



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2023

From the Master's desk



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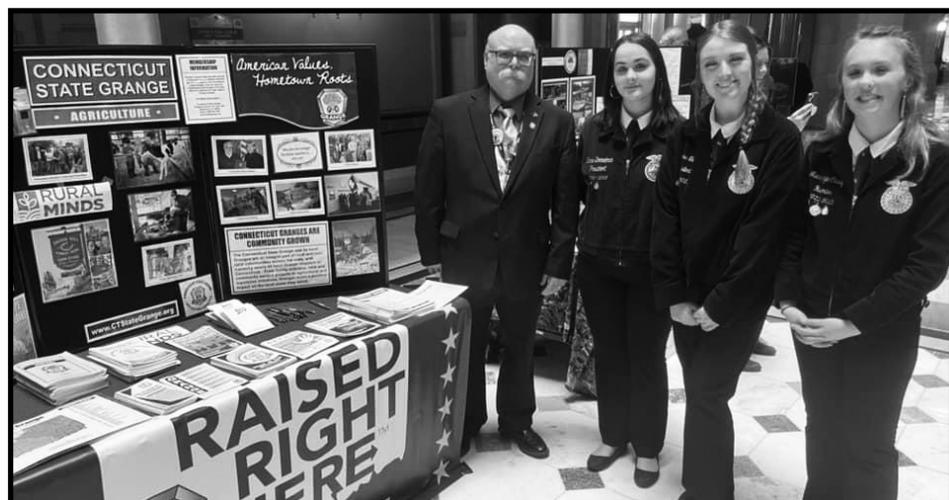
I have been doing some traveling to visit Granges. In part, this is to dispense award certificates for community service and Grange in Action. There are also Granges I have not been to and others not visited in a while. Thank you to those who have so warmly welcomed me to their halls (and Maggie when she is able to travel with me). I have been fed, entertained, and enjoyed great fraternal fellowship. Thank you!

With spring coming, Nutmeg Pomona #16 will have conferred the fifth degree on March 26, and Eastern CT Pomona #14 and Mountain Laurel Pomona #15 will be conferring it on May 6. The hope with the several reorganized Granges is that we will have a respectable class of candidates that might then go on to take the sixth degree in October at State Session and the seventh at National Convention in Niagara Falls in November. I would like to see the four subordinate degrees conferred but with the difficulties of gathering a degree team to do so, the best bet seems to be putting them on at the Pomona level where more Granges can contribute officers to put on a nice degree.

On March 22, Past State Grange President Noel Miller and State Lecturer David Roberts represented the Connecticut State Grange at 2023 Ag Day at the Capitol. This event is a chance for the legislators,

staff, and the public to comingle with representatives of non-profits, producers, cooperatives, as well as federal and state agricultural agencies which are showcasing agriculture in Connecticut. I want to thank our Grange representatives for attending.

...Continued on page 2



State Legislative Director Noel Miller poses with representatives of the CT FFA Association at CT Ag Day held at the State Capitol on March 22.

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Jerry & Emma Keech

by Todd Gelineau, Editor

Many members will recall a dedication plaque located on the edge of the playing fields at the former Camp Maud Isbell Berger. That plaque was placed in 1975 by the Connecticut State Grange dedicating the fields in the memory of Jerome C. "Jerry" Keech.

Jerry Keech was elected Master of the Connecticut State Grange in October 1965 and died of a heart attack on April 22, 1966. He was



one of only two Connecticut State Grange Masters to die in office (the first was B.A. Peck in 1912).

His death was a shock to the State Grange and incoming State Master Kingsley Beecher quickly

...Continued on page 3



Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due April 15

From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

The Grange Presidents' Conference on February 18 was particularly valuable. National President Betsy Huber gave a seminar on Grange Hall and asset ownership. She reiterated the point that you the members of your Grange don't own your hall or financial assets. You are stewards at the current time of these assets that are owned by the past, present

and future members of your Grange. Therefore, I will again stress that the current members of any Grange are not free to squander the contents of your Grange's treasury or give away the hall for a song and a dance. What you do in the name of your Grange MUST be in the best interests of the organization and its continuance.

Another seminar was titled "Can't We Get Along?" which was about conflict resolution, including mediation if necessary. This covered defining causes of conflict, coming to a mutual understanding of both sides by talking to both parties on neutral ground with active listening to both sides. Independent investigations must be done to establish facts from hearsay. Determinations must then be made to meet common goals and avoid repeating the conflict by settling on ways to meet those goals. Finding common ground between parties is needed to move forward. Follow ups and keeping open channels of communication are important to keep people working together on those goals. This is a necessity to keep strength in any organization, including ours. Severe enough conflicts can lead to Grange trials which are messy and often ugly, divisive events to be avoided

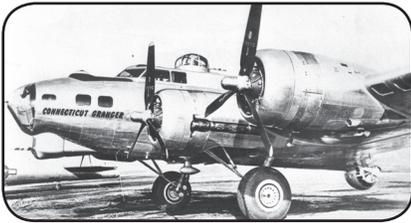
at all costs. Therefore, when I see divisions among brothers and sisters, I ask the question: Can't we get along? After all, we pledged to do so in our obligations.

Amanda Brozana-Rios, Director of Leadership and Membership, spoke about the Five Graces of Leadership, based on the book of the same name by Gregory Burnison. They are Aspiration, Gratitude, Courage, Resilience, and Empathy. To further this theme, your State Grange is offering a Leadership Academy based on the same book and to run from May to September with two Sunday night Zoom meetings per month (the first two are May 7 and 21 at 7:00PM). There is no charge for the course and the Burnison book will be provided to the enrollees. I say, the more the merrier, so please sign up for the program as I feel you will get a lot out of it. Jody Cameron has been hard at work putting this together, and I would like to see a respectable enrollment as it is being done for you, my Brothers and Sisters.

Remember, from the First Degree Master's introductory charge: The chief objective of the Grange is to build a better and higher manhood and womanhood, and to develop a mutual respect and concern through Brotherhood (and I add parenthetically, Sisterhood).

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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Join
Us!



Leadership
ACADEMY

Sign up today for the CSG Leadership Academy. It's free but requires a reservation to receive Zoom and materials related to the program.

The Academy will be conducted online with two 60 minute sessions each month. Topics to be covered: Module 1: What is Leadership; Module 2: Your Leadership Style; Module 3: Membership Retention; Module 4: Membership Growth; Module 5: Fundraising; Module 6: Member/Community Involvement & Activity; Module 7: Conflict Resolution; Module 8: Mediation/Mentoring; Module 9: Grange Procedures; Module 10: Parliamentary Procedures. First meetings: May 7 & 21.

To Reserve Your Space email: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

Jerome & Emma Keech Continued from pg. 1
re-appointed all of Brother Keech's appointees to continue their work. Known as the DIN squad (Do-It-Now), they continued to carry out the plans for the Grange Centennial already set in motion by Keech, including a statewide bicycle safety program.

Beecher paid tribute to Keech in a message to the State Grange shortly after his passing:

"It is with humility and deep sorrow that I send this first message as your State Master. The passing of Jerry Keech is a terrific blow to the Granges in Connecticut. During his brief period in office, his untiring effort and enthusiasm; his love of all; his sincerity and leadership had formed the basis for a renewed Grange growth.

We are all aware of the projects he had already initiated. In addition to these I have found, among the material from his office, penciled notes of plans for others. Jerry had many ideas to stimulate and promote the growth of the Grange in Connecticut. He was truly a dedicated Grange leader.

The Grange will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1967. No finer tribute can be made to Jerry than to fulfill each of his wishes by the end of 1967. Any plans I may have had for the future will take second place until I have exhausted every effort to accomplish his."

Jerry was born June 17, 1904 in Dayville growing up in the Killingly section of town. After the passing of his own father in 1921, he took over and operated the family business, Quinebaug Lake Ice Co. until 1931 when he purchased the Hampton Dairy Farm which supplied milk for Providence, RI. During his ten years operating this farm, it supplied milk and food to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp during the Great Depression. He also served as president and field representative for the New England Milk Producers Assoc.

In 1941 Keech began working at the Southbury Training School farm and would become supervisor of stores and food processing at the school for developmentally disabled children. One of his projects



Jerome C. Keech

at the school was the establishment of his "Main Street Store", a shop in the basement of the administration building designed to give residents the feel and experience of shopping in a store in the outside community.

Like many of the State Masters before and after him, Keech was involved in numerous organizations. He



Keech Mem. Field dedication plaque at Camp Berger.

and wife, Emma joined the Order of the Eastern Star in 1937 and he also became a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the Sphinx Temple Shrine of Hartford after joining the Danielson Masons in 1927. A past president of the Southbury Lions Club, he was also International Councilor of the Lions and superintendent of the South Britain Congregational Church Sunday School at the time of his death.

He was a cooperator of the Woodbury Savings Bank and past President of the Southbury Parent Teacher Association. Jerry served as a local representative of the Connecticut State Employees Credit Union and collector for the Blue Cross and CMS.

His civic contributions included being Post Master for the Town of Hampton, grand juror, auditor, tax collector and appraiser and represented Hampton in the General Assembly for the 1937 legislative session.

With his wife, Emma, he moved up through the Grange ranks serving as Master of Little River Grange while she was Lecturer, taking the Seventh Degree at the 1934 National Session (a record breaker for attendance) at Bushnell Memorial Hall in Hartford. They later joined Pomperaug Grange where he served as Treasurer at the time of his death.

Emma (Covert) Keech was born on May 28, 1906 in Brooklyn, NY. Together they raised two daughters, Marjorie and Betty Lou.

Like Jerry, Emma worked for 20 years at Southbury Training School. Following the passing of her husband, State Master Kingsley Beecher presented Emma with a National Grange gold sash in recognition of being a Past Voting Delegate at the June 1966 meeting of Excelsior Pomona. Also in that year, she was appointed Special Deputy and Grange Centennial Chair.

In 1968, Emma was appointed Coordinator of Departmental Superintendents of the Connecticut State Grange Fair (later named the Connecticut Agricultural Fair) held at the Durham Fairgrounds.

Emma passed on Oct. 30, 1993 at the age of 87.



Redding's Great Egg Weekend

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's... REDDING GRANGE'S very first GREAT EGG WEEKEND!

Redding Grange is seeking sponsors for our 3 day event focused on chick-keeping (and other feathered friends) as well as building community for those in Redding who love farm-y birds and country ways. Dates: Friday April 21st-Sunday, April 23rd. The weekend will include kids activities, a seminar, and much more! Sponsorship recognition includes appearance on our Great Egg Weekend flyer that will be handed out to all attendees, printed thanks in the Redding Sentinel, as well as social media. Sponsorship levels are: The Golden Goose - Lead Sponsor(s) \$500; Im-peckable Friends - \$250; The Quack Pack - \$100; Hen-ourable Mention - \$50

Please mail checks to Redding Grange PO Box 177 Redding Ridge, CT 06876 or Venmo us at ReddingGrange15. (Special thanks to artist Nigel Holmes for our AMAZING logo!!) Donations of \$500 or more are tax deductible. Email community@reddinggrange.org for any questions or comments. THANK YOU! We are so egg-cited!!!!

Riverton Grange working with Scouts

Riverton Grange met with Barkhamsted, Connecticut Life Scout Gavin Lavallee, a student at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, and discussed his proposed Eagle Scout project at our Riverton Grange No. 169 property. We are also working with Life Scout Aidan Burrell on his Eagle Scout project. How wonderful that we can collaborate with these future leaders!



An afternoon of Seeds & LEGO's at Simsbury



Simsbury Grange held same-day Seed Swap & LEGO Building Workshop on Sunday, Feb. 26. The Seed Swap welcomed members of the community to bring any seeds they might have or just come to collect some new seeds. Master gardeners were also present to answer any and all questions. Meanwhile... Kids and parents gathered in the dining room downstairs for the LEGO Build. The first 20 children who didn't bring their own blocks were provided with LEGOS to build a 12"x12"x12" creation that would be eligible for entry in the Simsbury Grange Fair to be held on June 10.



Norfield Paint & Sip

Thank you Agata Lipnicka-Tria for a fun, relaxing and creative night of painting. The pictures are masterpieces! And thanks to Anthony Kesselmark of TPN the Pizza was delicious!! In the words of the Instructor Agata...“Spring is in the air! Beautiful and relaxing evening. I’m very impressed with all artwork as a result of this great event. Congratulations to everyone!” Stay tuned for the invitation to join in the fun for our next Paint, Sip & Pizza night: Tuesday, April 4th @ 7-9 pm.

Higganum makes large donation

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. (WTNH 8) –Middletown High School received a donation on Monday, which could help shape the Future Farmers of America. The Future Farmers of America at Middletown High School certainly learn by doing. Whether it be taking care of pregnant goats, growing produce and plants, or repairing machinery, members of the Mattabeset FFA Chapter have plans to expand.

Students kicked off FFA week with a meeting and an assembly, which featured a special announcement from the Higganum Grange. Gail Hanson, a member of the Grange and a former Middletown High School science teacher, told students that a more than \$7,000 donation was being made in high school senior Amy Wiknik’s name. Wiknik is the president of the Mattabeset FFA Chapter at the school and the donation will help the school start its own land lab.

“I am extremely proud of Amy. She is the hardest working student probably that I ever had,” Hanson said. The land lab would ideally be a 5-acre farm on city-owned land where the FFA members, who come from 17 towns, could get hands-on experience running a real farm.

“Having a club in school is difficult to get funding for and that will help tremendously,” Wiknik said. “We want to have our own laboratory and we actually want to have our own farm nearby.”

Redding’s Spring Pop Up



Thanks to all who came out tonight to help welcome in Spring at our Redding Grange Pop-Up Spring Welcome Celebration! It was great to see new faces along with some of our amazing core members.



Meet your new Social Media Manager

The Connecticut State Grange has a new member of the Public Relations Team. Debbie Hanlon from Taghannuck Grange has graciously accepted the position of Social Media Manager. Debbie has written her own introduction -

“Hello my name is Debbie Prindle Hanlon. I was born in Sharon with a long family history of relatives in this town. I moved out of town for some years but have always been an active member of

Taghannuck Grange. I am happy to be living back in Sharon close to family and friends again. Enjoying the small town country life, I like going kayaking and fishing, driving around looking for the hidden treasures of nature and small shops in the area. I also enjoy going line dancing with my mother and gardening with my father. It is great to be a part of the small town community and enjoying the activities that go along with it.

Mark your calendars now



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

It's sad to say that many Americans are food insecure and with prices sky rocketing the problem is not going away any time soon. I feel blessed that I never have to worry about a warm hot meal but not everyone can say that, especially our Seniors and Veterans. That is why our committee has chosen to stay with the Community Renewal Team (CRT) for our special project. As many people as they are serving, they still have waiting lists according to their February newsletter. We will be making your donations count as we continue to supporting the Meals on Wheels/CT portion of their programs. Consider sending in your donation to the State Secretary so that at the end of the year we can send them a nice check to help them with the cost of helping others.

Have you come up with something fun to do but your meetings

seem to be getting to long for special programs? Consider breaking up your monthly meeting (for those who meet once a month) and have just the business portion during your regularly scheduled meeting. Then have a second meeting which can include refreshments, lecturers' program and perhaps a craft segment at a time that best suits your membership. This will help break things up and not feel like

I am proud to be a 4th generation Granger with my 2 girls being 5th generation. I am now a 6th degree member since joining Taghannuck Grange in 1983. I am also the Secretary of our Grange and CWA/Family Activities Chairperson, along with being on the committees of Community Services, CT Granger, Membership and Ways & Means.

I look forward to being a part of the CT State Grange by being on the PR Committee as the Social Media Manager.”

Debbie will be keeping an eye on all the Connecticut Grange Social Media accounts and can be reached at dhanlon@ctstategrange.org if you are in need of her assistance.

you are going to 2 longer meetings a month. (You also don't have to do it every month). Consider changing up the same old same old. Grange meetings are supposed to be a time for gathering and sharing ideas and being in the company of others who like yourself, want to make a difference. But remember we also want to have some fun and show our newer members that we are more than just serious business. The past few years seems to have deflated some of that feeling so let's try to get that back.



The Family Activities committee members are hard at work for this years table decorations for State session. It's a work in progress!

Pineapple Ham Casserole



- 2 cans (8 oz. each) crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- Dash Pepper
- 1/4 Cup dry bread crumbs



Ingredients:

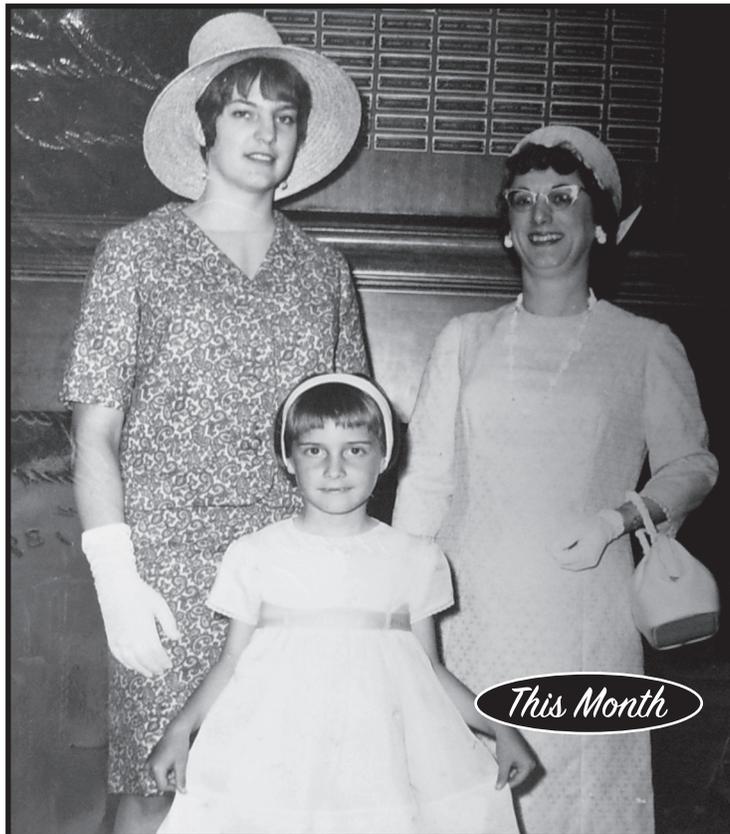
- 2 Cups uncooked wide egg noodles
- 1/2 Cup chopped celery
- 2 Tbsp. butter, divided
- 1 Pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese cubed
- 2/4 Cup whole milk
- 2 Cups cubed fully cooked ham

1. Preheat the oven to 350°.
2. Cook noodles according to package directions, drain.
3. In a large skillet, sauté celery in 1 Tbsp. butter until tender. Stir in cream cheese and milk; cook and stir until cheese is melted.
4. Add the noodles, ham, pineapple, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper.

5. Transfer to ungreased 1-1/2 qt. baking dish. Melt remaining butter; toss with bread crumbs. Sprinkle over the top.
6. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 30-35 minutes or until heated through.

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.



No answers were received for last month's picture. We will offer one clue to this month's photo. The lady on the right is Doris Shaw of Tunxis Grange No. 13.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

May 6: Meeting at Killingly Grange Hall beginning at 7:00 P.M.

This meeting will be our annual Fifth Degree and inspection. All are welcome and especially those in need of the Fifth Degree. See you there!

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kay Ruff

Apr. 6: Easter Bunny 7:30 at Masonic Hall, So. Glastonbury

May 1: Bakeless/Foodless Sale

May 4: Memorial Day 7:30 p.m.

Glastonbury Grange is happy to report that we are back meeting at the Masonic Hall, 895 Main Street, South Glastonbury. Spring is finally here. We will meet April 6th at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be prepared by Marycharles Howe and Kay Ruff.

We will sadly be Draping the Charter in loving memory of Brother Mario Accornero who passed away January 22nd at his home at the age of 96. He certainly is missed by all.

Back at our February meeting we voted to collect non-perishable food items to be donated to the Glastonbury Social Service Department. A check for \$100.00 was sent and now that we are meeting at the hall we will be collecting donations by the members

and they will be delivered to the Social Service office. We also voted to support "Protectors of Animals". We sent them \$100.00 and will collect food and bedding for dog and cats at our April meeting and they will be delivered to their location on Main Street, East Hartford.

May 1st our Semi-Annual Bakeless/Foodless Sale will begin. Members can send in their contribution any time in early May to the Secretary, Kay Ruff, P.O. Box 192, Pomfret Center, Ct. 06259.

May 4th is our "Memorial Day" program. Refreshments by Dan and Ann Posuniak.

May 13th we will be holding a "Book Sale". This will be held at the Tag Sale that is being held at Hemlock Grange Hall, 17 Sage Hollow Road, Portland. Stop by and visit the Tag Sale and you will find us in the Grange Hall.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

Apr. 7: C WA Presents program

May 5: In Memoriam

June 2: Neighbor's night. - (We invite Granges to visit)

The One Dollar bill was the focus of a very interesting program in March. We learned about all the history of paper money and the symbol of the great seal on the back of the bill and how important the number 13 was to our founding Fathers. Along with the fascinating information were some funny St. Patrick day jokes. Because of the unexpected winter weather our meeting was held on zoom and we were delighted to have our State President Bob Buck and Terry Fassio and Deputy Ted Beebe all join in. No certain date set yet for an upcoming tag sale or craft night. It seems that most week-ends are filled in for the near future.

Nancy and Joyce went to visit sister Dot Dimmoch and found



Patty Platypus returned to Coventry.

her in good spirits and "sharp as a tack". We miss you Dot. Family Director Dawn will be in charge of the next program and I am sure she will have some interesting things to share. We love to have visitors, all are welcome. Running around in circles does not make you a big wheel.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

May 4: Mother's Day

Hopefully we will have our Town-wide Tag Sale. Patty the Platypus has returned to Coventry Grange. Any Grange within Eastern Connecticut Pomona can get her to come home to their Grange with a visit.

NORTH STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy Weissmuller

Apr. 14: I Haven't Got "Scrabble"

Apr. 28: "Community Citizen Program"

It has been a quiet winter, mercifully without much snow or frigid temperatures. We learned about the history of Candy Land at our one February meeting. The game was created by a young woman while she was recuperating from polio. We then played Valentine Bingo with M&M's for markers and candy for prizes.

We look forward to a good crowd when we honor our Community Citizen and honor longtime members at our April 28 meeting. And if the daffodils that are coming up can just survive Winter Storm Anthony, next time we will tell you all about marvelous March.

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

May 6: Degree at Winchester Grange, 2 P.M.

The weather wasn't kind to Mountain Laurel Pomona for its March meeting. Unfortunately the in-person meeting had to be canceled and the Pomona met virtually on Zoom. We were thrilled to have 25 members present for the meeting.

It has been a minute since Mountain Laurel has conferred the Fifth Degree and there's a number of new officers who have never participated in their new roles so... A rehearsal of the Fifth Degree will be held on the same day as the degree conferral (May 6) at 11:00 A.M. The rehearsal will be held followed by a lunch period. The Special Meeting called for the purpose of conferring the Fifth Degree will begin at 2:00 P.M. at Winchester Grange Hall. Please join us even if you don't have a role in the degree. We expect to have a Deputy present as this will serve as our annual inspection.

The next regular meeting will be held on Saturday, June 3 at Riverton Grange Hall (at 2:00 P.M.). This will be our election of officers for the next two years.

GRANBY GRANGE #5

Corr: Dave Roberts

Apr. 9: (Sun.), Membership Mtg. (in-person), 2PM, Program by Lecturer will feature Andrew Hurczyn from Addison Farm in Granby who will talk about "Hemp Farming." Refreshments will be served 30 min. before the meeting and following the meeting.

Apr. 23: Bus. Meeting, 6 P.M. by



Debra Tyler presented a "Blocks Program" at the March meeting of Taghhannuck Grange. Members are shown displaying the greeting cards they printed as part of the program.

Zoom, please contact Dave Roberts for the Zoom info at 860-469-5067 or GranbyDavidRoberts@gmail.com.

A large crowd attended our Sun., Mar. 12 meeting. Special guest was State General Deputy Peter Keefe and his wife Mary Lou who serves as State Pianist. Ref. were provided by the Roberts family. Judy Doyle presented an excellent program on butterflies and a video she created is being uploaded to the Granby Grange Facebook page. Highlights from this membership meeting were updates provided on Granby Grange's plans to financially recover from past challenges with the "Pass the Hat" campaign, grants submitted, and an upcoming fundraiser. The Grange appreciates all who have already donated and is still seeking donations made payable to Granby Grange, and mailed to Treasurer Carol Innes, 115 Wells Rd., Granby 06035.

On Sat., Apr. 29, Granby Grange will host its FIRST ANNUAL GRANBY GRANGE RUBBER DUCK RACE which will be held at Pavilion #2 at Salmon Brook Park along the Salmon Brook. Only 400 rubber ducks will be available for the first race with over \$1,200 in prizes for the first 10 rubber ducks to cross the finish line. The event will start at 2 P.M. with music, balloon art, face painting and refreshments. At 3 P.M. the rubber ducks will be launched into the brook and race 800 ft. down to the finish line. Ducks

are available for \$5 each or FIVE DUCKS for \$20! To reserve your ducks for this historic first race, please contact Co-Chair Judy Doyle at either msjudysemporium@yahoo.com or by calling 503-320-7274. Part of the proceeds will be donated to our new partnership with 4H and the remainder will be used to support Granby Grange rebuilding efforts.

When you come visit us at the Grange, walk around the outside and view all the wonderful maintenance work that members have been accomplished cutting down trees which were damaging the building, removing vines and obsolete items, and clearing brush and trash from the property. So much is happening at Granby Grange under the leadership of President Ron Cowdrey and his team!

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 11: Spring is Here, Ref. by Randy & Kim Carlson

Apr. 25: April Showers (Country Store), Ref. by Todd Gelineau

May 9: Mother (Potluck at 6)

May 23: Memorial Day Program by the Chaplain, Ref. by Earl & Sandy Phillips.

Weather has interfered with Winchester's last two regularly scheduled meetings with our second meeting of February canceled along with the first meeting of March.

Continued next page...

Spring has sprung so we are hoping for better luck for our second meeting of March. Cross your fingers and join us on March 28 either in-person or on Zoom.

Hall improvements never end and by the time this issue is printed, we are hoping to have work on our restrooms completed. Our sincere thanks to the member who donated the money to have the floors re-done and the toilets replaced with modern handicap accessible versions.

At our next meeting we will be discussing plans to re-do lighting in the Post Office, replacing it with LED (energy-efficient models) and improving the lighting in the front parking area.

Until next time, enjoy the warming weather!

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Apr. 13: Spring Cleaning at 6PM
Ref: Janet Nickson

May 11: Produce to the People Ref.
Kathy Hayden

June 3 : PLANT & RUMMAGE
SALE 9AM-2PM

June 8: Hiking Trails Ref. Jill
Drew. Refreshments/social time
begins at 7PM with meeting at 7:30
unless otherwise noted.

Our March Square/Contra dance was enjoyed by all. Despite the miserable weather we had a good turn out and great donated refreshments. We will be having another dance on May 6 from 7PM to 9PM. Why not carpool after the Mountain Laurel Pomona 5th degree meeting or on your own and join us for an enjoyable and healthy time. Call Debbie with any questions at (845) 418-9755.

At our March meeting we decided to have a Foodless Food Drive using Jean Lundeen's poem. We donated to the Connecticut Farmland Trust. I want to thank Debra Tyler for the wonderful program "Blocks". Debra hand carved stamps of all shapes and sizes, we dipped them in paint and printed the front of blank greeting cards that she had cut from heavy paper stock.

The inside of our Grange Hall is scheduled to be painted as I am writing this. We have been looking forward to this for a long time. The outside of the Hall will be painted as

warmer weather arrives. It has been a long time since the tree fell on the roof but we are almost done.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: David Roberts

Apr. 2: Riverton Grange hosts ceremony #21 honoring our Veteran of the Month, at the Barkhamsted Senior Center, 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted; 6:00 PM) -- Veterans of the Month: U.S. Army WWII Veteran Girard Frederick Lemieux and U.S. Marine Corps WWII/Vietnam Veteran Joseph Edgar Lemieux

Apr. 7: In-person Meeting & Program: April Fool's and YOU (Men vs. Women!)

Apr. 15: Annual Riverton Fishing Derby – Free Breakfast with the Riverton Grange President; 8:00 AM (All Connecticut State Grange members are welcome to join Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts for a free breakfast to support Riverton Vol. Fire Department, 3 Riverton Road, Riverton, CT 06065, from 8:00 – 9:00 AM)

On Friday, March 3, Riverton Grange met virtually using Zoom due to the weather. Our first order of business was to accept two new members, Deborah Bahr Roberts of Riverton and Steven Arba Roberts of Winsted. Steven's great grandparents, Carlton and Dora Roberts, were charter members of Riverton Grange. His great-grandparents operated the largest asparagus farm east of the Mississippi for many decades in Winsted and Barkhamsted. THIRTEEN new members have now joined Riverton Grange since November 2022 thanks to an aggressive membership outreach campaign into the community. Two more members of the Riverton community are next in the pipeline to join our Grange.

Our March meeting Lecturer's program was hosted by Riverton Grange Legislative Committee Chair Phil Prelli. Our guest speaker was Connecticut State Representative Mark W. Anderson, who is also a member now of Granby Grange, who provided an informative update on pending legislation in the Connecticut General Assembly. Rep. Anderson has now been our virtual guest speaker for each of the past three



Over \$700 and 300 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated to the Pleasant Valley Community Food Bank by Riverton Grange.

years.

Riverton Grange leaders recently met with Barkhamsted Life Scout Gavin Lavalley, a student at Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, to discuss his proposed Eagle Scout project at our Riverton Grange No. 169 property. We are also working with Life Scout Aidan Burrell on his Eagle Scout project that will support Riverton Grange. How wonderful that we can collaborate with these future leaders and collaborate for the good of our community! (Photo 4104)

The historic village of Riverton hosts many family-oriented events throughout the year. The next community event is our annual Riverton Fishing Derby which will be held on Saturday, April 15th. There are lots of activities for the entire family and Riverton Grange President Dave Roberts is again offering to treat any Connecticut State Grange member to a free breakfast from 8:00 – 9:00 AM to support our local Riverton Volunteer Fire Department. So come see what makes Riverton so special and enjoy a complimentary breakfast with other Grange members!



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

This month I have good news and bad news to share. First for the good news. From information I have received we should have candidates taking the Fifth Degree from at least four Granges. Some of them are from the newly reorganized Wallingford Grange. It will be nice to have Wallingford on the roll again. I can't give you the exact results as of this writing degrees are still two weeks away.

I don't like to report bad news; but I just learned that Nancy Rotman had passed away. Nancy was Pianist of Cheshire Grange and always shared her talent with Nutmeg Pomona and other Granges. She now shares this talent with the Angels in Heaven. Our sincere condolences to her husband Henry and family and the members of Cheshire Grange.

Our next meeting is June 4th at Beacon Valley Grange.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

Apr. 5: Awards Night. Open meeting with a Tea Cup Auction

Apr. 19: April Things

As I write this, our March 11 Corned Beef Dinner has been canceled. We will plan for a fundraising dinner in April or May. We just had our first planning meeting for our Cheshire Grange Community Fair scheduled for August 26th and 27th. We plan again this year to have our Dean Martin impersonator for our Wednesday, May 5 musical program. It will be

open to the public. It was very well received last year.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Great news for all our members. After talking about putting a new roof on our hall for the last several months, we made some progress. We received a loan from the State Grange for half of the repairs, now all we have to do is repay it. By the time you read this we should have our repairs completed.

To help repay our loan we are having a raffle at our 134th anniversary meeting on June 9th. Donation of raffle gifts would be appreciated or if you can sell tickets contact the Master Joanne.

Our last few tags sales have been very profitable thanks to donations from our members. We thank Barbara Robert and Eloise Osuch of Bethlehem Grange for their support. April sale will be the 15th. 9 to 3. Open mic the same day 2 to 5. We can always use more entertainers or people who want to be entertained. For information contact Ron Fischer.

Program for April 14th is "Daisies" in the charge of Joanne Cipriano. Refreshments in the charge of Marianne Nielsen and Ron

Gunther. Our program theme this year is the Flower of the month. We have learned many interesting facts about flowers. Never knew that daffodils provide medical and health benefits and that they are a sign of good luck.

Violets are most commonly associated with love and are appropriate gifts for a 50th wedding anniversary.

LYME GRANGE #147

Grange Secretary Nancy Beebe, Doreen Lammer and Kristee Nichols (member of the Hamburg Fair) worked hard spring cleaning at the Grange Hall, painting the kitchen and cleaning the windows upstairs and downstairs. Thank you to all for your hard work in making the hall sparkle!

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

Apr. 14: Rhythm of the Rain

Apr. 28: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

May 19: Hours Among the Flowers

May 26: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

HARMONY GRANGE
SPRING FAIR
 May 6th 10-2
 103 Hurd Ave, Monroe
 Mother's Day Crafts for Kids
 Tag Sale Games
 Bake Sale Plant Sale
 Food and so much more!
 See you there!!!

For more information contact -Betty Blackwell-readnweed@gmail.com



Rob and I headed east to spend the night with North Stonington Grange #138. North Stonington received 1st place in Community Service for the larger Granges. They also qualified as a Grange In Action for all that they do. They were presented with two certificates. Congratulations you guys! It was great to meet all these great folks that Rob always speaks of so highly.

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road -- Fairfield, CT

good Friday

April 7, 2023



Fish Fry

Eat IN
Or
Take OUT



6 PM
doors open at 5:30 PM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Please order by
March 30, 2023
Jim 203.259.8023
Steve 203.367.4373

Donation \$23.00
(Sorry about the price increase, just keeping up with cost increases)

Batter Dipped Fish
or
Batter Dipped Shrimp
French Fries
Cole Slaw
Dessert
Water & Soda Bar

 www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange

**Learn How to
Plant A Pollinator Garden!**

Join us for a luncheon presentation
with leaders of *Fairfield's Pollinator Pathway* program.

Saturday, May 20, 2023
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
\$20.00 per person - Lunch included
Plants, prizes, gifts and more!

Greenfield Hill Grange, 1873 Hillside Road, Fairfield

Learn how to create a pollinator garden in your yard with garden plans and tips that make it easy to get started!

- Practical tips for success
- Plant suggestions
- Plans to help you get started
- The opportunity to win native plantings!

Menu

Chicken, egg, or tuna salad
croissant

Caesar salad

Coffee, tea, juice

Dessert

Reservations Required
by May 12
Please call
Jim: 203 259 8023
or
Steve: 203 367 7343



Legislatively Speaking



Noel Miller
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
millernoel434@gmail.com

Last month George Ward of Harmony Grange has gone to the great Grange above. George was a watchdog for the Grange Legislative Committee. I think he was on the Committee when my father was Director. George and Gordon Gibson were very knowledgeable of Medicare, land acquisition, insurance, and farm laws. George was a strong member of his church and self-taught in the use of computers and electronics. He will be greatly missed. "Well done Good and Faithful Servant".

Last Christmas was a hassle if you wanted to travel by Southwest Airlines. Their operating system crashed across the country canceling flights for days and leaving passengers and crew stranded in airports everywhere. Their excuse was out-dated communication and computer systems from the 90's caused the backlogs with no funds for updates. Think back to the 90's... I had a flip phone, my father had a Radio Shack Tandy computer with a 5' floppy disk, no internet only a fax machine. During the Pandemic the airlines received a bailout because no one was flying. I guess they did not invest in updates to systems. Maybe stock buy-backs were more important. Makes you wonder.

February a Norfolk Southern train derailed in East Palestine, Ohio, spilling toxic chemicals in the downtown area of a small community. Ruptured tank cars were set on fire in a controlled burn that lasted 3 days. Ohio Governor DeWine put Norfolk Southern in charge of air monitoring and cleanup. Their priority was to get the trains running. Despite complaints

from residents respiratory issues, rashes, death fish in streams, and ill wildlife and chickens, Norfolk Southern declared "all clear." Bottled water was brought in for them to drink and air monitoring is ongoing with streams and other waterways being aerated to dilute the chemicals. Rail safety is now a major issue at the forefront. Findings found an overheated wheel bearing failed and caused the axle to break and derail the car.

In 2010 a train derailed in Canada causing death and loss of half a town. President Obama past regulations to have chemical train cars to have EPBS Emergency Pneumatic Braking System, which would replace the Civil War era air brake systems. Norfolk South lobbied for this to be deregulated by President Trump, which they did in 2018, thus resulting in no improvements to rail safety. During the pandemic with supply demand trains sizes grew from 90 cars to 180 cars and maintenance and crew members were scaled back to save costs, contributing to the derailment. Savings were used for stock buybacks. Prayers for the people of East Palestine Ohio.

Regulations are here to protect the whole not the few. If the EPBS were on the trains maybe the derailment would not have been as bad. Three days after this derailment there was one in Florida where three Propane cars derailed yet no leak. Were these cars updated or just luckier. At Christmastime the railroads were in a great union fight for wages, sick leave, and maintenance issues. Maybe it's time to renew the talks about safety.

Silicon Valley Bank failed in March due to a run on the bank fueled by rumors of a lack of funds due, in part, to the higher interest rates set by the Fed, thereby reducing available cash for the bank.

In 2018 the CEO of this bank lobbied for modifying the Dodd Frank Banking Bill which passed after the 2008 bank crash. Dodd Frank required banks to have a higher reserves to protect from failures, this was passed by President Trump. With higher fed rates the bank ran short and had to sell off shares which caused a panic. The FDIC protects up to \$250,000.00, but any above is a loss. The US Government stepped in to take over this bank and guarantee the deposits of all customers beyond the FDIC guarantee in an effort to stabilize it and to maintain confidence in the national banking system.

The CEO and other top executives at SVB cashed in personal stock holdings in the months and weeks leading up to the bank failure. The US Government stepped in to stabilize the banks and now 3 other banks are in the same boat.

The State Capitol has been busy. School meals have been funded for the rest of the year. Bear hunting is being discussed and Sue Masino spoke about the problem with bird feeders and trash cans enabling bears to feed in areas close to homes. Affordable housing and rent control is a hot topic. The budget is out and it will be a tough year.

Tyson Chicken is closing two plants and laying off 1700 people. The Virginia and Arkansas plants are closing so that more profits can be made for Tyson. When will they learn that if you invest in the people and improve the facilities everyone can win. March madness will be a big wing fest. Go Huskies!

A phrase was bought up after the bank closed. During World War II "there are no Atheist in foxholes" March 13 "there are no Libertarians when there is a run on the Bank." We all need to take a breath and have faith that all will be right again.

Spring is just around the corner, plan a garden because weeding will relieve stress. Happy Easter.

A good time was had..



Dave Roberts
State Lecturer

Riverton Grange No. 169
Lecturer@CTStateGrange.org

Our first Roundup of 2023 was held on Sunday, March 12, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Many Grangers joined this fifth Roundup and attendees included CT State Grange President Rob Buck and National Grange President Betsy Huber. Our special guest for this Roundup was Chuck Strand, Executive Director and Board Member, for Rural Minds, a non-profit whose mission is to serve as the informed voice for mental health in rural America, and to provide mental health information and resources. One year ago, National Grange began a long-term partnership with Rural Minds to support Grangers and their families. National Grange, under the leadership of President Betsy Huber, recognized that mental health was a top priority for many Granges and their members throughout the United States, so it chose to partner with Rural Minds. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the importance of addressing this challenge, as mental health is a serious concern to many Grange families in rural areas of the country. Rural Minds founder Jeff Winton was a keynote speaker at the 156th Annual National Grange Convention in Reno, Nevada. Jeff also hosted a workshop to help attendees see the opportunities of strategic partnering. National Grange is encouraging all State, Pomona and Community Granges to promote mental health wellness and awareness.

During my flight home last Fall from Reno, I began to think about next steps for our CT State Grange and Rural Minds. First, I knew I wanted to build a strong, resilient collaboration with people who could make a difference. I immediately called a friend whom I had just recruited to both Granby Grange and

Northwestern CT Cyber Lions and said, "I have the perfect initiative for you." Her name is Kim Becker, a community leader and active citizen in Granby. Kim immediately said she wanted to be part of this exciting new initiative.

So what did we do? With Kim in the lead, we recruited five more members to join her to form a new Lions Club Branch. The new members selected the name "Connecticut 988 Lions Club Branch" as their official branch name. They selected 988 as it is now the new three-digit, nationwide phone number that connects directly to the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

One of the first projects for this new branch was to host a tabletop display at a large convention to announce this new initiative in Southbury, CT. For this display, handout material was created: One member created a fact sheet on the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and another member approached a local Suicide Advisory Committee that donated a box full of SWAG, including stress balls, pens, poppers, and koozies. The booth was a great success and all members felt this first project was extremely impactful for all attendees.

Moving forward, members will determine how to spread mental health awareness information, particularly in rural areas, to those in need. Students will research needs in the towns of New Hartford and Barkhamsted, CT, to see what gaps, if any, exist in providing mental health services.

Next, we applied for and received a grant to train two Grange members to be QPR instructor certified. These instructors will offer this training to any interested Community Granges, similar to Granges that already offer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training to its members. By the way, QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer – the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. QPR training helps save lives

and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical, and proven suicide prevention training. Quality education empowers people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicidal crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. QPR can be learned in one Gatekeeper course in as little as one hour.

National Grange has launched a new initiative for any Grange that completes one mental health program during the year, in addition to the Grange in Action requirements, to be named as a Golden Grange in Action. I want many of our CT community Granges to be named Golden Granges in Action to showcase our commitment to this initiative and to helping those in need in our communities.

There is so much information and resources on the Rural Mind's website. I encourage you to check it out at Mental Health Resources — Rural Minds. A donation was made to Rural Minds on behalf of the CT State Grange Lecturer's Department and Chuck Strand was awarded the very first CT State Grange Lecturer's Appreciation Award ribbon! (Photo 4462)

Our next Roundup will be held on Sunday, June 11, at 7:00 PM via Zoom and will feature Vince Scholten, California State Grange Agricultural Committee Chairman, who will present on "Hemp & Cannabis: the truth and history behind it".

I look forward to hearing from each Grange Lecturer about how their Grange is doing. Keep your reports coming to me. And if you need help or would like me to come visit your Grange, PLEASE just ask! For more information, please contact CT State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts at lecturer@ctstategrange.org or GranbyDavidRoberts@gmail.com, or call 860-469-5067.

CONTEST ALERT

Local Art Challenge- Peace Poster

A dream isn't just a wish, hope or desire — it's a path, a goal, an ambition. But achieving that dream takes hard work. The Senexet Grange would like you to show off your dream of a peaceful world. Help spread the love and promote peace in our community!



How to participate? It's easy!

- 1) Create your own poster of any size using any medium
- 2) Enter your poster into the Community Art Show at the Senexet Grange to be held on Saturday, April 15th for the community to see

All artwork will be accepted on Friday, April 14, 2023 from 6-8pm or on Saturday April 15 from 8-10am

Art Show- Saturday, April 15, 2023

Senexet Grange, 10am-3pm

This fun challenge for Peace is open to any age! You are also welcome to submit other art work to be displayed in the Community Art Show. For more information, email grange40ct@gmail.com

JUNIOR JIBBER-JABBER

WHEN:

Third Sunday of odd-numbered months (January/March/May... etc.)
at 9 p.m. Eastern

WHO:

Junior Directors or anyone else interested in Junior Grange programming!

WHERE:

On Zoom!

Login: 833 7712 0738

Passcode: 969128

or bit.ly/JibberJabberZoom



YOU'RE INVITED TO:

PAINT, SIP & PIZZA

At Norfield Grange April 4th
7 PM TO 9 PM \$35 per person
12 Good Hill Rd. Weston CT
Venmo @LynKimberly →



GUIDED INSTRUCTION BY AGATA TRIA

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE PRESENTS...



CT State Grange Legislative Committee and Lecturer's Department
JOINT VIRTUAL WORKSHOP ON ZOOM

The Grange Resolution Process and YOU!

Featuring Special Guest
Speaker Vince Scholten

Vice President of the California State Grange and
California State Grange Director of Agriculture

- Overview of the Resolution Process
- How to write an IMPACTFUL resolution
- Discussion of available resources
- Questions & Answers

SUNDAY
APRIL 30, 2023
7:00 PM

WORKSHOP ZOOM CREDENTIALS:

Topic: The Grange Resolution Process and YOU! - Times: April 30, 2023, 7:00 PM EST

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84392760744?pwd=TZEvV0dGNFk3aG05azRlFyY180UT09>
Meeting ID: 843 9276 0744; Passcode: 456198

One tap mobile: +13052241968,84392760744,,*456198# US

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 843 9276 0744; Passcode: 456198

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84392760744>



For More Information, contact CT State Grange Lecturer Dave Roberts: lecturer@ctstategrange.org / 860-469-5067

Looking to GROW your Grange?

Is it time to STRENGTHEN your Grange Membership?

The CT State Grange
Membership Committee
is available to help
Granges reach their
Membership Goals!

Contact Shelley at
membership@ctstategrange.org
for more information



Like the Connecticut State Grange
Membership Committee on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CSGMembership

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

Address Service Requested



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

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"

Genesis 3:1

"Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths, for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng." Proverbs 7:15-26

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matthew 26:41

Temptation is a very human problem which has been with us since the beginning of time, and is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. We first encounter the concept in the third chapter of Genesis, where the serpent tempts Eve into eating of the fruit of the tree of knowledge, and the concept last appears in the third chapter of the Book of Revelation. All of humanity has encountered temptation at one time or another. It is present



everywhere and at all times.

I see three possibilities here, and expect each of us has experienced each of them: we sometimes manage to avoid temptation; perhaps more often we meet it and manage to resist; but I fear that far too often we meet it and give in. Nobody is perfect, no matter what some say. We have all been put to the test and fallen short, either by doing what we should not be doing or not doing what we should be doing. Giving in to temptation is the most common of all sins. Listen to what St. Paul says: "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."

There is one more, and

necessary, step to the process. Having sinned by falling into temptation we need to recognize our shortcomings, repent of our failures, be willing to atone for the harm caused by our actions, and ask God's forgiveness for them. God is always willing to forgive if we are truly sorry for what we have done (or have failed to do).

In Memoriam

Mario Accornero
Glastonbury Grange #26

George Ward, G.S.
Harmony Grange #92

Alice Stemmler, G.S.
Hemlock Grange #182

"Well done, good and faithful servants."