



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

March 2022

Gearing up for spring events



George Russell
State President

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It will soon be March and Pomona's will begin their work.

Will March come in like a lamb and go out like a lion? Or will it come in like a lion and go out like a lamb? It think that's the question on everyone's mind. We're looking forward to an early spring.

By the end of March I hope we can open up our Grange Halls and get our spring activities on their way.

In March, all three Pomona's will be meeting. Eastern Connecticut Pomona, on the second Saturday in March at Glastonbury Grange at 7:00 P.M.; Mountain Laurel Pomona will meet on the first Saturday in March at Riverton Grange at 4 P.M. and Nutmeg Pomona will meet on March 27 in Cheshire at 2 P.M. They will confer the Fifth Degree.

If you have any questions on the Fifth Degree in Cheshire, contact President Donald Lanoue. Peter Keefe, General Deputy, will be on hand to inspect our first Grange in over two years! It is nice to get back to inspecting the Pomona's! Eastern Pomona and Mountain Laurel Pomona will be scheduling their degree conferrals in May.

Eastern Connecticut Pomona will be holding a Degree Day at

Hemlock Grange in Portland on April 2, 2022 from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. They will be conferring the four degrees. There will be a meal between the second and third degrees. For more information, please contact Roy Harrington or Noel Miller.

The Pomona Granges are going to be pretty active this spring, so

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Titanic survivor Susan Webber

by Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

Susan Webber was a quiet 38 year old woman who had been asked by her nephew Charles Webber to leave her home in Cornwall, England and travel to Rocky Hill, Conn. to keep house for him and his family. Passage had been booked on the White Star Line's newest "unsinkable" steamer, Titanic.

Titanic was to set sail on April 10, 1912. The night before "the family had a festive going-away dinner and after the meal Lewis and Owen Braund, who lived down the road, came by for dessert and to talk about the Titanic. They, too, were going on the ship, but in Third Class (Susan sailed in Second Class), and Susie promised to come down and visit them during the crossing. Also traveling in Third Class from Susan's area were William Dennis and his brother, Samuel. There was high excitement."

"Thousands gathered at Southampton on Wednesday, April 10, to see this 'mistress of the seas'

lets get out and support them.

Ag Day will be held on Friday, March 25 from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Governor William A. O'Neill State Armory (next door to the State Capitol/Legislative Office Building complex). It is located at 360 Broad Street in Hartford. Ag Day was postponed in 2020 and 2021. It's great to see it back again.

It looks like March is going to be a busy month so stay well and healthy.



Susan Webber

start her maiden voyage to New York and to bid friends good-bye. Several hundred delayed or hurried their departure to America to sail on this boat." "I have been on beautiful boats," Miss Webber said, "but never one so beautiful."

Titanic was under the command of Captain E.J. Smith, an ocean

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Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange
American Values. Hometown Roots



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due March 15

Mildred H. Bell passes at 104

Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

Once again our Fraternal Circle has been broken with the passing of Sister Mildred H. Bell on Feb. 19, 2022 at the age of 104. Sister Bell was a life-long member of the Grange having served as First Lady of the State Grange during her husband Joe Bell's term as State Master. She served on various committees of the State Grange and was a long time member of the Code Reading Committee, teaching



Southington, and Carole Bell Crudi of East Hartford. She was also pre-deceased by a daughter, June Bell Fiondella. She was pre-deceased by six brothers, John, Paul, Clifford, Stanley, Clarence and Kenneth Hourigan. Nine grandchildren also survive Mildred. She is also survived by twenty-three great grandchildren, two great great grandchildren and numerous sisters and brothers-in-laws, nieces and nephews. Mildred also leaves many loving friends, including many Grange members around the State of Connecticut and elsewhere. Mildred was a long-time and active member of the Grange, which she first joined in Meriden, Connecticut on October 24, 1932. She held numerous offices in the Junior, Subordinate, Pomona and State Granges, including being the first female Master of Central Pomona Grange and serving as Lady Assistant Steward, Junior Deputy, and Junior Superintendent of the Connecticut State Grange. She is also a Past Voting Delegate to the National Grange.

generations of Grangers how to read the Grange Code Book. Her service to the Grange and the Order will long be remembered. Her obituary is included (in part) below:

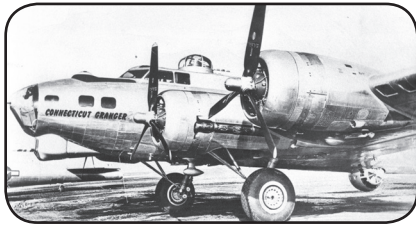
Mildred H. Bell, 104 of Meriden, Connecticut, died peacefully at Ingraham Manor, Bristol, CT on February 19, 2022. She was the wife of the late Joseph Doran Bell of Southington, and the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 2, 1989. Mildred was born in Meriden, Connecticut on December 13, 1917, a daughter of the late Lea Rose Paul Hourigan and William John Hourigan, and she lived in both Meriden and Southington all her life. Mildred is survived by two daughters and a son, Janet Bell Wilcox and William Joseph Bell of

She was responsible for organizing the Southington Junior Grange and served as Matron for numerous years; and, she chaired the committee that purchased the Southington Grange. In 1969, she was chosen by the Connecticut State Grange as the "Granger of the Year" to represent the State of Connecticut.

Continued next page...

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

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Mildred (center) with members of her family at a Southington Grange meeting.

Mildred and her late husband, Joseph, also worked for years on many dinners and chicken barbecues to raise money for the Southington Grange and for the Grange's "Camp Berger" in Winchester, CT.

An avid gardener, Mildred has won dozens of ribbons at Grange Fairs, and was well known for her prize-winning lemon meringue pies. She also shared her garden with others at her home roadside stand featuring flowers and vegetables. Mildred also enjoyed bowling and won numerous trophies, including a "Gold 180 Club Pin" for hitting a game of 187 in duck pin bowling. Mildred and her family have been long-time fans of the Southington

High School girl's basketball and softball teams. It was rare for them to miss a game – home or away. The Bell family provides a "Spirit Award" trophy each season to these

teams in memory of the late Joseph Bell and June Bell Fiondella.

To leave an online condolence, please visit www.dellavecchiasouthington.com.



Joe & Mildred Bell in 1984



Mildred at N.E. Lecturer's Conf.

Titanic

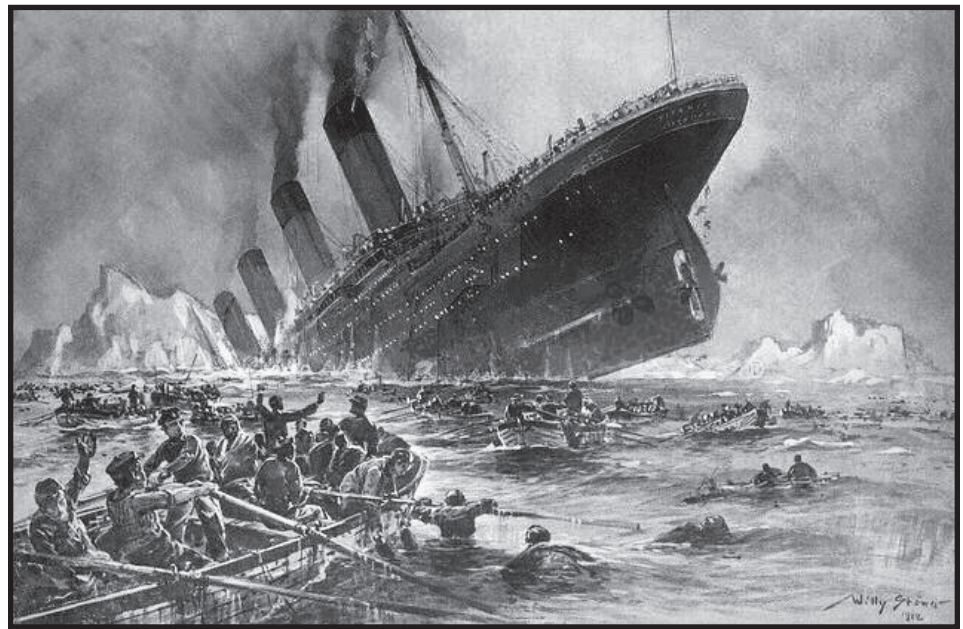
Continued from page 1

liner veteran and Admiral of the White Star Line. Passengers included famous men and women from both sides of the Atlantic. The list included John Jacob Astor (one of the world's most wealthy men), Major Archie Butt (Military Aide to President Taft), Benjamin Guggenheim, Isidor & Ida Straus (Co-Owner of Macy's), Colonel Washington Roebling (builder of the Brooklyn Bridge), among many more.

Webber said, "Never was there a crowd more merry, or a ship which seemed so proud. Steamers and tugs tooted good-bye, and crowds stared in admiration as it stopped at Cherbourg and Queenstown."

She continued, "Deck games, swimming and promenades in palm gardens were enjoyed by the passengers until Sunday, when everyone turned out to church. In the evening the ship's orchestra played for public hymn singing. The group did not break up at the appointed hour, but sang until 10 o'clock. Refreshments were served in the dining room and late that evening I left for my stateroom."

"About 20 minutes of 12 I



"Untergang der Titanic" by Willy Stöwer, 1912 and the Hartford Courant's front page the following day.

was awakened by a slight shock. Wrapping a robe about me, I went on deck, but officers said it was nothing, so I returned to bed, but could not sleep. A short time later a ship's officer shouted 'All hands on deck- put your life belts on' I slipped on a traveling coat over my nightdress and shoes and stockings. The steward fastened a life-belt around me as I went out on deck E, five decks down. Below me were six more decks."

"There was little panic on my deck as I crawled into life boat number 13. In the next boat the ship's officers



were trying excitedly to raise or lower the boat, but it was jammed. Cut! The captain bellowed. The ropes were severed simultaneously and the boat fell six floors to the
Continued next page...

water below, righted itself and was rowed away.”

“All this happened while we were hanging between heaven and earth looking five decks up and six down, watching the people at the rails. Then our boat was lowered. When it reached the water a Japanese passenger hurled himself six floors into the bottom of the boat. Apparently unhurt he crawled under a seat. They walked all over him, but he was afraid to come out – ‘Women and children first’ – you know.”

“We drifted for six hours. It was bitter cold. I counted five icebergs. The sea became rough and we often found ourselves between waves mountain-high. And just as dawn came we saw the steam of a vessel that turned out to be the Carpathia. They slowed down, so as not to swamp us, stopped a long way from us and we rowed up to them.”

“Before we sailed the Carpathia’s chaplain conducted a funeral service for the 1,517 victims (706 were rescued). Their passengers doubled up, shared their staterooms and clothes. I, with a great many others, slept on the dining-room tables- and it wasn’t soft wood, either. We didn’t get much sleep, for the dinner hour lasted until nearly midnight, and they called us up before daylight to set the tables. For four days I lived in a nightgown, my hair trailing down my back and blowing around my face.”

The Carpathia arrived in New York the following Thursday evening during a fierce thunderstorm. Webber was asked what she thought of New York and said, “Well, I didn’t much think of what I saw – I was in sort of daze. In all that rain all we could see was a sea of faces. Anxious faces – waiting for news of their friends. It was silent – you could have heard a pin drop. In all the rain there were ambulances, doctors, nurses, the Red Cross and everything to make us comfortable-clothes and food galore. I stood on the dock waiting. When asked what I wanted most, I said “a comb”. I



Susan Webber later in life.

don’t know why, when I was still hungry and didn’t have a thing in America but a nightgown.”

“For three days I stayed at a Junior League house near the Battery. I didn’t realize the horror of everything until I reached Hartford, when the mental strain told on me- I couldn’t go out in the street or face anybody. One experience like that is enough for a lifetime,” Miss Webber concluded.

In the aftermath of the tragedy a class action suit was filed against the White Star Line by the Titanic Survivors’ Protective Committee. Those wishing to sign on to the suit were required to contribute one percent of the value of their claim to the committee to help pay legal fees. Susan Webber paid 8 shillings or \$2.00 based on her £40/\$200 loss of personal effects. A settlement was reached in 1916. After all fees

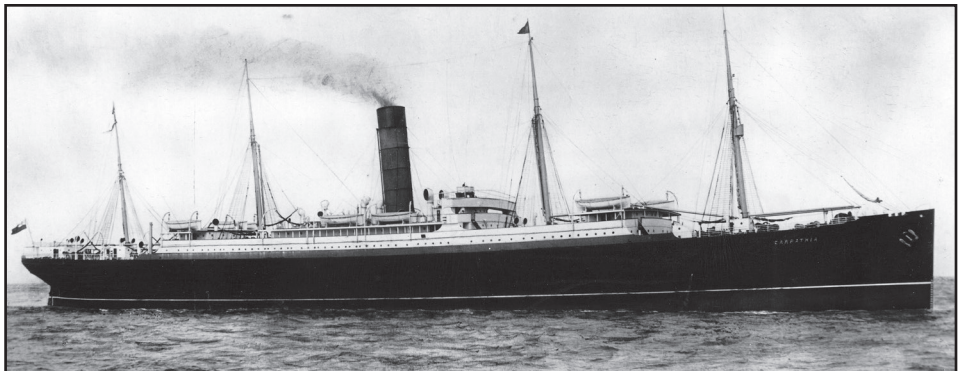
and costs were paid, survivors were to receive £132,600/\$663,000. It is not known exactly how much Susan Webber received though we do know she received the initial \$2 fee for joining the suit.

On June 10, 1931, the *Hartford Courant* published a short article entitled “Rocky Hill Woman Sails for England.” Susan Webber was returning to England for a visit to see family and friends. She sailed on the Cunard Line’s *Mauretania*. We believe that voyage was uneventful as the *Mauretania* lived out its natural service life, finally being retired in September 1934 after 28 years.

While we do not have much specific information about her Grange membership in Connecticut, there are many references to her active membership in Rocky Hill Grange No. 115.

“Susie went on to live a quiet life in Connecticut looking after her nephew’s household and was an active member of Grange and the Congregational Church. When she died in Hartford Hospital at the age of 77 (heart failure), her nephews and nieces placed a poignantly simple marker on her grave: Susan Webber, Aunt, 1874-1952.” “Autumn”, the selection played by the Titanic bandmen while the ship sank was played at her funeral.

Historical information for this article came from Encyclopedia Titanica and quotes for this article came from an extensive interview with Susan Webber in the Hartford Courant, April 20, 1931.



The Carpathia was sunk on 17 July 1918 after being torpedoed three times by the German submarine U-55 off the southern Irish coast with a loss of five crew members.

You may gain more than a chimney



Faith Quinlan
Membership Dir.
Winchester Grange #74
membership@ctstategrange.org

The pandemic took the biggest toll on our Granges financially. As Spring and Summer approach we will remain aware of the rules around COVID safety and the even heavier question about how we will have our fundraising and community events that raise crucial money for our Granges.

The way we do that is to continue to think outside the box. By now many Granges are doing fundraisers with take-out food or arranging hands-free tag sales and some even more fun and creative concepts. Our Grange communities would not be surprised to know we are in need of their support. Get the word out about what you are raising money for and where/ how they may get it to you. It is very important to go beyond our own membership and into the larger community.

To support your creative ideas I would like to share 5 motivators behind giving. These are well studied and not new for many of you. To give examples of how they might work I have referenced a Grange hall that needs a new chimney.

1. Group Mentality – Are there other people I know who are contributing? Does it appear there will be success in this venture because many of us are doing this together? I don't want to be left out from saying I was part of this community venture. *Everyone is buying a brick for the new chimney, you will get one too, right?*

2. Tangible Outcome – Will something be repaired, purchased, built? How can I see what you are doing with my donation? *See that chimney? I bought one of those bricks, I helped make that happen.*

3. Micro-giving – Can they

make several small donations set up weekly or monthly? *For the cost of an expensive latte each week – you and 9 other donors can help us purchase all the cement needed to build the new chimney.*

4. Personal Connection – Who do I know who is also contributing? But even more so when THAT person asks friends to support their cause – they are more likely to donate or make a purchase to benefit the organization. *Sue asked me to buy a brick for the Grange, I don't know much about them, but I know Sue is a member and she tells me all the great things they are doing for the community.*

5. Recognition – Where will you share their name? Do they get something to display to show they are helping? People won't admit it out loud but they like to be recognized by others. *My name is on the plaque in the hall where they list all the donors to the new chimney.*

Ok, so why is the Membership Director talking about fundraising? Firstly, because my goal is always to support the current membership and secondly, these people helping may all be asked if they would like to join as a form of support. These are opportunities for them to learn about who your Grange is and what you do. Raise funds and talk about your Grange and why you love it. In the end you could gain more funds or a new member or both.



2022 VIRTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



4 Divisions


- Agriculture
- Sky
- Trucks
- Water

Everyone can enter up to 3 photos!

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


Submit using the link bit.ly/22grangephoto


PLEASE NOTE NEW DEADLINE
June 30, 2022



CHECK YOUR JUGS

NEW ENGLAND





State Codes

33 = New Hampshire
23 = Maine
50 = Vermont
25 = Massachusetts
09 = Connecticut
44 = Rhode Island

nhdairy promo.org

CT Grange Family Festival



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

We have a new name for our contests, "CT Grange Family Festival", along with new dates that seem to accommodate more Granges. We will hold it August 12 - 14th. It will be a weekend event as we did last year. Here is the breakdown of events.

Friday, August 12 we will be at the Hillstown Grange Hall waiting for people to bring in their entrees between 3 and 6pm. Anyone who has entries can always make arrangements with a CFA committee member to pick them up prior to that date. On Saturday morning we will allow time for those who could not bring them Friday to get the entries to us by 10:30 am. Judging will begin promptly at 11:00 am. We are currently looking for judges for the baking and theme contests as well as judges for the needlework. Please contact a CFA committee member if you are interested or send an email to cwa@ctstategrange.org . We have a lot of fun and look forward to hearing from you.

Sunday, August 14th, we urge you to come and sit with us for Breakfast. Hillstown will be putting on their wonderful Pancake Breakfast with a specialty pancake just for us, Pumpkin. Hillstown Grange is great with handling protocols for COVID and it will be nice to see people in person since a lot of Granges have gone back to zoom meetings or have not been able to meet at all. You will have the opportunity to look at all the hard work our Patrons have been doing over the winter months. Our

new State Lecturer has also set up the photo contest to be held at the same time and place as our Needlework Contest. Stay tuned for more surprises to come from our State Lecturer! Yet another reason to come on out!

The teacup auction was such a hit that we will hold another one with the winners announced at the end of the breakfast. The money will be used to help support our committee. It will also be a good

time to bring your Big E donations. If you are coming to pick up your Grange's entrees on Sunday, it's a great time for you to bring them all in one trip.

One last item, if you can have everyone in your Grange, make just one item, imagine how much that would add up to! Have a craft day or select something easy and send out instructions on materials to collect and do a zoom meeting. The Big E always counts on our support! Stay Safe, spring is just around the corner!

Capitol moves toward normal



Alma Graham
Legislative Director
Coventry Grange #75
Legislative@ctstategrange.org

The State Grange Legislative Committee completed assembling the 2022 Legislative Guides and they were delivered to the members of the Connecticut General Assembly.

The 2022 session of the General Assembly convened on February 9th in Hartford. This years Legislative session is a short session which means that bills are supposed to only address budget issues. The first order of business following the approval of the normal first day housekeeping bills was a joint resolution which declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency in the state which extended the Governors executive powers until June 30th.

This year the House and Senate members were able to meet in person in the chamber halls. The Capitol and Legislative Office Buildings are open to the public on a limited basis. The public can only access the first floors of each building. In the Capitol that does not give access to much as all. The Governor's office is located on the second floor. In the Legislative Office Building you can access a limited number of hearing halls and the cafeteria. The plan for the early days of the session is to only have virtual public hearings via ZOOM. They will re-address virtual hearings after a month to consider opening up committee hearings to in person hearings. Right now, if you want to testify on a bill you must sign up for ZOOM access.

The Governor did give his address in person to the General Assembly in which he outlined his budget proposals. He presented some very optimistic budget proposals hopefully appealing to both sides of the chamber. Connecticut is not facing a budget deficit so far so there were many recommendations for tax cuts. One suggestion is reducing the tax on vehicles. The Governor also is proposing major improvements to the state's infrastructure using the funds from the Presidents infrastructure bill.

The legislators are now submitting their bills to be presented. These will be assigned to the different committees who will review them and select which bills will be forwarded to public hearings for public input. Hopefully the General Assembly will get back to addressing the States issues and not just the pandemic.



EASTERN CT POMONA #14

Corr: Noel Miller

March 12: Glastonbury Grange, 7 P.M. Masks are optional, refreshments will be take-out after meeting.

Apr. 2: Degree Day at Hemlock Grange, Portland, CT, 10-2 Witness the four degrees, lunch will be provided. Let Noel Miller or Roy Harrington know if you can help with parts or candidates. It will be a fun day. Come see.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

March 3: Evaluation Night 7:30 p.m. Ref: All members

April 7: April Showers 7:30 p.m. Ref. Marycharles Howe

May 1: Semi-Annual Bakeless/Foodless Sale

Please note the change in our schedule. Glastonbury Grange is meeting on Zoom in March.

We will be on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Hopefully we will be back at the Masonic Hall for April, but be sure to check with the Master, Dan Posuniak before coming to the hall. The Membership Committee has been busy. We have put an "Ad" in the Glastonbury Citizen advertising for new members. The "Ad" ran for 2 weeks. That was followed by sending out an invitation and grange brochure and application to some residents in town. An e-mail was also sent to those on the Town Council inviting them to join the grange. We now will see if there is any response. February 1st Kay Ruff set up a Grange Exhibit/Display at the Historical Society building in town with the

help of Roy and BJ Harrington. The Exhibit will be on display for February, March and April. Check the hours for the Historical Society and be sure to stop by and visit the display.

We are looking for a Treasurer. If there is a member willing to assume that position contact the Master or Secretary.

SENEXT GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

March 23: Art 101 Project

We have changed our meeting date to the 4th Wednesday instead of the third Wed. We are also having a work session on the second Sat. of each month. This will give us a time to get the hall in order and sort things that are now in various places in the hall. We have had programs on health screening as well as health check in and healthy winter meals.

We held a teen group meeting for kids from the community and 17 participated at the first session.

On Sunday Feb. 6 we held a Grange Summit including a pot luck meal. Granges in Rhode Island and Massachusetts were invited. We had a lot of interaction with many suggestions and activities from those attending members. These will be summarized and sent to those attending. It is good to meet with those members from other Granges. Various groups continue to use our hall including the Yoga group and the home school group. The local corn hole group compete in our upstairs hall.

We will be collecting food items in February for the local food bank. An art show is planned for the spring as well as a Shepherds pie dinner. These events are promoting the Grange and hopefully potential members.

We will also establish a list of members who we have not seen in a while and encourage our active members to contact them. We are always welcoming members and visitors.

COVENTRY GRANGE #75

Corr: Noel Miller

We draped the charter in

memory of Nancy Powell. We will have a work detail soon to clean-up the hall and grounds.

HILLSTOWN GRANGE #87

The Hillstown Grange is holding an End-of-Winter Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Come and enjoy a Breakfast of Pancakes including sausage, coffee, tea and juice, all for just \$5, \$3 for kids 14 and under. This month's specials feature "Girl Scout Cookie inspired flavors". As always all you can eat regular pancakes and coffee.

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

Come to browse, to eat, or just visit the historic 135 year old Hillstown Grange Hall. Free Admission.

Hillstown Grange is located at 617 Hills Street, East Hartford, CT. Located in the Hillstown corner of East Hartford, Glastonbury, and Manchester since 1888. The Grange is one of the oldest Agricultural and Community Service groups in the United States.

For more information on this event check our website and watch for updates on our Facebook page or call Frank at 860-690-2845 or e-mail hillstowngrange@aol.com.

EKONK COMM. GRANGE #89

Corr: Jaimie Cameron

We are finally getting back into our normal routine on the hill in the Eastern corner of the State. We have been meeting in person and on Zoom for our members to be able to attend who live in other states. We have started holding our dinners and our events in 2021. We look forward to holding all our dinners and events. We have been keeping busy with our Community Service projects. We have been bringing food to families in need, collecting books for our little library, and donating items to a local Veterans home. Check our Facebook and website for all event and meeting

Continued next page...

info. If you would like the Zoom link to our meeting or need more information on any event, please contact me. We hope that we see you at our meeting either in person or via Zoom soon.

KILLINGLY GRANGE #112

Corr: Penny Bennett

Killingly Grange continues to promote community goodwill and philanthropic activities at the local level. Once again, the Grange is proud to present Nick Anderson and Shady Creek at its bluegrass night on Saturday, March 26th. A second band, Keegan Day and Company, will perform after a 20–30 minute break. Keegan’s mother, Kathy, will perform with Keegan; she is a renowned fiddler on the bluegrass circuit in Southern New England.

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m.; the concert will start at 7:00 p.m. Sandwiches and other refreshments will be available throughout the night. Tickets for the concert may be purchased at the door.

During Lent, the Grange, in concert with the Danielson Lions Club, will sponsor three or more fish dinners-fried or baked options will both be available. The first fish dinner will be on Friday, March 4th. If these initial dinners are well-received, the Grange will continue to host them throughout Lent. Eat in or take-out options will both be available.

Killingly Grange has found that the secret to success lies in collaborating with another community-based organization-an organization which is equally philanthropic! The motto for the Lion’s club is “Be Kind!”.

In December, Judy Hall-Gray filled the Grange with her delightful twelve string guitar music for its annual Christmas Party. Nick Anderson and Judy performed a captivating duet together. It was a fun-filled celebration that included a diverse pot providence dinner and a Yankee gift swap. The carol sing we had went over extremely well.

The Colonial Baptist Church continues to use our hall for its Sunday morning worship services. The church has helped us stay

afloat financially, and they have helped maintain the Grange Hall for generations to come. The Grange is located at the corner of Route 101 and Dog Hill Road, in Dayville, .3 miles east of I-395, Exit 41. If anyone has any questions, comments, or suggestions please contact John or Penny @ 860-705-3643 or 860-230-7367; or Dave @ 860-774-0321.

N. STONINGTON GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

March 11: Ritual Games

March 25: Back to the Future

It seems we cannot hold a meeting without draping our Charter. We have lost our oldest member. Edmond McGowan joined

our Grange in 1943 and passed away on January 13 at the age of 94. He will be sadly missed.

Our second meeting in March will be our Lecturer’s entry in the State Lecturer’s contest. Sue has proven herself a winner in this contest and we always enjoy her entries.

Our one January meeting was in the charge of the Miner family. Cheree led us in a rousing game of Jeopardy that proved we need to study a bit more before we try out for the real one; but we laughed a lot and truly enjoyed the evening. And if Winter Storm Bobby will just, please be the last storm of the season, next time I’ll tell you about fantastic February.

EASTERN CONNECTICUT POMONA
presents

Degree Day

Saturday, April 2, 2022
10:00 am to about 2:00 pm

There will be a meal between the 2nd & 3rd Degrees.

Hemlock Grange Hall
17 Sage Hollow Road, Portland, CT (corner of Routes 17 & 17A)

For more information, contact:
Noel Miller (millernoel434@gmail.com) or Roy Harrington (aststeward@ctstategrange.org)

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MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 5: Riverton Grange Hall at 4 P.M.

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona will be held on Saturday, March 5 beginning at 4 P.M. at Riverton Grange Hall. If you are a Pomona member and would be willing to help or contribute to the Social Hour, please let the Secretary know. Coffee and tea will be provided.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd A. Gelineau

March 8: The Wild Rover, Potluck Supper at 6 P.M., Meeting at 7:00.

March 22: CWA Program, Country Store. Ref. Ramona Fassio

Apr. 12: Welcome Spring, Ref. Peter & Mary Lou Keefe

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

We begin this month's column with a remembrance of an 80 year member of Winchester Grange. Arline (Beecher) Cote passed away on Feb. 9 at the age of 95. Arline is a sister of Kingsley and Ellsworth (Bud) Beecher, Barbara English and Joan Della Valle. Many of you may recall that Arline's sister Barbara served as State Pianist during Bud Beecher's term as State Master.

Arline was a talented pianist as well and served as Winchester's pianist for many, many years for programs and degrees throughout the years. Her march of choice was always "The Connecticut March" which I can always hear in the back of my mind when the Assistants rise to escort the flag at the beginning of meetings. Our sympathies go out to the entire Beecher family.

Winchester Grange welcomed State Master George Russell and State Treasurer Jody Cameron and Past Voting Delegate Jodi Ann Cameron to our first meeting in February. This was our first in-person meeting of the year after spending the month of January on Zoom due to the spike in COVID cases statewide.

Members had requested the State Master attend this meeting to answer questions regarding the recent sale of Camp Berger. There were a number of false rumors regarding this sale which had been floating around the community which were dispelled. The largest incorrect rumors were a \$1,250,000 offer on the property that never existed and incorrect terms of the sale. The property sold for \$500,000 with a 4% mortgage (with a down payment and balloon payment at the end), financed by the State Grange. This will enable the State Grange to not only receive the sale price, but also all interest on the mortgage, which will bring the total proceeds from the sale just under \$700,000.

We thank the State Master, Treasurer and Sister Cameron for taking the time to attend this meeting.

Our second Feb. meeting was on Feb. 22 and featured facts about Presidents and President's Day.

Our next meeting will be on March 8 and will feature a Potluck Supper beginning at 6 P.M. Zoom is also available for the meeting (unfortunately we haven't figured out how to Zoom the meal to you!). Please contact me or Secretary Sue Addison for the Zoom credentials. Either way, we would love to see all members and guests in-person or virtually.

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

Mar. 10: Hobbies - Mike Taylor - virtual meeting on Zoom

April 14: Spring Cleaning In & Out- All at the Hall (outside)

At our February meeting Bill Palmer made a short video for the Lecturer's program about blacksmithing. You can go to our Facebook page "Taghhannuck Grange No. 100" to watch it. He

also displayed some of his work.

Also at our February meeting we worked to finalizing the application for our EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) Scholarship program. EMRs are trained to provide life-saving care for their patients. EMRs receive over 50 hours of training in a state-approved course before they can begin providing service.

This will be an ongoing community service program to help pay for their training.

We will begin the Heirloom Program being promoted by National Grange in March. Our March meeting will be on Zoom and we always enjoy visitors. Email for the Invitation Link to: taghhannuckgrange@gmail.com and I will send it to you.

RIVERTON GRANGE #169

Corr: Dave Roberts

March 4: Meeting & Program: "State Capitol Watch 2022 and impacts on YOU!" Legislative Committee program; Phil Prelli, Chair

March 6: Honoring Our Veteran of the Month (Barkhamsted Senior Center; 109 West River Road, Barkhamsted; 6:00 PM)

Our February meeting was held virtually due to the pandemic and the Lecturer's program was titled "How Agriculture Impacts Us Every Day" and was led by Grange President Dave Roberts.

The program began with all attendees taking three minutes to list all the ways agriculture touches them every day. Jackie Martin won the prize listing 27 ways agriculture affects her from the toothpaste she uses which is produced from corn sugar dextrose; to her cosmetic products made from corncobs; to her shampoo and conditioner made from corn; to her cotton t-shirt and indigo dyed jeans; to agricultural products such as corn and soybeans which are found in a number of cleaning agents; several laundry detergents and carpet shampoos contain soy, while Windex and some hand soaps have corn in them; to ethanol in gasoline; to soybeans

Continued from previous page ...

to produce crayons; to paper for books and ink made of soybean oil; to classroom products from pencils to textbooks to desks. Did you know that one tree can make approximately 170,000 pencils? President Dave then talked about the impacts today of agriculture on our Connecticut economy and he then asked Agriculture Committee member George Russell and former State of Connecticut Agricultural Commissioner Phil Prelli to discuss the impacts of agriculture from their perspectives. A fun raffle was held for all attendees to participate and three attendees won Made In Connecticut products. The program ended with quotes on the value of agriculture to our nation as a whole. Following the normal meeting, a special meeting was held for the 2022 Riverton Grange Fair where Rod Anstett was elected President, Dawn Anstett was elected Vice President; Laura Marek was elected Secretary, Susan Belle Isle was elected Treasurer, and Judy Doyle was elected Publicity Chair. The 2022 Riverton Grange Fair will be held on Saturday, August 20, from 9 AM to 2 PM at the Riverton Grange Hall, 17 Riverton Road, Barkhamsted. The attendees also agreed that the 2022 theme for the Riverton Grange Fair would be “composting”.

Finally, after 114 years, our Grange has its very own post office box service now in Riverton; P.O. Box 67, Riverton, CT 06065. The Grange learned that the box service is complimentary due to the fact the U.S. mail is not delivered to addresses in Riverton, but residents have to pick up their mail at the Riverton Post Office.

WOLCOTT GRANGE #173

Wolcott Grange was excited to receive word their Garden has been “selected as a \$500 Allowance Grant sponsored by YSA and Hillshire Farm SNACKED! for their “Community Garden” project.



Getting Your Grange Noticed

by Terri Fassio, State Grange Public Relations Co-Director

With Grange Month right around the corner in April, now is the time to be getting your Grange Month Press Releases to the media. But what can you do as a Grange to ensure that the local media notices your Grange? Start by being brief, to the point, and concise, then answer the four following questions.

1.) Is your Grange interesting to others?

The media is always on the lookout for interesting stories. The editors will sit up and take notice when your Grange offers something that will pique the interest of their readers and viewers.

2.) Does your subject stand out in the crowd?

What is your Grange doing that is different than all of the other organizations in town? How does your Grange stand out? Are your programs relevant to your community? Always think outside the box when planning your Grange events and activities.

3.) Are you casual and friendly when contacting the media?

Be honest, be transparent, be friendly, and be approachable when submitting your information to the media. Honor their deadlines, and don't be pushy if you don't see your press release in the paper in a couple of days. Remember to respect the media sources, and they will respect your Grange in return.

4.) Is your information complete?

Always include as much information as you can when contacting the media. Items often overlooked are price, time, specific address and location, and contact information. If you were interested in the event your Grange is sponsoring, what information would you need to, and want to, know?

The key to having the press notice the activities of your Grange is to understand that media sources receive a lot of information to publish each and every day, and they will only print (or broadcast) what they feel is important, cool, relevant and that which affects their reading/viewing public.

Ultimately, the best way to get noticed is to form relationships with journalists who you regularly will be contacting with your Grange news. Media sources are more likely to read your Grange news if they know you.

We're here to help! E-mail: publicrelations@ctstategrange.org or information@ctstategrange.org.





NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

The next meeting of Nutmeg Pomona will be held on March 27. We will be conferring the Fifth Degree. Degree rehearsal date is Sunday, March 20th. Both at Cheshire Grange Hall beginning at 2:00.

Looks like all our officers reported under the weather in the last Connecticut Granger are well on the road to recovery. Lecturer Lois is home from the hospital and staying at the home of her son.

For now, stay warm and healthy and we will see you at Cheshire Grange on March 27th.

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

For many years the opening song of our Anniversary Program has been "Dear Hearts and Gentle People." Recently we lost two of our members who had "dear hearts" and were "gentle people." Charles Curtiss, an 81 year member of our Grange. Charles was always interested in agriculture.

Also, Joan Ziegler who only joined our Grange when Redding Grange #15 initially closed. She was a long-time Granger and a dear friend to many of our members. We were proud to have her as a member, if only for a very short time.

Upcoming Meetings - March 11 program in charge of Judi Reynolds. When the late Carole Mancini was in charge of refreshments we always had grilled cheese sandwiches so in her memory we will have grilled



Barbara Kulisch is pictured with Cheshire Grange Master A. Ruel Miller after receiving her seal for 60 years of continuous Grange membership.

cheese sandwiches.

April 8th our theme is "What Do You Collect?" So, bring something for show and tell. Refreshments will be in the charge of Tracy Marsala.

We will resume Open Mic on Saturday, March 19th from 6 to 9 P.M. and our Tag Sale will be the same day from 9 to 3.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

March 2: Maple Season
March 16: Youth Night

We draped our charter in loving memory of John Alexander. Barbara Kulisch received her 60 year membership seal and was recognized for her many years of service to our Order serving in numerous committees and holding office in the Subordinate, Pomona and State Grange levels. Plans are underway for our Saturday, March 12 take-out Corned Beef Dinner at our hall.

Our Cheshire Grange Community Fair is scheduled for August 27th and 28th. We hope things will be favorable for our returning to our standard two day fair this year. We continue to meet in person on the first and third Wednesdays at 7:30 P.M.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

March 11: Surprise
March 25: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled.
Apr. 8: Music Night Open House. Hemlock 110th Anniversary Party. All Grangers invited. Come and enjoy and listen to the For Fun Band. And there will be a free will collection box for the Portland Food Bank, for those who want to donate cans and items.
Apr. 22: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Celebrate & Promote Grange



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

As the new Connecticut State Grange Lecturer, I wanted to honor the legacy of our past State Lecturer Marge who believed in the integral role of the Lecturer position to the future of Grange, so I decided to host a virtual “roundup” (a gathering of like-minded individuals) where we could all gather together to share ideas and learn from each other, while having some fun too.

Our first “roundup” was scheduled via Zoom on a Saturday night in mid-January and I invited our State President (George Russell) and State Vice President (Rob Buck) to join us to show that our State leaders are committed to supporting our subordinate and Pomona Grange Lecturers however they can. Altogether, 27 Granges participated in our “roundup” which lasted for about 90 minutes. I even called and talked at length with our National Grange President (Betsy Huber) and what we are up to in Connecticut. As I told President Huber, what other national organization do you belong to where you can pick up the phone and talk with your National President. Wow, aren't we lucky to belong to Grange!

We began the “roundup” by offering a prize to one lucky Lecturer who had RSVPed for the event. 21 individuals (out of the 27 attendees) had RSVPed. We used an electronic wheel that was spun and Higganum Grange Lecturer Helen Luk, the mother of a 2-, 4-, and 6-year old, was the lucky winner of a jar of wildflower honey from the Stonewall Apiary in

Hanover, Connecticut.

All attendees then provided self-introductions, talked about their successes and challenges, and shared what they hoped to gain from attending the roundup. State-wide programs were discussed and plans were made for the remainder of this Grange year. At the end of the program, two more prizes (maple syrup from two Connecticut farms) were awarded via the wheel to two attendees (Vernon Grange Lecturer Nancy Strong and Cawasa Grange Lecturer Linea Erickson).

After the event, attendees provided feedback. Some of the attendee feedback included:

- I was very impressed with so many aspects of the “roundup”
- Extensive planning and preparation, with clear agenda shared beforehand; you even contacted the National Master!
- Very welcoming and enthusiastic throughout.
- Very clever name game with prizes, fun!
- Really connected with each

participant

- Invited each to introduce self, speak, that led to people feel included and valuable; then you were responsive to comments/questions/ideas

- Acknowledged people, often offering promise of your personal follow up

- Clearly offering support, with helpful suggestions and ideas from your own experiences. Helpful reminders that we are not alone in efforts.

- Overall perfect time management for a very full agenda Nice wrap up and review of needs/plans for the future

- Really excellent overall, including management of the ZOOM!

This first “roundup” was so successful that plans are already in the works for our second Lecturer’s Roundup scheduled via Zoom for Saturday, March 19, at 7:00 PM. If you would like to participate or just listen in, please drop me a note at dave@daveroberts.org or call me at 858-775-9241. Lecturers RULE!



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!

So, I see that Punxsutawney Phil, the predictor of winter and groundhog friend, saw his shadow back on February 2. That means we will be getting six more weeks of winter. Let's hope Phil is wrong and that we see more warmer days than colder ones in the weeks ahead.

Granges are starting to hold events and activities again, This is good to see. Although many Granges are still utilizing Zoom too! Send me an invite and I may just show up at one of your meetings or events!

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

WINDOW TO THE PAST

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



No answers were received for last month's photo. Please let us know if you have any ideas about this month's or any other month's Window to the Past photos.



Baked Corned Beef & Cabbage Hash

March is the month of St. Patrick's Day - so break out the wearin' of the green! Corned Beef and Cabbage is an Irish classic, but here's a way to switch up the dish into a yummy casserole. Country Living has a tasty recipe for Baked Corn Beef and Cabbage Hash that is a must try - and would be a nice addition to a potluck supper too!

INGREDIENTS:

1 wedge leftover cooked cabbage
Kosher salt
Pepper
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
8 oz. leftover sliced/deli corned beef
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1/2 c. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1 c. heavy cream
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 lb. russet potatoes, sliced
6 oz. Gruyère cheese, grated

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. If using fresh cabbage, bring a small pot of water to a boil. Add 2 teaspoons salt and the cabbage and cook for 5 minutes; drain and squeeze out any excess moisture.

Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and 1/4 teaspoon each salt and pepper and cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the corned beef and garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 minutes. Remove from heat and fold in the cabbage and parsley.

Coat a deep 8- by 8-inch square



baking dish with oil. In a bowl, whisk together the heavy cream and mustard.

Lay a third of the potatoes in the baking dish, slightly overlapping them. Top with a third of the corned beef and cabbage mixture (about 1 cup) and sprinkle with a third of the cheese (about 1/3 cup); repeat once. Top with a last layer of potatoes and cabbage mixture. Pour the cream mixture into the dish.

Cover the baking dish with foil, place on a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with the remaining cheese, and bake until the potatoes are tender and the top is golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes more. Let rest for 10 minutes before serving.

SOURCE: <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/recipes/a30378/baked-corned-beef-cabbage-hash-recipe-wdy0315/>

Thank you

As usual, Grangers have come through for me and my family. My nephew Don's death took us by a very unhappy surprise. I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and cards. Don was an active Grange member in his youth. He served as Lecturer of Cherry Brook Junior Grange where his programs included props that I used for Cawasa and occasionally a baby goat or two and other animals. He received all seven degrees in the same year and served as Assistant Steward of Cawasa for several years. Attendance through the years waned, but he could always be available to help when asked. He made several picnic tables for Camp Berger.

Thank you!
Lin Erickson

VIRTUAL
SOCIAL
hour
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. A brief program will be presented. Stop by and say Hello!



You're Invited to Connect!

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

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH:
"National Peanut Month Celebration"
Thursday, March 24
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

APRIL:
"Words of Wisdom: Grange Ritual"
Thursday, April 21
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

MAY:
"Take a Picture: Photography Tips & Tricks for Granges"
Thursday, May 26
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

JUNE:
Marketing your Grange on Facebook and Beyond (Dual Event with the Public Relations and Membership Committees)
Thursday, June 23
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM



CHESHIRE GRANGE HOSTS
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CORNED BEEF TAKE OUT DINNER

SATURDAY
MARCH 12th
4:30 p.m.

LOCATION: 44 WALLINGFORD ROAD, CHESHIRE

Adults: \$15.00
Children 5 - 12: \$8.00
Under 5: Free
Order/reserve tickets by calling:
Don Lanoue at 203-213-6235 or Elizabeth Ryducha at 203-996-0851
Drive into our lower lot and we'll bring your dinner out to you!
Dinner includes: corned beef, potatoes, carrots, cabbage, rye bread & slice of pie

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual Social Hour

National Peanut Month Celebration
Thursday, March 24th
7:00 PM

Join us for a fun and casual social gathering. Stop by and say Hello!

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

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

Virtual Social Hour

Thursday, April 21st
7:00 PM

Words of Wisdom: Grange Ritual

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

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



Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

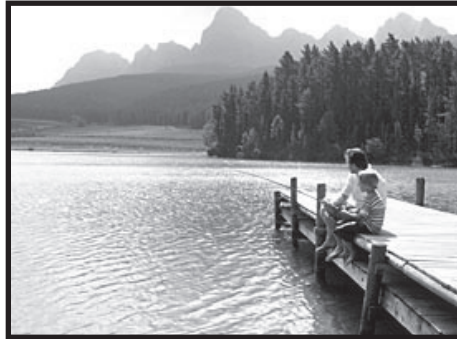
Inner Peace & Serenity

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds.... Philippians 4:7

You will keep in perfect peace the steadfast of mind, because he trusts in You.... Isaiah 26:3

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.... Matthew 6:31-34

I present you with a paradox; if you strive for happiness and contentment, your striving will prevent you from obtaining it. But if instead you strive for justice and righteousness, and for the well-being of all God's people, you are more likely to find inner peace. I'm not saying that you should not



plan on providing for the physical needs of your family and yourself, but rather that you should not let that planning drift into the realm of fretting and worrying.

But, you may say, "what if my plans don't work out?" See, now your plans have shifted into worrying. If one's plans don't work out then one comes up with new plans, without worrying about what didn't work out or other what ifs. One must live in the present without mulling over what went wrong in the past or fretting over what may come.

Sometimes life is hard, hard for you or for others. When others have problems reach out to them to ease them over their difficulties. Helping others and showing love for others, even strangers, will have a welcome byproduct of keeping you from worrying about yourself, and aid in bringing inner peace. But be careful again to avoid worrying about other people's problems. This can be almost as destructive to inner peace as worrying about your own problems. Do what you can to help and then be satisfied that you have done what you could. In all cases learn to put into God's hands

both your problems and those of others.

Finally remember the words from the Overseer's charge in the third degree of our order: "Cultivate the habit of looking for better and brighter days instead of mourning over the past" and "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine".

In Memoriam

John Alexander
Cheshire Grange #23

Mildred Bell, G.S.
Meriden Grange #29

Arline (Beecher) Cote, G.S.
Winchester Grange #74

Nancy Powell
Coventry Grange #75

Charles Curtiss, G.S.
Beacon Valley Grange #103

Joan Ziegler, G.S.
Beacon Valley Grange #103
(formerly Redding Grange #15)

John Ray Osuch, G.S.
Bethlehem Grange #121

Carolee Barrett
Greenfield Hill Grange # 133

Edmond McGowan, G.S.
N. Stonington Comm. #138

"Well done, good and faithful servants."