



the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

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The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2022

Happy Mother's Day



George Russell
State President

Riverton Grange No. 169
president@ctstategrange.org

April showers bring May flowers. We sure had enough rain in April to have a bonus of May flowers for Mother's Day!

There are quite a few of our Community Granges that will have plant sales in May and June. These Granges will be selling flowers and vegetable plants. So, if you're looking to put in a garden, check out and support your local Granges. Many of our Granges are also putting on suppers again! You have an option of take-out or eat-in. It looks like our Granges are getting back to normal.

Two of Connecticut's Pomonas will be conferring the Fifth Degree in May. On May 14, Mountain Laurel Pomona will be conferring the degree at 2 P.M. at Winchester Grange Hall. Eastern Connecticut Pomona will be conferring the Fifth Degree at 7 P.M. at Killingly Grange Hall. If you haven't received the Fifth Degree, here's your chance. With two locations, one in the western part of the state and the other in the eastern part of the state.

This is the time of year we should be thinking bout resolutions for State Session. If you think some of the by-laws of the State and National Granges should be changed, put it in the form of a resolution and

if it passes at your Community Grange, send it on to your Pomona for support and to the State Grange Secretary. You should also plan to have delegates from your Grange at State Grange to discuss your resolution and to help it be adopted.

Influential Connecticut Grangers:

Ard Welton

By Todd Gelineau with Kathryn Ruff

Ard Welton was born on February 13, 1862 to Abijah Wand and Elizabeth (Upson) Welton of Plymouth, Conn. A lifelong Plymouth, CT resident, Ard was one of three children which included a brother and a sister.

He was educated in the local public schools and always followed farming and employment in related fields.

Ard married Hattie Benson, also of Plymouth, in 1883 and had one daughter, Ada Elizabeth.

He was very active in his community for many years serving as a member of the Board of Selectmen and as a Justice of the Peace. He served as an assistant prosecutor for the Town Court, fire claims adjuster for the New Haven Railroad and was fire warden in Plymouth.

Ard was President of the Bristol Fair Corporation for four years. The Bristol Fair was organized by Plymouth, Whigville, Bristol and Union Granges. It was noted that he was one of the most enthusiastic and energetic Grangers and he devoted

I have had emails and calls after State Session inquiring about why their resolution was not adopted. So make an effort to attend this year's State Session.

To end this month's report, I would like to wish all the mothers in our State Grange a happy Mother's Day. Stay safe and healthy.



Ard Welton is interviewed, likely by the *Hartford Courant* in 1934.

much time to make the fair the best. That same devotion was also given to their home Grange, Plymouth #72 where he was a Charter Member holding many different offices in Plymouth and Mountain County Pomona.

Ard was elected Steward of the Connecticut State Grange in 1910 and served through 1913. In 1918 he began a 28 year run having been elected Secretary of the State Grange when his predecessor, Henry Loomis refused re-election to the office. Few Grange members had the remarkable Grange career Ard had as State Secretary.

...Continued on page 3

Connecticut State Grange
A part of the National Grange



RAISED
RIGHT
HERE



NEXT ISSUE . . . Articles Due May 15

Change happens without our permission



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

Change. We know deep down change is often good, yet so many of us aggressively oppose it. Why do we so adamantly deny change? We know it's inevitable, healthy even, yet we stand rooted in sameness. We crave routine, we yearn for

consistency. Even those of us who say we love change, it's hard for us to accept and adapt. Because of familiarity we stay closed.

Life is unpredictable and often we're forced to make a change unexpectedly. We lose jobs or we lose people. These things force you to change something that you weren't ready to change.

What a scary concept; pressuring you to overcome certain fears or insecurities. The truth is, the only way to embrace life is to embrace change. Often, we're blinded by the reality that change is needed because we're convinced that knowing something so very well, means it's right.

Change is not always a bad thing, sometimes change allows you to free yourself from toxic situations or difficult circumstances. At first, change can sometimes look

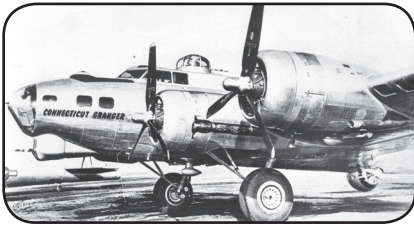
terrifying, but once you dive deep into it, it becomes easier to navigate, to embrace and to accept. Sometimes change is exactly what you need to grow and shine. Sometimes it's the gift you didn't know you needed, even if it feels like the biggest curse.

Even though change may be painful and so hard sometimes, it's still better than the pain of feeling powerless as you watch your hard work and time investment die because you haven't adjusted. Change brings opportunity, renewal and transformation. It is rewarding because sometimes little changes lead to big results. Change can be the most beautiful blessing in disguise.

We are evolving, blossoming, changing every day. It only makes sense our Granges do the same.

the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

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Vice President Terri Fassio
Treasurer Jody Cameron
Secretary Noel Miller

DEADLINE/CORRECTIONS

News is due on the
15th Day of each month
and should be sent to:
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Dawn Anstett
State Youth Director
Riverton Grange #169
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Spring is here, or at least I am hoping it is. I do not think I have looked forward to mud-season in forever! It has been a tough couple of years and as a teacher, in a school system where we can begin taking off our masks and seeing faces again, spring is needed. It is time to prune back everything after a 2 year winter and begin a-new and try to engage our youth and young adults in Grange.

As has been announced, by National Grange Youth Director Mandy Bostwick, that anyone from the Northeast who wishes to enter the Public Speaking or Sign-a-Song contest should sign-up to compete during the Eastern Regional Conference, this year. The Eastern

Regional is set to be held June 17-19, 2022, in Delaware. It will be a hybrid contest, allowing contestants to compete either in-person or virtually. Anyone wishing to compete needs to let me know as soon as possible.

This is not the only event for youth being scheduled now. On Saturday July 16, 2022 the Northeast Youth will have a one day conference, held at the Grange Building at the Big E. Look for us to let you know more about the general offerings next month. In the meantime, I need to know who we have out there who are between the ages of 14 and 35. If we have interest in a drill team, let's see what we can put together and we, a few of us Youth Directors, are looking at setting up other fun events and maybe even a new competitive challenge. So Presidents and Secretaries out there if you have anyone between the age of 14 and 35 please email me at dawnanstett@gmail.com.

Ard Welton

Continued from page 1...

On the eve of the 1934 National Grange Convention held in Hartford, Ard was asked by the *Hartford Courant*, "What is dawn to you without a rooster's crow?" "[Welton] whose kindly smile is known to thousands of Connecticut Patrons and countless visitors, replied, 'It's the day I start answering 50,000 questions.'"

On March 13, 1941, the *Courant* ran a special article about Ard announcing he had attended Connecticut State Grange Annual Sessions for 49 years "without a skip" and would reach the golden 50 year mark that October. "It is doubtful if there is another Grange member or officer in the United States, who can match Mr. Welton's record."

August 1910, the *Courant* reported about his exploits with a special snapping turtle in Terryville. "Another large snapping turtle has been caught in the vicinity of Mt. Tobe. Stephen Bradley, while fishing in his pond with a baited hook, caught a turtle that weighed 53 pounds. The fellow was too much for one man to land alone. Ard Welton assisted Bradley in landing his prize. This is the second large turtle to be caught in the waters of Bradley Pond this season."

Another story of the unusual involving Ard Welton appeared in the March 15, 1936 edition of the *Courant*: "The forest fire warden for the town of Plymouth has been interested in fire prevention and fighting fires for over half a century. He has seen many things happen during this time but had a new and unusual experience Wednesday forenoon. He was gathering eggs for D.W. Pratt, and in his rounds was accompanied by Mr. Pratt's police dog, Trixie, as usual. As he neared the first hen house he threw down a cigar butt into the snow near some litter which, as it was raining, was quite wet, so there was no danger



The former St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Plymouth, CT.

of fire. Trixie saw the butt fall and immediately went to it, then smelled of it and with her nose pushed it down well into the snow. Then she poked the snow and litter over it two or three times with her nose. When finished she looked as if to say, "That's out." Trixie does not smoke, but if those who do would follow her example with butts no doubt there would be less fires. While Mr. Welton vouches for the above, it cannot be substantiated as Trixie refuses to answer questions and modestly refrains from making any comment. Mr. Welton has decided to add Trixie to his fire-fighting force this year."

In October of 1913, Ard and Hattie's daughter, Ada Elizabeth, was married to David W. Pratt of Thomaston. The bride was given away by her father and the reception was held in the new home of the Bride and Groom given to them as a wedding gift from the bride's parents.

At the 1949 Grange Day ceremonies conducted by Bethlehem Grange at the Bethlehem Fair, State Master Sidney Hall and Past State Secretary Ard Welton, and many others, were honored for their 50 years plus of service to the Order. Ard had been a member for 62 years.

Ard passed away in January 1951 at the age of 88. He was

survived by his wife, daughter and sister, 3 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

His funeral was held at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Plymouth. As a mason, Ard supervised the construction of the stone building built in 1915.

The State Secretary Club

Only seven men and women have served as Secretary of the 2nd Connecticut State Grange since 1884. This exclusive club only grows by one more when adding in the Secretary of the first State Grange first elected in 1874.

1st State Grange *In Office* Years
E.G. Seeley . . . 1874-1878 . . 4

2nd State Grange
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Marion Beecher . 1975-2006 . . 31
Edith Schoell . . 2006-2014 . . 8
Todd Gelineau . . 2014-Present . 8

Join us for a School of Instruction



Todd A. Gelineau
State Secretary
Winchester Grange #74
Secretary@ctstategrange.org

It's springtime... finally! I know some of our Secretaries have the urge to do some "Spring Cleaning" but we do have to make sure we are following proper procedure. Maintaining an accurate membership list and getting all of our members to pay their dues is a daunting task. It's no different at the State Grange where we have a number of Granges that fall behind on their quarterly reports.

In the past, the knowledge of procedures and practices for working as a Grange Secretary had been handed down from one secretary to the next. Unfortunately I am finding that inaccurate information has filtered down through the generations creating a lot of confusion and problems to correct today.

In an effort to get all Grange Secretaries on the same page, I am

scheduling a Secretary's School of Instruction to be held on Sunday, June 5 beginning at 7:00 P.M. on Zoom. This meeting will be open to all but I strongly encourage every Grange Secretary (Pomona & Community) to attend this meeting. If the Secretary cannot attend, I would also strongly encourage a representative of that Grange to attend in their place.

We will review the classes of membership, the quarterly report form, tax filing, Grange record keeping procedures, use of the Digest and State By-Laws, and much, much more. We will also answer any and all questions members may have.

If there is one term I wish I could eliminate from the Grange vocabulary it's the word "drop." I have heard this term thrown around by Grangers for as long as I have been a member. When used in a sentence, it usually sounds something like "We dropped (insert name) from our Grange" or "(Insert name) was dropped for non-payment of dues." There is no (legal) procedure for dropping a member from the Grange.

A member can be suspended for non-payment and in extreme cases a member can be removed from membership but that usually is the result of a Grange trial.

The procedure for suspending a member requires proper notice (at least two notices with one being in writing). Once proper notice has been given, the Grange may then vote to suspend. Once the suspension has been approved by the membership, the Secretary must send a Notice of Suspension to the member. The member then has up to one year to apply for reinstatement. If this is done during the one year, the member will retain their continuous membership.

It is commonly misunderstood that a member who is suspended loses membership in the State and National Granges. This is also untrue. They retain their membership in State and National but are unable to participate in the respective degrees.

All of this information is readily available in the State Grange By-Laws and/or the National Grange Digest. All Granges have been sent at least one copy of both volumes. Please keep them available to your Grange whenever a question may arise and I strongly encourage as many members as possible to become familiar with both volumes. Many difficulties can be avoided by consulting the Digest and By-Laws.

Copies of the State By-Laws and the National Digest may be ordered from the State Grange Office. The National Digest is also available for download from their website: www.NationalGrange.org. It does require registration with a username and password, but well worth the effort.

Until next time... don't forget to mark your calendars for June 5 on Zoom. The Zoom information will be provided to all Secretaries and is also printed in this issue. An electronic copy with the hyperlinks may be obtained by emailing me at: Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

GRANGE SECRETARY

School of Instruction

Sunday, June 5 • 7:00 P.M.

You do not have to be a Secretary to attend but **all Community and Pomona Grange Secretaries are strongly encouraged join us**. We will review policies and procedures and answer any and all questions. You do not need to have a computer. You may call the phone number provided to attend. To receive an electronic Zoom invitation, please email:

Secretary@CTStateGrange.org

Meeting ID: 845 0522 4046

Passcode: 163109

To Phone In: 1-646-558-8656

Enter in the Meeting ID & Password when prompted





Tell your Grange story through content marketing

By Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director

Most Granges have numerous stories to tell - such as community service projects, Grange events, meetings and activities, long-time members, and a vast array of interests. But if no one knows of your Grange stories, your Grange is missing an opportunity to get in the public eye and catch their interest. One way to convey your Grange story is through content marketing.

An article published by Nancy E. Schwartz* compares content marketing to a campfire.

"To build a successful campfire, you need to begin with ignitable tinder and gradually add more and more wood until you have a roaring fire. It's the same with content. But before you even start that campfire, you know what your goal is - to build a fire. You'll need to set clear goals for your content marketing program, so you know where you're trying to go with it - and the target audiences you must engage to meet that goal. Most importantly, with so many channels, formats and types of content options it is essential to establish a solid foundation for your content strategy rather than randomly gathering content and hoping it all ignites in the end."

There are a number of sources that you can utilize through content marketing to reach your target audience of Grange members, potential members, Grange supporters and the general public-at-large. Here's a few ideas:

- Report regularly in the Connecticut Granger newspaper (over 1000 newspapers mailed monthly to both Grange members and Grange supporters. Send your submissions to granger@

ctstategrange.org.)

- Send news items, calendar dates and photos to the Connecticut State Grange website (over 20,000 website hits per day. Send your submissions to information@ctstategrange.org or publicrelations@ctstategrange.org.)

- Write articles and press releases for local newspapers (for example: the Hartford Courant has a circulation of 187,000 daily; Waterbury Republican-American has a circulation of 44,000 daily; New London Day has a circulation of 25,000 daily; and the Connecticut Post has a circulation of 76,000 daily.)

- Develop a Facebook Page and/or a Twitter Page for your Grange (Facebook has more than 800 million active users, adding more than 200 million of those in the last year alone while Twitter has over 100 million active users.)

- Hang posters in your local library, church, grocery store, laundry mat and pizza place to promote your upcoming Grange meetings and events.

It is important to produce content that is both engaging and exciting. Content that catches the attention

of the reader. Speak from the heart, and always see the human aspect of your content. Think about what you as a reader or viewer likes to see. It could be something as simple as a new recipe, craft or gardening tip to share, or as important as donating dictionaries to the local elementary school and honoring a 50-plus year member.

The most difficult part of Content Marketing with your Grange is finding the time to create a variety of content to keep your marketing active, fresh and current. Having a Facebook Page for your Grange is one thing - but make sure it updated regularly or it will be forgotten about and overlooked by your followers. Members should work together as a Grange marketing team. Share the responsibilities within your Grange, that way more members are involved and the work load is lighter per person.

Don't let marketing your Grange slip through the cracks. Set clear goals and establish the foundations to tell your Grange stories. Ignite the fire of your Grange through content marketing.

If your Grange needs assistance with content marketing, please contact the Public Relations Committee. We're here to help! E-mail: Bob - publicrelations@ctstategrange.org, Terri - information@ctstategrange.org, Frank - pr_forrest@ctstategrange.org, Roy - aststeward@ctstategrange.org. We're here to help!

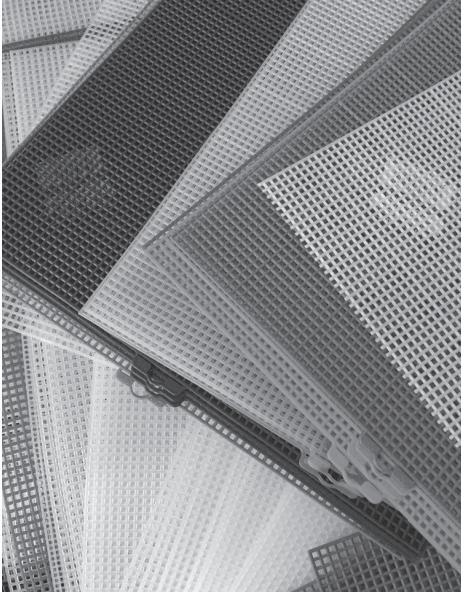
* Source: Nancy E. Schwartz, GettingAttention.org

Applications Now Open

National Grange Communication Fellows

at the 2022 National Grange Convention in Sparks, Nevada
Application available at <http://bit.ly/commfellows22>

Free Plastic Canvas Supplies Available



Do you like to make Plastic Canvas craft projects? Looking for supplies?

CT State Grange Agriculture Committee member Irene Percoski has many supplies available for free to craft enthusiasts or Granges hosting craft nights or Junior Grange craft parties. These supplies are perfect when making crafts for the Big E in September.

Here is what Irene has available :

1. 27 sheets of 10X13 -clear 7 count plastic.
2. 30 sheets of 10X13 colored plastic canvas - (all colors)
3. 3 cut out clutches with pattern

4. 5 - 9 inch circles plastic canvas

5. 2 large pkgs of 30X30 count squares plastic canvas

6. small pkg. cut out Santa faces

7. pkgs of rectangles, small circles, butterflies, diamond shapes and other misc. shapes.

8. 1 box of small notepads and small pencils.

9. At least a dozen pattern books.

If you or your Grange is interested in any of the above, please contact Irene via email at tuba83mom@gmail.com or call (860) 749-0463 to arrange pick-up, or delivery half way.

Try a craft night at your Grange



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

With Summer right around the corner our gardens will be planted soon. It's time to get busy! Does your Grange meet only once a month? Maybe you could consider a second meeting just for fun. You can pick a craft that involves a skill set of your Grange members, just ask! It's amazing what you can do with crafts that don't cost too much. It can be making an ornament, Decoupage a plant holder or a perhaps do a sewing circle. Make a felt garland or even a create seed paper. If you wonder what seed paper is, you cut shapes out and place the seeds onto it. Then you can use them as gift tags and people can then plant them. Anything you can think of. You can email me and I can let you know how some of these things are done. Or just google crafts and it's amazing what you can find.

Then why not donate them to the New England Grange Building. Have you ever wondered what your donations are used for? This year they are in process of getting a new



roof for the building which is quite expensive. I'm sure that you will agree it's a worthy cause!

I was asked to do the crafts this year at the NEGB. I am honored and accepted the position. Stay tuned for more information as I will be announcing a date in July to go up to the Grange building for the afternoon. We will be bringing out all the items not sold last year and go thru them to be sure they are in good shape, remark as needed. We will do some light housekeeping on the stage to keep everything sorted and clean. Please consider volunteering and join in the fun while you see people whom you may not have seen in a while. Once that is done, we will assess when we should do a second round closer to the opening of the Expo. I hope to see some of you volunteer!



Ag News

Irene Percoski, Ag. Committee

Now is the time to plant that garden, Seed catalogs have been out for Months and by now you've prepared the soil, spread your compost and have all your little starter plants. It doesn't matter if you have a garden as big as a baseball field or a small spot in a corner. Plant something. If you live in an apartment or condo, put something in a pot. Try raising some potatoes, or radishes, anything that you can think of. There is much satisfaction in watching something edible grow that you can pick when ripe and enjoy eating. The National Theme is "Raised Right Here", what better way to follow that theme than to plant a garden.



EASTERN CONN. POMONA #14

Corr: Roy Harrington

On Saturday April 2 Eastern Connecticut Pomona sponsored a Degree Day at Hemlock Grange in Portland. The 1st - 4th Degrees were conferred on 5 people, one via Zoom. More were expected but they were no shows. 27 people were present for the meal of sandwiches served with the help of Hemlock members.

We would like to Thank all who stepped up to help in putting on the Degrees. As we all know music makes the Degrees more enjoyable and with fewer musicians. I thank Susan Pianka for providing the music. It was so nice to see so many friends at one time helping others out. We can see we need more Neighbor's Nights at our Grange Meetings.

GLASTONBURY GRANGE #26

Corr: Kathryn Ruff

May 1: Bakeless/Foodless Sale, Month of May

May 5: "May Day" - Memorial Service, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Desserts by All.

June 2: "Strawberry Time", Election of Officers, 7:30 P.M., Ref. Kay Ruff

April found Glastonbury Grange back meeting at the hall. It was good to see everyone. I sure hope this new virus is not going to set us back. For Grange Month we have dona little. The display that we have in the Historical Society building since Feb. 1 will be coming down on April. 29th. The "banner" that we received from the State Grange

has been hung up on the side of the Masonic Hall. It is very visible from the street on the north side of the building. The Glastonbury Citizen gave us good headlines in the April 7th edition. I wrote a "proclamation" and sent it in to the Town Council to see if they would give their blessing so that it can go into the Citizen next week. (Time will tell)

Sending Happy Easter wishes to all.

SENEKET GRANGE #40

Corr: Diane Miller

May 25: Memorial Day Parade Preparation

We have been holding regular meetings as well as special work sessions. We held a very successful art show for the community on Sat. March 26. Items were collected for the food bank at TEEG the location for food and other essential needs of the community. We also provided a soup and sandwich lunch with the proceeds also going to TEEG. We are planning to make some craft items to sell at the Big E Grange building. We plan to do some cleanup at the Elementary school garden as well as the walking trail in town. We held an open house on Sat. April 9 from 1-3 PM to show the community what is the Grange. We are encouraging the community to attend various events and have published these events. These

include the Woodstock Recreation events, the local cribbage group and senior events. These posters will be put on bulletin boards. We continue to hold bimonthly youth evenings. These are very popular and include cooking, crafts and discussion. The hall is used for the home school group on a weekly basis as well as a yoga group.

We have two scholarships available to Woodstock students entering college. The applications have been distributed to the schools with students from our town.

We are looking for community service projects for students from the local high school. At the last meeting we painted pictures to send to seniors. We are grateful to have the community use our hall for their events. A Cosmic Cat Physic Fair will be held here on Mother's Day. We welcome all visitors whether they are members or not to attend meeting and events.

VERNON GRANGE #52

Corr: Irene Percoski

May 6: In Memoriam

June 3: Election of Officers

A combination in-person and zoom meeting was held in April and our Lecturer brought a great program for all to participate in. The focus was on street signs and interstate routes, especially the Famous Route #66. A

Continued next page...



Three of the five candidates at the Eastern CT Degree Day on Apr. 2.

discussion was held on whether to have a second monthly meeting . Everyone had an opinion. Nothing decided yet. Plans are in the works to enter a booth at the Four-Town Fair in September and craft nights (or afternoons) will start work on our Community service projects. The Heirloom project was started by Irene and was passed to Nancy for the next month's discussion. We all need to be reminded of the degree words and what they mean to us. Future meetings will be held at the Hall and depending on weather conditions Zoom may be added.

N. STONINGTON COMMUNITY GRANGE #138

Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller

May 13: Read! Support Your Local Library

May 27: Memorial Program

We are sad to report we have lost yet another member of our Grange family. Kevin McBride has passed to the Great Grange Above.

On March 11 we had a lively Jeopardy game on Ritual that was won by Mile Riley due to a judicious wager in Final Jeopardy. On the 27th Sue's State Contest program was put off to a later meeting due to many absences that evening.

In May we will again host the beginning of the Memorial Day Parade, sadly absent from our town for the last two years due to COVID. The North Stonington Education Foundation will hold another "drive-in movie" on the grounds on May 21 and their 5K Race returns on May 28. The Foundation raises money to help support program in the local schools. We are happy to donate our grounds for their good works.

Our Lecturer/Pianist and our Secretary traveled to Hemlock Grange on April 2 to help out with the Degree Day, and enjoyed the delicious lunch provided by Eastern Connecticut Pomona. And if those nasty raccoons that departed with our very expensive suet feeder would just kindly return it, next time we'll tell you all about awesome April.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 13: Election of Officers

May 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

June 10: Memorial

June 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is omitted

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Remember... the Granger is FREE

By Todd A. Gelineau, Editor

By this printing, all of our Granges should have received copies of their current Connecticut Granger mailing lists. A special thank you goes out to the Secretaries who have so diligently updated their lists and immediately sent them back in. I am noticing a lot of new names coming back from the Granges. Please feel free to send in the names and addresses of new members or members that may not already be receiving the Granger whenever you have them. You do not have to wait until the next mailing list is sent to your Grange.

Please review the lists carefully for any corrections, deletions or missing members. Keep in mind, some of the address information we have may be more up to date than what you might have as we receive forwarding notices from the Post Office.

The Connecticut Granger continues to be a FREE subscription to all Connecticut Grange households. It can be a very effective tool in maintaining a connection with your members, especially when you report your Grange news and events on a regular basis to the Granger.

Articles are due by the 15th day of each month. They may be emailed to: Granger@CTStateGrange.org or mailed to: Connecticut Granger, 100 Newfield Road, PO Box 3, Winchester Center, CT 06094.

National Grange
Champions
of Rural America





Joe Manchin
U.S. Senator, West Virginia



Dan Newhouse
U.S. Representative, Washington



Sara Wyant
Founder, Agri-Pulse Communications



Nona Bear
Patient Rights Advocate

To honor your dedication to rural citizens, agriculture and bipartisanship to benefit the American people.

The information contained in each issue of The Connecticut Granger is for informational purposes only. The Connecticut Granger assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The information contained about each individual, event or organization has been provided by such individual, event organizers or organization without verification by us. The opinion expressed in each article is the opinion of its author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Connecticut Granger. Therefore, The Connecticut Granger carries no responsibility for the opinion expressed herein.



MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 14: Fifth Degree, Winchester Grange, 2:00 P.M.

June 19: Meeting at BETHLEHEM GRANGE, “Colorful Days”, 4 P.M.

A sure sign that things are returning to the “new normal” is the conferral of the Fifth Degree to be held at Winchester Grange on Saturday, May 14 beginning at 2:00 P.M. We encourage all Granges to talk up Pomona membership with their members and see if we can round up a large class of candidates. At this point it will be the only opportunity to receive this degree (on the western side of the State) before State Session as this degree is needed to advance to the Sixth Degree. Please email Secretary@CTStateGrange.org for more information.

Due to a conflict at Taghhannuck Grange, the June 19 meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona has been moved to Bethlehem Grange. The August 27 meeting will be held at Taghhannuck Grange in return. Please mark your calendars.

WINCHESTER GRANGE #74

Corr: Todd Gelineau

May 10: Neighbor’s Night, Ref. Potluck

May 24: Memorial Day Program by the Chaplain, Ref. by Todd Gelineau

May 28: 250th Anniversary Dance at Winchester Grange, 7 P.M.

June 14: June is Bustin’ Out All Over, Ref. Pam Wright

June 19: Annual Strawberry

Festival, 2-5 P.M., Grange Hall
June 26: Election of Officers, Country Store, Ref. Ramona Fassio
 Winchester Grange is proud to be a part of the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Winchester by hosting a dance at the hall on May 21 beginning at 7:00 P.M. The dance will be called by Rich Sbardella and should be a fun family-oriented event for all. This event was originally scheduled to open the anniversary celebration but COVID caused its postponement and re-scheduling as one of the final events of the celebration year.

Our building committee has been meeting on a regular basis working on a long-term plan for the preservation and maintenance of the hall. The town Fire Marshal was asked to tour the hall and make recommendations. Among them were new smoke alarms, exit signs and emergency lights. As of this writing work is being completed on those projects. In the not-so-distant future we will be looking at roof and window replacement among other items. Fundraising and financial planning will be required to take on these big ticket items but Winchester Grange members always rise to the cause.

Until next time, you are always welcome to attend Winchester Grange meetings either in-person or on Zoom. Log-in information may be obtained by emailing info@winchestergrange.org. Guests are also always welcome!

TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE #100

Corr: Barbara Prindle

May 12: The Program “Painting”

is by Diane Palme. Refreshments by Brent Prindle. We meet at 7:30pm with refreshments before the meeting at 7:00pm.

June 9: Election of Officers

May 9: Yes I mean Saturday May 9. We will have a booth at the Sharon Daycare Road Race. We will be at Veterans Field (the ball field) 29 Sharon Station Road, Sharon CT 06069 from 8:30am to 1:00 pm. Please come down it is much more than a road race with fun for all.

We were so glad to be back in our Grange Hall for our April meeting. It was a great to see all the beams and other construction materials piled up for the roof repair. We all met at 6:30 for our spring cleaning of our Hall. Everyone cheerfully helped and the next day our contractor was impressed by how good it looked and smelled.

Our Foodless food sale is still going on but so far it raised \$547.00 this month. If any Grange would like the poem, written by Jean Lundeen many years ago, to use for their fund raising I would be happy to send it to them. Email us at Taghhannuckgrange@gmail.com.

BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121

Corr: Al Maddox

May 15: Meeting, 2 P.M.

The Baking Contest and Memorial Service will be held at our next meeting on May 15. We draped our charter for John Ray Osuch and Linda Coad. We voted to give Woodbury FFA potatoes and bean seeds to grow for the food banks in Woodbury and Bethlehem.



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**

From Pathways to Corridors:



How to heal the earth
starting with your own yard

May 14, 2022

12:00pm - 2:00pm



Come learn about the plight of bees and other pollinators from landscape, flower, and bee experts. Learn how creating a simple welcoming space to these necessary creatures in your yard can help sustain them.

Guests include Mary Hogue, Pollinator Pathway leader and Installer Charlie Stebbins

Reservations required:
For Reservations call
Jim 203.259.8023
Steve 203.367.4373

\$20.00 per person

Menu
Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Tuna Salad
Croissants
Caesar Salad
Coffee, Tea, Juice
Cakes and Cookies

Greenfield Hill Grange
1873 Hillside Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

www.facebook.com/Greenfield.Hill.Grange
[@GHGrangePfd](https://twitter.com/GHGrangePfd)

If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.

... Albert Einstein

Part of the Town of Winchester
250th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WINCHESTER GRANGE DANCE



MAY 21, 2022
7:00 PM



Winchester Grange Hall 100 Newfield Road, Winchester Center, CT 06094

Join us for an enjoyable evening of dancing and fun with caller Rich Sbardella at the historic Grange building.



www.WinchesterGrange.org • www.Facebook.com/WinchesterGrange

SIMSBURY GRANGE

CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL FAIR



Saturday, June 11
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- **Contest Entries - Win Prizes and Cash**
- **Displays by Local Farmers, Non-Profits**
- **Live Entertainment by Out the Boxx**

LOCATION:
Simsbury Grange Hall
236 Farms Village Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092



ENTRIES AND FAIR:
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.SimsburyGrange.org



TAGHANNUCK GRANGE ANNUAL PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, June 4th
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT
Off Route 4 between Sharon & Cornwall Bridge.
Look for signs

Flowers & vegetables including heirloom varieties at only \$2.00.

Email any questions to
TaghannuckGrange@gmail.com



NUTMEG POMONA #16

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Nutmeg Pomona met on March 27th at Cheshire Grange. The Fifth Degree was conferred for inspection. Peter Keefe was our Inspecting Deputy. Attendance was 18- not back but we would like more. We had 6 of our Granges present.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 5th at Beacon Valley Grange. main item on the agenda is Election of Officers. Beacon Valley will supply the refreshments and we will have a Country Store.

We thank Mary Lou Keefe for being pianist. Degrees aren't the same if you don't have music.

CHESHIRE GRANGE #23

Corr: A. Ruel Miller

May 4: Open Meeting Special. Musical Entertainment - A Dean Martin Impersonator. A 2 Hour Show

May 18: Family Activities Program and Tea Cup Auction

On April 6th we held our awards night with an open meeting. Our 2022 Cheshire Grange Community Citizen award was presented to Hayley Falk the 18 year old founder of "Because of the Brave", an organization she founded to work with all our veterans. Her organization is well known and recognized throughout the State. Her father, Sgt Jeffrey Falk, a member of the Cheshire Police Department, was the guest speaker. A reception for Hayley followed the program. We had a good attendance

from our members an also from the public.

Plans continue for our August fair. We are planning to return to our two day format to include our Sunday roast beef dinner

BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103

Corr: Joanne Cipriano

Once again, a link on our membership chain has been severed and I report the passing of William Brush, Jr. Bill was a 73 year member of our Grange and the son of Anna and William Brush, Past Deputies of Excelsior Pomona No. 7.

Among his survivors are: his sister Barbara Kirk, Sister-in-law Connie Brush, nephews Robert

Brush and wife Sue and Mike Kirk and nieces Shirley Kolosky and Kimberly Tompkin- all members of Beacon Valley Grange.

On a happier note, we are pleased that after two years of no anniversary celebration that on June 10th we will be celebrating our 133rd anniversary. We have many members receiving certificates. 80 years Florine Wheeler, 70 years Joanne Cipriano, Patricia Bisson and Paul Miller, 65 years Barbara Kirk, Connie Brush, Jean Meehan and William Maxwell, 55 years Patricia Jacox and Frank Behlman III, 50 years Diane Godin and Laurie Berki, 45 years Robert Brush, Mike Kirk and Terri Kosko and 40 years Shirley Kolosky, Kimberly Brush and Ronald Gunther. This will be an open meeting. We will also be honoring our Citizen of the Year.

We continue to have our tag sale on the third Saturday of the month with May's schedule for May 21. We will also have an Open Mic the same date from 2 to 5. Please note the new time.

Our next meeting will be May 13 and will be Election of Officers.

GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133

Corr: Jim and Lori Golias

A Flea Market will be held in the Grange hall and the grounds on May 7, 2022. Come find a treasure.

We will be holding a Luncheon on May 14. Guest speakers will talk about the Pollinator Pathway, the importance of bees and how to attract pollinators to your own backyard. Reservation a must. \$20. Call Jim 203.259.8023.

SAVE THE DATE Our Agricultural Fair will be held on August 27. Please mark it in your calendars!

Happy 200th Birthday, April 26, to Frederick Law Olmsted! Considered the "Father" of architectural landscape, he also understood the importance of preservation and the physical and mental benefits of being in nature. A native of Connecticut,

Continued next page...

Community Citizen



Cheshire Grange presented its 2022 Community Citizen Award to Hayley Falk on April 6th. Hayley was recognized for her work with our veterans. She is the Chief Executive officer of "Because of the Brave" which she founded. In conjunction with the Grange's award, Hayley was also presented with a recognition award from the State Legislature by State representative Liz Linnehan to include a flag that had been flown over the State Capitol. Hayley is a freshman at Southern Connecticut College perusing a degree in nursing. A reception for her followed the program.

he grew up in Hartford (buried there, too) and his early experiences exploring here inspired his work. Best known for his work in Central Park in New York City, some of his most notable designs here in CT are Beardsley Park in Bridgeport, Seaside Park in Bridgeport's South End, and Walnut Hill Park in New Britain. He also worked on the grounds of the State Capitol and helped create a park system in Hartford. Check out <https://olmsted200.org> to see what else he

designed or inspired.

Continued Prayers for Peace in Ukraine. Praying for all who have family in harm's way, that they may be safe.

HEMLOCK GRANGE #182

Corr: Maureen Sanborn

May 13: Election of Officers

May 27: Omitted, unless regular meeting is cancelled

June 10: Memorial

June 24: Omitted, unless regular meeting is omitted

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

OXFORD GRANGE #194

Corr: Robert Buck

Oxford Grange mourns the passing of John Haines after an extended illness. He was a Past Master of Seymour Grange and a Golden Sheaf member. He also served as Steward of Oxford for years. He is survived by his wife Jane. Our condolences go out to the Haines family.

Clam Chowder Supper

Hillstown Pancakes



Ekonk Comm. Grange moved closer to "normal" by holding a successful Clam Chowder Supper in April.

Hillstown Grange held one of their famous pancake breakfasts in April with a great turnout.

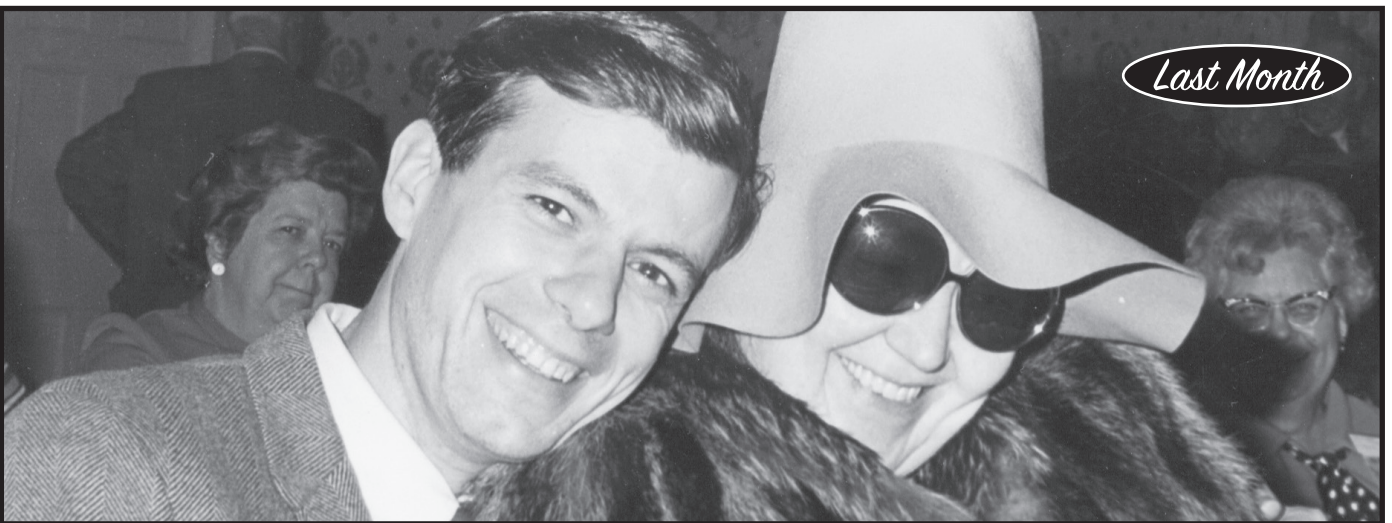
Senexet landscapes Woodstock Elementary



M. Provost Trucking & Landscape donated the mulch and Senexet Grange donated the labor to successfully weed and mulch the grounds of Woodstock Elementary School in April. This is the first of many projects planned for 2022. Thanks to all who made this project possible.

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.





Time Marches On

By Thomas Sulier, Harmony Grange

You can take the boy out of the farm, but you can't take the farm out of the boy. I grew up on a farm in Michigan and left home when I was 18 years old. I often reflect back on all the projects that we did with my entire family such as all the spring planting activities and preparations, the sweaty summer work, and my favorite of all- the fall harvest when we would physically measure and count eh family's agricultural accomplishments for the year. I would recollect, even years after, the long hard days and the uncertainty that bad weather visited upon our family. I recall especially my responsibilities of picking apples and pears, preparing and making sauerkraut, as well as putting hay in the barn, and working on the combine.

We had livestock, chickens and a horse. Years later when the farm was sold, I asked my sister what was left behind, and she said only the mailbox had been left standing. I've learned that you don't miss something until it's gone. My nostalgia for the farm was recently satisfied.

A friend of mine who owns Belle View Farm in Connecticut had me over and I found an opportunity to throw myself into farm chores once again. I helped change the oil in his two John Deere tractors. Jack, the owner of the farm, always the kind gentleman that he is, never lets me leave his farm without several jars of his award-winning homemade jams.

It all gets back to reminding me of our Grange third degree when we are instructed, "to study and share our knowledge with others" and to "be faithful, be hopeful and to be charitable" and all labor is good when we honor it, dignify it and see through it the advancement and happiness of others." God bless all of my Grange family!

Curry Chicken Salad

Summer and outdoor eating will be here before we know it. Here's an easy recipe for Curry Chicken Salad from Country Living that will be the star of any Grange picnic, barbecue or potluck.

YIELD: 4 servings

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 c. low-fat sour cream
 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
 1 tsp. lemon zest, plus 2 Tbsp. juice
 1 tbsp. curry powder
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 2 scallions, thinly sliced
 1/4 c. fresh cilantro, chopped
 1/2 c. golden raisins
 1 1/2 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast; poached

INSTRUCTIONS:

For poached chicken:

Fill a medium saucepan halfway with water; bring to boil. Add 1 tsp. kosher salt and chicken breasts. Reduce heat and simmer until cooked through, 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer to a plate; cool completely. Shred or chop into pieces.

For salad:

Whisk together sour cream, mayonnaise, lemon zest and juice, and curry powder in a bowl. Season with salt and pepper. Add scallions, cilantro, raisins, and chicken; toss to combine. Refrigerate. Best served cold.

SOURCE: <https://www.countryliving.com/food-drinks/a30613712/curry-chicken-salad-recipe/>



By Hank the Burro

Hello Grange Friends!


Warmer weather is finally here, and Granges are finally opening their doors to the public with a variety of fun events and activities, from dinners to paint nights, to musical programs and more. Are

you having a special event? Get in touch with George and we might be visiting your Grange soon!

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>

CONNECTICUT STATE GRANGE

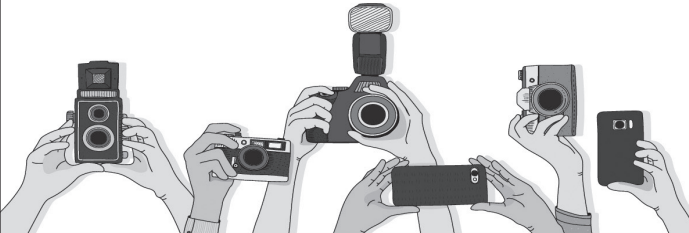
VIRTUAL SOCIAL HOUR



Take a Picture: Photography Tips & Tricks for Granges

Thursday, May 26th 7:00 PM

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

NORFIELD GRANGE 7TH ANNUAL

Spring Barn Dance May 7th

Dinner at 6 Dancing at 7

Award winning Grange Chili will be served
Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share

Legendary Dance Caller Billy Fischer
Live music provided by Bill Walach & Gary Wikfors



Tickets are \$10 Presale For More Information

\$15 at the Door
All Ages are Welcome!
Pay in advance by Venmo @LynKimberly

NorfieldGrange@gmail.com or 203-226-8233
Location: 12 Good Hill Rd, Weston, CT 06883

COMEDY NIGHT IN WILTON!

BENEFITTING WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN FOR WORK IN UKRAINE

HURRY!! **LAST 2 SHOWS SOLD OUT**

Laurie Newkirk
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE
CAROLINE'S ON B'WAY

Blaine Langberg
STAND UP NY
BROADWAY COMEDY CLUB NYC
THE STRESS FACTORY
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE

Mat Orefice
SEMI-FINALIST 2019 FUNNIEST COMIC IN CT CONTEST

Bill Greene
CAROLINE'S ON B'WAY
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE
CANNON GRANGE

Shahan Islam
HOST
SPA, BELGIUM
CANNON GRANGE
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE
ALEXANDERPLATZ, BERLIN

Denise Digrigoli
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE
NY UNDERGROUND COMEDY (FESTIVAL)
SECOND CITY (CHICAGO)

Michelle Lee
WRITER, ARTIST
RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE
NORWALK ART SPACE

BEST COMICS NORTH OF THE BIG APPLE
Saturday, May 14 @ 7pm

OPENING MUSIC PROVIDED BY: **SCHOOL OF ROCK**

Doors Open @ 7; Finish Eating by 7:45 pm; Comedy promptly @ 8

Tickets available at:
categoryten.ticketleap.com/comedy-night-in-wilton---saturday-may-14/
or at: categoryten.com

PRICE OF ADMISSION INCLUDES FOOD FROM SPONSORS
Cannon Grange, 25 Cannon Road, Wilton.

You're invited to the Norfield Grange

POP-UP SALE

Artisans, Estate, Tag & Everything in Between!

SATURDAY, MAY 21
RAINDATE: MAY 22
10 AM TO 4PM
12 GOOD HILL ROAD
WESTON, CT

TO RESERVE A SLOT PAY IN ADVANCE
VENMO @LYNKIMBERLY

LAWN/PARKING \$25
INSIDE W/1 X 8 FT. TABLE \$50
PREMIUM FRONT PORCH \$100

FMI:
NORFIELDGRANGE@GMAIL.COM
203-226-8233





Charles W. Dimmick
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

Sharing God's Light

The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1

*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

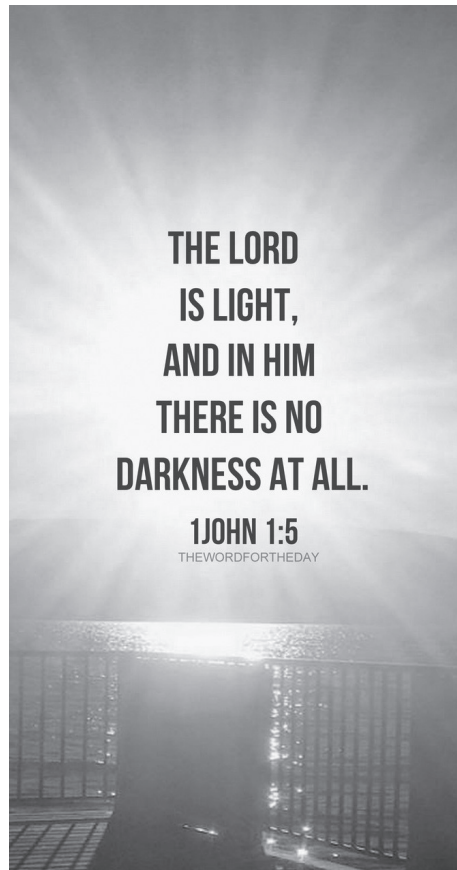
Psalm 119:105

*This is the message we have
heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no dark-
ness at all.*

1 John 1:5

There are many references in the Bible referring to God as light or as the source of light, or of walking in God's light. Although we may at first think of God's light in the sense of his providing the sunlight which is so necessary for providing heat and warmth and helping plants to grow, this is not the main meaning of God's light. Rather the biblical writers had in mind that spiritual light which is equally necessary for our survival.

I very much approve of a Quaker custom of saying to a person "I am holding you in the Light", which means the speaker is praying for someone, and wants for the person, peace and healing and well-being and whatever God wants for them. They want God's light to shine on



the person, surrounding them with God's love and kindness. To say to someone "I am holding you in the light" is saying "I am lifting you up to God, so that His light may surround you, and bring you health and peace."

Reading and reflecting on what I just wrote I am suddenly reminded of that passage in the Letter of James where he says: "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?" Similarly, if I were

to say to a person "I am holding you in the Light", but then do nothing as a follow-up to help that person out of their adversity, what good have I done?

Phillip Gulley, a Quaker writer, says: To hold someone in the Light is not a casual greeting that we toss off without thought. It is a promise to work for the betterment and well-being of another. We shouldn't say it unless we are prepared to do it. If we say to them 'I will hold you in the Light' we need to be prepared to lift them up to the window and give them soup and a coat."

In Memoriam

Richard Bottass
Marie Steiner

Winchester Grange #74

William Brush, Jr.
Beacon Valley #103

Linda Coad
Bethlehem Grange #121

Kevin McBride
N. Stonington Comm. #138

Robert A. Baines, Sr.
Hemlock Grange #182

John Haines, Jr., G.S.
Oxford Grange #194

"Well done, good and faithful servants."