

Orange Town News



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021



COVID Vaccinations Get Under Way

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Orange Health Department has rolled out its first round of COVID vaccination clinics which started January 28 at High Plains Community Center. As of last week, there were two clinics, one on Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. specifically for local seniors who had signed up through the town website ("Town of Orange Online VAMS Enrollment"). The main clinic is on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and people can sign up through the federal Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS). Both programs follow the state guidelines, which so far included frontline workers, healthcare workers and those 75 of age and older.

By February 4 the local health department had vaccinated about 200 residents ages 75 and up, said Terry Waldron, the clinic coordinator. It may take a village to raise a child, as the

saying goes, but it also takes a village to pull off a general vaccination campaign. Waldron was delighted at the community response to the appeal for medical volunteers and many others, all working to coordinate signups, arrivals, questionnaires, appointments, and to administer the vaccine. Local nurses and physicians have stepped up, as did police officers, CERT Team members and volunteer firefighters. A local medic enrolled in the state program to be certified to administer vaccines as well, Waldron said.

Even so, Health Department Director Dr. Amir Mohammad said they continue to call on health care professionals, including retirees, to join the effort and help out during the clinics.

In addition to the medical procedure itself, the clinic also requires clerical support, making sure people

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RBCC Proposal Set for Town Referendum

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Orange residents are invited to decide in a referendum on Tuesday, February 16, whether or not to purchase the 287-acre Race Brook Country Club for a purchase price of \$8.5 million. If approved, the town will bond for \$8.6 million at a time of record-low interest rates. The current club would continue to run the operation and the responsibility for the upkeep; in return the club will make a lease payment to the town over 40 years, which will pay off the town's debt.

The Board of Selectmen decided to schedule a full-day referendum, with polls open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday at High Plains Community Center.

Residents also can get an absentee ballot. However, those who wish to vote absentee have to keep the Presidents Day holiday in mind, as Town Hall will be closed on Monday,

February 15. Absentee ballots can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office until Friday, February 12; and dropped off in the outside ballot box in front of Town Hall by 8 p.m. the day of the referendum. Town Clerk Patrick O'Sullivan said by February 2, he had already received some 300 absentee ballot requests.

Virtual Town Meeting: During a virtual Town Meeting February 2 on Zoom, First Selectman Jim Zeoli told his audience of some 140 "You are buying an asset, whether they (the club) thrive or not." He emphasized that a bi-partisan Board of Selectmen had voted unanimously to recommend the purchase.

The Zoom meeting allowed people to submit comments in the chat area or by emailing them ahead of time. But instead of having people take turns at the

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David Fiske 203-305-8700

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“Vaccinations” From Page 1

have access to and filled out the health questionnaire – as well as post-vaccination monitoring, to make sure there are no allergic reactions. People with a history of allergic reactions will be monitored for about a half hour before they leave. But before they go home, they also need to schedule a date for their booster shot. The town has been receiving the Moderna vaccine, which requires the second shot 28 days after the first, Waldron said.

The senior center has provided help for seniors who may not have access to the electronic platforms to sign up, Waldron said. In some cases, Senior Services Coordinator Dennis Marsh and his staff have mailed the questionnaire to people’s homes so they could fill them out before they come in for their appointment. In addition to the Senior Center, the Visiting Nurse Association has helped sign people up for the clinics.

By having seniors filling out the questionnaire on the town website, it helps the health department gage the interest among local seniors, Dr. Mohammad said. That way they get a clearer picture of how much vaccine they will be needing.

Assisted living and nursing home facilities were among the first group of people to be offered the vaccine. Maplewood Senior Living, for instance, got residents and staff vaccinated on January 20, in an in-house clinic that

was managed by CVS. “We were thrilled with the initial high participation levels and the overall enthusiasm and gratitude we have seen from residents and staff,” said Liz Castiline-Gannon, the executive director. They had 123 people sign up to be vaccinated.

Edward Slack was the first resident in the community to be vaccinated. It was his 82nd birthday the day of the clinic. “This is the best birthday present,” he reportedly said.

“Everything has gone really smoothly,” Castiline-Gannon said. Minor soreness and fatigue were experienced by some, but overall, they were mild side effects. “CVS managed the process for us and were professional, compassionate and provided a positive experience for our residents and staff,” she said.

Kim Bragoli, Director of Marketing, at Maplewood in Orange stated, “We are thrilled to be able to offer our residents and associates the vaccine as added protection against COVID-19. Maplewood Senior Living communities enrolled in the Federal HHS COVID-19 Vaccination Program, making us part of the first phase of priority access to the vaccine.

As the vaccination capabilities are expanding nationwide, many are looking forward to seeing popular events and celebrations return to the Fairgrounds. “There is a possibility that the carnival may happen this year,” said First Selectman Jim Zeoli at the January 13 meeting of the Board of



Edward Slack was the first resident in the community to be vaccinated. It was his birthday the day of the clinic and he said this about getting the vaccine, “This is the best birthday present.”

Selectmen with cautious optimism. “And there is a possibility the [Orange Country] Fair might happen.”

But even though new infection numbers are trending in the right direction, preventive measures will stay in place

for the foreseeable future, Dr. Mohammad said. “Just because you are vaccinated does not mean you cannot still be infected. Transmission is still possible,” he said, adding “all the vaccine can do is reduce the severity of the illness.”

“The heart has its reasons of which reason knows nothing.” — BLAISE PASCAL

“RBCC” From Page 1

microphone, as they normally would during a Town Meeting, Zeoli read the questions and comments aloud and then answered them along the way.

The financing generated many questions. Zeoli said at the end of a 20-year bond, the town will have spent \$10.3 million. For the club the lease payment will be spread over 40 years and will total \$10.6 million. “Their return to the town will be greater than the expense of the 20-year bond,” Zeoli said. “This is not a bailout.” The lease payment would be \$250,000 for the first five years, then increase to \$380,000. At the same time the town would lose \$125,000 in property tax income.

By stretching the lease over 40 years, the club will be relieved of some of the debt pressures it has been operating under. For the town, bond payments would start in September 2022.

Taxes will make up the difference between the debt payment for the town and the lease payment by the club. Zeoli said that for a home worth about \$360,000 the purchase would add roughly \$52 to the yearly tax bill; a \$700,000 home would see a \$105 increase, and the homeowner of a \$1 million home is looking at a \$158 tax increase. These figures are estimates until the financing is finalized.

Club President Steven Pepe at the Town Meeting explained how the club came to this juncture. He said the club had invested heavily in infrastructure updates in the early 2000s, and was looking to reduce long-term debt. It hired Milone and McBroom to look at the property and they identified 18 lots around the perimeter of the property. That came to the attention of the First Selectman who reached out to them to find out what was going on. The negotiation had to be confidential, Zeoli said. As soon as the talks became public knowledge, the club was approached by developers.

“We did talk about purchasing just a part of the property,” Zeoli said in response to one question. “But that didn’t help the club solve its problem.” The money they would be able to raise from selling a portion of the land was not enough to satisfy the banks.

“Many residents asked if the club is going bankrupt,” Zeoli said. He said an appraisal was done by Kerin & Fazio and included a review of the business operations. The town auditors deemed the club’s books in good condition. It is a not-for-profit enterprise, but a 501(c)7, not-for profit organization.

Benefits to the town: The selectmen all stressed how it would benefit the town to prevent large-scale development on those 287 acres, as

a housing development could have serious implications for the school system and municipal services, requiring large investments to keep up with a growing town.

In addition, this is an investment in preserving the character of the community, Zeoli said. “This is something we do for future generations – your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.” Should the club fail at some point, the town would at least have control over the land, and can decide what to do at that time.

Selectman Mitch Goldblatt made reference to the Plan of Conservation and Development, which identifies Race Brook Country Club as a priority open space parcel, “and we have the ability to make that happen.” Unlike nearly any other land purchase of the town, with this deal there will be a significant revenue stream to the town over the next 40 years. “Every lease payment we receive is more than we have received for any other land holding in Town,” Goldblatt said.

More than a decade ago the town purchased Ewen Farm for approximately \$100,000 per acre – and this purchase would cost less than \$30,000 per acre. “Based on the current cost of building lots, this is a bargain,” Goldblatt said.

Many critics pointed to the expe-

rience of neighboring Country Club of Woodbridge, which saddled that town with years of debt payments and internal strife over what to do with the property. “Woodbridge bought a bankrupt property that had been closed and was not operating,” Zeoli explained. “The buildings were in poor condition and the town paid \$7.4 million and put money into it and thought they could operate it. It was too far gone for the Town of Woodbridge to make it work.”

A number of people wanted to know whether the golf course would be open to Orange residents. Although officials have brought this up during their conversations with the club, it is a business decision, Zeoli said, and not in their hands.

“We are purchasing the land and buildings, not the business of operating a golf course,” he said. He pointed out that other golf courses in town, including Oak Lane which straddles the Woodbridge/Orange town line, and Grassy Hill Country Club, might object to the town working exclusively with one competitor. “We do not want there to be a conflict of interest or hurt their businesses,” he said.

The town owns over 1,200 acres of open space for things like jogging or birdwatching, Zeoli said. “This one is for a different use.”

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Colin Spoerndle accepts a Certificate of Excellence from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents given by Amity superintendent, Dr. Byars. Not pictured Maya Quaranta [Photo by Kathy Burke]

AMSO Students Receive Superintendents Award

AMSO students Maya Quaranta and Colin Spoerndle received the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Award of Excellence and were recognized at the January Board of Education meeting for their community service and service to others, as well as their academic progress and leadership service to the school community.

Maya Quaranta is an active member of AMSO school community. She serves as the student representative on the School Climate Committee. Maya can be counted on to share her ideas and make practical suggestions to improve the school climate.

Her teachers note that Maya has distinguished herself among her peers with her diligence, ability to collaborate, and her outstanding effort.

Outside of school, Maya contributes her community volunteering at a local church baking treats for Orange residents. She also works at a near farm stand.

Colin Spoerndle also serves on the AMSO School Climate Committee and can be counted on to provide thoughtful, honest comments at school climate meetings. His insight and suggestions have been helpful in providing the student perspective on what is and is not working in terms of our school climate. Colin's teachers praised Colin for his positive attitude and work ethic which makes him a leader among his peers.

Outside of school, Colin is busy swimming with the Amity Regional Aquatic Club. Colin has also been active in the Orange Little League helping out clinics for the younger children.

Kindergarten Registration

If your child is turning five on or before January 1, 2022, it is time to register for kindergarten!

Please register by February 28th on our website:

www.oess.org - there may be multiple pop-ups so please click on the pop-

up for: "Kindergarten Registration".

After you have completed the initial registration process, there is no need to send in any paperwork until you receive an introductory letter in April. At that time, details, dates, and further instructions will be provided to you.

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom!
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.
(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News

P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@OrangeTownNews.com

2021 Howard Jacobson Scholarship Award

CAC Area 2 will bestow a scholarship in memory of former longtime Chairperson Howard Jacobson. One high school or college student studying film, mass communications, and television or media studies will receive \$500 to help further their studies.

The Cable Advisory Council of Area 2, which serves the towns of Fairfield, Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Orange and Woodbridge promotes quality Community Access Television. The Council is an ongoing asset for Cable Area 2 with the support of Altice/Cablevision.

Scholarship Qualifications & Criteria - Applicants must be able to prove:

- ✓ They currently reside, and/or are students attending high school, community college, college, or university in one of the six CAC area towns: Fairfield, Bridgeport,

Stratford, Milford, Orange or Woodbridge.

- ✓ They have a declared major in the mass communications, or media studies. Along with pursuing a career in this field, they are taking classes or engaged in independent studies.
- ✓ They are in good standing with their academic institution.
- ✓ They must submit a short essay under 500 words describing their creative coursework, portfolio or project and how it relates to this scholarship award. Supplemental links to media projects are welcome.
- ✓ The winner will be selected on the basis of their overall academic performance, portfolio and their personal statement.

Deadline to apply is June 30, 2021. To apply, please email: info@cacarea2.com.

Connex Credit Union Announces \$6,000 in College Scholarships

Connex Credit Union announced that applications are now open for its annual scholarship program. Through March 12, 2021, college-bound or currently enrolled students can apply for one of three different scholarships totaling \$6,000.

The 2021 Scholarships are:

- › **Nicolas G. Hackett Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)** established in memory of longtime Connex volunteer Nick Hackett;
- › **John R. Edwards Community Involvement Scholarship (\$2,000)** created in honor of former Connex President and Chief Executive Officer John R. Edwards and awarded to a student who emulates Connex's commitment to community service; and
- › **Arthur B. Haesche Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000)** commemorating one of Connex's founding members Arthur B. Haesche that is reserved for a student majoring in business or finance.

These scholarships are available to any student with a 3.0 GPA or higher that is a college-bound high school senior or is already enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year undergraduate program for the fall 2021 semester. The student, or a direct family member (parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle), must also be a Connex Credit Union member in good standing as of December 31, 2020.

To apply, students must go to connexcu.org (or bit.ly/connexscholarship2021) and complete the online application, as well as the short essay component (250 words or less) on the following topic:

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a devastating effect on the financial well-being of many who have lost jobs or experienced reduced work hours. With this in mind, what strategies would be helpful for individuals and families to help avoid financial emergencies in the future? How can credit unions help members be prepared for financial difficulties?

Once finished, a current transcript, including GPA, should be sent to:

Connex Credit Union
Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 477
North Haven, CT 06473

Applications and transcripts must be submitted by March 12, 2021. Any application that is incomplete or not accompanied by a current transcript will not be considered. Students may only apply for one of the three scholarships. Those who have previously won a Connex scholarship or those who are employees of Connex or are members of its Board of Directors, Supervisory Committee, or their immediate families, are not eligible.

For complete details, please visit connexcu.org or contact Anita Annunziato at aannunziato@connexcu.org or 1-800-CR-UNION.



**Dean’s/President’s List
Bryant University**

Smithfield, RI - Bryant University is dedicated to the pursuit, recognition, and celebration of academic excellence. The University is pleased to recognize the following Orange students who have been named to the Deans’ List for the fall 2020 semester: Taylor Nuzzo, class of 2021, Kenneth Page, class of 2023, Alex Palermo, class of 2024, and Andrew Forchetti, class of 2022.

Coastal Carolina University

Conway, SC - 930 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the President’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. That’s 10 percent of the student body with a 4.0 GPA for the fall semester, including Haley Cable a Communication major from Orange.

More than 2,300 undergraduate students at Coastal Carolina University were named to the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester, including Justin Moulder, a Marketing major from Orange, CT.

Connecticut College

New London, CT - The following Orange students have been named to the Connecticut College dean’s list for the 2020 fall semester: Emily Berkeley, 2023, Dean’s High Honors, Psychology; and Henry Westgard, 2024, Dean’s High Honors, Undeclared.

Curry College

Milton, MA - Curry College congratulates roughly 1,000 students who were named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List. To earn a place on the list, full-time undergraduate students - those who carry 12 or more graded credits per semester - must earn a 3.3 grade-point-average (GPA) or higher. Carlee Mulherin and Amanda Moran of Orange were named to the Dean’s List.

Dean College

Franklin, MA - Dean College is pleased to announce that Stephanie Durkee of Orange, CT has earned a place on the Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean’s List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

**Eastern Connecticut
State University**

Willimantic, CT - Eastern Connecticut State University recently released its Dean’s List for the fall 2020 semester, in which more than 1,300 students were recognized for

maintaining high GPAs. Among the students from Orange are: Mason Feurer, a full-time student who majors in Business Administration; Brooke Matyasovsky, a full-time student who majors in Communication and Business Administration; Michael Pretlove, a full-time student who majors in Social Work; Gianna Santangelo, a full-time student who majors in Early Childhood Education and English; and Nuala Tzovolos, a full-time student who majors in Psychology. To qualify for Dean’s List, full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 credits in letter-graded courses with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher in the semester. Part-time students are eligible if they’ve accumulated 15 or more credits of letter-graded course work with an average GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Elon University

Shayna Goldblatt has been named to the President’s List for the 2020 fall semester at Elon University. The President’s List is composed of students with no grade below an A-minus in a minimum of 12 semester hours. Goldblatt is the daughter of Mr. Mitchell R. Goldblatt and Mrs. Abby L. Goldblatt of Orange, CT.

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT. - In order to be placed on the Dean’s List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better. The following Fairfield University students from Orange received Dean’s List Honors for the Fall 2020 semester: Austin Agapiou, Katie Barretta, Cassandra Bishop, Taylor Choe, Mary Foley, Michael Holloway, Christina Skerritt, and Jared Smith.

Georgia Tech

Atlanta, GA - Vince Li of Orange, CT earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for Fall 2020 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Gettysburg College

Gettysburg, PA - Christian DeMussis of Orange has been placed on the Gettysburg College Dean’s Honor list for outstanding academic achievement in the Spring 2020 semester. Students with a quality point average of 3.60 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) for a semester’s work are placed on the College’s Dean’s

Honor List.

Lasell University Dean’s List

Newton, MA - Daniel Chodos of Orange was named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Lasell University in Newton, Massachusetts. Chodos was named to the Dean’s List for his academic performance in the fall semester. Students who receive this honor have completed at least 12 credits as a full-time student and have achieved a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Quinnipiac University

Hamden, CT - The following Orange students were named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2020 semester at Quinnipiac University: Meadow Blakeslee, Kayley Blanchard, Jennifer Borreggine, Colby Darden, Stephen Delaney, Jessica Ferraiolo, Jeremy Gustafson, Saliba Kaoud, Caroline Rafferty, Samantha Richetelli, Emily Scott, and Mitchell Sousa. To qualify for the dean’s list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI - Select students have been named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean’s List that semester. The following students from Orange have earned this achievement: Anne Marie Allen, Joseph Bierowski, and Sean Farrell.

Springfield College

Springfield, MA - Springfield College has named Emily Mullins from Orange, CT to the dean’s list for academic excellence for the 2020 fall semester. Mullins has a primary major of Health Science/Occupational Therapy. The criteria for selection to the Dean’s List are as follows: The student must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded coursework for the term, exclusive of “P” grades. The student must not have any incompletes or missing grades in the designated term. The student must have a minimum semester grade average of 3.500 for the term.

University of Delaware

Newark, DE - Joshua Ford of Or-

ange has been named to the University of Delaware Dean’s List for the Fall 2020 semester. To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean’s List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale) for the semester.

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH - The following Orange students have been named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire for the fall 2020 semester: Hannah Hayes earning Honors; and Veronica Pisano earning High Honors. Students named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance during a semester enrolled in a full-time course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

University of Utah

Salt Lake City, UT - Melissa Taggart, of Orange, CT, was named to the University of Utah’s Fall 2020 Dean’s List. Taggart’s major is listed as Nursing BSN. Taggart was among more than 9,700 students named to the Fall 2020 Dean’s List at the U. To qualify, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher in at least 12 graded credit hours during any one term.

College of William & Mary

Williamsburg, VA - Emily Bacal from Orange, CT was recently named to the Dean’s List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2020 semester. In order to achieve Dean’s List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.

**Graduations
Georgia Tech**

Atlanta, GA - Huimin Lyu of Orange, CT has earned a Master of Science in Computer Science from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL - Michael Gefter of Orange, CT has received the following from The University of Alabama: Bachelor of Science in Commerce & Business Administration. UA awarded some 2,257 degrees during its fall commencement December 12.

“If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you.” — A.A. MILNE

DID YOU KNOW?

A New Year, New Numbers
to Keep in Mind for 2021

Estate and Gift Tax:

- The federal lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been **increased to \$11,700,000.00**.
- The Connecticut lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries has been **increased to \$7,100,000.00**.
- There is still an unlimited gift/estate deduction for property passing to a spouse; however, to qualify for the unlimited gift/estate tax deduction the spouse must be a U.S. citizen.
- The amount that can be gifted to any one person without needing to file a gift tax return **remains the same at \$15,000.00** per recipient. Additional gifts can be made for qualified medical expenses and qualified education expenses without needing to file a gift tax return.

Long Term Care:

- If one spouse requires Medicaid and the other spouse remains at home ("Community Spouse"), the **maximum** amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$130,380.00**.
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the minimum amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$27,328.00**.
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the minimum amount of monthly income the Community Spouse can keep has been **increased to \$2,155.00**, and the maximum amount it can be increased to, without an administrative hearing, has been **increased to \$3,259.50**.
- If one spouse requires Medicaid the other spouse is living at home the maximum amount of equity in the family home that can be excluded by the Community Spouse has been **increased to \$906,000.00**.

Long Term Care Provided in Your Home:

- The amount of gross monthly income you can have and still be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) has been **increased to \$2,382.00**.
- The amount of gross monthly income you may have without triggering a co-pay has been **increased to \$2,126.67**.
- Use of a pooled trust for excess income to establish eligibility or to avoid co-pays remains a viable option.

If you are interested in learning more about how these 2021 numbers affect you and your family please visit our website and read our blog for recent posts. For advice specific to you or your family, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



Samantha Burstin &
James Doheny IV Wed

Samantha Claire Burstin and James Joesph Doheny IV were wed on October 14, 2020 at Glenmere Mansion in Chester, NY. The ceremony was officiated by Rabbi Ronald Broden.

Jamie graduated from CHS and received a BS from Allegheny College and works as Chief of Staff, Engineering at Braze. Samantha graduated from Trinity College and got her Masters at UPenn. She works at the Marriott International corporate office.

Samantha's gown was from Carolyn Herrera. Due to the COVID pandemic, the ceremony was small and intimate with only immediate family and no

wedding party.

Samantha is the daughter of Camille and Stuart Burstin of Bryn Mawr, PA and the sister of Nate Burstin of Boca Raton, FL. James is the son of Carol and Jimmy Doheny of Cheshire, CT, grandson of Marshall and Sheila Pite of Orange, CT and sibling to Maureen Doheny of NY, NY and Fenwick Island, DE; Siobhan Doheny of Commerce City, CO; and Jude Doheny of St. Petersburg, FL.

The happy couple spent their wedding night at Glenmere Mansion and will enjoy their honeymoon when it is safe to travel again.

"If we are strong, our
strength will speak for itself.
If we are weak, words will
be of no help."
— John F. Kennedy

“Letters” From Page 5

To follow-up: is it wise to intentionally shrink the Grand List in Orange by removing this private property from tax-paying rolls and making it tax-exempt? Is that lost tax revenue built into the financial prospectus residents have been provided?

Is a projected \$300,000 revenue surplus, over 20 years, sufficient on an \$8.5 million investment? How will the debt service on this new loan impact necessary spending on education, public works, and emergency services?

If 12,000 residents are being asked to pay for this property, what provisions are in place to provide property access to them?

Personally, I can’t imagine these questions will be answered satisfactorily, if at all, by an administration that seems hell-bent on steering our town off this financial cliff.

I’ll be voting ‘NO’ on February 16.
Dave Parmelee

OCC – Vote Yes on February 16th!

The Orange Conservation Commission strongly encourages Orange Voters to vote “Yes” on the February 16th referendum to authorize the Town’s acquisition of the Racebrook Country Club (RCC).

The purchase of the RCC will preserve the Town’s control over the future use of the 287 acre property and prevent RCC from selling land to developers to resolve their current financial crisis. This purchase will maintain the open space and the Town’s character that we all have come to love about Orange.

See you at the Polls on February 16th and remember – Vote Yes!
The Orange Conservation Commission

Inherent Risks to RBCC Proposal

I write with concern about the recent fast-tracked proposal from the Town of Orange to borrow \$8.5 million to buy the Property presently owned by Racebrook Country Club.

I believe this proposal has a number of inherent risks. At the very least, it would be appropriate to allow more time to understand the benefits and long term costs and risks of this pro-

posal, and to allow the Town residents ample time to make an informed decision given the size of this investment.

First, it seems beyond the scope of government to bail out a failing business in the private sector and use public resources to do so. While the benefit of open land is the stated reason, the expense and risks of doing this by propping up a private business does not seem in line with the goals of our local government.

Furthermore, while it seems clear First Selectman Zeoli and the Board of Selectmen have been considering this prospect and negotiating with the current owner for months, the idea was literally sprung on Orange residents in the past few weeks, in a rushed attempt to push this through. This is just not appropriate, and will lead to potential misrepresentations, a lack of understanding, and frankly a rushed and wreck less decision process. I am the CEO of a private fast growing technology Company, and for an investment of this magnitude, I would never rush this decision through my own Board of Directors and shareholders.

This precedent would put the town at risk for other future business bailouts. The owner of every single parcel on the Boston Post Road could conceivably make a comparable development threat to put the town in an untenable position. In government, precedence does really matter.

I urge all Orange voters to reject this proposal at the February 16 referendum, and at least force our government leaders to act in a more measured and responsible manner.
Albert Subbloie

Town Leaders Need to “Trim Their Sails”

As a ‘senior’ resident of Orange, and a long-time resident besides, I strongly oppose the proposition from Jim Zeoli that we borrow \$8.5 million and purchase the Racebrook golf course.

At this time in my life, I have had to trim my sails considerably, not just because I live on a more modest income with no job prospects, but because I would like to pass along a little something to my children, so they have an easier time raising their children.

These are uncertain — some would

say perilous — economic times, and I don’t believe going out on a limb to the tune of \$8.5 million is prudent while there’s still so much upheaval and unpredictability at every turn.

Furthermore, this proposition — should it be approved — would not ever even benefit me or the vast majority of other Orange residents. Borrowing such a whopping sum would simply perpetuate a teetering business that does not open to retail customers. It is and would remain only available to those who golf.

I would much sooner see town leaders trim their sails and let the rest of us decide how to spend our money — hard-earned money they want us to pony up to buy this golf course.
Walter S. Hine

RBCC Acquisition is A Forward-Thinking Proposal

On Tuesday, February 16, 2021, Orange Residents will have the opportunity to support the proposed acquisition of Racebrook Country Club. Unlike open space land purchases in the past, this is considered a forward-thinking business investment which would return revenue to the Town via a lease agreement with RBCC over the next 40 years. Above all and most importantly, it will give our Town 100% control of almost 300 meticulously kept acres of land purchased at a bargain price. Our elected officials continue to make open space a priority for our Town which is commendable. In doing so, it supports one of the many reasons why residents choose to live in Orange. They desire a lifestyle in a small picturesque New England town that is blessed with an outstanding school system. They also recognize the value of all the wonderful amenities that makes 06477 a fabulous place to call home. The Board of Selectmen unanimously supports this purchase which speaks volumes on the magnitude of possible implications and negative consequences on the future of our Town if we don’t act accordingly. I would like to share a thought I believe residents can relate to and find relevant to the matter at hand. Over the past year, every one of us has learned to live our lives with a tremendous amount of uncertainty and the impact has been both difficult

and challenging. It would be fair to say we all yearn for the day we gain back our sense of control and are able to optimistically look forward to the future. Voting YES for the purchase of Racebrook Country Club will allow just that. Our Town would secure full control of all future decisions regarding this property and proactively circumvent the feeling of uncertainty that would inevitably be brought upon us and generations to follow for many years to come. In closing, I would like to thank our Board of Selectmen and the owners of Racebrook Country Club for working together to formulate a proposal our residents won’t regret supporting on February 16, 2021.

Mary Shaw

RBCC Proposal is Flawed

I write with urgent concern about the recent, surprise proposal for the Town of Orange to borrow \$8.5 million to buy the Racebrook Country Club. I believe this is an extremely flawed proposal for a number of reasons.

First, this is far, far beyond the scope of government, which is intended only to provide public safety, emergency preparedness, public education, and infrastructure maintenance.

Nowhere in any government charter is it meant to bail out a failing business in the private sector and use public resources to do so.

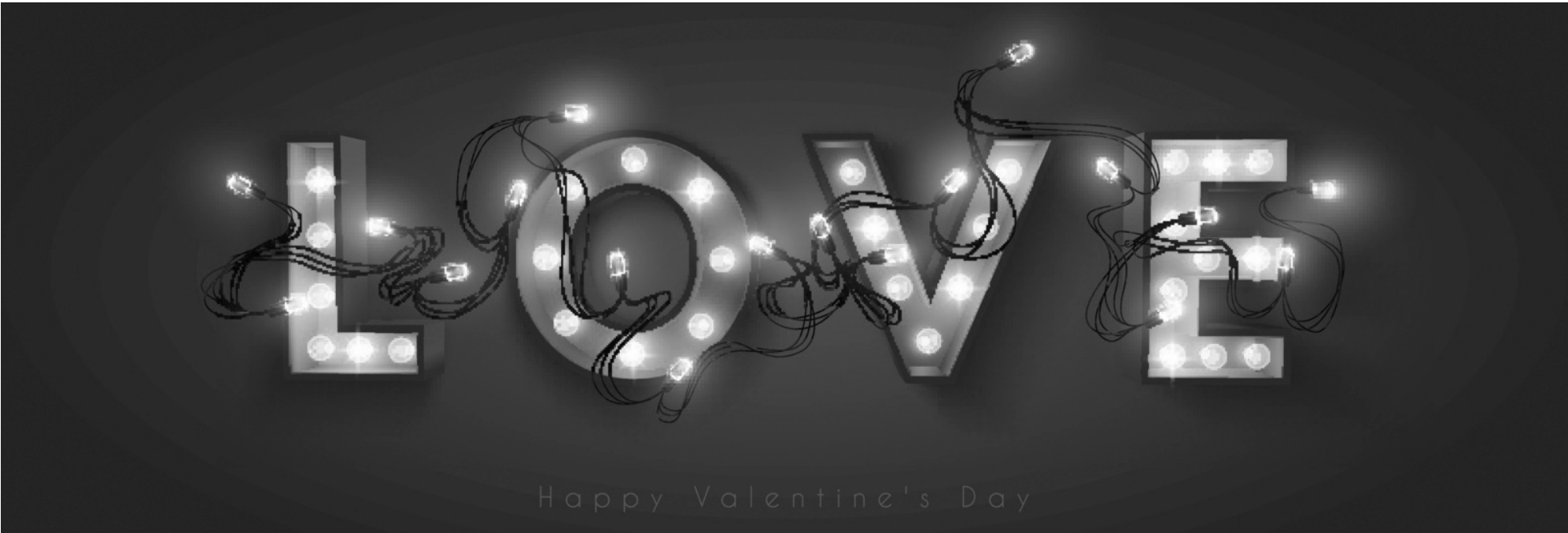
It’s been said we should have all the government we need, and only the government we need. This proposal fails that test.

Furthermore, while it seems clear First Selectman Zeoli and the Board of Selectmen have been considering this prospect and negotiating with the current owner for months, the idea was just sprung on Orange residents in the past few weeks.

The precedent would put the town at risk of an untold number of future business bailouts. The owner of every single parcel on the Boston Post Road could conceivably make a comparable development threat to put the town in an untenable position.

I urge all Orange voters to reject this proposal at the February 16 referendum. It is the very definition of government encroachment and must not be allowed to happen.

Andrew Yankowski



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



From top to bottom: The Webelo Den After the Race; The Wolf and Bear Dens after the Race.; Cubmaster Brian Cleveland Looking on to see the Space Rockets lineup at the starting line.; The Lion and Tiger Dens after the Race.;Coming up in February the pack will do a ski trip to Mount Southington to enjoy the slopes.

Pack 922 News

Our January Pack meeting was held through a video call so that we could all be together despite school not being in session. During that meeting we discussed what Bravery meant and scouts were encouraged to write a thank you note to the Orange Volunteer Fire Department for showing how brave they are each and every day. The scouts also watched short films from the BANFF Film Festival showcasing different outdoor activities from around the world.

On December 12th the pack held its first Annual Space Derby at High Plains Community Center under the pavilion. Scouts were asked to pick up the space derby cars and construct them at home. We had three small set time frames for the scouts to participate in the derby race with their dens. Although chilly outside it was a great day. All scouts received a key chain with the event name and year. First, Second and Third Place lanyards were awarded in each of the races.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut February Webinar

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut will host a webinar on Jewish Given Names on Sunday, February 21, 2021, at 1:30 pm, presented by Warren Blatt. The webinar is free for members. The fee for non-members is \$5.

To join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut or to pay for the webinar, visit www.jgsct.org.

Warren Blatt is the author of “Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area” (JGSG, 1996); and co-author (with Gary Mokotoff) of “Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: (Avotaynu, 1999).

Warren has over 40 years of research experience with Russian and Polish Jewish records, and is the author of the “JewishGen FAQ” and many other JewishGen InfoFiles. He was the Chair of the 15th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy. In 2004, he was awarded the IAJGS’ Lifetime Achievement Award in Jerusalem.

This presentation is an introduction to Jewish given names (first names), focusing on practical issues for genealogical research. Our ancestors each had many different given names and nicknames, in various languages and

alphabets, often making Jewish genealogical research difficult.

This presentation will teach you about the history and patterns of Jewish first names, and how to recognize your ancestors’ names in genealogical sources. Topics include religious and secular names; origins of given names; variants, nicknames, and diminutives; double names (unrelated pairs, kinnui, Hebrew/Yiddish translations); patronymics; name equivalents; Ashkenazic naming traditions (naming of children); statistics on the distribution and popularity of given names in various regions and times; spelling issues; Polish and Russian declensions; interpretation of names in documents; and the Anglicization of immigrant Jewish names: adaptations and transformations.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut looks forward to the end of the novel coronavirus pandemic, and to welcoming members, and guests, to our programs at Temple Sinai, where JGSCT houses its library. At that time, JGSCT members will be able to borrow items, except reference books and materials, which must remain in the library.



Diana DeFillippo, Betty Hadlock, Diane Geary, Marianne Bauer, Nancy Bartle are some members of the Osbourne Homestead Decorating Committee.

ARTS & LEISURE

The Memory Project

Since 2008, Amity High School (AHS) art students have created over 400 portraits for disadvantaged children all around the world through an organization called The Memory Project. Children in Honduras, Peru, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Mexico, Haiti, Ghana, Bolivia, Congo, and Russia have received portraits of themselves created by AHS students, and the joy expressed by the artists and the children is always overwhelming.

AHS students were midway through their Memory Project portraits when schools went remote in March 2020. The portraits remained on the classroom drying racks, in students' portfolios, or at students' houses for many months. In the fall, all of the portraits were gathered and sorted, and this year's art students made it their mission right at the beginning of the school year to complete or re-start every portrait the school committed to. Students in Drawing and Painting II and Honors Art completed 67 beautiful portraits, which were then sent to The Memory Project organization in Wisconsin. From there, they were brought to Russia by Memory Project staff, and hand-delivered to the children. This has generally been the process every year, but Covid has made student participation and travel a big challenge for The Memory Project, and when the AHS portraits were received, a reply was sent from the organization's founder, Ben Schumaker, "WOW! Truly, I am blown away to receive this incredible package! It has become so rare in the past six months to receive a package of so many wonderful portraits, and what a treat it

is! Thank you, thank you, and thank you. The kids in Russia will be so excited to receive them, especially since their lives are now so much more isolated than before. I hope you stay well over the weeks and months ahead, and we will stay in touch as always!" - Ben

Last week, AHS art students received a video in which they can watch their portraits being delivered to the children in Russia for whom they were created. It is impossible to describe the beautiful reactions from both the children and the art students. There were definitely some tears shed. AHS art students will create more Memory Project portraits this spring, and they are very much looking forward to it.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the constant support from the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation. Since 2008, the foundation has fully funded AHS's involvement (which costs \$15 a portrait). The foundation has donated over \$6000 so that AHS art students can have this experience, and so that kids all over the world can receive a unique and beautiful portrait of themselves. These children are often living in refugee camps, orphanages, group homes, or temporary housing due to natural disasters or extreme poverty. The portraits are often one of their few personal possessions. To see their reactions from this winter's delivery, watch this beautiful video, <https://vimeo.com/memoryproject/january2021>. To learn more about the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation or make a donation to its wonderful cause, visit <https://jamiehulleyartsfund.org/>.

The Golden Age of American Movie Musicals

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will offer a virtual entertainment program, "The Golden Age of the Original Movie Musical 1950s" on Friday, February 19 from 2:00pm. - 3:00pm. via Zoom. Registration is required. Go to the library website to register.

Sam and Candy Caponegro have worked in all aspects of theater for over 30 years and are hosts for the program. They will discuss and dissect scenes from musical movie classics, such as "Singing in the Rain," "Gigi," "Royal Wedding," "A Star is Born," as well as other films. Who can resist humming familiar tunes along with Judy Garland or imagine being swept off one's feet by the fancy footwork of Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly?

The American movie musical is recognized as a true American art

form. Broadway theater ignited the golden age of the American musical with the blockbuster, "Oklahoma!" in 1943. After that, public demand, a robust economy and creative talent kept Broadway jumping and generated scores of #1 hits. Sam and Candy Caponegro strive to preserve and promote interest in this genre through lectures presented aboard Princess Cruise Lines and in classes at Rutgers and University of Colorado Olli Ru.

Once you have registered, the Library will send you a confirmation. On the day of the program, the Library will send you the Zoom link where you can participate in the carefree and happy escapade. You will see Sam and Candy and many of your neighbors on the screen waiting for the program to begin. Enjoy!



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of February 2021



(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-891-4730)

16th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
17th	CERT.....	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
18th	Case Memorial Library Comm	7:00 pm	Case Mem. Library
	Pension Board.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
22nd	Family Counseling.....	9:00 am	HPCC
	Board of Finance.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Youth Services.....	7:30 pm	HPCC
24th	Park & Recreation Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall



by Freddy Groves

VA, Fitbit Team Up

BY FREDDY GROVES

Do you have a Fitbit activity tracker? If so, the Department of Veterans Affairs has a free program for you.

The VA and Fitbit have hooked up to provide one year of free membership to eligible veterans who have the device. This couldn't have come at a better time, when we need more exercise, less stress and better sleep at night.

Up to 10,000 veterans (including caregivers and VA staff) can get one free year of Fitbit Premium, which includes a health metrics dashboard, guided programs and more. Plus, you'll have access to coaching. Check health-solutions.fitbit.com.

Eligibility will depend on a few things, such as whether you already use Fitbit and where you are. A bonus for veterans who already use VA healthcare: You might qualify for a Fitbit Sense, which is the Fitbit health smartwatch.

If for some reason you can't get into the Fitbit program, you have other

options for exercise and working out. Step one is to call the gyms closest to you and ask if they offer anything for veterans. CrossFit, Gold's Gym, 24 Hour Fitness, OrangeTheory and numerous others offer discounts and special deals for veterans. Don't forget to try the non-chain locations. If you're eligible for Medicare, check into the Silver Sneakers program at local gyms; many Medicare plans will pay for that.

Near a base? If you're retired, are a MOH recipient or have a disability rating of 100%, you can qualify to use the gym on base.

For at-home equipment, if you're a Veterans Canteen Service (shopvcs.va.gov) member, check out the prices on equipment such as rowing machines and exercise bikes. Look online for a FreeCycle group in your area (freecycle.org), an online listing of items people are giving away. There are 5,300 groups across the U.S. Finally, don't forget Craigslist.org for people selling equipment near you.

Health Department Now Offering COVID-19 Vaccines To Seniors

We are pleased to announce that the Orange Health Department is now an established vaccine clinic site per the DPH requirements. We successfully hosted our first clinic on January 28th at the High Plains Community Center (HPCC) and will continue to offer weekly clinics based on the availability and supply of COVID-19 vaccines.

The clinic is presently open to 75 or older aged persons by appointment.

Go online to the Town of Orange Web-page (<https://www.orange-ct.gov/>) and fill out an online registration form.

If you do not have access to internet, please call the Orange Senior Center at (203) 891-4788 during business hours to receive assistance in scheduling your vaccines.

The Orange Health Department will contact you to confirm your appointment.


Unmasking Community Leaders

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library has created a contest, "Unmasking Community Leaders," for library patrons. The COVID pandemic poses challenges in every aspect of our lives, including the way we socialize and communicate. Although the 6 ft. distance rule keeps us apart, the mask mandate brings us together to ensure a healthy environment for everyone.

Inspired by these new rules, the Library display case in the foyer of the Library features pictures of ten active community residents wearing masks.

Contest participants are challenged to identify each person by name or community affiliation, i.e., postal worker or teacher and record their choices on a ballot. Ballots may be deposited into a nearby jar.


The person(s) with the most correct IDs will win a prize and the honor of having their own picture, with mask, displayed among the ten community leaders. Give it your best try. You don't have to be able to identify all 10 photos. Everyone can be a winner by wearing a mask. Play it safe and stay healthy.



Girl Scout troop 60274 is collecting food and paper goods for the town food pantry. The items most wanted are: Peanut butter, tuna fish, dry cereal, paper goods, paper towels, toilet paper, apple sauce, canned fruit, cookies, crackers and pudding.

We will be hosting a POP THE TRUNK at High Plains Community Center from 11-3 on Saturday March 13th. Girl scout Cookies will be on hand for sale!

Please contact Troop Leader Sarah Gallipoli with any questions: SarahRTR1@yahoo.com



TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

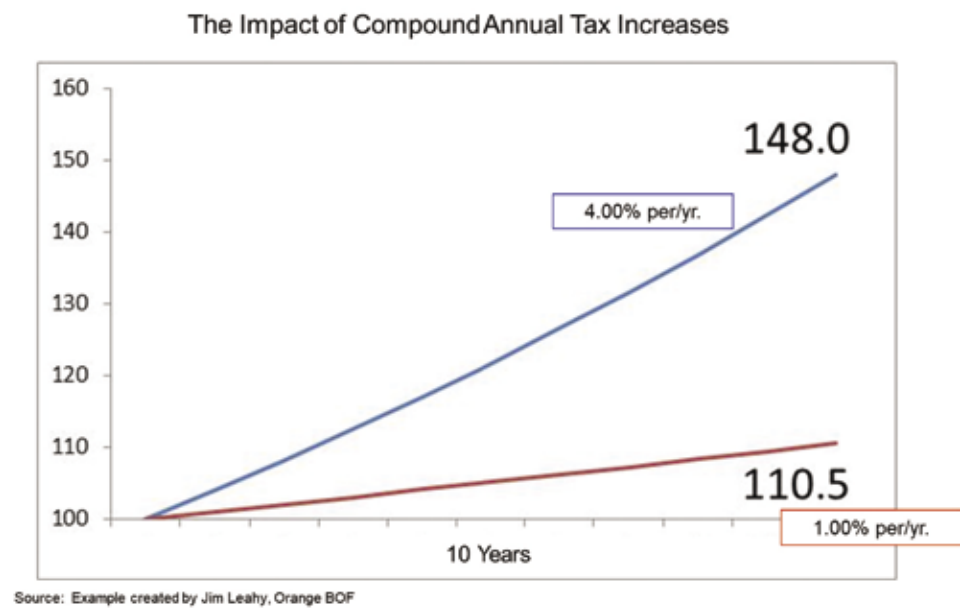
Amity Overbudgeting Significantly Increases Taxes

SURPLUSES REFLECT OVERCHARGING

BY JIM LEAHY, VICE-CHAIRMAN, ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE

POINT 1: Spending Drives Taxes

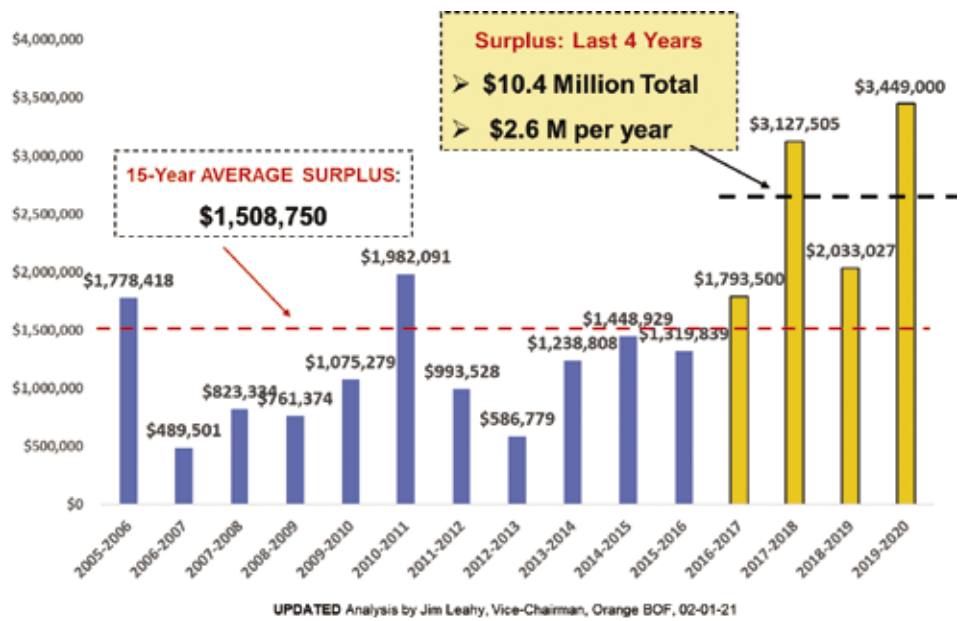
Spending levels drive taxes. Seemingly small increases in spending will – over time – make a major difference in the taxes you pay.



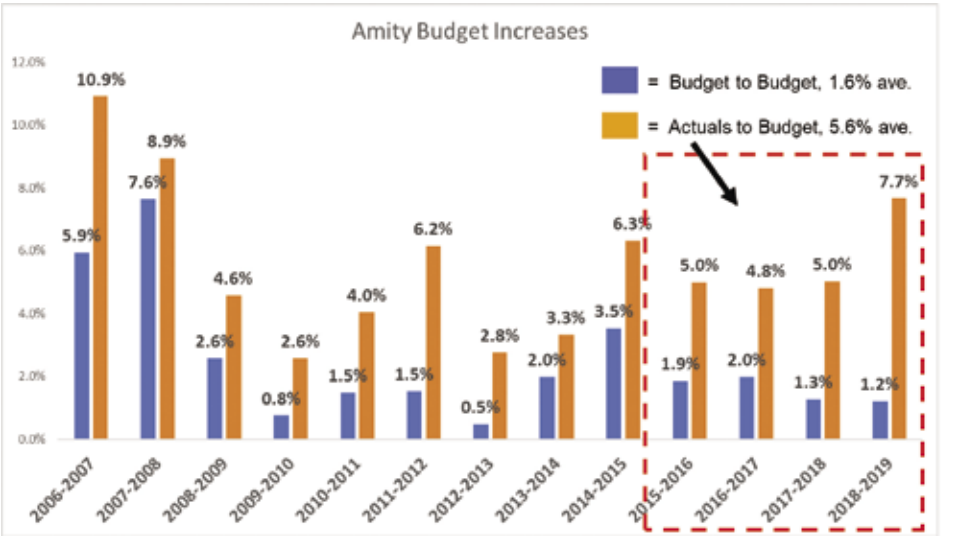
EXAMPLE: As in our Home environments, prudent government spending is its own reward. Say you pay \$7,000 annually in Town taxes today. At 4% spending increase per year, after 10 years Household #1 would have paid a total of \$94,404. At 1% increase, Household #2 would have paid \$80,968, less by \$13,436. On a comparative basis, the 1% Household would pay NO TAXES for nearly TWO YEARS compared to the 4% Household. It’s a highly tangible objective to strive for.

POINT 2: AMITY SURPLUSES ARE RAISING YOUR TAXES

In the last 15 years, Amity has AVERAGED \$1,508,000 in SURPLUS each year. In the last 4 years, Amity has a TOTAL aggregate surplus of \$10,403,032 averaging \$2.600,758 per year. Since Orange pays 50% of Amity, that means Orange taxpayers have spent \$1,300,000 in TAXES in each of the LAST 4 YEARS for what ended up being a SURPLUS. These amounts are an UNNECESSARY burden to every taxpayer of Orange.



These stunning SURPLUSES occurred even as seemingly low % Budget-to-Budget increases suggested a frugal environment. An inquiring mind may well ask: how could there be such overwhelming Surpluses when Budget increases are low? Let’s take a close look at the data.



As can be seen from the % increase ACTUAL-to-Budget, Amity budgets are far more expansive than commonly understood. For example, in the 4-years from FY 2015-2016 to FY 2018-2019, the average Budget-to-Budget increase was 1.6%/year. However, the Actual-to-Budget increase was 5.6%/year, more than 3 1/2 TIMES the 1.6%/year Budget-to-Budget rate!

Kevin Moffett, long-time OBOF member, put it this way: “Budgeting should be based on ACTUALS because – as seen by the Amity surpluses – the prior year’s budget is inflated to begin with.”

POINT 3: OBOF Position on AMITY Budgets

On 01-04-21, the Orange Board of Finance (OBOF) unanimously voted to support a 0.47% budget increase for Amity in FY 21-22. As explained in the last article (01-15-21, Orange Town News), Amity’s current budget (FY 20-21) contains a 10.16% increase from Actual-to-Budget.

On 01-25-21, the OBOF learned from Amity Superintendent Jenn Byars that Amity is proposing a 3.72% “Budget-to-Budget” increase for FY 21-22. The impact of this Amity budget request would increase TAXES \$718,848 in Orange. Moreover, Amity presented a 4-year “forecast budget” that would increase TAXES in Orange by over \$4,000,000.

	Amount	Increase	% Increase
FY 19-20 Actual Spent	46,099,307		
FY 20-21 Budget	\$50,784,509	\$4,685,202	10.16%
Proposed Amity: FY 21-22	\$52,671,946	\$1,887,437	3.72%
Orange BOF Supports: FY 21-22	\$51,023,196	\$238,687	0.47%

Kevin Houlihan, Chairman of the Orange Board of Finance, expressed a growing concern, “The continual overbudgeting at Amity filters down to our Town Departments and the Orange Board of Education. In essence, Amity is taking money – that only results in surplus -- that could be deployed elsewhere.”

CURRENT SITUATION: The OBOF supports an Amity FY 21-22 budget of \$51,023,196, a 0.47% increase. Further, the OBOF unanimously supports the return of ALL FY 20-21 Amity surpluses to the member Towns.

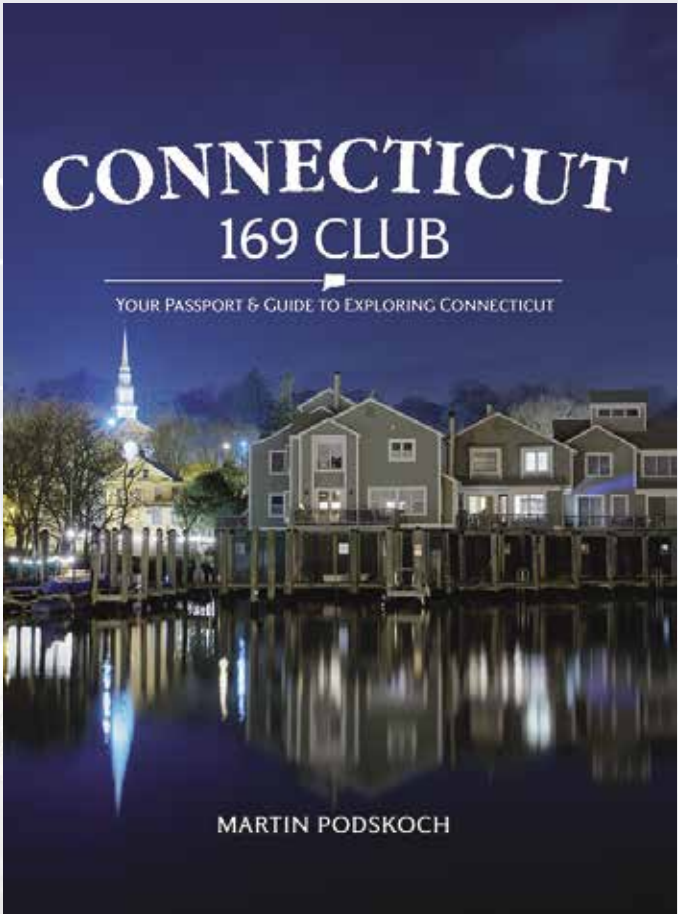
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LOCAL SPORTS

#AngelsforAthletes Challenge Benefits Special Olympics

The #AngelsforAthletes Challenge is a fun way everyone can support Special Olympics Connecticut athletes this winter. Here's how:

- › Make a snow angel and have a friend or family member take a photo or video;
- › Sign up and make a donation by visiting soct.org and clicking on #AngelsforAthletes;
- › Post the photo or video of your snow angel on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag #AngelsforAthletes and challenge three (3) friends to do the same by tagging them in your post.

No snow where you are or don't like the cold? Snow angels do not need to be the traditional kind, created outside in the snow. You can make your angel in the grass, on the beach, on the floor filled with toys or wrapping paper, or wearing a costume. The possibilities are endless and the more creative the better!

To find out more, go to soct.org or email specialolympicsct@soct.org and follow Special Olympics Connecticut on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Special Olympics Connecticut provides year-round sports training and competitions for more than 12,000 athletes of all ages with intellectual disabilities and Unified Sports® partners - their teammates without disabilities. Through the joy of sport, the Special Olympics movement transforms lives and communities throughout the state and in 193 countries around the world by promoting good health and fitness and inspiring inclusion and respect for people of all abilities, on and off the playing field (www.soct.org).

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The District 4 Little League Champions 9-11 Division

Team Manager: Frank Lee; Coaches: Mike Visnic, John Porto, Mike Camus; Players Back Row Left to Right: Dylan Porto, Marchello Germe, Owen Higgins; Players Front Row Left to Right: Ty Kingston, Marshall Camus, Hudson Lee, Ryan Visnic, Jacob Lazowsky, TJ Holt, Myles Moran, Gabe Steiner, Ryder Livignie, Julian Virgil

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2020 ORANGE LITTLE LEAGUE MAJORS DIVISION CHAMPIONS KC ROYALS

Team Manager: Frank Lee, Coaches Keith Moran, Chad Lombardi and Mike Visnic; Bottom Row Left to Right: Myles Moran, Hudson Lee, Jacob Lazowsky, Jake Cooper; Top Row Left to Right: Tyler Waldo, Co-Manager Frank Lee, Carlo Lombardi, Robbi Solsbury, Bobby Lanigan, Assistant Coach Keith Moran, Ryan Palmer, Co-Manager Chad Lombardi, Assistant Coach Russ Cooper

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LOCAL BUSINESS

The CTBA Ready To Advocate
For Beauty Professionals

The CT Beauty Association (CTBA), a non-profit, composed of beauty industry leaders, with over 3500 members, is prepared to advocate for all beauty professionals across the state of Connecticut. The need for representation in this industry became apparent during the 2020 shutdown, but the new formation is prepared to use its board members to communicate and represent all of its professional members to the CT legislature.

CTBA is currently seeking to fill open board positions and invites all beauty professionals to gain benefits through a membership, be it hair salon and spa owners, stylists, barbers, estheticians, makeup artists, etc. to join the mission advocating industry interests, exploring ideas to stay open, safely and successfully. “We are legal and running and helping to give our

industry a voice,” says Odete DaSilva, executive board member. “We want [the industry] to know what our positions are for the benefit of our members and how someone can become a member of CTBA.”

CTBA hopes to unite the industry and find solutions to current issues, as well as, future issues, such as argue for industry specific funding and vaccine guidance, so that they too can continue to remain in business, given the impacts of the economic crisis. Personal service professionals forcefully reopened their businesses during phase 1, yet there is no date assigned in Lamont’s vaccine schedule rollout for these essential workers.










To learn more about the CT Beauty Association please write to: Odete DaSilva at ctbeautypros@gmail.com or visit www.ctbeauty.org.

www.OrangeTownNews.com

The Orange Historical Society

Below are just a few of the wonderful things for sale that can be seen
Saturdays from 10-3 at 605 Orange Center Road.

Come browse in the museum and the “furniture barn” out back.



For information call 203-795-3106

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

Filing Status	2020	2021	Contribution Limit
Married Filing Jointly / Qualifying Widow(er)	Less than \$196,000	\$Less than 198,000	\$6,000 (\$7,000 catch-up for age 50+)
	\$196,000 to \$205,999	\$198,000 to \$207,999	Begin to phase out
Single, Head of Household	Less than \$124,000	Less than \$125,000	\$6,000 (\$7,000 catch-up for age 50+)
	\$124,000 to \$138,999	\$125,000 to \$139,999	Begin to phase out

Here are the current contribution limits for Roth IRAs

Falling in Love with Roth IRAs

BY ROBERTA L NESTOR

Everyone dreams of retirement in different ways. Some of us dream of relocating down South where the weather is warmer and the expenses are lower. Others envision staying close to family members. We all dream of travel and pursuit of our hobbies and passions. For some people, their retirement dreams will be funded from their retirement savings only after paying hefty taxes to Uncle Sam. For others, their dreams will be funded completely tax free.

Think of your retirement savings as one big cake made up of different slices such as 401(k), IRA, Roth, annuities, etc. Each time you take a slice you will, more than likely pay taxes. Wouldn't it be nice if every slice of your retirement cake was available to you completely free of taxes? Imagine not having to pay taxes on most of your income at retirement. The question is, how can you get a bigger tax-free slice of that retirement cake?

The number one form of saving for retirement is with your employer sponsored 401k (or 403b). The components of a 401(k) plan are employee and/or employer, and for those who max out their employee contribution, we

have the option of making after-tax contributions. You pay taxes now on your contribution and the earnings are tax-deferred. Although the earnings and interest will be taxed when you retire, the money you contribute will be distributed to you tax-free. There are even provisions that allow you to take your after-tax contributions at retirement and convert those to a Roth (the best slice of the cake).

The best way to capture the sweetest part of that cake would be the Roth 401(k) slice. Instead of having your contributions pre-tax, you pay taxes now and all the earnings are available to you – free of taxes. Roth 401(k)s are after-tax money that grows tax-free, which certainly sweetens the deal. The best part, when you use the Roth inside of your 401(k) there are not any income restrictions. No matter what your salary is, you can contribute 100% of your employee contributions as a Roth.

Sadly, not everyone has a 401(k) plan and not every 401(k) has made the Roth component available. Outside of your 401(k) plan you may be eligible to make your own Roth contributions. Eligibility is based on having earned income—salary, wages, commissions,

tips, bonuses, and even income from self-employment. Unemployment compensation, capital gains, investment income, deferred compensation, pension, life insurance proceeds, disability insurance income, child support, and Social Security does not count.

Another benefit of a Roth IRA account is the prospect to start early. Young adults who have earned income can contribute. For example, if your child had a part-time summer job and earned \$2,500, they can contribute 100% of that earned income to a Roth of their own. Starting young gives a valuable opportunity for the money to grow.

There are other ways a Roth IRA can sweeten that retirement deal. Unlike traditional IRAs, there is no age where you are forced to take a withdrawal. The money can continue to grow untouched past the age of 72. New tax laws allow you to continue to contribute (subject to income limits above) as-long-as you are still working, regardless of age. Withdrawals from your Roth can be taken without penalties or taxes as long as you are over 59½ and have owned the account for 5 years. There are certain exceptions for under 59½ distributions. These include using

the money for a first-time home purchase, a qualified education expense, unreimbursed medical expense, or a permanent disability.

Like many things in life, it is important to have a balance between tax-deferred and tax-free portions. It's like having your cake and eating it, too. There are many reasons to fall in love with a Roth IRA and it's never too late to start.

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 759 Boston Post Road in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment, and tax planning services. She offers securities and advisory services as a Registered Representative and Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network – a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products offered through Nestor Financial Network are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth. Commonwealth Financial Network or Nestor Financial Network does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Roberta can be reached at Nestor Financial Network, 203-876-8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.

Origins Of The Heart-Shaped Chocolate Box

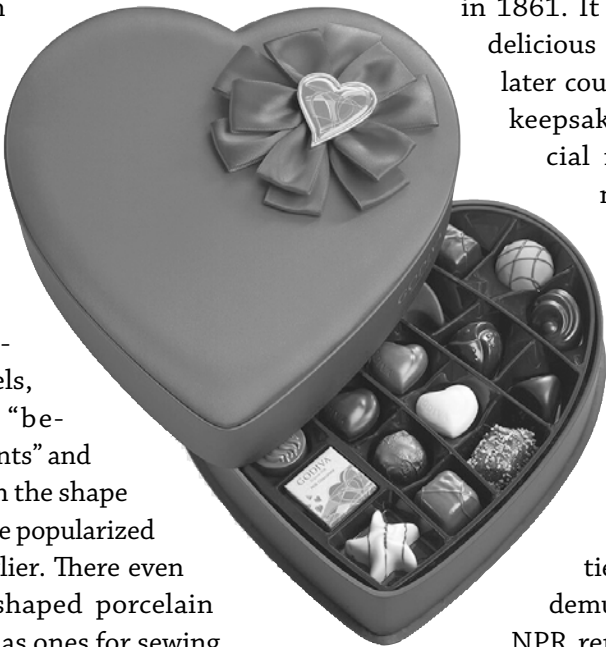
Hearts abound on February 14, and few symbols (and gifts) are more widely associated with a holiday than heart-shaped boxes of chocolate are with Valentine's Day.

Chocolates became trendy in the mid-19th century when the first chocolate bar was made by British company J.S. Fry & Sons by combining cacao powder with sugar and cacao butter to make a rich, melt-in-your-mouth treat that was markedly different than the gritty and greasy drinking chocolate that was losing popularity in Europe. Within a few years, competitor Cadbury introduced the first box of chocolates. It was called the "Fancy Box" and it didn't take long to become wildly popular.

The marriage of chocolate and heart-shaped boxes seemed a natu-

ral progression, but the National Valentine Collectors Association says that heart-shaped boxes actually predate chocolate boxes. Various heart-shaped vessels, including "betrothal pendants" and silver boxes in the shape of hearts, were popularized a century earlier. There even were heart-shaped porcelain boxes as well as ones for sewing.

Having already introduced a choc-



olate box, Richard Cadbury marketed the first Valentine's Day box in 1861. It was filled with delicious chocolates, and later could be saved as a keepsake to store special notes or other mementos, according to the North American Packaging Association. Furthermore, the gift fit with Victorian sensibilities in that it was demurely suggestive, NPR reports. Its introduction coincided perfectly

with Valentine's Day, which also soared in popularity around the same time.

Giving chocolate on Valentine's Day also proved popular in North America. The American chocolate company Hershey's introduced its Hershey's Kisses in 1907, and in 1912 the Whitman's Sampler arrived. In the 1920s, Russell Stover unveiled their own heart-shaped boxes, which today still include the "Red Foil Heart" and the "Secret Lace Heart." Russell Stover has since become the No. 1 boxed chocolate brand in the United States.

Today, more than 36 million heart-shaped boxes holding 58 million pounds of chocolate are sold each year, reports the education resource SoftSchools. They have become a quintessential symbol of Valentine's Day celebrations.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors

Staying Connected While We Keep Our Distance

To register for a Zoom event, please see the event information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services

Morning Minyan

- › Sunday 9:00 AM – Zoomed
- › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoomed
- › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoomed

Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM – Zoomed
- › Saturday 9:30 AM – Zoomed

Only the first Saturday of the month will offer an in-person service with very limited attendance. It will also be available via Zoom (please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for more information).

Virtual Learning This Month ZOOM &..LEARN!

“THE EXODUS THROUGH THE EYES OF MIDRASH & ART”

Wednesdays, 11-12 Noon. This is a continuing series.

Through the ages, the powerful stories of the Bible have been illuminated in legend and on canvas. In this class, Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus will discuss dramatically different artistic and folkloristic takes on the birth of the Israelite nation and their faith. All Are Welcome!

Email coshalom@sbcglobal.net or call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 to register.

Social Action MITZVAH OF THE MONTH

Our monthly mitzvah for February



Congregation Or Shalom

is collecting socks and mittens for the Downtown Soup Kitchen in New Haven. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 for further information.

Activities ZUMBA GOLD AT OR SHALOM – Zoomed

Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD. ZUMBA Gold is an easy-to-follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. It's perfect for active older adults who are looking to dance and have a good workout while increasing balance, range of motion, and coordination.

Tuesday nights at 7 PM. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or the synagogue office at 203-799-2341. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis.

Tuesdays and Fridays at 10:15 AM with Danielle Pettit. 10 class punch card: \$70, drop-in class: \$8.

Email daniellepettit@yahoo.com or call 203-509-3683 (cell).

Orange Congregational Church, UCC Virtual Workshop

Orange Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, welcomes you to join us for virtual worship on Sunday mornings. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

You can worship with us on YouTube at Orange Congregational Church, UCC. We also are offering virtual coffee hour, church school, Bible study, book club, and an anti-racism ministry. Occasionally, we have other special interest groups for art, music, and other topics.



Orange Congregational Church

Please email us at occhurch@snet.net for Zoom links or to be put on our church emailing list. A virtual Ash Wednesday service will take place on February 17, 2021.

For more information about us, visit www.orangecongregationalchurch.org.

Temple Beth Sholom Announces 75th Anniversary

In Fall 2021, Temple Beth Sholom (TBS) is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Temple Beth Sholom will have a year-long celebration of a wide variety of events beginning in January. Programming includes Friday Night Shabbat services to recognize congregants who joined during each decade, a special recognition of past Temple presidents, and much more. It will all lead up to a culminating event in November 2021. Details will be available on www.tbshamden.com.

Seeking Memories about TBS

Our journey is not complete without our community and our membership. If you or your family were members of Temple Beth Sholom – or attended a special event at Temple Beth Sholom – we would love to hear from you! Please email tbshamden75@gmail.com your Temple Beth Sholom story. We will be compiling memories for a tribute book.

History of Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom began in 1946 when five couples met monthly at Church Street School as a small social circle. They formed The Hamden Jewish Community Center. Soon after, over 100 people met at different school buildings in Hamden and agreed that a Sunday and a Hebrew School for the youths of the Hamden Jewish families was in demand. Once that was established, it was decided that a place to play, learn and conduct High Holiday



Temple Beth Sholom

services would be needed. This new Center became a welcoming place for Jewish families moving into suburban Hamden from New Haven and elsewhere.

In 1952, a permanent home was sought and found at 1809 Whitney Avenue. Shortly after, The Hamden Jewish Community Center was renamed Temple Beth Sholom. In 1964, a sanctuary was added to the building, along with additional classrooms and a library. In 1983, Rabbi Benjamin E. Scolnic became the spiritual leader. In 1985, TBS installed stained-glass windows depicting milestones in Biblical history. In 2006, a new Chapel, a new library, a refurbished social hall, and all new classrooms for the Hebrew School and the K'tanim Preschool were dedicated.

Today, Temple Beth Sholom is an egalitarian conservative synagogue with over 350-member families and singles from the Greater New Haven community.

For more information, please contact Lauren Piscitelle at communicationsvp@tbshamden.com.

Orange Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES,
AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.
We will publish them for free.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Children’s Services

Children’s outdoor services, open to families with kids of all ages, are held “Pop-Up Style” on Saturday mornings, weather permitting. To receive the email newsletter that provides updates, email Youth and Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm inside the main sanctuary

Outdoor Services

- (weather permitting)
- › Saturdays 9:30 am
 - › Sundays 9:00 am**
 - › Mondays 5:45 pm**
- ** also available via Zoom, like other daily services



Bob. Alper

Comedian Rabbi Bob Alper

You might have heard his jokes on Sirius/XM Satellite Radio or at one of his gigs at comedy clubs, conventions, synagogues, or colleges over the last 27 years. Rabbi Bob Alper, who describes himself as “the world’s only practicing clergyman doing stand-up comedy intentionally,” will present his new show, “The Spirituality of Laughter,” on February 24 for the BEKI Wednesday 8 pm Schmooze. Email office@beki.org to request the Zoom link.

Purim Celebration

On Thursday, February 25 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, BEKI will host a Costume Parade and Car-Nival in the parking lot. There will be prizes, surprises, and a chance to pick up Shalach Manot orders. The reading of Megilat Esther will be at 6:30 pm in person and on Zoom, beginning with “spotlights”

of costumes, and will be repeated at 7:00 am Friday morning, February 26.



Adam Rothman, Marcia Chatelain, and Roya Hakakian

More Schmoozes

On Wednesday, February 17, Georgetown University history professors Adam Rothman and Marcia Chatelain will lead a discussion about that university’s financial reliance on slavery, the research process in unearthing this history, the resulting truth and reconciliation process, and what steps Georgetown has made to atone for this past.

On Wednesday, March 10, Roya Hakakian will speak about her new book, “A Beginner’s Guide to America.” Born and raised in a Persian Jewish family in Tehran, she arrived in the U.S. in 1985. Her two prior books are the award-winning memoir “Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran” and “Assassins of the Turquoise Palace,” about the shooting of Iranian and Kurdish opposition leaders in Berlin in 1992.

From 8 to 9 pm on Zoom, BEKI Schmoozes include a presentation and time for questions. To request the link for any event, email office@beki.org.

Passover Inspiration

On March 17 Ethnomusicologist Rachel Adelstein will present “Singing Around the Seder Table: The Music and Memories of Passover” as the 8 pm weekly Schmooze. A favorite BEKI speaker, Dr. Adelstein has produced podcasts about music in Jewish life around the world. The following week, on March 24 at 8 pm, Annie Norman-Schiff, BEKI’s Youth and Family Programming Director, will lead a conversation about how to make the Passover Seder meaningful and fun for kids and grandkids. She will also discuss ideas for “virtual” Pesach fun to link extended families who are apart for this holiday. Email office@beki.org to request the Zoom link.

Located at 85 Harrison Street (corner of Whalley Avenue – Route 63 – in Westville)

Happenings at B’nai Jacob

Please join us on Livestream or Zoom!

To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203) 389-2111

Happening This Shabbat

- Friday
- › 6:30 PM Kabbalat Shabbat - on zoom and live stream
- Saturday
- › 9:00 AM Bread & Torah - on zoom
 - › 10:00 AM Shabbat service - on zoom and live stream
- Sunday
- › Sunday School classes on Zoom

Upcoming Events Rabbi’s Winter/Spring Class – NEW!

Monday Nights 7:30 – 9:00 pm on Zoom
Beginning Monday, February 8, and through May on these dates: February 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 22; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10
How Did the Siddur Come to be the Way it Is?

A first or even a second encounter with the siddur (prayer book) can feel like endless random Hebrew chanting? How did we start having fixed prayers and why these prayers? Why are they in this order? Come explore the history of Jewish liturgy.

From BRCA to Tay-Sachs: How Genetic Testing Saves Lives

Thursday, February 18 • 7pm on Zoom
Learn about the history of Jewish genetic screening, hereditary risks in the Jewish community, and how genetic testing can help ensure your health, and the health of your children and



Congregation B’nai Jacob

grandchildren. JSscreen is a national, non-profit initiative based out of Emory University. JSscreen’s goal is to prevent genetic diseases by improving access to testing through an online, at-home education and screening program. JSscreen makes genetic screening simple, accessible, and affordable.

Title: Game Changer: How the Abraham Accords Alter the Middle East, Strengthen Israel and impact the Path to Peace with the Palestinians
Sunday, February 21 • 10am on Zoom

Herb Keinon, senior contributing editor and analyst for The Jerusalem Post, looks at the significance of the Abraham Accords on the Middle East and Israel’s place in it. Herb Keinon is a senior contributing editor and analyst at The Jerusalem Post, writing extensively on diplomacy, politics and Israeli society. Keinon lectures widely in Israel and around the world on political and diplomatic developments in the country.

To register for a Zoom Event please contact Congregation B’nai Jacob at 203-389-2111, info@bnaijacob.org, or BnaiJacob.org.

Ash Wednesday Mass: 2/17 at 6:00pm
with distribution of ashes

Stations of the Cross: Every Thursday
evening during Lent at 7:00pm

Sunday Mass: 5:00pm

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CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS



Case Memorial Library

176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477

203-891-2170 • www.casememoriallibrary.org

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free, except as noted for materials charges, and open to the public. The Library is open to the public Monday and Thursday: 10 a.m. – 12 noon and 5-7 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 12 noon. The Library is open for curbside pickup Monday and Thursday: 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Library will be closed Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents Day.

Registration

Registration is required for all library programs. Register for events at casememoriallibrary.org/events.

Zoom Programs: For online security reasons you must register with the Library to attend virtual programs. Registered attendees will receive a Zoom link via email before the event. The registrant's name as displayed on Zoom must match the name used for registration in order to guarantee admission.

Take & Make Programs: Please check the full event listing online for age restrictions, deadlines to sign up, instructions on pickup of supplies, and a list of any supplies participants must supply.

Storytimes

Zoom Lapsit Storytime

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle! We'll practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, and explore touch-and-feel books.

Zoom 2-3-Year-Old Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Audience participation is highly encouraged at this story time session

just for 2s. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together.

Zoom 3-5-Year Old Storytime

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy storytelling, books, music, fingerplays, and puppetry at this story time series especially for 3-5-year olds!

Events for Children

Tween Take & Make: Panpipes

Pickup dates: February 25-27

For tweens in grades 4-6.

Make your own musical instrument using straws and duct tape! Participants will need to supply their own scissors.

Children's Take & Make: Shamrock Slime

Pickup dates: March 10-13

For children in grades 1-3.

Whip up a batch of green, glittering slime for St. Patrick's Day!

Tween Take & Make: Among Us Pencil Toppers

Pickup dates: March 11-13

Make a felt pencil topper that looks like an Among Us crew member!

Children's Take & Make: Homemade Hovercrafts

Pickup dates: March 24-27

For children in grades 1-3.

Build a simple hovercraft and discover how Newton's Third Law helps it float!

Emoji Stress Balls

Pickup dates: March 25-27

For tweens in grades 4-6.

Make an emoji-themed stress ball with water beads and balloons!

Tween Take & Make: Pom-Pom Bookmarks

Pickup dates: April 7-10

For tweens in grades 4-6.

Make a fuzzy pom-pom bookmark using yarn!

Take & Make Earth Day Craft: Kintsugi Eggshells

Pickup dates: April 14-17

For children in grades 1-3.

Learn about the delicate Japanese art of Kintsugi and create some of your own using eggshells and watercolors!

Tween Take & Make: T-Shirt Tote Bags

Pickup dates: April 21-24

For tweens in grades 4-6.

Create your own unique tote bag using a t-shirt! Includes suggested ways to decorate your new bag.

Children's Take & Make: Blooming Paper Flowers

Pickup dates: April 28-May 1

For children ages 3-5.

Decorate some paper flowers, then watch them blossom!

Events for Teens & Adults Take & Make Craft Kit: Crepe Paper Flowers

Pickup dates: Saturday, February 20; Monday, February 22

For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Create your own Icelandic poppies at home with our crepe paper flower kit.

The Golden Age of Musicals

Friday, February 19, 2 p.m.

Join Sam and Candy Caponegro via Zoom to view and dissect musical scenes from "Singin' in the Rain," "Royal Wedding", and "Gigi," to just name a few. What can be better than spending the morning with Gene Kelly, Judy Garland, and Fred Astaire? We promise you will leave with your toes tapping and a song in your heart. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Virtual Author Talk: Pretty Evil New England

Monday, February 22, 7 p.m.

Nineteenth-century New England was the hunting ground of five female serial killers: Jane Toppan, Lydia Sherman, Nellie Webb, Harriet E. Nason, and Sarah Jane Robinson. In *Pretty Evil New England*, true crime author Sue Coletta tells the story of these five women, from broken childhoods to first brushes with death, and she

examines the overwhelming urges that propelled these women to take the lives of a combined total of more than one hundred innocent victims. Join us for a talk with Sue Coletta on Zoom.

The Bookcase: Online Discussion Group

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski on Zoom for an online discussion of "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett.

Take-Home "Flavor Tripping" Party Kit

Pickup dates: Friday, March 12; Saturday, March 13

For teens in grades 7-12.

Have your own flavor-tripping party with the "miracle berry," the fruit that makes sour and bitter foods taste sweet.

Take & Make Craft Kit: Suminagashi

Pickup dates: Saturday, March 20; Monday, March 22

For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Suminagashi is the Japanese art of marbling by floating ink on the surface of water. Learn the basics of this centuries-old monoprint technique and create your own marbled pieces at home with our suminagashi kit.

Virtual Author Talk: A Broken Tree

Monday, March 22, 7 p.m.

In an effort to discover the truth about his family, Stephen F. Anderson used DNA testing and interviews to learn the real story behind his paternity and that of his three brothers and five sisters. What the DNA revealed, and how the author and his siblings handled it, serves as a lesson to anyone undertaking ancestry research. Join us for a talk with author Stephen Anderson on Zoom.

Online Mystery Book Discussion

Thursday, April 22, 1-3 p.m.

Join Librarian Samantha Jasulavic via Zoom for an online discussion of "The Silent Patient" by Alex Michaelides.

Take & Make Food Kit: Homemade Gummy Bears


Pickup dates: Friday, April 23; Saturday, April 24

For teens in grades 7-12.

Try your hand at candy making at home with this fun, homemade gummy bear kit.

“This is love: to fly toward a secret sky, to cause a hundred veils to fall each moment. First to let go of life. Finally, to take a step without feet.” — RUMI


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The Story of Cupid

What would Valentine’s Day be without images of a golden-tressed boy armed with bow and arrows? The arrows represent feelings of love and desire, and they are aimed and cast at various individuals, causing them to fall deeply in love — or fall out of it.

In Roman mythology, the boy is known as Cupid and is the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Portrayed as a cherubic and mischievous toddler, this magical boy was purported to be the matchmaker of gods and mortals alike.

For students of Greek mythology, Cupid represents Eros, the Greek word for “desire.” He was the son of Aphrodite, Venus’ Hellenistic counterpart, and would play with the hearts of mortals and gods, sometimes leaving mayhem in his wake. In Greek mythology, Eros was more teenager than bubbly baby, and capitalized on his status as a heartthrob rather than the cherubic status of Roman mythology, according to Richard Martin, a Stanford University professor. While Cupid may have been an adorable imp, some historians say Eros had a darker side, going so far as to describe him as calculating and sinister — forcing the wrong people into lovelorn matches.

According to Museum Hack, while Cupid could make people fall in and out



of love, he also was once in love himself. In this telling, Cupid is a young man when Venus learns that a mortal girl is born with such great beauty that others start to forget to worship Venus, adoring this girl instead. Upset about the misdirected adoration toward this mortal, Venus asks Cupid to have the girl, Psyche, fall in love with a monster. Cupid agrees, but once he sees Psyche he “accidentally” hits himself with one of his own golden arrows and falls in love with Psyche. The resulting match does not prove easy, and through a series of unfortunate events, Psyche must prove her love to Cupid and accomplish various tasks to win back his heart. Eventually, Psyche does and achieves goddess status.

Cupid has been portrayed both as a young man and child through Renaissance art and beyond. When Valentine’s Day became popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, Cupid was linked to Valentine’s Day celebrations due to his matchmaking abilities. His popularity only continued in the early 20th century, when Hallmark began to manufacture Valentine’s Day cards featuring Cupid.

Cupid helped push people together in ancient mythology, and he can even be the catalyst for modern day match-making as well.

Flowers and their Various Meanings

Flowers can represent various emotions. Flowers play a prominent role in many and holidays, perhaps none more than Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day is a busy day for florists. ProFlowers says it accounts for most of the industry’s fresh flower sales. Around 78 percent of the flowers purchased for Valentine’s Day are cut flowers, and men are the top consumers.

Roses are the go-to flower on Valentine’s Day, but shoppers can look to various blooms to send the right message to that special someone in their lives. In fact, each type of flower conveys its own unique message.

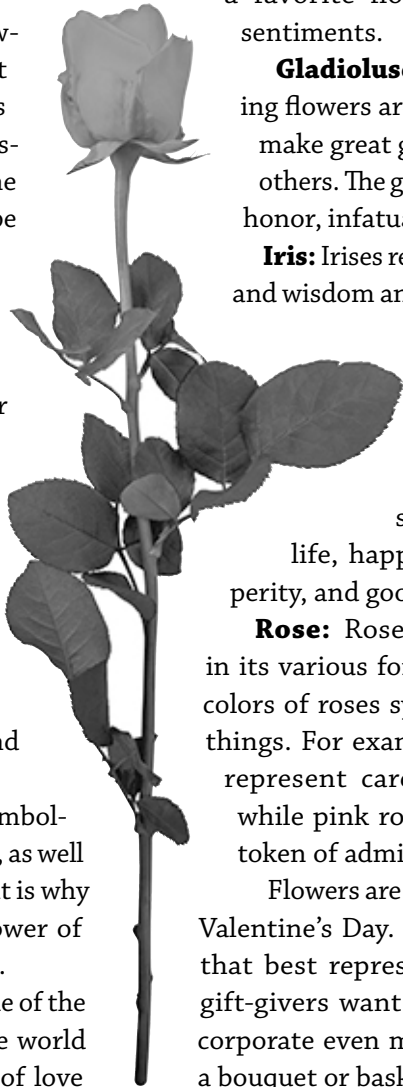
ProFlowers and Pick-up Flowers note that the following are some popular blooms and the messages those flowers are traditionally associated with.

Amaryllis: This flower is symbolic of splendid beauty and can be used to indicate worth.

Aster: The aster symbolizes patience, elegance and daintiness.

Calla lily: This bloom symbolizes magnificence and beauty, as well as purity and innocence. That is why Calla lilies are often the flower of choice in wedding bouquets.

Carnations: These are one of the most popular flowers in the world and are generally symbolic of love



and fascination.

Daffodil: Daffodils symbolize regard and chivalry. They also can be indicative of rebirth, new beginnings and eternal life. A single daffodil can signal misfortune, while a bunch expresses joy and happiness.

Gerbera daisies: With large, beautiful blooms in a wide assortment of vibrant colors, gerbera daisies are a favorite flower for cheerful sentiments.

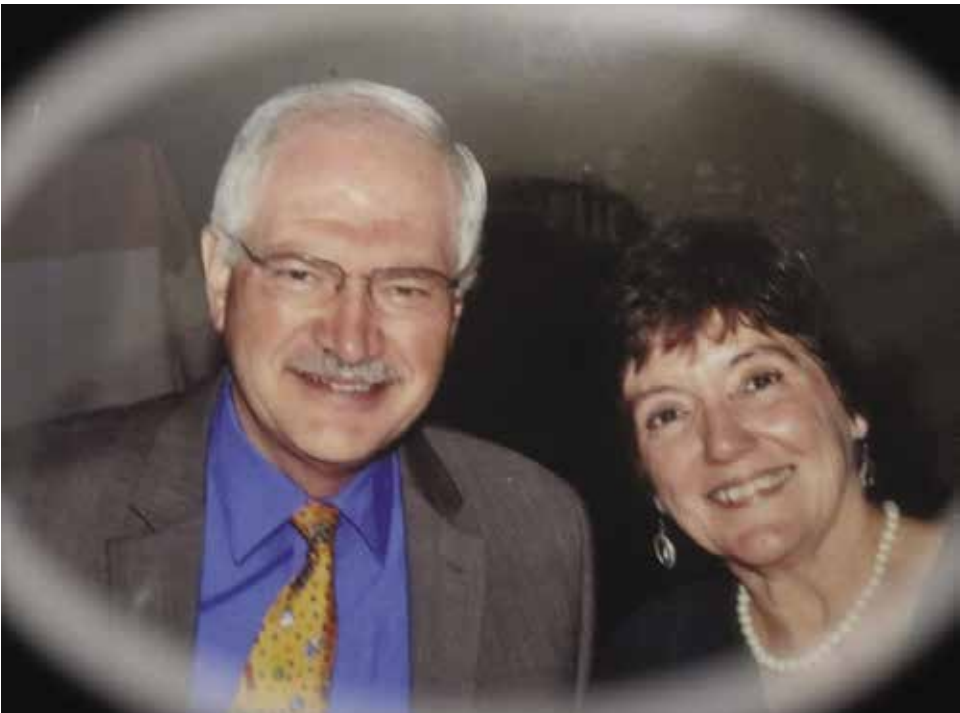
Gladioluses: These tall, striking flowers are eye-catching and make great gifts for significant others. The gladiolus symbolizes honor, infatuation and strength.

Iris: Irises represent faith, hope and wisdom and are cherished for their big, beautiful blooms.

Peony: This flower, which resembles a rose, symbolizes a happy life, happy marriage, prosperity, and good health.

Rose: Roses symbolize love in its various forms, and different colors of roses symbolize different things. For example, yellow roses represent care and friendship, while pink roses are given as a token of admiration.

Flowers are popular gifts come Valentine’s Day. Choosing a flower that best represents the feelings gift-givers want to convey can incorporate even more meaning into a bouquet or basket.



Celebrating 50 Wonderful Years Together

Kevin and Betty Hadlock, Orange residents on Goose Lane (formerly of Skyline Drive) are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on February 12, 2021. They have lived and loved Orange for 40 years, where they raised 4 children and are proud grandparents and active members of town. They hope to have a post COVID celebration but appreciate well wishes now.

Cheers and Love,
Jennifer, Mike, Kate, Karen and all

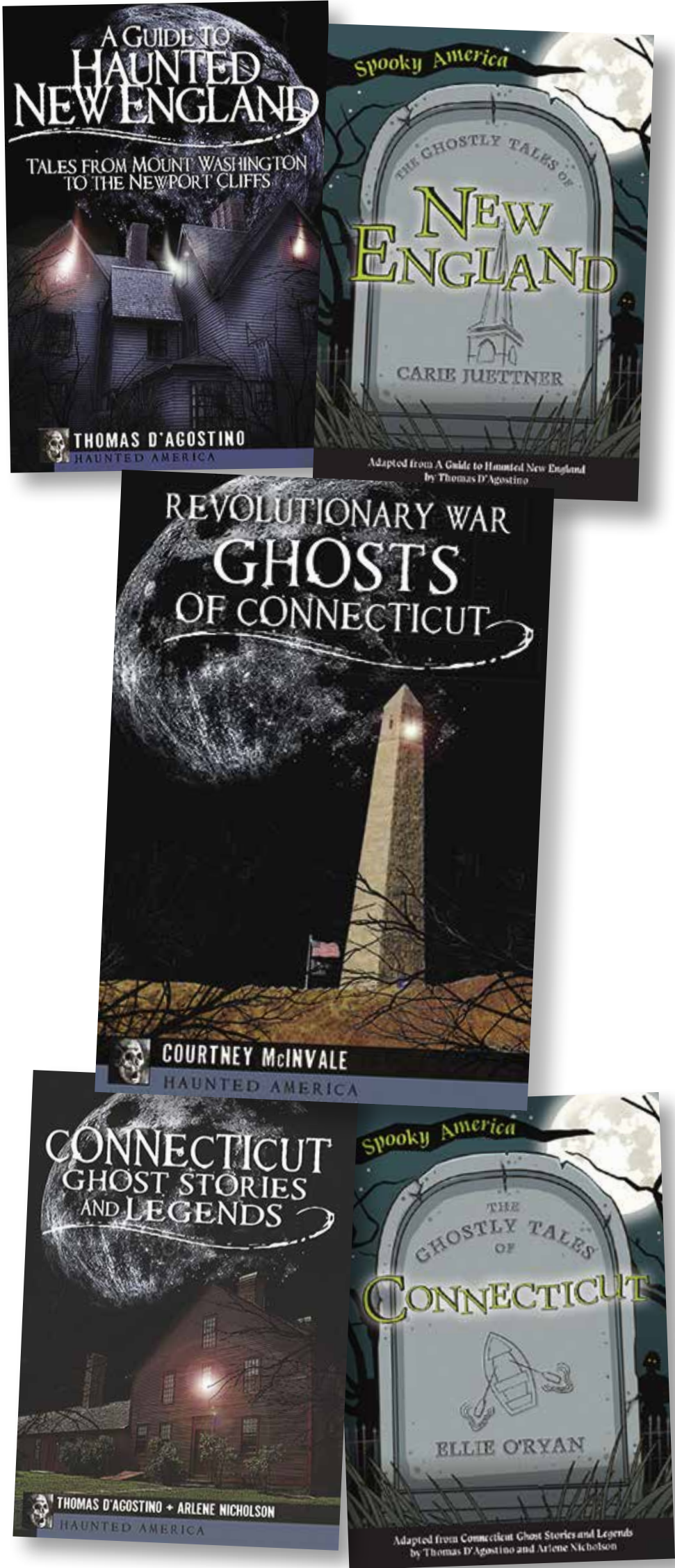
Look Who Is Turning 95!

Edna (Nana) Casolino was born during a cold and blustery snowstorm back on January 24th, 1926. She has been a long-time resident of Orange, CT for nearly 60 years. She grew up in historic New Haven on Chapel street and often talks about her wonderful childhood memories on the green. From New Haven she then went on to raise a family of 4 children (David, Thomas, Elizabeth, and Andrew) with her late husband Philip. During this time, she co-owned a charming Lingerie store in town (Saxon Kent) with her sisters, Anita and Marion until 2000. She is celebrated today by her children and grandchildren (Nathan, Jenecke, Jes-



Edna (Nana) Casolino

sica, Michael, Alyssa, Christa, Nicola & Francesca) who love her dearly!



They're Here... GHOSTLY TALES OF CT & NEW ENGLAND

Tales of mysteries and legends of colonial times will greet you as you read about Connecticut's haunted history. Once called the Nutmeg state, Connecticut's mysterious legends come to life even though the main players are dead. If the Connecticut book isn't enough to scare you, be sure to read the ghostly Tales of New England. So, dive into these chapter books but be

sure to leave a light on...
The Orange Historical Society will have these books for sale at \$12.99 each in the near future at its antique shop in the Academy Building, 605 Orange Center Road; hours: Saturdays, 10am-3pm. For information, call 203-795-3106, visit our website: www.orangehistory.org or email us at orangehistorical@yahoo.com.

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HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

Let's Go Down South

As you have been reading, Connecticut has a great deal of history, and since the Revolutionary War is my passion, I have focused on that portion of our history. Well, if you think that my next county will have some history, hold onto your cup of coffee because Fairfield County saw a fair share of that history. So, let's get started. Fairfield, the town, is the 4th oldest in our state, founded in 1639 with lands purchased by Roger Ludlow from the Pequonnock Indians. A permanent settlement was laid out in four squares which defined the center of the settlement which today is the Historic Town Green. People could not freely choose to live there upon their arrival from Europe but had to go before a town meeting where it was decided who and who could not stay.

Not being approved, the newly arrived were warned to leave. Yipes. It appears that the founders wanted a like-minded community, one based on Puritan religious values. This Puritan ethic was a predominate thought during the early settlements, one which caused great strife within the colonies. Roger Williams was forced to leave Connecticut making his way to Rhode Island because of religious disharmony. Those living in Fairfield eventually moved east, naming the area Black Rock. Fairfield prospered well into the 1700s as farmers finding the West Indies, New York and Boston favorable markets, but in 1777 the end of this prosperity loomed. British General William Tryon landed at Compo Beach which is now Westport, marching through the area to destroy military supplies stored in Danbury.

Fairfield was spared but on July 7, 1779 the people of Fairfield awoke to a warning from the fort at Black Rock because a British fleet was anchored off the coast. In haste, animals were driven to safety, with some citizens hiding their valuables in wells and stonewalls, while others fled inland. Those that remained could not have predicted what would happen next. The feared invasion came in the late afternoon with troops marching along the beach, heading northeast.

As they came within range of the cannons at Black Rock Fort, the colo-

nial men were ordered to fire on the British troops. Undaunted by this lack of hospitality, General Tryon and General George Garth marched their men toward the fort and unable to attack, they burned the houses, one by one in retaliation. The greatest damage was the next day as the British left Fairfield being escorted out by German mercenaries who, in the face of the furious inhabitants set fire to almost

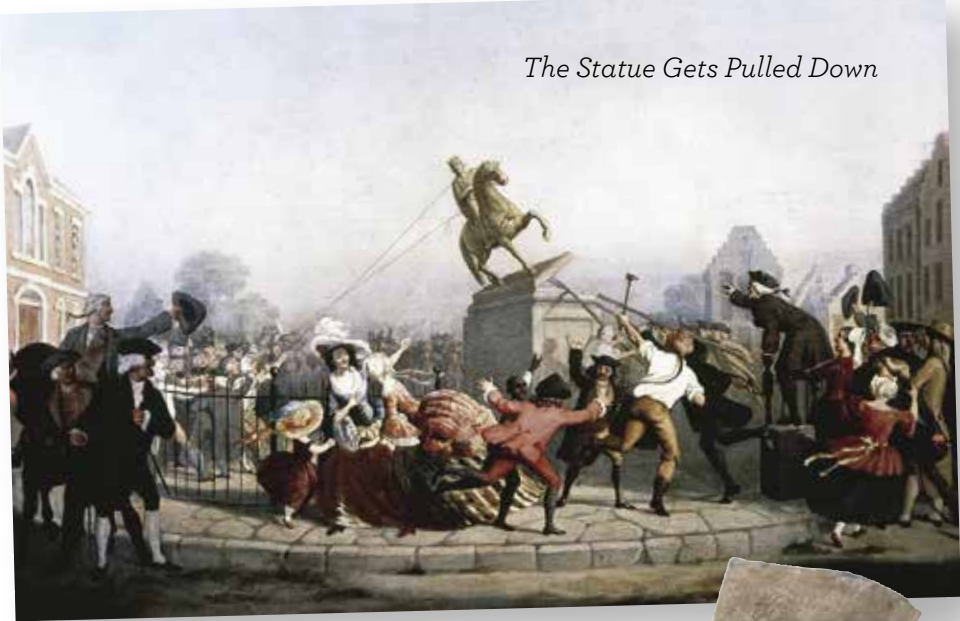
all of the buildings, churches and ministers' homes that Tryon had earlier given protection.

President George Washington visited the town, in 1789, observing the destruction which at that time had not been fully restored. After WW II, the town's population grew transforming

what was a tiny, Puritan village into a vibrant and diverse community.

Bethel, known as a quiet town, was settled in early 1700. Danbury, at one point was heralded as "Hat City" but at various points there were more hat factories in Bethel. Many of the "hatters" houses are located on the west end of town, but Bethel is more likely to be known as the home of Duracell and Eaton Corp. a power management company. Smirnoff vodka was first distilled in Bethel in the early 1930s, the first vodka distillery in the U.S. This northern Fairfield County town was the home to some very interesting people, the most famous, in some folks' mind was P.T. Barnum. If you watch the Greatest Showman, you probably don't know the real Phineas. He was quite the scallywag. Colonial Maj. General, Israel Putnam chose this area for his encampment in the winter of 1778-79 with the Putnam Memorial State Park museum celebrating colonial life and the Revolutionary War today.

If you want a town that has changed very little since 1757, then Easton is your town. This little village was once part of Fairfield but was incorporated in 1845. There are no streetlights, malls or mainstream shopping, no grocery store. The center of town consists of the post office and Greiser's General store with a pre-WW II style gas station. I have been saying that Orange needs a good deli restaurant well, Easton has one and they say it has the best deli sandwiches around. There is



The Statue Gets Pulled Down

a fire station and as I recall now, my Mom, when I was about 7, would drive to Easton to buy sparklers for the 4th of July.

It too has had its notable citizens, Helen Keller, Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronyn, Ann Baxter, Edna Ferber, Dan Rather and Ernest Hemingway. Starting out as a farming community, Easton with its many mills held onto that way of life until the cottage industries became factories and wagons were replaced by the railroads after the Civil War. Steam-powered engines replaced the rivers and streams. The small shops that produced shoes, clothing and iron implements were replaced by the larger factories but now, in modern times, farming is Easton's main form of industry.

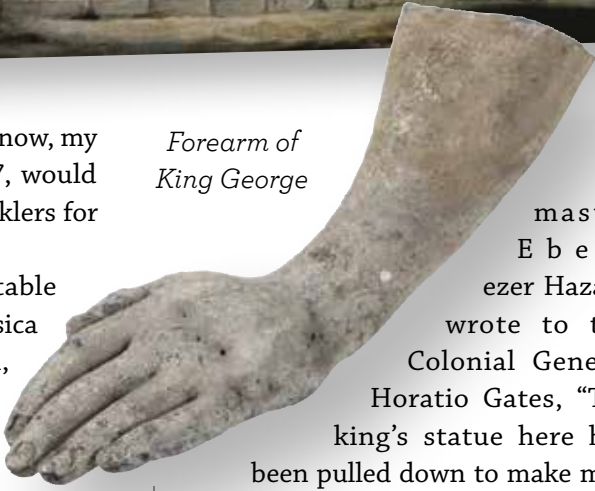
If any of this makes you want to move to Easton, let the buyer beware! Numerous books and documentaries tell of Easton to be the home of the country's most haunted cemetery.

Wilton is our next stop having once belonged to Norwalk. As soon as the first meetinghouse was built in 1726, Wilton had a center of town. The Revolutionary War came to Wilton briefly in 1777 when the British were marching out of Danbury after their invasion there. Although several houses were set on fire, none were destroyed.

There is documentation of an event that took place in New York on July 9th, 1776 after the signing of the Declaration of Independence with around 40 soldiers and sailors sneaking under cover of night to take down the lead statue of King George III, the perpetrator of mistreatment of the colonies. His statue was sent to the colonies by the English and as he strode atop his mighty stead, he soon succumbed to being toppled over. This 4000-pound likeness of a despot soon gave way to 42,088 bullets!

So now why is this important to my story of Wilton? Well? Read on. Post-

Forearm of King George



master Ebenezer Hazard wrote to the Colonial General Horatio Gates, "The king's statue here has been pulled down to make musket ball of, so that his troops will probably have melted Majesty fired at them." And indeed, they did. The loyalty of the King's troops made every effort to keep this from happening, but the majority of the statue vanished; however, fragments of it survived and his head was sent back to England. In addition, the tail of the king's mount, a piece of his patterned sash and a 20-pound segment believed to belong to his cape or the horse's mane are in the New York Historical Society.

Now to the connection for Wilton and you thought I digressed. Me? Never. Fast forward to 1991, buried in someone's garden, was found the 21" long forearm. Yes, the king's arm, found in the dirt so many years later. The authenticity of the fragment was made by comparing the alloy contents of two other pieces housed in the New York Historical Society. It's him alright. It was auctioned at Skinner's and was believed to bring between 15 & 25 thousand dollars. The owner of the property at that time was Loyalist Job Burlock and he no doubt stole the item from the Patriots after they dismantled it.

The monarch's head remains unaccounted for except for a journal entry in November of 1777 by former governor of the Massachusetts Bay colony, Thomas Hutchinson, where he writes "The nose is wounded and defaced but the gilding remains fair and as it was well executed, it retains a striking likeness."

Thus, ends my story for Fairfield County. Me thinks I should revisit Fairfield County again. So, I will.



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