-steps-for-organizing-a-community-trash-pickup-event/>



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Can't report on the March Pomona meeting as it is not for 2 weeks. Will report in the next Granger. Our next meeting will be held in June and will be Election of Officers at Beacon Valley Grange.

Cheshire Grange had a successful Corned Beef and Cabbage take-out dinner. Congratulations! If you haven't been to one of their dinners there are delicious. You don't have to be Irish to cook a good dinner.

That's all folks!

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Apr. 6: Awards Night

Apr. 20: What Flower Is This?

We continue to meet on our regular schedule. Refreshments at our March 2nd meeting were in the form of a 16th birthday party for our member Gabriel LaPlante on his actual day. We had a successful take out corned beef dinner on March 12th. It was our first formal fund raiser in a couple of years. My thanks to the committee who spent that day and into the evening to make the event happen. On April 6th, we will honor Haley Falk, a young lady in Cheshire for her well known state-wide efforts in working with our veterans and handling their issues. Our guest speaker will be a member of the Cheshire Police Department brining us all up to date with the goings-on in the

department and they are dealing with the uptick in crimes in these changing times. A reception for Haley will follow. The meeting will be open to the public.

As mentioned previously, we have begun planning for our August Fair.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

We finally got two meetings in a row done. February and March were good meetings with fairly good attendance. We had to cancel all activities at the Grange in January due to the Covid virus.

Our April meeting will be on the 8th and our theme is "What Do You Collect? So, bring something for show and tell. May 13th we will have Election of Officers." A most important meeting.

We have resumed Open Mic with the April one scheduled for Saturday April 16th from 6 to 9 PM and our tag sale the same day 9 to 3.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim & Lori Golias

Welcome Spring!

On February 5, the Greenfield Hill Grange held a Souper Supper. Many Grange members made home made soups and they were served with Grilled Cheese. The supper was a great success. Everyone had a great time. Jake did a great job calling the BINGO number so all could hear. Thanks to the members who served the soups. Jen and Jack made Lobster Corn Chowder and Hungarian Mushroom Soup. Alexander and Judith made French Onion. Becky made Pasta Fagioli.

Stephanie made Italian Wedding Soup, also Kielbasa and Kale Soup. Nancy cooked up some Beef Barley. and Jim made Italian Sausage Soup. Kathy donated the chips. Thanks to all who set-up, cooked, and cleaned. Thanks to

Nancy and Jake for the BINGO games.

Thank you to Dave Purcell for plowing and making way for the fuel truck access. Also many thanks to John Damon for plowing and salting for our soup supper. Jack Damon Nancy Olson and Jim Golias for removing the loose paint from the ceiling

In January we lost a member. Rest in peace Carolee Barrett.

FUNDRAISERS - Friday, March 25, 2022. 6 PM, eat in or to go, shrimp scampi over linguini Toss salad bread and butter dessert. Donation \$20.

Saturday, April 2, 2022. 6 PM. Chicken franchise, Rice Pilaf, mixed vegetable and toss salad, bread, butter, and dessert \$20 donation.

Good Friday fish fry April 15. 6 PM. Eat in or take out. Batter dipped fish or batter dipped shrimp, French fries, coleslaw, and dessert. \$20 donation. Call for reservations one week prior to event. No walk-ins Jim 203.259.8023 or Steve 203-367-4373.

A Flea Market will be held in the Grange hall and the grounds on May 7, 2022. Come find a treasure.

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine. Praying for all who have family in harm's way, that they may be safe.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 8: Music Night Open House, Hemlock 110th Anniversary Party. All Grangers are invited. Come and enjoy and listen to the For Fun Band. And there will be a free-will collection box for the Portland Food Bank for those who want to donate cans and items.

Apr. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

May 13: Election of Officers

May 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

New Contests for 2022...



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer
Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

TALENT CONTEST STATE RUN-OFFS

Each Subordinate/Community Grange may host their own Talent Contest and select one winner for the State Run-offs.

There will be no Pomona-level judging. All entries will go directly from the Subordinate/Community Grange to the State Grange for judging.

The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) starting at 1:00 PM on Sunday, August 14.

Performance time allowed for each entrant is six minutes (includes set-up and performance).

No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate this with the State Grange Lecturer prior to the event.

Any Grange wishing to compete in the Talent Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org not later than 8/1/22.

A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third place Talent Contest winners. The decision of the judges is final. Appropriate prizes will be awarded and a Certificate will be presented to each Grange that participates.

The first place winner of the Talent Contest will be invited to perform at the Friday, October 21st banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the

second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform at State Convention.

“A NUMBER” CONTEST – Theme “Childhood Memories”

Any number (skit) suitable for a Grange meeting is eligible.

Time Limit: 6 minutes (includes set-up and performance).

All entries will go directly from the Subordinate Grange to State for judging.

The Connecticut State Grange run-offs will be held at Hillstown Grange Hall (first floor) on Sunday, August 14, immediately following the Talent Contest run-off which starts at 1:00 PM.

A panel of three judges will select the first, second and third place winners. The decision of the judges is final.

Numbers will be judged on pre-

sentation, quality, audience appeal, appropriateness of theme, and originality.

No piano will be provided at the State run-offs, so if a Grange needs to bring an electric keyboard, please coordinate with the State Grange Lecturer.

Any Grange wishing to compete in the “A Number” (skit) Contest at the State Run-offs MUST notify the State Grange Lecturer, Dave Roberts, at 858-775-9241 or dave@daveroberts.org not later than 8/1/22.

The first place winner of the “A Number” Contest may be invited to perform at Friday, October 21 banquet at the Connecticut State Grange 2022 State Convention in Norwich. If the first place winner cannot perform for any reason, the second place winner and/or the third place winner may be invited to perform.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

April is Grange Month throughout Connecticut and nationwide! How is your Grange celebrating? Many Granges are having Open Houses or Award Presentations. Others are having dinners, craft fairs, and other events and activities. It's nice to see Granges open and active again! Send me and George and invitation and we might attend your special event!

Want to follow my adventures? Please visit my Facebook page, and then click the “Like” button to keep in touch. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



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 uncover 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.



We heard from Lois Evankow on the April photo. She said that the gentleman on the right is her brother-in-law John Goodale. John was the Master of Cromwell Grange. She believes he is presenting a certificate to the First Selectman in Cromwell.



Carrot Cake with Cheesecake Topping

Spring is here and Easter is just around the corner. This delicious dessert from AheadOfThyme.com is has a twist on the original Carrot Cake recipe, and would be a nice addition to any refreshments or pot-luck table!



YIELD: 8-inch cake

INGREDIENTS:

Carrot Cake—

- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 + 1/2 cups carrot, shredded and chopped fine (approximately 2 medium carrots)

Cheesecake Topping—

- 1 + 1/2 packages cream cheese (375 g total), softened
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 large eggs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350°F. In a large bowl, combine brown sugar, melted butter, vanilla and eggs, and whisk until smooth. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg, and stir with a spatula until just combined. Fold in the shredded

carrot until evenly distributed. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine cream cheese, yogurt, sugar and vanilla and mix together with a hand mixer until well blended. Add the eggs, one at a time, and beat until just blended. Do not over-mix to avoid cracking during baking.

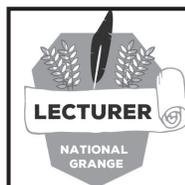
Pour the carrot cake batter into a greased 8-inch springform pan and smooth the top. Pour the cheesecake batter on top. Bake for 45 minutes. Turn off the oven and let it cool down in the oven for another 30 minutes. Do not open the oven during the cool down period as sud-

den temperature drops will cause cracking on the cheesecake topping.

Remove from the oven and let cake cool to room temperature, about 1 hour. Then, refrigerate for 4 hours, or overnight.

You can store this carrot cake in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 5 days, or in the freezer for up to 3 months. To freeze, tightly double-wrap the cheesecake with aluminum foil or plastic wrap and then place in an airtight container.

SOURCE: <https://www.ahead-ofthyme.com/carrot-cake-with-cheesecake-topping/#tasty-recipes-9669-jump-target>



2022 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

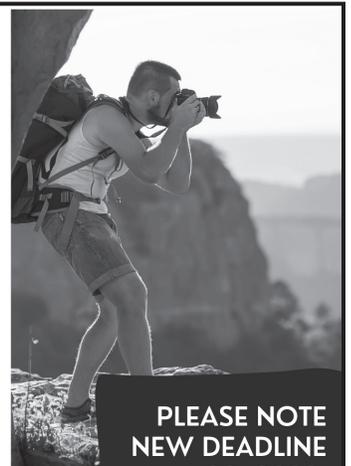
4 Divisions

- Agriculture
- Sky
- Trucks
- Water

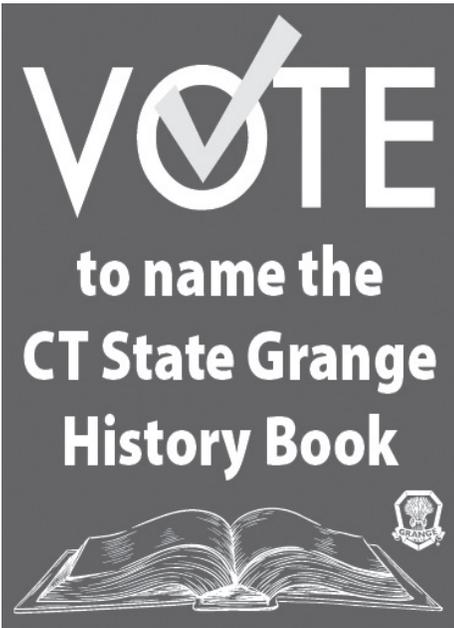
Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!

WINNERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN A 2023 PROMOTIONAL ITEM FROM THE LECTURER'S DEPARTMENT

Submit using the link bit.ly/22grangephoto



PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE June 30, 2022



Voting now through May 1, 2022

It's Time To Cast Your Vote for the name of the CT State Grange History Book!

Thank you to everyone who contributed ideas for the name of our CT State Grange History Book! We had an amazing response.

We've received a lot of great entries, and the CT State Grange

Help choose the name

Executive Board narrowed it down to the top 5 choices. Now it's your turn to vote for your favorite. Choose your favorite from the list below and let us know which one you think should be the official name.

The title with the most votes will win.

- 1.) The Grange in Connecticut: Proud Stories, Proud Members
- 2.) The Connecticut Landscape of Grange History
- 3.) Perseverance: Connecticut Granges Make Their Mark on History
- 4.) A People's History of the Grange in Connecticut
- 5.) Connecticut Grangers: Our Families, Our Friends, Our Neighbors

Votes can only be cast through the CT State Grange website and via USPS mail. Email votes will NOT be accepted.

To vote on the website, follow

this link:

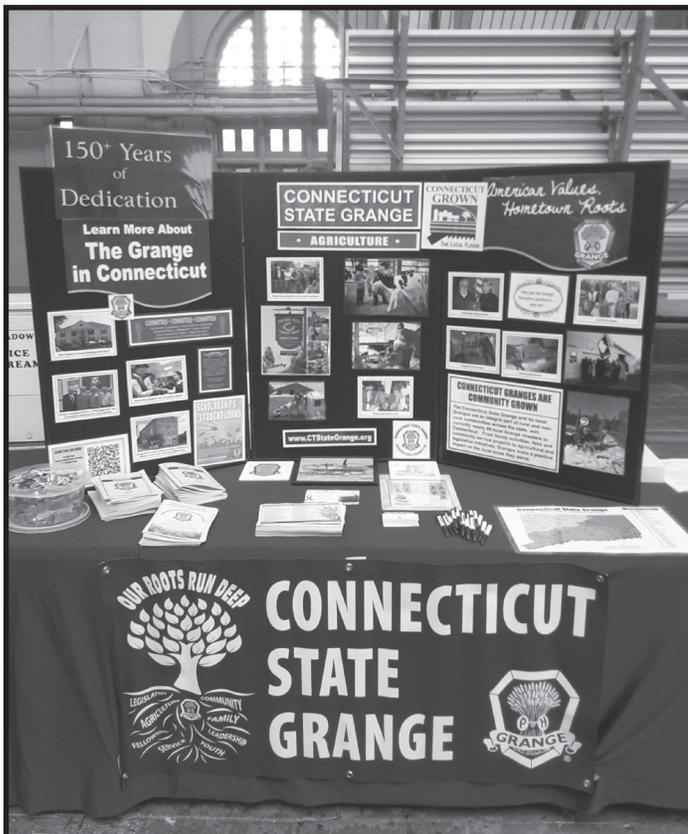
<http://www.ctstategrange.org/csgbookvoting.asp>

Mail your votes via USPS to:

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

The winner will be announced on June 24, 2022. Only one vote per Granger, please.

The winner will win bragging rights - and if that isn't enough, will also be acknowledged as such in the book. We will be honoring the winner at the 2025 Connecticut State Grange Session by presenting them with one book, then the Connecticut State Grange will provide one additional book to be donated to the library or historical association/museum of the winner's choice. (The Connecticut State Grange will directly provide this book to the organization chosen by the winner, in the winner's name.)



The Connecticut State Grange's booth at Ag Day held on March 25 at the O'Neill Armory in Hartford.

CT Granges on Podcast



Mike Allen, a popular DJ from radio station WRKI (I-95) in Danbury, interviewed Terri Fassio, Jody Cameron, Elizabeth Jensen (Redding Grange) and Neil Oshansky (Bridgewater Grange) back late last year for a podcast on the Granges in Connecticut (with an emphasis on those within the listening area of the station). The podcast was released in early March, and is entitled, "Amazing Tales from Off and On Connecticut's Beaten Path."

His podcast on the Grange is approx. 30 minutes long. We encourage you to give this a listen, and share it with your Granges.

Here's the link:

<https://AmazingTalesCT.Podbean.com>



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain
Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Rejoice in the Lord

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. *Isaiah 61:10*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say Rejoice! *Philippians 4:4*

When we read the above quotes, perhaps we may say to ourselves "What with all the things going wrong in the world right now, how can I possibly rejoice?" But watch what both Paul and Isaiah are saying. They are NOT telling us to rejoice in the present state of the world around us: war in Ukraine, COVID, climate change, and political turmoil; they are telling us to rejoice "in the Lord". When Paul wrote to the church at Philippi he was writing from prison, with almost certain death awaiting him. And yet he was able to rejoice, rejoice in the Lord.

And the reading from Isaiah



is from that part of the book sometimes called Third Isaiah, not the words of Isaiah himself, but of an unknown prophet some 150 years later, written when Israel was returning from captivity in Babylon, and when the earliest returnees were finding out that not all was as expected. Many of their hopes were being frustrated by the resistance of the people who had moved into the land during their exile and by the fact that help that was promised from Babylon was not forthcoming. And yet we read: "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord."

What both Paul and the prophet speaking in the Book of Isaiah are both saying is that we should rejoice at all times, no matter how we are feeling, or what is the state of the world around us. We should at all times give thanks to the Lord for his love and provision. No matter the uncertainty of the present times we can do more because the Lord is with us. They both know that in the long run the Lord will be our salvation, and we should rejoice because of that fact. Although you cannot see God, remember that the Spirit of the Lord is with you

always, as close as anyone can be to you. So Rejoice in the Lord always!

Thank You



Dear Connecticut Grangers,

Thank you for all the tributes and condolences sent for our Mother. The ceremony at her calling hours, article in the Granger, and all the cards were greatly appreciated. The Grange was always a big part of our family's life. Hope your thoughtfulness finds its way back to you all.

Sincerely,
The Bell Family

In Memoriam

Janet Mann, G.S.
Wallingford Grange #33

Holly Williams, G.S.
Wallingford Grange #33

John Ray Osuch
Bethlehem Grange #122

Carolee Barrett
Greenfield Hill Grange #133

"Well done, good and faithful servants."