



# The State Grange News

The official publication of the Massachusetts State Grange

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January 2022

11 Pages

## From the President's Desk

Happy New Year! I'm excited to get this new year started!

We had a great State Grange Family Meeting in December at the Charlton Grange Hall (a special thank you to Charlton Grange for the use of their hall) which resulted in many new ideas and events in the works for this coming year. I'd like to thank everyone who attended and for your dedication to help get the Grange back on track and moving again. Here are some of the results from this meeting:

All the Committee Directors will be meeting this month to discuss their programs and see how they can collaborate on some of the events they are planning for this year. They will be putting together a calendar of events which will be published in the State Grange News so everyone can "save the dates" and plan accordingly.

I'm really excited that the General Deputies have been working diligently to hold a Deputy Training School to be held this month (something I've been wanting since I became President). They are also working on holding a Degree Day. More information will be printed as available.

The State Officers are in the process of planning a family activity/event which will allow members of all ages to get together and have fun.

We will be continuing to have the State Officers reach out to their assigned Subordinate Granges to be their connection with the State Grange and to assist in keeping them informed and answering questions.

The Membership Committee has assured me that the new member Membership Packet

See **PRESIDENT** Page 5

## Executive Committee Quarterly Report

Immediately after the close of the 2021 State Session, the Executive Committee reorganized: Chairman - Kathy Peterson; Vice Chairman - George Thomas; and Secretary/Auditor - Janet Horne. The Executive Committee authorized the payment of outstanding State Session bills after approval by the State President and Auditor. At a subsequent meeting the Sunday Proceedings (October 31, 2021) of the 2021 State Session were approved.

The Executive Committee adopted the Opportunity Grant Program to assist Subordinate and Pomona Granges with funding to implement and conduct projects or programs that increase the viability and visibility of the Grange in the communities the Grange serves. The Opportunity Grant Program addresses projects or programs not associated with existing grants and loan programs. Information was included in the Grange packets at State Session.

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## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, January 9, 7 p.m.** — State Grange Youth & Young Adult Committee GYM meeting. Contact [youth@massgrange.org](mailto:youth@massgrange.org) to get the Zoom login details. Learn about this year's State Grange Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song contests.

**Monday, January 10, 7 p.m.** — Holden Grange Scavenger Hunt of Rare and Hard to Find Items. Holden Senior Center, 1130 Main St. To join in, email the Lecturer for the list of items: [landbjordan@gmail.com](mailto:landbjordan@gmail.com). Snow date: Jan. 24.

**Friday, January 21, 6 p.m.** — South Middleborough Grange will meet at the home of Tara Stuart, 44 Keith St., Middleborough. Pot luck supper at 6 p.m., followed by meeting. Raffle to benefit Grange charities.

**Friday, February 18, 6 p.m.** — South Middleborough Grange will meet at the home of the LaCroix Family, 74 Purchase St., Middleborough. Pot luck supper at 6 p.m., followed by meeting. Raffle to benefit Grange charities.

**March 12-15** — Washington DC Experience for Juniors and Youth/Young Adults. Registration deadline is February 12th. See pages 7 & 8 for more information.

**Please submit event information to:**  
[stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

### ***Tips for submitting news & photos***

1. The best way to submit your news items is to send us a document that is typed in a word processing program and attached to an email.
2. The best way to submit photos is to attach high resolution images individually and type the captions in the body of an email or attach a document that contains the captions.
3. Send your submissions to:  
[stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

## From the Membership Committee

Happy New Year! 2022 is underway and your friends from the membership committee hope that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

The membership committee unveiled the “new member” kit during the annual State Grange session. Kits will be assembled in January and the committee will send one to each community Grange secretary, we have also retrieved the list of new members and will send each member a kit. Once the initial kits are disbursed, we will utilize the community Grange quarterly reports to mail out kits to members reported to the State Grange. Help us by ensuring that the information is complete on the quarterly report including the street address, town, state and zip code.

Should community Granges plan in advance for new member obligation or degree conferral, you can also contact the membership committee to obtain kits for the new members you anticipate joining your Grange. While each Grange will have one on hand through out initial mailing, any member of the membership committee can provide additional kits with sufficient advance notice. Additionally, we hope to attend meetings and would kindly ask that you notify the committee of any meeting in which you are initiating new members and we will make every effort to get a representative of the State Grange to attend.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to us via Director Roland Giguere at [rolandgig@gmail.com](mailto:rolandgig@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

Membership Committee

### **MASSACHUSETTS STATE GRANGE NEWS**

Massachusetts State Grange Inc.

GLENN P. GIBSON, Editor-in-Chief

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## ***From the Agriculture and Environment Committee***

Happy New Year Everyone! We hope that you all had a great holiday season. As we enter the new year, are you a person who makes New Year's Resolutions? If so, you can make a resolution to participate in the contests of the Agriculture and the Environment Committee! As was mentioned last month, we are really hoping to get nominations in the Innovator contest. Maybe you can make a resolution to participate in the poster contest. This contest is open to all ages and the theme is **150 Years of Grange, Farms, and Agriculture**. This is a wide-open theme and we can't wait to see what we receive. Do you like pumpkins? Do you like growing stuff? Are you a Junior Granger, a Junior Leader, or a Grange sponsoring a Junior Grange? Here is your opportunity to do a Grange project, enter a contest, and work on your Gardening badge all at the same time. If a Junior doesn't have room in their family garden, or doesn't have access to a garden, this would be a perfect opportunity for Granges to have their own garden where the Juniors could grow their plants. Do you have space at a Grange Hall? A member's home? A really dirty bedroom? The seeds are sent to the Junior Leaders with planting instructions. How cool would it be for the community to pass by your Grange Hall and see a plot of land full of pumpkin vines and Junior Grangers working in the dirt? Just picture it! We will clear a space at our tables for all the entries come October. Make sure you read the program book as the rules have changed.

We all look forward to the new year and the wonderful harvest that we will reap.

Stay warm!

Matt, Kathy, Jessica, Peter, Warren, Ann, & Sam

***Follow MA State Grange Online!***

**Website: [www.massgrange.org](http://www.massgrange.org)**

**Facebook: [Massachusetts State Grange](#)**

**Instagram: [massgrange](#)**

## **REPORT** *From Page 1*

With the approach of the 150th Anniversary, the Executive Committee took a look at our Grange identity and the need for publicity. We decided to use a S.W.O.T. analysis. S.W.O.T. means strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We identified internal items that need to be addressed. A subcommittee was formed to bring forward those items that can be changed to streamline and improve the internal operation of the Grange. We decided to use a consultant to help develop goals for the future - short and long term. This includes working on Grange identity, relevancy and increasing membership. The Executive Committee recognizes the need to keep moving the Grange forward and the upcoming anniversary is the perfect time to make changes.

The roof of the Albert Thomas Library/Museum in Rutland was more than 35 years old and needed some attention. It was voted to replace the roof using funds from the Penny-A-Day Fund. The roofing company did a great job. The building is the repository of the rich history of the Grange in the Commonwealth and also serves as a meeting place.

It was voted to authorize the State Secretary to purchase five Chromebooks and software for the State Session committees. This will allow the Session committees to complete reports more quickly and to submit the same to the Production Room faster and in a uniform manner.

Last year a committee was appointed to review the Massachusetts State Grange Constitution and By-Laws. Ten resolutions were submitted for delegate action and were adopted. The committee will continue its review and bring forward more revisions for delegate action.

The Executive Committee extends to all members a Happy New Year!

Fraternally, Kathy Peterson, Chairman  
Massachusetts State Grange Executive  
Committee

## ***From the Veterans Committee***

The end of 2021 included Veteran Nights held by several Granges. I was happy to arrange getting quilts through the State QoV Coordinator and deliver them as well as provide other information for those Granges who request it.

In November, Holden Grange awarded Quilts of Valor to Justin Bassett and Thomas Ruchala of Rutland. After serving six years, Justin Bassett retired from the Marines in 2007. He serves the Town of Rutland as an EMT and a firefighter, holding the position of captain since 2013. Tom Ruchala entered the Air Force in 1971, training to be a Fire Protection Specialist. While at Westover Air Force Base, his full-time duty was providing support to



***Justin Bassett (left), Thomas Ruchala***

crews and aircrafts returning from Vietnam and the West Coast. After two years, he transitioned to reserve duty. Since his discharge in 1977, Tom has been involved in the American Legion.

Last month, Army veteran Walter Lehmann received a Quilt of Valor from North Orange Grange. After being drafted in 1953, his early training took place at Fort Devens and in Pennsylvania. As part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, his



***Walter Lehmann and his family***

duties included protecting Washington, DC and was part of the Honor Guard during military funerals. Walter earned a marksmanship badge as well as a service medal during the Korean War.

I look forward to hearing about other recognitions and receiving photos to display at the next State Session.

To all veterans, thank you for your service to our nation.

Janet Segur, Director

### ***Contact the Communications Committee***

To submit news items, photographs and events for use on the Massachusetts State Grange social media pages, website and The State Grange News, please e-mail: [stategrangenews@massgrange.org](mailto:stategrangenews@massgrange.org)

The deadline to submit content for publication in The State Grange News is the 20th of each month. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the committee via the above email.

***Mission Statement: "The Massachusetts State Grange creates opportunities for leadership and community improvement through its commitment to expand agricultural education in order to raise the quality of life for all."***

— **PRESIDENT** *From Page 1* —

will be ready and available this month.

The new State Grange Magazine is available. Some of the Deputies and Officers that attended the State Grange Family meeting will be delivering copies to Granges in their respective areas. Otherwise, copies will be mailed out the Granges' secretaries. The Magazine is to share with your community. If your Grange needs more copies, contact the Communications Committee.

The Executive Committee is looking into updating the Library Museum conference area by adding Wi-Fi and virtual communication ability to allow us to have virtual meetings and programs at the museum.

As you can see, we have a lot to be excited about this year and more to come. Please check the State Grange News, our website and Facebook page each month for information and updates on all of these upcoming events.

Congratulations to the Granges that received awards from National Grange. The certificates were given to the Deputy/Officer from the respective areas. Following is the list:

**2021 Distinguished Grange:**

Upton Grange #125

**2021 Grange in Action Award:**

Dudley Grange #163

Holden Grange #78

Sterling Grange #53

Stockbridge Grange #295

**2019-2020 Net Gain in Membership**

Beverly Grange #306

Charlton Grange #92

Laurel of West Newbury Grange #464

Petersham Grange #95

Prescott of Pepperell Grange #73

Rochester Grange #257

Stockbridge Grange #295

Upton Grange #125

Westport Grange #181

Williamsburg Grange #225

**2020-2021 Net Gain in Membership**

Central Community Grange #22

Guiding Star Grange #1

Hanover Grange #206

Hinsdale Grange #19

Norfolk Grange #135

North Orange Grange #86

Ware Grange #164

Whately Grange #414

Williamstown Grange #366

Well Done everyone!

Glenn

***Pictures from the State Family Meeting***



# ***Happy New Year from the Youth & Young Adult Committee***

On behalf of the State Grange Youth & Young Adult Committee, we wish for you, your family and Grange membership a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

As we reflect on the past year, we would like to share with you the highlights of the youth activities through photos from the 2021 State Grange Session.

## **Community Service Project**



Youth, Young Adults and youth supporters visited Loaves & Fishes Food in Pantry in Lancaster Friday night of State Grange Session which was located just around the corner from the Session Hotel. Those that participated stocked shelves and learned the details of coordinating as well as managing a food pantry.



## **Opening Saturday Session**

A very special thank you to all the youth that participated in serving as a officer in opening the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of State Grange Session in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Special thank you to Kristina Moffitt and Erin Tully for coordinating the opening drill. Thank you to State Grange Pianist Brian Carr for being the musician for the opening as well as for both rehearsals.



## **Grange Awards**

Thank you to all those that participated in the State Grange Youth & Young Adult Contests which included the public speaking, impromptu speaking, sign-a-song, and Grange Bowling Contests. A very special thank you to those that nominated members for the State Grange Couple honor as well as for the Outstanding Young Adult Award. We are very pleased to have Rich and Tracee Perkins as the State Grange Couple and Susan Barrows as State Grange Outstanding Young Adult. All three belong to Upton Grange No. 125 and this year, these title holders will serve as team members on the State Grange Youth & Young Adult Committee.

See ***YOUTH*** Page 7

## YOUTH *From Page 6*

### **Let's Meet at the GYM (Grange Youth Mixer)**

For the month of January, all Grange members interested in learning about this year's State Grange Public Speaking and Sign-A-Song contests....as well as other Grange youth programs and contests are invited to the next State Grange Youth & Young Adult Committee GYM meeting, Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. It is important to contact [youth@massgrange.org](mailto:youth@massgrange.org) to get the Zoom login details.

This upcoming year, the Committee is planning to coordinate and host one event each month. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in the 2021-2022 year either on zoom or in person so watch for the State Grange News for upcoming events. Please check the State Grange program book as well as the facebook page and emails for information for upcoming events including: 'Fun in the Snow', Maple Event.....and State Grange Youth Leadership Training School in late Spring.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact any members of the State Grange Youth and Young Adult Committee Members:

Mary Jordan, Co-Director: [mjordan713@verizon.net](mailto:mjordan713@verizon.net); Theresa Kane, Co – Director: [tikane48@gmail.com](mailto:tikane48@gmail.com); Erica Costello, Central Area: [erica.costello@gmail.com](mailto:erica.costello@gmail.com); Evelyn Laragione, Western Area: [elaragione@nycap.rr.com](mailto:elaragione@nycap.rr.com); Carrie Lehman, Northeastern Area: [Lehmann9@yahoo.com](mailto:Lehmann9@yahoo.com); Charlene Slocum, Southeastern Area: [charleslocum@gmail.com](mailto:charleslocum@gmail.com)

Fraternally, Mary Jordan & Theresa Kane,  
Co-Directors of the State Grange Youth &  
Young Adult Committee

***Still looking for that perfect Christmas present for your younger Grange members? How about giving them an experience that will give them a lifetime of memories, experience, and skills that they will be sure to never forget!***

Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors are invited to join us in Washington, DC on March 12-15, 2022 for the Washington DC Experience.



The purpose of the Washington DC Experience is for Junior and Youth/Young Adult aged Grangers from across the country to come together and learn about how the Grange functions on the legislative side.

Youth and Juniors will be educated on the many ways in which Grangers and citizens alike can advocate on the issues they feel important to shape public policy and communities in which they live. During the Washington DC Experience, Grangers are invited to get an up-close and behind-the-scenes look at what government is and how it operates in Washington, DC.

Grangers will attend briefings with important information pertaining to the Grange Legislative Department. Plans will also include meeting with governmental departments (such as the Department of Agriculture or Department of Education) meeting with Congressmen and Senators from your state and a tour of DC.

Just as our Grange Declaration of Purposes suggests, we will ensure that our Grange Youth, Young Adults, and Juniors “take a proper interest in the politics of one’s country” so they might

See **EXPERIENCE** Page 8

— **EXPERIENCE** From Page 7 —

become the informed and involved citizens required to move America forward and to guarantee a better society for future generations.

Make plans to join us now. Travel and lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendees with a \$150 registration fee to cover some meal costs and tours. Potomac Grange #1 of Washington DC is offering a scholarship to attend the event - please see the application for the Grange Grassroots Activism Scholarship opportunity in the National Youth and Junior Grange Program books. Register today! <https://form.jotform.com/213325185655154> Registration & Hotel Deadline: February 12. Registration is \$150 to include most meals and tours. Make reservations at: Quality Inn Tysons Corner - \$79/night | 703-344-8020 Room Block under 'National Grange'

The tentative schedule will include:

**Saturday:** Meet and Greet at Hotel

**Sunday:** Travel to National Grange Headquarters - Learn about the NG Legislative department and how it works in DC - Mock Interviews and Tour the city

**Monday:** Briefings at National Headquarters - Department visits

**Tuesday:** Meetings with Representatives and wrap up celebration dinner

## Christmas Party

The Members of Upton Grange #125 and Upton Junior Grange #39 put on a Christmas Program for Upton Seniors on December 6.



The group of 12 Grangers led a Christmas Carol Sing-Along accompanied by Ann Perkins, Grange Pianist.



The Youth and Junior Grangers helped decorate the Senior Center Tree. They passed out home baked Christmas cookies, cups of Candies, and Christmas Cards. A merry time was enjoyed by all!



*Ayla and Dylan McCoskery, Upton Juniors*



## **Whately Grange Ceremony**

During their December 9th meeting the “Quilt of Valor” and “Patriots Award” was presented to James Ross who served 4 years of active duty in Korea during the VietNam Conflict and 2 years of active reserves at Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee, Mass. He attained the rank of T/Sgt., served in the communications sector of the Air Force, and



presently is a member of his local VFW. Those presenting the awards were: MA ST Lecturer, Kristen Paulson and James Martin, MA ST Grange Veterans Committee. He was escorted to the altar by Deputy Steve Emerson (veteran), his wife, Martha, and Deputy Tom Watson, (veteran). Whately Grange President, Ruth Leahey, presented him with a cartoon drawing which she drew of him in Air Force uniform.

He is a UMASS School of Business graduate, married to his wife, Katie, has four children and five grandchildren. He was honored this year with having the annual Town Report dedi-

cated to him for his longtime dedicated service to the Town of Whately.

One of his most recent accomplishments is the renovation of the town’s War Memorial area, adding additional names to monuments, new shrubbery, lighting, and etc. Mr. Ross helped to make this project succeed by obtaining financial support, alerting the townspeople to the need and organizing the project. The project/ and area was rededicated on November 11, 2021, Veteran’s Day. He and his fellow VFW and American Legion friends annually participate in the Grange organized Memorial Day ceremonies held on the Sunday before Memorial Day.

## **Members Recognized**

Three members of South Middleborough Grange #337 were awarded 25 year certificates and pins at the December meeting. Awards were presented to Tara Stuart, Bill LaCroix and Lynne Mandile. The honorees are all long-time agricultural fair participants and have worked on numerous events, attended meetings and generously supported the grange with their time and financial contributions. A very happy occasion for all!

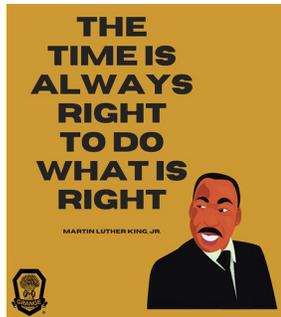


***Pictured, left to right, are Tara Stuart, Bill LaCroix, Lynne Mandile and President Sandra Jefferson.***

**“MA Firsts” Trivia Quiz & “January 2022 Calendar Highlights” by Kristin Paulson, MA State Lecturer**

- 1] The 1st public Beach in the USA was in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Quincy c] Saugus d] Revere
- 2] The 1st American ironworks was in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Quincy c] Saugus d] Revere
- 3] The 1st American Railroad was built in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Quincy c] Saugus d] Revere
- 4] The 1st typewriter was invented by Charles Thurber in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Cambridge c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 5] The 1st sewing machine was created by Elias Howe in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Cambridge c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 6] The 1st American printing press was in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Cambridge c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 7] The 1st “Good Housekeeping Magazines” were published in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Cambridge c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 8] The 1st American Novel, Brown’s “Power of Sympathy”, was published in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Holyoke c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 9] The 1st Basketball game was invented by Dr. Naismith in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Holyoke c] Springfield d] Worcester
- 10] The 1st Volleyball game was invented by William Morgan in \_\_\_\_, MA. a] Boston b] Holyoke c] Springfield d] Worcester

Source: [https://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cispdf/Mass\\_Facts.pdf](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/cis/cispdf/Mass_Facts.pdf)



PIC Source: National Grange.org

“JANUARY BIOGRAPHY” Martin Luther King Jr [GA\_B:1.15.1929] called Boston his 2nd home, it’s where he met his wife Coretta Scott in 1952 & where he earned his Ph.D. from Boston University. While living in Boston’s South End, he preached at Roxbury’s 12th Baptist Church. In 4.22.1965 King spoke to MA Legislature; “I come to MA not to condemn, but to encourage...from these shores a new nation was born, & it must be from these shores that liberty must be preserved...that will make justice & brotherhood a reality for all God’s Children.” MLK’s speech helped pass the “MA Racial Imbalance Act” ending segregation in MA schools. He was assassinated on 4.4.1968.

MA Celebrities born in January: **Lucretia Mott** [Nantucket\_B:1.3.1793] (Black & Women’s Rights Activist); **Ray Bolger** [Boston\_B:1.10.1904] (Scarecrow of Oz); **John Hancock** [Braintree\_B:1.12.1737] (USA Founder & 1st MA Governor); **Horatio Alger** [MA\_B:1.13.1832] (author); **Benjamin Franklin** [Boston\_B:1.17.1706] (Statesman -Inventor); **Edgar Allen Poe** [Boston\_B:1.19.1809] (Poet); **Geena Davis** [Wareham\_B:1.21.1956] (Actress)

Source: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/01/11/things-about-martin-luther-king-time-boston/> / <https://www.baystatebanner.com/2020/01/16/martin-luther-king-jr-s-boston-legacy/>

**January is Universal Human Rights Month. It’s also Hobby Month, Blood Donor Month, & National Mentoring Month. January’s 1 st week is New Year’s Resolutions Week & 3rd week is National Healthy Weight Week. January’s (named for Janus, Roman God of Doors) Information: Flower is Carnation, Birthstone is Garnet, & Full Wolf (Ice) Moon is on Jan 17.**

Date	Name of Special Day	Description	Event Type
01/01/22	<b>New Years' Day</b>	Also known as: National Hang Over Day & Polar Bear Plunge Day	National Holiday
01/06/22	<b>Feast of Epiphany / 3 Kings Day</b>	12th day of Christmas. 3 Kings: Melchior, Caspar, & Balthazar gave Jesus gifts.	Christian Holiday
01/09/22	<b>Law Enforcement Appreciation Day</b>	Founded in 2015, info at: <a href="https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/lead">https://www.concernsofpolicesurvivors.org/lead</a>	National Day
01/11/22	<b>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</b>	This Day was named by US Senate 2007. <a href="http://www.318project.org/">http://www.318project.org/</a>	National Day
01/14/22	<b>Ratification Day</b> (of Treaty of Paris)	Treaty of Paris ratified on 1.14.1784, officially ended the American Revolution.	Historic Day
01/16/22	<b>Religious Freedom Day</b>	US President proclaimed Jan16 as Religious Freedom Day since 1993.	National Day
01/17/22	<b>Benjamin Franklin Day</b>	Ben was born on this day in 1706, inventor & 1 of America’s founding fathers	International Day
01/16/22	<b>World Religion Day</b> [3rd Sunday]	Began in 1950 by US Bahá’í religion to promote inter-faith understanding & unity.	Religious Day
01/17/22	<b>Martin Luther King Day</b> -3rd Monday	In 1983, M. L. King’s birthday became a National Holiday by Act of US Congress.	National Holiday
01/24/22	<b>International Day of Education</b>	UN proclaimed January 24th International Day of Education in 1998	International Day
01/24/22	<b>National Compliment Day</b>	NH’s Chamberlin & Hoffman said, offer sincere compliments to people you know.	Special Event Day
01/27/22	<b>Holocaust Remembrance Day</b>	6 million Jews died in WWII, untill liberated from Auschwitz on 1.27.45.	International Day
01/29/22	<b>National Seed Swap Day</b>	[Last Saturday] Seed Info: <a href="http://www.gardenersnet.com/seeds.htm">http://www.gardenersnet.com/seeds.htm</a>	National Day
01/31/22	<b>Chinese New Year’s Eve</b>	Chinese New Year Day: Feb. 1st “The year of the Tiger”	International Day

\*Sources: <https://nationaldaycalendar.com> <https://www.history.com/> <https://en.wikipedia.org/> “Quiz” Answers: 1]\_d; 2]\_c; 3]\_b; 4]\_d; 5]\_a; 6]\_b; 7]\_c; 8]\_d; 9]\_c; 10]\_b

# OUTDOOR ALMANAC

1

On your New Year's walk, look and listen for Northern Cardinal's *purdy, purdy, purdy* song; Dark-eyed Junco's musical bell-like trill; White-breasted Nuthatch's *ankh, ankh, ankh* calls; and Black-capped Chickadee's *chick-a dee-dee-dee* song. And if you are walking among pines or spruce, look up in the treetops and you may see a Red Crossbill or hear their *jip, jip, jip* or *chuppity, chuppity, chuppity* chatter.

2-4

From a dark location, after midnight, look north toward the Little Dipper to observe the Quadrantid meteor shower—now at its peak with up to 40 shooting stars per hour.

6

Male white-tailed deer grow a new set of antlers every year. Since mating season has ended this is the time to look for shed antlers on the ground.

7

Observe your shrubs and fruit trees after the first snows. Chewed twigs and evergreen leaves with ragged edges are a sign of deer. Cleanly nipped, angled twig ends close to the ground or top of the snow are a sign of rabbits.

10

Spend an hour outside after dark listening for hooting owls. This is the best time of year to hear Great Horned Owls, **Barred Owls**, and Eastern Screech-owls as they set up territories and find mates.



12

Look for Eastern Bluebirds, Tree Sparrows, **Snow Buntings**, American Goldfinches, and other songbirds scratching in the dirt or piles of snow along on the edge of the road. They are swallowing grit to help their gizzards grind up the hard seeds and fruit pits that make up their winter diet.



16

When ice forms on interior lakes, Bald Eagles move to river mouths along the coast where they can fish in the open water. The mouth of the Merrimack often has a number of wintering eagles.

17

Full Moon



18

Signs of coyote breeding season can be found in parallel **coyote tracks**, scent markings, and duet howling.



23

The beauty of bark is most easily appreciated in winter. Look for the distinctive coverings of white ash (interconnected narrow diamonds); quaking aspen (pale, grayish green, smooth on the branches and rough on the older trunk); American beech (silvery gray and very smooth); and sugar maple (grayish, thickened vertical strips broken into irregular rectangles).

26

Muskrats do not store food for the winter so they have to forage every day. If the water has minimal ice, they can be seen on the ice or pond edges eating water plants, and occasionally snails or small fish.