



# THE CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE LECTURERS' NEWSLETTER MAY – JUNE 2013

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Welcome to Spring....

Spring is the time we all want to get outside and enjoy the nice warmer weather, put in our gardens and just enjoy the fact that another winter is behind us. Please enjoy this weather, but please don't forget your Grange duties. Sending that package overseas or writing your essay on what you like about your Grange can be as rewarding as watching your garden mature.

Don't forget "Let's Celebrate" as we all celebrate the Grange and what it has to offer. Have you taken pictures yet for the photo contest? Those newly planted marigolds or petunias would make a nice picture. Do you day trip? There are a lot of historical sites in Connecticut where you can take pictures. All photos for the contest must be at Cheshire Grange Hall by 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. The hall will open at 9:00 a.m. Better yet, mail your pictures on ahead so that I receive them by Thursday. It will save you a trip and I can get them labeled and organized on Friday.

Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> is the day we all gather to celebrate. The hall will be open at 10:00 a.m. so you can take your time and look at both the photo winners and those in the CWA Department. Our State Chaplain will present her Service for Grange Sunday at 11:00 a.m. This will be followed by a Lasagna Dinner prepared by our Youth. Starting at 1:00 p.m. we will hold our Talent and "A Number" competitions. The drawing for our State Grange Raffle will also be held at this time.

Are your Lecturer's Reports being sent in on time? If your Deputy hasn't already been there to inspect them, he will be there soon. It's a lot easier to have them ready for him than to have to explain why you haven't done them.

Hope to see you all at Cheshire Grange Hall the second weekend in June. In the meantime I hope to visit with many of you as I resume my travels around the state.

Marge

## SHARED NUMBERS...

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

*I know a lot of Granges struggle to have a proper Memorial Service. Our State Chaplain, Barbara Kulisch, prepared this one. You may use it as it is here, or break it apart to meet your needs.*

### HEAR THESE WORDS FROM Isaiah 40:31

"But they who wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."

### SCRIPTURE READING FROM Isaiah 25: 6-9

Here on Mount Zion the LORD almighty will prepare a banquet for all the nations of the world~a banquet of the richest food and the finest wine. Here he will suddenly remove the cloud of sorrow that has been hanging over all the nations. The Sovereign LORD will destroy death forever! He will wipe away the tears from everyone's eyes and take away the disgrace his people have suffered throughout the world. The LORD himself

has spoken. When it happens, everyone will say, "HE is our GOD! We have put our trust in HIM, and now we are happy and joyful because HE has saved us."

**OPENING HYMN**~ On Eagle's Wings~ optional~song by all or a soloist!

**MESSAGE: "The Best Is Yet To Come" or better known as "Keep Your Fork!"**

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as she was getting her things 'in order,' she contacted her Pastor and had him come to her house to discuss certain aspects of her final wishes. She told him which songs she wanted sung at the service, what scriptures she would like read, and what outfit she wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Pastor was preparing to leave when the young woman suddenly remembered something very important to her. 'There's one more thing,' she said excitedly. 'What's that?' came the Pastor's reply. 'This is very important,' the young woman continued. 'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand!' The Pastor stood looking at the young woman, not knowing quite what to say. 'That surprises you, doesn't it?' the young woman asked. 'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Pastor. The young woman explained. 'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say, 'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming.....like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!' So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder 'What's with the fork?' Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork.....the best is yet to come.' The Pastor's eye's welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young woman good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see her before her death. But he also knew that the young woman had a better grasp of heaven than he did. She had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming. At the funeral people were walking by the young woman's casket and they saw the cloak she was wearing and the fork placed in her right hand. Over and over, the Pastor heard the question, 'What's with the fork?' And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Pastor told the people of the conversation he had with the young woman shortly before she died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to her. He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come. AMEN.

**AT THIS TIME, THE SECRETARY WOULD READ THE NAMES OF MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED ON THIS PAST YEAR & THE CERES WOULD PLACE CARNATIONS ON THE ALTAR IN THEIR MEMORY!**

**IF YOU LOST NO ONE THIS PAST YEAR, THIS SERVICE COULD BE USED TO REMEMBER ALL THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED OVER THE YEARS!**

**FRIENDSHIP**

(Could be given to all members to read together)

Friendship is the sunshine that turns the sky to gold,  
Friendship is the fragrance a thousand blossoms hold.  
Friendship is the pathway that leads to dreams come true,  
For Friendship is the blessing of having known  
Such Worthy Brothers and Sisters like all of you!

**LET US BOW IN PRAYER:**

Almighty GOD, we give Thee thanks for the good examples of all these, Thy servants, who, having finished their course in Faith, do now rest from their labors. Imbue us all with the spirit of service and may each new reminder of the uncertainty of this earthly life inspire us to greater zeal and renewed endeavor; For soon cometh the end of the day, when man's work is done. AMEN.

## PLEASE JOIN ME IN THE LORD'S PRAYER USING TRESPASSES.

### CLOSING SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 100

Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before HIS presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He *is* GOD; *It is* HE *who* made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* HIS people and the sheep of HIS pasture. Enter into HIS gates with thanksgiving, *And* into his courts with praise. Be thankful to HIM, *and* bless HIS name. For the LORD *is* good; HIS mercy *is* everlasting, And HIS truth *endures* to all generations. AMEN.

**CLOSING HYMN** ~Blessed Assurance~optional, again sung by a soloist or members!

**BENEDICTION:** May the Holy Spirit, who gives comfort and strength, Jesus Christ, who gives hope and life, and God the Father, who gives meaning and purpose, touch and bless your lives today and everyday from this time forth and forevermore. AMEN.

### DID YOU KNOW with Thanks to Irene Percoski

1. Gardeners in Florida usually plant their gardens 45 to 60 days sooner than gardeners in Montana.
2. In 1943, 20 million World War II victory gardens produced 40 percent of the country's fresh vegetables.
3. The National gardening survey named the top 10 most popular homegrown vegetables  
Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Summer squash, Sweet peppers, Onions, Hot peppers, Beans, Lettuce, Carrots, and Peas.
4. According to Burpee you can expect a 1-to-25 ratio of costs to benefits in a veggie garden started from Seed. If you spend \$100.00 on seeds and fertilizer you can grow \$2500.00 worth of herbs and vegetables.
5. The 3 most popular vegetable seeds sold are tomatoes, summer squash and parsley.
6. There are 5 types of lettuce. Butterhead, crisphead, looseleaf, romaine and stem. Looseleaf matures in 45 days, while romaine and crisphead can take up to 75 days.

### THE BATHTUB TEST with Thanks to Don Lanoue

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

### STRANGE FACTS with Thanks to Lois Zezima , Dirigo Grange, Freedom, Maine

Abe Lincoln's mother died when the family cow ate poisonous mushrooms and she drank the milk.

Long before they were a delicacy, lobsters were fed to prisoners and servants. The law limited the number of days it could be served before it was considered abuse.

Peanut butter used to be sold in slices like cheese.

The Blue Whale can eat as much as 3 tons of food every day, but at the same time can live without food for 6 months.

You grow by 8mm every night while you sleep but shrink to your former height the following day.

All the planets in our solar system rotate counter clockwise except Venus. It is the only planet that rotates clockwise.

The largest living organism ever found is a honey mushroom. It covers 3.4 square miles of land in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon and it is still growing.

All Polar bears can seem clumsy and slow, but during a chase they can reach a speed of 25 miles an hour.

### **VALUES with Thanks to Old Lyme Grange**

To realize the value of a sister/brother -- Ask someone who doesn't have one.

To realize the value of ten years: Ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years: Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year: Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months: Ask a mother who gave birth to a stillborn.

To realize the value of one month: Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week: Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one minute: Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second: ask a person who has survived an accident.

Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have.

You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

To realize the value of a friend or family member: LOSE ONE.

### **THE CLOTHESLINE With Thanks to Enfield Grange**

THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:

1. You had to hang the socks by the toes... NOT the top.
2. You hung pants by the BOTTOM/cuffs... NOT the waistbands.
3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
5. You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail!  
What would the neighbors think?
6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
8. It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather... clothes would "freeze-dry."
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes! Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!
10. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
11. Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed.
12. IRONED??!! Well, that's a whole OTHER subject!

And now a POEM...

A clothesline was a news forecast, To neighbors passing by,  
There were no secrets you could keep, When clothes were hung to dry.  
It also was a friendly link, For neighbors always knew  
If company had stopped on by, To spend a night or two.  
For then you'd see the "fancy sheets", And towels upon the line;  
You'd see the "company table cloths", With intricate designs.  
The line announced a baby's birth, From folks who lived inside,  
As brand new infant clothes were hung, So carefully with pride!  
The ages of the children could, So readily be known  
By watching how the sizes changed, you'd know how much they'd grown!  
It also told when illness struck, As extra sheets were hung;  
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too, Haphazardly were strung.  
It also said, "On vacation now", When lines hung limp and bare.  
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged, With not an inch to spare!  
New folks in town were scorned upon, if wash was dingy and gray,  
As neighbors carefully raised their brows, And looked the other way.  
But clotheslines now are of the past, for dryers make work much less.  
Now what goes on inside a home, Is anybody's guess!  
I really miss that way of life, It was a friendly sign  
When neighbors knew each other best... By what hung on the line.

### TEN TIPS TO "FALL-PROOF" YOUR HOME

1. **Anti-Slip Rugs:** Remove small throw rugs or use double-sided tape to keep the rugs from slipping.
2. **Anti-Slip Mats:** Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors.
3. **Footwear:** Wear shoes both inside and outside the house. Avoid going barefoot or wearing slippers.
4. **Organize:** Keep items you use often in cabinets you can reach easily without using a step stool.
5. **Pick Up:** Remove things you can trip over from stairs and places where you walk.
6. **Lights:** Improve the lighting in your home. Hang light-weight curtains or shades to reduce glare.
7. **Stairs:** Install handrails and lights on all staircases.
8. **Bathrooms:** Put grab bars inside and next to the tub or shower and next to your toilet.
9. **Exercise:** Exercise can increase strength and balance, making falls less likely.
10. **Vision:** Keep your eyes sharp with yearly check-ups.

### A QUIZ FOR THOSE WITH LONG MEMORIES

with Thanks to Sherry Harriman, Maine State Lecturer

Comic Strips From a While Back

1. a) What comic strip family lived in Dogpatch? The Yokums of Li'l Abner  
b) What was the nearby community that Dogpatch residents looked down on? Skunk Hollow
2. What comic strip characters were famous for their appetites for:  
a) Spinach ---- Popeye  
b) hamburgers ---- J. Wellington Wimpy  
c) corned beef and cabbage ---- Jiggs of "Bringing Up Father"
3. Who were the little brothers of  
a) Smitty ---- Herby  
b) Winnie Winkle ---- Perry Winkle

- c) Moon Mullins ---- Kayo
  - d) Skeezix of Gasoline Alley ---- Corky
4. Who were the little sisters of
    - a) "Harold Teen" ---- Josie
    - b) Skeezix ---- Judy
  5. Who was the comic strip character who became synonymous with telling of tall tales?
    - Major Amos Hoople of "Our Boarding House"
  6. Who were the 1930's girlfriends of
    - a) Skeezix ---- Nina Clock
    - b) Dick Tracy ---- Tess Truehart
    - c) Harold Teen ---- Lillums
  7. Who were the girlfriends of
    - a) Joe Palooka ----- Ann Howe
    - b) Li'l Abner ----- Daisy Mae
    - c) Popeye ---- Olive Oyl
  8. What comic strip characters had dogs named
    - a) Sandy ----- Orphan Annie
    - b) Zero ----- Little Annie Rooney

### **GROUPS OF ANIMALS**

Do you know what a group of these animals are called....

Cows - - Herd of cows

Chickens - - A Flock of chickens

Fish - - A School of fish

Geese - - A Gaggle of geese

Lions - - A Pride of lions,

Crows - - A Murder of crows

Doves - - An Exaltation of doves

Owls - - A Parliament of owls.

### **GETTING OLD with Thanks to North Stonington Grange**

Two elderly gentlemen from a retirement center were sitting on a bench under a tree when one turns to the other and says: 'Slim, I'm 83 years old now and I'm just full of aches and pains. I know you're about my age. How do you feel?'

Slim says, 'I feel just like a newborn baby.'

'Really!? Like a newborn baby!?'

'Yep. No hair, no teeth, and I think I just wet my pants.'

Morris , an 82 year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you?'

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.'"

The doctor said, 'I didn't say that.. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT with Thanks to Killingly Grange

*(This would make a great closing thought)*

Take a heaping cup of Friendship and add one cup of Joyful Sharing. Toss in a little Fun and a teaspoon of Friendly Conversation and what do you get? -- Pleasant Fellowship with a hot cup of coffee after every Grange meeting.

### ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 60 YEAR OLD? with Thanks to Joan Olschefski

1. After the Lone Ranger saved the day and rode off into the sunset, the grateful citizens would ask, Who was that masked man? Invariably, someone would answer, I don't know, but he left this behind. What did he leave behind?    Ans. A silver bullet
2. When the Beatles first came to the U.S. in early 1964, we all watched them on The \_\_\_\_\_ Show.  
    Ans. The Ed Sullivan Show
3. Get Your Kicks, \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. On Route 66
4. The story you are about to see is true. The names have been changed to \_\_\_\_\_.  
    Ans. Protect the innocent.
5. In the jungle, the mighty jungle \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. The Lion Sleeps Tonight
6. After the Twist, The Mashed Potato, and the Watusi, we danced under a stick that was lowered as low as we could go in a dance called the \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. The Limbo
7. Nestle's makes the very best \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. Chocolate
8. Satchmo was America's Ambassador of Goodwill. Our parents shared this great jazz trumpet player with us. His name was \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. Louis Armstrong
9. What takes a licking and keeps on ticking?    Ans. The Timex watch
10. Red Skeleton's hobo character was named \_\_\_\_\_ and Red always ended his television show by saying, "Good Night, and \_\_\_\_\_"    Ans. Freddy, the Freeloader and "Good Night and God Bless"
11. Some Americans who protested the Vietnam War did so by burning their \_\_\_\_\_.  
    Ans. Draft cards (Bras were also burned but not flags)
12. The cute little car with the engine in the back and the trunk in the front was called the VW. What other names did it go by?    Ans. Beetle or Bug
13. In 1971, singer Don MacLean sang a song about, "the day the music died." This was a tribute to \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. Buddy Holly
14. We can remember the first satellite placed in orbit. The Russians did it. It was called \_\_\_\_\_.  
    Ans. Sputnik
15. One of the big fads of the late 50's and 60's was a large plastic ring what we twirled around our waist. It was called the \_\_\_\_\_.    Ans. Hoola-hoop.

### BLACKOUT SKITS with Thanks to Colchester Grange

Don: What do you call a group of flying rabbits?

Phil: The hare force!

Donna: What do you get if you cross a hippopotamus with a bunny?

Sam: A hopopotamus!

Terry: How do rabbits fix their hair?

John: With hare brushes

### JESSE THE CHICKEN PLUCKER with Thanks to Irene Percoski

Jesse was a chicken plucker. That's right. He stood on a line in a chicken factory and spent his days pulling the feathers off dead chickens so the rest of us wouldn't have to.

It wasn't much of a job. But at the time, Jesse didn't think he was much of a person. His father was a brute of a man. His dad was actually thought to be mentally ill and treated Jesse rough all of his life.

Jesse's older brother wasn't much better. He was always picking on Jesse and beating him up. Yes, Jesse grew up in a very rough home in West Virginia. Life was anything but easy. And he thought life didn't hold much hope for him. That's why he was standing in this chicken line, doing a job that darn few people wanted. In addition to all the rough treatment at home, it seems that Jesse was always sick. Sometimes it was real physical illness, but way too often it was all in his head. He was a small child, skinny and meek. That sure didn't help the situation any.

When he started to school, he was the object of every Bully on the playground. He was a hypochondriac of the first order. For Jesse, tomorrow was not always something he looked forward to.

But, he had dreams. He wanted to be a ventriloquist. He found books on ventriloquism. He practiced with sock puppets and saved his hard earned dollars until he could get a real ventriloquist dummy.

When he got old enough, he joined the military. And even though many of his hypochondriac symptoms persisted, the military did recognize his talents and put him in the entertainment corp.

That was when his world changed. He gained confidence. He found that he had a talent for making people laugh, and laugh so hard they often had tears in their eyes. Yes, little Jesse had found himself.

You know, folks, the history books are full of people who overcame a handicap to go on and make a success of themselves, but Jesse is one of the few I know of who didn't overcome it. Instead he used his paranoia to make a million dollars, and become one of the best-loved characters of all time in doing it!

Yes, that little paranoid hypochondriac, who transferred his nervousness into a successful career, still holds the record for the most Emmy's given in a single category. The wonderful, gifted, talented, and nervous comedian who brought us Barney Fife was Jesse Don Knotts.

## **SUMMER BIRDS**

It is a myth that feeding birds in the summertime will make the birds dependent on handouts or lazy when seeking natural food sources. This is simply untrue – studies have shown that wild birds typically receive no more than 25 percent of their daily food from feeders, and for many backyard species the total is even lower. In fact, summer is an ideal time to feed birds because the longer days give the bird more time to observe your bird feeders.

Birds are in their breeding plumage during the summer months, making identification easier and more enjoyable with bright colors and clear markings.

Birds are raising their families, giving us the opportunity to watch nestlings mature as they learn to visit bird feeders.

There is a greater variety of birds in northern areas during the summer months, and if we only offer food in the winter we will miss many species.

At first it may seem that fewer birds visit feeders in early to mid-summer. During early summer, however, many birds are nesting and are naturally more secretive, and while their chicks are very young they visit feeders only briefly. Furthermore, this is the time of year when many natural food sources – fruits, insects, seeds, etc. – are more readily available, decreasing birds' use of feeders. Offering a variety of nutritious foods is the best way to attract feeding birds in any season. During the summer months, many birds also eat fruits and insects in addition to popular seeds, and offering a wider range of choices at the feeder will attract more species.

All types of bird seed are good for summer, but black oil sunflower seeds, hearts or chips are the most popular option for a wide range of bird species.