

Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
Mailed Free To Every Home & Business in Orange

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FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2020



Pandemic Leads Grandparents to Help Hungry Kids in Orange

Community Scavenger Hunt Introduces Orange Food2Kids To A Neighborhood Without Children—Matching \$500 Grant Announced

COVID-19 makes for some strange bedfellows. In this case, it matched an Orange neighborhood full of grandparents with a group of hungry kids in town.

The grandparents have been isolated since March in their 142-home 55+ community, Fieldstone Village. The

children are getting food each week from Orange's Food2Kids program. While the two groups will never meet, the grandparents raised \$500 for food for the children, and one neighbor is promising an additional \$500 as a

See "Food2Kids" On Page 9



Amity graduation was a drive-by event this year. The teachers and administrators did their best to celebrate the class of 2020.

'Dreamers' Graduate Into A World Hungry For New Leaders

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Amity High School Class of 2020 took leave from their alma mater with a graduation ceremony like none other: In carefully scheduled waves, the families assembled in the Assumption Church parking lot on June 10, then

proceeded to the back entrance of the high school, and finally proceeded — four cars at a time — to the curb of the school's main entrance.

Dressed in cap and gown, graduates got out of the family car, removed the

See "Graduation" On Page 17

Orange Re-Opens, With Caution

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After two months of partial lockdown, officials in Orange have turned their attention to planning a limited, but safe re-opening. Many of the pop-

ular summer events are canceled in Orange, including the Fourth of July concert and fireworks, the Firemen's carnival, even the Orange Country Fair

See "Re-Open" On Page 16



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[Photo by Brigham Whitman]

Bobcat Siting in Orange

On May 13th at 12:07pm Brigham Whitman’s trail camera caught this bobcat traveling north through his backyard.

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Did You Know?

COVID-19 Estate planning check-up

It is clear that COVID-19’s impact on our lives will be around for some time to come. Things that were previously postponed may now take on somewhat more of a sense of urgency. From an estate planning perspective, here are 8 things to check-up on.

- Do you have a Will? Does your Will still say what you want it to say?
- Do you have young children? If so, have you appointed Guardians for any child under the age of eighteen (18) in your Will?
- Do your retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and annuities have designated primary and contingent beneficiaries? Are those beneficiaries still the people you want to designate?
- Do you have a Durable Power of Attorney Instrument that allows someone you trust to make financial decisions for you if you can’t do so yourself?
- Do you have Health Care Instructions that allow someone you trust to make health care decisions for you if you can’t do so yourself?
- Does your family know how you feel about end of life decision making?
- Does your family or a trusted friend know your log-in names and passwords for accounts you access electronically?
- Does your family or a trusted friend know where to find your important legal and personal documents?

If you have questions about any of these topics, we would be happy to speak with you during a no-charge initial consultation, whether by phone or video conference, no matter how long it lasts.



Steven P. Floman, Allison M. DePaola-Drozd, and Nicole Camporeale of the law firm Floman DePaola, LLC are the authors of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.

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Orange Community Farmers’ Market

The Orange Community Farmers’ Market will have its opening day on Thursday, June 25th. The event runs on Thursdays until September 24th under the Pavilion at the Orange Fairgrounds, High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road in Orange. Market hours are from 3:30 pm to 7 pm.

Vendors will be selling their farm-grown products including vegetables, fruit, meats, baked goods, honey, sauces, jams, and more! Farms from the local area will be present, including Grassy Hill, Oronoque, Shamrock, Sugaree Acre, and Treat. Other vendors include Simply Jam, Sweet Seidner’s, Wanke’s Yankee Hot Sauce, and Wave Hill Breads.

Due to the pandemic, the state’s guidelines for Farmers Markets will be implemented which include the following:

- Visitors should enter and exit through the marked areas only;
- Visitors should not congregate – a limited number of people will be allowed at each vendor area at one time and need to maintain 6 feet from one another;
- Visitors should wear a mask, cov-

- ering nose and mouth;
- Vendors will be spaced over six feet apart;
- Public will not be allowed to touch products;
- Reusable bags are discouraged; vendors will not be allowed to handle reusable bags;
- Entertainment has been canceled and food samples have been eliminated.
- In addition, hand sanitizer will be available at the entrance and a hand-washing station will be available on site. If anyone is sick, has a temperature or has been in contact with a COVID positive patient, please stay home.
- Market Master, Annemarie Sliby says, “Knowing that most all community events have been canceled, we are excited to be able to hold the farmers market under the current conditions and are happy to welcome new vendors this season. We appreciate the public and the vendors’ patience in following the state’s guidelines.”
- Please check the website at www.FarmMarketOrange.com for vendor information, more vendors may be added as the summer progresses.

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All articles, photographs and letters must include your name, address and daytime telephone number for confirmation. The Orange Town News reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article, photograph or letter. Letters to the Editor must be unique to the Orange Town News.

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Orange Town News

Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Orange Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date

Issue Deadline

July 31 | Summer Issue July 24

September 4 | Labor Day & Back To School Issue..... August 28

October 2 | Columbus Day Issue September 25

Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.

FROM OUR READERS

Orange Country Fair Postponed until 2021

While the State of Connecticut slowly reopens for business, the Orange Country Fair Committee is officially announcing that we will be postponing the Orange Country Fair slated to be held on September 18 – 20, 2020 to September 17 – 19, 2021.

The Fair Committee is saddened that we will not be able to put on the fair this year. We felt that with the continued uncertainty of the virus, the uncertainty of the State entering Phase 4 for reopening (large gatherings outside larger than 100 people), and how to maintain safe social distancing practices. The Committee did not make this decision lightly. There was a lot of discussion, but it ultimately came down to doing what is best for our own committee, our volunteers, the town and public safety. We considered all elements upon making this decision – how to social distance in our very popular and tight areas, how to properly deep-clean equipment and tables after each use based on Federal and State guidelines and how all these factors would impact on the Fair. We want to err on the side of caution and our top priority was the health and safety of our community.

We are considering trying to host one or two small events in the fall where we can social distance by the approved guidelines and we will keep you all posted on these events.

We wish to thank all our volunteers who have been the backbone of this fair from the beginning. And we also thank our exhibitors and fairgoers for their continued support throughout the years.

We are heartbroken that this had to happen – in the past we put on a fair just days after 9/11 and survived potential hurricanes whipping up the coast, but this pandemic is like nothing any of us has ever envisioned.

We will begin to work on next year's fair. We will come back better for it. We

look forward to seeing you in 2021 for our comeback! Stay safe and be well.

All the best,
Karen McCausland
Kevin Monck
Co-Chairs, Orange Country Fair Committee

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Fourth of July!

This Fourth of July may be a little different than we're used to, but that won't stop Americans across the country from cracking open a cold one and celebrating with loved ones. Whether you're staying at home or getting together with a small group of friends, join us in raising a glass to America's birthday.

After a difficult few months, this Independence Day is an opportunity to relax, enjoy the sunshine and cherish the land we call home/the hard-working Americans that make this country great. If your plans include a beer or two, make sure you prioritize your safety and the safety of those around you by hydrating between Buds and drinking responsibly. And if you're heading out for the festivities, remember that no celebration is complete without planning ahead for a safe ride home.

For more than 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and their wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in responsible drinking initiatives and community-based programs to prevent underage-drinking, impaired driving and other harmful use of alcohol. At Dichello Distributors, Inc., we're proud to work alongside Anheuser-Busch to ensure that everyone can enjoy this holiday weekend in a safe and meaningful way. But we can't do it alone – it's up to all of us to protect our neighbors and communities, so join us in making safety the number one priority this Fourth of July.

Regardless of what your plans look

See "Letters" On Page 20

Orange Town News

OTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
or email: letters@orangetownnews.com.

Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Orange Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Amity Regional Award Of Excellence & Teacher of the Year

The Award of Excellence this year is presented to Paula Vallie. Paula has worked in Amity Regional High School's College & Career Center for the last seven years. Before coming to Amity Regional High School, she worked for 9 years at Amity Middle School in Orange and at Turkey Hill School in Orange prior to that.

In the words of her colleagues, Paula Vallie is a bright star within the Amity Regional High School Counseling Department. As the Career Center Coordinator Paula's ability to find jobs, community service projects, and mentors for our students has been truly a gift to our community. Paula has built a strong community outreach, often researching SSLP sites or stopping in to visit on her way home from work or on the weekends. When Amity went to virtual learning Paula came up with the idea of creating a document with links to virtual college tours for the 50 colleges that Amity students most frequently apply to, which could be shared with students and parents. Paula always puts students first and will never hesitate to go above and beyond, no matter the time of day or day of the week, if one of our students needs help with something.

Paula greets everyone who enters the office with a smile, along with her innate kindness and respect. She is a student-focused educator, patiently working to answer students' questions and assisting them in creating solutions. Whenever there is a task that needs extra hands Paula is always the first to volunteer. She has a team approach to work, and her presence is felt. She is unusually kind to all. Described as a true friend, a steadfast employee, and a loyal colleague, her work ethic and energy are rare; and the students and community of Amity are blessed to have her.

This year's Teacher of the Year has been with Amity schools since 2006. Described by her colleagues as "light-

hearted and approachable, she will always make the time for you and never makes you feel like you are unintelligent with respect to technology," the Amity Teacher of the Year from Amity Middle School in Orange is Kristen Yaekel. Kristen started her work at Amity as an English teacher and now serves as the school's library media specialist.

Kristen's colleagues note that she is always available to support faculty and staff. She is amazing at technology, and whether the issue be small or major she responds quickly. They know they can always rely on Kristen. Whether it is to spark some enthusiasm with the students, support school activities, organize a field trip, or clean up at the end of a day, Kristen is always first to help. As a teacher Kristen is enthusiastic and always willing to try new things. She was one of the first teachers to Skype with the outside world, so her students get a firsthand account of how life is in other places; and she continues to help other teachers connect their students to the world around us.

As a teacher Kristen is amazing, and students enjoy her instruction. As the building's library media specialist, she has brought a new ambience, joy, and rich learning experience to the library area. She was nominated by her peers not only because of her expertise in technology and instruction, but also for her patience, persistence, and kind helpful spirit. She has been a tremendous support with the distance learning, not only to the staff but also to the students. As noted by a teacher at Amity Middle School in Orange, "When our learning and global community was in chaos her calm comforting spirit, her understanding of my goals, and her expertise was how I got through to the other side." Kristen is going to be an exemplary representative as Amity's 2021 Teacher of the Year.



Phyllis Gwatkin, President of Friends of the Library, Lex Barnes, Scholarship recipient, Janet Sender, Scholarship Committee

Alexandria Barnes Scillia Scholarship Award

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library presented the Lucy Scillia annual \$1000.00 college scholarship to Alexandria Barnes at a meeting held in front of the Library on Saturday, June 13. A member of Amity Regional High School, Class of 2020, Alex plans to attend Boston University to continue her interest in the STEM field, with emphasis on medical science. Her outstanding academic record earned her membership in the National Honor Society, based on scholarship, leadership, service and character, as well as membership in the National Honor Societies in English, Spanish, Math, Science and Thespian Arts.

Besides her academic achievements, Alex cultivated an interest in the Arts. She studied cello for 8 years and achieved Chamber Orchestra Class status in the Amity Orchestra. She also danced at the Milford Performing Arts for 10 years and performed as a dancer, singer and actor in School musicals.

Alex was Founder and President of the Amity Students Against Gun Vio-

lence Club and served as a Link Crew member, helping freshmen transition to the high school environment. She also donated blood and assisted at the Red Cross Blood Drive held on the School campus.

Alex was also involved in community activities. She participated in the annual BOW Relay for Life fundraising event for cancer. As an officer of the Amity Chapter of the Spanish National Honor Society, Alex and her colleagues mentored Hispanic students in New Haven elementary schools, while learning about Spanish cultural traditions. When Alex discovered that she loved working with children, she volunteered to be a teacher's aide and peer tutor for children in need of academic support. She said she was motivated by the kids' enthusiasm for learning and found that being around kids provided her with lots of laughter and enjoyment. Fulfilling her academic demands and her full calendar of extracurricular and community activities, Alex rounded out her schedule with a relaxing hobby, playing the ukulele.



What A Team!

HOLLY HILL & SEAN "HART" SHORN

Amity Is No Place For Hate

The Anti-Defamation League is celebrating the efforts that schools across the country are making to promote diversity, inclusion, and allyship through a nationwide viral campaign #noplaceforhate.

On May 21st, Amity Regional School District No. 5 participated in this campaign by creating a post featuring one thing that has been accomplished in this area. Amity is committed to foster-

ing a culture of diversity and inclusion. At this uncertain time, it is even more important to celebrate these efforts.

Principal Anna Mahon would be happy to talk with you about the work the school has been engaged in with creating a positive and inclusive school culture. Please contact Michelle Pincince mpincince@adl.org, ADL CT Director of Education, for more information about No Place for Hate.

As you drive by Holly Hill Child-care & Learning Center, 308 Peck Lane, you can't help but notice the beautiful, bright red hearts lining the lawn of the center. Each heart, generously made by Orange resident Sean Hartshorn, is in honor of all our dedicated healthcare workers. Our students decorated each heart with their hand prints and each proudly displays the name of Holly Hill parents who serve the healthcare community. We cannot thank them enough for their selflessness during this trying time. Stay safe!

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Gina Driscoll, Mason Shepard, Mitchell Bronson

Scholarships Awarded

The Orange Scholarship Fund Association presented its 2020 scholarships on June 13 at a socially distanced ceremony on the Orange Town Green. Mitchell Bronson received a \$2,000 scholarship to study Computer Science at the University of Connecticut. Gina Driscoll was awarded a \$2000 scholarship to study at Middlebury College. Gina's career path is undecided as yet. Mason Shepard received a \$3000 scholarship from the Ashlie Krakowski Memorial Fund and was also presented with a \$1000 scholar-

ship from the Orange Lions. Mason will attend Lehigh University and major in Molecular Biology. Mitchell and Mason attended Amity. Gina Driscoll graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall. The Orange Scholarship Fund Association is pleased to accept your donations. If you, or your child - or your grandchild - has received a scholarship from the Orange Scholarship Fund, please consider making a contribution to the Orange Scholarship Fund Association, P.O. Box 1972, Orange, CT 06477.



Orange Community Nursery School celebrated the end of the school year with a car parade. Congratulations to the OCNS graduates from the 4s and 5s classes! We wish you all the best!

The End of an Era for Race Brook School

MIKE GRAY STEPS AWAY AS PRINCIPAL

BY MELISSA NICEFARO
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After 13 years of leading Race Brook School as principal, Mike Gray announced that he is leaving the role to become Director of Business and Operations for the Orange Public Schools. "The decision to step away from Race Brook School (RBS) was certainly not an easy one because of my deep connection to the school, students, families and staff," Gray said in a letter to families. "For over a decade I have had the great privilege to serve as principal and I will always cherish my years at RBS; I consider those years to be a rewarding time in my life," he says.

Gray is admired for making students feel special and respected – he knew each of his students' names within the first few days of school, often even noticing when one came to school on a Monday morning wearing a new pair of sneakers. He is known not just for being a professional leader, but as an active participant in the school's community. Gray is known for promoting school spirit and wrote his own rendition of Phillip Phillips 2012 song "Home," adding 'We're going to make Race Brook our home.' He had a knack for when students needed him to break out his guitar and sing and play for them.

Each fall, students (and parents!) anxiously awaited to see which characters the front office staff would dress up as for Halloween, then he'd parade them around the school track dressed as Harry Potter or Goldilocks. In the spring, Gray would be found emceeing a 52-act Friday night talent show. He is known for never being ashamed to let his inner child show, yet he is openly admired by administrators for his ability to clap once in a gym filled with lively children and bring instant silence and attention. In 2014, Gray was given the State Association of Schools' National Distinguished Principal Award, also known as the State Elementary School Principal of the Year Award.

"I am extremely proud of the incredible faculty and staff and the collaborative work we have accomplished in support of our Race Brook students. Together, as a school community, we have created a warm, safe, fun and enriching learning environment where our students have grown and prospered," Gray says.

Well-loved and as humble as they come, he has made a special mark on the elementary school, especially during challenging times. When a flood



Mike Gray

closed Peck Place School one winter, he and his staff took in half of the school's students without a noticeable change at RBS. Under Gray's reign, the school implemented a PBIS program that focused on positive behavior, respect and kindness utilizing the RBS acronym: Respect Others, Be Responsible and Safety First. He introduced students to Racey, a life-size raccoon that would serve as the school's mascot at events.

He doesn't just know how to have fun, he is a strong leader with 25 years in education, coming to Orange from Stratford schools. Prior, Gray worked as a carpenter for a licensed contractor for twelve years and brings a wealth of experience in building and maintenance to this position, Schools Superintendent Vince Scarpetti says.

"Recently Mr. Gray was elected to serve on the Derby Board of Apportionment and Taxation and is currently serving a two-year term. It is this combination of professional and administrative tenure in education, civic service and extensive residential and commercial remodeling experience that made Mike the ideal candidate for this position," Scarpetti says.

"There is no question, Mr. Gray will be missed as the principal of RBS, but we are honored he will continue to be a part of the Orange community providing vital leadership skills in his new role," Scarpetti says.

Looking forward to what lies ahead, Gray says, "I am fortunate to have been a part of such a vibrant and supportive community, a community where education is valued as a top priority by students, teachers and parents alike. It is that value placed upon education that led me to this decision. When I became aware that an opportunity existed that would allow me to broaden my professional experience while still being able to serve the incredible Orange community, I knew the time was right to pursue it."



**Achievements
Lasell University**

Newton, MA - Daniel Chodos, a Lasell University student from Orange was elected to the University’s Student Alumni Association (SAA) executive board for the 2020-2021 academic year. Chodos, a Sport Management major at Lasell, was elected the SAA’s Chair of Campus Engagement. The SAA is comprised of student leaders, ranging from first years to seniors, who engage with the University’s alumni community. Members serve as a liaison to alumni on behalf of the current student community. They are high-capacity leaders looking for a leadership development experience that heightens awareness about Lasell’s history and traditions and inspires a commitment to lifelong engagement with the University.

**Honors/Dean’s List
Adelphi University**

Garden City, NY - Daejin Kim of Orange, CT, was among a select group of outstanding students named to the spring 2020 Dean’s List at Adelphi University. The Dean’s List includes full-time students registered for 12 or more credits who have completed at least 9 graded credits and achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above for the semester. This recognition becomes part of the student’s academic record and is entered into the individual’s transcript.

Bucknell University

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University has released the dean’s list for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2019-20 academic year. A student must earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0 to receive dean’s list recognition. Sarah Rippel, class of 2020, from Orange, CT has achieved dean’s list status.

Clarkson University

Potsdam, NY - Robert Lyngdal of Orange, CT, a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester at Clarkson University. Dean’s List students must achieve a minimum 3.25 grade-point average and also carry at least 14 credit hours.

Connecticut College

New London, CT - The following Orange students have been named to the dean’s list for the 2020 spring semester: Emily Berkeley, 2023, Dean’s High Honors, Undeclared; Liam Ferguson, 2020, Dean’s High Honors, Economics; and Lien Har, 2023, Dean’s High Honors, Undeclared.

Emerson College

Boston, MA - Jaden Esse, a native of Orange, CT has been named to the Emerson College Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester. Esse is majoring in Me-

dia Arts Production and is a member of the Class of 2021. The requirement to make Emerson’s Dean’s List is a grade point average of 3.7 or higher.

Endicott College

Beverly, MA - Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its Spring 2020 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. Carly Marchitto of Orange, CT, is among those named to the Dean’s List. Marchitto is majoring in Nursing and is the daughter of Estelle Marchitto and Carl Marchitto.

Georgia Tech

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

High Point University

High Point, NC – High Point University announces the students who qualified for the Dean’s List for the spring 2020 semester by maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher. Ryan Yocher, from Orange, has received a Dean’s List certificate.

Lasell University

Newton, MA - Daniel Chodos, a resident of Orange, was named to the Lasell University Dean’s List for his strong academic performance in Spring 2020. To be named to the Dean’s List, Lasell students must complete at least 12 credits as a full-time student and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Siena College

Loudonville, NY - Myles Allen, from Orange, CT, has been named to the Siena College Dean’s List for the Spring 2020 semester. To be named to the Dean’s List, a student’s grade point average for the semester must be between 3.5 and 3.89.

**Southern Connecticut
State University**

Southern Connecticut State University has announced the Spring semester Dean’s List. Those from Orange named to the Dean’s List are: Aliaksei Adamik, Abigail Adam, Taylor Bova, Lindsay Carloni, Arianna Centore, Abby Chamberlain, Lydia Cooper, Elizabeth Demaio, Lauryn Giuliano, Ryan Gunning, Carol Held, Tyler Holloway, Kiersten Ignatowski, Noor Khalid, Melissa Lewis, Jacob Lyndgal, McKenzie Mcdermott, Stephanie Melanson,

Gia Mentillo, Danielle Mixon, Claudia Oeges, Jessica Paradis, Kaitlyn Paradis, Gunnar Poulimas, Steven Prussin, Aidan Reilly, Sarah Santini, Jared Smith, William Steinbrick, Ray Tian, Alyssa Weisberger, and Joey Weng.

University of Mississippi

Oxford, MISS. - Sophia Rose Cuozzo, of Orange, CT, was recently named to the University of Mississippi’s Spring 2020 Honor Roll lists. Cuozzo was named to the Chancellor’s Honor Roll, which is reserved for students who earn a semester GPA of 3.75-4.00. In order to be eligible for honor roll designation, a student must have completed at least 12 graded hours for the semester and may not be on academic probation during the semester.

University of New Haven

West Haven, CT - The following Orange students were named to the Dean’s List at the University of New Haven for the spring, 2020: Abdulaziz Essa A Aldossary, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Jacqueline Boccarossa, Pompea College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Management; Nelson Bordeleau, Tagliatela Coll of Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering; Christian Garcia, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Communication Michael Gregory, Pompea College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Meagan Hawkins, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology; and Brianna Oakley, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

University of Utah

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

University of Vermont

Burlington, VT - To be named to the dean’s list, students must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or better and rank in the top 20 percent of their class in their respective college or school. Those from Orange named to the Dean’s List are: Izabella Jones and Marissa Yanez.

**Graduations
Bucknell University**

Lewisburg, PA - Bucknell University presented degrees to over 800 graduates at Commencement on May 17, 2020. Sarah Rippel, from Orange, received her Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies.

Connecticut College

New London, CT - Liam Michael Ferguson of Orange was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Connecticut College on May 29. Ferguson majored in Economics. The 427 members of Connecticut College’s Class of 2020 were celebrated during a special live event on Sunday, May 17, the day seniors were originally scheduled to participate in their in-person Commencement. The College’s 102nd Commencement is now scheduled for Sunday, May 30, 2021.

Fairfield University

Fairfield, CT - The following Fairfield University students graduated from Fairfield University, May 2020. At the time of graduation, a student must have earned a minimum of 120 credits and completed at least 38 three- or four-credit courses, depending on the course of study, and have an overall grade point average of 2.0 or better at the conclusion of the senior year. Those from Orange who earned their degrees are: Thomas Boutros; Joanna E. Cambria; Patrick W. Geer; Christina D. Judd; Alec M. Melotto; Rosemarie Richetelli; Helen E. Ruckes; Dario B. Salati; Janae M. Staltaro; and Gabriella R. Torrenti.

Hamilton College

Clinton, NY - Matthew Cesare, of Orange received a bachelor of arts degree from Hamilton College on Sunday, May 24, in a virtual Commencement ceremony concluding the college’s 208th year. An economics and world politics major at Hamilton, Cesare now joins an alumni body of more than 23,600, many of whom have made important contributions to business, the professions, government, and the arts.

Muhlenberg College

Allentown, PA - Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Muhlenberg College 2020 Baccalaureate and Commencement ceremonies have been rescheduled for October 17 and 18. However, to commemorate this important milestone, the College hosted a Virtual Senior Week which culminated May 17 with the Conferral of Degrees by President Kathleen Harring. During the presentation, 518 students were awarded their undergraduate degrees. Sydney Rothman of Orange, CT, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

University of Alabama

Tuscaloosa, AL - The University of Alabama awarded some 6,326 degrees this spring. Among the graduates was Ryan Frobel of Orange, CT, who received a Bachelor of Arts. The recent change to remote learning dur-

See “Student News” On Page 9



“Student News” From Page 8

ing this unprecedented time affected the University’s plans for traditional commencement activities. However, commencement is a milestone, and the University wants graduates to have the opportunity to walk across the stage in celebration of their success. Although any plans are contingent on how the summer outlook progresses, all spring graduates are invited to participate in the summer commencement events scheduled for Friday, July 31, and Saturday, August 1.

University of Scranton
Scranton, PA - Local residents were among the more than 875 candidates whose bachelor’s degrees were conferred at The University of Scranton’s

virtual undergraduate celebration ceremony on May 31. Degrees were conferred to graduates in a group who had completed their academic degree requirements in August and December of 2019, as well as January and May of 2020. A formal commencement ceremony, at which graduates will be individually recognized, will take place on October 25 at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza, Wilkes-Barre. Students from Orange earning undergraduate degrees include: Haley A. Forcier earned a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy; and Samantha A. Gaynor earned a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy.

University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH -- The following stu-

dents graduated from the University of New Hampshire in Durham Saturday, May 16, 2020, during a virtual celebration. Students who received the honor of summa cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.85-4.0; students who received the honor of magna cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.65-3.84; and students who received the honor of cum laude graduated with a GPA of 3.50-3.64. Students are only graduated after the Registrar’s Office has certified that all degree requirements have been successfully completed. A traditional, in-person commencement ceremony will be scheduled at a future date yet to be determined. Those graduates from Orange are: Nicholas Celentano graduated with a BS degree in BusAdm:Finance; Timothy Johnston graduated with a BSME degree

in Mechanical Engineering; and Jonas Marrello graduated with a BA degree in Political Science.

University of Vermont
Burlington, VT - Daniel Dedomenico of Orange, CT, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy during commencement ceremonies on May 17, 2020.

Vermont Tech
Randolph Center, VT - Vermont Tech is pleased to announce that Richard Fagan from Orange of the Architectural Engineering Technology program is among the 403 students who graduated in the Spring of 2020. Their Commencement Ceremony has been postponed until September 25-27, 2020.

“Food2Kids” From Page 1

match to new donations made by June 25 to the charity.

“Fieldstone Village is a place where everyone goes for walks, sometimes a couple of times a day” said resident Karen Fenichel. “It’s fresh air, exercise and a chance to talk to each other, even if it’s from opposite sides of the street.”

Fenichel and her husband were among the walkers. As they walked, they admired the décor neighbors had applied to their homes and they got an idea: a scavenger hunt. And to make it special, a small entry fee could be used to raise money for a charity. “We wanted the money to stay in Orange,” said Fenichel.

The charity they chose was Food-2Kids, a relatively new organization that provides supplemental food to school children during the weekend. Susan vonRabenstein, an Orange town employee, set up the program after consulting with colleagues in the Social Services Department and a principal at one of Orange’s schools.

vonRabenstein said she learned that about 35 Orange school children were getting gift bags and special meals through the town’s Community Services Department. In addition, many children were eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches. While the school-lunch program wasn’t entirely based on financial need, she concluded those kids were likely to be hungry on weekends. And hunger can make learning tough.

“The program wasn’t just about hunger,” vonRabenstein said. “It was about hunger in relationship to students and education. When you get hungry, you can’t concentrate. You can’t engage. It was about combining food and the

educational experience.”

Spending spare time on the program while she did her town job, vonRabenstein set up the program. She planned to put together bags of food and bring them to the schools. The schools would distribute the food. She could help the kids without needing to know who they were.

Then the pandemic hit. The schools closed. The need rose. The pandemic also closed the town’s recreation facilities and vonRabenstein began working fewer hours managing the town’s swimming pool. With her bosses’ support, her attention swung to Food2Kids and she found herself packing more than 120 bags of food a week. She also was spending an hour and a half of her own time after work delivering that food until the Social Services Department started helping with deliveries. But personal delivery makes the job harder, she said.

“It’s more personal,” she said. “Some of the kids wait outside for us. Some write chalk messages on the sidewalk.”

The U.S. Census Bureau says Orange has a median household income of \$117,215. But it also says 3.4 percent of the people in town live under the poverty line. The town also has a “food insecurity” rate of 8 percent, according to Feeding America and the Connecticut Food Bank. And that was before the massive layoffs that came with the pandemic.

“Food insecurity comes from a lot of different things,” says vonRabenstein. “Taking care of parents. Being out of work. The changes in income right now certainly add to the need. You just don’t know what’s happening behind the door next door.”

Meanwhile, back in Fieldstone Village, the walkers were answering

scavenger hunt questions. Most had never heard of Food2Kids, but they checked it out.

“We support a number of charities and participate in a wide variety of fund-raising events,” said Michael Vasaturo. He and his wife, Annette, participated in the scavenger hunt and checked out Food2Kids. They liked what they saw.

“I’m a firm believer that we’re blessed with many things,” said Annette. “We’re obligated to give to charities that help others.”

Around the corner from the Vasaturos, Don and Linda DiLauro decided not to participate in the scavenger hunt, but they were ready to support the neighborhood effort. “My wife and I felt the same about it,” said DiLauro. “We had never heard of Food-2Kids, but we looked into it. Then we wrote a check.”

Neither the Vasaturos nor the DiLauros are surprised that a simple neighborhood contest designed as a distraction from COVID-related cabin fever turned into a \$500 contribution. Nor are they surprised that another neighbor has posted a grant to match the next \$500 donated to Food2Kids. After all, what would appeal more to a bunch of grandparents than hungry kids?

“This community is small enough to be close,” said DiLauro. “As a group, this community is generous. They are more than happy to do more for people in need.”

“I was pleased” that the contest generated a significant donation, said Annette. “It’s a reflection of this community.”

The anonymous neighbor who wants to donate another \$500 to match the next \$500 in donations says

he understands the need for the program. He’s seen the impact of hunger on children first-hand, and he likes the idea that his donation will stay in town.

“I’m a local businessman,” he said. “In my work, I see the connection between hunger, health and learning when it comes to kids. Children not getting enough nutrition is, in itself, heartbreaking. But needy kids in our own backyard is an eye opener. I’m doing this because I want people to respond to my challenge and support Food2Kids.”

Meanwhile, vonRabenstein says the call for Food2Kids’ services will continue to rise until pandemic-related unemployment resolves and schools reopen. Even then, the need will simply drop back to pre-pandemic levels, not disappear. With the CDC easing rules and regulations that apply to programs such as Food2Kids, vonRabenstein hopes she’ll be able to get additional help, including donations of food, cash, checks and gift cards. The contribution and the matching grant will definitely help.

She says those who need the services of Food2Kids can simply text (203) 668-7099 with the street address, the number of kids needing food and any food or dietary restrictions. No names are necessary.

Food can be brought to the Food-2Kids offices at High Plains Community Center. Food2Kids cooperates with the Orange Food Pantry, which is next door. Contributions in the form of cash, check or gift cards can be mailed to Orange Food2Kids, High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange CT 06477. More information about Food2Kids is available at orangefood2kids.org and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Pandemic Cancels Annual Volunteer Firefighters Carnival

Annual Raffle Now Most Important Fundraiser

For the first time since World War II, the annual Orange Volunteer Firefighters Carnival will not be held this year. Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas made the announcement, citing the danger to the community's health posed by COVID-19. The carnival is the department's primary source of revenue and takes place at the end of July and beginning of August. This year was to include some special celebrations because it is the department's 95th Anniversary.

"As a result of the current public health crisis and the need to protect all citizens, we are forced to cancel our primary source of income, the Firefighters Carnival," Dumas wrote in a letter to Orange residents. "As a result, your support is more important than ever."

Dumas said the department will be conducting its annual raffle, usually part of the carnival's excitement. This year, tickets are being mailed to residents as usual, and the chief is promising some great prizes, including a \$10,000 gift card. Raffle tickets will also be available for sale at Orange Town Hall, 617 Orange Center Road, and at Knight's Power Equipment, 268 Boston Post Road. The tickets can be mailed back to the Fire Department.

"People look forward to the raffle and are always supportive," said Dumas. "This year, it's even more important that people support these fundraising efforts. Our goal is to provide dependable fire protection to the Town of Orange while avoiding a tax burden on businesses and residents. The raffle and other fundraising efforts are vitally important to the continued success of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department."

The carnival's cancellation is doubly disappointing to firefighters, who are celebrating their 95th Anniversary. "This department started in 1925, and we were looking forward to sharing our celebration with the residents," said Dumas. "Our plans included showing off some state-of-the-art equipment and skills. Now, that will have to wait also."

The carnival has been a regional tradition since it started on the Town Green in 1928. In those days, there were fewer rides and more concessions. There was also live music and dancing.

The raffle was part of the program from the first year, when the grand prize was a Ford automobile. Other prizes over the years have included a gallon of paint, \$5 worth of gas, a ton of coal and a toilet seat. The prizes are more exciting this year.

That first year, the carnival made about \$3,000 and covered most of the department's budget. Today, things are more expensive. Equipment is larger and more complex and training is a non-stop exercise undertaken by the firefighters.

"Our goal is to continue providing state-of-the-art fire protection to the town," said Dumas. "That isn't cheap. Last year, we purchased a new apparatus to replace a 1978 piece that no longer met current safety standards. Equipment, training and supplies are expensive. We're willing to donate the time, but we look to the town's residents and businesses to support our efforts. While the town government is very supportive, there is no annual fire tax to support our budget."

Raffle tickets and other donations can be mailed to the Orange Volunteer Fire Association, P.O. Box 878, Orange CT 06477. In addition, donations can be given through the fire department's Facebook page or at the department's website, www.orangevfd.org. Online donations are through PayPal.

"We appreciate everything the residents do for us," said Dumas. "I also know that the pandemic has created financial difficulties for some townspeople. Those who can't contribute this year should know that we are grateful for their past support. Our heartfelt thanks go out to those who can contribute. Either way, your Orange volunteer firefighters will continue to serve you and the rest of this community. Together, we'll get through this."

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.

From the Fire Marshal



Orange Firefighters Urge Grilling Safety As Weather Warms Up

With the weather finally warming up while COVID-19 continues to make eating out impractical, more people will be cranking up their grills. Orange Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas urged grillers to be safe while cooking.

"Across the country about seven out of 10 adults have a grill or other outdoor cooking appliance," said Dumas. "Putting these devices near anything that can burn creates a hazard, and that can really ruin a cook-out."

While grilling can create some delicious meals, Dumas pointed out that grills also can be a source of problems. Citing statistics from the National Fire Protection Association, Dumas said during the years 2013 through 2017, there was an average of about 10,000 house fires per year involving grills, hibachis, barbecues and so forth. Ten people died, 160 were injured per year and there was more than \$123 million in property damage on average each year. About half of the injuries involving grills were thermal burns. About 85 percent of the house fires are caused by gas grills.

"Whether it's using charcoal, propane or some other fuel, grills cook with open fire," he said. "Open fire under any circumstances can be dangerous."

But, Dumas said, by following a few safety tips, grillers can enjoy a delicious meal and stay safe. He offered five important tips that he said applies to all grills.

1. Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors and well away from the house, including deck railings, eaves and overhead branches.
2. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
3. Never leave the lighted grill unattended.
4. Remove grease or fat buildup from the grill and in the trays below the grill.
5. Use long-handled tools and avoid wearing loose clothing or clothing with long strings, such as aprons, that could wind up on the grill and catch fire.

In addition, charcoal and propane grills each require special precautions. For instance, starting a charcoal fire is dangerous if not done carefully. Chimney starters use newspaper instead of flammable liquids to ignite the grill.

Never add starter fluid, gasoline or other flammable liquid once the fire is started, even if the fire doesn't appear to be burning well. There are also electric charcoal starters. Use an extension cord rated for outdoor use.

When the food is finished, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container. Never put the coals in a plastic container, and never dump them into a trash can with other trash.

With a propane grill, users should check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a soap-and-water solution to the hose. If you smell gas, turn off the grill and the tank. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional. If it doesn't stop, move away from the grill and call the Fire Department immediately. Leaks and line breaks were the primary cause of fires related to gas grills.

If the grill goes out while cooking, turn off the gas and wait at least five minutes before relighting the grill. When done cooking, turn off the gas at the source and then turn off the burners.

"Nothing says summer like a good barbecued dinner and a cold drink," said Dumas. "Be sure to enjoy your grill safely so we don't have to come to your cook-out while we're on duty!"

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.

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR



Chalk Challenge

Get involved in this summer’s CHALK CHALLENGE! This challenge encourages you to get outside and spend time with your family in the comfort of your own driveway. This is for any/all Orange families with student-age children.

Take a photo of your artwork and submit it to the Youth Services Coordinator to be entered to win a gift card to a local restaurant. The top 3 pieces of artwork will be chosen per category. The categories include: (1) positive affirmations, (2) animals, (3) movie/tv characters, (4) miscellaneous art and (5) drawings that include child in picture. This will run until Friday, August 28th, 2020 and then winners will be chosen. There is no limit to how many photos a family can submit, but there is a one family limit per category for winning prizes. Just snap a picture and send it to jsimone@orange-ct.gov.

More info to follow on the Orange town website and Orange Youth Services social media.

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of July 2020



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

1st	Conservation Comm.....	7:00 pm	HPCC
6th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	Town Hall
7th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
8th	Board of Selectmen	7:00 pm	Town Hall
9th	OGAT	7:30 pm	Town Hall
13th	Traffic Authority	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm.....	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
14th	Inland Wetlands Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
15th	CERT.....	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
20th	Board of Finance.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Orange Board of Education	7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
22nd	Park & Recreation Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
23rd	WPCA.....	6:00 pm	Town Hall
	Bond Construction Oversight Cmte.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



“I Believe in God...”

Many of us say these words. To some, the ellipsis leads to a deeper confession. Muslims bear witness that there is no God but God. Adherents to Judaism echo the words of Moses, saying that “The Lord is One,” those faithful to the teachings of the Hindu ancients speak of “The One” that ties the universe together. Plato and his followers taught that there was “One” that gave form to all things in the universe.

But to others — probably most of us — the ellipsis simply trails off into despair. What does it mean to believe in God? What does it mean that God is one? Perhaps most of us write our own statement of belief as a question: “Do I believe in God?”

When Christians say, “I believe in God,” or even something more precise like “I believe in one God,” it always leads to a deeper confession of who that God is. We don’t talk about God as an idea, or even as a doctrine. We speak of God as personality. When describing a “person” (like the One Lord of Moses) instead of a “thing,” (like Plato’s One) the language shifts from bullet points to an epic story.

Christians tell this story about God in two ways.

The first, is the story of God’s action. Just as when we describe our friends or our family, we often begin by talking about what God does. We can speak of God as the one who creates, who saves, and who makes holy. We talk about God as the lover of humankind and the One who preserves life on earth. In perhaps the most oft-quoted bible passages, we confess that God is the one who sent His son to earth with a mission:

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16 New King James Version)

This teaches us not only “that” God loves, but specifically “how” God loves.

The second way we tell the story about God is by words of praise. Really, this is speech toward God: a reaction to the story of His action. We use titles like “God Almighty,” or “Lord of the Angelic Armies.” This language of praise flows naturally from the lips of those who have heard and believed in God’s action.

When we speak about God’s actions, or when we talk about and to God with words of praise, we don’t do so as empty statements about an object. We speak with a living language about a living, personal, deity. The story of God — which for Christians is a deep mystery — is continually veiled and unveiled throughout the pages of the Christian Bible. In this grand story of the Universe, we explore that mystery time and time again. The re-telling of God’s actions, the realization of God’s current action, the promises of His future action, and our reaction of praise all swirl together and find their pinnacle during Christian Worship on Sunday mornings.

Certainly, Christians believe in God...but we go on to say so much more.

If you’d like to find out more about the way Christians talk about God, come and hear our re-telling of the story every Sunday morning, 9:30 am at 780 Grassy Hill Road in Orange. You can get in touch with Pastor Benson by visiting www.zion-orange.com/contact.



Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Outdoor Services

- (weather permitting)
- › Sundays 9:00 am**
 - › Mondays 5:45 pm**
 - › Fridays 6:00 pm**
 - › Saturdays 9:30 am
- ** also available via Zoom

Daily Services via Zoom only

- › Sundays 5:45 pm
- › Mondays 7:00 am
- › Tuesdays 7:00 am & 5:45pm
- › Wednesdays 7:00 am & 5:45 pm
- › Thursdays 8:15 am & 5:45 pm
- › Fridays 7:00 am

In-Person Services Resume

These outdoor gatherings, usually in the Harrison Street courtyard, follow public health guidelines: face masks, six feet distancing, only the leader sings loudly. Since any group gathering has inherent risks, participants need to make their own informed choices as to what is best for them. Every weekday service that is held outdoors is also offered on Zoom.

So that the minyan captains can anticipate the size of the outdoor group and keep records for possible contact tracing, RSVP to bekitefilla@gmail.com or jjtilsen@beki.org.

Prayer books and chairs are provided, or bring your own. Washrooms inside the building are available if needed.

The Return of the Schmooze

BEKI Shabbat Schmoozes have resumed, though they are now on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

The July 1 speaker is Yale School of Public Health Professor Dan Weinberger, whose lab focuses on microbiology



Congregation Or Shalom

and infectious disease epidemiology. Quoted regularly in The Washington Post, Weinberger will speak about COVID-19 and will answer questions.

Check the calendar at the BEKI website to see the speakers on the following Wednesdays. To request the Zoom link for a Schmooze, email office@beki.org.

Discussion of Weekly Portion

Parashat HaShavua with Steven Fraade, Levi Brackman, and other teachers has also returned, on Sundays at 10 am via Zoom. Now all of BEKI’s normal weekly text study, plus Tehillim in Times of Trouble with Professor Corinne Blackmer, is available online. To request the Zoom link for study sessions, email bekitefilla@gmail.com.

BEKI on Facebook

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the BEKI Facebook page keeps congregants informed about community resources, volunteer opportunities, online learning and entertainment, and much more. If you would like to join this Facebook group, please ask the moderator online or email office@beki.org.

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

Orange Town News

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Orange Town News

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



“Unorthodox”: A Four-part series on Netflix.

B’Nai Jacob is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

Please join us on livestream or zoom! To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203)389-2111.

Presenting our second (zoom) meeting of the BJ Jewish Movie Club

A monthly discussion group of Jewish-themed or Israeli movies. Wednesday, July 1 at 7:30pm “Unorthodox”

A Four-part series on Netflix

What does “Unorthodox” get right about those who leave Hasidic Communities? Come find out with speaker, Scheur Zalman Newfield.

Book Discussion with Rachel Korazim

Sunday, July 12, 19 & 26 at 10:15 am “A Trumpet in the Wadi”

Last year, many of us had a wonderful session with Rachel Korazim on Hebrew poetry. This summer she is offering us a special series of classes on Sami Michael’s book, “A Trumpet in the Wadi.” This book takes place in the Wadi Nisnass neighborhood of Haifa. The Wadi, as its dwellers refer to it, is inhabited by Arab citizens of the state of Israel. Shortly before the 1982 war in Lebanon, a Jew, a new immigrant from the Soviet Union (it was not yet former then) rents a room in one of the homes. Through his budding love affair with one of the daughters of his landlords, the texture of complex relationships unfolds. Jews and Arabs, Arabs in Israel and across the border and much more...Sami Michael, born in 1926, made aliyah to Israel from Bagdad, Iraq in 1949. He sees himself as a Jewish Arab; namely, never denying his deep roots in Arab literature and culture. On the contrary - he celebrates both. Our close reading of this novel will reveal subtleties in the complex fabric of Israeli society.



Congregation B’Nai Jacob

As you know, or will soon know, Rachel is a gifted teacher of Hebrew literature which she uses as a window on to Israeli culture and society.

“A Trumpet in the Wadi” is available on amazon but if you would like the synagogue to order a book for you, please let us know. Order now so you will be ready for July 12! Zoom Link will be sent soon.

Services

We are excited to announce that beginning this Friday night, (weather permitting), Shabbat evening services will be held OUTDOORS in the courtyard in accordance with guidelines for social distancing. Space is limited. Call the office to sign up.

ZOOM Schedule of weekly services and classes:

(Special events have their own post and are not listed here)

- › **Morning Minyan** at 7:45am (Monday-Friday), 9:00am (Sunday)
- › **Evening Minyan** at 6:00pm (Sunday-Thursday)
- › **Shabbat Shmooze** at 6:00pm Friday
- › **Kaballat Shabbat** at 6:30pm Friday
- › **Bread & Torah** at 9:00am Saturday
- › **Shabbat Morning** at 9:45am Saturday

The First Church Of Christ Virtual Services

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge is in the early stages of planning a gradual re-opening of Sunday services. Until then, we are continuing our virtual Sunday services. The service is also posted on our website at uccw.org each week for those who wish to view the service at a later time. Click on the “Services” tab to view the service, see each week’s program or read the week’s sermon. Previous Sunday services remain posted via the same tab.

During the pandemic our staff is working remotely. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us using the contact information listed below. We would be happy to hear from you.

As always, we invite all members of the community to join us for our weekly services:

Sunday Services – 10 a.m. via ZOOM. To join in the ZOOM service, please email your request to be on our ZOOM list to the Rev. Shepard Parsons at shepard_parsons@mac.com before the first Sunday you wish to be included. Please put “ZOOM in church” in the subject line. You will then be on the list to be invited to join in the service. To avoid ZOOM bombing, we have set this as the only way you can join our services live for the time being.



The First Church of Christ

Church School – The Church School does not meet over the summer. We look forward to the resumption of both church school programming and our Youth Group in September.

Boy Scout Troop 907 – meets weekly on Thursdays at 7 p.m. During the pandemic, the troop is holding its meeting via ZOOM.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 Bible study continues to meet via ZOOM. To get on the ZOOM list, please follow the instructions given for Sunday Services. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary.

For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or office@uccw.org. Visit our website at uccw.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge.



Photo by Sol Silverstein

Mazal Tov

BY MARLENE SILVERSTEIN

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic, Rabbi Sheya & Bluma Hecht and Rabbi Reuven & Lisa Cheruff found a unique way to see their children, Bracha & Shalom, get married. With assistance from town officials, the wedding took place on Tuesday, June 9th in the parking lot of the former Lowe’s.

With cars parked in a socially distant layout, guests remained in their cars while watching and listening to the ceremony on the big screen. After the ceremony there was a ‘pavement promenade’ as Bracha and Shalom stood under the archway to the entrance of the store while guests drove by and gave their best wishes to the bride and groom.

ELECTION 2020

Welander Unanimously Endorsed For The 114th District

On Monday evening, May 18, via a video conference call from her home, Orange Board of Education member Mary Welander was unanimously endorsed as the democratic candidate for State Representative for the 114th District. The 114th District encompasses parts of Orange, Derby and the Town of Woodbridge.

“My motivation for running, and for most things in my life, is to help people. It’s simple, but to the core, it’s the truth.” Welander said in her acceptance speech. “I realized that if I truly wanted to help people then I needed to be part of the bigger conversations that shape these laws. Despite our culture’s aversion to discussing politics, these laws affect every aspect of our lives and, as the saying goes, ‘If you don’t have a seat at the table, you’re probably on the menu’”. For too long the voices of everyday families have not been heard at the table because the people making the decisions don’t understand what we are facing every day.”

In addition to serving on the Orange Board of Education, Mary holds the Vice Chair positions of both the Finance and Policy, Personnel, and Transportation subcommittees, and is the Co-President of the Race Brook School PTA. She also continues to serve as one of two statewide representatives for the Sandy Hook Promise Organization supporting non-partisan, social/emotional based gun violence prevention programs.

Marc Garofalo, former Mayor of Derby, stated, “It is with great pleasure and pride that I nominated Mary Welander tonight to be State Representative for Derby, Orange, and Woodbridge. Mary is different from the typical official you see in Hartford. As a mother, locally elected official and an active member of her community who puts service above self, Mary ‘walks the walk’ more than ‘talks the talk’, and has proven it. I know she will be an effective, dedicated advocate for all of our towns.”

Margaret Novicki, current member of the Orange Board of Selectmen, said, “Mary is exactly the kind of leader we need representing us at the state level at this challenging time in our history. Hers will be a deeply caring and compassionate leadership, keenly attuned to the needs of our communities – whether our young families and children, or our senior citizens. I have seen at close hand how hard Mary works



Mary Welander

for the issues and principles we stand for as a community, party and district. Always ready to put her shoulder to the wheel, Mary has demonstrated time and again commitment, dedication and true volunteer spirit when our town has needed it. A great representative for Orange, Woodbridge and Derby, Mary will take the people’s concerns to heart and to Hartford. We need her kind of leadership NOW.”

Sandra Stein, current member of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen, also shared her enthusiastic support. “Mary is an exceptional individual who cares deeply about her community and their access to education, healthcare, benefits for workers, and building our future together. Mary understands the issues that the communities of Woodbridge, Orange, and Derby are facing. It is her real-life problem-solving approach focusing on people, not politics, that makes her the ideal person to represent all of us in Hartford.”

Welander continued, “We are facing serious challenges; none of the solutions will be easy, and none of them will please everyone, but one thing is for certain: if we want to create better, healthier, more successful communities we need leadership who has already been listening and putting in the hard work to make it happen. When we redefine our future as a district, we will need a voice who brings that understanding, and that care to the table.

“I have been here – elected to serve, listening in the meetings, questioning the choices. I am humbled by the trust and support given to me in the past and am determined to keep it through hard work, caring, and dedication to Derby, Orange, and Woodbridge.”

Mary and her husband, Matt, live in Orange with their three children and dog, Bauer.

Dems Unanimously Endorse Maroney For Re-Election

State Senator James Maroney has received the Democratic Party nomination to appear on the ballot in November as the candidate for the 14th Senate District which includes Milford, Orange, West Haven and Woodbridge. He won a unanimous vote of the delegates to the Democratic Party convention. The vote represents a major validation for the first-term Senator, first elected to the seat in 2018. Senator Maroney represented the district in two starkly different legislative sessions - the passage of several historic pieces of legislation in 2019, and a 2020 session cut short by the coronavirus epidemic.

During his first term, Senator Maroney led the effort to pass several bills in Connecticut that helped ensure a better future for our aging population, youth, and veterans. As Senate Chair of the Veterans Committee, he was the main author of a new “Military to Machinist” program that will establish certain job training programs to assist veterans with the skills needed to obtain jobs in advanced manufacturing and other related positions. He also co-authored pieces of legislation that expand eligibility for veterans to receive certain state benefits; and provide greater property tax relief for veterans.

“I have known James Maroney for a long time and can attest first-hand to his character, his competence, and his compassion for others. His tireless effort to try, and do what is right, is an inspiration. A small business owner by day, he helps students and families prepare and plan for college and the future.” said Jay Zammiello, former Milford Alderman.

Senator Maroney supported a fiscally strong budget, under which the state Rainy Day fund reached an all-time high of \$2.45 billion earlier this year, leaving Connecticut amongst the best positioned states to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also fought to ensure that Connecticut’s aging population would receive a phase out of the income tax.

“As a Senator, James Maroney fights to keep grant money coming into our communities; he works directly with residents and businesses to keep them informed about critical pandemic news and fast-changing executive orders coming out of Hartford,” Milford Mayor Ben Blake said. “I’m so impressed by the depth and breadth of James’ knowledge regarding local, state and federal coronavirus relief programs – he’s a lifeline between many struggling constituent families and the help they depend upon.”



James Maroney

Senator Maroney also authored computer coding legislation, dubbed “CS4CT”, to ensure that Connecticut students are properly prepared for careers in an ever-changing workforce, which is being led by advancements in Computer Science and coding. By working with industry experts such as Microsoft and Google, as well as educational experts like coding.org, Senator Maroney was able to pass this bill with bipartisan support and bring this education to Connecticut students.

Senator Maroney also helped to extend the statute of limitations for sexual assault crimes, he created a portal using existing resources to help in the fight against elder abuse, and brought legislation forward that would increase business in Connecticut by vamping up the states use of Opportunity Zones in partnership with the federal government to increase incentives for business to come to Connecticut. Because of his work on this monumental piece of legislation, the first ever Opportunity Zone Conference in Connecticut was made possible and brought key stakeholders together to learn more about Opportunity Zones as well as make connections to bring more business to Connecticut.

The coronavirus pandemic cut short the 2020 legislative session. Despite this, Senator Maroney continued to be a leading advocate for families in the district, helping secure protective equipment for health care and senior care workers, providing support to small businesses to apply for federal loan programs, and connecting families to services in their community.

“If given the chance to represent my community again, I will continue my work on Opportunity Zones and ensure that we also provide a pathway for small business to take advantage of these zones.” Senator Maroney said, “We must continue to bring forth legislation that will bring more commerce to Connecticut from both outside the state as well as inside.”

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ELECTION 2020

CT Green Party Announces Paglino as Candidate

Justin Paglino, MD, PhD. is a doctor and scientist who has worked as a virologist and cancer researcher. He is a graduate of Brown University, Brown University School of Medicine, completed residency in Laboratory Medicine at Yale New Haven Hospital, and obtained his PhD in virology from the Yale University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Justin has been the recipient of several Fellowships and Grants to fund his research, including a five-year award from the National Cancer Institute. His research has been published in journals including the Journal of Virology, and Cell and presented at conferences of the American Society for Virology, among other professional associations.

In 2005 he received the Paul E. Strandjord Young Investigator Award from the Academy of Clinical Laboratory Physicians and Scientists.

He lives in Guilford with his wife Jill and their 2 children.

As a scientist, a doctor, a parent, and a concerned human being, Justin is passionate that good health and good health care should be available to all. Justin believes that making Medicare4All a reality will only be possible if new people are elected to office with a new agenda. He has not run for political office before, but chose to campaign for office because he feels Americans deserve to have Medicare4All, a policy that enjoys the support of 80% of Democrats and over half of all Americans. He believes that voters in this district have the right to have Medicare for All represented on their ballot on November 3rd. Justin believes if you can't vote for something, you'll never get it. Justin also supports Ranked Choice Voting, science-based public health policies, clean energy, peace when possible, and a fair economy.

First Selectman Endorses DeBarba for State Rep.

Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli has strongly endorsed Dan DeBarba for state representative of the 114th district.

Zeoli said, "Connecticut is facing serious economic challenges. Our state budget is in crisis, and now our economy has been crippled by the COVID-19 Pandemic. I believe that Dan is the most qualified candidate to address these challenges. Dan is a proven leader who has actual experience in balancing multi-million-dollar budgets. As a healthcare executive and small business owner, he has the experience we need to rebuild our economy." Zeoli continued, "Dan will be a strong advocate for the 114th district. As his First Selectman, I am proud to endorse him. I hope you will all join me in voting for Dan in November."

DeBarba is a longtime Orange resident and his three children are graduates of Amity High School. DeBarba is the former president of Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals and is currently the chief financial officer of a large healthcare system in New York. Additionally, he and his wife own a small business in the area.

State Representative Kennedy Nominated for Re-election

Through a cheerful video nominating convention, State Representative Kathy Kennedy was unanimously endorsed May 19th by delegates of the 119th Assembly District, which includes portions of Milford and Orange.

In her acceptance speech, Kennedy pledged to help rebuild Connecticut back after the pandemic. "The past two months have been unprecedented to say the least. As an elected official, it is my duty to keep the public as informed as possible, especially during a time like this. I hope I have done that through my email blasts, social media and mailings. We are in this together, and together we will get through this."

"When the legislature re-convenes for special session, we will need to help those working families who are struggling so mightily. And also make small businesses a priority because businesses that stay provide job opportunities."

Both Milford resident Debra Fellenbaum and Orange resident Ralph Okenquist provided nominating speeches in support of Kathy during the 119th Assembly District convention.

In her speech, Kathy also thanked the delegates for their trust and support, "it is my honor to accept this nomination to continue to lead the residents of Milford and Orange residing in the 119th Assembly District."

In Kathy's first term as state representative she helped stop a legislative proposal to force school districts to regionalize and halted a state budget proposal to shift the teacher pension costs to our local communities.

Kathy has also, since 2018, been a vocal opponent of tolls both a trucks-only, an all vehicle toll proposal and also fought a plan to raid out special transportation fund lock box. The fund was raided by \$171 million by the governor last year.

Kathy also opposed the 2019-2020 state budget that would have raised taxes on working families by \$1.7 billion. In addition, she advocated and voted for PTSD coverage for fire and police personnel.

"I sit on the Women's bi-partisan Caucus, the Fire/EMS Caucus and this past year I served on the Coastal Caucus, also bipartisan, working to preserve and enhance our coastal resources, improve resilience of our coastal communities and shorelines."


Kennedy wrapped up her speech saying she will continue to fight for an affordable CT for our residents.



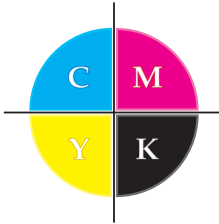
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“Re-Open” From Page 1

in September. Although fireworks are allowed per the Governor’s order, attendance is capped at 500 people – with blankets spaced out 15 feet away from each other. However, when these decisions were taken back in May, it was unclear whether the more stringent conditions would be lifted in time for the summer events.

“This is totally unknown,” said Fred Palmer, Orange Emergency Management director about the coronavirus. Restrictions are put in place to keep people healthy, he said. Town Hall, for instance, is open to the public, but people need to wear a mask.

Health Director Dr. Amir Mohammad said the Emergency Management Advisory Council continues to meet every Friday, and keeps tabs on what is happening in town in terms of coronavirus. The Council, which comprises representatives of police and fire, AMR, the selectmen and the school superintendent, also has representatives of the business community, the clergy and the Visiting Nurse Association.

The first case of Covid 19 was reported in Orange in early March, and in subsequent weeks the numbers rose to about 80 in the community at large, at its peak. In addition, Orange Health Care and Rehab Center had about 43 cases, three of whom did not survive. But compared to many other care facilities in the area, they fared remarkably well. By the end of May, the center happily reported “recovery of all of its

in-house COVID cases.” The new normal for these patients includes “one-on-one outdoor time with staff, a little gardening, open room doors and a bit more freedom within the facility on the Recovery Wings,” according to its website. The center currently allows half-hour outdoor visits with family members.

Dr. Mohammad said he put together a webinar for residents of active adult and congregate housing, encouraging them to avoid social gatherings and adhere to social distancing guidelines. He thinks that the information, coupled with the cooperation of people who live there, helped keep the infection rate in check.

The experience of the past three months has shown the value of the local health departments in this state, Dr. Muhammad said, referring to efforts to merge health departments to create efficiencies. “That is why we cannot eliminate the public health infrastructure,” he said, adding that local health departments are best suited to react to the need of the community. “Given the cooperative approach, we didn’t do that bad,” he said.

By June 19, there were about 2 cases in Orange, and the Governor’s opening plan had moved to stage 2, allowing limited indoor food service, gyms and libraries to open. But all activities come with a set of restrictions in order to allow people to keep their distance, wear masks and keep fresh air circulating. Driving schools, for example, can offer lessons as long as both the student and the teacher wear masks,

and the windows are rolled down to allow air circulation.

People are encouraged to keep social distancing in elevators and avoid them altogether if possible. Plexiglass partitions are now ubiquitous, to help keep droplets from traveling.

Planning an event? Starting with Phase 3 of the Governor’s re-opening plan in mid-July, indoor private gatherings of up to 50 people are allowed, and outdoor events of up to 250. Currently, those caps are at 25 people indoors and 100 outdoors. Private events may include political fundraisers as well as birthday parties and other celebrations in people’s homes and backyards. Dr. Mohammad recommends residents who plan these events to be in touch with his office to learn about ways to keep everyone safe. “I encourage them to be in touch,” he said. “It’s a free service.” The phone number is (203) 891-4733.

Day camp: Orange Recreation was scheduled to start its popular summer camp this week and continue with four two-week sessions. Camp is from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day at High Plains Community Center. There will be an open swim period at the indoor pool and campers must bring a bagged lunch. Campers must wear a mask, and will have a health check every morning. They will be assigned to a group of eight, with siblings in the same group, regardless of age. Each group will have an assigned table and assigned room. There will be no Travelin’ Teens this year.

Library to gradually reopen: Case Memorial Library is carefully ramping up its system of book and other media lending, with a curbside pickup service starting in July, maybe even the week before.

Patrons can call in or put an item on hold, and the item will then be placed in a bag and be ready for pickup between doors in the foyer, said Library Director Kathy Giotsas. Patrons will have to make an appointment to get a time slot for the pickup. This service is for Orange residents only.

Once the library staff have all the safety protocols in place, including sanitizing wipes and personal protective equipment, the library will open the building by appointment only, with a limit of half capacity, Giotsas said. Even then patrons will be asked not to linger or socialize, in order to avoid spreading the coronavirus.

The children’s department will also look different once it re-opens. The toys and the train set have been re-

moved, as has the puppet theater. Like the adults, families will be asked not to linger. And, like the rest of the building, there will be a cap on the number of people admitted to the children’s library at any given time.

Giotsas said the library book drop was open throughout the lock-down, and library staff removed the returned items and “quarantined” books for 48 hours before they go back on the shelf.

The library has directed more money into online resources, namely e-books, magazines and audio books, that are available for patrons. Giotsas said even when an item shows 50 patrons on the waiting list, people should not hesitate to add their name, as they typically move quickly.

Programming has been on hold, Giotsas said. They are considering holding book discussion groups on Zoom, but “people will need the books,” she said. “We have so many avid readers,” she said. “I really can’t wait for this whole thing to be over.”

School buildings closed: School buildings continue to be closed, and for kids enrolled in summer school that means continued distance learning.

Playgrounds are open for the community to enjoy while school is not in session. Social distancing rules still apply though.

As of press time, no plans had been publicized regarding the re-opening of schools in the fall. Districts are waiting for guidance from the state Department of Education.

Senior Center: For the time being all in-person programs continue to be suspended. However, Senior Services Coordinator Dennis Marsh has organized some online activities that seniors can plug into. YouTube videos with Suzanne Anderson and Rae Maclellan offer chair exercises; also, how to make your own face mask and Zen doodle sessions. On Zoom, people can participate in a virtual yoga class with Andrea Cashman, or virtual tai chi with David Chandler or virtual Zumba Gold with Danielle Petitt. To participate in a Zoom class, sign up with the senior center. They will email you a link to the class.

In lieu of the hot lunch program, seniors can order frozen lunch trays either for pickup or delivery. To sign up, contact the senior center at (203) 891-4789.

People interested in online grocery shopping can watch a YouTube video at: <https://youtu.be/fWUN7ILGwRM> to learn how.

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“Graduation” From Page 1

mask to reveal big smiles, and had a photograph taken, then received their diploma, and moved the tassel on their cap to signal a new stage in their lives. No hand-shakes and certainly no hugs, but the teachers directing the cars cheered as best they could.

There were speeches and congratulations, but those were recorded separately from the main event, and had been broadcast the night before. The hashtag #Amitystrong was created just for this class, said Principal Anna Mahon in her address, and it was with good reason

The 17- and 18-year-old graduates of the Class of 2020 had already experienced how unexpected events could require a change of direction, without asking whether they were ready for them or not. Class President Jayson Hutchinson, for example, remembered how his sixth grade graduation had been impacted by frozen pipes at Peck School. The flooding had caused his school population to be scattered for the rest of the school year.

Even so, or maybe because they had already experienced the extraordinary, he encouraged his classmates to walk confidently into the future.

“Why go back?” he said. “What is the normal we so desperately want to restore? A world with injustice and inequality?”

The world needs new answers. “Let us be that answer,” he encouraged his classmates. “Let us be the change in this world.”

Sophia Wang, who was chosen to

address her fellow graduates based on academic excellence, also touched on the need to embrace change.

As a class, they had survived “a tornado, a few hurricanes and today, we are braving the storm of a global pandemic,” she said. Circumstances forced this generation to develop a new virtue: sacrifice, she said, referring to the fact that they had to stay home for the benefit of society.

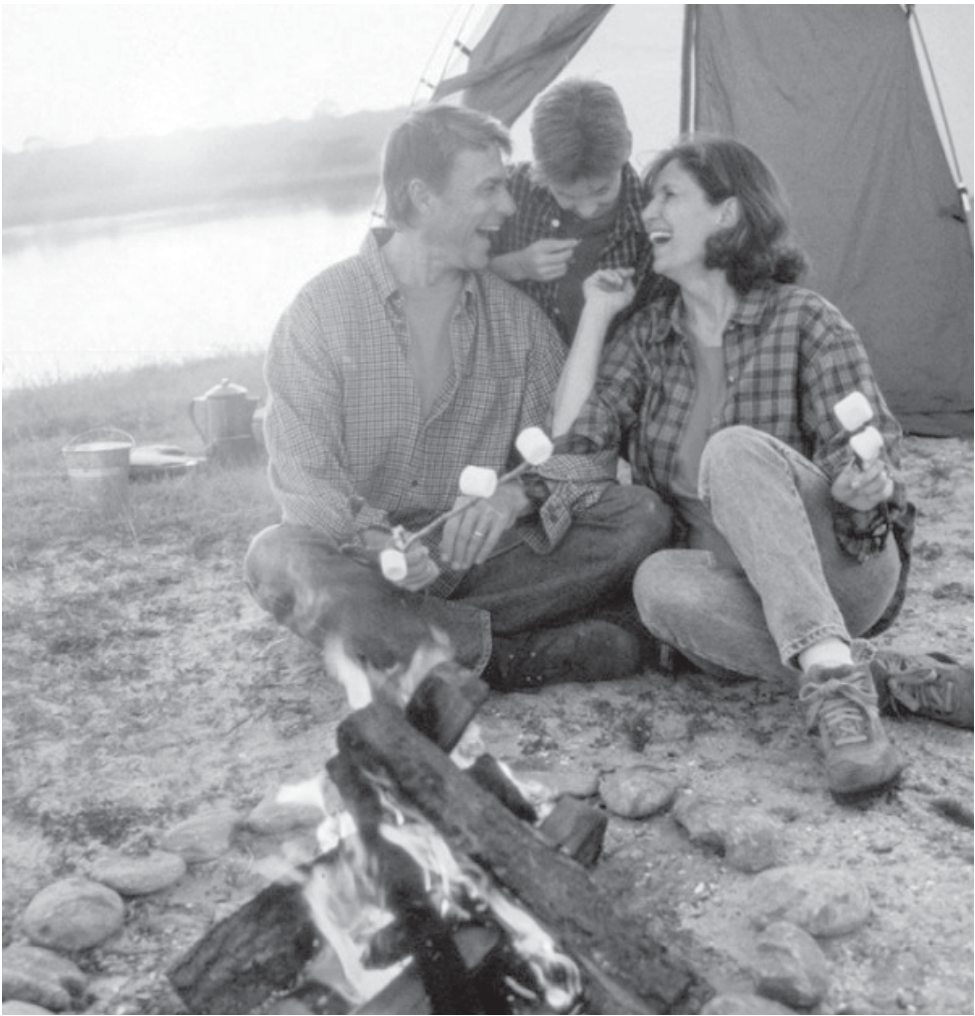
“Today, change has never seemed so constant,” she said, adding her conviction that this crop of new Amity graduates are ready to meet that challenge head-on.

“We’re a class of dreamers,” she said, “and dreams will change over time.”

Speaking of the unsettled world they are about to enter, she said “our country is at a breaking point... Change becomes a necessity for the survival of our country.”

Martin Gnidula spoke about the particular strength of this class of 2020. “We are the class that will make history,” he said. “History not shrouded in sadness and contamination, but a history that we get to shape with our knowledge of what it means to love and to lose – all the while feeling powerless and scared,” he said.

The virtual ceremony included the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Junior Class President Isabella Pfannenbecker, also addresses from Principal Anna Mahon, School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars, and Board of Education Chairman John Belfonti. Jill LaPlante, Director of Counseling Services, presented the Amity Award of Excellence to Danielle Lee.



Tips For Family Camping Trips

For nature lovers, perhaps nothing is more enjoyable than packing up the camping gear, traveling to a favorite campsite and getting away from it all while sleeping under the stars. Such an experience can be transformative, turning first-time campers into life-long enthusiasts.

The opportunity to turn youngsters into nature enthusiasts who can’t wait to spend time outside may be one reason why so many families go camping. A 2018 report Kampgrounds of America found that 52 percent of campers have children, making camping among the most popular and family-friendly ways to enjoy the great outdoors.

Camping with youngsters can help families make lasting memories. Parents who have never before taken their children camping may benefit from employing a few strategies to make the trip as fun as possible.

Make a trial run in the backyard. A night camping in the backyard won’t be exactly the same as a night in the woods, where wildlife, and particularly insects, may be less welcoming hosts. But a backyard camping night can acclimate children to their sleeping bags and their tents. A fun night sleeping under the stars in the backyard also may make kids more enthusiastic about an upcoming camping trip in the woods.

Go over safety early and often. Use every opportunity to explain camping safety measures to youngsters in advance of your trip. Emphasize the importance of staying together in the woods, and teach youngsters how to identify potentially harmful plants like poison ivy, making sure they know to avoid coming into contact with these and other poisonous plants.

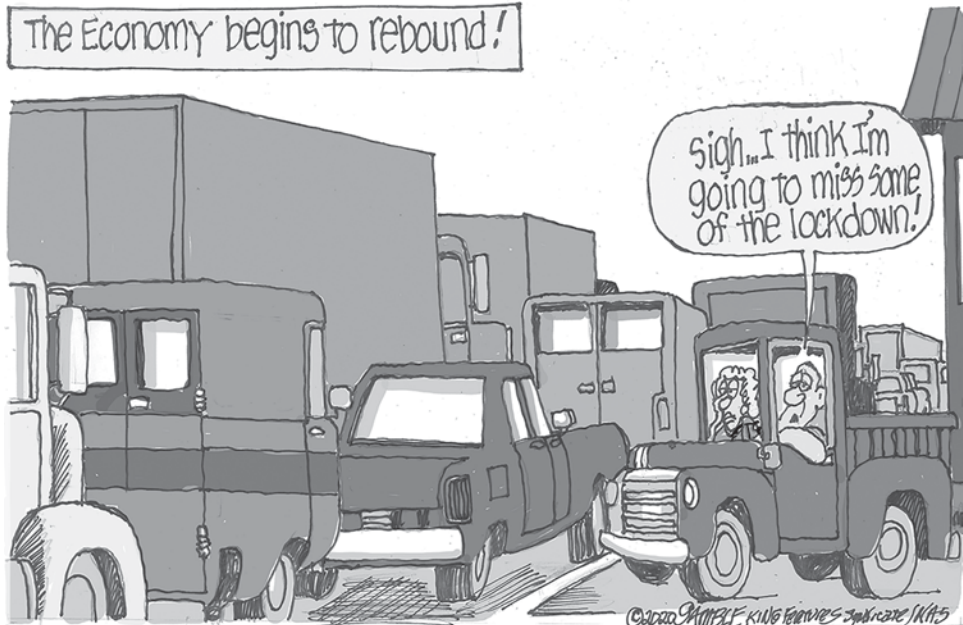
Contact your local parks department, or the campground where you will be staying, for some additional advice on camping safety.

Let kids help when choosing camping equipment. Youngsters may be more excited about camping if they’re allowed to choose certain equipment, including their sleeping bags and tents. Before visiting your nearby camping retailer, explain to kids that tents come in various styles because they’re designed to protect campers from certain elements that may be more common in certain areas than others. Such an explanation can make it easy to explain to youngsters why you’re purchasing certain items, even if those items weren’t kids’ top choices.

Plan the family menu in advance. Plan the menu in advance so you can ensure everyone will continue to eat healthy. But make sure to include a few kid-friendly camping classics, like s’mores, in the meal plan as well.

Prepare a camping-friendly first-aid kit. Bandages and topical antibiotic creams are part and parcel of any first-aid kit, regardless of where you’re going. But the elements pose a different set of challenges that require a more extensive first-aid kit. When designing a first-aid kit for your camping trip, be sure to include all the usual items but also over-the-counter medications that can treat pain, allergies, constipation, and diarrhea. An extra gallon or two of water also makes for a wise addition to campers’ first-aid kits.

Family camping trips can instill a lifelong love of the great outdoors in youngsters. A few simple strategies can help parents make such trips safe and memorable.



DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

Independence Throughout Retirement

BY ROBERTA L NESTOR

Maybe it will take only a few questions to have a glimpse of how dependent or independent you will be throughout your retirement. Joseph Coughlin, the director of MIT AgeLab created three basic questions to identify quality of life issues for retirement: Who will change my light bulbs? How will I get an ice cream cone? Who will I have lunch with?

These questions illustrate how our lives will change as our bodies slow down and health issues or other aspects of aging make us less mobile. As we grow older, the importance of living somewhere that has transportation options, quality health care, long term care services and options for social connections becomes paramount. Where you decide to live during retirement can determine your financial and emotional independence during retirement.

A survey conducted by AgeWave found that 85% of pre-retirees want to age in place. In other words, they want to be able to stay in their homes for as long as possible and remain as independent as possible. Aging in place also refers to being able to remain in your home despite functional or cognitive impairments. Home characteristics and renovations for aging in place are many. Renovations could include a walk-in shower, single floor living with no stairs, and wheelchair accessibility that will allow for ramps to the home, wide doors and hallways. Kitchens that have accessible cabinets and lowered countertops. Abundance of light in case sight is diminished. New technologies to monitor health status and use of prescriptions. And don't forget to eliminate rugs or other floor items that could become a tripping hazard!

The infrastructure of your community can also lend itself to independence. Will you have support for snow

removal, lawn care, and general maintenance of your home? What is the availability for transportation options if you can no longer drive? Will you be able to have grocery delivery services and/or meal preparation if needed? Finally, will you have access to family and friends so that you will be able to socialize and enjoy social activities? One of the major problems for older Americans is social isolation. People deteriorate faster both mentally and physically when their social connections are reduced. Older people who are active socially tend to be happier and healthier.

Aging in place requires careful and comprehensive planning. It is not enough to say, "I just want to stay in my home until I pass." To stay in your current home, or to relocate during retirement, means preparing now. Don't be among those who defer the important decisions about aging because they think it's too early. If maintaining your independence throughout retirement is important, start planning for that future today.

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



Stay Connected With Customers While Social Distancing

Social distancing guidelines forced many businesses to change the way they interact with their customers. Businesses deemed non-essential may not have been forced to shutter, but many were no longer allowed to welcome customers into their facilities.

Maintaining relationships with customers is a foundation for many small businesses. According to the global management consulting firm Bain & Company, the average repeat customer spends 67 percent more between months 31 and 36 with a business than they do between months zero and six. That highlights how vital it is for small businesses to maintain long-term relationships with repeat customers. That can be more challenging while social distancing, but the following are three ways for small businesses to stay connected with their customers even when those customers are not allowed to enter their facilities.

Keep Lines Of Communication Open

A recent 4A Research survey of 1,000 consumers found that 43 percent of respondents said it's reassuring to hear from brands they know and trust during the pandemic.

Small business owners can keep in touch with customers via email, sending weekly updates thanking customers for their business and even sharing tips to make social distancing more pleasant. For example, restaurants can email customers suggestions on pairing wines.

Think Creatively

Face-to-face interactions with customers drive many small business owners to keep doing what they're doing. Such interactions may not be possible while social distancing, but small business owners who get creative can still interact with their customers. For example, fitness center owners can create how-to workout videos for members and post them to their social media pages. Garden center owners can create how-to gardening videos and post them to their websites, social media pages or even create their own YouTube channels.

Volunteer In Your Community

Small business owners may have extra time on their hands until business returns to normal. In the meantime, volunteering in the community can be a great way to continue serving your neighbors. Sew masks for aging customers and neighbors who may not be able to do so on their own. Or organize an effort by local small businesses to provide meals for first responders. Volunteering is a great way for small business owners to make use of their extra free time and show their customers that they're committed to the community even in the most difficult circumstances.


Social distancing has been hard on many small businesses. But small business owners can take various steps to maintain connections with their customers until they can open their doors once again.

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FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

All senior center activities, classes and trips are canceled. Please check the senior center website at www.orange-ct.gov/782/community-services for further information or feel free to call the senior center office at (203) 891-4784.

Virtual Classes

If you would like to participate in Andrea Cashman's Yoga, Danielle Pettit's Zumba Gold, or David Chandler's Tai Chi class via Zoom—call the office with your email and we will ask the instructor to email you an invite.

If you would like to participate in Chair Exercise, visit the Town Website at orange-ct.gov and under Departments you will see a link to the Senior Center. There you will find the Chair Exercise video.

Join Suzanne Anderson for a weekly Arts & Crafts video on the Town website at <http://orange-ct.gov/783/Or->

ange-Senior-Center. I recently added a class on how to make your own face mask at home with Suzanne Anderson and Rae Maclellan.

If you would like to learn how to use Peapod with Josh, visit this link: <https://youtu.be/fWUN7ILGwRM>.

Frozen Meals

There is a special meal program consisting of a box of 5 frozen meals during the Covid-19 pandemic. We can deliver them or you can come by and pick the meals up. Delivery is only available to Orange residents. Call the office to complete an application. A suggested donation of \$3 per meal would be greatly appreciated.

Community Services has an Emergency Food Bank available for Orange residents in need. Call (203) 891-4788 for assistance.

AARP Safe Driving Courses

AARP announced that all in-person AARP activities have been canceled through the end of 2020. AARP Smart Driver online course is an alternative, especially for those who need to renew their car insurance discount. AARP has extended its special 25% off discount through the end of the year.

- Website: www.aarpdriversafety.org
- Promo code for 25% discount: DRIVINGSKILLS
- Good through: December 31, 2020

AARP Tax Help

Many people have relied on the Senior Center's AARP Tax Help Program. The AARP Tax Volunteers will not be returning this year. However, I found that the AARP Foundation is offering online tax help. The link is below and it can also be found on the Senior Center website: orange-ct.gov, put your mouse over Departments and you will see all the way to the right (the last in

the list) Orange Senior Center. Click on the Orange Senior Center and in the middle of the next page you will find the link.

Social Security

"How can I get help from Social Security without visiting an office?" You can find the answer at www.ssa.gov/onlineservices which links you to some of our most popular online services. You can apply for retirement and disability benefits, appeal a decision, apply for Medicare and much more. Social Security's newest feature is Advance Designation, which enables you to identify up to three people, in priority order, who you would like to serve as your potential representative payee in the event you ever need help managing your benefits.

Trips

All Senior Center trips are canceled until September 2020.

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“Letters” From Page 5

like, it’s always best to end on a high note. As you sit back and watch the fireworks with close friends and family, we at Dichello Distributors, Inc. wish you a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July!

Tony Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator
Dichello Distribute, Inc.

2020 Milford Oyster Festival Canceled

As a result of the health concerns with the COVID-19 virus and with much regret, the Board of Directors of the Milford Oyster Festival has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Oyster Festival scheduled for August 15th

The safety of our dedicated festival goers, vendors, sponsors, volunteers and surrounding community always has been, and will remain our primary concern. Having closely monitored the progress of Federal, State and local guidelines and after much discussion and hope that the Festival could be possible, we know this is the right decision as we all do our part to stop this disruptive virus.

We are proud that the Milford Oyster Festival is an integral part of the community. We ask that you make every effort to support the many local Milford businesses, non- profit and civic organizations that rely on the Festival for fundraising and awareness for their important causes.

Thank you for your tremendous support each and every year. We know this Festival is a special tradition for so many and we look forward to seeing you all again on August 21, 2021.

We hope you remain healthy and safe,

Jay Pinto

President, Milford Oyster Festival

To All of Our Camp Argo Families

It is with a heavy heart, that we have made the very difficult decision to postpone our time together until next year, Summer 2021. We have made this difficult short-term decision to ensure the long-term mission of Camp Argo. Nothing like this has ever happened to us before and up until just a few days ago, we had every intention to conduct Camp Argo this summer as normal. Unfortunately, these are not normal times and we cannot ignore the overwhelming concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ultimately, we considered the health & safety of our campers, staff and our community when making this decision.

We pray that there will be a solution to getting the country back on its feet sooner rather than later. We are very hopeful that in Summer 2021 we all will come back stronger & healthier than ever!

If you have any questions, please feel free to call anytime 203-799-2746 or email jason@campargo.org. Wishing you all a healthy and happy summer!

Sincerely,

Jason Nevis
Camp Argo Director

2020 Independence Day Concert & Fireworks Canceled

Due to covid-19, the 2020 Independence Day Concert & Fireworks has been canceled. I want to thank all who had committed to sponsoring this year’s event as look we forward to a great show in 2021.

Be well,

Rocky Salpento

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DEATH NOTICES



Helene M. Fillmore

Helene M. Fillmore, 76, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Stuart W. Fillmore, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2020. Born on September 2, 1943 in Derby, she was the daughter of the late William and Helen (Horischak) Susko. A lifelong resident of Orange, Helene was a graduate of Amity Regional High School and the University of New Haven, where she was employed for over 30 years. Helene is survived by her children, Douglas (Jay Norris) Fillmore and Amy (David) Dalton; grandchildren, Mackenzie and Morgan Dalton; and extended family and friends. She was predeceased by her brother, William Susko. Services were private at this time. The family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at the Cody-White Funeral Home 107 Broad Street Milford, CT 06460. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at www.lls.org. To leave online condolences, please visit our website at www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



Robert Algot Hedman

Robert Algot Hedman, 72, of Orange, CT, beloved husband of 48 years to Maryanne Hedman, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 15, 2020. Born on January 13, 1948 in Bridgeport, CT, he was the son of the late Algot and Emma Carlson Hedman. Bob spent over 50 years in the commercial construction industry from designer to owner of a consulting firm. Most recently he was assisting the City of Bridgeport as owner's representa-

tive for Bridgeport Public Schools. Bob, with Maryanne, raised their family in Orange; he served as president of Orange Little League and coach; and was involved for many years with Orange Soccer Association as referee and coaching recreational to premier teams. Bob had a passion for UCONN Women's Basketball, politics, and world history. He served in the Army Reserves and had a great love for his country. His most memorable and precious times were those spent visiting with his grandchildren in GA. He will be deeply missed from our family celebrations which he treasured; never to be the same without him. Bob had a devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ who he has now joined. Bob beamed with pride watching his children grow into loving, respectful, faithful adults; who he left too soon: Cyndi Brantley (Clayton) of GA, Robert V. Hedman (Anna) of Shelton, and Erik Hedman of Trumbull, his adoring grandchildren Fowler, Larsen, and Carlsen Brantley all of GA, sister Carol Vecchiarelli of Shelton, and extended family. Interment will be private. A celebration of Bob's life will be held during a safer time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



Albert R. Moquet

Albert R. Moquet, Esq., 96, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Elinor Y. Moquet, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2020 at his home with his two children at his side. Born on December 26, 1923 in West Haven, CT he was the son of the late Raymond C. Moquet and Ada Hissey Moquet. Albert was a proud graduate of both Union School, 1938, and of West Haven High School, in 1942. In an era where neighborhoods were an important bonding lifestyle for most families, he was a faithful and loyal friend. He stayed in touch with many of his childhood buddies and attended class reunions for decades to come. He then attended the University of Connecticut where he met Elinor, the love of his life and wife to be of 67 years. As a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity, he served as its grandmaster in 1945-46. Upon graduation he entered

Boston University Law School where he was a member of the Phi Delta Phi fraternity, and eventually graduated in 1948. After moving to New Haven, Albert worked briefly as a claims adjuster for the Connecticut Indemnity Security Company. After his marriage to Elinor, Al joined the private practice of Francis J. Moran and John E. McNerney and for the next twenty-five years was a successful litigator, before becoming a partner in the firm of Barberio, Staley and Moquet. He was admitted to practice in all Connecticut Courts, Federal District Court, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Mashantucket Pequot Trial Court. He was a member of the American Bar Association, the Connecticut Bar Association and the New Haven County Bar Association. He retired from practice in 1997, at the age of 73. Al was a member and trustee of the Orange Congregational Church and the 1966 President of the Orange Little League and one of its first ambassadors. He was a lifetime fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers and talked for years about their 1955 World Series Championship over the New York Yankees. He was a member of the Ansonia Rod & Gun Club and an accomplished skeet shooter. Al enjoyed many summers on Block Island starting in 1956 when it was an undiscovered gem. To this day three generations of his family still make "the Island" their summer destination. He was an avid reader, a great fan of classic movies, and a master craftsman who spent many hours in his basement workshop creating a wide range of ingenious household gadgets, as well as unique Christmas gifts. Al had the innate gift of making and keeping friends from all walks of life, connections which he cherished, but in his final years an unexpected but special bond was cemented with his cat, Sage. Faithful and true, she served as a unique and trusted comrade to Al until his last hours and brought him untold joy and companionship. Albert leaves behind his loving children, Leslie Whitlock, and husband Jonathan, and Douglas Moquet and his wife, Linda; cherished grandchildren, Sarah Whitlock and Air Force Captain Douglas R. Moquet, Jr.; beloved great-grandchildren, Natalie and

Charlotte Schiffrin; and extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his grandson, Mark Whitlock. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the Connecticut Hospice Home Care and also sends extra thanks to our special home care providers, Mary and Lisa for their love and friendship. Services and burial were private. A memorial service for all to celebrate his life will be held at a later time. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111. The family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Cody-White Funeral Home 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT 06460. To leave online condolences, please visit our website at www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.



Eleanor M. Suarez

Eleanor M. Suarez, age 87 of Orange, beloved wife of the late Julio L. Suarez, passed away May 18, 2020 at Yale New Haven Hospital. Eleanor was born in Brooklyn, NY, October 7, 1932, daughter of the late Russell H. and Florence L. Fette Crane. She was a Registered Nurse for Yale New Haven Hospital for many years until her retirement. She is survived by her children Richard L. Suarez and his wife Toni of Cheshire and Nancy M. Zelinsky of Orange, her grandchildren Vicenta Zelinsky, Natalie Zelinsky, Samantha Suarez, Derek Suarez, and Luke Suarez, her great-grandsons John and Hunter Mizzone. Due to the current pandemic, graveside services at Orange Center Cemetery will be private. The Smith Funeral Home, 135 Broad Street, Milford is handling arrangements. To leave condolences, please visit www.georgejsmithandson.com.

DEATH NOTICES

The Orange Town News will publish Death Notices for Orange families free of charge as a service to our readers. Family members please email notice (limit 250 words, please) to: edit@orangetownnews.com

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Floral Displays Created by The Garden Club of Orange

Over the weekend of June 12 thru the 14 the Orange Town Green was filled with beautiful floral displays created by The Garden Club of Orange. Due to the Pandemic restrictions, the club was not able to celebrate National Garden Club week the way it normally would by placing floral designs in town buildings and local stores. Instead, the

club put up floral designs throughout the green. Gail Nixon and Lana Ho spearheaded the project and many members joined in by giving donations to support the club. 21 designers created 14 displays.

A big thank you to Jim Zeoli and The Congregational Church who gave us permission use the green.

Scouts Launch Camp Phoenix

Remote Summer Camping Program Helps Keep Current Scouts Active From Home; Opportunities For Scouts Of All Age Groups

With school winding down and overnight camps canceled due to COVID-19, the Connecticut Yankee Council is introducing an innovative way to camp this summer. Camp Phoenix is a remote camping experience that allows Scouts to safely camp from their backyards and connect remotely for official Scouting activities and programs.

“Camp Phoenix brings what Scouts love from traditional camping to their backyards,” said Michael Morrell, director of camping, Connecticut Yankee Council. “This is a creative and innovative way to camp and work on merit badges, accept Firebird challenges, join in camp lore and other official Scout programs. We may be physically apart, but this is a way to connect during these challenging times.”

Registered Scouts will experience hikes, runs and walks as well as community service and other initiatives utilizing their Scout training to meet challenges and complete programs. Scouts can choose from 60 merit badges to complete ranging from astronomy, photography, landscape architecture, music and more. Scouts also will learn basic Scout Skills while working on advancement requirements. Topics

of instruction include knots, first aid, physical activities and many more. In addition, Scouts will receive a creative “swag bag” a t-shirt, patch and other camp-related items.

“Above all else, this is about having fun and enjoying the outdoors safely this summer versus being tethered to televisions, smart devices or video games,” added Morrell. “In fact, up to 60 percent of the activities for Camp Phoenix take place offline.”

Registration is now open and camps run weekly starting June 28. For more information and to register, please visit: <http://www.ctyankee.org/camp-phoenix>.

The Boy Scouts of America provides the nation’s foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training, which helps young people be “Prepared. For Life.®” The Scouting organization is composed of more than 2.1 million youth members between the ages of 5 and 21 and approximately 800,000 volunteers in local councils throughout the United States and its territories. For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit www.Scouting.org.

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The Academy Antique Shop Is Open

The Academy will be open for its fourth Saturday since March. The antique shop is brimming with fine antiques and collectibles just waiting for the gift giving buyer. Although many activities are still up in the air, the season for grads and brides is here. We are located at 605 Orange Center Road and open every Saturday from 10-3. All protocols for your safety are in place, so come on over. For information call 203-795-3106, email orangehistorical@yahoo.com or visit our website at www.orangehistory.org.

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HISTORY CORNER



BY GINNY REINHARD

It's a History Lesson...

As the saying goes, “Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it”, written by philosopher George Santayana but in its original form it read, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” I ordinarily write my stories when an idea pops into my head regardless of the time of the year or a holiday that coincides with the issue date. There is only so much information about Valentine’s Day or Father’s Day or other holidays that I can write about having already covered all of them in the past 10 plus years.

However, I think a repeat of the history of the Revolutionary War might be of interest right now as July 4th is around the corner and it is the part of history that interests me the most. The Bryan-Andrew House, circa 1740, would have had Queen Anne’s flag flying outside the home and the Stone-Otis House 1830 would have flown a 24-star flag representing the addition of the state of Missouri on July 4th 1822. It was another 14 years with the addition of Arkansas that a 25-star flag was official on July 3, 1836.

These American flags, representing individual and diverse states, might not have been possible had it not been for fledgling colonies, searching for freedom from oppression, taking a stand against a country more than 3000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean. One must admire the first settlers, who with ultimate faith boarded the tiniest of ships, with a mere assemblage of their household goods, sailing away from that oppression. All was seemingly calm for about 145 years, when in 1765 rumblings for the desire for independence emerged lasting until 1783 with the actual war from 1775 until 1783 when Great Britain was defeated.

Tensions ran high in Boston in early 1770 when more than 2000 British soldiers occupied the city trying to enforce British tax laws, the stamp act being one of the more egregious ones. This act or law sought to impose a financial cost to be collected for printed

material, newspapers, legal and commercial documents in exchange for a stamp, proving the tax was paid. These stamps were affixed after being purchased from a British agent.

In March of 1770, a British soldier was guarding the King’s money when

angry colonists began taunting and threatening him, leading him to strike someone with his bayonet. Rocks, ice and snowballs were hurled at him causing him to fall, calling for reinforcements.

British soldiers responded taking

up a defensive position in front of the Custom House. Some colonists begged for the soldiers to hold their fire while others dared them to shoot. The violence escalated with the colonists

striking the soldiers with clubs and sticks. The report of the next event has been obscured by history but the story goes that someone yelled fire and after all was said and done, 5 colonists lay dead, including Crispus Attucks, a local dockworker.

Attucks was an African American whose father was a black slave and his mother Natick Indian, a tribe located in the Rhode Island colony. What is noted by his death is that he was the first to fall during the Boston Massacre on that cold day in March. Crispus was born into slavery in 1723, the son of Prince Yonger, a slave shipped to America from Africa and Nancy Attucks. Little is known about the family living in a town just outside of Boston but at some point, he escaped, managing to stay free while spending twenty years on trading ships and whaling vessels. In addition to his skill of buying and trading goods, history cites his skill in rope making.

What appears to have led to the

fight with the soldier guarding the King’s wealth was an altercation between several rope makers and three British soldiers earlier. The situation was continued three nights later when a soldier entered a pub looking for work. It was not uncommon for the British soldiers to take work away from the colonial citizen, making the men in the pub furious. One of them was Crispus Attucks. What made matters worse was the trial of eight soldiers involved and the defense plea brought forth by John Adams. Yes, John Adams our second U.S. president. Adams labeled the citizens an unruly mob, forcing his clients to open fire.

Attucks was laid in state with the others killed that day, with city leaders waiving the segregation laws allowing him to be buried with them.

In the years since his death, Crispus Attucks’ legacy has continued to endure, first with American colonists eager to break from British rule and later among 19th century abolitionists and 20th century civil rights activists.

Sons of Liberty leaders such as John Hancock and Samuel Adams incited colonists to keep on fighting while Paul Revere encouraged anti-British attitudes with an engraving depicting British soldiers callously murdering American colonists. A name not common in the history books is that of James Otis. James was initially a Tory who became disenchanted with Britain when his father was not re-appointed as chief justice of the colony. James became an ardent member of the colonial fight and, as a lawyer, spoke eloquently about the need for freedom from the Crown. His speeches often took place in pubs where the audience was of mixed reactions. At one point, he

was taken out and beaten so severely that he became addled and spent most of the rest of his life in obscurity.

His claim to fame, however, is that in his heyday, he penned the 4th amendment where it provided that people should be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures but history

unfortunately gives credit to James Madison. Another of James Otis’ contributions to the cause was no taxation without representation which was later attributed to Samuel Adams.

Charles Otis in the Stone-Otis house is a descendent of James Otis through his nephew and grandchildren through his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. His only son died at the age of 18. Elizabeth, like her mother, was a Tory and married a British soldier, Leonard Brown moving back to England after he was wounded at Bunker Hill which is often referred to as Breed’s Hill.

The Boston Massacre had a major impact on relations between Britain and the American colonists furthering incensed colonists already weary of British rule and unfair taxation rousing them to fight for independence. The colonists continued to rebel staging the Boston Tea Party and forming the Continental Congress while defending their arsenal at Concord against the redcoats. In addition to what James Otis said and wrote, his sister Mercy Otis Warren wrote plays, poems and satires about the revolution, helping to keep the “fires” in the hearts of the colonists alive against the British.

Some years ago, her diary was presented to the television program Pawn Stars for purchase but it was declined and the owner left without his name being recorded as one of the participants of the program.

Emails to various Las Vegas organizations did not produce the diary and since James Otis burned all of his papers,

much of Otis’ history of the war was lost. All that remains is what was published at the time for both James and his sister Mercy. There are several books written about James and Mercy’s letters are also available in print. There is a great deal of history in the Revolutionary War, give it a go.



Boston Massacre



24 Star flag 1822



Paul Revere’s engraving of the Boston Massacre



Crispus Attucks



James Otis

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