

Orange Town News



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Awards Shine Light on Student Role Models

Principals of Amity schools recently presented students with the annual CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Awards that recognize students who do well academically as well as valuable members of their community. Here are the winners of this year's awards and what impressed the administration:

Amity Middle School – Orange

Julia Capecelatro is an excellent student, always striving for high grades in all her classes. She has excelled academically during her two years at Amity Middle School and has a strong work ethic. Not only is Julia an excellent student, but she is a role model for all students.

Julia is a student who is not afraid to reach out to ALL the students. She has strong concern and compassion for others, often reaching out to her peers to ensure they feel included in the school community. She regularly invites any students who do not seem to have a strong social connection to join her lunch table. She is a peer mentor in our AMSO Peer Networking Group, working as a typical role model to help with social skills in a group setting for her peers in our Spartan and Academic Independent Learning Skills Program. She was also chosen and trained to be a Peer Tutor for 7th-graders and is willing to give up her own academic study time to help 7th graders in various academics.

Not only is Julia a volunteer in her school community, but she also dedicates her time to volunteering in her community for various town events and offers her service to others. In the summer, Julia is a volunteer camp

counselor at the Trinity Church of Woodbridge for its annual sports and arts camp. She dedicates many hours to the camp when it runs and goes through training and preparations to help get ready for the campers. She spends her free time working on her volleyball skills and likes to bake and do art. She is a team player on the AMSO Girls Volleyball Team and plays for a winter team and different clinics during the year.

Au'Veon Singleton is an outstanding student who works extremely hard in school to earn excellent grades. His teachers admire his persistence and perseverance when facing academic challenges. Auh'Veon, puts forth 100% effort in the classroom

and strives to do his absolute best. He has a splendid work ethic and is a hard worker, participates in the classroom and overall, a good role model for his peers.

Auh'Veon is kind to others and always wants to do the right thing and help others whenever he can. Auh'Veon has grown into a great advocate for himself and others. One of his teachers wrote that Auh'Veon consistently demonstrates "maturity of thought." He has a good sense of himself as a learner and engaged community member.

He is a member of the AMSO Band, playing percussion. He dedicates his free time to volunteering in his community. He provides service to others and has worked during the summer

on Community Clean-Up in his town.

Amity High School

Anchal Bahel serves as the class president for the Class of 2023 since her sophomore year of high school, and this year she also serves as the co-chair of the ARHS Student Government's Principal's Committee. As the chair of this committee, Anchal is responsible for developing the agenda and running the bi-weekly meetings between the principal and the 20-member student committee to address issues of school climate as well as collaborating with the principal to author the Student Happenings newsletter of school events that is sent

to all students weekly.

In other areas of school life, Anchal is a four-year member of the selective Science Research Program, and her research has led to opportunities for her to partner with researchers at the Yale University School of Medicine and to have an article published in Arthroplasty Today. She is a reporter and the News Section Editor for the ARHS student newspaper, the President of our National Honor Society chapter, team captain of our Academic Decathlon team, vice president of the Amity Connections peer mentoring program, a peer tutor, a member of the National English Honor Society, and an orientation leader for our Link Crew program.

Anchal is also an active member

of our community outside of school, serving on the Woodbridge School District Strategic Planning Team, founding a company called Student Stress Solutions, and working to advocate for leadership roles for girls in science and government.

Francis Cavallaro serves as the Student Body President for the ARHS Student Government, a role that has him in charge of the efforts of our 100-member student government to improve the quality of life and school-wide programs for students. In this role he has served as a student representative on last summer's Principal Selection Committee, as the master of ceremonies at our return-to-school pep rally at the start of the year, as a student representative to the PTSO, and as a liaison between the student government and the school administration.

In other areas of school life, Frank has been a four-year member of our selective Science Research Program and is currently a semi-finalist for the Coca-Cola Scholarship due to his independent research in this program, is a four-year member of our cross-country, basketball, and volleyball teams, serves as the co-president of our Robotics team, is a member of the National Honor Society, and helps support the transition to high school for our newest students as an orientation leader for our Link Crew program. Frank is also an active member of the community outside of school. He is an Eagle Scout in Troop 12 Milford, has served as a student representative on the Town of Orange Youth Services

See "Awards" On Page 9

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LOCAL SPORTS



Four Earn SCC All-Conference Basketball Team Honors

Amity Junior, Jillian Barnes and Senior, Sarah Granados were both named to the All-SCC 2nd team. Sacred Heart Academy Junior, Meghan Kirk earned All-SCC 1st team honors and Senior, Emma Kirk was named

to the 2nd team. All four girls reside in Orange and are former members of the Lady Orange travel basketball program. Congratulations to these student athletes!



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Landscape Architect Speaks at Garden Club

Patti Logioco president of GCO presents donation from club to Travis Ewen chair of the Wolf Park Project. Travis Ewen ASLA of Orange, a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, presented an outstanding program at the monthly meeting of the Garden Club of Orange. It focused on landscape design and how it influences and benefits communities. Travis an Orange native, has worked in projects close to home and around the world, and has decided with his wife to raise their family

in Orange. The Garden Club's next program will be on March 14 at High Plains Community Center. The Topic will be "Insect Pests of the Garden and Landscape" presented by Katherine Dugas of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the National Garden Club, New England Region and Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut. All are welcome to attend! If interested, please call Nancy (203 795 9425).



Left: Scouts checking out a police car. Right: Scouts learning to fold a flag at the Milford Fire Department.

Pack 922 News

This February Pack 922 visited with Orange first responders to learn about safety. They had a fun time with local police officers and firefighters. Scouting is open to all children grades K-5.

For more information contact our Cubmaster at cubmaster@orangecubscouts.com or visit our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/CubScout-Pack922> and our website <https://orangecubscouts.com/>.

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Orange Soccer Association (OSA)
In-house Program SPRING 2023
REGISTER ON WEBSITE ONLY
OrangeSoccerCT.org

Orange Soccer is a weekly program designed to allow young players to develop their soccer skill in a fun and relaxed environment.

Fall Season Information

The Spring 2023 season will run April 16th through June 11th.

Please help us spread the word and share with those families especially with children entering Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Every Sunday during the season, teams of approx. 6-8 players are led through ~15 minutes of skill building exercises, followed by 45-60 minutes of game time depending on the age group. Teams are coached by parent volunteers and officiated by experienced referees.

Cancellations

Soccer is an all-weather sport and will be played in light rain conditions. Any cancellations will be communicated via group e-mail and on our Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/OrangesoccerassociationCT>

Game Day Attire

T-Shirts will be supplied on the first day of play.

All players are required to bring Own Water, Own Ball with your child's name on it, and Shin Guards. Players must wear sneakers (soccer cleats are optional).

Team Divisions, Game Time and Location

Teams are made up mostly by the Grade the child will be entering in the fall. We do it this way so that players potentially know each other from the classroom. **Special requests may be noted in the NOTES section only. We will not accept special requests via email. We will do our best to accommodate cohorts, but due to team sizes and abilities, not all requests can be honoured.**

Children must be 4 years old by May 1st, 2023.

Practice Clinics

In addition to the Sunday program, we offer free clinics at Fred Wolfe Park (300 Hollow Rd, Orange CT) to all In-house enrolled players. These sessions are organized by Sterling Smith, an Amity Travel Soccer tenured coach and run by him and his staff. Players must wear shin guards and sneakers (soccer cleats are optional) and bring water.

	Tuesday	Thursday
Girls	5:00-6:00	6:00-7:00
Boys	6:00-7:00	5:00-6:00

Fees

The fee for the Spring 2023 season is:

- **\$100 when paid by March 13th by 11:59pm**
- **\$110 if paid between March 14th through April 2nd by 11:59pm**
- **\$125 if paid after April 3rd**

Requests to sponsor a Team must have artwork submitted and paid for no later than March 24th

Register and Pay early to avoid the late fees!

Special for Amity Travel Soccer Players

Amity Travel Soccer Players may participate in OSA free of charge. Contact amitysoccerclub@gmail.com for your individual discount code.

Volunteers Needed

Orange Soccer is most successful due to all the great volunteers we have. Please consider coaching your child's team. Pre-season training is available for first time coaches. In order to coach, please register your child and also yourself. If you are a first time volunteer you will need to enter your birthdates and Social Security Number, so that the Connecticut Junior Soccer Association may run a free background check.

Sponsorship Opportunity

Orange Soccer also greatly appreciates all of our sponsors and offers two levels of sponsorship (**Due by March 24th**)

- Basic: 1 season \$100
- Deluxe: 3 seasons \$200

You can sign up to sponsor your child's team by indicating so on the registration page and supplying a logo in solid black or solid white to orangesoccerct@gmail.com.

Questions

If you need additional information please email us at: orangesoccerct@gmail.com.

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

From the Amity
Board of Education

By PAUL DAVIS
AMITY BOE CHAIR



Chair’s Report

Budget and Finance: At the February 13th meeting, the Amity Board of Education reviewed the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for 2023-2024. Per the Board’s bylaw, the presentation included a review of the academic and extracurricular accomplishments from the past and current school year, and the anticipated financial needs of the district regarding facilities and the academic, athletics, and arts programs. Rooted in the Board’s vision and mission for the Amity School District and committed to the development of the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate, the proposed 2023-2024 budget is 2.93% higher than the current fiscal year budget. The practice of comparing the proposed budget with the current adopted budget is consistent with the Town Boards of Finance. It is not, however, just this year’s budget with some increases to specific items. It is constructed newly each year, line by line, with input from every district department considering the specific projected needs for the 2023-24 school year. The increase is driven primarily by contractual obligations, which increased by 2.92%, and commodities and inflationary increases. The minimal projected increase in enrollment has virtually no adverse impact on the budget. The Superintendent’s proposed budget includes additional staff to support students with disabilities, a middle school math interventionist to support academic success in mathematics, and a part-time Chinese teacher to meet student enrollment requests. The proposed budget also includes long-term, 5-year financial plans to address needs in facilities, textbook acquisition, and technology maintenance. The current modest proposal is one of the lowest in Amity’s District Reference Group (DRG), the South Central Area Superintendents’ Association (SCASA), and in surveys administered by the Connecticut Association of School Business Officials.

At that same meeting, the Board received the audit report from the 2021-2022 school year. The Board unanimously voted to credit the unexpended funds from last fiscal year to the current school year thereby reducing the District Towns’ required allotment by a total of \$711,936. This plus the unused excess funds of \$411,248 collected to cover last year’s rejected original 3.99% budget increase would effectively provide the towns with \$1,123,185 that could be used to offset Amity’s proposed allocation. Applying these funds to offset the in-

crease in the Amity budget is at the discretion of the Town Finance Committees. The Board of Education will hold a Public District Budget Hearing on April 3, 2023 and a Referendum will likely be scheduled for May 2, 2023. All registered voters in the towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge can attend the public hearing and vote to support our schools in the Amity referendum. Detailed budget information is available on the District website www.amityregion5.org/boe/budget. The Amity Finance Subcommittee and the full Board continue to review the proposed budget and expect to vote on final approval at the March meetings.

2023-2024 School Year Preparations Begin: Our Amity middle school and Amity Regional High School have started preparations for the 2023-2024 school year in earnest. On January 31, 2023, Amity Regional High School (ARHS) hosted the 8th Grade Transition Night. Approximately 500 students and parents from AMSB and AMSO came for an evening of school tours and information about academics and successfully preparing for the transition to 9th grade. In addition to performances at the Transition Night, students and teachers from ARHS visited middle school students to talk about the high school music offerings. ARHS students had an opportunity to meet with department chairs and student representatives from all departments to learn about elective offerings in each academic area during the Program of Studies Fair that was held during lunch on February 7, 2023. Throughout February, students currently in grades 9-11 will select their courses for next year from our 2023-2024 Program of Studies. Incoming 7th grade parents are invited to attend our Parent Open Houses and Orientations on March 2, 2023 at both middle schools. The program will provide information about our schools, the middle school teaming model, and an opportunity to meet some of the staff in each building. The information presented will help lay the foundation for a successful transition from elementary school to our Amity Middle Schools.

ARHS Trades Week: The ARHS Trades Week was an engaging, week-long event from February 13-17, 2023, designed to foster, promote, and teach students about careers in the skilled trade fields. All high school students had the opportunity to meet with over 20 different skilled trades people, who

See “Board of Education” On Page 7



Amity Advances for National Academic Decathlon Competition

On February 25, 2023, Amity Regional High School’s Academic Decathlon Team qualified for this year’s National Academic Decathlon Competition after winning the title of CT state champions. The team includes seniors Anchal Bahel, Elise Sheehee, Sophia Liu, Selin Ho, and Sena Ho, as well as juniors Bridget Lowder, Ali Khan, and Shaofei Ong and is advised by Ms. Laura Roessler.

Each year Academic Decathlon elects a theme, with this season’s focus being the American Revolution. Students had to study diligently about the relevance of this event on the nine subject areas which include science, math, literature, art, economics, social sciences, and music. In addition, each student was also required to participate in a speech, interview, and essay section which occurred online a week prior. Academic Decathlon splits students up into varying teams based on their past academic achievement, creating an honors, scholastic, and varsity category. This year, however, every member was able to be awarded a medal.

Khan and Ong, who are members of the varsity category, were able to win first place prizes in science, essay, literature, and interview. Bahel and Lowder competed among the Scholastic group and placed first in speech, interview, music, art, and the essay portion. Lastly, Liu and the Ho twins achieved first in essay and music, as well as second place in speech.

Team Captain Anchal Bahel shares that “this experience has been incredibly rewarding. Everyone sharing their differing strengths allowed the team to foster a community with unity and respect. I am grateful that we achieved this opportunity during my senior year. It will definitely be one to remember.” Sena Ho recalls the experience as, “a time to put to work what we had been studying and working towards for the entire year. Everyone is able to excel at different areas, and this competition allows each member to shine in their own way.”

Nationals will occur on April 28, 2023, in Frisco, Texas.

Scholarships Available to Graduating Orange Students

The Orange Scholarship Foundation Association is offering several scholarships to graduating seniors from Orange. Among them is the Ashlie Krakowski Memorial Scholarship of \$4000. This scholarship is awarded to a student who intends to pursue a career in health care or a related health care field.

Applicants must meet criteria for receiving scholarships which include financial need, academic achievement, community service, and leadership roles in organizations and activities. Application information is available through high school guidance departments, through our Facebook page, or by calling 203.668.5428.

Deadline for applications is April 15, 2023.

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Orange Land Trust Board members with recipients of University of New Haven Scholarship program.

Orange Land Trust Scholarships

Alexa Gabriel, Nicholis Imbrogno, and Nicolette Poirer were awarded scholarships from the Orange Land Trust. Each student received \$1000 to assist their pursuit of a degree in Environmental Science. Student Alexa Gabriel was not present for the \$1000 Richard Wright Scholarship, due to her studies abroad. Board members present are back row: George Lesko,

Suzanne Anderson, member Eva Kendrick; Front row: Scholarship recipient Nicolette Poirer, Land Trust President Dr. Lawrence Messina and Board member Allen Grealish. If readers would like to support the Scholarship program and the preservation and maintenance of open space, donations to the Orange Land Trust would be greatly appreciated (www.orangectlandtrust.org).

“Board of Education” From Page 6

shared their pathways and experiences in their industry.

Hurricane Ian Photo Restoration Project: Throughout the first semester, the students in art teacher Lisa Toto’s photography classes have been the only high school classes involved in a nationwide effort to repair and restore family photographs damaged in last fall’s Hurricane Ian. Krista Kowalczyk, a Florida photographer and organizer of this project travelled from Florida to Woodbridge to meet our Amity students and held videoconferences with some of the people whose photos they restored. These meetings really drove home the importance of helping others to our students.

Yale’s McBeth Comes to Amity: Yale University School of Drama Professor and Amity parent Cynthia Santos-DeCure visited ARHS in January with some of her students who are currently in rehearsal for a student directed production of Shakespeare’s Macbeth. They spoke with junior English classes and the Advanced Acting Class, demonstrating their rehearsal process and discussing their experience bringing Shakespeare’s tragedy to life.

Success in Science at ARHS: Eight Amity Regional High School students took top spots in the CT-STEM Fair on February 4, 2023. By presenting their authentic research to STEM judges, the

following students were recognized for their work: Anchal Bahel, Andie Napolitano, Sabrina Osowiecki, Rebecca Chen, Jasir Zafar, Anushka Acharya, Henry Yang, and Daniel Matthew. On January 11, 2023, Amity’s newest members of the Science National Honor Society were inducted into the organization. Congratulations to all the new inductees!

Amity Student Art Show: The 7-12 art teachers are proud to present a collection of work being exhibited at the Clark Memorial Library in Bethany. The show will stay up through mid-March. There will be an opening reception from 4:00-5:30 pm on February 23, 2023. If unable to attend the opening reception, student work can be viewed during library hours.

Virtual Keynote Speaker: Parent Primer on Fentanyl, Edibles, and Vaping: The substance-use issues that our kids are navigating are much more complex than they used to be. To help parents stay informed and aware of current trends, Region 5 partnered with BOWDAAC and the Orange and Woodbridge Youth Service departments to host a parent webinar addressing these important topics on January 25, 2023. Panelists included Lorrie McFarland, Alliance for Prevention & Wellness and Tricia Dahl, Yale School of Medicine. For those who were unable to attend, the webinar recording is available on the ARHS Counseling Department website.



From left to right, library media specialist Sandra Fitzpatrick, third grader Sophia, author Elise Broach, first grader Brandon, second grader Phoenix and PTO organizer Dianna Fuehrlein.

Bestselling Author Elise Broach Inspires Young Readers

On Friday, February 10, students in Orange had the opportunity to get even more excited about writing and reading with bestselling author Elise Broach. Thanks to the combined sponsorship of the PTOs from The Peck Place School, Race Brook School and Turkey Hill School, Broach gave an in-person presentation at each of the schools to students in grades 1, 2, and 3.

“It was fun because I got to see some of her favorite books from when she was a kid and some of the books she wrote,” says PPS third grader Mackenzie A. “When she told us about her Marvin and James books, I got really interested in reading them.”

PPS second grader Ethan F. read one of Broach’s most well-known books, “Masterpiece,” with his mom and dad prior to the author’s visit. “My favorite part of the visit was when she showed the cover of ‘Masterpiece’ because I read it,” he said. “I loved that book, and I was so excited to see the author. And now I have a signed copy!”

The Connecticut-based writer spoke to enthusiastic audiences about what it’s like to be an author and the many steps involved in creating a book, from idea to publication. Broach encouraged students to think of themselves not just as readers, but as authors too.

“Her visit got me interested in making my own book,” says Tanvi M., a third grader at Peck Place School. “She talked about how she got ideas from her imagination and sometimes from things that happened in real life, but she changed them up to make them more exciting. I’m making a book about a tiny pumpkin, but I haven’t

finished it yet.” “This event was a wonderful example of the collaboration that takes place in Orange Public Schools,” says Tricia Lasato, principal of The Peck Place School. “Partnering with three PTOs allowed us to bring in such a high-caliber and engaging author. The students of Orange were empowered by Elise Broach’s experiences and received encouragement to hone their skills as authors.”

Broach’s award-winning books “When Dinosaurs Came with Everything,” “My Pet Wants a Pet,” “Masterpiece” and the “Marvin and James” series have long been popular with Orange elementary students. But the library media specialists at each of the schools helped ensure students were extra excited to meet Elise Broach by introducing students to a variety of her books. Students even learned some fun facts about the author by exploring her website.

“This was truly a wonderful opportunity for our students,” says Sandra Fitzpatrick, library media specialist at The Peck Place School. “Meeting a real, live author is such an inspiration for kids. Once students are familiar with the author’s books, meeting the author is a little like meeting a celebrity. It really infuses a whole new level of excitement and passion into reading and writing.”

In May, the Orange elementary PTOs will host a visit from bestselling author Gordon Korman for students in grades 4, 5, and 6. “I’m really excited to meet him,” says fifth grader Mason M. “Before I even knew he was coming to visit I read his book ‘Masterminds’ and it’s my favorite book.”

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Back row: Mr. Ken Trapp (Music Teacher), Tricia Lasto (Principal), Dr. Ahlam Jalil (Art Teacher). Front row: Emma and Sam

24th Annual Elementary Schools Celebration of the Arts Festival

Emma Gulliford and Sam Feliconio, both sixth-grade students at The Peck Place School, received the 2023 Outstanding Arts Award at the 24th Annual Elementary Schools Celebration of the Arts Festival. The celebration was held at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, Connecticut. The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) sponsors this annual event, which recognizes two outstanding students in the highest grade level of each of Connecticut's elementary schools who have excelled in the visual or performing arts and

exhibit high levels of citizenship and cooperative skills. Our honorees were able to enjoy the festivities with their art and music teachers, principal, and parents during the Elementary Schools Celebration of the Arts Festival. The festivities included a delicious buffet, face painters, caricaturists, a photo booth, and an informational presentation on the art of puppetry by Flock Theatre. The Peck Place School community is proud of all their students, especially Emma and Sam for receiving this award.



Orange Community Nursery School families held a "We Love Our Community" food drive in the month of February. Students delivered the food to the food bank at the completion of the food drive.

STUDENT NEWS

Dean's/President's List
Bryant University

Smithfield, RI - Bryant University is pleased to recognize the students who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and achievement and have been named to the fall 2022 Deans' List. To earn a place on the Deans' List students must have a GPA of 3.4 or better for at least 12 semester hours of work. Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement! Those from Orange named to the Deans' List are: Anastasia Abriola, Kenneth Page and Mia Zajac.

Coastal Carolina University

Conway, SC - More than 1,100 students were named to the President's List at Coastal Carolina University for the Fall 2022 semester, including Haley Cable, from Orange, CT. Students who made the President's List have achieved a 4.0 grade point average during the semester.

Curry College

Milton, MA - Curry College congratulates the following Orange, CT students who were named to the Fall 2022 Dean's List: Julia Loschiavoof, Amanda Moranof, and Carlee Mulherin.

Drake University

Des Moines, IA - Connor Visnic, has been named to the Deans' List at Drake University. To be eligible for the Deans' List, students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the Fall 2022 semester at Drake.

Endicott College

Beverly, MA - Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Fall 2022 Dean's List students. In order to qualify for the Dean's List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below C, have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester. The following Orange students have met these requirements: John Neary, Marketing Comm/Advertising, son of Christine Neary and John Neary; and Anthony Young,

Liberal Studies, son of Marcella Young and C. Young.

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT - The following Fairfield University students from Orange received Dean's List Honors for the Fall 2022 semester: Elizabeth G. Bowler, Emma F. DelVecchio, Ava L. Divincenzo, Mary L. Foley, Dominick J. Lombardi, Payton H. Rahn, Jared Smith, Miles C. Turner, and Rose G. Wegman. 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.

Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI - Joe Bierowski, of Orange, CT, has been named to the Fall 2022 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 grade point average of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester.

The University of Tampa

Tampa, FL - Sara Cable, of Orange, earned dean's list honors at The University of Tampa for the Fall 2022 semester. Cable is majoring in Nursing BSN. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.75 or higher to be eligible for the dean's list.

University of Hartford

West Hartford, CT - The University of Hartford is pleased to announce the students from Orange, CT who have been named to the Dean's List for Fall 2022: Meghan Smith and Adriana Tufano.

Western New England University

Springfield, MA - Orange, CT resident, Colin Hughes, has been named to Western New England University's Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester. Hughes, is working toward a BSBA in Finance, is one of over 660 students who achieved this mark of academic excellence. Students are named to the Dean's List for achieving a semester grade point average of 3.30 or higher.

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Amity “Sweet 16” Round of Global Debate Competition

Hundreds of debate teams from around the world entered the 2022-23 International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) competition, but only 16 remain – including a team of students from Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge, Connecticut. By advancing into the “Sweet 16” round, the students remain eligible to win an all-expenses-paid trip to the IPPF Finals in New York City, where the IPPF World Champion will be awarded a \$10,000 grand prize. The Amity Regional team is the only team from Connecticut to advance this round.

Sponsored by the Brewer Foundation and New York University, the IPPF is the first and only competition that gives high school students from around the world the opportunity to engage in written and oral debates on issues of public policy. “The teams advancing demonstrate excellence at research, writing, and advocacy,” says William A. Brewer III, partner at Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors and a founder of the IPPF. “The 16 teams

remaining will compete in a final round of written debates – in hopes of moving on to oral debates during the IPPF Finals in New York City.”

The IPPF’s 22nd annual competition began in October 2022, as 220 teams, representing schools in 22 countries and 31 U.S. states, submitted qualifying round essays affirming or negating the IPPF topic, “Resolved: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an effective model for international cooperation.” Those essays were reviewed by a committee, which determined the top 64 teams based on the overall quality of each 2,800-word essay.

In November, the top 64 teams began a single-elimination, written debate competition. Each team was assigned a position (affirmative or negative) and then volleyed papers back and forth with another team via email for the next six weeks. A panel of judges reviewed the essays and selected the winning teams. In the “Round of 64,” Amity Regional High School advanced over Stuyvesant High School

from New York, New York. In the “Top 32” round, Amity Regional High School advanced over The Davidson Academy from Reno, Nevada.

The “Sweet 16” round is now underway. Amity Regional High School is competing against UWC South East Asia from Singapore. The top 16 teams represent schools from 11 U.S. states, Singapore and Canada.

On March 30, the “Elite 8” teams will be announced. If Amity Regional High School advances, the team will win a trip to New York City to compete in the IPPF Finals on May 6, 2023, at the Harold Pratt House. The IPPF Finals give students the opportunity to supplement their written scholarships with oral advocacy – competing in debates in front of some of the world’s foremost experts in business, law, and politics. Judges will include Brewer and New York University President Emeritus John Sexton, among others. The winning team will take home the “Brewer Cup” and the \$10,000 grand prize.

The IPPF was founded in 2001 by the Brewer Foundation and is now jointly administered with New York University. The program is available to all high schools around the world – public and private – for free. The IPPF is endorsed by leading forensic agencies, such as the National Association for Urban Debate Leagues, the International Debate Education Association, the Impact Coalition, Associated Leaders of Urban Debate Leagues, and the National Debate Coaches Association.

The Brewer Foundation is a private, non-profit organization funded by companies, individuals and the national litigation firm of Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors. With offices in New York and Dallas, the Foundation has achieved widespread recognition for its efforts to create, fund and manage a variety of educational outreach programs.

Visit the IPPF at www.ippfdebate.com, www.facebook.com/ippfdebate, on Twitter at @IPPF1, and on Instagram at @ippfdebate.

“Awards” From Page 1

Committee since 2018, and is a head coach and worship leader for the Trinity Church Sports Camp.

Allen Liu stands out across the board with his high academic achievements, leadership, and involvement. He has consistently taken the hardest classes that Amity offers, including 11 AP classes. Allen was also selected to be a part of our Science Research Program all four years, where he is conducting experiments in renewable energy. With a love of computer science, Allen taught himself a variety of coding languages, took courses in the subject, and now uses his knowledge and passion as a programming coach for a youth robotics team. He also started and is co-president of the Amity Hack Club, spent the last three years as the tech coordinator for Student Government, is the web designer for the Woodbridge Together club, and is the president of the Amity Chess Club.

Athletically, Allen is a captain of the Amity swim and dive team and is part of a club swim team as well. Allen also works as a lifeguard and elementary swim instructor. Additionally, Allen shows leadership as a Link Crew Leader, helping with our high school transition program. Allen is a bright and engaged student who has a great future ahead of him.

Nina Carmeli is a well-respected and visible member of the student

body who is involved in a wide variety of activities in both the school and the community. A four-year member of Student Government, Nina currently serves as the social media coordinator. She has also served on the Principal’s Committee and is currently the Community Outreach Committee chairperson. Nina is the founder and president of the Inclusion at Amity club, which focuses on making Amity a more inclusive, accepting, and diverse community. She is also a member of the Trident staff, currently serving as the Arts Section chief editor. Nina is also an active participant in the Girl Up club, No Place For Hate, Peer Tutoring, and Link Crew.

She has worked hard to earn membership in National Honor Society, National English Honors Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and Tri-M National Music Honors Society. Outside of Amity, Nina is committed to her passion for music and is also very active at her temple. Nina’s commitment to studying violin for the past 10 years has resulted in numerous experiences and accomplishments. She is the third chair first violinist in the Greater New Haven Youth Orchestra, first violinist in a local quartet, violinist in the Temple Emanuel Band, and has participated in the Southern Regional Music Festival for three years.

At Temple Emanuel, Nina serves as a Hebrew School teacher and serves as the student representative on the Temple Emanuel Board of Directors. Nina

takes great pride in these impressive accomplishments.

Grace Mahon is a visible member of the Amity community through athletics, theater, and service opportunities. Currently, she serves as president of Class Act Council, designed to empower schools and their students to take ownership for all issues related to sportsmanship within the athletics department.

Additionally, Grace is co-president of Amity Unified Theater where she is responsible for leading typical peers and members of the SAILS program in theater related activities. A two-year member of Link Crew, Grace enjoys her role as a mentor to incoming freshmen. Regarding athletics, Grace has participated in Outdoor Track for the past two years where she was a state qualifier in High Jump.

Grace’s greatest commitment was to swimming. A four-year member of Amity Swimming and Diving, she served as the captain this past season and has received All-State recognition for multiple years. She also participates in a Club Swim team outside of school. Her passion for the sport has led to her commitment to continue swimming next year at the University of New Hampshire.

In the artistic realm, Grace has been involved in theater as a cast member in each of the Amity Spring musical productions. She also volunteers as a camp counselor for the Amity Creative Theater summer camp.

Aside from school activities, Grace is active in her church, where she volunteers for community events and participates in the Appalachia Service Project in West Virginia. Grace’s diverse interests keep her energized and connected to her community.

Katherine “Katie” Sim is a standout in the Class of 2023! Katie is leaving Amity a better place than when she arrived. Academically, Katie works tirelessly to be an engaged and successful member of her challenging courses. In 2022, Amity awarded Katie the Lasell University Book Award for her academic and community service efforts.

Taking AP Environmental Science course raised Katie’s awareness of sustainability and she helped start an Amity Club that collected unused cafeteria food that was to be thrown away and they dropped it off at a local homeless shelter. Amity Connections, our peer mentor program is robust today and it would not have been so successful without Katie’s eagerness to make it happen. Katie was a founding member and has been a leader throughout her time, serving as vice president her sophomore year and president in both junior and senior years. This program means a lot to Katie, and she has helped market, plan, and execute the peer mentor model. Katie is also a two-year member of the Amity’s Link Crew and Chinese National Honor Society.

Outside of Amity, Katie babysits for a local family and works at a Cape Cod boutique. Katie Sim will be missed!

DEATH NOTICES

Lucille Cassella

Lucille Cassella, 87, of Orange, passed away peacefully at her home on February 8, 2023. Born on July 12, 1935 in Meriden, CT, she lived life fully and on her own terms. She brought love and laughter to all who knew her. There was no greater friend or relative. As a good friend once said, "Where there was a need, Lucille fulfilled it."

The past owner of the popular Lucille's Bridal Shop in Orange, Lucille was a guiding light for thousands of jittery brides. Her eye for detail and her good humor made working with her a joy.

She attended the University of Connecticut and was a graduate of the Chamberlain School of Retailing in Boston. Earlier in her career she worked as a buyer for the Edward Malley Company of New Haven. Lucille's Bridal Shop was next door to the Racebrook Pharmacy, owned by her brother Robert. These were truly family businesses where the youngsters of the family learned the value of hard work while being with people they adored.

Lucille's devotion to her family was exemplified by her selfless caretaking of her Mother and Stepfather, an act of pure love.

Her knitted afghans, ham pies, eggplant parmesan and chocolate chip cookies were the stuff of legend. She always made sure the younger kids of the family had the latest toys for Christmas. She was a second mother for many a lucky kid. When you were around Lucille, you just felt special. There's no greater gift than that. She will be greatly missed. She will live on in the memories of those fortunate enough to have known her.

Lucille was predeceased by her Mother Nicoletta Lender of Orange, CT, her Father Anthony J. Cassella of Wallingford, CT, her Stepfather Hymen B. Lender of Orange, CT and her Sister-in-Law Susan Cassella, of Orange, CT.

She is survived by her siblings,



Robert Cassella of Orange, CT, Albert Lender of Fountain, CO, Shirl Anne Robles of Wallingford, CT, Rosanne LaBonia of Wallingford, CT and Tony Cassella of Wallingford, CT as well as her nephews, David P. Cassella and his wife Marilyn of Taunton, MA, Stephen R. Cassella and his fiancée Lori Kiely of Mystic, CT and Kenneth Cassella and his wife Erin of Shelton, CT.

She was also cherished by many "great" and "great-great" nieces and nephews all of whom love her dearly.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on March 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Infant Church, 450 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT to be immediately followed by interment at the Orange Cemetery, 640-646 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT.

In lieu of flowers, it is asked that donations be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Carolyn Contardi

Carolyn H. (Marcovich) Contardi, 74, of Orange passed away February 24, 2023. Born in Bridgeport, she was the daughter of the late Stephen and Helen (Buturla) Marcovich.

Carolyn graduated summa cum laude from Southern Connecticut State College in 1970 and taught Spanish in Stratford Public Schools.

Carolyn is survived by her husband Gene, of Orange, her daughter Lisa, of Bolton, sister, Patricia (Edward) Zelinsky, of Guilford, and brother, Stephen, of Fairfield.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 2, 2023 at Holy Infant Church, 450 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT. Interment followed at Saint Michael Cemetery, Stratford, CT.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any local animal shelter in her name.

Julia Kaoud

Julia Kaoud, age 87, of Orange, passed away peacefully at home with



her family at her side on February 17, 2023. She was the loving wife of the late Saliba Kaoud. Julia was born

in Ramallah, Palestine, daughter of the late Bishara Kaoud and Victoria Milham Kaoud. She is survived by her children, Sana Margieh, Elham Kaoud, Abraham (Maggie) Kaoud, Ayman (Roula) Kaoud, Victoria Kaoud Wilde, fourteen grandchildren, four great grandchildren, as well as uncountable family and friends. In addition to her husband and parents, Julia is predeceased by her beloved daughter Renda Kaoud Margieh Noberini, her son-in-law Mounder Margieh and her 7 siblings.

Julia's faith was very important to her, she was a devoted Jehovah's Witness for over 50 years. Prior to her retirement Julia was a successful real estate entrepreneur, as well as the owner and operator of Eddie's Food Center.

The hours for visitation was held at the West Haven Funeral Home at the Green. A funeral talk was given in the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 210 Old Grassy Hill Road Orange, CT (zoom link info may be obtained from the funeral home). Interment followed in Kings Highway Cemetery, Milford. To leave an online condolence, please visit our website at www.westhavenfuneral.com.

Mary "Marge" Larkin

Mary "Marge" Larkin, 90, of Orange, CT beloved wife of John "Jack" Larkin, passed peacefully on February



27, 2023. Born on April 19, 1932, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary (Cooper) Burkowsky. Marge and Jack were married on September 2, 1954.

Marge attended Ansonia High School and was a drum majorette in the school's marching band. She had an excellent soprano singing voice and sang at Saint Anthony's church in Ansonia, and also later at family weddings. Marge graduated from the Hospital of Saint Raphael School of Nursing with the class of 1953. Her career as a RN spanned multiple decades and she became head nurse at Bentley Gardens Health Care Center in

West Haven, CT. Marge showed great compassion for her patients.

In addition to her husband, Marge is survived by her children, Kevin Larkin of Cheshire, Kathleen Larkin Kish of Milford, and Janet Larkin of Naugatuck; her grandchildren, Kelsey Larkin and Ceara Larkin of Stamford, Kayleigh Kish of Milford, and Jody DeGennaro of Naugatuck; her brother Richard Burkowsky and his wife Diana of Clinton, her sisters-in-law Louise Burkowsky of Long Island, NY, and Judy Larkin Nicolari of Ansonia; brother-in-law William Larkin of Saint Petersburg, Florida; and by numerous nieces and nephews. Marge's brother Joseph Burkowsky, sister-in-law Mary Elise (Larkin) Zarrilli, and brother-in-law George Larkin predeceased Marge.

Marge had a deep religious faith and when she could no longer attend mass, she and Jack watched the Sunday mass and often the daily mass on TV. She looked forward to the homilies especially those given by Father Gatzak.

Family gatherings were a special part of her life. Christmas was her favorite holiday and she loved decorating her home, cooking, the holiday meal, and gift giving. She was a tremendous cook. She was also very good at home decorating and was recognized for this in an article in the New Haven Register.

Marge greatly enjoyed working in her gardens and swimming in the pools she had over the years. She was also an avid reader and the Orange Library was one of her favorite places. She loved to travel, go to the shore, and dine out.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 8, 2023 at Holy Infant Church, 450 Racebrook Road, Orange, CT. Interment followed at Mt. St. Peter Cemetery, 219 New Haven Avenue, Derby, CT. The family is being cared for by the staff at the Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Office of Radio & Television, 15 Peach Orchard Road, Prospect, CT 06712-1052 or at www.ortv.org. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR



Youth Services/ BOWDAAC Events

Drug Take Back Day
The DEA's National Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 22nd from 10:00am-2:00pm at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road in Orange. All unused/unwanted/expired medications will be taken (including liquids, sharps, and pet medications). Volunteers from the National Pharmacy Association will be on site to answer any questions, along with the Orange Police Department and CERT.

Book Donation
We were lucky enough to have 6 copies signed by the author and donated

to us of a child/teen book titled 'Buzz to Buzzkill.' The books were donated by Susan Larkin who is the Director of Curriculum for the Yale School of Medicine, a life coach, a Woodbridge resident, and a member of BOWDAAC. The book explains how addiction is formed with regards to dopamine and the addiction pathway in the brain. It uses language (and pictures) that is understandable for kids/teens, but can be helpful for anyone who may be exposed to alcohol. We have donated 3 of the books to each of the town libraries in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge, and donated the other three to each of the libraries in the Amity schools.

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The 169 Club book is available at the Academy Museum at 605 Orange Center Road on Saturdays from 10-3.

Ask the author of the Orange page to sign it for you.

SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

Pasta Festa

Three individuals will be honored at the Living Treasure Award ceremony on May 18, 2023, from 5-8pm in the High Plains Community Center in Orange. Purchase tickets at the Community Services office.

NEW CLASS: Drumming

Join us on Tuesdays starting March 9 with Dennis. Limit 10 participants for this fun and aerobic activity.

Coin Talk

Join us on Monday, March 27 at 1:00pm when Blair Soucy returns to appraise your coins and talk about coins. Call the office to register (203) 891-4784.

You Picked it: Movie of the Month

Join us March 10, at 1:00pm for "Waking Ned Devine." When a lottery winner dies of shock, his fellow townsfolk attempt to claim the money. Popcorn and soda will be served. Call to reserve a seat.

Movie of the Month

Join us on March 17 at 1:00pm for "The Banshees of Inisherin." Two lifelong friends find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends their relationship, with alarming consequences for both. Popcorn and soda will be served. Call to reserve a seat.

Documentary & Discussion

Join us March 24 at 1:00pm for "What the Health." A filmmaker uncovers the correlation between diet and disease and the collusion between government, food industry and big pharma. Discussion afterwards. Popcorn and soda will be served. Call to reserve a seat.

Book Club

The book club normally meets the last Friday of the month at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be in the senior lounge on March 31. March's book is "Magic Mountain" by Thomas Mann.

NEW CLASS: Zentangle

Join us on the last Friday of the month, March 31 for our exciting new & free class: Zentangle. Zentangle is a

relaxing and meditative art form that helps with focus and concentration. This class will be led by Certified Zentangle teacher Rosemarie Main. Limit 15 people. Call the Senior Center at 203-891-4788 to reserve a seat.

Hot Lunch Program

Lunch is offered Monday through Friday, 11:30am – 12:00pm. No meals on Saturday, or Sunday. A \$3.00 donation is accepted for persons 60+. Call Ellen at (203) 891-4765 to register.

Legal Clinic

The Law office of Floman DePaola has merged with Wiley, Etter, & Doyon, but they are still available the first Wednesday of each month for a free legal clinic. Some things they will be able to help you with, while others may require an office visit and fee. To schedule a phone appointment, call 203-891-4784.

Griffin Hospital/Parish Nurses Blood Pressure Check

Maggie from Griffin Hospital will be here the last Friday of the month from 10:30-12:00pm to take your blood pressure. Be sure to stop by for this free clinic.

Trips

April 16, 2023: America's Music Cities

Enjoy a finger-snapping, toe-tapping time on a tour of America's most famed musical cities – New Orleans, Memphis, and Nashville. (extensive walking).

October 7, 2023: SPOTLIGHT SANTA FE HOLIDAY

Immerse yourself in the holiday spirit of Santa Fe in the Holiday Season as you take in the city's multicultural atmosphere (extensive walking).

October 2023: Shades of Ireland

10 days, 13 meals: 8 breakfasts, 5 Dinners. Highlights...Dublin, Irish Evening, Choices on Tour, Kilkenny, Waterford, Blarney Castle, Killarney, Jaunting Car Ride, Ring of Kerry, Farm Visit, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Castle Stay. Cost is \$3,719pp for triple, \$3,749pp for double, \$4,449pp for single. Travel insurance and deposit due at registration (extensive walking).

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Monthly Young Families Program at Temple Beth Sholom

Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden offers ongoing programs for families with young children to start a lifelong relationship with Judaism. Current members and those seeking a connection to a Jewish community are invited to share and explore these Jewish experiences together.

Join us once a month from 9:45-11:00am for a craft, stories, and Yoga Yeladim with Sherri Sosensky, Kidding Around Yoga - Certified & Licensed KAY Instructor. Every month has a different theme! See upcoming dates

and themes below:

- › Sunday, March 19, 2023 (Passover)
- › Sunday, April 23, 2023 (Israel)
- › Sunday May 7, 2023 (Tikkun Olam/Repairing the World)

This program is free and open to non-members. Please pre-register at: <https://tinyurl.com/TB-SYoungFamilies>

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

Orange Congregational Church

Orange Congregational Church invites you to join us for worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in our Sanctuary on the corner of 205 Meeting House Lane and Orange Center Road, and livestreamed to our "Orange Congregational Church, UCC" YouTube page.

Please join us for a Lenten Table during the Wednesdays in Lent. A simple soup supper at 6 p.m. will be followed by worship or activity at 7 p.m. All are welcome to either or both parts. There is a \$5 per person suggested donation for the soup and bread supper.

Palm Sunday will take place on April 2nd at 10 a.m. followed later in Holy Week by a Maundy Thursday service on April 6th at 7 p.m. Our Easter Sunday worship will be on April 9th at 6 a.m. for a Sunrise Service on Hannah's Hill near



Orange Congregational Church

the church and at 10 a.m. for a Traditional Easter Worship Service in our Sanctuary with music from the choir.

The church office can be reached at 203-795-9749 and is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Congregation Or Shalom Reaches Out

Driving by Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, one cannot help but notice the synagogue's banner and motto, "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors." In fact, Rabbi Wainhaus, spiritual leader of the congregation, often includes those words in his sermons. As he puts it, "Our motto represents the message of our congregation as well as the essential message of Judaism. As the great Rabbi Hillel put it, "If I am only for myself, what am I?"

Toward that end, synagogue members are actively involved in helping newly arrived legal refugees resettle in this country. The congregation is also engaged in a series of efforts

meant to alleviate hunger, among them, our "Lunch Bag" project. (See photo above).

Bob Spaulding, Or Shalom's president, comments, "The banner's rainbow-colored Star of David visibly recognizes the LGBTQIA+ community and lets all know we are a colorful Jewish community, embracing inclusivity without prerequisites."

For further information about Congregation Or Shalom's "Open Minds, Open Hearts, Open Doors" philosophy or to learn more about participating in social action at the synagogue, please call 203-799-2341 or go to: sqr.co/BethEl.

Orange Town News

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Maplewood Senior Living Receives 2023 Best of Senior Living Award For 14 Communities

The nation’s premier senior living provider also received the 2023 Best of Senior Living Customer Engagement Award and The Esteemed Organization Award

Maplewood Senior Living — one of the country’s leading senior living providers — is thrilled to announce that 14 of its communities across the US have just received the 2023 Best of Senior Living Awards, many for the sixth year in a row. The award was given by A Place for Mom, the premier online ratings and reviews site for senior care providers in North America.

Virtually all of the Maplewood properties in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Ohio were recognized as the top 2-3% of all senior living communities nationwide. A Place for Mom also awarded Maplewood the 2023 Best of Senior Living Customer Engagement Award and the Esteemed Organization Award.

“Since opening our very first community, we have been on a mission to

redefine expectations for the later years in life by offering senior living communities that provide the very best hospitality, care and lifestyle,” said Gregory D. Smith, president and CEO of Maplewood Senior Living and Inspir. “Receiving positive reviews from our residents and their families is the greatest form of compliment and offers validation that we are fulfilling our mission. We are honored to have 14 of our communities recognized with Best of Senior Living Awards and look forward to continuing to help fulfill each resident’s personal vision of the good life.”

The 2023 Best of Senior Living Awards mark Maplewood’s sixth consecutive year of inclusion in the annual ranking for all three Ohio communities: Maplewood at Chardon, Maplewood at Cuyahoga and Maplewood at Twinsburg. Six communities in Connecticut – Maplewood at Danbury, Maplewood at Newtown, Maplewood at Southport, Maplewood at Stony Hill, Maplewood at Strawberry Hill, Maplewood at Darien,

as well as all of the Massachusetts communities – Maplewood at Mayflower Place, Maplewood at Weston, Maplewood at Mill Hill, and Maplewood at Brewster, and Maplewood at Princeton in New Jersey – are among the awarded communities.

A Place for Mom is in its tenth year of hosting the Best of Senior Living Awards. The Best of 2023 Award winners represent the highest caliber of senior living providers, based on the online reviews written by seniors and their families across the United States and Canada. To qualify for inclusion in the Best of 2023 Awards, care providers must have maintained an average overall rating of at least 4.5 stars while receiving at least 10 new reviews on A Place for Mom during the award period, as well as offer assisted living, in-home care, independent living, skilled nursing or memory care. In order to qualify for the Customer Engagement Award, the organization must have five or more communities win the Best of Senior

Living award.

Maplewood Senior Living has been a leader in the senior housing industry since 2004, known for its upscale senior living residences offering a broad range of premier services and amenities, including independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing and rehabilitation. With communities in multiple states, Maplewood Senior Living is committed to providing its signature standard of excellence to residents.

Based in Westport, CT, Maplewood Senior Living has 16 senior living communities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Ohio. There are New York City and Washington D.C locations within the company’s newest brand, Inspir. This new senior living offering was launched to provide a luxurious option for seniors looking to join a residential community in major metropolitan areas; 203-557-4777 or http://www.maplewoodseniorliving.com.

CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS



March Madness: Tournament of Chocolates
Monday, March 13-Saturday, March 18

For teens in grades 7-12. Which candy is the champion of chocolate? Find out in our March Madness tournament of chocolates. Take home a kit with 16 different chocolate candies to taste and vote for your favorites in our online elimination tournament. Pickup dates: March 13-18. Online voting: March 23-April 3. Registration is required. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/chocolates>.



Take and Make: Shamrock Rings
Monday, March 13-Saturday, March 18

For children ages 6-8 years. Use pipe cleaners to make two different types of shamrock rings! Use it for a touch of green on March 17th or to bring you luck all year round. Kits can be picked up in the children's room between Monday, March 13 and Saturday, March 18. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/shamrockrings>.



176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477
203-891-2170 • www.casememoriallibrary.org

Preschool Playtime
Saturday, March 18, 10:30 a.m.

For children ages 2-5 years. Take the playground inside! Come play at our homemade obstacle course designed just for preschoolers. We'll build with blocks, go through tunnels, and jump in and out of hula hoops while going around and around the meeting room. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/preschoolplaytime>.



Adult Book Box
Monday, March 20-Saturday, March 25

Free book box service for adults. Each month that you register you will pick up a box containing two hand-selected books for you to borrow as well as some other surprises for you to keep.

Registration: March 1-8. *Don't forget to complete the Google Form you receive in your confirmation email to complete your reservation. Boxes ready for pickup: March 20-25. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/adultbookbox>.

Teen Book Box
Monday, March 20-Saturday, March 25

Free book box service for teens in grades 7-12. Each month that you register you will pick up a box containing two hand-selected teen books for you to borrow as well as some treats and others surprises for you to keep. Registration: March 1-8. *Don't forget to complete the Google Form you receive in your confirmation email to complete your reservation. Boxes ready for pickup: March 20-25. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/teenbookbox>.

Oscar Film: The Banshees of Inisherin
Monday, March 20, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 22, 1 p.m.

Two lifelong friends find themselves at an impasse when one abruptly ends

their relationship, with alarming consequences for both of them. 1 hr. 54 min. R. Registration is required to guarantee a seat.

To register for Monday, March 20, 7 p.m., go to <https://sqr.co/BansheesMarch20>.

To register for Wednesday, March 22, 1 p.m., go to <https://sqr.co/BansheesMarch22>.



March Madness: Mini Basketball Game
Tuesday, March 23, 3:45 p.m.

For children ages 6-10. Can't get enough March Madness? Make your own portable basketball game! Join us after school for some crafting and gameplay. This event will take place on Thursday, March 23 at 3:45 p.m. in the craft room. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/minibasketball>.



Community Book Sale
Saturday, March 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Conducted in our basement by the Friends of the Library.

Book Sale Bonanza

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will hold a Book Sale Bonanza on Saturday, March 25, 10:00am-3:00pm in the Library basement. A variety of books at bargain prices are ready to be snatched up.

At the Last Call Table, Fiction and Non-Fiction Books, are discounted, 25 cents for softcover and 50 cents for hardcover. The Seasonal Interest Table features Gardening Books and a curated collection of Cookbooks at \$1.00 each. The Media Section has new video games, Blu-Ray DVDs, action DVDs and hundreds of CDs, priced at 4 for \$1.00.



Bags of Books for children featuring "Picture Books," "Early Readers," and special subject categories, such as dinosaurs, are offered for \$5.00/bag. A large variety of Art and History Books are also available for purchase.

In appreciation for their commitment to our children, teachers will receive an additional discount when they check out their purchases at the Tally Tables. Don't miss this Book Sale Bonanza. Circle March 25 on your calendar. Remember to bring your bags. Come with your family and friends to browse through the wide selection of books offered at bargain basement prices.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

Proprioception: The 6th Sense of the Body

By KYLE BRANDAY MSPT

Balance is a complex thing in life, but in the body it takes on a whole different meaning. Internally, we have to balance our heart rate, blood pressure, cholesterol, breathing, and digestion. The most critical thing to balance our body functionally is something most people don't even sense. It's called Proprioception.



Proprioception is our body's innate ability to know where it is in space. Meaning, that our body can sense its own positioning. Seems simple right? It is, until our body experiences trauma, strain, or, forbid, a debilitating event such as a stroke or surgery.

Our body's 6th Sense is much more complex in how it operates. Ask yourself a question: How do you know your foot hit the ground when you walk? Now take it further. How do you know you landed in a stable position which will allow you to absorb the impact, assess the change of ground surface under your foot, and know its safe to load that leg and take your next step? Not so easy is it?

Proprioception works based on our nervous system being able to instantaneously uptake and interpret information and fire a signal back to your muscles with how to respond. Think of how quickly you can walk, run, jump, or climb. Your body has to respond even quicker to create the right response to the ever-changing conditions around you. This is what makes proprioception truly our body's 6th sense.

But proprioception isn't just about signals coming from your feet up. Its also about total body position. How do we know that we are slouching at our desk? What about sensing where your arm is when you're reaching to get the plate out of the upper cabinet?

Our 6th sense has so many far-reaching implications that we cannot function properly without it. Where we see it be the most integral, though, is in our balance. We walk fast, slow, sideways, backwards, and every way in between. But none of that can occur without proprioception.

Now that we know why it's so important, lets look at what affects proprioception. Orthopedic injuries such as sprains, strains, tears, and broken bones can negatively affect this sense. By changing the length tension relationship of different muscles, it creates an opening for muscles to lag in their

ability to sustain and create a contraction to stabilize. Ligaments which have been over stretched cannot provide the natural input back to the brain to then engage stabilizing muscles when the joint moves outside of its normal pattern.

Proprioception is also affected by the combined input of our vestibular system, stretch receptors within the muscles, and our nerves running between our thighs, calves, and ankles/feet. This combined input creates movement strategies to overcome a disturbance in our balance.

Ankle-Knee-Hip Strategy is the way in which our lower body coordinates functional movement of what muscles contract at what time. The old saying "Timing is everything" certainly applies to the way in which our muscles work together to create motion. If your thigh muscles (quadriceps and hamstrings) fire too early it could lead to our toes dragging across the ground and tripping.

Whether you are 1 year old, 21 years old, or 91 years old, proprioception can make or break our ability to move and function. High level athletes need it to stabilize their movement so they can wow us with their athletic prowess. But all of us need it to make sure we don't end up falling over ourselves

Want to get your proprioception "balanced"....you have to start with finding out why its not working properly. That's where we come in. A full head to toe assessment to determine the proper treatment path is the first step. From there, progression of balance related exercises to increase stability will help restore your function and confidence.

For more information or to speak with a therapist about the next step to rebalance your body, call (203) 389-4593. Tap into your 6th sense today!

Kyle Branday, MSPT, is a Physical Therapist and Partner working in the Woodbridge, CT office at 1 Bradley Rd. A graduate of Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT, Kyle specializes in the treatment of orthopedic and neurological injuries and dysfunction. With over 17 years of experience working with patients from infants and kids to geriatrics and professional athletes, Kyle's approach to treatment is to maximize a person's physical potential through functional evaluation and find the root cause of their dysfunction. He can be reached directly at (203) 389-4593 or visit www.amitypt.com/appointments/ to schedule your evaluation.



Orange Congregational Church Nursery School is a state-licensed preschool that has been in continuous operation for over 57 years. Our registration is quickly filling up; we have limited spots available for the 2023-2024 school year. Please email us at occns@yahoo.com for additional information or to schedule a tour.



ATTENTION ORANGE RESIDENTS!

Have an Upcoming Birth Announcement, Anniversary, Engagement or Wedding? Send it to us with a photo and we will publish it FREE.

Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
Email: edit@orangetownnews.com

ORANGE RESIDENTS NEED OUR HELP!

PLEASE DONATE TO THE ORANGE FUEL BANK



The Congregations of Orange Collaborative (COC) is seeking donations from their congregants to help Orange residents who are fuel insecure this winter. Please donate to the Orange Fuel Bank. Checks may be written to Treasurer, Town of Orange (in memo line put: fuel bank) and may be delivered or mailed to:

Community Services
525 Orange Center Road
Orange, CT 06477

Thanks from the COC:

Church of The Good Shepard
Congregation Or Shalom
Holy Infant Roman Catholic Church
Orange Congregational Church

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
St. Joseph of Arimathea ANC Church
Temple Emanuel
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church



For more information about the Fuel Bank or other community services, please call Community Services at (203) 891-4788

It's Their Biography...



BY GINNY REINHARD

Founded in 1908, the A.C. Gilbert Company manufactured the very successful Erector Sets, as well as a variety of educational toys and the ever-popular American Flyer train sets. To those of us that grew up with a train set in the basement can only imagine the delight in 1908 when children could find a set under their Christmas tree. After-all, photos with a Christmas tree always seems to have a train under it. When I was a kid I had a borrowed Lionel Set in my basement that belonged to my uncle George, so with fond memories of it, I purchased a 1934 set, just like it, a few years ago... yes, I did and it is set up on the living room floor! Yipes, will I ever grow up?

Getting back to Mr. Gilbert. Growing up in New Haven, he loved magic and he became so proficient that he could match a professional magician, trick for trick...not only did he show promise in the world of magic, but he broke the world record for chin-ups (39) at the age of 16. He completed medical school at Yale University paying part of his expenses by performing his magic tricks and manufacturing kits for children under the name Mysto Manufacturing.

Deciding not to pursue his medical career, Alfred chose to develop his toy business. While observing construction workers assembling a metal frame for a power-line tower, he conceived the idea of creating a construction toy for children...the Mysto Erector Structural Steel Builder was born. A design competition for boys to build their own creations saw 60,000 entries in 1913 increasing his profits for that year of 1800%.

Now this history is all well and good, but where are the toys for girls? Me? I was a tomboy but my girlfriends? Well, they weren't too interested in my train set, but Gilbert saw a need to include them and he did just that with a chemistry set designed specifically for girls. Can you imagine buying radioactive particles today? Well, Gilbert designed an Atomic Energy Lab complete with particles and a Geiger counter.

During WWI, Alfred spoke at local theaters to encourage citizens to buy Liberty Bonds and his factories added military items to the manufacturing. The impact of A.C. Gilbert goes beyond the image of a train set under



the tree with the knowledge that the first artificial heart made in 1949, had parts from Erector sets as did a portable bridge design used in WWII. General Motors used Erector parts in its prototype for piston-casting and they were used in creating soft contact lenses in 1961.

And for those of you who might visit Disney Theme parks, pay homage to your home-grown kid, A.C.

Gilbert for helping to build the prototype for the Soarin' ride in the 1990s. Using the 8 1/2 All Electric Erector Set, pictured, Mark Sumner, of the California Disney Park design team, created what was to eventually become the ride seen in the YouTube Video, The Making of Soarin'.

Using his ingenuity and his childhood "toy" Sumner was able to see a way to make the simulation of hang gliding a reality. Not only are the visitors 3 stories in the air, but with a personal fan and scent box behind each rider to experience the actual scene on the screen in front of them...feet hanging over the edge and Star Wars style music as well, makes this ride one of the most popular and now world-wide views are included. I regret not taking an opportunity to go to Disney as this ride intrigues me. The brilliance of A.C. Gilbert and his creations of more than 100 years ago still illuminates the world of science and industry.

The Otis Elevator Company can trace its origins to 1853 when it introduced the first safety passenger elevator in New York City's Crystal Palace

Convention. Elisha Otis invented the elevator safety braking mechanism making the life of the elevator a reality. Before Otis' invention, buildings seldomly reached 7 stories with elevators considered too dangerous to use higher than that. Before his dramatic death-defying demonstration, the elevator platform was hoisted up and down using a rope. You can see one in a Little House on the Prairie episode in the "big city." Otis demonstrated his invention by cutting the rope as the elevator descended. Otis was a young man, with vision and with his two sons, Charles and Norton they made history.

The stunt worked and in 1857, the first Otis passenger elevator was installed. This invention, by a local Connecticut citizen, paved the way for skyscrapers and today's modern buildings. His invention for the elevator didn't stop here, or should I say there. Moving forward to the 1990s with another connection to Disney, Otis elevator designed The Tower of Terror. Yup and they had to come up with a motor that would cause the elevator to pull down, passing the law of gravity. Riders appear to be in an ordinary hotel elevator and mysteriously disappear and since it was originally based on the Twilight Zone the elevator is under the influence of the supernatural. The Tower of Terror buildings are among the tallest structures at the Disney Resorts.

One Otis Company, located in Farmington, Connecticut boasts a large, cement-looking tower, somewhat like a tower in England with no visible windows. Well, it's reason for being is to test elevators...going down? In his spare time, as it is told, Otis dabbled in this and that...oh let's see, a bread making oven, train brakes, a steam plow, a rotary oven and with his son Charles, the oscillating steam engine in 1860. Alas, the plow did not sell well but let's be joyous for the elevator brake!



A.C. Gilbert

If the name Charles Otis sounds vaguely familiar it's because I wrote about him in previous stories...Charles Hazard Otis, not Elisha's son, owned the house we call the Stone-Otis house and he, in his own hand tells of his inventions and that his family were mechanics...mechanics as in working with mechanical things, a car alarm, moveable type for a typewriter, a machine for making the top of women's stockings...all in his notes. If you can find my story, you will read his life's work, if not, wait until my book comes out...all of my stories for Orange will be reprinted, together.

My thanks to my son-in-law Peter for his Disney knowledge...what that guy knows astounds me.