

Orange Town News



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Talking of Orange

Bicentennial Interviews Now Online

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Storytelling, it seems, is a very trendy art form, used sometimes to build connection between people. Selectwoman Judy Williams last year conducted a series of interviews with treasured citizens as part of the town's Bicentennial celebration. Those video-taped interviews - 37 of them - are now available on the OGAT channel on YouTube.

Most of the participants grew up in Orange, and many had family histories that had deep roots. All were willing to dig deep into their memories to portray the life they lived and the people that made the town special to them.

What shone through all of them, Williams said, was that this was a town that worked together, and people helped each other. "Community was huge."

It is touching to see some who have since passed away, such as Walter Bepuda and Town Historian Priscilla Searles. In all, there are some 37 videos posted, each one lasting about an hour. As a whole, this collection of stories provides an insight into personal recollections, and ultimately, the soul of the community.

Jacks of all trades: Robert Hiza, the town's long-time engineer, recalled people that he found notable or

memorable. Among them was George Smith – a "Jack of all trades," who was a farmer, served as fire marshal, ran a lawn service, drove a school bus, and served as zoning enforcement officer and, oh yes, he also was a supernumerary, a part-time policeman. "He was not complaining about all the jobs, he did them all," Hiza said.

Similarly, John VanArman, born 1942 on Grassy Hill Road, as a youngster started helping out at Hine's Farm. By the time he was 12 he could drive a tractor, he said. After his mili-

tary service he plowed for the town and the state. Then he started hauling oil. Several septic installations led to a job as sewer inspector for the town. Eventually they also made him the building inspector. "I really enjoyed working like that," he remembered.

Carmen Ana Rodriguez, a member of the Orange Board of Education, told the story of how her father came here from Puerto Rico, working as a farm hand for the Cuzzocreo family in the early 1950s. Eventually, it was Joe Cuzzocreo who suggested the whole family come and even provided a farmhouse. "The Cuzzocreo's were the gateway of my father achieving the American dream," she said.

Frank C Rogers, a descendent of
See "Talking" On Page 9



Selectwoman Judy Williams, Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas & Firefighter Scott Reichbard.

Orange Firefighters Honor a Century and Half of Service

Orange Volunteer Fire Department Reports
Record Number of Calls During 2022

Firefighters honored seven members who have given a total of 145 years of service to the town and celebrated the rescue of one firefighter by another. The tributes came at the recent annual meeting of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

In addition to the length-of-service awards, firefighters and guests heard the fire chief's annual report, a greeting from town officials and shared other information. The event was held at the Grassy Hill Country Club on March 14.

Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas said the department responded to 695 calls in 2022. That's up from 681 calls in 2021.

And while the total number of runs, including actual fires, was up, false alarms were down.

Dumas said the department remains financially stable and accomplished several important goals during 2022. A new pumper was put in service at the department's Boston Post Road station that reinforces the department's capabilities while using greener technology than previous trucks. The department also continues to improve its radio technology, a move that also creates a back-up system for the Police Department.

See "OVFD" On Page 8

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Make Your Own Suncatcher

Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m., Craft Room
For children ages 5-12

Recycle broken crayons into works of art! We'll use crayons, wax paper, and cardstock to make beautiful suncatchers. Registration is required. Go to <https://sqr.co/suncatcher> to register.

Mystery Book Discussion

Thursday, April 13, 1 p.m.
Join librarian Samantha for a discussion of Blackwater Falls by Ausma Zehanat Khan. Registration is required. This is an in-person event. Check for available copies at the Circulation Desk. Go to <https://sqr.co/blackwaterfalls> to register.

Squishy Circuits

Thursday, April 13, 3 p.m., Craft Room
For children ages 6-12

What do you get when you combine playdough and science? Squishy circuits! Light up LEDs with special conductive and insulating doughs. Registration is required. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/squishycircuits>.

Cool-ology Earth Day STEAM Lab

Friday, April 14, 2 p.m., Meeting Room
Science, Engineering, and Art come together in this fun Earth Day Lab.

Participants investigate seeds, engineer their own seed movers, and create Earth Art using chemistry! (Allergy alert: Lima beans and various seeds will be used in this program. No nuts will be used.) Registration is required. To register, go to <https://sqr.co/coolology>.

Oscar Film: The Whale

Monday, April 17, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m.
A reclusive, morbidly obese English teacher attempts to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter. 1 hr. 57 min. R. Registration is required for all Oscar Films. To register for Monday, April 17, 1 p.m. go to: <https://sqr.co/whale17>. To register for Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m go to: <https://sqr.co/whale19>.

Earth Day Take & Make: Beeswax Wraps

Saturday, April 22
For adults and teens in grades 7-12.
Celebrate Earth Day (4/22) and help reduce plastic waste by making your own sustainable beeswax wraps. Most supplies will be provided. You must supply a baking sheet. Registration is required. Go to <https://sqr.co/beeswax> to register.

Events are free and open to the public.



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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Lucy Scillia Scholarship

Available To Graduating Orange Seniors

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is now accepting applications for its annual Lucy Scillia \$2,000 Scholarship. The Scholarship is awarded to a local public or private high school Senior who is a resident of Orange and plans to continue education at an accredited institution of higher learning.

Applications may be downloaded at www.casememoriallibrary.org/lucyscillia. Applicants must submit an application, references and high school transcript. Completed applications may be mailed or dropped off at the Case Memorial Library, c/o President of the Friends of the Library, 176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477. The

deadline for submission is April 30.

The winner will be announced in June and presented with the Scholarship at the annual June meeting of the Friends.

The Scholarship is a tribute to the late Lucy Scillia, an Orange resident and a cherished member of the Friends of the Library. Lucy had a fulfilling career as a school librarian. She also served on the Town Library Commission. In retirement, she participated in the Adopt-A-Reader Program at Peck Place School, volunteered to read to youngsters at the Holy Infant Preschool and served as a library aide at the Orange Senior Center.

ARTS & LEISURE

Yale Citations A Cappella

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library is presenting a return engagement of The Yale Citations, a co-ed a cappella group, on Saturday, May 6 at 2:00pm. The group is composed of future lawyers, doctors, scientists, nurses, artists and other students of the graduate and professional schools at Yale. Formed in 2003, the members share an interest in singing and socializing, as a relaxing diversion from classes and research projects.

The Citations' evolving repertoire includes a range of musical styles and a variety of favorite standards by pop-

ular artists, like ABBA, James Taylor, Etta James and Queen. The group performs at private venues, such as weddings and cocktail parties, at Mory's and at graduate and professional school events.

This return engagement by the Citations also ushers in a resumption of the Friends' Programs in the Library. Join this Welcome Back celebration with the harmonies of the Citations on Saturday, May 6 at 2:00pm. Reservations may be made at www.casememoirallibrary.org or by phone 203-891-2170.

Guitar Duo Features Connecticut Songwriter

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will showcase the Meredith Rose Duo, featuring singer/songwriter Meredith Rose, playing rhythm guitar along with her husband, lead guitarist and back-up vocalist, Dave Wanik, on Saturday, April 15 at 2:00pm in the Meeting Room.



With Meredith's tender vocals, accompanied by electric and acoustical guitars, the Duo offer a mix of original pop and folk music. Meredith has been composing original music for over ten years, performing in the U.S. and international

venues. Her 4-track EP titled “Sow” was nominated by the Connecticut Music Awards for Best Singer/Songwriter. She also received honorable mention in the John Lennon Songwriting Competition. The Duo has recently set down family roots along the Connecticut shoreline and enjoy performing gigs at local venues.

For an enjoyable afternoon of folk and pop music on Saturday, April 15 at 2:00pm, make a reservation at www.casememoriallibrary.org or call 203-891-2170 to book this entertaining Program.

STUDENT NEWS

Dean's/President's List

Emmanuel College

Boston, MA - Theodore Weber of Orange has made Emmanuel College's Dean's List for the Fall 2022 semester. To earn a spot on the Dean's List, Emmanuel students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for a 16-credit semester.

High Point University

High Point, NC – High Point University announces the students who qualified for the Dean's List for the fall 2022 semester by maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher. Orange students who have been named to the Dean's List are: Jessica Yocher.

University of Hartford

West Hartford, CT - The University of Hartford is pleased to announce Meghan Smith of Orange has been named to its President's Honors List for Fall 2022. The President's Honors List is made up of an extremely select group of students who earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher in the semester. This is the GPA that must be sustained over a full undergraduate career to qualify for a degree summa cum laude.

Seton Hall University

South Orange, NJ - Seton Hall University is pleased to announce Andrew Gnidula of Orange, CT has qualified for the Fall 2022 Dean's List. After the close of every semester, undergraduate

students completing all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than “C”, qualify for the Dean’s List.

University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC - John McNabola, Orange resident, and Freshman at the University of South Carolina obtained the Dean's list for the Fall 2022 Semester. John is a Finance Major and Spanish Minor within the Darla Moore School of Business. The University recognizes undergraduate students with a grade point average of 3.50 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) and must have earned a minimum of 12 credited semester hours.

Southern CT State University

New Haven, CT – Southern CT State University announced students named to the Fall 2022 dean's list. Those from Orange are: Garrett Yocher. Full-time undergraduate students must earn at least 12 credits and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher to be eligible.

Tufts University

Medford, MA - Tufts University recently announced the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester. Those students from Orange earning dean's list honors is/are: Diya Aggarwal, Class of 2026; Robert Jaques, Class of 2023; Ameya Menta, Class of 2023; Armaan Patel, Class of 2025; and Nickolas Wawrzyniak, Class of 2024. Dean's list honors at Tufts University require a semester grade point average of 3.4 or greater.

Elmer F. Manley Memorial Scholarships Available

Ansantawae Masonic Lodge is offering two \$1,000 “Medical Scholarships” to a college student studying counseling, social services, nursing, medicine, psychiatry, gerontology, or pharmacology and having completed a minimum of two college semesters in their chosen field, while maintaining a minimum GPA of 2.75, are encouraged to apply for this scholarship.

Also being offered are two \$1,000 "Lodge Family Scholarships". Candidates must be a daughter, son, granddaughter or grandson of a member of Ansantawae Lodge #89. Applicants must have completed a minimum of two College semesters in their chosen field and maintained a GPA of 2.75.

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“Members” may also apply.

Interested students should send a synopsis of their credential and a listing of their current social interests in their chosen field along with a current official college transcript. (Transcripts must be sent directly from your school.) Along with a synopsis of your future aspirations and how you are working to attain these, send your full name, address, email and a phone # where you can be reached.

Send to: Lodge Scholarship Committee, Mrs. Elmer F. Manley, 1014 Fernbrook Road, Orange, CT 06477-1011. All applications must be received by May 25, 2023 For further info, call (203) 799-2651 or email: hcbypolly@yahoo.com.

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“OVFD” From Page 1

Goals for 2023 include additional station improvements, continued work toward a new fire station to replace the Orange Center Road facility, and working on specifications for a new tower truck. Dumas also said the department is preparing for its 100th Anniversary celebration in 2025. Part of that celebration will be hosting the Connecticut State Firefighters Convention.

Dumas made special mention of firefighters’ families, noting the sacrifices they make to allow their family members to volunteer. And he praised the department’s partner agencies, especially the fire marshal’s office, police department and citizen’s emergency response team (CERT). He thanked the Orange Economic Development Commission for continuing to support OVFD through its annual golf tournament.

In other reports, Jillian Gagel, president of the OVFD Auxiliary, reported that the auxiliary was back to doing all of its fundraising events. Money raised by the auxiliary helped pay for portable radios, air packs and turnout gear. This year, she announced, the auxiliary was able to give a record amount of money to the department.

Selectwoman Judy Williams thanked the firefighters on behalf of the town government. She spoke about the importance of volunteerism, especially in a small town. “You do it because you enjoy it,” she said. “You do it because you want to give back. You deserve the recognition.”

Dumas and Williams recognized firefighters for their length of service. They were:

- › Past Assistant Chief Michael Esposito – 30 years;
- › Firefighter Steven Douglas – 30 years;
- › Firefighter Scott Reichbart – 25 years;
- › Firefighter Dan Johnson – 20 years;
- › Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas – 20 years;
- › Lt. Dan Abrams – 10 years;
- › Assistant Chief Eric Auscavitch – 10 years.

Reichbart was also recognized for a rescue he was involved in several years ago. Dumas said the rescue wasn’t reported until recently. Reichbart and Firefighter John Rossi were overhauling a room after a structure fire. That involves pulling down ceilings and

checking behind walls to make sure there’s no fire still burning anywhere. The floor under Rossi collapsed and Rossi started falling into the basement. He caught himself on the edge of the hole. Despite the knowledge that the floor near the hole was compromised, Reichbart crawled to the edge of the hole and pulled Rossi out of the hole, preventing him from falling into the still-hot rubble in the basement. For his actions, Reichbart received an award of merit.

Two other groups of firefighters received awards for special work in 2022. Lt. Vaughan Dumas Jr. and Firefighter Will Clemens were honored for refurbishing a fire engine. Capt. Dave Tufano, Lt. Dan Abrams, Lt. Eric Demeraski and Lt. Dumas were recognized for special training sessions they created at buildings in town that were due to be demolished. More than 750 hours of training, including specialized training about rescuing firefighters, were conducted at one of those sites.

Treasurer Bert Gallant and Firefighter Peter Goodwin, together, were named Firefighter of the Year. Assistant Chief Dan Cole was named officer of the year in a special recognition for work he has done with personnel operations, the 100th anniversary and other achievements.

The department also named Marsha Addil and Patricia Abrams as honorary members because of the support they and their late spouses have shown the department over the years.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, surrounding towns. Members receive training in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, homeland security issues and other emergency services.

Operating strictly with revenues from fundraisers and donations, the Orange Volunteer Fire Department is one of the remaining few all-volunteer incorporated fire departments in Connecticut. Active members are on-call to serve the community on a 24-hour/seven-day basis, responding from stations on Orange Center Road and Boston Post Road.

In addition, the fire company offers public education services including lectures, demonstrations and training. For information about membership, donations or public education, call (203) 891-4703, click on <https://www.orangevfd.org/> or find us on Facebook.



“Talking” From Page 1

Matthew Woodruff, one of the earliest settlers in this area, remembered a life without cell phones. At age 6, he invited himself to Walter Bispuda’s house, but forgot to tell his parents. When Walter’s father finally walked him home at dinner time, his family was out, looking all over for him, searching the ponds and any other area they thought he could have gotten lost.

His great-grandfather joined the Union Army in the Civil War – a New Haven regiment consisting of some 800 people – but when he returned, he was only one of three survivors, Rogers said. Subsequently, his great grandfather started the Woodruff seed company, which sold local seeds far and wide. He even showed a framed seed bag from that time.

Bev McClure, the aunt of Bethany veterinarian Kim McClure, grew up in Orange, where her parents bought a house on Dogburn Road. It was rural, she said, no street lights, no stores, houses had no numbers; some streets were not paved – Dogburn, for example, turned into a dirt road.

With an Italian mother and a French-Canadian Scottish Father, it was a catholic household, and they eventually ended up at Holy Infant church. You’d run into the same people at school, in church or in social situations.

“We played outside, riding our bikes, playing baseball in the street, ice skating on a neighbor’s pond. The teachers often lived in town. When you went to the parade, you knew everybody in the parade. “People helped each other out,” she said. “Growing up in Orange was a privilege,” she said. It was a WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) community, but not in a discriminatory way, she insisted. At this point, she lives in New Haven, but “I belong in Orange.”

Special events: Robert Hiza also remembered the town’s sesquicentennial in 1972, for which he served on the special events committee. One of the special events was a hot air balloon – that was tethered to the grounds at the fairgrounds. But he and a friend got a chance to take a balloon ride, an unforgettable experience.

“We were gliding over Orange – probably 400 feet up in the air. That’s when I realized how many dogs there were – because the dogs would start barking at the strange thing flying above. The balloon finally came down in New Haven, where an audience of city children gaped at their unusual vehicle.

John O’Sullivan, the brother of Pat and David O’Sullivan, now lives

in North Carolina, but he grew up in Orange. He joined the Peace Corps in 1968 and was sent to Cote d’Ivoire in Africa, where he met his future wife, Rita Goldfarb. He got a Doctorate in African history, and for his thesis he recorded villagers’ stories about what they remembered.

“I heard some fascinating stories about what had happened to their villages,” he said. He found that what matters most to villagers in Africa is not much different from what matters to us – kids, education, family connection. “What matters is family and place,” he said.

The interviews were conducted by Judy Williams; the videographers were Chris Kelly and Laura Kelly. It was quite a logistical challenge to get all the interviews lined up, Williams said. She is still hoping to do two more, namely with Eloise Clark and with Walt Hine.

Some participants were initially reluctant to participate, but she gave them three questions to prepare for the conversation: Tell us about your family history and how you got to Orange – tell us your involvement in the town – and tell us some interesting story.

“Tell your story for your family, get it recorded, she would encourage them.

Walt Bispuda for example passed away two and a half months after the interview. They uploaded the recording to a flash drive and presented it to the family. “They played it during the wake,” she said.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli talked about the history of farming in Orange. After World War II, demand for housing was exploding, and many sold their land. “Orange changed,” he said, adding that as a youngster he would watch land disappear. “That’s when I developed strong feelings about preserving open space,” he said. “If I don’t step up, when the children of this town are my age there will be nothing left.”

These are the interviews posted on OGAT: Walter Bispuda, Robert Hiza, Kevin Gilbert, Ginny Reinhard, Walter E. Clark, III; July Williams, Gloria Capecelatro, Rowland Hine and Doris Knight; Dorothy Berger, Pat Sorensen, Marjorie Schenk, John VanArman, Thomas and Gary Salemme; Lynn Plaskowitz, Frederick Knight; Donald Foyer, Laurie Jane and Craig Winkle, Charles Treat Gagle, Fred Palmer, Neil Hathaway; Beverly Treat Bettencourt, Emma Cuzzocreo, Jeffery Treat Wilson; Anne Greco, James Zeoli, Carman Ana Rodriguez, Frank Rogers, John O’Sullivan, Beverly McClure, Charlotte Clark Turner, Priscilla Searles, Eleanor and Frank Pucillo, Albert M. Clark III, Joe Tirollo, and Suzanne Anderson.

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ARTS & LEISURE



The Yale Whiffenpoofs Sing in Orange

The world renown singing ensemble, The Yale Whiffenpoofs, will perform at the Orange Congregational Church on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm. The Whiffs are returning to the Yale campus for a brief time as the semester ends and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to hear the 2022-23 singers. They will have just completed a March trip singing in the U.S. before embarking on a Summer concert tour of four continents: South America, Europe, Africa and East Asia.

The famous choir has evolved from the original five men of the Yale Glee Club's best singers over 100 years ago at

Mory's Temple Bar Consisting of only Yale College Seniors, the 14-member ensemble resets every year. In 2018 the group admitted its first female singer. Tickets are \$20. We encourage advance ticket sales. You may call the church office at 203-795-9749 to obtain yours. Some tickets will be available at the door. The Orange Congregational Church is located on the Town Green, 205 Meeting House Lane at Orange Center Road, in Orange, CT. The Music on the Green series is made possible by generous donations to the Orange Congregational Church Music Fund.



The Jaime Hulley Arts Foundation presents sponsorship check to the THS Drama Club cast of "Beauty and the Beast."

"Beauty and the Beast" Receives Standing Ovation from Audience

On Friday, March 10th and Saturday, March 11th, the Turkey Hill School Drama Club put on an unforgettable performance of "Beauty and the Beast". One hundred and five talented actors took the stage leaving the audience in awe.

The main sponsor of the show was the Jaime Hulley Arts Foundation, who has supported the club for more than a decade. Their generous support has allowed the drama club to continue to provide high-quality elementary school performances.

The show was a resounding success, with sold out shows and a standing ovation from the audience. The cast

worked tirelessly since January to bring this classic tale to life. The stunning costumes, props made by parents and incredible performances from the actors transported the audience into the enchanted world of "Beauty and the Beast".

"We are incredibly proud of our students and the amazing production they put on," said Denise Arterbery, THS Principal. "It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to put on a show like this, and they truly gave it their all. We are also extremely grateful to the Jaime Hulley Arts Foundation for their unwavering support of our club."

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Orange Congregational Church Welcomes Reverend Sellers

Orange Congregational Church has welcomed the Reverend Nada B. Sellers as Designated Term Pastor. Uniquely qualified for the role, Rev. Sellers has served in similar capacities in other United Church of Christ congregations in this region. As minister and spiritual leader, she joins this church during a phase of transition and recommitment to our goal of demonstrating our love of God and love for our neighbors, according to the works and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Orange Congregational Church is located on the Town Green, and is an Open and Affirming, intergenerational faith community. We invite you to join us for Easter Sunday worship on April 9th at 6 a.m. for a Sunrise Service on Hannah's Hill near the church and at 10 a.m. for a Traditional Easter Worship Service in our Sanctuary



Pastor Nada B. Sellers

with music from our handbell and senior choirs. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Upcoming Events at Temple Emanuel

Special Events

Friday, April 28 at 6:30 pm – Israel@75, a special Kabbalat Shabbat service with music by the Temple Emanuel band, followed by an Israeli dinner and dancing. Please go to the TE website to sign up for dinner.

Regular Weekly Services

- 6:30 pm on the first Friday of the month, Family Shabbat service
- 7:30 pm on all other Fridays, Kabbalat Shabbat Service

Other Regularly Scheduled Events

- 10:00 am on most Saturdays, Torah Study
- All of these events are held in person and can also be attended online.

Please check the TE website or contact the TE office for links to Zoom and YouTube. All listed services and events are open to both members and non-members.

Masks are required during indoor services and gatherings when we are singing. Please wear a surgical mask, KN95 mask or something similar. Surgical masks are available in the lobby. Masks are optional at other events.

For more information about services and celebrations at Temple Emanuel, and to register or purchase tickets for special events, please go to the TE website, www.tegnh.org or call the office at 203-397-3000. Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue in Orange.

Holy Infant Church Women's Guild

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 6:46 pm in the Guild Hall. It will be a night of cultural diversity. We will hear from women from other faiths about their traditions for celebrating the Holy Days and we will talk about how we celebrate ours. We will have some tasty treats to share reflecting some of the traditional desserts enjoyed by their families and ours.

The Women's Guild Scholarship application is now available online on the parish website, www.holyinfantorange.org and at each door of the church. Completed applications are due back at the rectory office by 1:30 pm on April 24, 2023. The scholarship is for high school senior girls from the parish who will be attending a 4-year college or university next year. There will be two \$1,000.00 scholarships awarded.

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR



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.

STEM Series Program

Beginning on March 24th, Youth Services started the first of a four-session STEM Series Program. Taught by 3 Amity High School students, participants in grades 4-6 learned about what bacteria is and how it forms, along with learning about DNA and making their own strands of DNA (as shown

in the picture). Future sessions will include creating lava lamps, forming electricity with lemons, and learning about structural engineering while making marshmallow towers. Each session filled up within a week! We are hopeful to offer this program again in the future.

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“Letters” From Page 5

or not to support the Amity budget keep in mind that millions of dollars of taxpayer provided funds are being retained for Amity's use. I want to vote for a solid accurate budget that does not have millions of dollars to place in a slush fund. For this reason, I cannot in good conscience vote for the Amity budget until they stop these ridiculous surpluses.

Matthew Giglietti

Time To Put the Friendship Back in Amity

On May 2nd, the BOW will hold our annual referendum to approve the proposed Amity Regional School District budget for the 2023-2024 school year. While this topic has caused some local contention in the recent past, I would like to share my perspective as a former educator and principal of Amity Regional High School, as well as a current very proud parent.

The Amity Regional School District is a place where amazing students have the opportunity to learn from passionate, engaged educators to prepare themselves for their lives ahead. The proof is in the pudding. In the past 20 years, Amity has, among its alumni, the first female Army Ranger, a current NPR international correspondent, a 2012 Olympic bronze swimming medalist, a Hasbro spotlighted inventor, entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors, entertainers, social influencers and numerous others who have left Amity with the skills necessary to lead successful lives and productively contribute to society.

Many of these alumni return to the BOW to establish themselves and raise their families. In fact, multiple members of our Board of Education are Amity graduates who have children currently enrolled in Amity or in one of the elementary districts; many current Amity teachers are graduates of Amity.

Whether you used to have kids in the Amity schools, currently have children who attend, or have never had children attend Amity, you have benefited from what the district offers. You may have been one of the thousands of community members who saw Amity Creative Theater's rendition of Beauty and the Beast in March. Perhaps you have been one of the many professionals who has hosted an Amity senior during the annual unpaid experiential learning sessions every spring where they explore the working world, with many choosing to work in schools and businesses within our town. These are only a couple examples of the ways in which the Amity Regional School District benefits each citizen.

For years, some town leaders and constituents have cast doubt on the Amity administration, and even the educators who work so hard for our children. Knowing what I know from

my 22 years serving the district, it breaks my heart to hear their efforts and motivations called into question. Our educators are demoralized, they are tired, and they need us now more than ever. Continuing the discord will not benefit our community in the end. It is our responsibility as citizens, parents, and neighbors to work together, to support the systems that are the foundational aspects of our towns to not only benefit our community, but to set a positive example for our children and our future leaders.

It's time to work together to show our educators and our educational leaders that we are here for them. Amity means friendship; let's start to show everyone what Amity really can be. It's time to take a stand to support our children, our educators, and our town - I hope you'll join me and the many other members of our community who value our public education system by voting Yes for Amity on May 2nd.

Anna N. Mahon

Pray For Our Leaders!

A significant number of Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora, are quite unhappy about Israel's newly elected government. Some rabbis have chosen, as a result, to change the wording of the traditional "Prayer for the State of Israel." One rabbi, whose words, I've abridged below, explained it as follows:

“I’ll never cease supporting the cultural, social and spiritual richness of Israel’s beloved Jewish society. In fact, we should intensify our support for Israel. We should visit Israel. We should redouble and re-triple our efforts to know our Israeli brothers and sisters. We should support them in their very real challenges.

“But we should shun the incoming government of Israel. It deserves whatever small protest we can offer from afar. Here is mine, ‘We will continue to pray that Israeli society succeeds. But we will not pray that this new government succeeds.’”

The opening sentences of the prayer the rabbi and others find unacceptable is reprinted below. I've italicized the two sentences they reject:

“Rock and Redeemer of the people Israel: Bless the State of Israel, with its promise of redemption. Shield it with Your love; spread over it the shelter of Your peace. *Guide its leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth; help them with Your good counsel...*”.

I, many rabbis, and many supporters of Israel – both Jewish and Christian – utterly disagree with the decision to alter the traditional prayer for Israel. We find it misguided and ill-advised. The prayer for the modern State of Israel, inspired by the age-old Jewish “Prayer for the Government,” is *a prayer for the welfare of the country*. That is to say, in praying for the heads of state, we pray that those who govern make decisions aligned not with their

own biased interests, but with biblical values – values that urge them to promote *the welfare of all the country's inhabitants*. Indeed, we've all invoked the Prayer for America during administrations we both liked and disliked. Yet, the opening paragraph of that prayer, found in many Jewish prayer books, still remains: "We ask Your blessings for our country, the United States of America – *for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority... May they administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst...*".

Well, shouldn't that hold true with regard to our prayers for Israel's government? Shouldn't we pray that her leaders "administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom abide in Israel's midst?"

And speaking of the welfare of Israel and all her inhabitants, don't Israel's leaders need our prayers now more than ever? The sense of divisiveness in the Jewish State these days is, in some ways, even deeper than the divisiveness we currently experience here in the United States! To my mind, there's no better time than now to collectively pray: *Guide Israel's leaders and advisors with Your light and Your truth; help them with Your good counsel...*"

Which is why we continue praying
for Israel's leaders at our congregation!
Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus
Congregation Or-Shalom

Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc Committee - Hands Tied

Over the last two years several Orange town residents complained about the location of the proposed playground at Fred Wolfe Park. Several people attended the Orange Board of Selectmen meetings and expressed concern about traffic safety. Orange First Selectman Zeoli then created a seven person Fred Wolfe Park Ad Hoc committee. Before the first meeting of the Ad Hoc committee, a land license for 14.4 acres was given out to Walter and Dorothy Hine for \$375 per year to plant corn at Fred Wolfe Park. This would eliminate any options to relocate the playground and Mary Tracy Soccer fields to the corn fields for two years.

Also, 1/19/22 at the first Fred Wolfe Park Committee it was announced that the relocation of the playground was off the table. Per the Orange First Selectman the playground will go in the location where he selected. Now the committee was told to correct the traffic problem created by the location of the playground.

Please help correct this misstep. Please sign a petition to stop planting corn at Fred Wolfe Park and change the location of the playground. See below link for a petition to NOT renew

the lease for corn at FWP. We want to keep getting signatures. Per the Town of Orange charter, section 3.6 allows voters to go to referendum on this issue.

Please sign and contact your selectmen, <https://www.change.org/p/termination-of-field-view-farm-lease>.
Tom Pisano

Open Letter to Orange BOS

As I watched the March 1st meeting on OGAT, since I was unable to attend, it is so concerning that the egos and pride of the people that made a decision as to where the playground is going, means more than taking a pause and actually getting the feedback from a Safety Consultant to be sure that the decision of the location of the playground is in the BEST interest of the children who will be using it. Why are we rushing something like this? So, what it has been two years, it has been 2 years without a safety study, 2 years without proper drainage placed, two years with things not being thought through. Why do we want to rush this and have a safety consultant come in and laugh at our lack of ability to plan appropriately and make a decision that is actually sound and makes sense for the future of the town? It is infuriating as a parent of a 5-year-old, that the adult egos and that I hear from so many people who work for the town, etc. say "It was Jim's decision. It didn't matter what the committee wanted, Jim was going to get what he wanted and he wants it where it is going. End of story." It is very sad as a taxpayer that we have put the cart before the horse again.

Old Tavern has little to no drainage on those baseball fields. Had it been done correctly we wouldn't be spending so much money as a town on Speedy Dry every season. Things need to be done the right way and this is our chance to do something the right way and take a pause and have the safety consultant come in and help in the decision as to where the playground should go.

Please really think of the negative aspects of this decision and how it impacts the children in the town and the people driving in and out of that complex. One of the people who spoke at the meeting has a degree in Engineering and does this for a living and actually has a lot more knowledge and I couldn't agree more, the cart was put way before the horse on this and it needs to pause while we have this study done. Please think long and hard about this. Parents would rather wait a bit longer for the playground than to push something forward that is not safe and will need to be moved eventually anyway. It will end up costing the town more in the long run.

Erika Higgins

DEATH NOTICES

Daniel Duarte

I was born during the hurricane of 1938 to Portuguese immigrant parents, Manuel and Mary (Salgado) in Plymouth, MA. My brother, Gilbert, of Plymouth, MA predeceased me in October, 2015.



I graduated with a B.S. from Bryant University, received my Master's from CCSU, 6th year from University of CT,

taught business at Amity High, Woodbridge, 1960-2002, served as business department chair, and was elected AEA president for four terms. I was elected President of the CT and New England Business Educators Associations and served as adjunct business professor at Gateway Community College from 1967-2003.

On September 6, 1961 at Amity, I met a very special student teacher and my future wife, Diana V. Pepe of Ansonia, whose family owned the Ansonia Architectural Woodworkers. We were married in 1963, and in 1967 we chose to make Orange our home. We spent 62 years of happiness together.

In the late 1970s into the 1980s through the Orange Park and Rec Department, I got parents to believe their daughters were worthy of and could play a bat and ball game. Today, it is called Orange Little League Softball.

With my wife, we ignited great dreams in our two daughters and guided and supported them in their academic and athletic endeavors. Tina in 1987, and Melissa in 1992, were recognized as scholar-athletes at Amity High and today are physicians.

I say good-bye to Tina's wife Bridget Baird, to Melissa's husband Matt Henretta, and to my five fabulous grandchildren: Theo and Daniel Duarte-Baird, and Jacob, Lauren, and Andy Henretta. They made me understand why grandchildren are so revered. To them I am "POP!"

Last, but not least, I say to my wife and daughters, “You made me proud while making my role as husband and dad quite easy.” Really, it has been mission accomplished in so many ways!

I am grateful for the love and support of all my relatives, nieces and nephews, former students, and the many friends and neighbors who visited me and reminisced about our happy times together. I especially want to thank Dr. John Elefteriades who gave me 16 more happy years with my family because of his pioneering research in aortic aneurysms and Dr. Sue Chang for their compassionate care.

In lieu of flowers, donations in my memory may be made to The Aortic Institute at Yale, and mailed to John Eleftheriades MD, Emeritus Director, PO Box 208039, New Haven, CT 06520 to further research in aortic disease. Interment will be private.

Yes, I wrote this prior to departure!

Jeannette Hafner

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend, Jeannette Hafner of Orange, CT.



Born to Dorothy and Franklin Timpson, she grew up in Woodbridge, CT. She carried a sense of warmth, love, joy and created her life, which she shared with her own family.

Jeannette is survived by her three children: Robert Hafner of Hamden, CT, Bruce Hafner and wife Joanne, of Newark, DE, and Carol Heller and husband Joseph of Durham, CT. In addition, she is survived by her grandchildren, Kaitlin Richetti and husband Zack and sons Callan and Beckett of Kennett Square, PA, Jennifer Blondin and husband Zachary and daughter Sophie of Wilmington, NC, Cody Hafner and wife Danielle and son Hudson, of Philadelphia, PA, Timothy Heller and wife Kelsey of Boston, MA, and Keegan Hafner of Philadelphia, PA.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Harold Hafner of 57 years.

Jeannette was a graduate of Larson College, which later became Quinnipiac University, in Hamden. She and her husband were active members of the First Church of Christ, Scientist in New Haven.

Jeannette was an avid floral designer, and dedicated member of the Orange Garden Club for over 50 years, including service as President. She loved partnering with her garden club friends in coordinating fundraising events, house tours, silver teas, and local and regional flower shows and design competitions. Her dried floral designs were published in several books by Rodale Press and Sterling/Lark Press featuring her expertise in wreath making, topiaries, and floral arrangements.

Jeannette had many other creative hobbies as she was a master basket weaver, having crafted hundreds of distinctive and traditional shaker designs over the years. She also loved painting, which she focused on in her later days.

Jeannette cherished time with her children, and their families, and especially loved spending her summers with them at her lakeside cottage in Maine.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Orange Garden Club or the Crescent Lake Watershed Association. Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 10 am at the Orange Congregational Church in Orange, CT. To leave online condolences, please visit our website at www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



Goddard's Kick Honored as a Franchisee of the Year

*Longtime Franchisee from Orange, CT,
Recognized For Excellence In Franchising*

The International Franchise Association (IFA) named Kim Kick, owner of The Goddard School of Orange, CT, as a 2023 Franchisee of the Year. Kick was honored at the 63rd IFA Annual Convention in Las Vegas for being an outstanding franchise establishment owner-operator.

The Goddard School of Orange is one of more than 600 locations in The Goddard School franchise system, the nation's leading provider of premier early childhood education programs. Kick opened The Goddard School of Orange in 2006 with her father after 10 years of teaching at the elementary level. This location has become one of the system's top performers in multiple categories including parent satisfaction scores (NPS), health and safety, teacher retention and profitability.

"I'm honored and humbled to receive the Franchisee of the Year Award and thank both the IFA and Goddard School for recognizing my commitment to and achievements in the franchising industry," said Kick. "During my time as a Goddard School owner, I've had the unique privilege to provide care and education for thousands of children while watching them develop a lifelong love of learning. Owning a Goddard School has enabled me to give back to my community in ways I never thought possible, and I'm so grateful to be part of the Goddard family and the continued opportunities this provides, both personally and professionally."

In accordance with Goddard's mission to make the world a better place through early childhood development, Kick's top priority is the continuous advancement of her school's educational programming. At the height of school closures and faculty shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic, she led her school to earn accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)—one of the industry's most respected recognitions—for the third time. Kick is also committed to serving her community outside of her school, creating a scholarship in memory of her father to enable more children

to receive world-class education. She is actively engaged in system-wide events and initiatives and serves as a franchisee representative to support collaboration and relationship building between the franchisor and other local school owners.

“With more than 465 franchisees in our system, this group of dedicated professionals is the backbone of our business, and Kim represents the best of the best in the Goddard family,” said Dennis R. Maple, chairman and CEO of Goddard Systems, LLC, and IFA board member. “Kim is proactive in providing quality care and developmentally appropriate education in a safe and nurturing environment, positioning her school as a premier employee destination and giving back to her community, all while never taking her eyes off maintaining and growing her profitable operations. Kim’s students and their families, faculty, fellow franchisees and all of us here at Goddard are grateful for her contributions and lucky to know her.”

The Franchisee of the Year Award recognizes leading franchise owners from IFA member brands whose outstanding performance and contributions help protect, enhance and promote the franchise business model. Nominated by their parent company, individuals are selected for their service to their communities, fostering a strong and vibrant workforce, opening the doors for career growth and entrepreneurship and supporting their fellow franchisees.

“Franchisee of the Year recipients represent the best in franchising,” said Matthew Haller, president and CEO of the IFA. “This is the highest honor IFA awards to individual franchisees, and local business owners like Kim exemplify the power of franchising and its positive contributions to communities around the world.”

For more information about The Goddard School, please visit goddardschool.com, and to learn about Goddard Systems and how to become a franchisee, go to goddardschoolfranchise.com.

HISTORY CORNER

BY GINNY REINHARD

And the Women Were There...



As the month of March winds its way down, I can't miss the opportunity to honor the month for women. It seems that we honor many people and ideas in the months in a year so I will look into the lives of some of the women who have passed through our town in the last two centuries. We just celebrated our 200th year, with accomplishments of our citizens, fun, games, picnics, concerts and even a Revolutionary event at the Bryan-Andrew house.

But what about the women of our town, a town with three names, North Milford, Bryans Farms and Orange. We are a town, but in 1907, we almost became a city. Phew. What we love about Orange is its rural nature and in our History of Orange, Mary Woodruff writes about the farmers and when walking through the cemetery, we saw that there were wives of those farmers. So? What did they do... according to Mary's book, the women of the town were mostly modest, retiring busy housekeepers; but how did she know that?

Weren't any of the women out in the fields, tending the animals, mucking the stalls? Yes, they were. There exists, in a family collection, letters from Everett Clark and Stiles Woodruff, who were serving in the Civil War. Letters of love and caring included such comments as taking care of the horses, making sure hay was provided and other concerns they had while away from their farms... farms with seeds, seeds that could be grown and sold...yes, both Clark and Woodruff came home and started the now famous Orange seed farms I have written about previously.

The women? They kept the farms going...Now, we see reruns of Little House

on the Prairie and as entertainment it has its place, but it also proves that women were not modest and retiring and what makes us believe that our women were not just as productive as those we see on television? We need to remember Charlotte Clark and Elizabeth Woodruff as sisters-in-law being anything but retiring on their farms as they waited for their husbands to return from the war.

Life was not easy but we can't make the assumption that there was no levity in the lives of our women as Mary writes about the ladies of the Congregational Church holding a fair at the house of Dennis Stone in the middle of the 19th century. I quote "it is a most awful whiggish place but the women are pretty and compound capital cake." End of quote. The sad part of the early days was the loss of the children, many at an early age from disease and medical conditions not able to be properly treated.

One of the cemetery stones that the women of the Orange Historical Society have cleaned is Tenty Treat. In our cemetery tour last fall, we pointed out her stone and her interesting name, but we know, from research, her name was actually Content, named after her mother. What is not generally known is that previous to her birth was a child also named Tentee buried after 2½ years in Milford with the stone spelling differing from that of her sister. The reason for Milford? The cemetery in Orange was consecrated in 1804 and Tentee passed away in 1794.

Spelling seems to have been a low priority in the case of our Tenty since her stone has been replaced due to a truck plunging its way through the front section of the cemetery. We will

be giving tours throughout the summer and you will notice that her husband's name on her stone is missing the "L" giving the visitor the idea she had two husbands. No, our gal Tenty was married to Leverett Treat.

Life was indeed a challenge but on two of the stones, in the front section of the cemetery, it tells of a loving relationship between two sisters. Almost touching, the stones read “In Memory of Sarah Treat wife of Rev. W. W. Belden and In Memory of Lucy, wife of Everett Clark(e). Each died very young, 22 years and 23 years respectively, 4 years apart. These young women didn’t get a chance to make their way through life, but Sarah’s stone reads, “Here sleep two sisters. Loving and pleasant in their lives in death they were not divided.”

Lucy's is much more tragic if one reads into the following: "She died as fair ones often die when bridal flowers spring around their pathway but to deck their graves." Alas, Lucy and Everett were married in January of 1847 and she passed away in August of that year of consumption, in today's terms, tuberculosis.

In going further to the history of Sarah, she was married for 4 years and her death was caused by dysentery... sad endings to two women who were, for a brief time, part of the fabric of Orange. Within this research we found that the two sisters are buried next to their parents, Leverett and Tenty Treat.

For women to live longer lives was not a given, but we had such a woman who held her job for fifty years! She was none other than Mrs. Mary Pardee and her job? Gate keeper at the toll gate near Maltby Lakes. The best known to the older residents was Miss Fannie Beardsley who lived in the house beside

the toll-gate with her grandmother. She was wise in her duties and was somewhat skeptical when the young men claimed they were going to meeting because she doubted that they had prayer meeting every night in New Haven. Does this make sense? It does if I tell you that the toll was exempt for public worship.

We did have our share of women who, shall we say, were not as good as they could be...at the Academy, we have copies of arrest warrants, on display, for a few such women who thought that stealing butter was easier than churning it. We have already written about Mrs. Ira Clark and her affair with the handyman. The drudgery and physical labor required of the 19th century woman was of such a nature that we can hardly comprehend it. What we now consider a necessity was not even imagined in our town.

For a final thought, let's look at Mrs. Nathan Bryan's and Mrs. William Andrew's households as written in their husbands' inventory that accompanied their wills...just imagine for a moment washing by hand, the following: blankets, quilts, fine sheets, homespun sheets and pillow cases for the beds of eight children, britches and dresses for 4 children, platters both wooden and pewter, tankards, kettles, iron pots, knives, forks, jugs, pitchers, wooden bowls, cloth tablecloths, napkins, fry pans, a tin oven and, and lest we forget, the candle and soap making every month. But all in all, the early women of North Milford, Bryans Farms, and Orange were good examples of the women that helped to shape the town and can we do any less?

Follow us on www.orangehistory.org.

“Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.” — JANINE DI GIOVANNI

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