



# the CONNECTICUT GRANGER

Published Monthly

Vol. 64, No. 8

The Official News Magazine of the Connecticut State Grange

May 2024

## From the Master's Desk



**Robert Buck**  
State President  
Bethlehem Grange No.121  
president@ctstategrange.org

The snippet of ritual featured in the Heirloom Program for May is from the charge of the Overseer/Vice President. It will be familiar to many of you: "For in our fraternity there is work for all, and the idler has no place among Patrons of Husbandry." Hard work indeed does bring rewards, and I hope this will bring back memories of the time when we used to confer the four subordinate degrees regularly. Because many Grangers have not seen the degrees exemplified, my goal is for us to have a statewide Degree Day. We are aiming for dates during the summer. We will aim for a centrally located Grange in which to do this. The four degrees will be exemplified by teams and the four teams will come from the state officers and the three Pomona Granges.

I would like to encourage the Connecticut State Grange officers to make visitations to community Granges. It seems visitation has gone out of style. As a Pomona or State Grange officer, we are the ambassadors of the Grange and should be making an effort to get out once in a while and visit. Keep track of your visitations and let's see who can get around the most. There might be a prize incentive in

the offing, according to my little elf. The Legislative Handbook is close to completion. Our Legislative Director Noel had a computer disaster and lost his draft making recreation of the project necessary. This document sums up what we stand for legislatively and can be passed on to legislators and others with whom we wish to share our agenda.

There will be Schools of Instruction for Secretaries and Treasurers (but good for everyone, even Master/Presidents to attend) put on by CSG Secretary Todd Gelineau. I was recently talking to an upper officer in one of our Granges who was not aware of the proper money handling procedures to be followed by Granges giving that area of business the

proper level of checks and balances. These procedures must be followed to protect your Granges and their members, especially officers, from allegations of financial misconduct. Those Orders on the Treasurer and Treasurer's Receipts are there for a reason. Our Granges carry bonding insurance against financial malfeasance but a claim could never be made in the absence of proper procedures being followed.

Leadership Academy 2.0 has hit some delays due to the injury suffered by our State Grange Treasurer in a bad fall. Thankfully, he is on the mend and getting around better now. Stay posted for the resumption of this series with a repeat of 1.0 and the new 2.0 version.

The Northeast Connection and Trustees of the New England

...Continued on page 2

## Secretary School in June

*Todd Gelineau, State Secretary*

A Secretary School of Instruction has been scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2024 beginning at 7:00 P.M. While I had planned on finishing a Secretary Manual before organizing a School, I have decided personal instruction would be much more beneficial in the short-term.

I have received so many questions recently regarding record and minutes keeping, tax filings, non-profit status, dues payments, etc. from new and not-so-new secretaries across the state. If these questions are coming from a couple secretaries, surely more are uncertain about the same topics.

For this school, I plan on keeping the agenda very loose, allowing questions and information on the topics raised by attendees. If you are unable to attend but have questions, please email them to me (secretary@ctstategrange.org) and I will bring up your question during the School, which will be recorded and posted to our YouTube channel.

Soon you will be receiving a Dues Receipts order form. Please return the completed form to me whether you want the Dues Receipts Cards or not. Along with this form will be the State Directory Officer listing for your Grange. This is always a

...Continued on page 2



**Connecticut State Grange**  
A part of the National Grange



**NEXT ISSUE:**  
Articles Due May 15

# From the Master's Desk

Continued from page one...

Grange Building met today in the Massachusetts Building at the Big E. In the Northeast Connection meeting, we talked about the upcoming Lecturers Conference June 21-23 in Norwich; the 2024 Youth Conference July 19-21 in Castleton, NY; and the Grange Service and Family Fun Day July 27 at the Vermont Grange Center in Brookfield, VT. These are all great Grange family events and I

hope many will attend one or more of these.

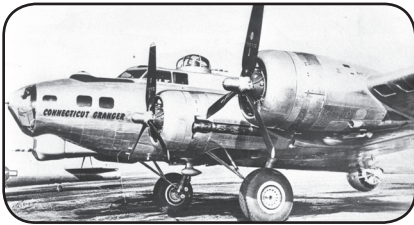
On the subject of the New England Grange Building, our next meeting is June 30 and will be clean up and pricing day. Hopefully all crafters are busy making items for sale in the Grange Building. We all appreciate the hard work put into these items because it is your hard work and dedication that allows us to keep the building going. On that note, we mourn the passing of 63 year member Lois Evankow who was very dedicated to producing a prodigious amount of saleable craft

items which sold like hotcakes. This year, Vermont will supply the raffle quilt. We are exploring sales of raffle tickets outside of the Big E.

On a humorous note, Maggie and I made it into a picture at the Leaders Conference in Myrtle Beach which was published in Idaho Insights, the Idaho State Grange newsletter. I was pleased and amused to see ourselves in that photo. I always enjoy the company of Eileen and Richard Javaux, President and First Gentleman of Idaho State Grange. Remember, we are Grange Strong: Rooted, Resilient, and United. Raise the bar because we want to be stronger tomorrow than today!

## the Connecticut Granger

Published Monthly



WW II Flying Fortress "Connecticut Granger"

### STAFF

President/Editor . . . . Todd A. Gelineau  
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:  
Connecticut State Grange  
100 Newfield Road  
P.O. Box 3

Winchester Center, CT 06094  
or Todd Gelineau, Editor  
P.O. Box 1134, Sharon, CT 06069  
Granger@CTStateGrange.org

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## Secretary

Continued from page one...

painful process for me as the form will go out in the spring and many of the forms do not come in until late fall. Please return them to me (completed) right after your election of officers (or sooner if you do not elect this year).

Many Granges have not submitted their Executive Committee reports to me at the State Grange Office.

Please send an additional copy to the State Grange office if you sent a copy to the General Deputy or the State Master. We are often asked by Granges to provide copies later on down the road and cannot provide them when they are not filed in the State Grange Office.

Please send to:

Connecticut State Grange  
c/o Todd A. Gelineau, Sec.  
100 Newfield Road, PO Box 3  
Winchester Center, CT 06094

## GRANGE SECRETARY

# School of Instruction

Sunday, June 2 • 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. This school will be dedicated to YOUR questions and concerns Bring your list. 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



Or go to: [www.Zoom.us](http://www.Zoom.us) and click on "Join Meeting"

**Meeting ID:** 814 7999 9607

**Passcode:** 359033

**To Phone In:** 1-646-876-9923

Enter in the Meeting ID & Password when prompted

# Last call for history book submissions

By Terri Fassio

Public Relations Co-Director

The absolute drop-dead, deadline for submissions to be received for the CT State Grange History Book is July 1, 2024.

If you are a current CT State Grange officer or committee member, and have not done so already, we ask that you please write and submit a biography of yourself for the book (and you are welcome to submit a photo or two as well).

If you have agreed to write a bio of a member or a Grange, and have not yet done so, please do so ASAP to avoid not having it published. We will be contacting each person directly who have important bios still outstanding (such as Past Masters). We would hate to have a book without these Grange members included.

## ***The Schedule:***

- The CT State Grange History Book is now well into the design and layout phase. This phase should be completed by October, 2024.

- Proofreading will begin in November, 2024, and should be completed by January, 2025. Changes, and additional proofreading should be completed by April, 2025.

- Pre-Sale of the Book will begin in March, 2025, and should conclude by end of July, 2025.

- Final Pre-Press Set-Up and Printing will commence in August 2025.

- The book will be unveiled and distributed at the CT State Grange Annual Session, October 2025.

## ***Volunteers are still needed:***

Although we have made significant progress in many areas, we can still use a hand in seeing this massive project through to completion for our October 2025 release date.

- We are looking for volunteers to go to the CT State Library for specific research topics. If you enjoy research - this is for you! We will give you specifics of what we are looking for, and need help finding.

- We are looking for volunteers to help load information into Excel Spreadsheets. We will supply you with the information to be entered and the spreadsheets. (If you are on a Mac and use Numbers instead of Excel - we can accommodate that too!)

- We are looking for personal stories of members as well as Grange memories and recollections. Most members have someone that they connected with, were mentored by or looked up to, or even envied when they joined the Grange or throughout their Grange membership. Some members have made a huge impact on other members - and these memories are waiting to

be written. How about sharing those memories? This could be as short as a couple of sentences, or a complete story.

- Proof readers needed: Do you have a flair for grammar and spelling? Can you spot mistakes from a mile away? If so, we need your help. We are seeking detail-oriented and organized individuals to volunteer their time to proofread the history book. The more eyes we have on the copy, the better chance of catching format/layout inconsistencies, typos and grammatical errors.

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please send a note to Terri at [information@ctstategrange.org](mailto:information@ctstategrange.org).



## **PR: Most Important Principles**

*Terri Fassio, Public Relations Co-Director*

Public Relations is more than just marketing, social media, slogans, and taking photos. The mission of public relations is the building of beneficial relationships between an organization and its public.

There are a few basic principles that underscore the narrative in building these relationships and engagement. Let's take a look at how these work in a Grange environment.

### **Honesty**

Always tell the truth when promoting your Grange, while staying positive. Once trust with the public is lost, it's hard to get it back. This includes setting realistic goals for your Grange. In the digital age, wrong or misleading information is often shared. We've all read articles that are misleading. This is a big responsibility when promoting your Grange.

### **The need for collaboration**

Granges are often encouraged to work with other local organizations, such as the FFA, 4-H, Extension Service, Garden Club, etc. There is an intrinsic value in a good collaboration. It's not a competition - and not about who shouts the loudest, or has the most popular event. It's about who collaborates effectively and efficiently and are willing to be open to fresh ideas and insights.

### **Check your facts**

Before talking publicly about your Grange, it is of utmost importance to be sure that your facts and sources are accurate and reliable. Nothing screams lack of credibility more than a Grange who doesn't know their history, or a member speaking about an activity or event without all the proper information.

*Continued next page...*



Continued from page three...

In our current information-driven times, there is no excuse for logistical errors. Always fact-check.

**Be considerate and respectful**

Respect other Granges. Not all Granges are the same, just as not all of our communities are the same. Some are active, some are passive, some are in the news frequently, others are not. While sharing the basic mission, work and principles, Granges have the latitude to apply what works best for them. The shrinking field of Granges can sometimes feel small in Connecticut, but each Grange has a job to do. They each should be humble, courteous when dealing with the media, and respectful of others - in the best and the worst situations.

**Be proactive not reactive**

Granges should not be sitting around waiting for news to happen. Granges should be actively creating

news. Host an event, sponsor an activity, engage in community service, start a new project. Granges must continually take a role with their communities, and engage with the media.

**Build and maintain fellowship/relationships**

In the age of social media, it is easy to just post a quick message and hope that it gets seen and shared, or send out a press release and keep your fingers crossed that it gets picked up and published in the newspaper. Or even hold a meeting and hope that members walk through the door. But if that post is not seen, or that press release is not published, then they are ineffective. Building and maintaining fellowship between members encourages enthusiasm within the organization, thus increasing participation. Building and maintaining a relationship with the media encourages communication both internal and externally. Building and maintaining a place in your community, guarantees success.

## Cheshire Grange Awards Night



Cheshire Grange held its Community Service Awards Night on Wednesday, April 3rd. Congratulations are in order for our 65 year members, "Bud" Greenbacker and Janet Haller. They received 65 year certificates from our President, Ruel Miller (right). Our Community Service Award winner was Sylvia Nichols (center). Sylvia spoke to everyone about her life experiences.

## Dean Martin Returns



On June 5th Jack Lynn will perform the sounds and style of Dean Martin. Also featured will be Steve Kazlauskas with his "Echoes of Sinatra", so come on down to Cheshire and enjoy the sounds of Dino and the Chairman of the Board. The show will be at Cheshire Grange Hall, 44 Wallingford Rd., Cheshire beginning at 7:00 PM with a teacup auction to follow. Please note, we will be accepting donations of canned goods at the door for the Cheshire Food Pantry.

## Cheshire Collage

Group creating several collage segments for a larger 8' x 26' display of people and buildings in Cheshire. Members of Cheshire Grange are participating. This event is sponsored by the Ball and Socket Arts group.



# Legislatively Speaking



**Noel Miller**  
Legislative Director  
Coventry Grange #75  
millernoel434@gmail.com

April 8, 2024 was the day of the great Solar Eclipse, seen from Texas to Maine, four days before a 4.7 earthquake hit New Jersey and was felt in Connecticut. Many people stated it was a sign from above to change our ways. The Eclipse showed that we can all get along when we want to. No violence brought out, no shootings, no rage, even with the traffic jams when people were trying to get home. We did find greed about with increased room rates, food prices, etc. Yet the sight of the Eclipse proves once again we are all good, and look out for one another. Next one is 29 years away.

We have heard talks about funding cuts to the College of Agriculture at the University of Connecticut. In the past, 14,000 Grangers petitioned State Legislators requesting the Storrs Agricultural School to become CT's Land Grant College, rather than Yale, we won. During World War II the College brought city kids to the farms to learn farming skills to help Connecticut farms to keep farming while men went to war. Eleanor Roosevelt came to the Dairy Barn to see the activities and help build a Victory Garden in the peat bog field behind the Yellow Dairy Barn. 1947 the Dairy Barn did research with DeLaval Dairy Equipment with the installation of the first Pipeline Milking System. After the program was over the automation was removed... and back to pail milkers. UConn was the first United States college to clone a dairy cow, Aspen the Holstein had four cloned calves, out of 100 implants, Amy, Betty, Cathy and



The main administration building at Storrs Agricultural School, which later became known as 'Old Main.' Located roughly where Wilbur Cross stands today, Old Main was razed in 1927 (Department of Archives & Special Collections/UConn Library).

Daisy. They proved that it could be done, but USDA wouldn't allow the milk or meat to be used. But the cloning showed that taking an animal tissue you can reproduce it into exact DNA, could it possibly be a cancer cure? Take the DNA, exchange the damaged chromosome and implant the modified DNA. The Horse Farm has the oldest Morgan Horse Pedigree in the U.S. UConn also has the best ice cream in the U.S. This is a gem and needs to be funded.

I read that John Deere is teaming up with Starlink for internet for farm equipment, auto steering, field mapping, planting yields, harvest yields, GPS. A red flag rose in my mind, many farmer's deep secret yields, populations, locations close to the vest. Mr. Musk has a record of selling off information to outsiders. In my last article I spoke about farm groups using data to fine tune pricing against U.S. farmers. Remember, Starlink was given to Ukrainian troops for drones and communications, only to be shut down and then Russia had access to Starlink... Hmmm.

As summer is approaching, it is time to think about resolutions,

many topics are around and now is the time to start writing for October. This spring will be a challenge to our farmers. Corn is usually planted starting Apr. 15, manure is just getting on the fields. Hay season starts around Memorial Day, let's hope we are not in the rainy season like last year. Say a prayer for our farmers.

Happy Mother's Day to all of the mothers out there.



Today's UConn College of Agric.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Connecticut Granger or the Connecticut State Grange.



## April showers bring May flowers



by Thomas R. Sulier

It is possible to plant potatoes in late April. Potatoes contain vitamins and minerals, as well as fiber. What's more, they are very rich in Vitamin C, which is an antioxidant that each one of us needs. From time immemorial, potatoes have been a life saving food source. One can remember tales of the Great Potato Famine in Ireland when many left their homeland and came to the United States in search of nourishment and a better life.

Potatoes can store for up to six months in a root cellar or other cool environment. Old fashioned potato soup is a hearty meal and made simply with common ingredients of potatoes, milk, green onions and garlic salt. Of course there are numerous variations on this recipe. Potato soup has always been one of my childhood favorites as I remember how delicious it was. My mother had many potato recipes but her soup always remained firmly entrenched in my memory! Some of the greatest treasures in life are all around us.

In today's hard times with escalating costs, one must remember that potatoes are one of the best nutritional values per penny. Not only is this an economic ingredient for your culinary efforts, but it is healthful and filling! And there you have why you should eat more spuds.



From *Better Homes & Gardens*

### Ingredients:

5 Medium Potatoes, peeled and cubed (about 1-2/3 pounds)  
1/2 Cup chopped onion  
1-1/2 Cups chicken *OR* veg. broth  
1 tablespoon butter  
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon snipped fresh dill  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
Dash ground black pepper  
1 cup milk or half and half

### Directions:

#### Step 1-

In a large saucepan cook potatoes and onion, in a large amount of boiling water about 15 minutes or until tender. Drain well. Set aside 1 cup cooked vegetables to give the soup texture. (Tip: The potatoes are done when a fork or the tip of a sharp knife can be easily inserted and removed).

#### Step 2-

In a food processor bowl combine the remaining cooked vegetables and the chicken broth. Cover and process about 1 minute or until smooth. Set aside. (You can skip this step and use an immersion blender to puree the soup in Step 4).

#### Step 3-

In the same saucepan melt butter. Stir in flour, dill or basil, salt, and pepper. Whisk in the milk until smooth. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until the base is slightly thickened and bubbly. Continue cooking and stirring for another minute to develop a rich, creamy flavor. (Tip: If needed, substitute the milk or half-and-half for lactose-free milk).

#### Step 4-


Stir in the reserved 1 cup cooked vegetables and blended vegetable mixture. (This is where you can puree the soup in the pan with an immersion blender before adding the reserved chunks of potato.) Cook and stir until heated through. If a thinner soup is desired, stir in a little more milk or half-and-half. If desired, season to taste with additional salt and pepper. Makes about 4-1/2 cups (4 side-dish servings).

Tip: To make potato soup without peeling or cubing the potatoes; skip Step 1 above, and go with baking the potatoes instead of boiling them. If using baked potatoes, sauté the onion in melted butter in Step 3, then continue making the creamy base as directed.

## Hank's Cream of Potato Soup








## Getting to Know your Backyard Pollinators:

Bees, Wasps & Hornets ~ Friends, Not Foes

**May 18, 2024**

12:00pm - 2:00pm



*Get to know your backyard pollinators. Bees, wasps, hornets – friends, not foes.*

*Our Guest speaker will be Tammi Worsham from the Weston Backyard Beekeepers.*

Pre-Paid Reservations Required by May 12

*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

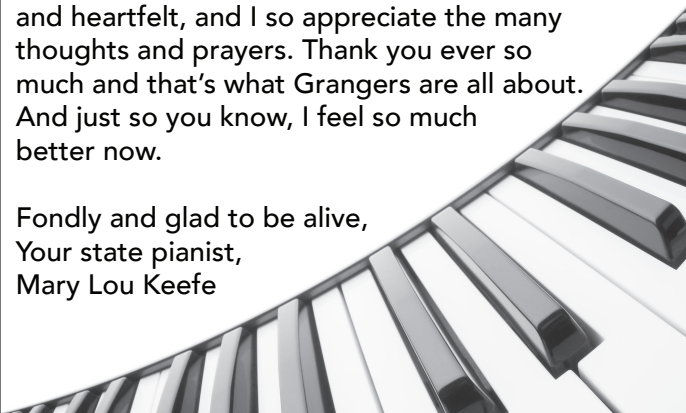
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[@GHGGrangeField](https://www.instagram.com/GHGGrangeField)

# Keefe Thank You

Dearest Grangers,

First let me say thank you to Todd Gelineau who posted info about me pertaining to my stroke in February. This in great part explains the outpouring of beautiful cards each with thoughtful messages. When the first few cards arrived I had no idea what was to follow. In fact, I received over 70 cards, many of which were from Grange members, including those from many different subordinate Granges, Pomonas, and state officers as well as a card from the National Master and her husband. The messages were personal and heartfelt, and I so appreciate the many thoughts and prayers. Thank you ever so much and that's what Grangers are all about. And just so you know, I feel so much better now.

Fondly and glad to be alive,  
Your state pianist,  
Mary Lou Keefe




On Tuesday April 16th, I took Rob and Maggie to Redding #15. We welcomed some new members and installed some officers. They were all glad to be back in the Grange hall after some renovations to give them a new and modern bathroom which looks great. Good luck for success to Redding Grange!



**SENEXET GRANGE #40**

*Corr: Diane Miller*

May 22: The Great Outdoors

At our recent meeting we discussed the plans for the next few months. We decided to hold some clean up sessions on the Sunday prior to our regular meetings. We made some plans for the annual Grange Fair to include additional displays, crafters, and will be held on a Saturday August in conjunction with the Locally Grown townwide event. We will have country breakfast that day as well.

We will present our annual scholarships to high school and college students the beginning of August. We are excited to have our member Danielle lead a basket weaving session on July 25.

It was good to have Ted Powell visit us and do the inspection. We always welcome visitors. The pollinator garden that was planted near the hall has begun to grow and we are looking forward to seeing the activity. The corn hole group met at our hall during the winter season and the yoga group meets several times a week. These are groups that make good use of our upstairs hall.

We are glad to keep the community aware of our purpose by inviting groups to meet in our hall.

**KILLINGLY GRANGE #112**

*Corr: Penny Bennett*

We here at Killingly Grange have hung up our GONE FISHING again. We are having a fish and chip dinner on Friday April 19 from 4:30-6:30. As usual you have a choice between baked fish or fried and baked potato or French fries. On April 20 we will be hosting a yard sale. Remember your junk could be someone else's treasure. Next month we are celebrating Mother's Day with a delicious brunch on 5/5/24- bring your mom and thank her for all she does. And we never want to leave out the other important person in our lives so we are doing the same for fathers on 6/16.

One of our members is a master gardener he is planning an event in June with the help of UConn's agriculture dept. In July we will be celebrating our nation's birthday with a chicken barbeque we will let you the date in the next month's newsletter. In August plan on joining us for clam chowder all 3 kinds will be served (New England, Rhode Island, and Manhattan) and of course what is clam chowder without clam cakes. We will keep you posted on our upcoming events.

**NORTH STONINGTON COMM. GRANGE #138**

*Corr: Nancy R. Weissmuller*

**May 10:** More Rebellions? Shays, Whiskey, Fries...

**May 24:** "Memorial Program"

We continue to learn about the history of our country with Sue's informative programs (and continue to be amazed at how little we know). On March 8, our Ritual Night, we welcomed State Overseer, Ted Powell, who inspected us (We passed!) and participated in a rousing game of Grangeopoly, a game invented by our Lecturer based on the Ritual of the Grange.

Our hall has been used by a local 4H group for a get-together and also by the Boy Scouts for a baked potato dinner. The Lions Club will hold a steak dinner there on June 15. And if these high winds will just stop toppling the trees around us next time we will tell you all about awesome April.

**VERNON GRANGE #52**

*Corr: Irene Percoski*

**May 3:** Coventry comes with the program. Ref. Claudia & Dawn

**June 7:** Short Program, Election of Officers, Ref. Charlene

**July 5:** Birds and Bees, Pollinators Please, Ref. Irene

We had a very interesting meeting with Shelly Cameron, Director of the Membership Committee. She posed questions and projects that stirred up a lot of ideas to try. Everyone at the meeting took part in the discussions and new ways of going about our extra activities. We brought our problems to her and she proposed some very good solutions. Our other guest was State Overseer Ted Powell, he was very outspoken about all Granges filing a Community Service Report. Our Little State of Connecticut does well but can do better. So, send in your report, even if its only the cover page. Send something.

Upcoming plans are for a June 8 tag sale which we will hold at the Strong farm. Empty your attic and cellar of items to sell. Coventry visits next month (May) and will present the program. This is always a fun meeting as friends come here. There were 7 members present and one on zoom, plus our 2 guests for a total of 10. Light refreshments followed the meeting. Last but not least Nancy presented Cherie her awards from the State lecturer for a job very well done. Congrats Cherie. Next meeting will be in person in the upstairs hall. Plenty of room for visitors. Don't be shy. Come!

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.



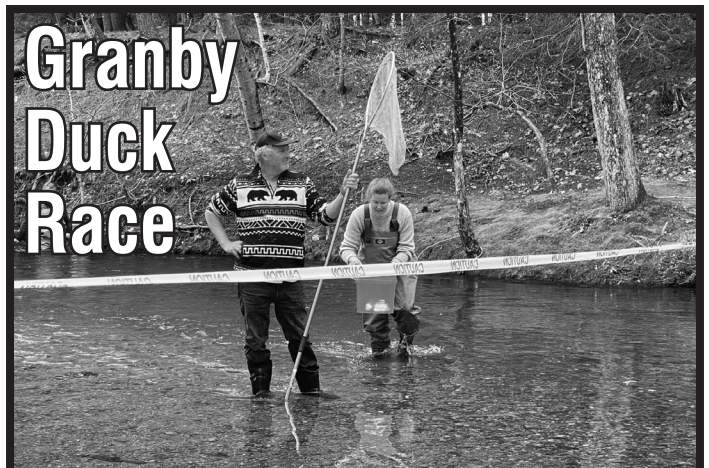


From National Grange --

Please spread this word to anyone you may know. We are looking for MUGS - In December, Bruce and Sharon Croucher (NY) had a fire that destroyed Sharon's collection of Grange mugs. Her daughter, Karin, is hoping that Grange members will surprise Sharon with some "extra" mugs. She recently celebrated her 80th birthday - so consider it a birthday present.

They can be sent to:  
Sharon Croucher

6410 Winding Creek Road, Victor, NY 14564



# Granby Duck Race

Thank you to everyone who made our second annual duck race a success! From attendees to volunteers, donors to sponsors, your support made it a fantastic day. The top three winners are. . .1st: Kate Spade designer handbag (\$359) , Lori LaMere; 2nd: Various gift cards (\$200), Aiden Kaczka; 3rd: Michael Kors Mini Crossbow designer bag (\$149) , Dave Roberts. TOTAL VALUE OF PRIZES: Over \$1,350. And our 50-50 winner is Carol Innes! Congratulations to all the winners!

Thanks to all the donors, sponsors, volunteers, and attendees for supporting this awesome event to raise funds to preserve historic Granby Grange.

TOGETHER WE BLOSSOM PRESENTS....

## KIDS NIGHT OUT

### PETTING ZOO & PIZZA PARTY

**\$25 per child**  
(sibling discount)


**FRIDAY**  
**MAY 31ST**  
5 P - 8 P

**Ages 5-13**


SENEXET GRANGE  
WOODSTOCK, CT

Parents, rejoice! It's time for a well-deserved break while your kids have a blast in a safe and supervised environment. Our Kids Night Out event is designed to give you the evening off worry-free and your kiddos a chance to connect with peers & have lots of fun! Rhianna & Natasha are both Red Cross First Aid/CPR and CHW's in the state of Massachusetts.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Together We Blossom's community activities and initiatives involving youths and their families.



Scan to register!



Petting Zoo: Party Animals

**Questions: togetherweblossomct@gmail.com**

Emergency contact paperwork, permission slip, valid ID required for pick up



## TAGHHANNUCK GRANGE ANNUAL PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE

**Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**& Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**10:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Grange Hall • 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon, CT**

Donations can be dropped off at the Grange Hall  
Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> • Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> • Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Noon - 2:00 PM each day

Donations must be clean and work.  
• NO FURNITURE or TVs •

Email any questions to  
[TaghhannuckGrange@gmail.com](mailto:TaghhannuckGrange@gmail.com)  
or call 845-418-9755

# Connecticut State Grange Past Deputies Association

*Joanne Cipriano, CSG Past Dep. Assoc. Secretary*

Once again COVID has taken a toll. Just as the Past Deputies Association was about to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, COVID hit and all plans had to be canceled. As with many things after three years, it just never got started again. The Past Deputies were organized on May 9, 1970 by the last Past State Grange Master Kingsley Beecher. The first officers were Kingsley Beecher, President; Frank Prelli, VP; Joanne Cipriano, Sec.; Donald Beard, Treas., and Carlton

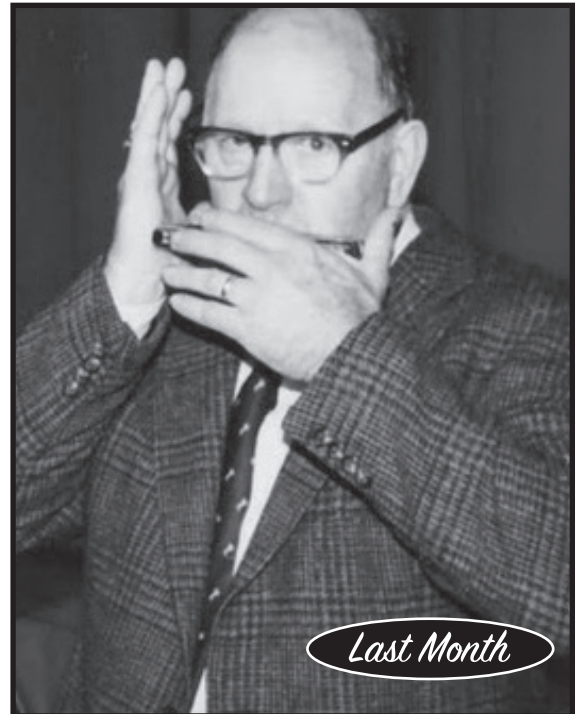
Platt, Chaplain. Joanne has been the Secretary for 50 years. Surviving Charter Members are Kay Ruff and Joanne Cipriano.

Having dinners, raffles, booths at the CT Agric. Fair and Coin Shows (plus) raised approx. \$83,000 used to help many projects. Many years money was donated to the Conn. Granger to help with postage.

Per vote of the membership, the balance in the treasury (\$4,840) has been donated to the CSG Foundation Grange Improvement Fund.

## 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](mailto:submissions@ctstategrange.org).



We heard from Sue LeVangie Schmidt -- "I am finally sending the info needed in the January 2024 "Window to the Past" photo. Buttons and I held back sending a response, letting others have the opportunity to identify the three. Al and Gretchen Beckwith are indeed correctly identified. The young gal in the center wearing a navy striped dress is Joan (Gallup) Nyveldt from Norwich Grange in New London County. She was an active youth member in the 1969-70s and often went to state events with the LeVangie girls. Her cousin was Edward Babbitt and aunt was Irene Babbitt, both active Grangers in Norwich Grange in New London County and on the state level. Haven't seen Joan in years, but this photo brought back many happy memories. I am guessing this was a youth recognition award in the late 60s, early 70s. Love receiving the Granger each month. It is my link to "all things Grange in Connecticut." Thank you for reprinting the Q Fever disease article in the April 2024 issue. I continue to find people unaware of this disease, so any and all outreach is a must. Many thanks to Sue Gray and Joan Phelps for their resolutions and efforts to spread the word. Happy Spring!!!"





**MOUNTAIN LAUREL POMONA #15**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

The next meeting of Mountain Laurel Pomona will be a special meeting on May 4 for the conferral of the Fifth Degree. The meeting will be held at Winchester Grange beginning at 2 P.M. The next regular meeting will be held on June 1 at Riverton Grange Hall at 2 P.M. Please encourage your members who may have not received the Fifth Degree to make the scenic trip up to Winchester Center to become Pomona members. We would love to see you all there.

**WINCHESTER GRANGE #74**

*Corr: Todd A. Gelineau*

- May 14:** For Mom, Potluck at 6 PM
- May 28:** Memorial Day Program (Chaplain), Ref. by Pam Wright
- June 11:** For Dad, Ref. by Ted Benedict
- June 25:** Election of Officers, Ref. Todd & Ginny Miller

A small but mighty group of Grangers met for Winchester's regular meeting on Apr. 23 with our Secretary, Treasurer and Pomona away.

We received word from Rev. Hall at the Winchester Center Congregational Church, that they will be "picking up the torch" and carrying on the tradition of the Strawberry Festival. After agonizing over the decision, members decided it would be best to offer it to the church to carry forward. We know the church will do an exceptional job with this Father's Day tradition in Winchester Center.

We are turning our attention to the Grange Fair to be held in

# Bethlehem Community Citizen



Bethlehem Grange#121 presented Flanders Nature Center Executive Director Vince LaFontan with its 2024 Community Citizen Award at the April 14 meeting of the Grange. Chime In Bell Choir entertained the audience with several musical selections using bells and chimes.

August and one of our members has compiled a list of suggested additions or improvements we can consider for this year. We look forward to the planning.

Winchester continues to meet in hybrid format (both in-person and on Zoom). We welcome all to visit with us in-person or if you would like to drop in on Zoom, please send a note to Secretary@CTStateGrange.org and I'll send you the meeting information.

**TAGHMANUCK GRANGE #100**

*Corr: Barbara Prindle*

**May 4:** Square/Contra/Country Dance by Dance Comm. 7PM-9PM. Suggested donations: \$5 Child, \$10 Adult, \$20 Family. Ref. ALL

**May 9:** Beltane by Debra Tyler Ref: Chris Hopkins

**June 1 & 2:** Plant & Rummage Sale 9AM-3PM (Sat. & Sun.)

**June 13:** Model A Fun by Mike Taylor Ref: Mike Taylor

**July 11:** Puzzles by Allie Hanlon Ref: Debra Tyler

*NOTE:* Refreshments & Social Time at 7PM with meeting at 7:30PM unless otherwise noted.

Before our meeting in April, we had our program "Spring Cleaning In & Out". A big "thank you" goes out to

all our members who helped get our Hall looking like new. A special thank you goes to Debbie Vail who came early for Inspection of our Grange and helped with the cleaning. Just a note we passed the inspection with flying colors.

The results of our Happy Birthday Cake Kit give-away was very successful and earned us more goodwill and publicity than we expected with over 90 likes on Facebook and people coming up to members in grocery stores, post offices, etc., saying how this was a good idea. Four kits were given to individuals and two each to the food pantries in Sharon, Cornwall, Kent and Salisbury.

**BETHLEHEM GRANGE #121**

*Corr: Dorothy Fairchild*

On this April Grange Month, we enjoyed meeting with our chosen Citizen of the Year, Flanders Nature Center, of Woodbury, CT. Flanders is celebrating their 60-year anniversary. Their booklet entitled "Beginnings at Flanders" Looking back 60 years was distributed.

During this open meeting, Chime In! Music with a Mission performed a handbell musical program for

*Continued next page...*

our enjoyment. They are based in Bethlehem and travel.

As an Organization Participation Sponsor, we will soon be selling raffle tickets for the Naugatuck Duck Race Festival being held on June 2nd. Tickets cost \$5.00 with a return of \$2.50 to Sponsors.

Sadly, Bethlehem Grangers have learned of the very recent passing of Ed Whitehead. Ed was an active 70year member, and he will be missed by all.

**SIMSBURY GRANGE #197**

*Corr: Marguerite Smith*

May 9: Thursday - monthly grange meeting

June 6: Thursday - monthly grange meeting

June 8: Saturday - Annual Agricultural Fair - We'll see you there! You won't want to miss it!

We held our monthly meeting on Apr. 11 on Zoom to discuss logistics, set up, etc for line dance event on Friday, April 12, Sustainable CT donations and plans, community service, our May meeting, and our annual agricultural fair on June 8th.

April 12 - Friday - Line Dancing event with FREE chili and cornbread If you were there, you know what a good time everyone had! Our first Line Dance event with free chili and cornbread was a HUGE success with 45+ community members enjoying

the chili and dancing up a storm until 8:30. Seeing our upper level filled with people engaged in music and dancing was wonderful. Grange members pitched in to make chili and/or cornbread, set up the dining area, serve guests, collect donations and man our membership table. We are even going to send out a short survey via Google Forms to our guests to see what we can do

better. The survey will be a first for us so we will see how it goes. Special thanks go out to the Simsbury Public Library for partnering with us to register dancers, Teen volunteers from Simsbury High School, Mary Root for teaching and entertaining us and all of the grange members for their time and effort. Stay tuned for more community music/dances/events in the future.

# Family Act. & Lecturer Date



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

Save the Date! We have confirmed that our Family Activities and Lecturers contests will be judged on the weekend of August 24th. We are hoping this date will be better for all those who are holding their annual fairs. More details will follow but I

wanted you to have this date for your calendars. Don't forget that the National Lecturers Contest is due September 1st. This year the pattern is "Split Back Star Block" details can be found on their website and we are putting up the link on our website as well.

After going thru my stash of assorted craft items, I have found plenty of knitting needles and crochet hooks and patterns for anyone who could use them. I also have fun Grange Family Activities songs that are fun and easy to sing to start off for your lecturers' program! Just send me an email and I can arrange to get them to you. Also, for the animal shelters in your area, perhaps Grange members have old towels and blankets that they no longer need I recently heard that CT is short on dog food. Consider donating them to an animal shelter by collecting canned and dry food at one of your meetings. This is a good way to meet one of the goals for your yearly FAC donations/activities. Now is the time to think of these things before our lives get busy with other activities and obligations.

# Coventry hosts Take A Vet Fishing Event



Coventry Grange again sponsored the "Take A Vet Fishing" event held at Bozrah Rod & Gun Club on April 20. They had 137 veterans sign up and 120 showed up in the rain. Coventry Plus 1 members Richard and Maureen Donihee worked hard helping to cook in the kitchen alongside their grandfather, Ted Powell. Coventry has sponsored this event since 2016.





**NUTMEG POMONA #16**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Sorry, there was no news in the April issue of the Connecticut Granger. A call for help from two of my nephews and the computer repair all confirmed the computer was dead and I needed a new one.

The March 17th meeting was just like old times. We had 38 in attendance and 11 candidates received the Fifth Degree. They were: Peter Whitman, Stephen Fengler and Kathleen Aubrey-Bergonzi all from Wallingford Grange and Charles MacMath, Janet Rotunda, Carol Gudzik, Carol Raynor, Greg Valerte, Patricia Golias and Lori Golias-Burany all from Greenfield Hill Grange and Stephanie Cooperman from Coventry Grange.

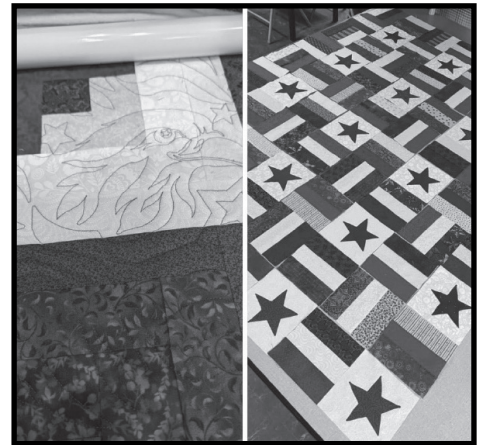
Put a reminder in your date book that our next meeting will be held on June 2 at Beacon Valley Grange in Naugatuck. On the agenda will be Election of Officers. Beacon Valley Grange will provide the refreshments.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and Lyme Grange on the passing of our Past Lecturer Lois Evankow. Lois really enjoyed being Lecturer and loved to entertain everyone. She loved to write letters and send cards. I had the privilege of being on her mailing list. She is missed.

**CHESHIRE GRANGE #23**

*Corr: Ruel Miller*

**May 1:** Election of Officers and Memorial Program



(Left) Wallingford Grange held a "Paint & Tea Party" with eighteen people participating. (Right) "Maker Monday" gatherings continue at Wallingford with members and friends working on Quilts of Valor.

**May 15:** Family Activities Night

Late March was our Community Service Project wherein we opened our hall participating in putting portions of a collage together for the Ball and Sockets Art. Several members participated and also some from the public. Refreshments were served. A fund raising dinner for a local hiking club is planned for April 13th. Early planning is under way for our August fair. The April 20th luncheon for the Leadership Academy has been cancelled. If Spring ever gets here as I write this, we wish you a happy one.

**WALLINGFORD GRANGE #33**

*Corr: Stephen Fengler*

Wallingford Grange has been keeping quite busy and active. For the month of May, we will be hosting several events. First, there will be our "Battle of the Pizzas" event where seven pizzerias from throughout Wallingford will compete for the title of "Best Pizza in Wallingford". Admission is \$10 at the door. This event will occur on Saturday, May 4, from 11am-2pm. Second, on May 11th, we will be hosting both a Pancake Breakfast and a Youth Cupcake Decorating Contest between 8:30am-12pm. In June, we will also be having several events at the Grange Hall including a Spaghetti & Ziti dinner on June 5, a Pancake Breakfast on June 8, and a Dutch Oven Demo on June 29.

We've had several events recently

here at Wallingford Grange. 18 people came to our Paint & Tea Party where we had a fun afternoon of live music, tea, sandwiches, some yummy desserts, raffle baskets, and of course painting.

We had our meatball luncheon fundraiser meatball sandwich meals consisting of a hot meatball sandwich, chips, and beverage in which 39 people attended. We also hosted a community Easter Egg hunt for children ages 3-5 in which several children attended and had a blast. Other community educational events we've had recently include a History of Chocolate Presentation by Donovan Family Confections and a youth seed day where youth we're able to make their own "seed balls" that they could throw into their backyards and then watch their seeds grow over time.

Our "Maker Monday" gatherings have been going well! There, we are continuing to make comforting quilts to veterans of all wars. The first Quilt of Valor quilt (seen below on left side) is on the frame, and we're well on their way to completing the blocks on our second (seen below on right side)! Quilting nights/ "Maker Mondays" are open to everyone who wants to come and learn how to make quilts, do needlework, or even make a craft of their own. They occur every first and third Monday of a month at 6:30pm at the grange hall.

**BEACON VALLEY GRANGE #103**

*Corr: Joanne Cipriano*

Sorry I missed having Beacon Valley news in the last Granger. Just when it was time to write it, my computer passed away unexpectedly. I'm back in business now with a new replacement.

We are now meeting in our meeting hall and programs are still on the fruit and vegetable theme.

Tag sales (9 to 3) continue on the third Saturday of each month as does our open mic (2-5). At our May sale we will have a huge collection of large cooking pots and double boilers, a safe and a vintage refrigerator for sale.

Plans are progressing for our 135th anniversary celebration being held on Friday, June 14th. We have chosen a "Citizen of the Year" - Animals for Life. We also have many members who will be receiving membership certificates and seals. They are: Jean Meehan (70), Ronald Shea (60), Robert Chatfield (55), Carol Brooks (50), Shirley Kolosky (45), Marianne Nielsen (35), Roger Paonessa (35) and Denise Barbieri (30). In keeping with our year theme, Strawberries will play a big part in our planning. As will the flag as it is being held on Flag Day.

Come and help us celebrate.

**GREENFIELD HILL GRANGE #133**

*Corr: Jim & Lori Golias*

It was a Happy St. Patrick's Day at the Nutmeg Pomona meeting at Cheshire Grange on March 17th when seven members of Greenfield Hill Grange (Lori Golias, Pat Golias, Carol Gudzik, Cathy Raynor, Greg Valente, Janet Rotunda, Chuck MacMath) and three members of Wallingford Grange (Peter Whitman, Stephen Fengler, Kathleen Aubrey-Bergonzi) and one member of Coventry Grange (Stephanie Cooperman) received their Fifth degree and became Pomona members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

On Saturday, March 23, Greenfield Hill Grange hosted a fundraising luncheon with

three speakers. The topic was "RECYCLING REVISITED" and was covered by a representative of the state of Connecticut, Sherill Baldwin; the Town of Fairfield, Misty Beyer; and a local composter and trash picker, James Flint. The talks were lively and interesting, the food was delicious, and the atmosphere was convivial and companionable on a drenching dismal day.

We held a successful Good Friday Fish Fry on March 29th. Fish-n-Chips, or Hand-breaded Shrimp-n-Chips were menu the choices -- complete with home made Cole Slaw.

Our Pollinator Luncheon will be held on May 18 from 12-2. Get to know your backyard pollinators. Bees, wasps, hornets -- friends, not foes. Our Guest speaker will be Tammy Worsham from the Weston Backyard Beekeepers. For reservations call Jim. 203.259.8023.

The Greenfield Hill Grange wishes all mothers, grandmothers, Godmothers, stepmothers, and mother figures in any way -- a blessed and happy Mother's Day. Always remember, "If at first you don't succeed, try doing it the way mom told you to in the beginning."

**LYME GRANGE #147**

*Corr: John Stratton*

Blooms and buds, shining bulbs and tasty tubers will come to springtime life at the annual plant sale of the Lyme Grange on Hamburg Road on Saturday, May 11—the day before Mother's Day.

The sale is open to the public without charge and will be held at the historic Lyme Grange building on Route 156 from 9 a.m. through 12 noon. The century-old building is familiar to many as the center of the Annual Hamburg Fair in August, which, like the plant sale, supports many Grange-assisted community activities throughout the year.

Last year the Fair attracted some 5500 people of all ages for fun and educational activities over a three-

day period.

"The May plant sale that's coming up will offer both decorative horticulture and tips for practical food-grade gardening," explained sale coordinator Nancy Beebe. "This year we plan an even greater number of plants which show the diverse growing skills of our neighboring, talented amateurs as well as top-ranked nurseries. The flowers and vegetables are suitable for planting right at home in your garden," she said.

"Everyone who has a garden as a productive household hobby, or keeps beloved pets or domestic animals, should join us as we build stronger and more viable towns," added Beebe.

"Last year we had a 'growing class' for kids which proved popular, and I'm sure we'll see this again. They are taught by experienced gardeners—who like to see kids learn and have fun."

"Our Grange has been a central support for traditional community events from our founding in 1896, and our people staff and judge many events and displays here. We can all learn from, and enjoy, one another!"

For more information, contact Nancy Beebe at [nbbeebe46@gmail.com](mailto:nbbeebe46@gmail.com) or 860.304.8202.

**HEMLOCK GRANGE #182**

*Corr: Maureen Sanborn*

**May 10:** Election of Officers

**May 11:** Hemlock Grange, 17 Sage Hollow Rd., Portland, joins the Historical Society's townwide tag sale 8:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. Members can donate items to the Grange tag sale pile. Bring your items to the hall Friday, May 10th, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Or any Grange member can have their own table. Bring your own table, boxes, bags, etc.

**May 24:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled.

**June 14:** Memorial

**June 28:** Omitted, unless regular meeting is canceled

Coffee and refreshments will be served following the meeting.



NEW ENGLAND LECTURERS  
ASSOCIATION (NELA)  
CONFERENCE 2024

# Registration Form I

Conference Registration \$30  
(NOTE: This increases to \$45 after 5/21/24)

## Holiday Inn, Norwich, CT

A: 10 Laura Boulevard, Norwich, CT 06360

P: 503-320-7274 E: nelcgrangestrong@gmail.com

[HINORWICH.INFO/GrangeLecturers](http://HINORWICH.INFO/GrangeLecturers)

# JUNE 21 -23, 2024

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Full Name :

Email:

Phone:

Grange:

State:

Guest:



### Registration Information:

- Saturday Buffet Breakfast \$10
- Pizza Lunch \$10
- Saturday Banquet \$45
- Bourbon Apple Pork Tenderloins
- Cheese Ravioli
- Filet of Sole
- Sunday Buffet Breakfast \$10

### Activity Information:

I will attend the FREE Coast Guard Academy  
Tour: YES NO

I will need transportation to Mohegan Sun :  
YES NO

Is this your First Conference? YES NO

How you want your name to appear on your badge?

### Lodging:

Location: Holiday Inn - Norwich: 10 Laura Boulevard, CT 06360

Special Rate: \$139/night for standard room plus tax / Reserve room while they last! (It is the attendees responsibility to secure the hotel room for the conference)

Must Request: " North East Lecturers Association Conference " for \$139/Night Rate / Call 860-889-5201

Parking is Free

THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING

Register Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

TO PAY USING VENMO: @DAVID-ROBERTS-232

### More Information :

Contact Registrar:  
Judy Doyle  
503-320-7274  
nelcgrangestrong@gmail.com



Please make check payable to NELA  
and mail to 2024 NELA Convention  
Chair Dave Roberts at P.O. Box 155,  
Riverton, CT 06065

## Anger, Acceptance, and Serenity



**Charles W. Dimmick**  
State Chaplain

Cheshire Grange No. 23  
chaplain@ctstategrange.org

*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.*

Many of you will recognize these words above as the Serenity Prayer. The original prayer, in German, was composed by Protestant theologian Reinhold Niebuhr in 1932. Since then, in minor variations, it has been widely adopted by various groups, most notably Alcoholic Anonymous, as a guide for living. For me it has many applications, among them the control of anger.

When I was younger there were many times when I lost my temper and lashed out at things. Over the years I gradually mellowed so that these incidents became fewer and less severe, so that usually I appear to be relatively calm and collected, although I can be rather emphatic when the occasion requires it.

Learning to accept what cannot be changed has a long history. There are several Bible passages that talk about this, some of which also include the peace of mind which comes with this acceptance, for instance in Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and*



*supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

In Proverbs we find: Proverbs 29:11. "Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end." And the "Patience of Job" is proverbial [although, admittedly, Job was not always patient].

What about "The Wisdom to know the difference"? Most of us are capable of finding this wisdom; the problem is that most of us also don't look for it. Thomas Jefferson is quoted as saying "When angry count to 10 before you speak; when very angry count to 100." This is great advice, since the pause and concentration required is often enough to allow us to come to our senses and realize that anger

usually accomplishes nothing. This is the beginning of Wisdom.

Finally, one more old saying worth heeding: "Practice makes Perfect". The more you practice curbing your anger and learning to accept what cannot be changed, the easier it will become. And don't forget to ask God for help in learning to accept

### *In Memoriam*

**Benjamin I. Barr**  
Granby Grange #5

**Edwin Whitehead, G.S.**  
Bethlehem Grange #121

**Lois Evankow, G.S.**  
Lyme Grange #147

*"Well done, good and faithful servants."*