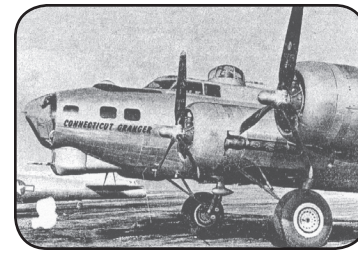




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Connecticut Granger



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Vol. 57, No. 7

The Official Newspaper of the Connecticut State Grange

April 2017

State Master



Noel T. Miller
State Master/President
president@ctstategrange.org

Alma Graham and Gordon Gibson for helping at the Capitol.

The Blue Books are out so please read them carefully. They are a two year reference, so make sure that the contests you wish to enter are for the 2017 or 2018 year. We are trying to save on printing for the Blue Book because of repeats, so please carefully read the categories for the respective year.

The State Executive Committee members have been going to Pomona meetings to answer questions and explain the time schedule for closing of the current Pomona and organizing the new Pomona Granges. Remember, it is business as usual so have your Fifth Degree and activities that you have planned. Just remember the assets of your Pomona Grange will go to the new Pomona Grange in order to give them a strong foundation to start with.

The National Grange has offered Grants for commercial kitchens through the National Grange Foundation. Check out the Grange webpage for information and applications for this grant. The State Grange is looking into the link that was forwarded to us for additional Grants so keep your eyes out for further information.

It is great to see what our Grangers are doing via Facebook and news articles. Please keep up the good work for the tasks you are performing will strengthen the Grange in Connecticut. Keep up the good work you DO•ers.

Happy Easter to all and may we all enjoy the springtime in our lives.

“The National Grange is part of our American heritage of freedom, initiative and courage. You have fought valiantly for those principles which have made America great. You stand as a beacon of strength, working not alone for the America of today but also the America of tomorrow.” This quote was made by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI. History tells us that the FBI investigated many organizations throughout his time with the agency. But this shows the respect that he had for our organization. We are FBI approved.

April is Grange Month, it is time for us to shout to the people that the Grange is still here. I hope that every Grange will have an event opened to the public so get our message out into the community. March 17 was Ag Day at the State Capitol. The regularly scheduled date of March 15 was moved because of Blizzard Eugene. Though attendance was smaller than past years the Connecticut State Grange was there to hand out information and answer questions about the Grange. We handed out candy and the NECCO wafers are still the most taken candies that we have given out. This year we had pictures taken with the Governor, Lt. Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture. I wish to thank

California Guild litigation update...

National Grange continues to prevail



Betsy Huber, National Master

The National Grange has had some more wins recently in the litigation against the California Guild, the organization formed by former members of the California State Grange.

As you may remember, both the State Court and Federal Court judges ruled in favor of the National Grange in both lawsuits against the Guild in 2015. The Guild has filed appeals in both cases. Meanwhile, we have taken several actions to protect and recover the real and personal property belonging to the California State Grange.

In 2016, the Federal judge awarded the National Grange \$144,715.70 in legal fees that we were forced to expend due to the Guild’s “deliberate and willful” violation of the court’s order prohibiting the Guild from using any Grange trademarks. We still have not seen any of this money but we are continually trying to discover where the Guild’s funds may be hidden. Discovery demonstrated that, after the order awarding the National Grange its attorney’s fees, the Guild transferred large sums of money, including \$80,000 into Robert McFarland’s personal retirement account as “severance pay” and tens of thousands of dollars to third parties via cashier’s checks. These transfers and other actions made it difficult for the National Grange to collect its attorney’s fees judgment. Thus, in early March 2017, the Federal court granted the National Grange’s motion to assign the right to collect dues and loan payments from Subordinate Granges and other entities that had been making payments to the Guild. The Federal court held that the Guild “is hereby enjoined from assigning or otherwise disposing of the payments discussed (above) to any other

person or entity until it has satisfied the court’s fees order.”

In the State court lawsuit, the California State judge issued an injunction requiring the Guild to place all rents received from the California State Grange headquarters property in Sacramento into escrow. Up until the injunction was entered, the Guild had been collecting and spending this Grange money for its own purposes. The State Court has now ordered that to stop.

In a second ruling issued the same day, the State Judge also ordered that the monthly disbursement received by the Guild from the escrow account holding rents paid by the Regents of the University of California for its use of part of the headquarters property would be reduced by almost 70% because of the Guild’s failure to use those funds for their intended purpose. When these rents were ordered into escrow, the Guild was allowed to receive a monthly disbursement of over \$5,000 to pay expenses related to the Regents building. Unfortunately, however, the Guild used most of this money for its own purposes and failed to pay many bills, resulting in late penalties and suspension of services by vendors. Confronted with evidence that the Guild was not using the money in the way it said it would, the Court ordered that all expenses (except the Guild’s “management fee” of about \$1,600) must be paid directly to vendors out of the escrow. As a result, the Court has ordered that this Grange money can no longer be diverted by the Guild for its own purposes.

The three recent orders from the Federal and State Court are the culmination of successful efforts to protect Grange property from further waste by the Guild. We will remain vigilant to ensure that the court orders are followed until such time as the California State Grange’s property is returned. We continue to fight to uphold the organizational structure and legacy of the Grange for the benefit of all local Granges in California and across the country.

We ask for your financial support of this effort by sending your donations to The National Grange, 1616 H St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, marked “Legal Fund.” Thank you.

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NEXT ISSUE . . . MAY



A part of the National Grange
*American Values,
Hometown Roots*

Scan this QR Code and join us on the web!



State Secretary



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary

secretary@ctstategrange.org

As of this writing, all Granges should have received the confirmation of acceptance for their 990N filings. There are several Granges that file on their own and do not receive a confirmation from me. If you did not receive one and expected me to file for you, please let me know. If you filed on your own and did not receive an acceptance from the IRS, please be

aware that the new system does not automatically email these forms to you. Seven minutes after you submit your 990, the acceptance becomes available on the website under the section regarding management of filings. There will be a button to the right of your 990 file that says "get updated status." By clicking on this button the system will pull up your acceptance and you can then click on the file and be taken to the confirmation page that you can then print for your files. The new system does have a couple more steps but it does work well once you get used to it.

The new Blue Books and State Directories also should have been received by all Granges (the 990s were included in these envelopes). Please keep in mind that this year's Blue Book applies to 2017 AND 2018. Please do not discard this book at the end of this Grange year as you will need it for the following year. This new two year format is being used to save money on printing and we have only printed enough books for this year's needs. Only a small number of books remain available at the Central Office to replace lost or discarded Blue Books.

Every year we have a great deal of difficulty in getting the updated officer and committee forms from Granges for the State Directory. When they are available, we have relied on Pomona Handbooks to pull information for Granges that have not reported. As you know, Pomonas will be going through restructuring this fall and no handbooks will be printed until the new Pomonas are established so it is extremely important that ALL Granges return their forms to the Central Office as soon after elections as possible to ensure we are able to get the 2018 Directories completed in a timely manner.

Membership Recognition certificate and seal requests have been coming in steadily to the office. Please keep in mind we have two separate forms for these requests. There is a pink form that covers seals and certificates for 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service. All other requests for Golden Sheaves, 75 year certificates and letters beyond should be on the yellow form that goes to National Grange. When making your requests, please let me know if there are members on your list that have come to your Grange from another Grange. It can be difficult to confirm their continuous membership without this information.

We continue to have a good amount of Grange equipment/regalia in the office. If you need a replacement for something that is just plain worn out, broken or missing, please let me know. Items are available free of charge. Give me a call or send an email!

Until next time... think spring (at least spring with warmer weather and no snow on the ground!).

2017 CT State Grange Calendars Available

The 2017 edition (2nd in the series) Grange Hall Calendars produced by the CT State Grange are still available. The year is still young making it a perfect time to get your copy. Like last year, these calendars feature pictures of 12 additional Grange Halls. You will especially want one if you purchased the 2016 calendar!

The calendars are \$13.00 each. Shipping is extra and will be determined by the location of the person ordering. Orders may be placed by emailing the State Secretary at Secretary@CTStateGrange.org. You may also call 860-307-1522. Or you can order by mail to: CT State Grange, P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT. Checks should be made out to the Connecticut State Grange.

Constitutional Amendment proposed



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

With all of the uncertainty of our state budget and with the state's financial situation, bills are passing slowly through committees. There have been a few hearings but nothing that we have written testimony on. I am wondering how many bills that concern funding has been held back due to concerns with possible cuts to municipal grants and state services.

One bill that we have been monitoring is HJ 99 - RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE FUNDING OF PROGRAMS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT. As the title indicates, this bill proposes an amendment to the Constitution which would create a separate account for the Community Investment Funds. Money in this fund would come from the existing surcharge imposed on real estate filings. These funds would be divided by and locked for use by designated agencies and programs and could not be accessed for other needs.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) came into existence in 2005. The CIA is a dedicated fund that supports four sectors, Agriculture, Open Space Conservation, Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation. Funding for these programs originates from a \$40.00 surcharge on real estate recording fees. The CIA program has been generating up to \$25 million per year with the monies being placed in a dedicated fund. A significant portion of Department of Agriculture programs are funded through the CIA funds. This CIA has been extremely successful directing more than \$133 million towards saving hundreds of acres of farmlands, restoring historic buildings, supporting



Governor Dannel Malloy stopped by the Connecticut State Grange booth at the March 17 Ag Day at the State Capitol. Pictured l to r: Gordon Gibson, State Grange Liaison to the Legislative Committee; Legislative Director Alma Graham, Governor Malloy and State Master Noel Miller.



Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman with Alma Graham and Noel Miller.



Commissioner of Agriculture Steven Reviczky with Gordon Gibson on Ag Day at the Capitol.

agricultural programs and affordable housing. This program has touched almost all towns in this state.

The last State budget transferred about half of the unspent CIA monies into the general fund. They also proposed that any new funds as a result of the real estate surcharged also be placed into the general fund. The Legislators did not approve that proposal last session.

This proposed amendment has very strong support by multiple agricultural groups, including the Grange. Gordon Gibson and I recently attended a rally at the Capitol along with these other groups supporting this amendment. We were greeted by a constituency of legislators who spoke in support of this

amendment.

I encourage all Grangers and Granges to contact their legislators in support of HJ99. You can locate your legislator and how to contact them by going to the State General Assembly website - <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>.

An example of some of the programs that will be affected are the Agricultural Sustainability Account (Dairy Support Program), Farmland Preservation, Ag Viability and Farm Transition Grant programs, Connecticut Grown program, CT Farmlink, Seafood Advisory Council, CT Farm Wine Development Council and the CT Food Policy Council. If the funding is eliminated, these programs and more will disappear.



Eye on Communications

GLEANINGS FROM YOUR STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAM

Time to Secure the Future of Your Grange

By Terri Fassio, P.R. Co-Director

Many Granges are securing their future by taking in new younger members, while other Granges scratch their heads and wonder how to get the youth and younger people interested and involved. According to a number of studies, Millennials (folks born between 1980 and 1995) are public service motivated, and generationally, are over 90 million strong.

Did you know that 89% of the public is likely to switch from one brand to another (quality being equal) if the second brand is associated with a good cause? *

Did you know that 66% of the public will give recommendations if the products/services/organizations are socially responsible? *

Did you know that 74% of Millennials are more likely to pay attention to an organization's message if that group has a deep commitment to a cause? *

The Grange as a whole has a socially-based, community service oriented mission. There is no better time than the present to promote your Grange's strengths.

This is the age of social media, texting, e-mail and growing technologies. This is also the age of interactive and connected communications - where folks share their good experiences, ideas and promote their messages on every platform - and on the flip

side share their bad experiences as well. How as a Grange can we take advantage of capturing the attention of today's younger generation?

Here's a few tips:

- Promote your Grange on Facebook, Twitter, Google+, Pinterest, YouTube, SnapChat etc. Contact the CT State Grange Public Relations team to get started.
- Make note of your members' e-mail addresses, and then send out frequent updates keeping all of your members in the loop with the latest Grange news.
- Hold events and activities that appeal to all ages. It's all about the experience!
- Evolve your Grange by differentiating from the rest. Promote your Grange's mission at every turn. Make your Grange relevant and capture attention.
- When in doubt, just ask. And know how and when to say Thank You too.
- Let younger people participate in your Grange. Take them seriously. Don't put down their ideas and suggestions. Allow their input to matter. Let them be an active part of planning your Grange's events and activities.

Source: * Cone Millennial Case Study, "Marketing to Millennials" by Colleen Dilen.

Past State Master Allen B. Cook



Allen B. Cook was born on June 27, 1875 in Petersham, Massachusetts. He was the son of Sanford B. Cook and Lydia N. (Peirce) Cook. He received his education in the local grammar and high school and the Massachusetts Agricultural College of Amherst, Massachusetts (now UMass).

On July 23, 1899 he married Emma L. Shepardson of Amherst, Massachusetts who was the daughter of David M. Shepardson and Emeline (Belcher) Shepardson, at Petersham, Massachusetts.

To them were born the following children: Alice E., Ethel F., Marion E., Charlotte M. and Frederick B. Cook.

During the time he held the Mastership of the Connecticut State Grange he was working for the State of Connecticut as Superintendent of the Farm for Women at Niantic, Connecticut. Later he was employed in the Connecticut Park Commission as Supervisor of the Town Tree Wardens. He owned a large farm in West Hartford and has always had Agriculture and Agricultural pursuits as his chief interests. At the present time he is retired and lives at 518 Fern Street, in West Hartford with his wife.

He was a Unitarian by faith and has always been most liberal in his religious thinking.

He was a member of the Masonic Order and belongs to Unionville, Eastern Star Lodge No. 101. He was a registered Republican.

He has led a long and active life in Grange work and has the honor of being a member for over 50 years. Due to his work, he has been a member of various Granges, starting his first Grange History in Petersham, Mass. He then became a member of West Hartford Grange No. 58 where he held several offices besides that of Master. He served two years as Overseer of Central Pomona Grange, then two years as its Master. He held the position as a Member of the Executive Committee of Farmington Valley Pomona Grange after its organization. He has been Central Pomona Deputy for the years 1910-1912. He was General Deputy during 1913-1915; Lecturer of the State Grange for 1916 and 1917; Overseer of the State Grange for 1918-1921; he served as the 12th Master of the Present State Grange during 1922-1925; Executive Committee member of the State Grange for 1926-1931; Assistant Steward of the National Grange during 1923 through 1927 and was Priest Guardian of the Assembly of Demeter for the National Grange for 1922 and 1923. He has been a member of the Student Loan Committee since 1936, serving most of that time as its chairman.

He was always very active in Grange work and whenever he moved into a community where there was no Grange he proceeded to either organize or help get one started there. He personally organized the following Granges: East Lyme Grange #157, Salem Grange #166 and Avon Grange #179. The following Granges were organized during his administration but by someone else: Cannon #52, Mystic #171 and Millville #192.

He was an ardent supporter of all Youth movements and especially known for his services of helping place loans for those who wished to further their education. Sister Cook's gentle disposition has endeared her to all.



Connecticut Farm for Women at Niantic (predecessor to today's York Correctional Institution in Niantic).

Go Around the World Apr. 29



Joanne Cipriano
Social Connection Director
Social@ctstategrange.org

Barbara and I couldn't be more pleased with the response for volunteers for our "Around the World" dinner and program being held on Saturday, April 29 at Cheshire Grange.

To-date we have 20 volunteers making food from 13 countries. We still have some countries that it would be nice to have food from. Just call Barbara Robert or me. We could also use help with serving and clean-up.

Our evening will include dinner, program, favors, Country Store

and other things that make for an enjoyable evening. We will be waiting for your call.


Please save the date for a fun evening.

Tickets are in each Pomona - price \$10.00. Central Pomona Cindy Charbonneau, East Central Pomona Edith Schoell, Mountain County Pomona Linea Erickson, New Haven County Pomona Marge Bernhardt, New London County Pomona Debbie and Jeff Barnes, Excelsior Pomona Barbara Robert and Joanne Cipriano and Fairfield County Pomona Marge Sendewicz.

Connecticut State Grange
Social Connection Committee
presents
AROUND THE WORLD
Saturday, April 29th • 6 PM
Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Road, Cheshire, CT
(one block east of the Cheshire Town Hall)
A dinner of ethnic foods will be served, along with a program featuring favors, a country store, and other fun activities.
Tickets are available from each Pomona or from the Social Connection Committee - \$10 per person.
For more information contact: Joanne Cipriano at social@ctstategrange.org
www.CTStateGrange.org • www.Facebook.com/CTStateGrange


PLEASE! Do not send correspondence or any other mail to the Newfield Rd. address listed below. This is the address for Winchester Grange #74 and is only listed to satisfy USPS requirements. Please mail to the Editor's address listed below, right. *Thank You!*

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Central Pomona No. 1


Southington #25
Meriden #29
Higganum #124
Hemlock #182



Since November 30, 1886


HEMLOCK GRANGE #182*Corr: Maureen Sanborn***Apr. 14:** Omit for Good Friday**Apr. 28:** Something Musical

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



East Central Pomona No. 3

Stafford #1	Hillstown #87
Granby #5	Ashford #90
Glastonbury #26	Enfield #151
Manchester #31	Echo #180
Vernon #52	Simsbury #197
Coventry #75	



Since September 7, 1887

EAST CENTRAL POMONA #3*Corr: Noel Miller*

Apr. 1: Fifth Degree, 5:00, Meeting at 6:00, Degree at 7:00; Host- Coventry

It's time for the Fifth Degree so bring candidates to the next to last East Central Pomona Grange Fifth Degree. It's fun and there's a free meal. Come and join us.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26*Corr: Kathryn Ruff*

Apr. 6: Hopping into Spring, Skit Night, CWA Baking Contest

Apr. 8: Monte Carlo Whist Card Party, 7 P.M.

The CWA Baking Contest this year is "Old Fashioned Oatmeal Cookies." It is a good tasting cookie. I have tried the recipe and will make it again. If you decide to enter the contest bring your plate (7 cookies on a plate) to the Apr. 6 meeting. Sister Posuniak would be happy to see plenty of entries that evening. For a copy of the recipe contact Sister Ann Posuniak.

Apr. 6 is also the skit night. The May 7th meeting of Pomona is "Open Mic Night". Our entry on April 6 will then be brought to the May 7 meeting in Pomona and compete with the other entries from the other Subordinate Granges in our Pomona.

Hope to see you at the Apr. 8 card party at 7 P.M. Your support will be most welcome. Remind your neighbors that the card party is open to the public.

An early reminder that May 6 is our Semi-Annual Bakeless/Foodless Sale. Your donation can be mailed to the Grange Secretary, Kathryn Ruff, P.O. Box 192, Pomfret Center, CT 06259.

"Happy Spring to All."

COVENTRY GRANGE #75*Corr: Noel Miller***Apr. 6:** April Fools**Apr. 20:** April Flowers

Coventry Grange is awaiting warmer weather to clear out the hall of tag sale items and to repair the sagging floors and loose clapboards around the hall. We have some trees that still need to be taken down to protect us from falling branches. Mother nature has to be kind to us and we would like to surprise her with some planting for the future.

ENFIELD GRANGE #151*Corr: Irene Percoski***May 13:** Old Pots and Pans**June 10:** Strawberry Time

We have accepted two new members to our Grange. Welcome to Lois Cybulski and Mary Ann Mayo. Members traveled down memory lane for our program "Are We There Yet?" Many recalled day trips and other long vacation rides. Wherever we traveled as children always brought back fond memories.

Our 118th Anniversary had an outstanding summary for the Lecturer's program written by Conrad Krupa, starting from the beginning on March 10, 1899 up to the present time. Thank you Conrad. A wonderful lunch by Judy and Marian followed by a birthday cake made by Dawn rounded out the meeting. We're looking forward to some egg stories and facts for our Easter program. Come visit.

Stafford Grange Hosts Potluck



Stafford Grange had our annual St. Patrick's Day potluck, with special guest Ted Beebe. We also welcomed 2 new youth members!

Not wearing the Green Penalty



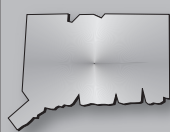
Liz Hykes, Richard Ference and John Hykes pay the penalty for not wearing green at the March meeting of East Central Pomona No. 3.

The Bob Charbonneau Show

Thursdays at 8:00 PM EST
Saturdays at 9:00 PM EST
& Following Tuesdays at
10:00 PM EST


<http://www.GrangeRadio.org>





Mountain County Pomona No. 4

Cawasa #34	Litchfield #107
Whigville #48	Beacon #118
Eureka #62	Riverton #169
Winchester #74	
Taghannuck #100	



Since February 1, 1888

MT. COUNTY POMONA #4

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

As the writing of this article was done on the day before our annual day meeting on March 25, we don't know what the attendance was but we do know that blizzards and ice storms are NOT in the forecast for the day, for which we are thankful! Our meeting in February was not as fortunate as it had to be canceled in the wake of a different snow event.

Looking ahead... our next meeting will be held on May 8 with a paid supper beginning at 6:00 P.M. and the conferral of the Fifth Degree at 7:30 P.M. This will be the last opportunity to join Mountain County Pomona before we close and become part of a new Pomona. If you haven't yet received the Degree, why not consider taking it now?

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

Apr. 11: First & Second Degrees

Apr. 25: Third & Fourth Degrees, Potluck Harvest Supper at 6:00 P.M.

Winchester Grange held a successful Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale with a good number of vendors and a steady flow of shoppers.

Plans are in the works to confer all four degrees in April with candidates anticipated. Granges with candidates are encouraged to contact our Secretary Sue Addison if interested in bringing them to Winchester for the degrees.

The members of Winchester Grange were saddened to hear of the pending closure of Super Saver in Winsted. John Dwan, owner of Super Saver, has been a great supporter of our Grange over the years being the "official grocer" of our Grange for Dinners, the Strawberry Festival and last minute runs for supplies during events. He plans to "do something different" in his retirement

and wish him well but he will be missed by many in the Winchester/Winsted communities.

TAGHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

On April 13th, please check our Facebook page or give us a call if you plan on attending this meeting. We may cancel this as it is Maundy Thursday and many members cannot make the meeting.

On April 27 we are meeting while it is light out at 7:00 P.M. as our program is "Spring Cleaning In & Out." This prepares the hall for our Citizen of the Year dinner at 6:30 P.M. on May 11.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Shirley Moore

Apr. 7: Reg. Meeting, 7:30 PM, Program: Renewing our Obligations. Ref. Akke & Dennis Jasmine

May 5: Reg. Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Program: CWA (Cookie Contest), Ref. Sally Dewey, Ed Downs and Grace Jones.

We had a low attendance at our February meeting. However, we all greatly enjoyed Raine Pedersen's demonstration of the use of sugar and coconut oil as a defoliate. We were each given the ingredients to make this and used it on our hands. This was an interesting program of making a solution from natural products. It can be used on your body and then rinsed off in your shower.

A packet, which includes all of our state contests, was given to each family. I am hoping to have more entries in the contests this year. Our cookie contest will be judged at the May 5 meeting. The other contests will only be judged at Pomona before going on to state level.

We hope to see more of our members at meetings as the weather gets warmer and we are always happy to have visitors.

Winchester gets "Cabin Fever"



It's been a long winter and Winchester Grange's annual Cabin Fever Craft & Bake Sale was a welcome diversion from all of the snow and miserable weather of recent weeks. Above, one of the vendors sets up his booth in the dining room of Winchester Grange in Winchester Center.

Home Health Care Coverage



Chris Cleland, American Sr. Benefits

Who's eligible?

If you have Medicare, you can use your home health benefits if you meet all the following conditions:

You must be under the care of a doctor, and you must be getting services under a plan of care established and reviewed regularly by a doctor.

You must need, and a doctor must certify that you need, one or more of the following:

- Intermittent skilled nursing care
- Physical therapy
- Speech-language pathology services
- Continued occupational therapy

See page 8 for more detail on these services.

The home health agency caring for you must be approved by Medicare (Medicare-certified). You must be homebound, and a doctor must certify that you're homebound. To be homebound means the following:

- Leaving your home isn't recommended because of your condition.
- Your condition keeps you from leaving home without help (such as using a wheelchair or walker, needing special transportation, or getting help from another person).
- Leaving home takes

a considerable and taxing effort.

A person may leave home for medical treatment or short, infrequent absences for non-medical reasons, such as attending religious services. You can still get home health care if you attend adult day care, but you would get the home care services in your home.

Eligibility is also based on the amount of services you need. If you meet the conditions above, Medicare pays for your covered home health services for as long as you're eligible and your doctor certifies you need them. If you need more than part-time or "intermittent" skilled nursing care, you aren't eligible for the home health benefit.

To decide whether you're eligible for home health care, Medicare defines part-time or "intermittent" as skilled nursing care that's needed or given on fewer than 7 days each week or less than 8 hours each day over a period of 21 days (or less) with some exceptions in special circumstances. Hour and day limits may be extended in exceptional circumstances when your doctor can predict when your need for care will end.

How Medicare pays for home health care

In Original Medicare, Medicare pays your Medicare-certified home health agency one payment for covered services you get during a 60-day period. This 60-day period is called an "episode of care." The payment is based on your condition and care needs.

Getting treatment from a home health agency that's Medicare-certified can reduce your out-of-pocket costs. A Medicare-certified home health agency agrees to the following conditions:

To be paid by Medicare

To accept only the amount Medicare approves for their services:

Medicare's home health benefit only pays for services provided by the home health agency. Other medical services, such as visits to your doctor, are generally still covered by your other Medicare benefits. Look in your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook, mailed to each Medicare household every fall, for information on how these services are covered under Medicare. To view or print this booklet, visit <http://go.usa.gov/iDJ>. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) if you have questions about your Medicare benefits. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.


What Medicare covers

If you're eligible for Medicare-covered home health care (see page 5), Medicare covers the following services if they're reasonable and necessary for the treatment of your illness or injury:

Skilled nursing care. Skilled nursing services are covered when they're given on a part-time or intermittent basis. In order for skilled nursing care to be covered by the Medicare home health benefit, your care must be necessary and ordered by your doctor for your specific condition. You must not need full time nursing care and you must be homebound. See page 5.

Skilled nursing services are given by either a registered nurse (RN) or a licensed practical nurse (LPN). If you get services from a LPN, your care will be supervised by a RN. Home health nurses provide direct care and teach you and your caregivers about

Continued on page 10



New Haven County Pomona No. 5

Cheshire #23
Wallingford #35



Since December 4, 1888

NEW HAVEN COUNTY POMONA #5

Corr: Barbara C. Kulisch

May 8: Inspection with the Fifth Degree, 7:30 P.M., Cheshire Grange Hall

A nor'easter of gusty winds and heavy rains canceled our January meeting. By the time you read this column, the CWA has presented their program "theme" on Monday, March 13. Thank you to Jane Miller, CWA Chair for doing this program.

As I write this column, we are enduring gusty winds, colder weather moving in for the weekend with a possibility of snow flurries on Friday! This is why we live in New England with our ever-changing weather!

Remember, our doors are always open, so come on down and pay us a visit.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: Ruel Miller

Apr. 5: Competitive Night

April is Grange Month



Marge Bernhardt
State Lecturer

lecturer@ctstategrange.org

April is Grange Month. I hope you have planned an extra Grange activity this month. Does your Grange select a Community Citizen to recognize each year? If you do, that is great. Get pictures and announcements in the paper. In many areas of the State you can get better publicity in your weekly hometown newspaper than in the larger regional papers. If you don't present this award, this would be a

good year to start. The Community Citizen Award is given to anyone who gives of their own time and talent to work for the betterment of the community. This should be volunteer work, not someone getting paid to do a job. Don't know where to start? Try giving it to your Volunteer Fire Department. These brave men and women risk their own lives to serve you. And, they have to practice on a regular basis taking time away from their own families. They get called out in the middle of the night and still have to get up the next morning to go to their paid jobs. Also, if you give it to a group you will get more people to attend your meeting where you can take time to talk about all the benefits of the Grange. I'm sure you can think of many more deserving people in your area.

Does your Grange serve good refreshments? Do you anxiously await the night Sue or Mary are in charge because of that special dessert they make? Why not write about it and enter our Essay Contest. The title this year is "My Favorite Food". Seems like all Grangers like to eat so I am hoping to bombard the judges with entries. The only requirement is that it has to be 150 words or less. Your entry gets mailed to me and you can do it now if you want, but it has to be in by October 1st.

The weather should be getting better and I hope this means that more Grangers will get out and visit each other. I headed north to another Grange last week. It was overcast but dry at my house. Half way to my destination it was snowing and the wind was blowing. But when I arrived at my destination the stars were out. Just remember, we live in New England and if you don't like the weather just wait a minute and it will change. Those changes all occurred within 45 miles of my house.

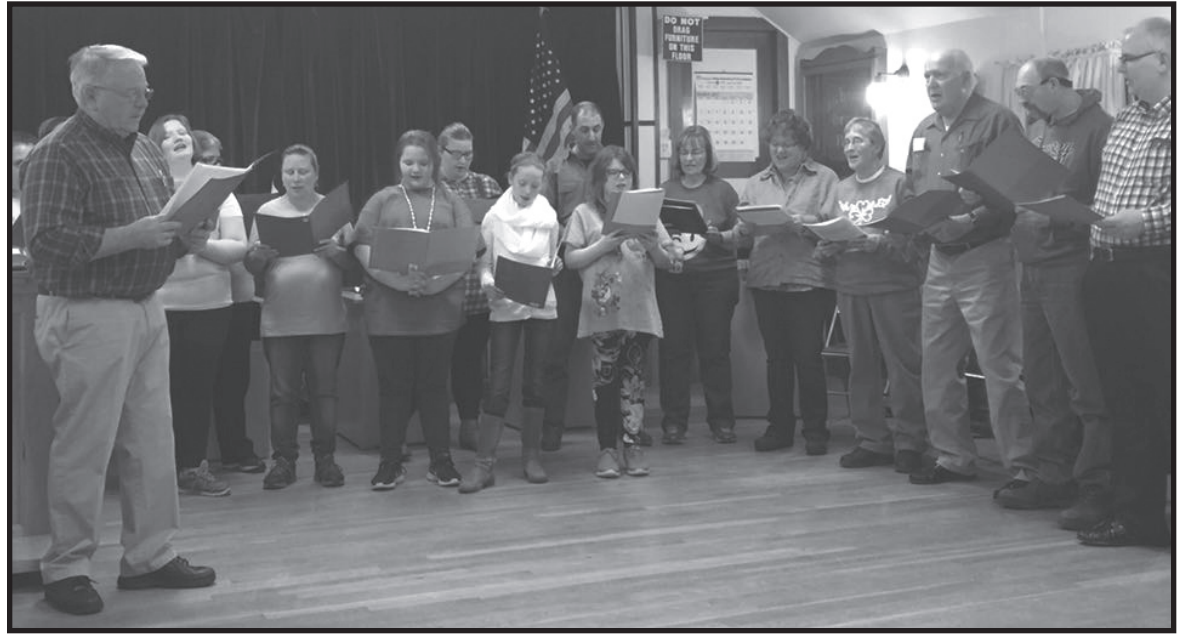
See you around the State...

Apr. 19: Awards Night

Cheshire Grange was honored in February by the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce at their annual meeting. We were recognized for outstanding contributions towards the betterment of the quality of life in Cheshire and the Cheshire community overall. Our own Philip Prelli was the guest speaker talking about agriculture in Connecticut in his role as a past Commissioner of Agriculture in our state. His remarks were well received.

Our annual Corned Beef Dinner on March 11 was well attended and very successful. Two more fundraising dinners are on deck for March 25 and April 8. Our Monday craft nights continue for local shut-ins as well as our ramping up for our August fair which will be here before we know it.

Ekonk/Richmond Exchange Night



Twenty-three members from Ekonk Community Grange traveled to nearby Richmond Grange, taking our annual Exchange program. We had an incredibly fun time! They are awesome friends. We shared laughter, music, stories, even the Easter Bunny showed up and we had many Irish tales to tell as well as a few about our Richmond friends--Thanks Richmond!

Photo by Andrea Lynn

Oxford hosts Permaculture Series

Oxford Grange is presenting a free film and discussion series on permaculture topics this spring. The events take place at the Oxford Grange, 482 Oxford Road (Route 67), at 7:00 PM on the dates below:

April 13 – Spring Perennial Vegetables

April 27 – Green Gold (A film about restoring ecosystems in large countries: "not just a tale of hope, it's evidence of hope... we have the simple solutions right in front of us.")

May 11 – Fall Perennial Food Crops

Oxford Grange is a historic organization that performs community service and promotes agriculture, conservation, legislation and education, and are dedicated to serving the needs of our communities.

For more information about the Oxford Grange, scroll through their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/OxfordGrangeCT>

For more information about the series contact Raye at 203-529-7293.

Past Deputies of CT State Grange

The annual meeting of the Past Deputies Association of the Connecticut State Grange will be held on Sunday, April 9 at Cheshire Grange Hall. The Social Hour will begin at 2:00 and the meeting will be held at 3:00. The theme for the Country Store will be "Purple" and the program will be by "Everyone."

Thank you

THANK YOU: Thanks so much to those Grangers and Granges who have remembered Mom with cards and notes since she was hospitalized. At this writing she is still at the Colonial (ReHab+Convalescent Home) in Plainfield. She is receiving daily physical/occupational therapy, plus breathing treatments. Mom will be 90 years old on April 16th and her Alzheimer's plus Leukemia is taking its toll. Mom loves to hold her great-great grand daughter, Hannah Gervais. She has truly had quite the life!

Thanks again!

Sue Gray

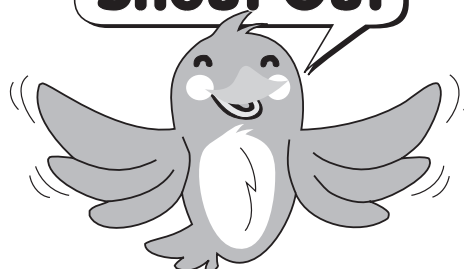


55 Years

Cheshire Grange Master Ruel Miller presented Nancy Hale her 55 year Seal before she heads back to sunny Florida.



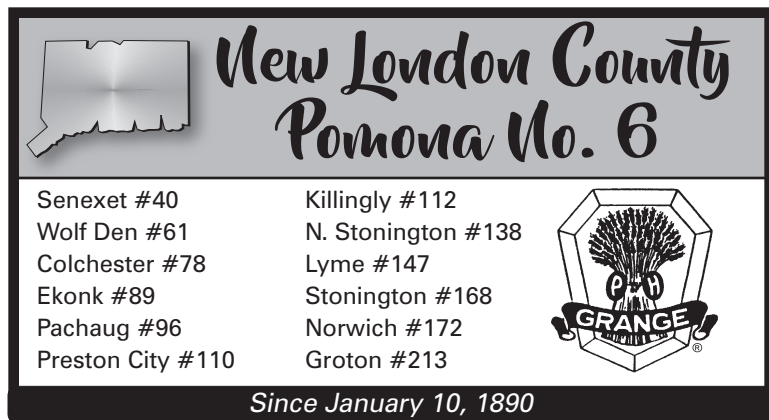
Granger
Shout Out



"Taghannuck Grange congratulates our members Harvey Hayden and Kathy Heacox on their marriage."

Submit your
Shout-Outs today!

Granger@CTStateGrange.org
They can also be mailed to
P.O. Box 1393, Glastonbury, CT 06033



**New London County
Pomona No. 6**

Senexet #40	Killingly #112
Wolf Den #61	N. Stonington #138
Colchester #78	Lyme #147
Ekonk #89	Stonington #168
Pachaug #96	Norwich #172
Preston City #110	Groton #213

Since January 10, 1890

NEW LONDON COUNTY POMONA #6

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller
May 13: Fifth Degree, North Stonington Grange

A hardy crew braved freezing temperatures and gusty winds to attend our first Pomona meeting at Ekonk Grange; but the warm welcome, cozy hall and delicious refreshments made it worth the trip. Although judging is only at State, we were treated to a lovely piano piece by Sue Pianka and George decided to take a vacation in our Literary program. Jody Cameron updated us on the status of Pomona redistricting after spending hours over a hot stove preparing pies for the refreshment table. (But Jaime's creamy creation took the honors with some of us.). We voted to give two camperships to Camp Berger; so if you have children or grandchildren who would like to attend, contact Debbie or Mary. Needlework judging will be held at Norwich Grange June 3 at 1:00.

At last it is spring, you beautiful thing,

I think I can take the spring showers.

Because I will know that there'll be no more snow

And soon we'll be seeing the flowers.

WOLF DEN GRANGE #61

Corr: Elsie Johnson

Apr. 12: CWA Program

May 10: Memorial & Mother

Hey! Can this be spring!!

Pussywillows are in full bloom, daffodils are in and birds are flying around-sunshine melted most of the snow.

It seems the new U.S. President has a lot of issues to do. There has been a lot of sickness everywhere – hospitals – convalescence.

People need to be more careful.

Have you started to start your seeds?

Farmers are busy.

Happy spring!

COLCHESTER GRANGE #78

Corr: Bonnie Trecarten

At our March meeting we welcomed special guests State Master Noel Miller and Marcia Miller along with Ted Beebe, Master

Norwich Grange and State Membership, and Lois Evankow, Lecturer Lyme Grange and Flora East Central Pomona. We also had a very special attendee: Hank the Burro joined us and was decked out in his party gear sporting 4 really cool sneakers from his recent trip to Montana. Hank was the perfect guest, and we welcome him back anytime.

Our school project for hatching chicks in elementary classrooms is coming along well, with incubators donated by Polly Leonard and Chris Bourque to be added to classrooms soon. This should be a fun and educational project for the students.

Various seed packets for the upcoming growing season were offered by Noel Miller to all our members, with assorted vegetable and flower choices. Several members chose to add carrot, radish, cucumber, squash, sweet pea and sunflower seeds to their gardens. Hope all our Grange gardeners have a productive growing season.

Noel also introduced the new Grange magazine "A Good Day" which is available to purchase. Our Grange is looking forward to our first issue arriving soon.

We continue with monthly Bingo at Apple Rehab and cooking at Harrington Court. These efforts are very much appreciated by the residents at these facilities, and volunteering is very fulfilling for our members that contribute to these projects. The needs of the Food bank in Willimantic were discussed and clean plastic containers with tops are needed. Also, Cathy Russi offered beautiful Shamrock pins with the proceeds going to the Harrington Court Residents Council. All were purchased.

As always contact Cathy Russi for upcoming trip offers, there are still a few openings.

Good luck to all working on your farm related craft projects with judging to be held at Norwich Grange on June 3rd.

Let's hope the recent snow disappears soon and we can all get outside and

welcome Spring.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Sue Gray

We are partnering with Sterling Cadet Girl Scout Troop 65016 and our Junior Grange on our annual Good Friday, Friday April 14th, Chowder n' clam cakes supper. The meal is all you can eat with choices of clam or corn chowder, clam cakes and beverages. Adults \$10.00, children ages 12 and under, \$6.00 and preschoolers are admitted for free. This year, we voted for all profits to be donated to 6th grader, Kaycee Chester.. After 9 months of remission (chemo and amputation), Kaycee has been diagnosed with stage 4 osteosarcoma affecting her shoulder and both lungs. Casey has an iron will and a fantastic smile and we are trying to help her beat cancer once again. The girl scouts will be selling desserts at a reasonable price (we do not normally offer desserts at this supper) will all proceeds going to Kaycee and family. The Junior Grange and Scouts will also have baskets that folks can win if their name is drawn! We have advertised this event through all usual media and hope for a large turnout and the generosity of the patrons attending! Our Junior Grange is having an April Cash Calendar with prizes donated for each day and all profits going to Kaycee. This young lady is much admired among her many classmates at Sterling Community School as well as the staff at Farmington, where she goes for treatments.

Paulette Craig continues e-mailing minutes plus extra events to those members/families she has e-mail addresses for. If YOU do not receive these and are interested, contact Secretary, Sue Gray and you will be added to Paulette's list.

By this reading, the March Square Dance will be history, but the April dance is April 15th and the final in the spring series is May 20th. All start at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$5.00. Joe LoPresti is caller, accompanied by his band, "The Country Friends". Door prizes and refreshments round out the fun evening!

We will again serve all food at the Relay for Life. This year the Plainfield and Woodstock Relays are combined at Brooklyn Fairgrounds on May 20th and 21st. This is a major undertaking, so if YOU can, please offer to help!

Joan Bloom donated a lovely twin hand quilted bedspread as a fundraiser for our Grange and we much appreciate her gift.

We look forward to May when Richmond Grange will bring us what is always a fantastic program where fun and fellowship abound! Why not plan to visit Ekonk that night and join in the fun: Monday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m. Will we see YOU there?

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Glenna Bruno

Apr. 3: Spring Has Sprung

Apr. 17: Neighbor's Night – Grange Week

Our last meeting held in the dining room with 14 members present, 2 absent. Hopefully we will be meeting in the main hall the rest of the year until at least Christmas. More on that later.

Now it's almost spring and the weather has been good. I'm sure some of you "gardeners" are already into the seed catalogs and getting seedlings started in the "hot beds."

Feb. 25 we held our Bluegrass with dinner of curried chicken with rice and plenty of desserts. It was a full house. Good music, happy folks and a profitable night.

Feb. 28 was Fat Tuesday and we held a "shrove supper." Good attendance and lots of pancakes, muffins, coffee cake, etc. Grangers love to eat. Bruce Kohl, our chef and head cook did a good job!

Coming up on March 6 will be Ides of March and Tax Time. Regular meeting at 7:30 P.M. On March 8, a pork dinner with all the fixings. Pat Valys was in charge. More bluegrass was on March 25 with a dinner.

We now have a refreshment schedule. March 1st, Josie Stenbach. April 1 is Millie Briggs. May 1 Nancy Arena. Second May meeting is Gert Blain. Other meetings will be filled in by members willing to do so. A thank you note from Friends of Assisi for our donation recently.

N. STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

Apr. 4: "Robbing Peter to Pay Paul"

Apr. 28: "As You Sow, So Shall You Reap"

We are sorry to report that we have lost another member to the Great Grange Above. Frances Miner, mother of our Master, passed away on March 4. Frances joined our Grange when Westerly Grange closed

in 1988 and has been an active, dedicated member of our Grange ever since, serving as our Ceres for many years. She will be sadly missed.

We are happy to report that we have four new members. Elisha and Mike Reilly, Jr., Yvonne Johnson and Fred Leary were welcomed into our Grange on Feb. 24. Sue Pianka played the piano to our entry in the Talent Contest and Jeff Barnes and Nancy Weissmuller performed a skit for the A-Number contest. As it was game night, a lively game of Trivial Pursuit was played downstairs during refreshments.

Our April 28 meeting will honor longtime members and our Community Citizen. We hop you will come and visit us and enjoy our newly refurbished hall. And if Old Man Winter doesn't decide to return and freeze those daffodils that are budding in the front yard, next time we will tell you all about awesome April.

LYME GRANGE #147

Corr: Lois Evankow

May 4: Visitors – Invite your equal

May 20: Food and Plant Sale

June 1: Come & See – the polls are open – Election

It is with a heavy heart I must report the passing of our beloved and long-time Secretary, Marita Rand. She has been our secretary since 1980 and has been the chairperson for the vegetable department at our Hamburg Fair. She will be missed.

Spring has sprung. The calendar does not say so. Check the snow drops are in full bloom and daffodils are up about 8 inches. I hope the weather man will not send us anymore snow.

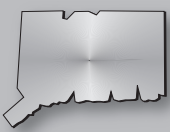
At our March meeting it was reported many, many hours of community service by several people. Some submitted photos.

We are collecting old towels and blankets for a rescue animal shelter.

Our food and plant sale will be the same day as the church rummage sale on May 20. We do very well due to the heavy traffic of people attending the rummage sale. It is a good money maker as there are no expenses and we keep all the profits.


Food donations need to be brought ready to sell as the church uses our building for their sale.

Hope everyone will have a nice Easter and the weatherman does not sned us a surprise snow storm like he did many years ago.



Excelsior Pomona No. 7

Beacon Valley #103	Bridgewater #153
Bethlehem #121	Wolcott #173
Prospect #144	Oxford #194



Since October 22, 1891

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Bethlehem Grange met on Monday, March 27th at 7:30 PM with the program "Genealogy Tales." It was a fun evening of favorite family stories and legends.

The Spring Flea Market is Saturday, April 1st from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Come on out and see what's available that you can't live without.

Our Open House/Awards Night is Monday, April 24th, 7:00 PM. We present the Community Citizen Award to a deserving recipient, Vera Rosa. The program will be provided by Bethlehem town historian Joe Shupenis. Come on out and join us for an enjoyable evening.

BRIDGEWATER GRANGE #153

Corr: Dean Perry

The Bridgewater Grange held an open meeting on Wednesday March 8th. It was held at Saint Mark's church in Bridgewater and started at 7 PM.

Dan Weed was the first speaker. He came from a long line of farmers and always wanted to be a farmer. He had a good dairy farm going until the barn holding all his milking equipment burned down in 2015. He tried to start again as a dairy farmer but he realized at the price he was getting for milk he would barely pay his costs. Looking around this area he found successful local farmers selling vegetables. He made a go of this and sold his produce at local markets and farm stands.

He found an even better model for a farmers business. Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has people investing in your farm. For a yearly membership fee a person or family can get fresh local produce for 30 or so weeks every year. Anything grown that exceeds the need of the members will be profit. Every CSA that has opened in Connecticut has filled up its membership list and usually have people on a waiting list for a year or more.

Dan's farm is located on

Ridge Road in New Milford and is called Deerfield Farm. He will grow heritage breeds of vegetables (not hybrids or GMO's). He also will attempt to have the farm certified as an Organic farm.

Donna Katsuranis was the second speaker. Donna is a Master Gardener and a director of the Giving Garden in Danbury. Donna along with her brother John Tomascak and numerous volunteers grow lots of vegetables on a little plot of land 50 by 65 feet. They give the produce to local charities and food pantries such as Dorothy Day house in Danbury. She told an amusing story of how she grew up with a large garden in their yard and how much work it was. When she grew up she never wanted to do all that again. But gradually she get interested again and became a Master Gardener. A friend had an idea of starting a garden to give vegetables to local charities but needed advice from Donna. She went from a consultant to director. She loves the work but could always use volunteers.

The final speaker was Curtis Read, the first selectmen of Bridgewater. He told the story of how he came to Bridgewater to run a sheep farm. Agriculture was always important to this town and remains important today. He hopes the Grange will continue as part of Bridgewater's future.

He gave a brief history of the Grange Hall. It was built around 1850 and had numerous uses as a school, club and meeting hall. The Bridgewater Grange took it over in 1901 but it still was used by other groups such as the Boy Scouts. The Grange sold the building to the town around the year 2000 but continued to use it until 2015. The building was structurally unsound and not fit for public use.

Mr Read discussed the various plans for the building. The two main choices are 1) a new building resembling the old hall or

2) restoration of the old building. At first he favored a new building but Lisa Burns had pointed out this was a historic building in a historic district and looked into the second option. They passed around different plans. There is more work to be done in the building plans as well as how it will be paid for. There will be a town referendum in the future. What ever the plan Curtis Read said the town needs a building there that will serve not only the Grange but the community.

The clean-up at Lovers Leap was postponed one week to April 1. The Bridgewater Grange and Roxbury Running Club will be involved along with other hikers, bikers and volunteers from the area.

We will meet at the Lovers Leap State Park parking lot and then walk over the road. Bring shovels, rakes and gloves. We will attempt to clean up the Bridgewater side of the road which has become a poorly maintained single tract path. Everybody is welcomed to volunteer.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Beacon Valley Grange will be held on Friday, April 7. Please note the date change due to the Easter holiday. The program "Soft Kitty, Warm Kitty" will be presented by Lecturer Cindy Legg. Our theme for the Country Store and refreshments is "Easter." Judi Reynolds and Tracey Marsala will be in charge of the refreshments.

We are still planning fundraisers to make our ladies room more handicap accessible. Any donations or suggestions from our members unable to attend meetings will be appreciated. Please send them to Treasurer Mary Lou Raymond or Master Joanne Cipriano.

Our next fundraiser will be a tag and bake sale on Saturday, April 1. Ron Fischer is planning his next Open Mic for April 15. Come and enjoy the music or entertain us.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

April 7: Hat-itude/Attitude

April 13: Green Gold Series-Spring Perennial Vegetables

April 21: Open House/Awards Night

April 22: 3rd Annual Chili Cook-Off, 6:00 PM, tickets \$8.00/person

April 27: Green Gold film
May 11: Fall Perennial Food Crops(last of the series)

Please come to support us in raising the final funds to be able to start building the handicapped ramp this spring. We raised roughly three quarters of the money by donations alone over the fall and winter. Thank you everyone! We look forward to making our hall more accessible to more people for more Grange and town wide events. If you come to the cook-off, feel free to enter your favorite chili for judging. We supply eating utensils, drinks, and salad. Feel free to bring bread, cornbread, or dessert items to share. Oxford Selectman Jeff Haney has been very generous

to donate all the labor for building the ramp for which we are very thankful.

Martin Earley has been holding Open Mics again for several months on the second Monday of each month.

Raye Hodgson and new members Rich Wilber and Nancy Prior have worked hard to bring us the "Green Gold and Other Treasures" film and discussion series on perma-culture and gardening. We continue in April with two sessions and then conclude with the sixth and final installment in the series on May 11. So far the topics have been fascinating and well attended. Come join us to learn something new about the earth we inhabit. Come spring, Raye plans to continue with her outdoor landscaping project meant to emulate out three graces of Grange ritual: Ceres, Pomona, and Flora.

Bridgewater Grange

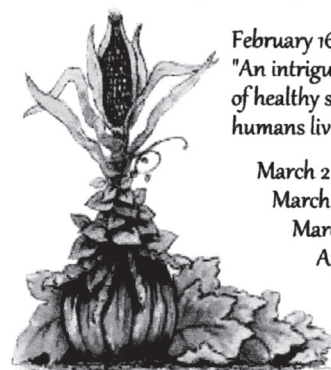


Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read speaks to the members of Bridgewater Grange about the plans to re-build the Grange Hall in the historic town center.

Green Gold and Other Treasures

A free film & discussion series on Permaculture topics

Oxford Grange, 482 Oxford Rd., (Rt. 67) 7:00 p.m.



February 16 - Healthy soil. Film: *Symphony of the Soil*
"An intriguing presentation that highlights possibilities of healthy soil, creating healthy plants creating healthy humans living on a healthy planet."

March 2 - Water, Rain gardens, rain barrels

March 16 -Intro to Permaculture

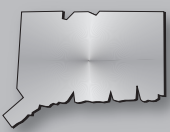
March 30 -Urban Permaculture

April 13 - Spring perennial vegetables

April 27 - Green Gold film


May 11- Fall Perennial food crops

For more info contact Raye at 203 529 7293



Fairfield County Pomona No. 9

Redding #15 Norfield #146
Harmony #92 Cannon #152
Greenfield Hill #133



Since February 20, 1895

CANNON GRANGE #152

Corr: Don Offinger

- Apr. 6:** Business Meeting
- Apr. 20:** Special program on Jams, Jellies & Preserves by Pamela Lillis
- May 4:** Our 118th anniversary (to the day)
- May 18:** Business Meeting

March was a busy month at Cannon Grange! Each Wednesday morning and evening Bil Mikulewicz ran Tai Chi classes for two eager groups to learn the first 10 steps in this fascinating program of posture, balance and relaxation. It's possible we may run another series in the fall, so stay tuned. But we owe a great deal of thanks to Bil for sharing his certification expertise in Tai Chi. Also in March was a fabulous evening of silent movies presented by John Mucci with 4 hilarious films of Laurel & Hardy.

Coming in April will be a program by our own Pamela Lillis, a certified

nutritionist. Pam's program will be a demonstration of making preserves, including a detailed listing of equipment and ingredients needed to make a successful batch. This is a public program, and we welcome fellow Patrons to join our community audience on April 20th.

Plans for our summertime Agricultural Fair have begun. Paid ads for our fair book have already started coming in, so we are off to a good start. We welcome our newest members to our Grange: Tina Georgeou and daughter Lauren, Carole Gilliam, and Kara Shepherd.

Please note our meeting and program schedule above. All programs start at 7 PM. Ample parking at the Grange Hall and across the crosswalk at the Cannondale Railroad Station. Visiting Patrons are always welcome--won't you join us?




Subscribe Today!

For just \$14 annually, you can order a subscription to National Grange's new magazine. It will make a great gift for any Grangers you know!

To subscribe, visit www.NationalGrange.org or email them at info@NationalGrange.org. You may also call toll free at 1-888-4-GRANGE.


Plant Seeds for the Future



Consider leaving a planned gift for the Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc.* The size of your gift does not matter. What matters is that we all participate and support the future of the Grange!

Please contact us if you need assistance.

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE FOUNDATION



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Tel. 860-633-7550 • Email: info@CTStateGrangeFoundation.org
www.CTStateGrangeFoundation.org

*The Connecticut State Grange Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Deadline for the Next Issue is April 5!



PITCH IT!

a Spring Flea Market

Treasures from the Attic... ..and more




April 22, 2017

10:00am to 3:00pm



Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Rd.
Fairfield, CT 06824

NORFIELD GRANGE

6th Annual Community TAG SALE

June 2, 3 & 4

Friday 10-4
Saturday 10-4
Sunday 10-1

Rent space to sell antiques, furniture, sports equipment, electronics, household items or anything else. An inside table for 3 days is only \$50 or space on the lawn \$25

Email NorfieldGrange@gmail.com or call 203-847-4297 to reserve a space. Space inside is limited and sells out quickly.

Rentals benefit the Grange Scholarship Fund



12 Goodhill Rd Weston, CT

Home Health Care

Continued from page 5

your care. They also manage, observe, and evaluate your care. Examples of skilled nursing care include: giving IV drugs, shots, or tube feedings; changing dressings; and teaching about prescription drugs or diabetes care.

Any service that could be done safely by a non-medical person (or by yourself) without the supervision of a nurse, isn't skilled nursing care.

Home health aide services may be covered when given on a part-time or intermittent basis if needed as support services for skilled nursing care. Home health aide services must be part of the care for your illness or injury. Medicare doesn't cover home health aide services unless you're also getting skilled care such as nursing care or other physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech-language pathology services from the home health agency.

Physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology services. Medicare uses the following criteria to assess whether these therapy services are reasonable and necessary in the home-setting:

The therapy services must be a specific, safe, and effective treatment for your condition.

The therapy services must be complex or your condition must require services that can safely and effectively be performed only by qualified therapists.

One of the three following conditions must exist:

It's expected that your condition will improve in a reasonable and generally-predictable period of time.

Your condition requires a skilled therapist to safely and effectively establish a maintenance program.

Your condition requires a skilled therapist to safely and effectively perform maintenance therapy.

The amount, frequency, and duration of the services must be reasonable.

Medical social services. These services are covered when given under the direction of a doctor to help you with social and emotional concerns related to your illness. This might include counseling or help finding resources in your community.

Medical supplies. Supplies, like wound dressings, are covered when they are ordered as part of your care.

Durable medical equipment, when ordered by a doctor, is paid separately by Medicare. This equipment must meet certain criteria to be covered. Medicare usually pays 80% of the Medicare-approved amount for certain pieces of medical equipment, such as a wheelchair or walker. If your home health agency doesn't supply durable medical equipment directly, the home health agency staff will usually arrange for a home equipment supplier to bring the items you need to your home.

Note: Before your home health care begins, the home health agency should tell you how much of your bill Medicare will pay. The agency should also tell you if any items or services they give you aren't covered by Medicare, and how much you will have to pay for them. This should be explained by both talking with you and in writing.

Note: The home health agency is responsible for meeting all your medical, nursing, rehabilitative, social, and discharge planning needs, as reflected in your home health plan of care. See page 19. This includes skilled therapy services for a condition that may not be the primary reason for getting home health services. Home health agencies are required to perform a comprehensive assessment of each of your care needs when you're admitted to the home health agency, and communicate those needs to the doctor responsible for the plan of care. After that, home health agencies are required to routinely assess your needs.

What isn't covered?

Below are some examples of what Medicare doesn't pay for:

24-hour-a-day care at home.

Meals delivered to your home.

Homemaker services like shopping, cleaning, and laundry when this is the only care you need, and when these services aren't related to your plan of care. See page 19.

Personal care given by home health aides like bathing, dressing, and using the bathroom when this is the only care you need.

Talk to your doctor or the home health agency if you have questions about whether certain services are covered. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

I started out the month of March by reading the new "Good Day" magazine from National Grange. It has a lot of information, and I recommend everyone get a subscription to keep up with the latest!

I accompanied Noel to Colchester Grange to help hand out seeds as part of their program. It was nice seeing all my Grange friends.

I then went to the State Capitol for our annual Ag Day outing. I got to rub elbow (or should I say hoofs?) with the state senators and representatives, and even the Governor!

Where will we go next month? Be sure to follow me on Facebook for news of my latest travels. Please take a minute to follow the link and click the "Like" button. <http://www.Facebook.com/CTGrangeHanktheBurro>



NATIONAL GRANGE LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN

April 23-26, 2017

Join the National Grange in the Capitol
to speak to members of Congress on
behalf of rural America



PHOTO: U.S. ARCHITECT

Note: If you have a Medigap (Medicare Supplement Insurance) policy or other health insurance coverage, be sure to tell your doctor or other health care provider so your bills get paid correctly.

What you have to pay

You may be billed for the following:

Medical services and supplies that Medicare doesn't pay for when you agree to

pay out of pocket for them. The home health agency should give you a notice called the Home Health Advance Beneficiary Notice (HHABN) before giving you services and supplies that Medicare doesn't cover.

20% of the Medicare-approved amount for Medicare-covered medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, and oxygen equipment.

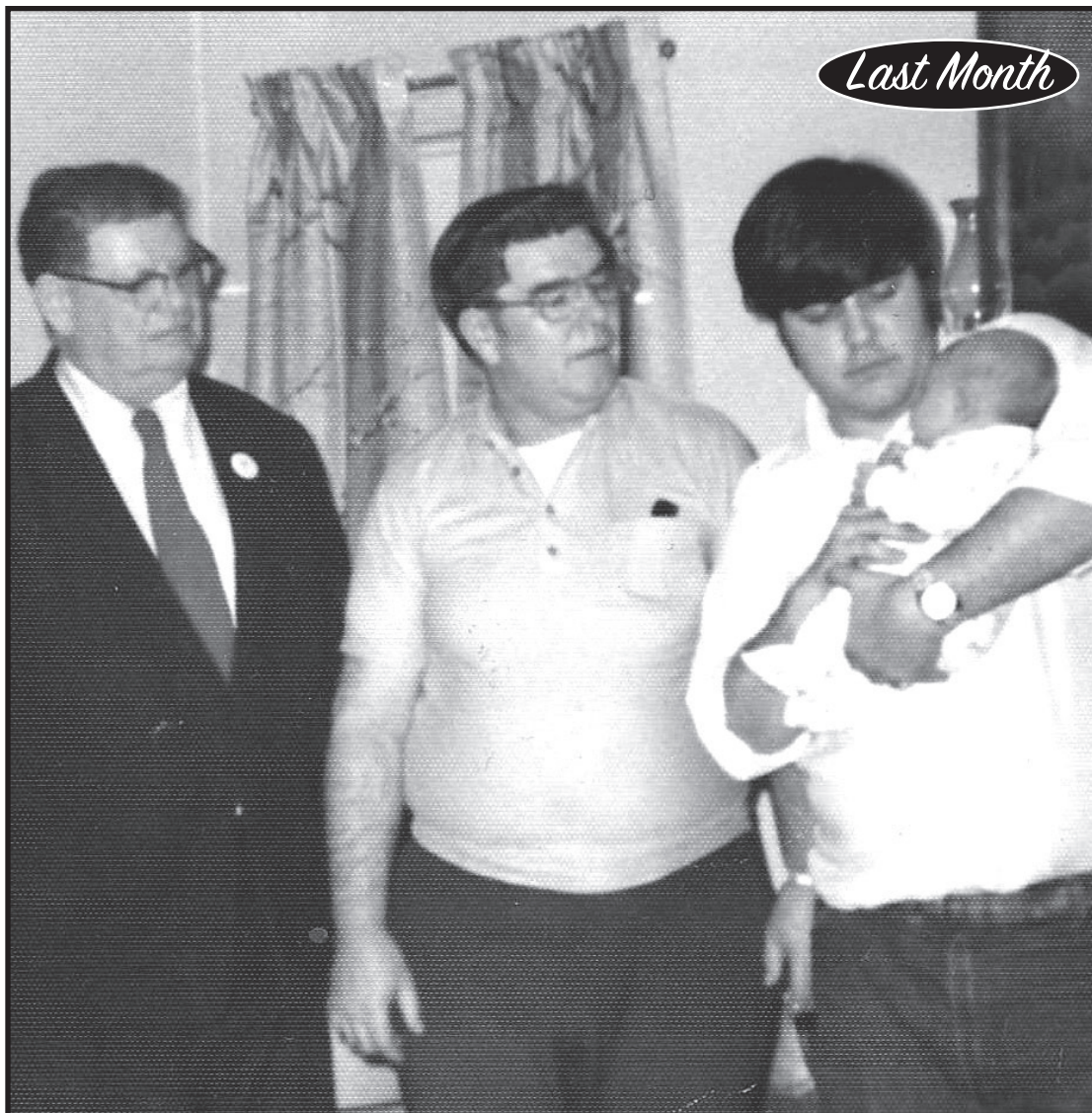
WINDOW TO THE PAST

Photographs are a treasured part of Grange history. Many of them, unfortunately, do not come neatly labeled on the back with names, dates, people or places. These photographs have a history to tell... but about whom or what? Please help us solve the mystery of faces and places as we look through the Window to the Past. You can contact us by calling (860) 626-5074 or on the web by emailing: submissions@ctstategrange.org.

This Month



Last Month



On the March photo — We heard from Joanne Cipriano with the answer to the March photo. On the left is Joanne's father, Frank Belman. Next is her brother Frank Jr., then Frank III, who is holding baby Timothy. All are members of Beacon Valley Grange.



Easter food traditions are more than just Ham and hard boiled dyed eggs! Traditional Hot Cross Buns are perfect for Grange refreshments, or breakfast on Easter morning. Check out this recipe from Taste of Home.

Traditional Hot Cross Buns

INGREDIENTS:

BUNS:

- 2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
- 2 cups warm whole milk (110° to 115°)
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 6 to 7 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup dried currants (dried cranberries can be substituted)
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 tablespoons water

ICING:

- 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 4 to 6 teaspoons whole milk

DIRECTIONS:

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk. In a large bowl, combine eggs, butter, sugar, salt, spices, yeast mixture and 3 cups flour; beat on medium speed until smooth. Stir in currants, raisins and enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky).

Turn onto a floured surface; knead until dough is smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Punch down dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide and shape into 30 balls. Place 2 in. apart on greased baking sheets. Cover with kitchen towels; let rise in a warm place until doubled, 30-45 minutes. Preheat oven to 375°.

Using a sharp knife, cut a cross on top of each bun. In a small bowl, whisk egg yolk and water; brush over tops. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool slightly.

For icing, in a small bowl, mix confectioners' sugar and enough milk to reach desired consistency. Pipe a cross on top of each bun. Serve warm.

YIELD: 2-1/2 dozen.

SOURCE: <http://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/traditional-hot-cross-buns>

Reminders on Judging



Irene Percoski
CWA/Family Activ. Director
cwa@ctstategrange.org

I have asked all Pomona CWA chairpersons to have three judges and have an accounting of how each one scored each entry. This seems to be causing some

confusion. The sample for scoring that was sent out was a guideline, not something rigid. It doesn't matter if each entry is given a simple score from one to ten or a more detailed score for workmanship, color difficulty of pattern, etc. The important thing is to have three judges rating each piece, with the ribbons given accordingly.

It's also important that Pomona judging be finished before June 10th, which is

when the State judging will take place at Cheshire Grange. Please try to have all entries there before noon. Winners will be on display on Sunday morning June 11th, and can be picked up after lunch. One last item of note; the baking contest calls for five (5) cookies on a plate. Please make sure your name and Grange name and number be written on the bottom of the plate. Good luck to all.

In Memoriam

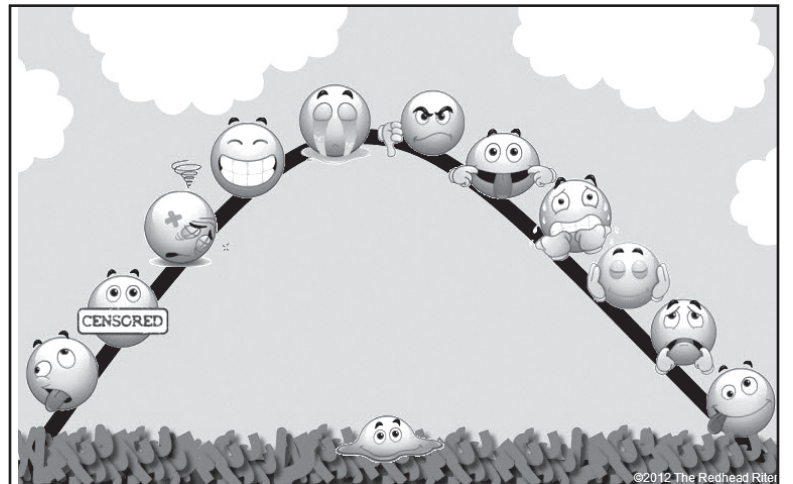
Betty Adams, G.S.
Wolf Den Grange #61

Frances Miner, G.S.
N. Stonington Community Grange #138

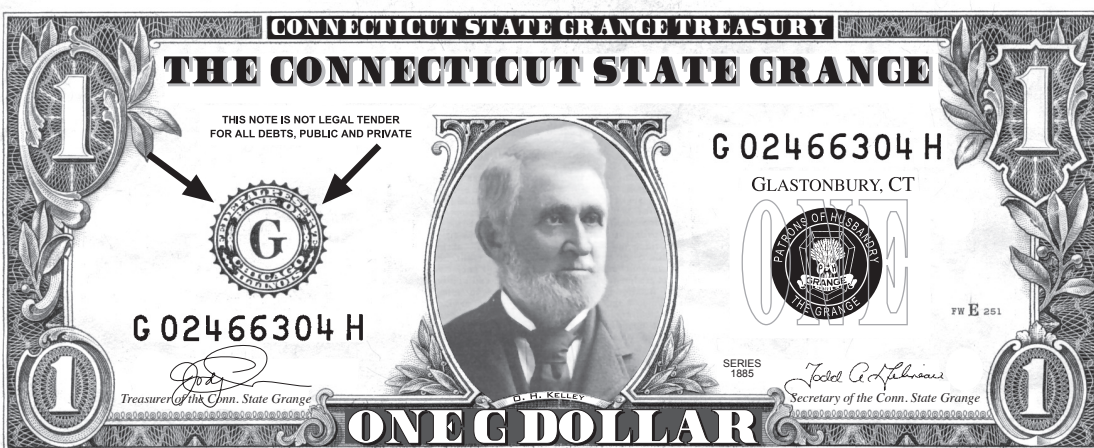
Marita Rand
Lyme Grange #147

Please keep us notified of deceased members. Use the email or the regular mailing address listed in the Granger Staff list in this issue.

State Chaplain



G Note Leader Board



Keep looking for those G-Notes and help us defray the cost of future National Grange conventions.

CAMP BERGER

ADVENTURE - FUN
FRIENDSHIP - DISCOVERY

Celebrating our 62nd Year
Camp Berger is a Co-Educational
Overnight Camp for Ages 8-14
Seven Weekly Sessions:

June 25-July 1, July 2-8
July 9-15, July 16-22
July 23-29, July 30-Aug 5
Aug 6-12

Camp Tuition \$400 Per Week
CIT Program for Ages 15-17

PROGRAMS:

Weekly Themes, Forest Golf, Pickle-Ball, Archery, Frisbee Golf, Sailing Canoeing, Arts & Crafts, Rocketry Fishing, Orienteering, Geo Caching Swimming, Volleyball, Basketball Theatre, Rafting, Color Wars, Ping Pong Yoga, Badminton, Ga-ga Ball, 4-Square Hiking, Dodgeball, Rowing and More

Located on Scenic Park Pond in
Winchester Center, Connecticut. Camp
Berger is large enough to ensure a fun filled
summer yet small enough, 120 campers per
session, to give individual attention. Please
feel free to call or email with any questions.

Lyn & Chris Kimberly Directors
3 Broad Street
Weston, CT 06883
CampBerger@gmail.com
860-238-7949

Facebook: www.facebook.com/camp.berger

Summer Address:
Camp Berger
134 Wahnee Road
P.O. Box 181
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www.CampBerger.com



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

chaplain@ctstategrange.org

"The Roller Coaster"

The Christian calendar year is marked by a series of emotional highs and lows as we follow the life of Christ. Christmas is one of the high points, with the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. We continue through the Epiphany season, marked by continued revealing of who the Christ is, starting with the visit of the Magi, and followed by the fleeing of the Holy Family to

Egypt to avoid Herod's persecution. They become a refugee family. Then comes Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, when the Holy Spirit descended on him. Jesus now starts gathering his disciples. Then follows the miracle of Cana, where Jesus changes water into wine. According to John, this was Christ's first miracle.

After the Epiphany season we enter into Lent. This is neither a high nor a low, but rather a plateau which allows for reflection, repentance of things done and left undone, and acceptance of God's free forgiveness for all who ask for it. It can also be considered the calm before an emotional storm.

The eight days in the Christian calendar starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday provide us with two large emotional swings. We start with the emotional high of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, then descend into His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, His betrayal and arrest, the trial before Pilate, His crucifixion and death on Good Friday, and finally rise with Him, triumphant, on Easter morning.

We can follow all of this on several levels. We could just consider it as an outline of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. But we could also consider that for all of us life is never continually on an even keel, but may have profound ups and downs, with events that lift us to sometimes extraordinary emotional highs and sometimes plunge us into depths of despair and feelings of abandonment. Nevertheless, if we look at the life of Christ, with its many ups and downs, and relate it to our own lives, we should keep in mind that ultimately Jesus ends on a high, with the Resurrection. And St. Paul tells us, in the letter to the Romans: "Therefore, through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, just as the Messiah was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too may live an entirely new life."