

THE EMPIRE STATE GRANGER



American Values, Hometown Roots

Our Vision!

- Initiator of Community Action
- Facilitator of Leadership Development
- Advocate for Families
- Trusted Conveyor of Issues to Legislators

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July August 2026

President's Column

Sandra Green



Although it may seem like New York State Grange Session is still a long way off, it is fast approaching. The Executive Committee will have had a walk-through of the Lux Hotel by the time you read this. A tour is done to see just how all the areas can be utilized for Session.

Delegates selection should take place. Worthy Secretary Ryan Orton has sent out the first mailing with State Session information. Please send the requested information quickly.

Hotel and meal reservations will need to be made. Remember to check with other members in your Pomona/county to learn if others wish to purchase tickets for the meals. Let them know about making hotel reservations for the Grange Session discount. If you wish to buy meal tickets and no local Grange officer has asked you, please reach out to Melvin Phelps. For hotel information, please contact Ryan Orton. Reports will need to be filed. Most Departments ask for reports to be sent to the Director. The reports are the only way to know what has been happening in your Grange. Please fill them out and send them.

If you are a Grange member that doesn't have an official reason to attend New York State Grange Session, I hope you still will consider coming. State Sessions are fun. Seeing Grangers from across

the state, meeting a National Grange representative, viewing the 6th Degree, having some milk punch, and enjoying the ice cream social are all possible at each State Session.

I have a few special requests for you to act on before State Session.

The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Markets has been invited to speak to us at Session. I would like anyone with questions for him to send those questions to me. I will ask him to focus on the areas for which questions have been submitted. Questions can be sent via email: president@nysgrange.org or via the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Let's celebrate the 130th anniversary of rural free delivery (RFD). Post Offices' locations have changed over the last 130 years. How far would you have to go to get to the closest post office? I would like Grange members to let me know how many miles they would have to travel to get their mail. Also, it would be interesting to see how many different Post Offices Grange members use.

I look forward to New York State Grange Session every year. I hope you do as well.

Peg French

The Star of Love

The tree lights show into the night
But in the heavens above
Shines a great and beautiful light
The Christmas star of love.
This star of love we often follow
As wisemen did old
From upon the mountain and
down in the hollow
We give our hearts as gifts of
gold.
As Christmas Eve does come
and go
As also happened in the past
This star shines down on all we
know
Right up until the last.

Peg is a Granger from Ontario County. This is one of her poems

Scholarships DeNise

BRENT PAUL ROSS



Brent Ross of Woodhull, NY, is the son of Barton and Kate Ross, is a graduate of Jasper-

Troupsburg High School. He plans to major in agriculture equipment technology and with a minor in precision agriculture at SUNY Cobleskill. He chose this major based on the complications experienced while working on his family's dairy farm. As a kid growing up in agriculture and loving being on the farm, he is excited to enter the agricultural industry and be able to make an impact on farmers. Geoffrey Havens, Agricultural Teacher and FFA Advisor, states the Brent "strives to understand both the technical and practical aspects of agriculture, demonstrating a genuine interest in learning and improvement... he applies himself fully and takes pride in producing high-quality work."

Brent has been active in FFA, serving as both president and treasurer. He has been a farm laborer at Revolution Dairy where he engages in planting, harvesting, and tillage operations. He is also involved in the management of calf operations. He believes that "simple acts of kindness or creating opportunities for any individual is a huge part of being a valuable member of your community and can make a serious impact on your own outlook."

Brent is also the brother of Lauren Ross.



BRYCEN MATHEW AUKEMA
Brycen Aukema, of Castle Creek, is a

2026 graduate of Marathon High School. He plans to major in dairy management with a mi-

nor in meat production in college and hopes to pursue a career as a dairy farm manager or eventually own a dairy farm.

Brycen has been active in FFA, serving as Chapter President and Chapter Sentinel for 2 years. He has also been a Broome County 4-H member since 2013 participating in Dairy Quiz Bowl, Dairy Judging and Statewide Dairy Discovery programs. He helped develop the Jr. Aggies program for students in grades 4-6 to introduce younger youth to agriculture.

He participates in the NYS Animal and Agriculture Leadership Program, NYS 4-H Junior Dairy Leaders program, and the NYS 4-H Livestock Ambassador program through Cornell University. While he has been busy with the activities listed above, he also is involved in his church and the National Honor Society.

Megan Friscia, Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA advisor, states Brycen is "dependable, motivated, and goal oriented. He represents values of agriculture education and FFA."

Deborah Grusenmeyer, Senior Extension Associate, states that Brycen "steps naturally into leadership roles. Over the past year, Brycen has grown tremendously and has shifted his thinking about his future. He's excited about hands-on learning opportunities available to him and eager to deepen his knowledge of dairy and agricultural systems."

Brycen is the son of Brian and Crystal Aukema and the brother to Annaleen and Fenton.



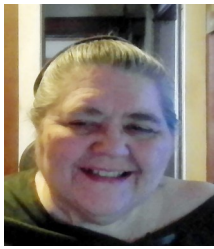
FAITH CATHERINE BAKER

Faith Baker, daughter of Daniel and Teresa Baker, is a 2026 Marathon High School graduate. She plans to attend Cornell University in the fall majoring in animal science on a pre-vet path

What's Inside

Legislative, Secretary, Sports	Pg. 2
Community Involvement, Historian Family Activities	Pg. 3
Chaplain, Lecturer	Pg. 4
Juniors, Health Fair, Kirkland Jr., East Pembroke	Pg. 5
Calendar of Events, New Members, E-mail Sign-up, Museum, Colonel Harper	Pg. 6
Youth, Leadership-Membership, Continuation of Scholarships	Pg. 7
Contact List, Continuation of Scholarships	Pg. 8

Legislative
Column



Cindy Benson-Pollard

Spring is in full swing and summer is just a few weeks away. Everyone is busy planning cook-outs, picnics, camping, all the activities that we all enjoy when the weather finally turns warm, and the sun stays out longer. Is your Grange planning the summer activities that help your community. Especially, take time to share the legislative work the Grange does on the behalf of your community. The State Budget was late again this year. Once again, it was negotiated behind closed doors by the Governor and the leaders of the Senate and Assembly. The Grange has long been opposed to this type of budget process. Maybe you can write to your representatives and tell them that this must change and that the Grange supports legislation that would do this.

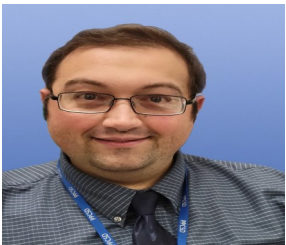
The National and State Granges have been working on an issue that affects our rural hospitals. You may have received an urgent request from me through our email blast system regarding legislation that would reform 340B regulations that affect how Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements are distributed based on rural versus urban hospital status. The Grange has also been working with lobbyists in Albany and Washington along with Bristol Meyers Squibb who came to us asking for our help with this issue. The National Grange has a very good flyer that talks about this issue. It can be found at <https://www.nationalgrange.org/hospital-dual-classification/>; I encourage you to read it and see why we have been so active in advocating for effective changes to this system. If you would like to know more about it, you can also reach out to me via email, and I will be glad to provide you with more information.

How are you doing on your resolution writing? If you need help with writing the resolution or finding the research materials you need, please feel free to contact me. I am always glad to help in any way I can. My contact information can be found here in the newspaper. As for this writing, I have received 5 resolutions for this year.

It is also not too early to mark your calendar for our annual Legislative Conference. It will be held on September 26th. If you have someone that you might think other Grange members might like to hear from, please send me an email with information. I am always looking for

new presenters for this meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to share information and learn about others who have the same common goals as the Grange.

State Grange
Secretary



Ryan Orton

It's time to begin planning for the Annual State Grange Session! The 154th Annual Session of the New York State Grange is hosted by Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Seneca, Tompkins, and Wayne Counties. The Session will be held from October 16 – 20, 2026, at the Lux Hotel; 2468 State Route 414; Waterloo, NY 13165.

The room rate at the Lux Hotel will be \$159 per night plus 11% sales & occupancy tax (the total cost per night is \$176.49). This rate includes breakfast. The reservation cut-off date is Saturday, September 5th, 2026. Grangers who are not part of the "Official Family" should make a reservation directly with the hotel at (315) 577-6068 and mention you are with the New York State Grange. Check in time is 3 p.m., and check out time is 11 a.m.

There will be one meal function for the entire Grange Family on Friday evening, October 16th. Buffet lunches will also be available for purchase on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of State Session as there are not many locations to eat near the hotel, and the restaurant in the hotel will only be open on Friday and Saturday evening during our Session. Arrangements for these meal options will be shared later by Melvin Phelps, State Overseer, who will be handling reservations for each.

The Conferral of the Sixth Degree will be on Saturday, October 17th at 7:30 p.m. Sixth Degree Tickets will be mailed to Pomona Granges in the Seneca County area for advanced registrations. They will also be available at State Session. The initiation fee for candidates taking the Sixth Degree is \$10.

The Delegate selection process is outlined in the New York State Grange By-Laws – Article II, Section 2.2: "The Pomona Grange of each County/District, at the regular meeting in July or prior to, shall elect or appoint one Delegate-at-Large and one other Delegate, who is the spouse of the Delegate-at-Large or another Pomona member in good standing. Then, each Po-

mona Grange shall elect one pair of Delegates for every 100 members or major fraction thereof." Delegates are eligible to serve only if their Grange is current in dues to State Grange with the submission of the March 2026 Quarterly Report. State Officers, Deputies, and Junior Deputies cannot serve as Delegates to State Session.

Pomona Secretaries: Please return the Delegates Form by Saturday, August 15th to me at my home address: 218 Attlebury Hill Road; Stanfordville, NY 12581. Please complete the form in its entirety; this information is vital for virtual Committee Meetings prior to State Session. The only Committee planning to meet in person at State Session is the Grange Issues Committee. Others will meet in person if they are unable to finish their resolution work virtually. Cindy Benson-Pollard, State Grange Legislative Director, created the following schedule for these virtual Committee Meetings (all begin at 7 p.m.):

Tuesday, September 29th – Session & Standing Committee Chairs Meeting
Thursday, October 1st – Agriculture & Environment
Monday, October 5th – Education
Wednesday, October 7th – Federal Issues
Friday, October 9th – Health
Monday, October 12th – State Issues
Wednesday, October 14th – Taxation & Fiscal Responsibility
Please note if any of your Delegates are first time Delegates to State Grange. The State Master will schedule a First-Time Delegates Meeting to review the duties and responsibilities of being a Delegate to State Grange.

It is the duty of the Delegates attending to notify either the State Master or State Secretary if you are leaving Session early and will not be present to vote on all matters presented before the Delegate Body or if there will be a Delegate Substitution due to the departure of a Delegate for any reason. There has been confusion when Counties were called for the roll, and no answer was returned as well as when a Granger who was a visitor at the beginning of Session suddenly became a Voting Delegate. Help us keep our records accurate, especially when

important votes are taken, by notifying us if there is a Delegate substitution or if you are leaving Session early.

All Delegates and attendees are reminded that, per vote of the Delegate Body on Resolution GI-33 at the 2024 State Grange Session in Oswego, the following Registration Fees were adopted:

- \$10 for all attending Grangers receiving a packet.
- \$5 for all attending Grangers who do not receive a packet.
- Grangers under the age of 21 do not have a registration fee. The Executive Committee invites Pomona Granges alphabetically from Lewis to Wyoming to provide an item that can be included on the Silent Auction Table for 2026. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this Annual Fundraiser. Instructions will be given on Friday evening as to the location of where items are to be delivered on Saturday of Session. I'm already excited to see everyone in Waterloo in October!

Sports



Co-Directors
Bruce Dehner & Matt Horton

The bowling tournament was held on Sunday June 7th. We were down a few teams this year but everyone had a good time. I want to thank everyone who bowled and hope to see more teams next year. Here are the results 1st place Saturday night Grangers # 1 score of 2100 team consisting of Chris Fox, Cathy Nagel, Charles Batsford and Dale Nagel. 2nd place Cortland Pomona #25 with a score of 1881, team consisting of Virginia Dehner, Barb Lavier, Danny Richardson and Shaun Sweeney. 3rd place with a score of 1869, Saturday night team 2 team members Elise Robinson,

(Continued on page 3)

The Empire State Granger, Published 6 times annually by **The New York State Grange**, 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 13045
Phone (607)-756-7553 FAX (607)-756-7757, E-MAIL NYSGRANGE@NYSGRANGE.ORG
Third class postage paid at Cortland,(#57). Subscription Rate a portion of member dues is paid as a subscription to the Empire State Granger.
Editor Bruce M. Croucher
Executive Committee: Daniel Woolley, Chair, Sandra Green, President, Ryan Orton, Grange Secretary, Melvin Phelps, Vice President, Bruce Croucher, Executive Committee Secretary, Barbara Lavier, Elaine Smith.
Postmaster: Forward address changes to 100 Grange Place, Cortland, NY 14532

Community Involvement



Melvin Phelps and Joan Phelps

It is a beautiful morning today in Basom, New York. The sun is shining and there is a slight breeze. It promises to be a nice day today. Tomorrow is suggesting rain. The farmers are working around the clock to get the planting done. The hours are long and they appear exhausted. This rain may actually be a needed break. It will also settle the dust. So – when you meet up with the large tractor’s and field equipment on the road, please be patient with the farmer. After all, they may be planting and harvesting the food that you consume. Smile and wave kindly as you go by them. It will lift their spirits.

I have three hummingbird feeders on my porch. They are an interesting bird to watch. I enjoy taking a break from daily routines and pause in a comfortable chair on my porch and watch them feed. If you are real quiet, you may see many come by for a drink. I wonder, could this be a community service project? Do you have a friend or a neighbor who may be a shut-in who would enjoy watching hummingbirds? You might consider purchasing a feeder and the food and hang the feeder in a spot that can be easily seen from an inside window. This just might bring some joy to your friend or neighbor. Just remember, you will have to check on the feeder and supply the food for the hummingbirds. This is a small investment that can bring a smile to someone’s face.

How are the Community Service projects going for your Grange? I hope they are coming along and you are able to begin putting your reports/book together. Refer to the Community Service information in the State Grange Handbook to complete your information/report. Remember – all reports are to be sent to Melvin Phelps and must be post marked by September 15, 2026. Sooner is better than later!!! Also, if you are not completing a Community Service Yearbook, please STILL fill out the Community Service Report form and submit this form to Melvin Phelps. This form must also be post-marked by September 15, 2026. This is important as it

helps to keep the Grange non-profit status in New York State.

Has anyone in your Grange been selected as an outstanding Community Service Granger? There must be at least one person who comes to mind. Recognize them for their service to their Community. This is a good thing.

Is your Grange collecting “C” Bills for Cancer? Every year the “C” Bills that are collected are turned in at the New York State Grange Session. The money is donated to an organization or a facility that assists or supports cancer patients near the annual State Grange Session. Everyone seems to know someone who has been diagnosed with a type of cancer. By donating money to an organization that assists or supports Cancer patients may just help to save someone’s life. I hope your Grange will join in the “C” Bill donation.

The Summer Solstice has happened. To be exact, June 21st at 4:24am was the time to have been aware of the wind direction when the sun crossed the line. This is what I am told by my Farmer husband. If the wind is from the west-southwest – we should have a nice warm summer. He tells me that winds out of the north mean cold weather, out of the East mean wet weather, out of the west mean dry weather and out of the south mean hot weather. So apparently winds out of the west-southwest should be nice and warm and more dry than wet. Was he right? (I wrote this on June 5th) Did we get winds out of the west-southwest? I for one am looking for “nice warm sunny days and only sprinkles of rain”. I am hoping he was right on!

Have a wonderful Summer!!

State Grange Historian



Carol Bailey

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

The 200th birthday of George Washington was widely celebrated? New York State published a booklet containing ideas of various ways that several entities could celebrate. The state had planned events, educational institutions were involved as well as historical societies,

patriotic and fraternal societies, churches and other groups including women. This celebration is mentioned in Grange histories.

The state was recognizing Washington’s birthday, inauguration day and Independence Day. Other days that were noted were church day, press day, patriots day, Constitution Day and fraternal day. The other usual holidays were noted also.

Pageants representative of Washington’s activities were planned in various places. Exhibits of historic significance was suggested and tree planting.

National Grange published a booklet commemorating Washington’s inauguration. There is no date and nothing to indicate its date. It is a complete program with singing, prayers, readings, an address and ending with singing “America.” It looks like it might be from the 1930s so perhaps the 150th anniversary of his inaugural.

In 1876 George Hinkley, master of NYS Grange, hoped Grange had a presence at the exposition in Philadelphia. His words were “The agricultural population of New York have many interests and productions that might be made to add to the attraction at this Worlds Exposition and demonstrate to others our industry and greatness.”

AND NOW TO 2026...

Is your Grange making plans to celebrate this 250th birthday of our country? The eastern third of our state was settled and involved with the Revolutionary War and has many sites relating to it. However the rest of the state was inhabited by the Native Americans or was wild uninhabited country. So it is appropriate to learn about the role that Native Americans played in the war. Check your library for books on this subject.

Of course most of us are aware of the Clinton-Sullivan Campaign in the Finger Lakes. It was a scorched earth policy against the native people. It is hard to believe that one hundred years later it was celebrated and today such action would be frowned upon.

Here in the lakes area we have preemption lines also which is confusing even for most of us living here. That resulted as a mistake by the surveyors. The Town of Lyons east and west boundaries are basically follow the lines. The land between the lines is known as “The Gore” and shows on many deeds including mine.

There are also parcels of land know as military tracts. Treaties with the various tribes led to the state owning most of the land east of Seneca Lake from Lake Ontario south. This was know as the Military Tract because it was given to soldiers. They each received 600 acres but few settled on it.

My county of Wayne was part

of the that tract while the other was part of the Phelps-Gorham Purchase. Granges can check to see if you Revolutionary War soldiers buried in your town. Many patriot markers are being placed to commemorate them. Markers are provided by the Pomeroy Foundation.

The above items are all worth knowing more about. You can also look at a copy of the Declaration of Independence and see who signed it. Pick one or two names and learn more about them and report to your Grange. Another idea to study one or two sentences and the wording. Discuss what that sentence and each word means. Don’t forget to participate in your local 250th celebrations.

(Continued from page 2)Sports

Lora Richardson, Nathan Richardson and Mike Larry. 4th place Gen 3 with a score of 1844. Team members Christan Taft, John Horner, Sherri Horner and Val Wooley . If anyone wants to see all the final results just get in touch with me. The next event is Golf on July 12th at Vassar golf course in Poughkeepsie NY. We will finish up the year with corn hole on August 1st at state headquarters.

Family Activities

Lena Goettel Linda Pile
Co-Directors

Congratulations to everyone who participated in our State Grange Family Activities contests. We know the dedication, skill and effort that is put into your crafts. It is always satisfying to see your crafts come to fruition. We appreciate all the entries we have and encourage more to participate next year. We had 77 entries from 15 different counties.

The results of the State contests are as follows:

1. Wood working: 1st Gail Lewis, Otsego, 2nd Viola Horton, Genesee, 3rd Tessa Ryan, Dutchess HM Tim Hellmer Jefferson.
2. Quilt: 1st Lynn Wahl, Genesee.
3. Afghan Regular Size: 1st Pat Vanlare, Wayne, 2nd Roberta Hamilton, Onondaga, 3rd Sharon Burdick, Jefferson, HM Marcy Bolio, Dutchess
4. Doilies: 1st Helen Horth, Chatauqua, 2nd Charlotte Brennon, Jefferson, 3rd Gail Lewis, Otsego, HM Marcy Bolio, Dutchess
5. three Piece Baby Set: 1st Cindy Pollard, Onondaga, 2nd Charlotte Beldock, Lewis
6. Latch hook: 1st Lynne Conklin, Chenango, 2nd Heather

(Continued on page 4)

Chaplain's Lecturer Corner



Kelly Frost

Do you think of July 4th as a religious holiday? The thought is new to me! John Adams (our 2nd President) recommended that upcoming generations celebrate Independence Day with solemn acts of devotion to God. Thomas Jefferson (3rd President) declared, "God who gave us life, gave us liberty." John Quincy Adams (John Adam's son and 6th President) is quoted as drawing parallels between Christmas and Independence Day, saying,

"Christmas celebrates the One who came to give us freedom from sin and death. Independence Day celebrates the miraculous success at putting those principles of freedom into American civil government."

The 4th of July is a chance to express our patriotism! The word comes from the Latin phrase, *amora patriae*. Dr. Benjamin Rush (who has an amazing resume that includes signing the Declaration of Independence) said "The Amor Patriae, (love of country), is both a moral and religious duty. It comprehends not only the love of our neighbors, but of millions of our fellow creatures, not only the present, but of future generations." His explanation of patriotism sounds to me, quite similar to Galatians 5:13... You have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters... use your freedom to serve one another in love.

It takes love to keep a family together, and love to keep an organization like the Grange together. So too, will it take love of country to hold our country together. In addition to displaying red/white/blue, cooking out, and watching fireworks, this 4th of July, let's celebrate by thanking God for our country, and looking for ways to serve and help others.



Support Grange Youth



Brenda Noble

I thank everyone who helped and attended our two conferences – Northeast Lecturers Association Conference, and the New York State Lecturer/Family Activities Conference. We had around 64 attend for the New York weekend. Our speaker was Amanda Barber, District Manager for Cortland Soil and Water. Amanda explained there is a position on Soil and Water for a Grange member in each county. We had the Talent Contest, and the Youth Department had the Public Speaking and Sign-a-Song Contests.

Friday the Art and Photo was judged: *Snowy Day Photo: Division I (Subordinate)* – Best of Show 1st Rhonda Davis, Jefferson Co.; 2nd Ralph Williams, Lewis Co.; 3rd Carol Reed, Onondaga Co. *Division II (age 5-9)* – 1st Gunther Pirrone, Columbia Co.; 2nd Liam Adams, Lewis Co. *Farmers At Work Photo Division I (Subordinate)* 1st Logan Ciesielczyk, Columbia Co.; 2nd Anna Ritchey, Otsego Co.; 3rd Deb VanLare, Wayne Co.; 3rd Viola Horton, Genesee Co.; *Division II (age 5-9)* 1st Liam Adams, Lewis Co. *Art – Collage: Division I (Subordinate)* 1st Viola Horton, Genesee Co.; 2nd Lena Goettle, Dutchess Co.; 3rd Jolene Prionne, Columbia Co. *Art – Lego Creation Division II (age 5-9)* 1st Emory Champlin, Otsego Co. *Writing – What Would Grow in My Garden:* 1st Corey Walts, Jefferson Co.; 2nd Lynne Conklin, Chenango Co.; 3rd Amber Champlin, Delaware/Otsego Co.; HM Matha Babbitt, Rensselaer Co. *News Article:* 1st Anna Ritchey, Otsego Co.; 2nd Carol Bailey, Wayne Co.; 3rd Alexandria Tarbell, Genesee Co.

We had four entries for the Talent Contest: *Vocal* – 1st George Dempsey, Otsego Co. (Best of Show); 2nd Colton Tarbell, Genesee Co.; 3rd Alexandria Tarbell and Carly Hanel, Genesee Co. *Instrumental* – 1st Jeremiah Barber, Columbia Co.

We are working on our Handbook for 2027 and 2028. The contests will be listed in the next Granger.

We look forward to seeing everyone at State Grange Session in October.

(Continued from page 3) Family Activities

Goettel, Dutchess
7. Afghan (Baby): 1st Letitia Pickering, Monroe, 2nd Linda Blas, Erie, 3rd Sara Dobbins, Dutchess, HM Roberta Hamilton, Onondaga
8. quilted Table Runner: 1st Jackie Campbell, Wayne, 2nd Cathy Stark, Dutchess, 3rd Jolene Perone, Columbia, HM Lynne Porter, Otsego
9. Stuffed Toy: 1st Becky Turner, Steuben, 2nd Cathy Stark, Dutchess, 3rd Charlotte Brennon, Jefferson, HM Jacki Campbell, Wayne
10. Cross Stitch/Embroidery: 1st Letitia Pickering, Monroe, 2nd Cathy Stark, Dutchess, 3rd Florence Kismene, Chenango, HM Lynn Conklin, Chenango
11. Holiday Ornament: 1st Charlotte Beldock, Lewis, 2nd Florence Kismene, Otsego, 3rd Mindy Jo Eldred, Chenango, HM Corey Walts, Jefferson
12. Recycled Calendar: 1st Cindy Williams, Lewis, 2nd Paula Turner, Steuben, 3rd Anna Ritchey, Otsego, HM Viola Horton, Genesee
13. Mason Jar: 1st Anna Ritchey, Otsego, 2nd Heather Goettel, Dutchess, 3rd Barbara Lawton, HM Julia Masti, Steuben
14. Big E Class M: 1st Elizabeth Ciesielczyk, Columbia, 2nd Sierra Madison, Dutchess, 3rd Deb Barnes, Tompkins, HM Irene Gleason, Tompkins
15. Big E class E: 1st Shirley Ellis, Ontario
16. Big E class L 1st Lynne Conklin, Otsego, 2nd Mindy Jo Eldridge, Chenango
17. Juniors: 1st Erik Ciesielczyk, Columbia, Hat. 1st Alex Pirrone, Columbia Table Runner 1st Liam Adams, Lewis Holiday Ornament, 2nd Lucas Barber, Columbia, Holiday Ornament 1st Kai Franklin, Lewis, Mason Jar 1st Kai Franklin Lewis Recycled Calendar.
People's Choice: Cathy Stark, Stuffed Eagle Toy
The first place winners going to the Big E for judging are:
Class A: Pat VanLare Afghan
Class B: Doilies, Helen Horth
Class C: Embroidery. We had no entries
Class D: 3 piece Baby Set, Cindy Pollard
Class E: Plastic Canvas, Shirley Ellis
Class F: Counted Cross Stitch Letitia Pickering
Class G: Adult Garment, We had no entries.
Class H: Latch Hook, Lynne Conklin
Class I: Quilted Wall Hanging, We had no entries.
Class J: Stuffed Toy, Becky Turner
Class k: Baby Afghan, Letitia Pickering
Class L: Child or Adult Garment Sewn, Lynne Conklin
Class M: Miscellaneous needlework, Elizabeth Ciesielczyk
Congratulations and best of luck

to those who were chosen to represent New York at the Bid E!

The state baking contest is taking place Saturday October 24th. Judging will start at 9 am for oatmeal cookies. Both regular or diabetic. Cookies must be a uniform size of 3" round. You must submit 6 cookies on a disposable plate. Please attach a list of ingredients, along with your name, county, grange and phone number. No purchased mixes can be used. DO NOT add nuts, chips or fruit. Only the first place winners from each County are eligible for judging. We will be selling the cookies after judging. Thank you for your support with this contest. The Big E, Northeast exposition in Springfield Mass in September. I am waiting to hear from their FAC Chair. Items you make can be mailed to me before August 15 or if you see Ryan Orton and he is willing to bring them down to Dutchess and I can pick them up from him. My address is: Lena Goettel 77 Forest Drive Hyde Park New York 12538 Last year we had over 700 donations. Right now I have only about 300. If you are able to make anything for the Big E Grange Store that would be appreciated very much. Thank you for all of you who have already sent me crafts, they are beautiful and I am sure will sell well. Thank you to my committee for making FAC a successful day. Jeanette, Letitia and Linda provided a great lunch for everyone. we had a nice presentation about Bullying. please stop by at State Session to see it if you were not able to see it at the conference. If it helps only one person it was well worth it. Remember you have to be in it to win it! So get started on your crafts for next years contest. Hope to see you soon. It was a pleasure getting to meet so many people at the conference and looking forward to meeting many more at state session. I am hoping we can do a craft supply exchange at state session, but if that is not possible we will plan to do it at FAC/Lectures weekend next April where we will have more room to set up a table. So save up any craft supplies you no longer need and consider donating them. I was thinking a good will offering for anything you would like to take with the money going towards FAC. Have a great day!



rochester
grange

How many times have you had a conversation with someone about Grange and they ask what Grange is? Do you let them know that Grange is for the whole family? Maybe you aren't sure how to describe Junior Grange if your Grange currently does not have a 1+ program or a Junior Grange. Here are a few things that you can tell people to get them interested in signing up their children or grandchildren for Junior Grange. I would love to reorganize more Junior Granges as we currently have less than 20 chartered Junior Granges in New York State.

The Junior Grange program is dedicated to empowering tomorrow's leaders by nurturing leadership skills in young people ages 5 – 14. Through engaging activities and hands-on projects, participants learn to take initiative, collaborate effectively, and develop confidence in their abilities. It is important to empower our young people to become responsible and proactive members of their communities. Junior Grange is a part of the National Grange organization that helps young people grow through leadership, community service, and civic responsibility. It gives members a chance to learn by doing while taking part in meaningful activities that build confidence and character. Active Junior Grange members experience personal growth while making a positive impact in their communities. By participating regularly in Junior Grange activities, members develop habits and skills that can benefit them for years to come.

Junior Grange gives its' members many chances to build leadership skills in real and practical ways. Members can serve as officers, help run meetings, and organize events that keep the organization moving forward. These responsibilities teach them how to make decisions, work with others, and take initiative. They also learn important skills such as parliamentary procedure, which helps meetings stay orderly and productive. Public speaking is another valuable skill gained through Junior Grange, whether members are sharing ideas, leading a group, or giving reports. Over time, these

experiences help young people become confident leaders in school, at home, and in their communities.

One of the strongest parts of Junior Grange is the chance to serve others through community service projects. Members can help with volunteer efforts, support fundraisers, and take part in activities that meet real needs in their communities. These experiences show our Junior Grange members that even small actions can make a big difference. Giving back also helps build character by encouraging responsibility, kindness, and empathy. When members work together to help others, they create a lasting impact that reaches far beyond their own group. Junior Grange service projects often leave both the community and the members stronger than before.

Junior Grange is also a great place to build lasting friendships. Members meet peers who share similar values, interests, and goals, which makes it easier to form strong connections. Working and learning together creates a supportive network where members can encourage one another. These friendships often grow through shared experiences such as meetings, events, projects, and trips. Being part of a group like Junior Grange helps young people feel included and connected. Many members remember the friendships they make as one of the most rewarding parts of their Junior Grange experience.

Junior Grange offers more than activities, it gives young people a place to grow, lead, and belong. Staying involved helps members make the most of every opportunity and turn experiences into lifelong strengths. The more effort they put into Junior Grange, the more they gain in confidence, friendships, and purpose. Let's get Junior Grange and 1+ members and keep them participating, learning, and making a difference!



Kirkland Junior Grange

Kirkland Junior Grange has been busy serving their community this spring. In April, they picked up litter at the Redwood playground. Photo from left to right: Junior Grange alumni Steven Frost and Nathan Frost, Kirkland Grange member Tim Helmer, and Junior Grange members Mia Dixon, Brantley McEathron, and Colton Carlisle.



In May, the group gathered at the Redwood Cemetery to place flags on the graves of 233 veterans. The flags were provided by the Alexandria Bay American Legion.

Junior Grange is for kids 5-14 who wish to learn, grow, lead, and serve.



Photo from left to right: Kelly

Frost, Brantley McEathron, Jaxson Trayer, EJ McKelroy, Tryston Hawn, Aurora Levely, Elaina McKelroy, Mia Dixon, Colton Carlisle, Amanda Dixon, Corey Walts, and Linda Walts.

East Pembroke Grange

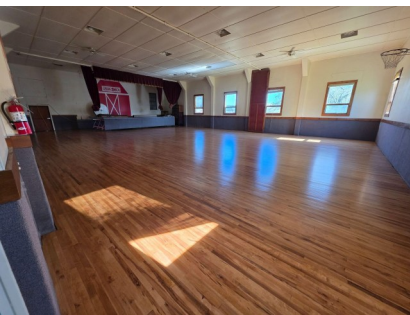
East Pembroke Celebration Members of the East Pembroke Grange celebrated the repair and restoration of their hardwood floor with a Grange Open House on Thursday, April 28th. More than 40 people including representatives from the New York State Grange and the National Grange attended. The evening's program included a summary of the damage done to the floor by powder post beetles, measures taken to mitigate further damage, and the difficulties encountered as repairs were made.

The East Pembroke Grange hall was formerly the combination gymnasium, auditorium, and cafeteria for the East Pembroke Union Free School, also known as the East Pembroke High School, located on School Street. The East Pembroke Grange bought the building in 1940 after the school house was demolished. Over the dec-

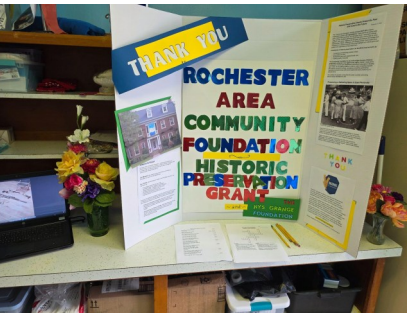
ades, they have held many events to bring the community together such as dinners and dances.

The Rochester Area Community Foundation's Historic Preservation Grant obtained with the assistance of the New York State Grange Foundation helped fund the project. The historical significance of the Grange hall as a community center was recognized as well as its potential to serve the community in the future.

The members of the East Pembroke Grange have many ideas for uses of the hall for community outreach and are looking forward to hosting new community events as well as old favorites such as the Quarter Carnival and Family Game Night.



Repaired and refinished floor
Photo by Stan Barringer



Thank you to Rochester Area Community Foundation
Photo by Stan Barringer



New York State Grange President Sandra Green
Photo by Stan Barringer



New York State Grange Merchandise Store

NYS Grange now has its own store to provide items for ALL Grangers.

- Items in the store can be customized for you and your Grange.
- There is no minimum order.
- Items are shipped directly to your home.
- Your purchases help support NYS Grange.
- Extended and Tall sizes available.



Visit the store at: <https://1800tshirts.chipply.com/NewYorkStateGrange/>



Calendar Of Events

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE
2026

Calendar of Events, Activities, & Dues Dates

July 7	Executive Committee Meeting – Headquarters – Budget – 9:30 a.m.
July 12	State Golf Tournament – Vassar Golf Course – Pough keepsie – 12 Noon
July 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
July 27 – 31	Grange Camp “Kids Day Out Events,” 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday, July 27 – Brunswick Grange, Rensselaer Coun ty Tuesday, July 28 – Colonel Harper Grange, Delaware County Wednesday, July 29 – Wide Awake Grange, Ontario County Friday, July 31 – Kendrew Grange, St. Lawrence County
August 1	Cornhole Tournament – State Grange Headquarters – 9 a.m.
August 26 – Sept. 7	New York State Fair – Syracuse
September 1	National JG Report due
September 5	Grange Day at the New York State Fair – Syracuse
September 12	State Grange Health Fair – Headquarters – 9 a.m.
September 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
September 15	Lecturer’s Reports due to State Lecturer
September 15	Community Service Yearbooks due to Director
September 18 – 20	Fall Youth Weekend – Jefferson County
Sept. 18 – Oct. 4	Eastern States Exposition (The Big E) – West Spring field, Massachusetts
September 25	Executive Committee Meeting – Headquarters – 3:30 p.m.
September 26	State Grange Legislative Day – Headquarters – 9 a.m.
September 27	Grange Day at the Big E – West Springfield, Massachu- setts
September 30	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
September 30	Junior Grange Quarterly Report to State Secretary
October 16 – 20	154 th Annual New York State Grange Session – Lux Ho tel & Conference Center in Waterloo, Seneca County
October 20	New York State Grange Cultural & Educational Founda tion Meeting – Lux Hotel & Conference Center in Wa terloo – 9 a.m.
October 20	Executive Committee Meeting – Lux Hotel & Confer ence Center in Waterloo – 10 a.m.
November 15	Empire State Granger Copy Due
November 10 – 14	160 th Annual National Grange Session – Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
December	Executive Committee Meeting - TBA
December 31	Subordinate Dues to State Secretary
December 31	Junior Grange Quarterly Report & Dues due to State Secretary

As of 06/25/2026

New York State Grange
Information Email

Scan this QR Code and fill out the form to get updated information from NYS
Grange



Get news from
New York State Grange
in your inbox!!!!

Our State Grange Treasurer,

Our State Grange Treasurer, Ken Smith, has reached a milestone in his Grange Journey. On Tuesday, May 19th Ken will receive his Golden Sheaf (50 years) award at Colonel Harper Grange, his Community Grange for the past 41 years. Ken originally belonged to Moravia Grange, in Cayuga County. He was also a member of Moravia Junior Grange. Ken has served as the NY State Grange Treasurer for the past 28 years.

More impressively, Ken's Mom, Doris Smith will receive her **70 years award** at this same program; on May 19th! Doris joined Dresserville Grange at the age of 19. After her 5 chil-

New Grange Members

Albany Co.
Bethlehem # 137
Madeline Moore
Broome Co.
Susquehanna Valley # 1552
Jeramie Rounds
Chenango Co.
Otselic Valley #1398
Anna Brown
Douglas Brown
Columbia Co.
Copake # 935
Elissa Benunis
Bob Bressler
Erma Bressler
Maryann Mahaffey
Larry Stockl
East Chatham #1066
Darci Hover
Kelly Mackerer
Trevor Pulver

Dutchess Co.
Standford # 808
Tessa Ryan
Pleasant Valley # 838
Dorothea Roka
Freedom Plains # 857
Blaise Blabac
Jefferson Co.
Kirkland # 684
Dierdre Bendle
Craig Handschuh
Sarah Hatchett
Linda Walts
Westchester Co.
Yorktown #862
Gerald Jacobs
Jackson Jacobs
Juliet Jacobs
Nicholas Jacobs

Museum

NEW YORK STATE GRANGE MUSEUM

April was a busy month for the NYS Grange Museum! The Museum and grounds were open to Grangers and the community during the Northeast Lecturers Conference weekend this past April 17 – 19. It was also open the next weekend, the 25th, during the State Lecturer’s and Family Activities Conference. Many visitors were able to enjoy the displays and purchase souvenirs.

The Museum also hosted the NYS Envirothon on April 30th for area high school students. The Envirothon is a hands-on environmental education competition – testing their knowledge and understanding of NYS natural resources.

The next scheduled meeting of the Museum Board will be held on Saturday, 7/12/2026 at the Museum building. This meeting is also our annual picnic. Served will be the traditional hamburgers and hotdogs as well as a dish to pass meal. We plan to have some yard games for a little bit of summer fun! All are welcome to attend this meeting and picnic. Please courteously RSVP to Barb Lavier (315-729-1787) or Richard Graves (585-209-4155) by 7/10 so we can be sure to have enough for those attending.

The New York State Grange Museum is a wonderful place to leave a legacy in memory of a special person, or your loved one. The Museum would be deeply honored to be a recipient of a memorial donation made in tribute of them. This can be done either through a general monetary donation or through our Memorial Brick program. Bricks are placed in the courtyard at the Museum, located at Grange Place, Cortland, NY. Please stop by any time, to view this beautiful physical tribute.

The New York State Grange Museum is also a wonderful place to make a donation, in honor of a living person. Remember all donations to the New York State Grange Museum are tax exempt. Thank you to everyone who continues to support the New York State Grange Museum and look forward to your visit.

dren became old enough to join Jr. Grange, Doris transferred her membership to Moravia Grange, at the urging of Florence Brown, to lead Moravia Junior Grange. Upon receiving a demit at the closure of Moravia Grange, she joined Colonel Harper Grange.

As part of the program, the members of Colonel Harper Grange presented them with a collection of memoirs.

Colonel Harper Grange

The Colonel Harper Grange was honored to recognize the long service to the Grange by two of its members. At the June 19th meeting, we celebrated Doris A. Smith’s 70 years of Grange membership and Colonel Harper Grange’s

President Kenneth M. Smith, her son. 50 years of Grange membership. Honored guests were Past State Master Stephen C. Coye and his wife Shugui Zeng. Five Smith family members were present along with two other guests. There were greetings by National Grange President Christine Hemp via Zoom, songs by Co-Lect. Amber Champlin, a “Family Feud” game was hosted by Co Lect. Pat Hornbeck, and a poem by ExCom. member Dave Ogborn. Doris and Ken spoke of their personal Grange memories and the assembled gave memories of Doris and Ken in Grange. Emails from friends and relatives unable to attend the meeting were read by LAS Doris Thayer



with a food and agriculture business minor.

Faith has been active in 7 organizations within and outside of school: basketball, FFA, Future Business Leaders of America, Student Council, National Honor Society, yearbook club, and student advisory. She owns and operates Sunnyside Meadow Bakery and Farm LLC where she teaches cooking classes in the community, grows and sells produce, makes baked goods, and raises chickens and Kunekune pigs.

“Decisions are made for those who show up”, a quote by Aaron Sokin, has touched Faith and she genuinely believes it is important to be involved within a community. She is an active volunteer in the community and through her business she is future able to participate in the community by providing access to fresh and affordable produce, eggs, and pork products. She strives not only to be a role model in her community for younger generations but as someone who is always there to lend a helping hand. Faith is sister of Lucas and Jordan. Her grandparents were dairy farmers. Her family raised livestock and she also works on a local dairy farm as well as running her own business.

JUSTIN CHRISTOPHER DELEO



Justin Deleo, son of Christopher and Diane Deleo, resides in Batavia, NY. He is a 2026 graduate of Byron-Bergen

High School. He plans to dual major in agriculture equipment technology and agriculture business with a minor in precision agriculture. Justin has been taking classes at Genesee Community College while in high school in the ACE program.

Justin has been active with the Genesee County 4-H dairy club for nine years and currently serves as vice president. He is also an active member in his school’s chapter of FFA for 7 years and has served as president. He participates in his church youth group and tech team. He believes that community involvement is key to having a fulfilling life and career and a great way to make the world a better place.

According to Melissa Keller, 4-H Youth Development Educator, Justin “exemplifies responsibility and strong character. He is an outstanding advocate and understands the importance of continuing in a positive and professional manner.”

Justin, brother of Joel Deleo, wants to continue the family legacy of caring for both animals and the land while leaving a positive impact on how agriculture is viewed. He is proud of his family legacy, indicating his Grandfather’s dairy, beef and crop farm recently won Genesee SWCD’s Farm of the Year.



LAURYN AVA ELIZABETH MENZ

Lauryn Menz, daughter of Elizabeth Menz and a graduate of Red Hook Senior High School, received her associate’s degree in liberal arts and sciences from Dutchess Community College. She currently is a junior at Marist College majoring in environmental science. She would eventually like to earn her master’s degree in environmental science.

Lauryn feels her major “offers many significant opportunities to make a difference.” She is “learning how to protect and help the environment.”

As a member of 4-H Got Goat Milk! Club, Christel Clum has worked with Lauryn. She states that Lauryn was an outstanding member of the club. She demonstrated a great work ethic while setting an example of the other members. Clum stating that Lauryn set a goal to become a Master Showman at their county fair and won overall Master Livestock Showman (all 3 species) for three years in a row. She has stayed on as a project leader for the club.

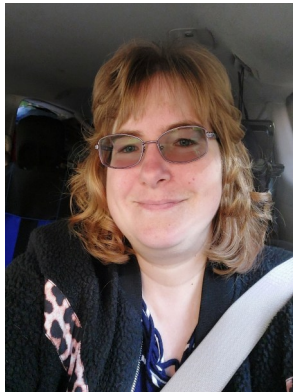
Community service is an important part of her life. She has participated in many fundraisers including Poughkeepsie’s Children’s Home, Grace Smith House, American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, and the Dutchess County SPCA. Participating in community service has shown her the issues in her community, such as homelessness or food insecurity. It allows her to make a difference. She has met many new people and learned many new skills. She enjoys the opportunity to volunteer and will always be happy being a part of it.

June Gill

JAYDEN LEE LITTLE
Jayden Little, daughter



Youth



Co- Directors
Sarah & Raymond Barber

This year Alyvia Fuchs had the opportunity to be the recipient of the Robert Earlandt legislative award. The report below is from the experience on her trip.

This year I got the opportunity to be the recipient of the Robert Earlandt legislative award, which means I got to go to Albany and have an amazing experience. My mother and I arrived in Albany the night before our visit to the capital. We met up with Ray and Sarah and enjoyed hibachi for dinner; I got to try salmon for the first time. Afterwards, my mom and I had an amazing “spa night.” We did facemasks and enjoyed ourselves.

On Monday the 20th of April. We got up bright and early. I wore my Grange youth polo because I pride myself in being a Granger. We got to meet Jeff Gallahan first, my district assemblyman. It was interesting to learn that he lives right in the same town where I do. We discussed road infrastructure and some of the recent construction that happened to fix some of the railroad tracks that have been really bad and had ruined multiple people’s vehicles. We also got to talk about educational topics such as the benefits and trade offs of homeschooling and electric school buses. Specifically, we talked about how heavier school buses put more of a toll on New York State’s roads and that the electric school bus cannot make a full run, especially with running an AC in the summer or heating in the winter. After that we went to Senator Pam Helming’s office. She wasn’t there because she was in session, so one of her assistants led us from her office to the senate floor. We only got a few minutes with her because she needed to return to session, but she came out to see us and we got some good photos. She made a point to say that we should catch up at the fair this year. She always attends the fair and I see her every year. She has given me awards. Pam Helming, she is somebody who I look up to exponentially. We got lunch at the food truck in the square outside of the capital and senate building, then we took a tour of the capital building. Our tour guide's name was Joseph.

He was amazing. He told us all sorts of little things but also focused on the big picture. We saw the million dollar staircase, the revisions that have been made to the capital, and its history. I got to see so many things. I took some beautiful photos of the stone work in this building that we hold so dearly as New Yorkers

Finally, we went to the appellate court, and we learned about what Matthew Side does there and how appeals work in our state court system. I got to ask a lot of amazing questions to one of the first recipients of the Earlandt award. It was nice to see that he is giving back to the people of this state in this way. As my Mom and I drove home I reflected on everything I had learned and what I can do with that information now and in the future. Thank you to the New York State Grange for giving me this opportunity and I got to learn and grow in this experience.”

Alyvia was a wonderful representative for this award. She was well spoken and carried herself professionally when speaking with the legislators. I hope we have many applicants to choose from for next year. If you know of anyone that might be interested in applying please let them know what a wonderful experience they can have. Applications can be found on the state grange website in the handbook and are due by September 1st.

Leadership Membership

Invite Your Community to Discover the Grange

Is your Grange interested in having a membership booth at a local fair, festival, or community event?

A booth can be a simple but powerful way to introduce people to the Grange, share what your local Grange is doing, and invite neighbors to become part of something meaningful. Fairs and festivals give us a chance to meet people where they already are and show them that the Grange is still active, welcoming, and committed to building community.

If your Grange would like help planning a membership booth, gathering materials, or thinking through how to present the Grange in a friendly and effective way, please contact me. I would be glad to work with you and help your Grange prepare for a successful outreach opportunity.

Together, we can help more people discover the fellowship, service, and community spirit of the Grange.

of Lori Little, is the recipient of the June Gill Nursing Award. She is a 2026 graduate of Cuba-Rushford High School and plans to attend Jamestown Community College in the nursing program. Jayden is completing the New Vision Medical Health Professions Program through BOCES where she has prepared for college and her future nursing career by earning 26 college credits and gaining clinical experience. She is looking forward to an exciting future in the nursing field with compassion and empathy for people who are hurting and help them to live their best lives.

She is a member of Cuba Grange #799 in Allegany County and has earned her 4th degree. She has been involved in the community with blood donations, annual backpack distribution of school supplies, a student representative of the Board of Christian Education, the community food pantry and volunteering at the church's rummage room. She was her high school class secretary for four years. She has also been youth representatives for the Cuba First Baptist Church and American Baptist Women's Ministries of New York State.

Anne Brungard, of Cuba-Rushford High School, states "she has demonstrated positive conduct and attitude along with an industrious work ethic. Given those characteristics, she shows kindness, compassion, and respect for those with whom she is associated and all with whom she comes in contact. She is a role model. Her chosen career path could not be more perfect for this young lady."

Susan Freestone

WYATT MASON PHELPS



Wyatt Phelps, a computer science major with a focus on computer software design and development at Jefferson Community College, is our next recipient of the Susan Freestone Education Award. Wyatt is the son of Melvin and Jennifer Phelps.

His interest in his major began with computer games eventually turning into how they work. The more classes he has taken related to the topic, the more he's taken an interest in and a desire to delve deeper into computers. Wyatt feels it is "important for people to be connected. A connection to the community is nice to have and learn many

stories about different people. You see how their experiences have shaped both the world around them and who they currently are."

He currently works for Northern Grace Farm responsible for animal chores, equipment operation and general work. He also works for Copenhagen Stewards Shop responsible for stocking shelves, making food and keeping track of food codes. Wyatt was a member of the South Rutland Valley Junior Grange #24 and is a South Rutland Valley Grange #53 member in Jefferson County. His is the brother of Ryan, Ashley, Brandon and Garrett. While in high school, he was involved in the Robotic Club, the First Tech Challenge, Library Club and FFA.



SARAH JEAN GRIFFIN

Sarah Griffin, daughter of James and Jennifer Griffin, is a recipient of the Susan Freestone Education Award. Her major is Music Education and Performance at Ithaca College. She has been a college orientation leader as well as an audition and interview authorized monitor. Her career goal is to help children find their passion for music, no matter the intensity of their musical path, spreading passion and joy through teaching.

The Grange has been a part of her life since elementary school when she was a member of the Stanford Junior Grange #414. She is currently a member of Stanford Grange #808. She has earned the 4th and 5th degrees. She has been service-oriented, leading students of her small rural elementary school to raise money in a fundraiser to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Through her Leadership Scholar Program at college, she has volunteered hours in the Ithaca area, helping people set up community festivals and celebrations.

As well as being involved in the Grange, Sarah has also participated in student council, several theatrical groups in and outside of school and works summers at a local recreation park. Ryan Orton, former teacher and student council co-advisor and secretary of Stanford Grange #808, states Sarah has "excellent communication skills, can work with other students and adults. She is the epitome of dedication and service before self." Sarah is the sister of Lee and James and resides in Clifton Corners.



Clifford Herman

HAILEY ANNA DECK

Hailey Deck, daughter of Richie Deck and Sarah Clock, is the recipient of the Clifford D. Herman Scholarship. She is a graduate of Stissing Mountain Jr/Sr High School and plans to attend SUNY New Paltz as an Education Major in Math and Asian Studies minor.



Hailey was a member of the student council, travel club and the National Honor Society. Known as the "phantom of the art room", Hailey has participated in the annual art fair volunteering for her time and talents. Shana Smith, Visual Arts Faculty member of her high school, states, "Her contributions have significantly enriched our school's artistic community. Beyond the classroom and studio, she is an engaged and responsible member of our school community. She possesses the creativity, work ethic, discipline, and collaborative spirit that will enable her to thrive in a college environment."

She is a member of Stanford Grange #808 of Dutchess County and has earned her 4th degree. Hailey states, "I believe it is important for people to be involved in the community because a strong community is an American cornerstone that has become increasingly lost through the progression of technology. When our country was founded everyone within a community was charged with a task that was shared within the community. I have worked to accomplish this by being a member of my local Grange and helping with their community events."

Hailey enjoys learning math and the fact there is always a solution to every problem. She hopes to inspire and educate high school students in such a way that enables them to view math in a similar light. She wants to get students to understand math better than what most currently do. She wants to become a guide for others by addressing others' fears and needs.

She is the sister of Kaelyn, Payton, Jesse, Dean and Quinn.

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