

# PROGRAM HELPS AND INFORMATION

## NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2011

Marge Bernhardt, State Lecturer/Program Director  
424 Cedar Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

Phone: (203) 272-4620 e-mail: lecturer@ctstategrange.org  
(If you received this via US Mail and have an e-mail address,  
Please e-mail me so I can add you to our list.)

Welcome to All,

In checking the new Pomona Handbooks I received at State Session I notice that we have several new Lecturers with us this year. Welcome aboard! And, to those of you returning for another year, Thank You for everything you have done in the past and good luck this coming year. Being Lecturer is one of the most challenging jobs in the Grange. You not only need to be diligent, but be creative and be able to work with others to get the job done. To give you a head start on your job this year, I am enclosing/attaching a copy of the information that has been submitted for Lecturers in the Bluebook. You should receive this book in January or early February. If you don't, ask your Master for your copy.

Each year at State Session we honor our Lecturers for the job they have done over the past year. This year we presented the following awards...

**Lecturer's Appreciation Awards...** Marge Sendewicz, Redding #15; Martha Trask, Southington #25; Ann Gilnack, Glastonbury #26; Linea Erickson, Cawasa #34; Debby Perry, Senexet #40; Helena Schwalm, Whigville #48; Joyce Jordan, Tolland #51; P. Joan Toomey, Colchester #78; Helene Forrest, Hillstown #87; Robin Cousens, Ekonk Community #89; Bruce Jersey, Harmony #92; William Kroeger, III, Taghhannuck #100; Helena Schwalm, Litchfield #107; Eleanor Davis, Killingly #112; Robert Buck, Bethlehem #121; Diane Barbieri, Watertown #122; Frances Maxwell, Prospect #144; Irene Percoski, Enfield #151; Barbara Kulisch, Old Lyme #162; Susan Belle-Isle, Riverton #169; Nancy McBrien, Hemlock #182; Robert Buck, Oxford #194; Vernon Grange #52 and Putnam Grange #97.

The following received both the **Lecturer's Appreciation Award and The Honor Lecturer Award...** Marge Bernhardt, Cheshire #23; D. Emily Alexander, North Haven #35; Joanne Cipriano, Beacon Valley #103; Susan Pianka, North Stonington Community #138; Lois Evankow, Lyme #147; and, Debbie Barnes, Stonington #168.

**Essay Winners** – The Contest this year was "The Grange Then & Now"... 1<sup>st</sup> Robert A. Buck, Bethlehem Grange #121; 2<sup>nd</sup> Sue Gray, Ekonk Community Grange #89; and, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Barnes, Stonington Grange #168.

**Complete Program Winners...** 1<sup>st</sup> Susan Pianka, North Stonington Community Grange #138; 2<sup>nd</sup> Debbie Barnes, Stonington Grange #168; and, 3<sup>rd</sup> Irene Percoski, Enfield Grange #151.

**A Word from Home Certificates** were presented to the following Granges... Cheshire, No. Haven; Colchester, Hillstown, Ekonk, Beacon Valley Grange, Killingly, North Stonington, Prospect, Lyme, Enfield, Stonington, Riverton, and Hemlock.

**Should Auld Acquaintance Certificates** were received by... Cheshire, Glastonbury, North Haven, Colchester, Taghhannuck, Beacon Valley, Killingly, North Stonington, Lyme, and, Old Lyme.

Remember if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

...Marge

## SHARED NUMBERS....

### A CLOSING THOUGHT with Thanks to Ekonk Community Grange

As we leave here tonight after Grange and go our separate ways, let us remember that saying one kind word to another can warm you for three winter months! Do not protect yourself with a fence, but rather by a circle of friends.

## **A Women's version of 'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS' with Thanks to Old Lyme**

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the kitchen  
I was cooking and baking and moanin' and bitchin'.

I've been here for hours, I can't stop to rest  
This room's a disaster, just look at the mess!

Tomorrow, I've got thirty people to feed  
They expect all the trimmings. Who cares what I need!

My feet are both blistered; I've got cramps in my legs  
The cat just knocked over a bowl full of eggs.

There's a knock at the door and the telephone's ringing;  
Frosting drips on the counter as the microwave's dinging.

Two pies in the oven, dessert's almost done;  
My cookbook is soiled with butter and crumbs.

I've had all I can stand, I can't take anymore;  
Then in walks my husband, spilling rum on the floor.

He weaves and he wobbles, his balance unsteady;  
Then grins as he chuckles, "The eggnog is ready!"

He looks all around and with total regret  
Says, What's taking so long...aren't you through in here yet?

As quick as a flash I reach for a knife;  
He loses an earlobe; I wanted his life.

He flees from the room in terror and pain  
And screams, "MY GOD WOMAN, HAVE YOU GONE INSANE?!"

Now what was I doing, and what is that smell?  
Oh, darn, it's the pies, they're burned all to hell!

I hate to admit when I make a mistake  
But I put them on broil instead of bake.

What else can go wrong? Is there still more ahead?  
If this is good living, I'd rather be dead.

Lord, don't get me wrong, I love holidays;  
It just leaves me exhausted, all shaky and dazed.

But I promise you one thing, If I live 'till next year,  
You won't find me pulling my hair out in here.

I'll hire a maid, a cook, and a waiter  
And if that doesn't work, I'll have it all catered!

## The Dieters' Version of " 'Twas The Night Before Christmas" with Thanks to Stonington

Twas the night before Christmas and all round my hips  
were Fannie May candies that sneaked past my lips  
Fudge brownies were stored in the freezer with care  
in hopes that my thighs would forget they were there

While Mama in her girdle and I in chin straps  
Had just settled down to sugar-borne naps.  
When out in the pantry there arose such a clatter  
I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.

Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the icebox then threw up the sash.  
The marshmallow look of the new-fallen snow  
Sent thoughts of a binge to my body below.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear  
A marzipan Santa with eight Chocolate reindeer!  
That huge chunk of candy so luscious and slick  
I knew in a second that I'd wind up sick.

The sweet-coated Santa, those sugared reindeer  
I closed my eyes tightly but still I could hear;  
On Pritzker, on Stillman, on weak one, on TOPS  
A Weight Watcher dropout from sugar detox.

From the top of the scales to the top of the hall  
Now dash away pounds now dash away all.  
Dressed up in Lane Bryant from my head to nightdress  
My clothes were all bulging from too much excess.

My droll little mouth and my round little belly,  
They shook when I laughed like a bowl full of jelly.  
I spoke not a word but went straight to my work  
At all of the candy then turned with a jerk.

And laying a finger beside my heartburn  
Gave a quick nod toward the bedroom I turned.  
I eased into bed, to the heavens I cry--  
If temptation's removed I'll get thin by and by.

And I mumbled again as I turned for the night  
In the morning I'll starve...'till I take that first bite!

### A QUICK QUIZ TO USE AS A FILL-IN

1. Who told Frosty to stop? Ans. The Traffic Cop
2. How many Wise Men were there according to the Bible? Ans. It doesn't say.
3. Who recorded the first version of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"? Ans. Gene Autry
4. Which reindeer is often used for cleaning? Ans. Comet
5. Where did there arise such a clatter? Ans. On the Lawn
6. "A Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street" takes place where? Ans. New York City
7. What country gave us eggnog? Ans. England

### **TURKEYS SEEK TRUCE with Thanks to East Central Pomona**

You may not be a turkey, as I quite plainly am,  
But if you were I'm sure that you would rather be a lamb.

It once was fun being a turkey, raised in the woods by your mom;  
Now most turkeys are raised by heaters on a sprawling turkey farm.

Instead of running loose and free, the life our wild ancestors led,  
Farmers watch and care for us to keep an eye on how we're fed.

And even though you're human, I'm sure that you'd admit,  
Even turkeys have a right to just sit down and say, "We quit!"

For some other scapegoat for your precious Thanksgiving fare,  
Eat Something else – a snake, an owl, why not try a hare?

Sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce hold for us no special treat,  
So give us freedom, let us be – Find someone else to eat!

...Barbara Greenberg

### **WOMEN WHO KNOW THEIR PLACE with Thanks to Senexet**

Barbara Walters, of 20/20, did a story on gender roles in Kabul, Afghanistan, several years before the Afghan conflict.

She noted that women customarily walked five paces behind their husbands.

She recently returned to Kabul and observed that women still walk behind their husbands. Despite the overthrow of the oppressive Taliban regime, the women now seem happy to maintain the old custom.

Ms Walters approached one of the Afghani women and asked, 'Why do you now seem happy with an old custom that you once tried so desperately to change?'

The woman looked Ms Walters straight in the eyes, and without hesitation said, "Land mines."

Moral of the story: BEHIND EVERY MAN, THERE'S A SMART WOMAN!

### **DRIVING PRIVILEGES with Thanks to Senexet**

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

(You're going to love the Dad's reply!) "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"

## **SOME THANKSGIVING CUT-APARTS**

The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.

The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, had organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.

The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.

Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.

Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.

The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.

Sarah Josepha Hale, an American magazine editor, persuaded Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. She is also the author of the popular nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"

Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on third October 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.

The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.

In 1939, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23rd, not November 30th, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season.

Since 1947, the National Turkey Federation has presented a live turkey and two dressed turkeys to the President. The President does not eat the live turkey. He "pardons" it and allows it to live out its days on a historical farm.

## **TURKEY QUIZ with Thanks to Richard Chapman**

1. What part of a turkey is a story? Ans. Tail (tale)
2. What part of a turkey is used in a band? Ans. Drum Sticks.
3. Why is a man who eats too fast like a turkey? Ans. Both are gobblers.
4. What part of a turkey might you find in a woman's purse? Ans. Comb
5. What part of a turkey is a measure? Ans. Foot
6. What part of a turkey is apt to come in the mail? Ans. A Bill
7. In what country is the turkey when he is cooked? Ans. Greece (grease)

## **FRUITCAKE & CHRISTMAS**

Ever wonder why we see fruitcakes advertised for Christmas. This is a food custom that comes from England. For centuries, fruitcake has been an integral part of the Christmas season in England. In the United States fruit cake is also quite popular as a Christmas gift. Fruitcake usually consists of a combination of dried fruit, honey, and sometimes nuts. In the 1700s and 1800s making fruit cake was very labor intensive. Nowadays, they are readily available through many specialty food retailers.

## **DRIVING SAFELY IN WINTER WEATHER**

Snow, ice, and extreme cold can make driving treacherous. These safety tips from CDC, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the National Safety Council can help make winter car travel safer.

1. Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good, and check your tire tread.

2. Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips: cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables, sand or kitty litter (for traction), ice scraper, snow brush, and small shovel, blankets, and warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors).
3. For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets, and required medication on hand.
4. Avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you're taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you don't get there.
5. If your car is parked outside, make sure the exhaust pipe and the area around it are free of snow before you start the car. Snow packed in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car.
6. Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.
7. If your car stalls or gets stuck in snow, light two flares and place one at each end of the car, a safe distance away. Make sure snow has not blocked the exhaust pipe. Then stay in your vehicle and open a window slightly to let in fresh air. Wrap yourself in blankets and run your vehicle's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm.

### **CHRISTMAS CANDLES**

Candles have been around for centuries and archaeological evidence indicates that they were common in Ancient Egypt. Over time candles have been used for light, for ceremonies, for their scents and for decoration.

The first Christmas candle use can be traced to Germany. Along with originating the tradition of the Christmas tree, Germany is believed to have been the first country to place Christmas candles on the boughs of the tree.

One use of the Christmas candle is the celebration of Advent. Advent is a season for celebrating the birth of Christ. It begins four Sundays before Christmas. An advent wreath consists of an evergreen wreath and four candles. The candles in the wreath are lit during a family moment of prayer or before a meal. The first week of Advent only one Christmas candle is lit. The second week, two are lit. The third week, three and the fourth week all four candles are lit.

In Ireland, a Christmas candle is lit as a symbol relating to hospitality relating to the welcoming of Joseph, Mary and Baby Jesus.

In Finland, it is a tradition of some families to place a candle on the grave of their loved ones during Christmas celebrations.

In Germany and France a Christmas candle (wax or electric) is usually placed in a window, or several Christmas candles may adorn the Christmas tree.

### **NEW YEAR CUSTOMS**

New Year Day is the first day of the calendar year. It is celebrated as a holiday in almost every country in the world. It is a time of gaiety, sharing with friends, remembering the past, and hoping for good things in the future. In the United States, thousands of people jam Times Square in New York City to welcome the New Year at midnight.

Not all countries or cultures celebrate New Year on January 1st. The Chinese, Egyptian, Jewish, Roman, and Mohammedan years all have different start dates. Chinese New Year starts on a different day each year. Thousands of years ago, the Egyptians celebrated their New Year about the middle of June. That was the time when the Nile River usually overflowed. January 1 was recognized as New Year Day in the 1500's with the introduction of the Gregorian Calendar. The Julian Calendar places the New Year on January 14. The Jewish New Year, a feast day, is celebrated about the time of the fall equinox, in late September.