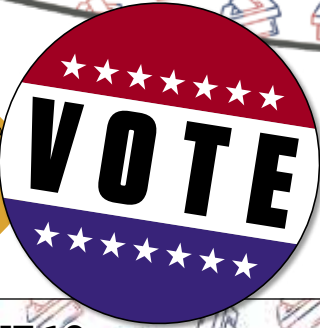


Orange Town News



Orange's Exclusive Newspaper
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CIRCULATION 6070

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

Dan Cowan Stands For 'Parents Bill of Rights'



Dan Cowan

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

"I envision a legislature that allows the people of Connecticut to make choices for themselves and their families," that quote from Dan Cowan's website at <https://22dac114.com/> pretty much encapsulates his political philosophy.

The Woodbridge resident, a Republican, is challenging Mary Welander in the 114th House District. Cowan previously served on the Woodbridge Board of Education, from 2019 to 2021 — "some tough years in public education,"

See "Cowan" On Page 2

Welander Seeks Second Term



Mary Welander

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With her first term in the state House coming to a close, State Rep. Mary Welander is seeking a second term representing those living in the 114th House District – stretching from Orange and Woodbridge, up into the Wintergreen area of Hamden, and adding a slice of Derby after the most recent round of redistricting.

At a time when the public coffers are full, the Orange Democrat can point to a significant record of procuring financial support for projects

See "Welander" On Page 11

Newcomer Challenges Senator – With A Smile



Kim-Marie Mullin

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Kim-Marie Mullin is a new arrival, not only to the political scene, but to the area. Moving to West Haven in the middle of the pandemic, she used her spare time to fix up a run-down bungalow she had bought, steps away from the Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary, and to clean up the open spaces around it – where illegal dumping had left anything from refrigerators to lawnmowers and mattresses.

"I didn't wait for someone to help," she said in a phone interview, and

See "Mullin" On Page 3

Senator Maroney: An 'Independent Voice'



James Maroney

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

State Sen. James Maroney currently represents the 14th Senatorial District encompassing Milford, Orange, and a slice of southern Woodbridge and western West Haven. In the upcoming election he is seeking his third term. He is cross-endorsed by the Connecticut Independent Party as well as the Working Families Party.

"Now, more than ever, we need to put our differences aside and get things done for people," he was quoted in campaign literature. "That's been

See "Maroney" On Page 10



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Paid for by 2022 DAC House 114, Linda McDonough, Treasurer. Approved by Daniel Cowan.

“Cowan” From Page 1

he said — as the state was struggling with its Covid response. He championed in-person learning and was a critic of the requirement for children to mask up. He felt that these were health decisions which should be left up to parents. He was not re-elected.

Connecticut needs a “Parents Bill of Rights,” so he states on his website. He wants to ensure “they are front and center when it comes to decisions about their children’s education, healthcare, and needs. He said his passion for parental choice started with the elimination of the religious exemption for immunizations. The legislature now requires all children to be immunized before they enter school. Cowan opposed that. Deeply religious, he felt that the act was an overreach of the government.

In fact, government overreach is the most pressing issue facing the constituents of the 114th District, he wrote in a candidate statement. “I intend to work with the executive branch to establish a Parent’s Bill of Rights and with the House of Representatives to support the Families First Act.”

He has been speaking up repeatedly at the Amity Board of Education meetings, joining a group of parents who criticized the district for exposing children to books with content of a sexual nature. He spoke out against the district’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) plans. These programs ultimately do nothing to lift people out of poverty, he said. Instead, “Committed monog-

amous parents raising their children together cover two of the three major steps by which children and families are lifted out of poverty, followed by graduating high school and at least one parent always working a full-time job.”

Like most Republican candidates, he blames the Democrats for watering down the Criminal justice system. “It’s clear their policies have failed. Crime is rising, and that is undeniable; we all feel less safe.”

He stands for local control in all areas of municipal governance, and ensuring local property taxpayers have the loudest, most influential voice on issues that affect the very fabric of their community. If elected, he would demand an audit of how billions of federal pandemic aid have been spent, and hold government bureaucrats accountable for all budgetary and policy decisions.

As far as inflation is concerned, he said that “residents deserve robust tax relief that would include reducing middle class income tax rates.”

According to his bio, Cowan grew up in upstate New York and joined the Navy at age 17. He was trained by the Navy as a mechanic and turned those skills into a career in the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning industry. He later earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of New Haven and, after working for a Fortune 500 company, he started his own small engineering business earlier this year.

He is a member of Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church in New Haven.

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“Mullin” From Page 1

pretty soon neighbors chipped in and she began organizing a Neighborhood Association. She considered running for City Council, but did not meet the one-year residency requirement.

In the meantime, the scandal broke about State Rep. Michael DiMassa, a Democrat, and three other West Haven residents stealing from the city coffers dollars that were meant to bridge Corona-related expenses, both for businesses, residents, organizations and the city government.

So, now she is running to unseat Democrat James Maroney and represent the residents of the 14th Senatorial District, which encompasses Milford, Orange, and parts of Woodbridge.

“It’s the craziest thing I’ve ever done,” she says. But with her upbeat attitude, it is easy for her to reach out and talk to people in this neck of the woods. She mingled at the Woodbridge Like Me Day, and wrote enthusiastically in a Facebook post that “Woodbridge Like Me Day” was “a celebration of culture, acceptance, inclusion and reflection of the diver-

sity of this beautiful community.” To which an Orange resident responded, “Awesome day! There is a huge difference between celebrating and accepting all people vs equity and indoctrination.”

Calling West Haven “the epicenter of corruption,” Mullin pledges that if elected, she would make sure that changes would be made and better oversight provided.

On her campaign website, kimriemullin.com, in a brief video she paints a rosy picture of The American Dream, “The American Dream should include affordable, clean, safe neighborhoods,” she says. “I support our police, I support affordability and livability. We should have accountable and transparent government and thriving schools...Sometimes you have to make changes to make things better.”

Mullins is the owner of Hudson and Sound , a real estate brokerage. She serves as the director for the Mid-Fairfield County Board of Realtors. She teaches real estate licensing courses. She holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Iona University, graduating magna cum laude.



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Friends of the Library – An Afternoon with Connecticut Songwriter, Meredith Rose, Saturday, October 29, 2:00pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road offering a mix of original music and favorites from the 60s to the present. Use your judgement regarding masking.

Friends of the Library – Book Sale, Saturday, November 5, 10am-2pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road, best sellers, non-fiction, and children’s books along with CDs and DVDs will be available for purchase at bargain prices. Wear a mask and bring a bag to carry your purchases home.

Christmas Market – Saturday November 19, 2022, 10am-1pm, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 283 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT, featuring ornaments, toys & gifts Inside in the parish hall basement - go down the ramp at side facing the church. For more information, contact Mrs. Marty Mautte, c/o the church, 203-874-2701.

Friends of the Library – Program of classic blues music featuring “Ramblin Dan” Stevens, Saturday, November 19, 2:00pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road. Reservations required, online at www.case-memoriallibrary.org or 203-891-2170. Please consider wearing a mask.



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OPINION

Amity Budget Surpluses
Equal Over-Taxation!

Fair Way to Handle Surpluses: Return Funds to the Towns

BY MATTHEW T. GIGLIETTI CPA
CHAIRMAN, WOODBRIDGE BOARD OF FINANCE

Since Amity announced that it would no longer be returning budgetary surpluses to the three towns and the taxpayers who provided the funds in the first place, the chair of the Amity board has written several lengthy letters explaining why this change is necessary and in the best interest of all parties concerned.

This change to not return budget surpluses to the Towns came about based on an obscure and until recently unknown state statute which asserts that surplus funds should be used to offset the next year’s budget. For the past 15-16 years Amity has refunded surpluses to the three towns in proportion to their contributions to Amity. Over this period of time, Amity’s auditing firm never once indicated in the audit report that this was improper.

Never once did their lawyers indicate it was improper. Never once did the State of Connecticut, which reviews all reports, indicate this was improper. Interestingly, the current chair of the Amity board, while he was a regular board member, voted for the budgets and thus endorsed the return of funds to the three towns. Now, he is insisting that Amity must retain all surplus funds to be used at its discretion, instead of returning the money to the three towns.

When you consider that over the years these surpluses have amounted to millions of dollars, one year the surplus was over three million, it seems unconscionable that they should retain these unspent taxpayer dollars. If they budget \$50,000,000 to fund Amity but only spend \$47,000,000, they have overtaxed the taxpayers of the three towns \$3,000,000 dollars and should return this \$3,000,000 to the three towns. Remember budgetary surpluses equal over taxation! Repeated bloated budgets take resources away from other needs our towns have, including elementary education. Amity is not the only school system that taxpayers support.

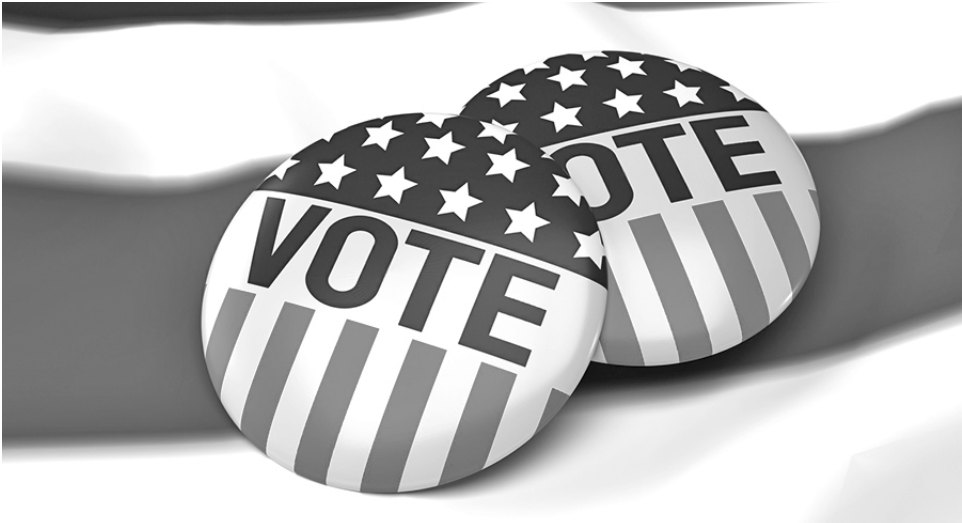
Now Amity will tell you they are going to use all surplus funds to offset the next year’s budget and thus reduce the amount the taxpayers will have to contribute. Is that after they fund their unending list of projects? The surplus could easily disappear into the next year’s budget without any transparency to the taxpayers. Trust me, provide me with the detailed budget and I could reduce the Amity budget by \$2,000,000 with little effort.

In my view, the only fair way to handle these massive surpluses is to return the funds -- in good faith -- to whoever supplied them in the first place. That, of course, is the taxpayers from Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge.

I urge all taxpayers to be aware of what is going on at Amity. In nearly fifty years residing in Woodbridge, I have never seen the massive level of dissatisfaction with Amity, in both budgeting, financial, and education related issues. Board meetings are never ending due to the high volume of public comments critical of what is going on. Not to mention the concern about the amount of time of student time spent on progressive agenda issues, leaving less time for learning the basics. Many parents believe this shift is the root cause of the dramatic drop in Amity’s rankings among CT secondary schools. Amity used to be in the Top 5 and has plummeted to #22 in the latest ranking.

It’s a sad commentary on the state of Amity, and the dissatisfaction appears to be gaining momentum. I know many people who are unhappy and they are highly respected, genuine people who are concerned about the direction Amity has taken.

As far as the Amity budget and finances are concerned, a large group of financial people will be getting together in the near future to assess the financial situation at Amity and carefully review the budget and to keep all taxpayers informed as to financial developments. So, there is much more to come as we begin to provide taxpayers with all the information needed to understand Amity’s finances.





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Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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Rocky SalpertoRocky@orangetownnews.com
Marlene SilversteinMarlene@orangetownnews.com
J. Michael KrizMike@orangetownnews.com
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Below are the next two issue dates & deadlines of the Orange Town News.
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
November 18 Thanksgiving Issue.....	November 11
December 16 Holiday Issue	December 9

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

FROM OUR READERS

Orange Is and Always Has Been A Wonderful Place to Live

Recently there has been a great deal of negativity regarding the removal and disposal of the old Firelite sign. Having grown up in town, like so many of you, I fondly remember riding my bike for a cone at Dip Top, or crossing the street to Firelite for candy at Race Brook Pharmacy or a cookie at Wolfe’s Bakery. Often my friends and I would stare longingly into the cookie case until we were offered a free one. These are treasured memories that bring a smile to my face, as I reflect on my good fortune to have spent most of my life here in Orange.

While I understand many feel nostalgic about the Firelite sign, I think the blame and anger that has been cast is far from productive. With or without that sign, Orange is and has always been a wonderful place to live, raise a family, and be part of a loving community. It is true that much in the world has changed and Orange is not exempt from that, however, I believe it is still a great blessing to be able to call this town home. If you’ve lost that feeling, I hope you’ll find your way back to it or find your way to another place which offers you what you once felt.

Counting my blessings,
Nancy Bencivengo

Neighborhood Residents Implore Town to Fight Lawsuit

The residents of the Walnut Hill Road and Green Hill Road neighborhood applaud the Orange Plan and Zoning Commission’s decision to deny the recent application by the owners of Stappa Vineyard to have 21 outdoor tables, add 31 additional parking spaces and outdoor lighting at their vineyard on Route 34. Had the application been approved, the vineyard would have been allowed 70 outdoor seats and parking to accommodate more than 300 people at any given time. Such an intense commercial use in a residential zone not only far exceeds the 10 outdoor seats the vineyard is permitted to have under town regulations for

outdoor restaurant dining, but more importantly is a far cry from the “farm stand-winery” that the Commission approved years ago.

Since opening to the public a year and half ago, the outdoor activity at the vineyard has disturbed the peace and quiet that the Walnut Hill Road and Green Hill Road neighborhood has enjoyed since its original development. The vineyard has had outdoor music and raucous crowds that can be heard clearly from the abutting neighbors’ backyards and in the streets.

Now, the vineyard owners have brought a lawsuit against the Commission seeking to overturn the denial of their application and have the court sanction an event style venue in a residential zone. This is no trivial or isolated lawsuit that only impacts the residents of Walnut Hill Road and Green Hill Road. The owners of farmland and open space in town will be watching. Any outcome that permits any level of outdoor activity more than 10 seats at the vineyard will set a dangerous precedent and pave the way for future development of other event style venues in residential zones. It will also send the message that the town’s outdoor seating regulations are inconsequential and can be ignored.

The residents of the Walnut Hill Road and Green Hill Road neighborhood therefore implore the Commission, the First Selectman, the Board of Selectmen and all town officials to vigorously fight this lawsuit and enforce the regulations. The character of Orange as a town with quaint, kid friendly neighborhoods is at stake.
William Mennillo, Rebecca Mennillo, Alessandro Gomez, Sonia Gomez, Jonathan Glenney, Chelsea Glenney, Owen Weaver, Christine Weaver, Michael Esposito, Jacqueline Esposito, Dennis Gorelick, Kathleen Gorelick, Mercedes Fernandes, Fernando Fernades, Brian Smith, Elizabeth McMahon, Evan Louros, Bernadette Louros, Paul Bear, Aimee Bear, Nick Dottori, Dara Dottori, Rudy Zimmermann, Carla Zimmermann, Alice Bevvino, Frank Bevvino, Meina Wang, Ken Carney, Paige Carney, Changqing Song, Rongzhen Li,

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

From the Amity Board of Education

By Paul Davis, Amity BOE Chair

Regional School District Unexpended Funds

At the October 17, 2022, Amity Board of Education meeting, Board members were able to discuss with the Board’s legal counsel and the Board’s financial auditor the CT State Statutes (Section 10-51) governing regional school district financial operations. Of concern was the statutory language that states, “the board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following fiscal year.”

Attorney Floyd Dugas addressed the use of the word “shall” in the statute. He clarified with Board members that “shall” is generally applied as a mandatory term – unless clarifying language allows for some discretion. Statute 10-51c does include any additional clarifying language. He advised the Board of their responsibility to adhere to state statutes.

Superintendent Jennifer Byars and Director of Finance Terry Lumas provided summary research on how other regional school districts comply with the statute. While there was variation among the twelve regional school districts surveyed, there were some common practices identified. None of the regional school districts apply an estimated surplus of the current fiscal year to offset the next fiscal year. All twelve regional school districts wait until the fiscal year close on June 30th and the full financial audit is completed in mid-winter before using the unexpended funds. Five of the districts apply the audited unexpended funds to the next fiscal year’s budget. For example, funds remaining at the end of fiscal year 2022 are audited and identified as unexpended funds in fiscal year 2023, and will be applied toward the next fiscal year, which is fiscal year 2024. Five of the districts put the audited funds into reserve accounts – funding capital non-recurring, medical insurance reserves, pension funds, or a general contingency account. Several districts spend down the projected surplus on large capital projects late in the fiscal year so that a minimum amount of the budget becomes unexpended funds. Only one regional school district returns the audited surplus to their sending towns by way of a check.

Mr. Michael VanDeventer shared his recommendation on the best practice for the application of the surplus funds from the perspective of an accountant and auditor. He stated his opinion that the application of the audited funds to reduce the appropriation for the next year’s budget is a fiscally sound way to comply with the

statute. He reiterated the opinion of Attorney Dugas that willful failure to comply with a statute would be a fiscal liability for the district.

The BOE will finalize discussion and possible action on the best manner in which to comply with the statute at the November 14, 2022, Amity Board meeting.

Board Tables Decision on Amity Continuing Education Program

The Board tabled action on disbanding the Amity Continuing Education Program until the November 14, 2022, Board meeting. Interest in the Amity Continuing Education Program has been declining since 2013. The number of program offerings, actual courses, and enrollment had been decreasing and the suspension of course offerings during the pandemic has failed to rebound. Additionally, town Park & Rec programs, Youth Service Bureaus, offer nearby robust continuing education programs and online learning opportunities are providing attendees and facilitators with a wider array of options other than the Amity Continuing Education Program. Additionally, an open position for a Program Director remains vacant. Current classes will run through December; there are no classes planned for the spring session. The most successful program, the summer theater camp for students, will continue through the Drama Student Activities Account.

Policy Committee Updates

In response to concerns expressed last spring and more recently about student behaviors and discipline, the Board of Education Policy Committee is in the process of reviewing all the policies in the 5131 series. These are the policies that govern student conduct and discipline. Included with this review are updates in our bullying policy in response to changes in state statutes and concerns brought to the attention of the Board. Additionally, following the September Board of Education meeting, and as a follow-up to public comment, the policy committee is developing a policy and regulation on the selection of materials for the library media center, as well as updating the policy governing the selection and adoption of textbooks. As with all committee work, recommendations are forwarded to the full Board for review, changes, and final approval.

PSAT Testing Day

On Tuesday, October 12, 2022, all

See “Board of Education” On Page 7



Community Mourns Loss of Beloved Teacher

By Bettina Thiel
Orange Town News Correspondent

Many Orange residents were moved to embrace and offer support to a local family recently, after the father, a long-time Amity shop teacher, died unexpectedly. Bill Battaglia, 46, left behind his wife of 17 years, Liz, who is battling breast cancer, and their two children, Duke and Stella, 11 and 8 years old.

Bill was a career and technical education teacher, running the tech ed classes at Amity High School for some 17 years until he took a job with Waterbury Public Schools three years ago. He recently left the classroom to work for Technical Education Solutions, Inc., a company that counsels schools and provides professional development for teachers using manufacturing equipment. It was at his place of work that he was found unresponsive in his car on October 4.

Since this career switch happened just a few weeks before his passing, his life insurance had lapsed. Cindy Sullivan, Liz’s sister, set up a Go Fund Me page in his honor. More than 600 donors have made contributions, collecting well above the \$50,000 goal. Sullivan said they are keeping the page up for as long as there are contributions coming in. The family’s predicament has prompted contributions from people as far away as California and the UK.

Liz is Special Education director for Madison Public Schools. Luckily, she can manage to do quite a bit of work from home. She is undergoing chemotherapy and the cancer seems to respond well, Sullivan said. The children found comfort in going to school. They wanted to return to school soon after their father’s funeral. “The school has been incredible,” Sullivan said.

It was the kids’ particular concern whether they would have to move, Sullivan said. The money collected through the Go Fund Me page is designed to ensure they can stay where they are.

Sullivan said her sister found comfort by the community support they experienced, and even smiled a little when, at the funeral, former students of her husband’s spoke about how he had changed their lives.

At the Amity Board of Education meeting on October 17, Orange resident Glen Ketchian addressed the board about issues; but first he commemorated Bill Battaglia, saying, “he was an inspiration to my oldest son.”

“Billy had an amazing aptitude for all things mechanical,” his obituary read. “He had a special fondness for cars, boats, and motorcycles. He always shared his mechanical expertise whether it was fixing a car, a boat, or nailing a roof, he was always there to help a friend.”

And that love was returned, whether he knew it or not. “I was a student of Billy’s,” wrote one young man as a message to the family. “He pretty much is the reason I’m in the auto field, I wouldn’t have been here without him... sorry for the loss of a great man.”

Attention Teachers!

We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!
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EDUCATION

APT Sponsors Quinnipiac University Symposium

Recently, Kyle Brandy MSPT/C-PS, and a graduate of Quinnipiac University’s master’s degree program in Physical Therapy, returned to the university, participating in a panel discussion. A partner in Amity Physical Therapy, Brandy brought 18 years of physical therapy experience to the session; the panel concentrated on the graduate students in physical therapy and their abilities to succeed in a competitive environment upon graduation with doctoral degrees.

The first event of its kind at the university’s graduate school, discussion focused on the pragmatics of pay schedules, benefit structure, interview

process, social networking sites and mentorship.

Benefitting both third year graduate students and current DPT (doctoral) candidates, Amity Physical Therapy’s platinum sponsorship helped to highlight the more practical side of physical therapy for students entering the marketplace as future clinicians.

No stranger to discussion groups through online zoom presentations and other formats, Kyle Brandy and other clinicians in the practice author helpful blogs on the website at www.amitypt.com. He can be reached at 203-389-4593 in the Woodbridge office.

“Board of Education” From Page 6

ARHS students in grades 9-11 took the grade-level specific PSAT test during the school day. This is the first year that Amity Regional High School has tested all three grades. Results of the assessments will be used to guide instructional improvement efforts throughout the school year. Students in grades 9-11 expressed appreciation for the opportunity to practice on these tests before moving on to the SAT later in their school experience.

Grade 12 students were encouraged to use the day to work on their post-secondary planning and the college application process. The ARHS Counseling Department is commended for planning and directing the greatly-expanded testing program for this year – nearly 1000 tests were administered to Amity students.

OBOA Day of Dialogue

The high school’s sixth annual One Book One Amity (OBOA) Day of Dialogue, focused on the Summer 2022 theme of “Going Global”, took place on Thursday, October 13, 2022. Students

attended a keynote presentation from IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), Connecticut’s largest refugee resettlement agency, and two workshops of their choice selected from more than 30 options presented by a combination of ARHS faculty members and volunteers from the community.

Amity Transition Academy and University of New Haven Expand Partnership

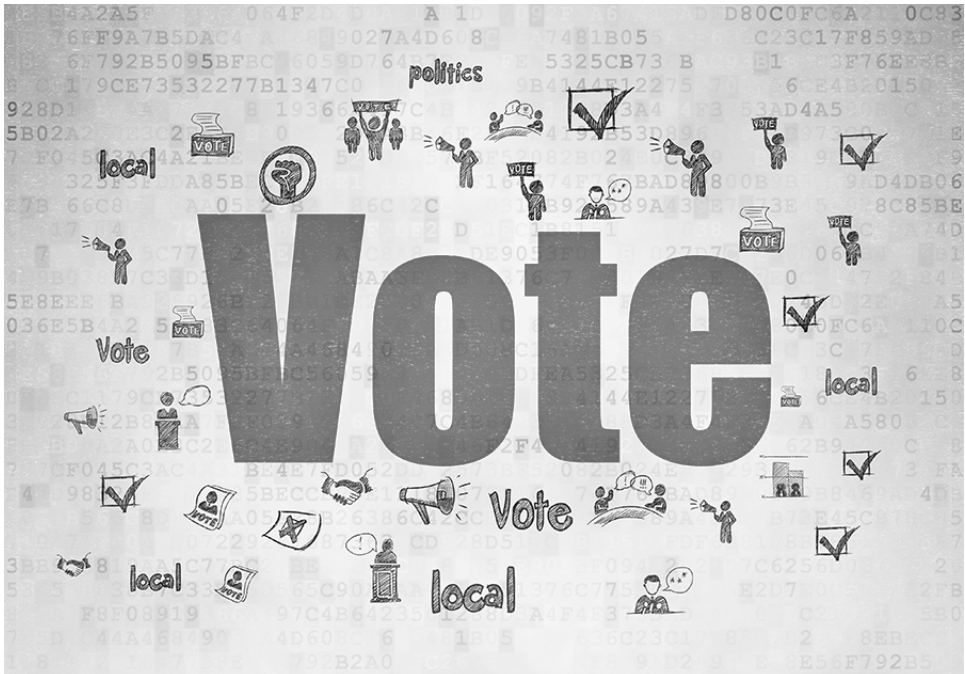
The University of New Haven Clinic Coordinator in the School of Health Services, and the Amity Pupil Services Department have been collaborating to develop school-based experiences for students in the Speech and Language Program at the University of New Haven. Through this anticipated partnership, students from the University of New Haven will be completing clinical practicum and internship experiences across the Amity school community with a specific focus on the Amity Transition Academy. The growing partnership between Amity and the University of New Haven will continue to provide our students with unique and beneficial experiences.

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of November 2022



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

1st	Economic Development Comm	5:30 pm	Town Hall
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm	7:00 pm	Town Hall
2nd	Conservation Comm	7:00 pm	HPCC
7th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Country Fair Cmte	7:30 pm	HPCC
8th	Board of Health	7:00 pm	HPCC
9th	Board of Selectmen	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Inland Wetlands Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
10th	Community Services	7:00 pm	HPCC
	OGAT	7:30 pm	Town Hall
14th	Traffic Authority	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Amity Board of Education	6:30 pm	Woodbridge
15th	Town Plan & Zoning Comm	7:00 pm	Town Hall
16th	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Park & Recreation Comm	7:30 pm	Town Hall
17th	Library Comm	7:00 pm	Library
	Pension Board	7:00 pm	Town Hall
21st	Family Counseling Advisory Council	9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education	7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
	Board of Finance	7:00 pm	Town Hall
28th	Youth Services	7:30 pm	HPCC



OPINION

Will Budget Surplus be Returned to Taxpayers?

Common Questions About the Amity Budget and Surplus (Part 1 of 2)

BY DR. K. SUDHIR
AMITY BOE AND AFC MEMBER

A recent Op-Ed published in Orange and Woodbridge Town News stated that the Amity BOE voted not to return the surplus to towns. This is the first of a 2-part article to answer common questions and clarify misconceptions about the Amity budget surplus. The second part will be published next month.

1. *We saw the Op-Ed in the Orange and Woodbridge Town News with the headline "Amity Votes Not to Return \$1.5 Million Surplus to Towns." We are shocked that the BOE would not return unspent money from the budget to the towns and the taxpayers. What is going on?*

NO SUCH VOTE WAS TAKEN by the BOE. This article and the headline are factually wrong.

Here is the story: When there are unspent funds from the budget, the Amity BOE traditionally appropriates a portion of the funds for one-time nonrecurring capital improvements as allowed by state statute, and then returns the remaining funds to the towns in the following year. The towns then use the returned funds at their discretion for other town needs, even though taxpayers voted the expenses only for the school district.

Before he became BOE chair, Paul Davis noticed that the current process may be violating state statute, which requires that unspent funds be used only to reduce the school district's budget in the following year. So, he requested the administration get a legal opinion. Connecticut General Statute §10-51 subsection 5(c) states: "*The Board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following year.*"

For the September 12 BOE meeting, the lawyers and auditors gave written opinions that the statute requires that unspent funds be used only to reduce future expenses of Amity; they cannot be returned to towns and spent on non-education items. To learn more, the Amity BOE invited the auditors and lawyers to the October 17 meeting. They reiterated their earlier opinions in person.

The administration also surveyed 12 other regional school districts. Ten of these districts use unspent funds towards future budgets or capital reserve and are in compliance with the statute.

The board will discuss the issue again in November. Though the **Board cannot vote on whether to follow a law or not**, it will decide on how best to return unspent funds to taxpayers

without violating the law.

2. *Will taxpayers and towns be adversely affected by the change, if Amity BOE decides to follow the recommendation to use the unspent funds to offset the following year's expenses?*

Practically, there will be no change to taxpayers' costs as in either case, the unspent funds will cover a cost that ultimately has to be paid by the taxpayer. But there are benefits for taxpayers and the town in following the law, rather than continue a practice advised as illegal by auditors and lawyers.

A.) GREATER TRANSPARENCY: Directly using unspent funds to reduce the next year's Amity expenses is more transparent as the spending is what taxpayers voted for. When the funds are returned to towns, they use taxpayer-approved school funding for other town needs without taxpayer oversight. Using unspent funds to reduce the next year's education expenses keeps money where taxpayers approved.

B.) REMOVING LEGAL RISK: Not following the law puts the Amity school district, the BOE, and all member towns at risk of future litigation costs.

3. *Why did the Amity BOE retain \$929,175 of FY 21-22 surplus funds (~ 1.8% of the budget) to support the capital reserve fund instead of returning it to taxpayers?*

Many board members' natural inclination was to return all surplus to taxpayers. But after careful consideration of the costs and benefits to taxpayers and students, the board members ALL voted UNANIMOUSLY to fund two major items in the school's capital plan: (1) replacement of leaky roofs in the two middle schools (about \$710K) and (2) long overdue replacement of musical instruments (about \$190K). In addition, members voted to allocate about \$25K for preliminary costs (to obtain bids, architectural drawings etc.) to upgrade the lecture hall.

Remember capital costs will be incurred by taxpayers one way or another. Using current unspent funds for these capital costs NOW is prudent and cost-effective because: (1) delaying roof replacement can potentially increase future costs from mold, damaged walls; (2) issuing bonds for such relatively small capital expenses will incur significant bonding costs.

Indeed, state law allows school districts to appropriate part of the surplus (up to 2% of budget) for capital expenses, because when used prudently, it saves money for taxpayers.

Amity Board Chair Reflects on Budget Issues

BY PAUL DAVIS
CHAIR, AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

On Thursday June 9, 2022, two months prior to my election as ABOE Chair, I appeared before the Orange Board of Selectmen as a private citizen with questions related to the return of unexpended funds by the regional school district to the three towns. After reading four months of critical articles about District Budgeting released by the vice chair of the Orange Board of Finance, I became concerned that maybe we needed to look at the issues more closely. I believed that funds appropriated for the Amity Regional School district by the voters in the three towns, which make up the district, are designated strictly for use by the school district. Following that line of reasoning I felt that any funds returned to the towns should be recycled into the following year's Amity Budget thereby benefiting the taxpayers directly by reducing the need for greater increases in the mill rates. Members of the Board of Selectmen did not agree and felt that the town should decide how the funds are used, so I decided to research the issue more thoroughly.

I started my research with the State Statutes (Section 10-51) governing regional school district financial operations. I was somewhat shocked and surprised when I found only one sentence related to unexpended funds, "The board shall use any budget appropriation which has not been expended by the end of the fiscal year to reduce the net expenses of the district for the following fiscal year." Having served as a State Representative for ten years using statutory language, the term "shall," unless there is some sort of qualifier, is almost always mandatory. The question of sending money back to the towns arose immediately. Is it possible, after all these years of returning unexpended funds to our towns, that we have been violating state statutes? I forwarded this information to the administration and asked if we could get a legal opinion which we did from our attorneys who are experts on municipal and education law and from the State Department of Education. Both indicated that the statute is very clear on the handling of unexpended funds.

Nowhere in State Statutes could I find any language which permits regional districts to return unexpended budgeted funds to the towns.

On Friday, September 30 I read several newly released news articles and opinions about Amity finances, many with inaccurate, exaggerated, condescending, and false information. A headline read "Amity Votes Not to Return 1.5 Million Surplus to Towns". This is simply not true. No such vote, nor any discussion about this ever took place. The Board is currently working with our auditors and legal team to determine what course of action is best, within the law, to get funds back to the taxpayers. Superintendent Byars never said she made a request to lawyers about regional school systems and budget surpluses. She asked for a specific legal interpretation of a State Statute; it was done at my request, and it certainly is not an obscure statute found by a group of lawyers. I also read statements that the BOE overrules the Amity Finance Committee. None of our committees have authority to rule on anything. They can only make recommendations which are then considered by the whole board within the context of what is best for the District. Overwhelmingly the Board generally supports the recommendations of the committees as they have done on almost every budget presentation in recent years.

Perhaps the most stunning implication was that the ABOE was acting improperly in not sending unexpended funds back to the towns just because it is a State Statute. What kind of lesson would we be sending to the students of our district in finding out we were doing something illegal and were just going to continue to do it?

I take no pleasure in feeling the need to respond to so many published inaccuracies about Amity School District finances and policies. I would ask the public to view our meetings for yourself, send in questions, make suggestions, and become part of the process. To our elected officials, positive input is always welcome. We all do a better job for our communities when we work together. Our kids are the future. We can always do more.

ELECTION 2022

Kathy Kennedy Seeks Re-Election In 119th District

An Amity graduate, State Rep. Kathy Kennedy, R-119, is very familiar with Orange. Although she has lived and worked in Milford for most of her life, she grew up here. And now she is serving in the House of Representatives, representing a portion of Milford and a part of Orange. She is seeking a third term.

At the Founder’s Day ceremony back in May, she recalled how her parents brought her to Orange for the first time to see the spot where they were going to build a house. She was 9 years old, and from New Haven. Her first encounter was not a happy one, since she stepped on a water snake – a memory that stuck. But she had good memories, too. “It was a wonderful place to grow up in,” she said.

In the most recent legislative session, she was a member of the influential Appropriations Committee; the Public Health Committee; the Education Committee and a ranking member of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

She co-sponsored a number of initiatives, including an Act to improve online privacy protections; an act to establish a supermarket food donation program; to require recordkeeping by motor vehicle parts recyclers when purchasing catalytic converters.

To curb juvenile delinquency, the Legislature passed a bi-partisan “Act Concerning Juvenile Justice and Services, Firearms Background Checks, And Larceny Of A Motor Vehicle.” It provides for (A) more immediate arraignment and services for juvenile offenders, (B) electronic monitoring in

certain circumstances, (C) expansion of provisions imposing upon a child special juvenile probation in the case of murder or first degree manslaughter, and (D) expansion of programs serving juveniles and reducing crime. It also requires the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection to inform the Chief of Police or other appropriate official of the town in which a firearm permit applicant resides if such applicant fails a background check.

As for her work going forward, she signed the Connecticut House Republicans’ “Contract With Connecticut.” It spells out in some detail what initiatives the Republicans will bring to the Legislature in the next term.

“An affordable Connecticut - A safer Connecticut - Support families - Government accountability and transparency - Local control. These are the topics I’m hearing about at the doorstep. This should not just be a Republican initiative. The Democrats should join Republicans in making this a reality.”

- It includes:
- › Cutting the income tax from 5% to 4% for families making less than \$175,000 a year and index state income tax brackets so that taxes paid on earnings do not outpace inflation;
 - › Repealing the highway use tax on trucks that starts in January 2023;
 - › Increasing the property tax credit from \$300 to \$500 to all families filing state income taxes;
 - › Reducing the sales tax and eliminate the 1% meals tax;

› Repealing taxes and fees which cost more to collect than the revenue they generate.

The Protecting Our Communities Act:

- › Provide law enforcement the tools needed to keep us safe;
- › Enhance penalties for crimes committed using a stolen vehicle or stolen firearms;
- › Remove certain violent crimes from being eligible for clean slate criminal record erasure;
- › Expand the circumstances under which juveniles charged with certain violent crimes are automatically transferred to the regular criminal docket;
- › Provide adequate funding and resources for the Office of Victim Advocate.

The Families First Act: “We will ensure that families are front and center when it comes to decisions about their family members’ education and health care, while protecting them from fraud and abuse.”

- › Require impact statements and reporting on policies affecting children in public schools and child-care settings any time a health emergency or alert is declared;
- › Assist all Boards of Education to include all curriculum materials on their websites and to allow for public comment on all agendas;
- › Add two legislative appointments to the State Board of Education, which shall be two parents—one from a district with a student population of under 1,000 students K-12 and one from a district with

student population of over 3,000 students K-12;

- › Ensure mobile crisis services include 24 hours, 7 days a week;
- › Protect senior citizens from fraud and abuse.

The Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA), has endorsed Rep. Kennedy’s candidacy based on her support of pro-business laws, with issues ranging from developing a plan for women returning to Post-COVID workplace, addressing manufacturing jobs, establishing licensing reforms, and creating a commercial driver’s license training program.

In addition, she earned the endorsement of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) which advocates on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners.

“Connecticut’s post-Covid recovery can only happen if state government supports small business,” she wrote. “The viability and vitality of small businesses in our state is crucial to getting the economy back and putting people back to work.”

The Amity High School graduate attended Southern Connecticut State University. She worked for the city of Milford for 28 years as an administrative assistant. Kennedy volunteered as a patient care volunteer for Connecticut Hospice in Branford from 2013 to 2016, served as chair of United Way giving from local government officials, she is a past member of the Milford Prevention Council and a Faith Formations Teacher at St. Agnes Church. She has also been a volunteer coach for the Milford United Soccer Club.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8. YOUR VOTE COUNTS. VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8.

State of Connecticut
Official Ballot

Orange, Connecticut

Assembly District 114Assembly District 117Assembly District 119

State Election

November 8, 2022

Congressional District 3
Senatorial District 14

OFFICE PARTY	1 Governor and Lieutenant Governor Vote for One	2 United States Senator Vote for One	3 Representative in Congress Vote for One	4 State Senator Vote for One	5 State Representative Vote for One	5 State Representative Vote for One	5 State Representative Vote for One	6 Secretary of the State Vote for One	7 Treasurer Vote for One	8 Comptroller Vote for One	9 Attorney General Vote for One	10 Judge of Probate Vote for One	11 Registrar of Voters Vote for One
DEMOCRATIC PARTY	1A Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2A Richard Blumenthal	3A Rosa L. DeLauro	4A James Maroney	5A Mary Welander	5A	5A Mike Smith	6A Stephanie Thomas	7A Erick Russell	8A Sean Scanlon	9A William Tong	10A Ben Gettinger	11A Janice Casey
REPUBLICAN PARTY	1B Bob Stefanowski and Laura Devlin	2B Leora R. Levy	3B Lesley DeNardis	4B Kim-Marie Mullin	5B Daniel Cowan	5B Charles Ferraro	5B Kathy Kennedy	6B Dominic Rapini	7B Harry Arora	8B Mary Fay	9B Jessica Kordas	10B Win Smith	11B Valerie Spinaci
GRIEBEL FRANK FOR CT PARTY	1C Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2C	3C	4C	5C	5C	5C	6C	7C	8C	9C	10C	11C
INDEPENDENT PARTY	1D Robert Hotelling and Stewart "Chip" Beckett	2D	3D Amy F. Chai	4D James Maroney	5D Mary Welander	5D Charles Ferraro	5D Kathy Kennedy	6D Cynthia R. Jennings	7D Jennifer Baldwin	8D Sean Scanlon	9D A.P. Pascarella	10D	11D
WORKING FAMILIES PARTY	1E Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz	2E Richard Blumenthal	3E	4E	5E Mary Welander	5E Laura A. Fucci	5E Mike Smith	6E Stephanie Thomas	7E Erick Russell	8E Sean Scanlon	9E William Tong	10E	11E
LIBERTARIAN PARTY	1F	2F	3F	4F	5F	5F	5F	6F	7F JoAnna Laiscell	8F	9F	10F	11F
GREEN PARTY	1G	2G	3G Justin Paglino	4G	5G	5G	5G	6G	7G	8G	9G Ken Krayeske	10G	11G
WRITE-IN VOTES	1H	2H	3H	4H	5H	5H	5H	6H	7H	8H	9H	10H	11H

VOTE ON THE QUESTION(S)

☐ YES ☐ NO

1. Shall the Constitution of the State be amended to permit the General Assembly to provide for early voting?

SAMPLE

32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

ELECTION 2022

Mike Smith Vies For 119th Seat

Mike Smith, a political insider who up until now has not had his own name on the ballot, is joining the fray this year. The Milford Democrat is challenging Rep. Kathy Kennedy for her seat representing the people in the 119th District.

On his website, mikesmith119, he lists four issues as being close to his heart: Education, the environment, healthcare and senior citizens' needs.

Being a product of Milford's public schools, he comes from a family of educators. He states that schools must be properly funded and focused on preparing students for the job of the future. He adds that "we must partner with our educators to provide the best opportunity for our children's future."

His love of the outdoors began while exploring the outdoors with his family. This instilled a love and sense of duty to protect our environment. "Mike will ensure our communities have resources to adapt to our changing climate."

As for healthcare, his own experience with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

at a young age has shaped his outlook on life. "Healthcare matters to me," he wrote in a campaign letter. "Healthcare should not be determined by your access to affordable insurance." He will work to reduce financial ruin and hardship from the healthcare experience.

He is cross-endorsed by the Working Families Party. Organizations that endorsed his candidacy include Planned Parenthood, the state AFL-CIO, the Sierra Club, several unions (SEIU Healthcare, Connecticut Employees Union Independent, and the Congress of CT Community Colleges; as well as AFSCME), several gun-control groups (CT Against Gun Violence; Moms Demand Action) and The Connecticut Chapter of the National Organization for Women.

He is the principal of Soundview Business and Campaign Consulting, a "government relations consulting firm focused on developing winning strategies." He has worked in Hartford in a number of advocacy roles, and was Former Secretary of State Denise Merrill's campaign manager in 2014.

"Maroney" From Page 1

my focus."

In the most recent legislative session, Maroney served as co-chair of the General Law Committee and the Legislative Regulation Review Committee; also, vice chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee, and member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee, as well as the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee and the Insurance and Real Estate Committee.

His signature piece of legislation in this legislative session was to help pass strong consumer data privacy laws, the Act Concerning Personal Data Privacy And Online Monitoring, which had bipartisan support. The statute grants consumers the right to access, correct, delete and obtain a copy of personal data, and to opt out of the personal data mining for the purposes of targeted advertising, certain sales of personal data.

Maroney also points to tax cuts in the 2022 state budget benefitting families, namely a \$250 per child tax rebate for up to three children. The budget also increased the property tax credit and the number of people eligible for the property tax credit.

Despite the tax cuts, the budget also made "historic investments in student mental health, and early childhood education, protecting the environment, and more," he wrote.

Maroney supported legislation ben-

efiting both state police and veterans.

For the troopers, he supported a pay increase and health coverage for on-the-job post-traumatic stress for all police officers. He also supported a \$1million student loan forgiveness for police officers throughout.

For veterans, the budget provided for continued funding for veterans to attend manufacturing certificate programs; providing families up to \$1,800 for funeral expenses; and extending benefits to individuals released from service with any other than honorable discharge.

On the environmental front, he supported measures to move away from tail pipe emissions by making electric vehicles and e-bikes more affordable through rebates; providing more charging stations; and creating a grant program to switch school buses from diesel to electric. There is also a push underway to update traffic signals to reduce emissions from idling.

He has helped channel state funds to the towns he represents, namely West Haven: \$193,000 to the police department for the purchase of body cameras, dash cameras and video storage devices; Milford: \$277,000 for the Bureau of Aquaculture for repairs and renovations; \$600,000 for Bridges Healthcare Inc. to purchase a new HVAC system; \$67,000 for the police department for body cameras and dash cameras; \$750,000 to construct a walkway along the Wepawaug River; and Woodbridge: \$2.3 million

Ferraro Seeks Fourth Term

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

State Rep. Charles Ferraro, R-117, is a resident of West Haven in a district that encompasses parts of Milford, Orange, and West Haven. He is running for his fourth term, and is being cross-endorsed by the Independent Party.

According to Ballotpedia, a vote tracking website, he is not shown as having sponsored any bills this legislative session. However, he has lent his support to a number of initiatives.

As a ranking member on the Energy and Technology Committee, he points out in particular the establishment of a task force to study hydrogen power as an alternative fuel source. The bill creates a task force to study the potential for hydrogen-fueled energy, the regulations and laws needed, and examine sources of potential clean hydrogen, and finally, make recommendations for its application.

He also lent his support to a bill that codifies the goal of zero emission electricity by 2040. And, finally, he lent support to a bill that would add "public health concerns" to the list of considerations that PURA can consider when ordering the acquisition of a water company or water system.

He also supported An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health, which aims to address the mental health crisis among youth and to support families by growing the behavioral health

workforce, expanding treatment facilities, and increasing insurance coverage for mental health services. Additionally, the legislation funds a 988 suicide prevention hotline.

Although he did work with his colleagues across the aisle for bills in the interest of the constituents in his district, he did not support the state budget. In his campaign literature, he argues that with federal funds pouring into the state, the budget relies too much on "one-time gimmicks that will set up fiscal cliffs," he argues. It will lead to increased costs or program cuts in the future.

He said the budget put forward by the Republican Party would have provided \$1.2 billion in tax relief, with a reduced sales tax, extended gas tax, a reduced diesel tax, expanded property tax relief, among other things. I believe that [the budget] missed the mark on providing both immediate and sustainable relief for residents who are looking for a more affordable Connecticut."

Charles Ferraro earned a B.S. in biology from Southern Connecticut State University in 1974. Ferraro's career experience includes working as the owner, CEO and Grandmaster of West Haven Academy of Karate, Inc. He co-founded the Worldwide Tang Soo Do Family, which describes itself as "promoting world peace and improved human relations through the practice and sharing of martial arts."

early childhood education is therefore "an investment in both Connecticut's short term and long-term workforce."

Workforce Development: Last session Sen. Maroney worked with Senator Fonfara on a pilot program to create an Income Share Agreement to help increase the number of CDL licensed drivers in the state. They developed a pilot program to include other areas of workforce shortage that are critical to the state's economy.

Cost of Higher Education: Maroney is looking for ways to reduce costs for college. He will look at some of the drivers of the cost of education, such as energy costs, and also look at other creative methods of reducing college tuition.

James Maroney graduated from Jonathan Law High School then attended Yale University. In 1999, he founded First Choice College Placement, a college placement service. Maroney has served as president and founding member of the Milford Education Foundation and also served on the Milford Board of Education.

to convert the Old Firehouse into a community center.

Looking forward, he is hoping to continue his work in the areas of data privacy, early childhood education, workforce development and the cost of higher education.

Data Privacy: Senator Maroney plans to continue his work on data privacy and he is working with other legislators from around the country to develop controls for AI and Algorithmic Decision Making. This is a topic that impacts us all, as AI is now making decisions related to who to grant interviews to, insurance rates, healthcare, housing, and more. Further, he plans on looking at healthcare data that is not protected by HIPAA, yet still often extremely sensitive.

Early Childhood Education: During the pandemic, Connecticut has lost 20,000 childcare slots, he stated, and there are tens of thousands of children who are in need of quality early childhood education. As a consequence, many parents have been unable to return to work. Investing in

ELECTION 2022

FROM OUR READERS

Kim-Marie Mullin Knows the Community She will Represent

What does it take to be a good legislator in Hartford? An analysis of the position should make the requirements clear. A good senator should know the communities she represents. She should have a thorough knowledge of the citizens and the issues. A good Senator should be ready to take on new challenges, listen to people in and beyond her district and create a balance to get the job done for our towns. She should be comfortable working with new people and finding common ground with distant communities. A good Senator should have experience in public service. She should be skilled in building community support. She should know how to combine the input of local taxpayers and studied experts to create success.

Kim-Marie Mullin will be a GREAT Senator for Orange. She has demonstrated her ability to work in and build support with the community. She has developed working relationships with small-town officials across the state. As a local, small business owner Kim-Marie Mullin is not afraid to tackle the tough issues of budgets and conflicting information and purposes. Her local experience with small business has given her an understanding of the towns and their residents, and the joys and trials they face daily.

Kim-Marie Mullin has shown a deep understanding of local and statewide issues during a number of public forums. She has presented herself with self-assurance, considered and researched information and offered an attentive ear as people presented both their questions and concerns.

Kim-Marie Mullin is clearly quali-

fied to represent Orange in Hartford. She is the woman we need representing the 14th District in the State Legislature. Vote for Kim-Marie Mullin on November 8th not only for the success of our communities, but the entire state of Connecticut. We will all be better off for her service.

Anthony P. Scarinzi

No Longer Feel Safe in Our Community

It's a shame that we no longer feel safe in our community. I find myself looking over my shoulder at the gas station, or in the parking lots along the Boston Post Road. Public safety in this state is becoming a serious problem. The headlines speak for themselves. I now lock my car doors when buying gas as a precaution that someone will steal my pocketbook out of my car as has happened to other women.

Who would even think of leaving their front door open and unlocked with just a screen door today? That is how I grew up in Orange. Today cars are broken into and pocketbooks stolen while at the gym or taking a walk at the community center in our town.

Does anyone really believe that the rise in crime is a myth, or concocted by fearmongering Republicans that are lying to you? Crime is on the rise in every town in Connecticut, regardless of political affiliation. Career criminals who carjacked a mother in broad daylight (this happened in North Haven) or shot at a homeowner while stealing a catalytic converter (also true, in Wallingford) didn't stop to consider their victim's political affiliation.

I encourage you to please take this crime issue into consideration when voting to send candidates to Hartford

who support law and order. We must support our men and women in blue who put their lives on the line every day to protect all of us.

Karen Kerames

Why Do I Vote Conservative

On the local, state and national level I vote conservative because the conservative party and candidates, for the most part, align with my most deeply held moral convictions and are rooted in our country's and state's Judea-Christian heritage. I believe in the sanctity of human life because each of us is created in the image of God and therefore it is NOT okay to kill our children in the womb or allow them to starve to death should they survive an abortion. There is a party that not only wants to allow this, with no term limits, but celebrates abortion and emphasizes a woman's right to choose with the slogan MY BODY MY CHOICE but that same party pushed the vaccine mandates and applauded sanctions for those who refused and voted to eliminate our right to religious exemptions. This is the same party that celebrates an open border that encourages and enriches drug cartels, human trafficking and record deaths from overdoses. The same party that is responsible for the high prices to fill our cars, heat our homes or put food on our tables. The same party that is pushing indoctrination in our public schools and is hell bent on promoting programs that are designed to sexualize our children and affirm every woke, hair-brained idea and agenda coming down the pike (litter boxes in the bathrooms for those identifying as felines?). It's time for adults to vote adults into

office and most of the adults seem to be aligned with the Republican party.

Bonnie Pelaccia

Mike Smith for State Representative

I'm writing to help my neighbors in the 119th district in Orange and Milford learn more about our candidate for State Representative, Mike Smith. As I've gotten to know him, I found several reasons why I support him for a role in state government.

Mike is passionate about making sure everyone can access affordable healthcare. As a young adult, he beat cancer and understands that he would be drowning in debt without access to his mom's health insurance. He recognizes that others don't have affordable, quality healthcare coverage and will work to improve this situation.

I count Mike as a strong advocate and ally for women who will stand up for our rights. As a father with a young child, he'll focus on education as he looks to the future for his family and our community. I find all of this extremely comforting and important for my immediate and extended family, ranging from newborns to seniors.

As a busy working parent with elementary school kids, I understand the daily household chaos when juggling activities, work and family. It can be tough to find time, but with the issues we face as a community, state, and country, it is more important than ever that each of us make a plan to vote to ensure our families' voices are heard. I encourage you to come out to vote on November 8, or beforehand by absentee ballot and I hope you will consider voting for Mike Smith to represent your voice.

Melissa Mazzarella Johnston

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8. YOUR VOTE COUNTS.

“Welander” From Page 1

in the towns she represents, as well as legislative successes. For a rookie, a remarkable record.

On her website, www.welanderforct.com, she lists the following projects supported by state funds:

For Woodbridge: \$300,000 for Senior Center renovations; \$2 million for the Old Firehouse renovation into a Community Center, a Woodbridge delegation effort led by Sen. Jose Cabrera;

For Orange: \$200,000 for the first-ever, fully accessible public playground at Fred Wolfe Park; \$100,000 for Orange Senior Center operations; \$10,000 to repair the historic clock in the Orange Fire Station;

For Derby: \$1.3 million to replace aging emergency generators at Griffin

Hospital, a bi-partisan Derby delegation effort led by Rep. Klarides-Ditria; \$300,000 for infrastructure upgrades at TEAM headquarters and program expansions.

Welander also led state efforts to team up with the federal delegation and procure \$24 million for building and safety upgrades to the Derby/Shelton train station. The funds are split between the state and federal departments of Transportation. For the Valley, and Derby in particular, this project is expected to spark the long-awaited economic renewal.

Welander said the train station is to be developed into a multi-modal transportation center, with a bus transfer station, electric vehicle charging stations and more. There is also money for safety upgrades to the popular

Greenway trail along the Housatonic river bank.

The Derby station is on the rail line from Bridgeport to Waterbury. At the same time the city has approved an apartment complex with market-rate housing units in the vicinity. “Derby has a ton of potential,” Welander said.

Children’s Mental Health: When asked about the accomplishment that is most important to her, she pointed at the new programs focusing on children’s mental health. The state has created a task force to identify where mental health services are lacking and set aside \$22 million for school-based health centers. The goal is to get kids and families the help they need before they reach the crisis point, she said. “That’s a huge win for a first term,” she said.

The legislature also passed an Act to Improve the Availability and Provision of Mental Health, Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services to children, which had 116 sponsors from both sides of the aisle. It set money aside to help parents pay for mental health treatment, as well as ways to attract more providers to the field. “It was a huge project,” she said. The locally based clinics are not mandates, she said. Rather, the districts that experience a need for mental health services can opt in.

All in all, the state is in a pretty good position to face the future, she said. “It is in a much better place than a lot of other states.” People are moving here, people are starting businesses, they enjoy a high quality of life. “Connecticut is a pretty good place to live.”

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Orange Firehouse to Be Haunted Around Halloween

ORANGE FIREFIGHTERS DRESS UP THEIR FIREHOUSE TO ENTERTAIN LOCAL KIDS FOR HALLOWEEN

Ghost stories are traditionally told around campfires, but this Halloween, a firehouse will be the scene of a ghost story as Orange firefighters turn their Orange Center Road fire station into a haunted house. It'll all be in good fun as members of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, with the help of some friends, welcome kids over 11 into their station, where ghosts, ghouls, goblins and others will set up camp from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. October 28 and 29.

"We wanted to do something to provide some entertainment around Halloween," said Firefighter Robert Panapada, who came up with the idea and is coordinating the work. "We developed the story and we're having a great time creating the props. Some of

our firefighters have been a little startled when they came running into the station at night to respond to alarms and were met by a 'corpse' standing near a fire engine!"

Of course, no Halloween Haunted House would be complete without a gory story, so firefighters came up with one. It seems that many, many years ago, Firefighter Freddie Mack was murdered near Halloween in the firehouse. The mystery was never solved and around every Halloween, Freddy returns to Station 1 to claim new souls! To help with his task, Freddie has recruited an entire company of fiends, er, friends.

Firefighters, with help from the Orange Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, Orange Youth Services and

some others, have been decorating the firehouse appropriately.

"The challenge has been to create a route through the firehouse for those participating, and still be able to put the fire apparatus back in the station at the end of the night," said Panapada. "We still need to be ready to respond to real emergencies at any moment."

Children 11 and up are welcome at the Haunted House, although children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The firehouse is located at 625 Orange Center Road. A donation of \$5 or more is suggested.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, to 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 few remaining 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.

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.” — LYNDON B. JOHNSON

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ARTS & LEISURE



Chasing The Blues

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library will feature Ramblin' Dan Stevens performing a program of classic blues music on Saturday, November 19, at 2:00pm.

Besides playing traditional guitar, Dan offers a unique style of "Bottle-neck" slide playing on a homemade three-stringed "Cigar Box Guitar" and one-stringed "Diddly Bow". These bare-bone vintage instruments were first made by blues musicians in the South who had limited income, but were handy enough to put together common items, such as washers, screws and cigar boxes to make instruments. Continuing the craft, Dan makes these guitars and even

has a guitar made with a 1953 Rambler hubcap.

Inspired by Woody Guthrie's book, "Bound for Glory" and the lure of the open road, Dan spent his youthful days, with his guitar, hitchhiking and hopping trains across the U.S., eventually logging 100,000 miles and earning his moniker, "Ramblin' Dan. Come to get transported by blues music played on traditional and vintage guitars by veteran bluesman and raconteur, Ramblin' Dan on Saturday, November 19.

Reservations are required and may be made online at www.casememorial-library.org or by phone 203-891-2170. Prior to attending, please consider wearing a mask.

Holiday Farm Market & Craft Fair

The Orange Community Farmers' Market returns for a one-day outdoor shopping event. The 3rd annual Holiday Farm Market & Craft Fair is scheduled on November 17th, from 3:30 to 6:30, under the Pavilion at the Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road. Visitors can expect a variety of farm and craft vendors, food trucks, and music. Start your holiday shopping early and visit vendors such as Connecticut Styling Stitches, Creations by

the Coast, Emalyn Sweets, Hearts of Stone Jewelry, Nic's Nacks, Paparazzi Jewelry, Petit Flower Farm, Sugar Shoots, Wanke's Yankee Hot Sauce, and more. Check the Farm Market website for a complete list of vendors at FarmMarketOrange.com.

Please call the Orange Economic Development Corporation office at (203) 891-1045 for more information or visit the OEDC website at OrangeEDC.com/expo.htm.

LOCAL BUSINESS



Amity Physical Therapy's Milford Office Sponsors 5K Road Race

Milford. Once again Amity Physical Therapy has stepped up to the plate and sponsored a 5K run, "Running for Water for Africa" to supply a small Uganda village with fresh drinking water.

No stranger to civic contributions, Amity Physical Therapy has been sponsoring road races to help fund various causes, and at the same time offers "warm up and cool down" exercises on site for participating runners.

Michael Dow MSPT/CEO founded the practice 18 years ago and opened the Milford facility two years ago.

"Since we're in a health/fitness profession, it helps runners, athletes, and the general fitness-conscious public to remain injury free with proper 'maintenance' of muscles, ligaments and joints – in fact, the entire muscular-skeletal framework of the body."

Milford's Walnut Beach Pavilion was the site of the 5K run on Saturday September 24. For more information on injury prevention, or to schedule an evaluation, please contact Peter Geloso DPT/Clinical Supervisor at 203-693-2350 or visit amitypt.com



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HISTORY CORNER

Was There a Symbol For It...?

 **BY GINNY REINHARD**



In the year 1850, a scholar, Nathaniel Hawthorne, wrote an American classic, which took place in the Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony, ca 1642. The Scarlet Letter, a fictional piece of work was the first mass-produced book to be written, where Hawthorne writes of a young woman whose indiscretion results in her being charged with adultery and forced to wear a red “A” around her neck. After being forced to stand on a scaffold and soon incarcerated, our heroine, if you will, lives out her life in shame with the “A” ever-present for townsfolk to see.

Symbols of our lives can be a positive like the “golden” arches of McDonald’s or Uncle Ben whose picture was familiar on a package of rice. We, as a society, depend on symbols but not all of them represent the familiar, but have early representations of doom and gloom. During plagues in the early centuries, a person did not go out of their home without a name tag, lest they died and would have been unknown. During wartime in the states, radioactive signs were common due to

the high use of radium using a series of triangles.

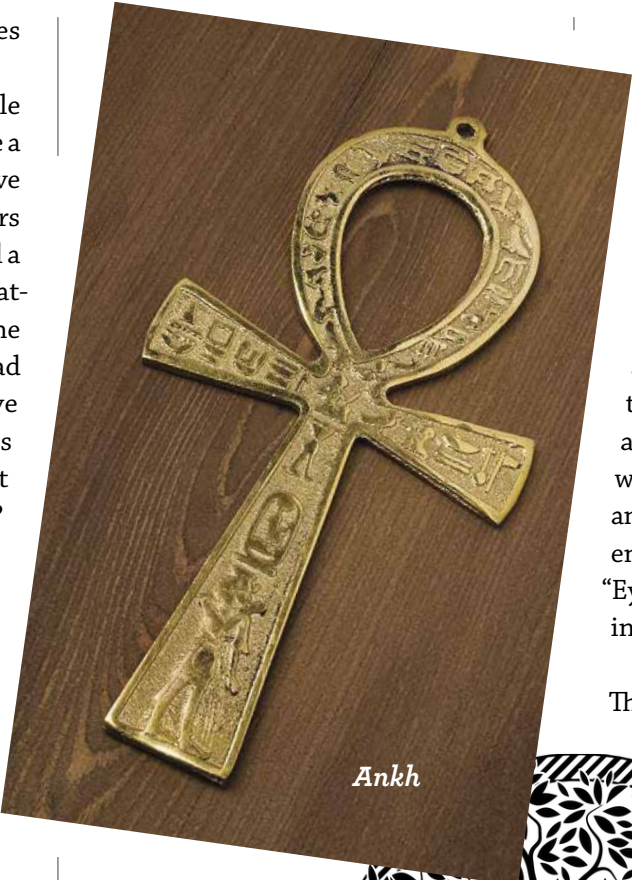
In simple signs, we have a triangle with a number in the center to denote a recyclable item and medically, we have a crisscross ribbon, in various colors for cancer awareness...symbols to tell a story. The black crow is often associated with death because it is seen on the roadside eating the remains of a dead animal while some cultures believe the crow helps the dead animal cross over to the next world, a somewhat more pleasant idea, don’t you think?

So, let’s look into some other, not so common symbols, such as the Ankh, the symbol that signifies eternal life. It was a typical decorative motif in ancient Egypt because it played a role in the belief of after-life. Chai, one of the most popular symbols, is Jewish meaning alive or living, the opposite of the afterlife of the Ankh. It represents the value of life and the will to live. The sun is found in all cultures with different meanings: life, strength and power.

The tree of life is one of the more



Phoenix



Ankh

powerful symbols in history that can be found in most cultures with its symbol of life, a theme well seen in the roots of the tree, its branches soaring toward the heavens with its connection to heaven and earth. The Native Americans held onto life and creation with its feathered serpent with additionally representing waterways, thunderstorms and rains...Life? Thunderstorm? They do go together with the storm bringing the rain and the rain bringing life to the earth.

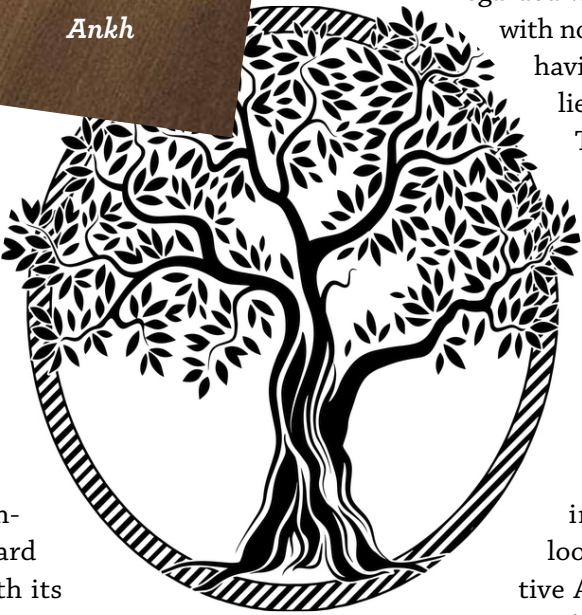
Another Native American symbol is the Man in the Maze with the figure of a man at the start of a labyrinth with both negative and positive paths symbolizing the various changes or twists and turns of a person through their life. On a personal note here, I often refer to my life as a small universe which can tip to one side or other, but if I hold on tightly, it will start back to the center and life is good again. Right now, without knowing the source, I am staying home with Covid, the tipping of my universe. Without the obvious symptoms I planned a lunch with family...fearing a sore throat was not so good, I tested and my universe has indeed tilted but it won’t tilt me out.

The Phoenix. Who does not know about that mythical bird who lives for 500 years after which it bursts into flames to rise again from the ashes to be reborn? This one has become increasingly popular representing life, death and immortality. In ancient times it was associated with royalty seen on their shields, armor and robes. Before I get to the last of my symbols story let me add my favorite, the Eye of Horus, well-being, health and protection from ancient Egypt. The Alan Parson Project entitled one of their musical albums “Eye in the Sky” with what became a hit in the 90s, with just that title.

OK, now for my favorite, the owl. Throughout history, the owl has been regarded with fascination with no other creature having so many beliefs about them. They have been feared, despised, admired, and to some, associated with witchcraft and medicine. To me, they are an elusive bird, interesting to look at but in Native American history they were looked upon as wise with powers of prophecy. The owl appears in Aesop’s Fables and in the Greek myths and beliefs.

By the Middle Ages, it became associated with witches and dark, lonely places. But in the mythology of Athena, the Greek Goddess of Wisdom, it having banished the mischievous crow, became her favorite, feathered creature. One can see the image of the owl on ancient coins and it was believed that it’s inner light protected the Greek armies at war. If an owl flew over the Greek soldiers, it was a sign of victory. Many of the Native American tribes held the owl in their rituals from impending death with its call to strength in battle.

In any case, the owl, in its regal stance on the branch of a tree, can only mean strength to me and to you young parents, if your baby can’t sleep, place an owl feather next to the baby. For those of you who toss and turn at night, hang up a dream catcher and rest easy, my friends.



Tree of Life



Eye of Horus



Owl of Athena

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Historical Society Hosts Groups for Hearth-Cooked Dinners

By **BETTINA THIEL**
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Orange Historical Society recently hosted Gary Anderson of Oberlin, Kansas, a descendant of the Bryan Family, in the Bryan-Andrew House. Hosts included, at left, Barbara Carbone, and to the right of Anderson, Marlene Silverstein, Frances Vadney, Nina Ruckes and Ginny Reinhard.

Professional organizations with deep pockets sometimes offer networking events in well-known museums. On a much smaller scale, people can now do the same at the historic Bryan-Andrew House in Orange.

Most recently, the Orange Chamber of Commerce held a Business After Hours networking event there. The 18th century homestead, at 131 Old Tavern Road, has been lovingly restored to what it looked like during colonial times, replete with a cooking hearth and beehive oven. In order to get the sign-off from health authorities, however, they also added a modern kitchen with modern amenities.

That allows the cooks of the Historical Society to host the public and feed them “family style,” as it would have been done 250 years ago. Last August, they hosted Gary Anderson, one of the descendants of the Bryan family that built the homestead, and this reporter was invited to document the occasion.

The summer heat notwithstanding, the ladies had lit the fire in the hearth to make their signature fishcakes and fry the vegetables in cast iron kettles. They were accompanied by potatoes with lovage – an herb, similar to celery – and asparagus with peas. Then they all sat down to eat with Anderson and

talk about his genealogical inquiries into his family’s history.

Anderson was visiting from Oberlin, Kansas, to learn more about the place his ancestors came from. Nathan Bryan – the early settler who built the house around 1740 – was Anderson’s 9th-great-grandfather on his mother’s side. His mother, Detta, also had visited the Orange homestead eight years ago, with a whole group of Gary Anderson’s aunts and cousins with another cousin, Sheldon Kelly and his family visiting back in July.

A history buff himself, Gary Anderson knows the story of his family well, sharing stories with Ginny Reinhard, president of the Historical Society. Nathan Bryan’s son Thaddeus moved to Watertown in 1804, which prompted Anderson to stop there as well during his visit in Connecticut, to find Bryan Family graves.

The Historical Society also sponsored several colonial “dinners” as part of the town’s bicentennial celebration this summer (the dinners were actually served at lunchtime). The events proved so popular that the ladies decided to make this a new fundraiser for the Historical Society. Going forward, they will expand the menu to include a pot roast with multi-colored carrots, cooked in the original beehive oven. For dessert there is an Apple Charlotte – unless groups decide to bring their own cakes for special occasions.

This is not a restaurant. People need to book their event well in advance and arrange details with Ginny Reinhard, and – as in colonial days – the whole group gets to eat the same menu. Call 203-795-3106 or email orangehistorical@yahoo.com.



Orange Mentor Picnics and Parties in the Park

In early September, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut held its annual Back-to-School picnic at Riverside Park in Portland. Close to two hundred “Bigs” (adult mentors), “Littles” (children being mentored) and family members bid so long to summer 2022 as they enjoyed an afternoon of food, activities, and happy bonding under the sun. After sampling some ice cream and trying his luck at carnival style games, Big Brother Alex Beck, from Orange, took a time-out and stopped

at the event’s photo booth to pose for a whimsical shot with his sons, Dylan on the left and Greyson on the right. Alex, an Assistant State’s Attorney for the Ansonia-Milford Judicial District, has been a board member at Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2017. He’s been a Big Brother in the organization’s community-based program for 9 years. Alex’s Little Brother in the program, 16-year-old Mekhi, was busy and couldn’t attend the picnic. Learn more about Big Brothers Big Sisters at www.ctbigs.org.

American Legion 127 Invites Public to Vet's Day Ceremony

The American Legion Post and Auxiliary, Unit 127 of Orange invites the public to a Veteran’s Day Ceremony on November 11, 2022. The Ceremony will commence at 11am at the High Plains Community Center. Veteran’s Day is a United States federal holiday that honors all military veterans who have served in the US military. It is

observed annually on November 11. The day coincides with Remembrance Day and Armistice Day which marks the anniversary of the end of World War 1. The War ended on November 11 at the 11th hour.

Please join us as we remember the brave women and men who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

BSA Troop 63 is Giving Back to the Community

BSA Troop 63 is one of the oldest Boy Scout Troops in the Council, with a strong tradition and rich history in Scouting. You may know us as the Christmas Tree Sales troop. Our Troop was founded in 1963 to bring scouting to boys in the Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge communities. We now also have Scouts from Hamden, Westville, and the rest of New Haven. We do many outdoor activities each year and follow the BSA program of “fun with a purpose.”

The Scouts of Troop 63 have stayed active this year. We did a weekend of camping, kayaking and hiking at Mount Marcy and Lake Placid up in the Adirondacks. In October, we loaded our bikes onto Metro North for a 22-mile ride around Manhattan, from Harlem to Grand Central Station, with a scenic side-trip over the Brooklyn Bridge. We have done ski trips to Massachusetts and Vermont. Recently we had an amazing whitewater rafting adventure in Vermont. We also did rock climbing, cycling on the Farmington Canal Rail Trail, the Adventure Park Ropes Course, orienteering and many other adventures.

Troop 63 Scouts give back to the community through many service projects, including our annual Scouting for Food drive. We will deliver the flyers again in a few weeks and will be back a week later to pick up any donations. We are also responsible for maintaining the campground at Camp Whiting,

for use of Scout Troops in the area. Scouts in our Troop have diverse interests and have completed many merit badges in the past year, including First Aid, Mammal Study, Automotive Repair, Swimming, Kayaking, Nuclear Science, Rifle Shooting, Archery, Family Life and many more.

Every year we attend Camp Sequassen, the Connecticut Yankee Council’s resident summer camp in New Hartford, CT. Scouts from all over New England come to the summer camp and stay for a week or more with their troop. While at camp you get to choose all sorts of fun merit badges! From Digital Technology to Leatherwork, there are many merit badges to choose from. The camp also has a nice waterfront with many water-related activities, including snorkeling, sailing, and stand-up paddleboarding. We even sleep overnight on a small island in the middle of the lake!

We have many exciting adventures on our calendar for the next year. First up is a weekend of camping and biking on Block Island in RI. We also plan a hiking trip to Mt. Greylock in the Berkshires, a winter freeze-out campout at our Camp Whiting, and a ski trip, to name just a few.

Any boys (grade 6 and up) interested in finding out more about Scouting with Troop 63 can contact us at Troop63CT@gmail.com. We generally meet on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.



Boy Scout Troop 907 Update - November 2022

SUBMITTED BY RICH FORSELIUS
TROOP COMMITTEE CHAIR & CHARTERED ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVE

BSA Scout Troop 907, sponsored by the Woodbridge First Church of Christ, is a regional troop and continues with significant activity year-round. The troop offers fellowship in life and scouting. Scouting is an ongoing adventure that is youth-led and overseen by trained scout leaders. Troop 907, being an active outdoor unit, is planning adventures this fall and winter including canoeing on the Connecticut River.

Fall is the season of harvest, beauty and fellowship all over our great country. The season starts with Labor Day and ends with the Thanksgiving through Christmas year-end holiday season. In scouting this is no different, but fellowship in scouting includes connecting to community and supporting those less fortunate. Therefore, the fall has a heavy community service emphasis in Troop 907.

The fall season started in September with volunteering at the New Haven Labor Day Road Race. In October, the troop supported the Woodbridge Road Race & First Church, our charter organization’s pie-ala-mode sale.

Service is a cornerstone of scouting, and the best service is to your local community and residents that are in need one way or another. The troop spends a lot of fall weekends giving back to others. Not only does this build better local relations but a sense of pride and fellowship among our scouts.

Adult leaders and parents assisted with the Woodbridge Camp Whiting maintenance work party on October 16. This is an annual event focused on sprucing up the camp and preparing firewood for all campers throughout the winter.

Troop 907 assisted in late Octo-

ber with the Woodbridge Scouting for Food event. Flyers were circulated on October 23rd and food pickup occurred all around town October 29th in the morning. Food was appropriately packed into boxes at the Woodbridge Center for distribution to those in need the same day. Thanks to those who made donations!

On the evening of October 22, the troop camped with Pack 902 at Camp Whiting in Woodbridge. Running the Pack Bobcat ceremony is also a long-standing Troop 907 tradition. At this November 13 event, new scouts are initiated into the pack.

Scouts will be supporting the Christmas Bazaar at Our Lady of the Assumption Church on November 12. Scouts will be setting up for the crafters and breaking down tables and chairs in two shifts.

Troop 907 scouts enjoy cooking and on Saturday, November 19, scouts will be holding their Family Holiday Feast. This involves scouts cooking turkeys and the fixings outside at Camp Whiting and serving their families the feast.

Thursday, January 19, 2023, will be the Winter Scout Court of Honor in the First Church Parish House at which advancement and merit badges are awarded.

If you are aware of a prospective scout and if you are interested in learning more about how scouting builds pride and fellowship in youth, Troop 907 holds ongoing open houses at the Thursday 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. meetings at the First Church of Christ, rear Parish House entrance. Three of our scouts made the Eagle rank in 2022 and several potential scouts have come by recently. See the poster provided. It is always a good time for a new scout to join and learn skills not available elsewhere. You may contact us on our website www.troop907.org.

Meet BOWDAAC

Jessica Simone is the prevention council coordinator for BOWDAAC – Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee. Its mission is to involve and engage the local community to prevent alcohol and substance use among our young people. In addition, we strive to promote positive mental health and provide resources to the community and our youth.

Some of the issues that our youth face is not just happening at home or at school, but in all aspects/parts of their lives and BOWDAAC is hoping to expand our prevention committee by including businesses that work with kids and would love your input and work together in the reduction

of substance use and encouraging the promotion of positive mental health. In addition, BOWDAAC is grant-funded and tasked with reducing the rate of vaping among our young people.

The BOWDAAC committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm and we try to have presenters about current topics. The last few presentations we have had were about the dangers of fentanyl, internet safety, and problem gambling.

Visit our website and Facebook page if you are interested at taking a look at what BOWDAAC has going on:

- › <https://www.bowdaac.org/>
- › <https://www.facebook.com/BOWDAAC>

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Garden Club of Orange Welcomes New Members

Garden Club of Orange celebrates end of year with a luncheon. New members were welcomed and a long time member was given a fond farewell Shown top: New members Cindy

Evangeliste, Fran Castiellot and Marguerite Kreuzkamp are introduced and welcomed! Shown bottom left: President Patti Logioco presents the Distinguished Service Award to Lana Ho.

BACK TO THE OLDIES

Dance to be held
Saturday, November 12, 2022
at Cielo Ballroom
(WH Italian American Club)
Chase Lane, West Haven
from 7:30 pm to 12 am.

Raffle to Benefit Muscular Dystrophy,
Coffee “And”, Door Prizes, Smoke Free!

\$30.00 per person.

For information, call Geri @ 203-795-5473
or Lucy @ 203-468-2528.



CT Big Brothers Big Sisters Hold Golf Outing

The annual Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut’s Mentor’s Classic Golf Tournament was held this year at the historic Tamarack Golf Club in Greenwich. Pictured at the daylong event are, from left, Westport resident Joe Massoud, Managing Director at Westport-based Anholt Services (USA) Inc; Andy Fleischmann, President & CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut; and Peter Lovell, who lives in Milford and is a Senior Vice President

and General Counsel for Odyssey Re in Stamford. Joe Massoud, a Board Member at Big Brothers Big Sisters and a current Big Brother (volunteer mentor) in the organization’s community-based program, was on the Mentor’s Classic organizing committee. He was also one of the event’s Emerald Sponsors. Peter Lovell also served on the event’s organizing committee. Lovell was a former Big Brothers Big Sisters Board Member, and a onetime Big Brother.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El – Keser Israel Events

Elm City Kallah

On Saturday, October 29, Dr. Rachel Korazim will speak at BEKI as part of the weekend Kallah. Her topic is the Mizrahi voice in Israeli literature. Through such poets as Balfour Hakak, Shimon Adaf, and Roni Somek, she will explore the long journey of Jews from Moslem countries from early marginalization to empowerment.

Dr. Korazim will also speak on October 28 at Westville Synagogue and October 30 at Congregation B’nai Jacob. Elm City Kallah is made possible by a generous grant from the James M. Shure Educational Fund.

Dr. Korazim teaches at such well known learning centers as Pardes and the Shalom Hartman Institute. A graduate of Haifa University with a PhD in Jewish education, she has created a global community of learners who study Israeli poetry online. Details at beki.org

Family Havdalah

BEKI, Ezra Academy, and PJ Library are sponsoring a Havdalah gathering Saturday, November 12 at 7 pm at Ezra Academy, 75 Rimmon Road in Woodbridge. Along with the Havdalah blessings, the program will include singing and a children’s story. Although the program is suited to children, everyone is welcome. In case of rain, the event will move inside.

Book Talk on Jefferson

On Saturday, November 19 Robert Forbes will discuss his new book, an annotated edition of Thomas Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia, which is called the most important book written in America before 1800. In the first edition to be based on both the 1785 first edition and the original manuscript, Prof. Forbes uncovers Jefferson’s extensive revisions, situating the work in the context of transatlantic debates over slavery and shedding new light on Jefferson’s shocking disparagement of African Americans. Details at beki.org.

Children’s Programs

On November 4, and every First Friday of the month, BEKI’s Kabbalat Shabbat service is kid-friendly, though not specifically a children’s service.

Children’s Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent volunteers, meet in person each Satur-



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

day morning.

Kosher Pareve Pies

The youth group is baking their annual Kosher Pareve apple as well as pumpkin pies. Proceeds benefit the group’s tzedakah projects. Anyone interested in purchasing Thanksgiving pies needs to order by Friday, November 4. Email office@beki.org for details.

Fair Trade Hanukkah Gelt

As part of the congregation’s continued commitment to ethically-sourced products, all chocolate served at BEKI carries certification that it has been screened against child slavery. For the 4th year, BEKI is bulk ordering fair trade chocolate Hanukkah candy coins, for both BEKI parties and home consumption. Other congregations are welcome to join this effort. For more information, email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

In Person and Online

BEKI offers in-person services twice daily, led by Rabbi Eric Woodward and congregants. Details at beki.org. Weekday services also are on Zoom. To request the Zoom link, email office@beki.org.

Healing Service

Rabbi Woodward will lead a Kabbalat Shabbat healing service on Friday, November 18, and on the third Friday of each month.

Current Exhibition

BEKI’s galleries are filled with a second installation of pre-1950 ancestor photographs and mini-biographies that portray the diverse ethnic backgrounds of members. The exhibition is open to the public by appointment; email office@beki.org or call 203.389.2108 x 114.

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

Congregation B’nai Jacob Events

Weekly Services & Classes

Daily Minyan Services

- › Monday – Friday: 7:45am
- › Sunday – Thursday: 6:00pm (on ZOOM only)
- › Sunday: 9:00am
- › National Holidays: Times vary

Weekly Shabbat Services

- › **Friday:** Shabbat Schmooze: 6:00pm; Services: 6:30pm
- › **Saturday:** Bread & Torah: 9:00am; Services: 10:00am

Meet in the B’nai Jacob Library (or join us on Zoom) to explore the weekly Torah portion and the way in which its story relates to our own. Be prepared for a lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary. Taught by Rabbi Rona Shapiro.

Rabbi Shapiro’s NEW Monday Night Class “God is Here: Reimagining the Divine”

My teacher, Sheila Pelz Weinberg, says that Toba Spitzer, the author of, “God is Here: Reimagining the Divine,” is the next Mordecai Kaplan. In ten readable chapters, Toba explores how we use metaphors in language generally and in speaking about God in particular, and she explores eight metaphors the Bible frequently uses to talk about God and how those metaphors might be useful for us. If you would like to get clearer about what we might mean when we say, “God,” and cut through some of the ideas about God that are often unhelpful, this is a great class for you. Please get a copy of the book and read the introduction and the first chapter before the first class. All are welcome; no previous experience is necessary.

Class Schedule: October 31, November 7, 14, 28, December 5, 12. Class will meet in person and on Zoom.

Guest Speakers

Debra Sachs, M.A.

Sunday, November 6, 10 am

Hearing Loss: Listening and Communication Tools and Tips

Do you have a hearing loss or do you know someone who does? Are you ever frustrated in your efforts to relay or



Congregation B’nai Jacob

receive a spoken message in an acoustically challenging environment? 10.6% of Americans have hearing loss. No doubt there are members of CBJ who struggle with it. CBJ member Debra Sachs, an award-winning teacher of students with hearing loss, will lead an interactive program to learn about hearing loss and provide the opportunity to listen as if you have one. We will consider the impact of hearing loss on individuals, particularly aging adults, and identify listening strategies and spoken language techniques to maximize communication.

Dr. Becca Levy

(Professor of Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health and Professor of Psychology, Yale University)

CBJ member and pioneering researcher on the psychology of aging, Dr. Becca Levy, draws on her ground-breaking research to show how age beliefs can be improved on an individual and societal level so they can benefit aspects of the aging process, including the way genes operate and the extension of life expectancy by an average of 7.5 years. All ages of our community are invited for an interactive discussion of this work as Dr Levy challenges us to reconsider our own beliefs about aging and our experiences with structural ageism. CBJ member Kinneret Chiel, who participated in a cultural redefinition group that is profiled in the book, will join us to add her valuable perspective.

This book will make a wonderful Hannukah gift. Thanks to Dr Levy’s generosity, we will have some copies available in the office that will support the synagogue and offer you a

See “B’nai Jacob” On Page 19

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



Left: Rebecca Cohen, tally sheet in hand, watches as her husband, Keith Collins, sorts through debris on Altschuler Beach, West Haven, as part of Temple Emanuel's Reverse Tashlich. **Right:** Temple Emanuel of Orange members look for trash on Altschuler Beach as part of an event celebrating the Jewish New Year. From left to right, Adam Spiewak, Rabbi Michael Farbman and Janet Adams



Temple Members Clean West Haven Beach for Higher Purpose

Clean-up becomes a new tradition for Jewish High Holidays

Members of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven in Orange turned a centuries-old tradition on its head by cleaning Altschuler Beach in West Haven. About 20 members of the congregation gathered at the beach recently to put a twist on a Rosh Hashana tradition called Tashlich. Tashlich takes place on the first day of the Jewish new year. During that ceremony, Jews symbolically cast off their sins of the previous year by throwing them in the water. The sins are represented by pebbles or crumbs washed away by the water.

On October 2, members of Temple Emanuel joined 244 other mostly Jewish communities around the world in taking some of those sins out of the water by cleaning up the beach. It's an international program called Reverse Tashlich. Temple Emanuel is one of five Connecticut organizations involved with program, created by an organization called Repair the Sea, based in Tampa, Fla.

"We've always talked about 'repairing the world' as part of our duties as part of the Jewish community, especially around the New Year," said Karen Fenichel, a temple member and one of the organizers of Temple Emanuel's Reverse Tashlich day. "This is a very real way for entire families to participate in 'repairing the world.'" Adam Spiewak also helped organize the event locally.

Fenichel and Spiewak worked with a local non-profit, Save the Sound. The New Haven-based environmental-action group donated supplies for the effort and obtained the permits from the City of West Haven to do the work on the beach.

Those filling bags included Temple Emanuel's rabbi, Michael Farbman. He recalled the beauty of the symbolism of Tashlich and Reverse Tashlich. Before picking up his bag, he addressed the group on the beach. He said in the next few days, Jews would read about crea-

tion in the Torah, the scrolls containing the Five Books of the Moses.

"We'll be reading, 'In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth,'" the rabbi quoted. "It was beautiful and it was clean. Today we get to restore that a little bit. We get to participate in the act of creation ourselves."

Equipped with a large plastic bag and a clipboard on which to tally the trash they retrieved, teams made up of families and friends walked along the beach. They gathered old coffee cups, wrappers, bottles, cans and cigarette butts. Cigarette butts carried extra value because of their toxic nature and plastic content. In all, the group filled five bags with debris from the beach.

The bags of trash were turned over to West Haven. Fenichel and Spiewak tallied up the garbage in the bags and sent the report to Repair the Sea. The program sponsors use the information to help with scientific research and to help write legislation and policies that address pollution.

"A day on the beach is a great way to celebrate the beginning of the world and the beginning of the year," said Fenichel. "It's a great way for our community - families and friends - to spend some time. This year was small, but a success. We hope it'll be a new tradition for our congregation."

Temple Emanuel, Orange, is a warm, caring and open community. As a small but growing Reform synagogue, our members can get to know one another and to have meaningful input into how our synagogue operates. Temple Emanuel is a participatory, diverse, non-judgmental, and intellectually vibrant congregation. Our membership comes from many towns in the greater New Haven area, and the Valley, adding to the diversity of our congregation. For more information, call (203) 397-3000 or visit us at [www.https://tegnh.org](https://tegnh.org).



Flossie Ardolino, President; Aerin Zavory, Chef; Fr. Norman Brockett, Pastor

Pizza Night at Holy Infant

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild hosted a Family Pizza Night on October 16. We want to thank everyone who came out to support this fundraiser. A big thanks to Amici's Restaurant for the delicious food. It was great to see people enjoying our first large get-together since 2020!

The Guild's next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9 at 6:45 pm in the Guild Hall. It will be a Wine and

Cheese social. Non-alcoholic refreshments will be available also. Please bring either a hat, pair of gloves, or a pair of socks for a woman or child to be distributed to the Battered Women's Center in Ansonia.

The Guild is also having a bake sale on the weekend of November 19 and 20 at the church after all Masses. Bakers can drop off baked goods before each Mass.

"B'nai Jacob" From Page 18

discounted price. Please also feel free to buy online or support your local bookstore.

Elisa Bernick

Sunday, December 11, 10 am on Zoom

Departure Stories: Betty Crocker Made Matzoh Balls (and other lies)

Join Award winning Writer and Journalist, Elisa Bernick, on Zoom, for a discussion of her newest book, Departure Stories. The book ponders the ways marginalized individuals find themselves defined, and who and what we hold accountable for the worst and best parts of ourselves. Written with wit and dynamism, the book explores the long-term effects of intergenerational trauma using the two definitions of departure — leaving and deviating from the norm — to explore the author's experience of growing up

"different" (i.e., Jewish) in the White Christian suburb of New Hope, Minnesota, during the 1960s and early 1970s. The question at the heart of this book is how the invisible baggage of place and memory, Minnesota's uniquely antisemitic history, and the cultural shifts sweeping the country during this tumultuous period contributed to her family's eventual implosion.

Unless otherwise noted, all services, classes and events are in person at B'nai Jacob, located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. All services are also live-streamed and some are on ZOOM. Call the B'nai Jacob office for digital access and more information 203-389-2111 or email office@bnaijacob.org.

For more information about any of these events, or becoming a member of B'nai Jacob, Call 203-389-2111, Email: office@bnaijacob.org, Visit our website, bnaijacob.org.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

When Can Kids Trick-Or-Treat Without An Adult?

Jack-o'-lanterns on front porches and crisp air are signs that Halloween is right around the corner. Costumes have likely been chosen and bags of candy are undoubtedly hidden in the back of pantries ready to delight trick-or-treaters.

Trick-or-treating is one of the most anticipated components of celebrating Halloween, and scores of kids venture door-to-door seeking the best chocolate bars and other candies. Children typically are chaperoned by their parents or other adults on trick-or-treating ventures. But some day kids will inevitably ask if they can go out alone with their friends. How can parents know when kids are mature enough to go it alone on Halloween?

There are no firm rules regarding when a child can go out trick-or-treating unsupervised. Each child is different, so there's no uniform answer as to when kids can trick-or-treat without mom and dad in tow. But parents on the fence can consider the following guidance as they try to determine when it's alright for kids to trick-or-treat alone.

Find out who is going trick-or-treating. Parents may feel more comfortable letting their children wander if they are reassured a group of friends is going en masse rather than the child going solo. There is safety in numbers, so trick-or treating in large groups is a good sign.

Judge the neighborhood critically.

Neighborhoods also can be a factor to consider. What may be a safe environment during the day may no longer be so safe when darkness descends and children are unchaperoned. If parents recognize the neighborhood treads the line between being safe and dangerous, they may want to push off trick-or-treating alone until their children are older. But even the neighborhoods parents would characterize as "safe" are not invulnerable to safety issues. It pays to check where registered child predators live nearby, and that information is available to the public in most areas.

How responsible is the child? Some kids mature faster than others. Parents need to factor in their children's dispositions when they consider if kids should be allowed out to trick-or-treat without adults.

Check in about the game plan. When children get older, trick-or-treating may be less about grabbing candy and more about spending time with friends, potentially causing mischief. Parents should recognize that kids left to their own devices may be more inclined to act foolishly. It helps to have an idea of what the group of kids will be doing when they go trick-or-treating and how long they plan to be out.

There's no magic age or situation that tells parents when their children are ready to trick-or-treat without supervision. It's an individual decision best made after careful consideration.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP

Congregation Or Shalom Happenings

Staying Connected

Attend religious services and most other events in person or by Zoom. To register for a Zoom link, please see the information below.

Join Us For Weekly Services Morning Minyan

- › Sunday 9:00 AM – In person and Zoom'd
- › Monday 8:30 AM – Zoom'd
- › Thursday 8:30 AM – Zoom'd

Shabbat Services

- › Friday 7:30 PM – In person and Zoom'd
- › Saturday 9:30 AM – In person and Zoom'd

Please call the synagogue office at 203-799-2341 or email coshalom@sb-cglobal.net for more information).

Programs Book Club

Thursday November 17th at 7:00 pm
A Fall of Marigolds by Susan Meissner
Discussion led by Ileana Kaczynski

A beautiful scarf connects two women touched by tragedy in this compelling, emotional novel from the author of *As Bright as Heaven* and *The Last Year of the War*. September 1911. On Ellis Island in New York Harbor, nurse Clara Wood cannot face returning to Manhattan, where the man she loved fell to his death in the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. Then, while caring for a fevered immigrant whose own loss mirrors hers, she becomes intrigued by a name embroidered onto the scarf he carries...and finds herself caught in a dilemma that compels her to confront the truth about the assumptions she's made. What she learns could devastate her—or free her. September 2011. On Manhattan's Upper West Side, widow Taryn Michaels has convinced herself that she is living fully, working in a charming specialty fabric store and raising her daughter alone. Then a long-lost photograph appears in a national magazine, and she is forced to relive the terrible day her husband died in the collapse of the World Trade Towers...the same day a stranger reached out and saved her. But a chance reconnection and a century-old scarf may open Taryn's eyes to the larger forces at work in her life. Please call the office for Zoom information. 203.799.2341.

Israeli Dance

Israeli Dance Classes- Join the fun on Tuesday afternoons, 4:00pm-5:00pm (November 15, 29, December 6,13. Connect with Israel; prior experience not required! Wonderful exercise for your body & mind. Learn

basic steps to classic dances! Min of 8 students is required to have the classes. To register, please contact instructor at IsraeliDanceTeacher@gmail.com or call 203.912.4086.

Yahad Hebrew School

Yahad is a community Hebrew school, a joint project of Congregations Or Shalom and B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge. At Yahad, meaning "together," students form their Jewish identities through amazing experiential programming, while building foundational skills in prayer, Hebrew, Bible and much more. Together, as students, parents, teachers, and as a community, we will create our Jewish future! Please call Rachel @ Or Shalom if you are interested 203.799.2341.

Community Mitzvah of the Month

We are collecting coats, hats, mittens, socks and boots for the Down Town Soup Kitchen in New Haven. You can call the office to schedule drop off.

Pull Tabs

Our Social Action Committee collects pull tabs from soda cans for the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. The house hosts families of children who are being cared for at Yale New Haven Hospital and allows families to stay close to their children during hospitalization. The pull tabs can come from cans of soda, beer, cat or dog food, sardines, soup, beans, fruit, etc. - any size tabs, any color, any metal. You can drop them to the Synagogue M-Th from 10-4 and Friday 10-3. Collect them from family and friends, too!

Congregations of Orange Collaborative/ COC

Congregations of Orange Collaborative consists of members from SAC and other social action groups from eight Houses of Worship in Orange. Our mission is Together Helping Others. Our vision is grounded in the spirit of repairing the world by encouraging our congregations in Social Action projects to improve the quality of life for people in need, strengthening relationships with our fellow congregants and creating opportunities for our congregation to work together on mutual community service. On October 29,2022 an exciting event called Tour De Faith will invite the community to visit two Orange Houses of Worship to gain a greater appreciation of the diversity in our community and learn about other faiths. Contact our office 203.799.2341 if you would like to participate in Tour De Faith.

Congregations of Orange Collaborative is a new collaboration of eight houses of worship in Orange to "Help Others Together."

Our aim is to improve the quality of life in our town by participating together in social action projects.

Congregations of Orange Collaborative invites you to

Tour De Faith

Congregation Or Shalom
Tour: Saturday 10/29 12-1 pm

Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Tour: Saturday, 10/29 1:15-2:15 pm

Tour one or two houses of worship in Orange and learn from our clergy about the different faiths in our community. In the future, we plan on touring more Orange houses of worship.

Please register for each tour by 10/27.
Congregation Or Shalom - Call 203-799-2341
Saint Barbara - Call 203-795-1347

HEALTH & FITNESS

Beware of the Pitfalls of Fall and Winter

BY KYLE BRANDAY MSPT/C-PS

When the leaves falling are telling you to grab a rake and get the yard clean, consider how easy it is to make the wrong moves and hurt yourself. Raking requires upper body strength and endurance. Warm up to yard work by exercising your primary muscles that include biceps, deltoids, rotator cuff, forearm and parascapular muscles. Do it before and after raking.

Simple exercises like arm circles, pendulums, forearm and upper trap stretching will help loosen these muscle groups. Proper posture while raking is a must. Stay upright, head up, shoulders back and don't hunch forward. Good postural habits will prevent rotator cuff impingement, strain on neck and upper back and puts the upper body in position for the greatest mechanical advantage to create force and leverage. You'll also use less energy. Once you've got those leaves raked into piles, now comes the real trial. The body's trunk and core are being tested, requiring the lumbar spine and hips to generate force to move leaf piles. The strain is on your obliques, glutes, and hip rotators along with the lumbar extensor muscles. What that means is there's a lot of muscle groups interacting to get those leaves moved. Never bend from the waist to pick up these mounting piles of leaves. It is vital to squat and bend your knees while you pick up leaves. Keep a flat back while you lift. This takes the stress off the lower lumbar spine eliminating the



Kyle Branday

possibility of strains and sprains or worse injuries such as herniated discs and sciatica. Helpful, also, are warm up and cool down exercises such as hamstring, knee to chest, and trunk rotation stretches.

Kyle Branday, MSPT/C-PS, is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, founded 18 years ago by Michael Dow MSPT CEO/Director with offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford, Milford and Wallingford. Kyle is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating high level athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. Kyle can be reached to set up an evaluation at (203) 389-4593 or visit www.amitypt.com.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Common Estate Planning Myths We're Here to Help You Stop Believing!

As Estate Planning attorneys, we understand how important it is to properly plan for both the future and the here and now. While most of the general population would tend to agree with this statement, they often lack the professional support necessary to ensure that proper planning is present. In other words, you know you should do it, but you don't know where to begin or what "what if's" need to be covered!

We're hoping to shed light on some common myths and misconceptions people have that often prevents them from taking that first step towards creating their Estate Plan.

"Estate Planning is only for people who are very wealthy."

Estate Planning is more than estate tax avoidance and protection. While that can be a large part of an individual's plan in some situations, it's far from the sole purpose. Anyone who has assets, both liquid and tangible, needs an Estate Plan. It determines the manner in which one's assets would be managed and distributed if they were to become incapacitated or pass away. And it ensures that the right person is provided the authority to carry out your wishes. Sometimes just the exercise of providing clarity is extremely helpful to your family during what can be a very hard time in their lives.

Bottom line: you don't have to be rich to want to exercise your voice and create protections and conveniences for your loved ones!

"Estate Planning is for older individuals. I'm too young."

We should probably just blame the media on this one for focusing on older generations when it comes to Estate Plans. But contrary to popular belief, younger generations need an Estate Plan just as much as older generations. For example, when you have minor children, the stakes are even higher to engage an attorney to help you smoothen the path in the event life throws your family a terrible curveball. Too often we see stories about younger people passing away, and the sad truth is, they probably didn't have a plan put in place because they didn't think they needed one. Even more, they may not have known what an Estate Plan is. Anyone who has assets and wants the people they love to be protected and cared for, needs an Estate Plan. This is true whether someone is in their 20's, 50's or 80's.

"Estate Planning is only about my assets after I've passed away."

Estate planning is often viewed as a strategy for controlling a person's assets once they've passed away. This isn't wrong by any means, but Estate Planning is so much more than just your future – it's the here and now. We often ask our clients who they would want to be in control if they were to become ill or incapacitated presently. Who would they want to make decisions regarding their health? Who would they want to be in control of their finances? These questions aren't easy, and the answers may not always come to you right away. But, if a person creates a plan where the people they trust are placed in these significant roles, and will have access to an Estate Planning attorney as questions or concerns arise, they will gain peace of mind knowing that they, and their family, will be cared for even when they are no longer able to manage their own affairs.

"Once I have an Estate Plan, I'm set for life."

So, when an individual has an Estate Plan, that means they don't have to think about it again, right? Here's the truth—everyone's personal circumstances change. This can include the relationships they have with people, their family, or their personal assets; not to mention changes relating to state laws or planning techniques. This means that anyone who has an Estate Plan in place should frequently review their plan to make sure everything is still in accordance with their wishes and intent. If it isn't, or if they're unsure, it's probably a good time for them to reach out to their attorney to review their current plan and consider potential changes.

"I'll get around to it...eventually."

There are those famous last words again.

Let's be honest, people procrastinate on things they don't want to think about or don't want to do. But in a world where you never know what can happen, wouldn't you want to control what can be? By no means are we saying that creating a plan won't take a little bit of time, pose some difficult questions or require you to make some hard choices. But when everything is said and done, you'll have a plan in place that allows you to know everything is taken care of. To the attorneys and staff of Legacy Law Partners, PLLC, peace of mind is invaluable. »

Legacy Law Partners, LLC is the author 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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LIBRARY EVENTS



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Meredith Rose Duo Concert

Saturday, October 29, 2 p.m.

With Meredith’s tender voice and their creative use of acoustic and electric guitars, this duo offers a fun, creative, and catchy mix of original music and your favorite covers ranging from the 60s to today. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required. Go to <https://bit.ly/MeredithRoseDuo> to register.



Community Book Sale

Saturday, November 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Conducted in our basement by the Friends of the Library.



The Bookcase Evening Discussion Group

Thursday, November 10, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of “The Measure” by Nikki Erlick. Registration is required, as for online security reasons only registered attendees will be able to attend this event. Registered attendees will receive a Zoom link via email before the event. The registrant’s name as displayed on Zoom must match the name used for registration in order to guarantee admission. Go to <https://bit.ly/ZabinskiMeasure> to register.

- Events are free and open to the public, except as noted.
- › 176 Tyler City Road
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DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

Don’t be Tricked by Numbers

BY ROBERTA L. NESTOR

We know that overall markets are down substantially as we, once again, enter “bear market” territory. As the end of this turbulent year ends, more and more investors will focus on their year-to-date returns (or lack thereof). When faced with substantial losses, investors tend to forget the gift of positive returns we have experienced since the last recession in 2008. Keep in mind that as of this writing (9/21/22), the S&P 500 has had an “average annual return” of 10.62%. It looks good; however, investors must dig a little deeper to understand what average returns actually mean to your account values.

All too often investors use average annual returns to compare investments. Choosing investments based on past performance and average rates of returns can be deceiving. It’s all about the math. Here is an example of two hypothetical portfolios that have been invested in the market for 5 years. Assuming a \$100,000 initial investment:

	Trick Portfolio		Treat Portfolio	
End of Year 1	10.96%	\$110,960	3.34%	\$103,340
2	28.33%	\$142,394	6.25%	\$109,798
3	-37.31%	\$ 89,267	-4.76%	\$104,572
4	5.14%	\$ 93,855	3.35%	\$108,075
5	15.71%	\$108,600	12.32%	\$121,390
Average	4.56%		4.10%	

The numbers speak volumes. The Trick Portfolio had higher returns in 4 out of 5 years, as well as a higher average annual rate of return (4.56% vs. 4.10%). But, at the end of the day, the TREAT portfolio gave you \$12,790 more dollars – an increase of 11.77% in just 5 years. Higher average returns do not necessarily translate into more money.

Look at what happens if the Trick and Treat Portfolios both averaged 8% a year. Once again, it is the magic of math that shows the real value of your money. This shows growth of \$100,000 over 5 years:

	Trick Portfolio		Treat Portfolio	
End of Year 1	14.00%	\$114,000	12.00%	\$112,000
2	18.00%	\$134,520	10.00%	\$123,200
3	12.00%	\$150,662	7.00%	\$131,824
4	-26.00%	\$111,490	-6.00%	\$123,914
5	22.00%	\$136,018	17.00%	\$144,980
Average	8.00%		8.00%	

The magic is that you win by not losing! Losing less when the market goes down means having less to make up for. You need to look at year by year returns and not just the averages. Time is money and you can spend a lot of time making up for market losses when you don’t have to. One more point to consider: The market does not, has not and probably never will give you the same fixed percentage return year after year. It just doesn’t work that way. Don’t get tricked with numbers!

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 of 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.



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DEATH NOTICES

Rosemary C. Courtney

Rosemary C. Courtney, of Orange, passed away peacefully on Monday, September 26, 2022. Born on July 11, 1933 in New London, CT she was the daughter of the late Thomas and Mary (Garaglio) DiMaggio.

She graduated from the University of Connecticut with a BS in Nursing in 1956. Following graduation, she moved to New York City where she worked as a pediatric nurse. Rosemary returned to Connecticut where she met her beloved husband, John A. Courtney. She continued her career for many years at Yale New Haven Hospital in nursing and planning. She was a member of the American Nurses' Association, the Connecticut Nurses' Association, the UConn Alumni Association and the Dante Alighieri Society of New London.

Rosemary resided in Orange for over 50 years where she was active in Holy Infant Church. She enjoyed travel, going to the beach, gardening, playing bridge, golf and, most of all, time with family and friends.

She is survived by her four children, Susan Vitale (Joseph) of Arlington, MA, Jacqueline Moll (Gary) of Skillman, NJ, John T. Courtney (Maria) of Woodbridge, CT and Carolyn Norton (Kevin) of Harwinton, CT; and 8 grandchildren, Christina Moll Lagarto (Matthew), Jennifer Moll, Camille and Kate Vitale, Cameron and Colby Norton, and Kaitlyn and John E. Courtney.

She was predeceased by her husband, John A. Courtney, sister, Gellistrina DiMaggio and brother, John T. DiMaggio.

Funeral arrangements were in the capable hands of the Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated October 14th at Holy Infant Church, Racebrook Road, Orange. Interment followed in St. Lawrence Cemetery, West Haven. Memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.

Del Arbour

On October 4, 2022, Del Arbour, 85, of Portsmouth, NH, died peacefully at her home with her family after a 5-year journey with Alzheimer's. She was born Dolores Sebastian in 1937 in Fall River, MA to Bella (Mendes) Sebastian of Fall River, MA, and Manuel Sebastian, of Azores, Portugal. She learned her skating partner and

the love of her life, Ron Arbour, originally of Newport, RI, in 1956. They moved to New Haven, CT where she began her career designing clothing for competitive figure skaters. Her business, Del Arbour Designs, earned high marks over the years as she dressed skaters around the world, including well-known Olympians.

With the heart of a gifted artist, the brain of a fierce businesswoman, and the soul of a strong, powerful, independent feminist, Del brought drive, vision and creativity to her deep love of skating across several decades. She loved designing skating outfits and helping so many skaters feel beautiful and unique in Del Arbour attire. She blazed a trail so bright she will long be remembered in the figure skating world nationally and internationally.

Del was a devoted mother and wife, she also loved her work, traveling, hosting parties in her home, oil painting, and deep conversations with those close to her.

Del is survived by her husband of 66 years, Ron Arbour, children, Janet Black of Wareham, MA, Kat Arbour (Jeff Mattson) of Portsmouth, NH and Jon Zell of Portsmouth, NH and her granddaughter, Katie Black of Middleborough, MA. She will be greatly missed also by her two sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and so many friends.

The family will host a celebration of Del's life in the Spring of 2023 in CT.

R. Scott Ebert

On June 25, 2022, R. Scott Ebert passed away from a chronic illness at home in Rocklin, CA. He was born in New Haven, CT on July 4, 1969 and grew up in East Haven. During his high school years, he was on the track

team. He graduated seventh in his class from East Haven High School in June 1987. He had been inducted into the National Honor Society and received the Scholar Athlete Award at graduation. He had joined the Civil Air Patrol while in high school. In September, he went to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Florida. After college, he worked at several jobs, living at our home.

In 1998, he was offered a job in California. There he started his own business-teaching motorcycle riding and safety.

He enjoyed renovating his home with new floors, including in his garage. He enjoyed working on cars, even replacing the engine of a car we had inherited. He did a lot of work on his cars and motorcycles; he had a show car that he refurbished and entered into contests, winning best of show five years in a row. He also enjoyed

building LEGO models and displayed them in his house.

He enjoyed gardening, growing lime trees and ghost peppers using them in cooking which he loved. Another hobby was bowling in which his average was in the 180s and his highest game was 298. He was captain of his team and looked forward to bowling nights.

He leaves behind his sons, Zachary (Samantha) Sorrentino of Lee, MA, Jordan and Justin Ebert of Myrtle Beach, SC, granddaughter Addilynn Sorrentino of Lee, MA, parents Ray and Harriet Ebert of Orange, CT, sister Debbi (Gio) Giordano of East Haven, CT, nephew Travis of East Haven, CT, and aunt Nancy (Allen) Jennings of Alexandria, VA. He was predeceased by nephew, Lucas Giordano of East Haven, CT.

Liv R. Holland

Liv R. Holland, 83, of Orange, beloved wife of the late Daniel J. Holland, passed away peacefully on September 30, 2022 after a long illness. Born on December 23, 1938 in Flekkefjord, Norway, she was the daughter of the late Leon and Tøri (Skjeggstad) Rødland.

Liv arrived in Orange as an au pair in her early 20s and met the love of her life, Daniel at a neighborhood party while she was here on a visa from Norway. She only meant to stay in the US for a year but ended up staying for a lifetime. She was involved with the Church of the Good Shepherd and enjoyed being part of the ladies' auxiliary for many years. She made many close

friends there, many of which she kept in close contact for most of her life. She worked at the Orange Public Library for 20 years. Liv made multiple trips back to her beloved homeland of Norway to visit her two sisters Arna and Solveig and her many family members. She loved to cook for family and friends and pass on traditional family recipes. Throughout her life Liv was an accomplishment knitter who made many beautiful afghans for everyone in the family, multiple needlepoint art projects and many other crafts.

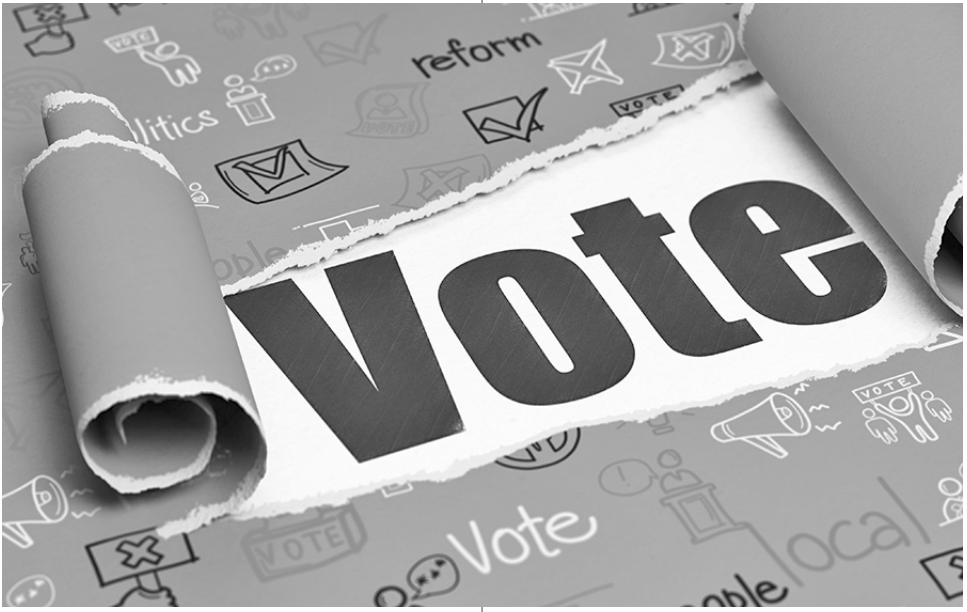
Liv's family was most important to her and she was a great mom. The unconditional love she gave and the values she taught will forever live in the hearts of her family and she will be deeply missed.

Liv was predeceased by her loving husband, Daniel of 61 years. Survivors include three loving children, Dan R. Holland and wife Roberta of Woodbridge, Lisa Holland and fiancé Mark Coppolella of West Haven, and Eric Holland and fiancée Kris DePalma of West Haven; brother-in-law David Holland and wife Susan of Winter Park, FL; 3 cherished grandchildren, Michael Holland of Manchester, Alexander Holland of Woodbridge and Steven Holland and wife Zoe and great granddaughter, Olivia of Auburn, ME.

Funeral arrangements were in the capable hands of the Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. There was a small service at Church of the Good Shepherd at 680 Racebrook Road in Orange on October 8th. Burial was private. Memorial contributions may be made to St Jude's hospital or the Alzheimer's Association. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.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



FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

Cut the Cable with Josh

Josh will show how you can separate yourself from cable tv. The presentation is free. Join us on November 3, at 5:30pm. Call 203-891-4784 with questions.

Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner

Join us on Sunday, November 27 when the Lions Club of Orange hosts a Thanksgiving dinner for all to enjoy. Call the Senior Center at 203-891-4788 to reserve a seat. The Lions need a head count to know how much food to get.

Medicare Seminars

It is that time of the year when Medicare plans need to be decided upon. We have several seminars coming up that you can attend. Join us at 1:00pm at the High Plains Community Center.

- › 11/7 Anthem
- › 11/22 United Health
- › 12/1 United Health

Hiking Group

Marianne and Judy will lead us in a 2 mile-ish, 1 hour walk every Thursday at 9am from July-September or 10am from October-December. Meet at the location of the hike.

November 3: Naugatuck Greenway Park at BJ's Wholesale Club, 20 Division Street, Derby

November 10: Turkey Hill Preserve, 700 Derby Milford Road, Orange

November 17: Beaver Brook Trail, 553 West Avenue, Milford

November 24: No Hike due to holiday

Adult Coloring

Join us for Adult Coloring on No-

vember 7 at 12:30pm in the café. Fun and relaxing, for all.

Arts & Crafts with Suzanne

Join us for a fun-filled class project with Suzanne as she leads Arts & Crafts on Monday, November 21 at 12:30pm. Pre-registration is required. Call 203-891-4784 to sign up.

Book Club

The book club normally meets the last Friday of the month at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be in the senior lounge on a special holiday date: December 2. December's book is "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee.

Movie of the Month

Join us November 4, at 1:00pm for "Where the Crawdads Sing". Based on the bestselling book, a woman who raised herself in the marshes of the deep South becomes a suspect in the murder of a man she was once involved with. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Call 203-891-4784 to register.

Dr. Pete & Chiropractic Benefits

Join us on November 17 at 11:00 for Dr. Pete presents Optimizing Health Benefits for Seniors. Improve your balance and coordination, decrease your risk of falls. Call to reserve a seat 203-891-4784.

Veterans' Appreciation Cabaret

Join us on November 14 when we celebrate our veterans. Larry & Mary of the Larry Ayce Band will perform. Call to reserve a seat. Coffee and dessert at 1:30pm, Larry & Mary from 2-3:00pm.

Name that Tune with Pat Santucci

The classic game is back! Come join us on November 28 At 1:30pm when Pat Santucci leads us in "Name that Tune". Call the office at 203-891-4784 to reserve a seat. Coffee and snack served at 1:30, Pat at 2:00pm.

iPhone & iPads

Josh will teach you the basic of how to use your iPhone and iPad. The class will meet on Wednesdays, November 9-30, from 5-7:00pm. A fee of \$20 is required. Come by the office to register. Call 203-891-4784 with questions.

Introduction to Macs

Josh will teach an introduction class on MacIntosh Computers. The class will meet on Wednesdays, December 7-28 from 5-7:00pm. A fee of \$20 is required. Come by the office to register. Call 203-891-4784 with questions.

Beginner Pickleball with Mary

Join us for Beginner Pickleball with Mary on Fridays, in the HPCC Tennis Courts from 8:00am. Bring a chair as there are no benches. This activity will move into the gym when the floor is finished.

Hot Lunch Program

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

Legal Clinic

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

ule an appointment, call 203-891-4784.

Griffin Hospital/Parish Nurses Blood Pressure Check

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

Trips Ireland Trip Presentation

Join us on December 6 at 3:00pm when Tracy from Collette presents the upcoming trip to Ireland. Call the office to register.

November 10: AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL @ THE GRAND OAK VILLA

Join us at the Grand Oak Villa for Friendship Tours Annual Patriotic Picnic. Celebrate the Music of America with Ray Guillemette, Jr. and His Live Band. Lunch will be a family style (subject to change) meal of garden salad, pasta with homemade house sauce, roast turkey with gravy & sliced roast beef with brown gravy, roasted potato, vegetable, dessert, soda & coffee. Carafe of red & white wine on every table. Cost is \$106pp with transportation. (Minimal walking).

December 7: IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD @ AQUA TURF

The world-famous orchestra is the most popular and sought-after swing band in the world. A Fun & Lively Holiday Show! Family style menu (format subject to change): garden salad, pasta, roast turkey & baked ham, vegetable, potato, rolls, dessert, beverage. Cost is \$114pp with transportation (Minimal walking).

A Look At The Oldest Halloween Traditions

As with many celebrations, Halloween is steeped in traditions — many of which can be traced back quite some time. Since Halloween is believed to have originated from Celtic pagan, ancient Roman and early Christian events, its traditions are varied. The following is a deep look at some old traditions associated with Halloween.

Bonfires: Historians trace many traditions of Halloween to a Celtic holiday known as Samhain (pronounced sow-in). The Celts lived 2,000 years ago in parts of what is now Northern France, Great Britain and Ireland.

During Samhain, people believed that the door between the worlds of the living and the dead was blurred. On Samhain, Celts believed the ghosts of the dead returned. Also, Druids made predictions about the future at this time of year. It was customary to build large,

sacred bonfires and burn crops and other sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

While large bonfires are not typically part of Halloween celebrations today, revelers can light fire pits in their yards that are reminiscent of ancient celebrations.

Trick-or-treating: Christianity spread throughout Celtic regions and blended with other rituals. Pope Gregory III expanded on a holiday Pope Boniface IV established to honor Christian martyrs to include all saints and martyrs. All Saints Day on November 1 commemorates the venerable saints, and All Souls Day on November 2 celebrates loved ones who went on to eternal rest. All-Hallows Eve (Halloween) was a time to pay homage to the dead. Poor children would go door to door in more affluent neighborhoods offering to say prayers for residents' deceased loved

ones in exchange for some food or money. This was known as "souling," which became the basis for trick-or-treating. Later the tradition became known as "guising" in areas of Scotland, where children would go around in costumes.

Witches: Images of witches riding broomsticks are everywhere come Halloween, and witch costumes remain a standard. Almanac.com indicates that, during the Middle Ages, women who practiced divination were dubbed "witches," from the Anglo-Saxon word "wicce," or "wise one." It was believed the witches could go into a trancelike state, and would do so in front of their fireplaces. Superstitious people believed the witches could fly out of their chimneys on broomsticks and terrorize others with magical deeds.


Bobbing for apples: Bobbing for apples is not quite as popular as it once

was, as more people have become concerned about spreading germs. During the Roman festival for Pomona, which occurred around November 1, Pomona, the goddess of fruit and orchards, was celebrated. Romans believed the first person to catch a bobbing apple with his or her teeth would be the first to marry. It also was believed apple peels contained the secrets to true love.

Carving pumpkins: Removing the insides of pumpkins and carving them into funny or fearsome faces may be messy work, but it's tradition on Halloween. Turnips were the material of choice in ancient Ireland, but were replaced by pumpkins when immigrants came to America. The "lanterns" were made with scary faces and lit to frighten away spirits.

Halloween is full of traditions, many of which have lengthy histories.

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How to Keep Kids Safe on Halloween

When Halloween arrives each October, most people are interested in the entertaining aspects of the holiday in addition to the abundance of sweet foods that are there for the taking. Even though fun may be foremost on the brain, it is important for everyone keep safety in mind as well.

According to the Florida Law Group, Halloween is a time of heightened injuries and fatalities, and is actually the deadliest day of the year for children. A State Farm insurance study that analyzed four million fatalities between 1990 and 2010 discovered children are twice as likely to die on Halloween as they are on any other day of the year. Data published in the Wall Street Journal indicated children between the ages of four and eight are 10 times more likely to be fatally injured by a car on Halloween than any other day of the year.

While no one wants to put a damper on Halloween festivities, it's important that everyone celebrate safely.

Keep weekdays in mind

Halloween falls on a Monday in 2022 and that could be more dangerous than



if it fell on a weekend. According to Autoinsurance.com, which conducted a study that analyzed 24 years' worth of data provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), injuries to children and pedestrians in general were higher on weeknight than weekend holidays, with most accidents

occurring between 6 p.m. and 7 pm — prime commuter time. Exercise extreme caution walking around this year.

Opt for face paints over masks

Medical masks may still be worn by some families as precautions against COVID-19. However, when it comes to Halloween costumes, face paints are preferable to masks and other face coverings. Masks tend to limit visibility, which can lead to kids tripping and falling, or even not being able to see cars or other pedestrians. Follow safety instructions when using face paints around the eyes and mouth.

Improve visibility all around

In late October, the sun sets at 5:50 on average (for New York City according to 2021 data). Sunset will occur earlier the more north one is located latitudinally. With darkness descending during peak trick-or-treating times, it's imperative that children carry flashlights or glow sticks or utilize reflective tape on their costumes so others can see them.

Traverse familiar areas

Children trick-or-treating with adults may be able to venture a bit further in pursuit of treats, but it is generally safer to stay close to home where surroundings are familiar. This reduces the propensity for getting lost or wandering into sketchy situations. Older kids allowed to venture out on their own would be wise to stay close to home as well. Neighbors can assist if something goes awry and there's less chance of getting turned around.

What homeowners can do

Even though safety is largely on the shoulders of trick-or-treaters, homeowners and renters can do their part to ensure the safety of those enjoying Halloween hijinks. Make sure walkways to doors are clear. Have additional lights on pathways or overhead to improve visibility. Contain pets indoors, as they may become skittish on Halloween with extra crowds and noises. Don't run the risk of kids getting scratched or bitten.

Embracing various safety strategies can help make Halloween even more enjoyable.



Students from Orange Community Nursery School enjoyed a day at Buttermilk Farm.



Nirenstein, Horowitz & Associates P.C.

Attorneys at Law

200 Glastonbury Boulevard, Suite 202
Glastonbury, CT 06033

6 Complimentary Workshops
Get Your Legal Affairs in Order NOW



Barry D. Horowitz & Brian S. Karpe

My name is Barry Horowitz. I am a founding partner and president of the law firm of Nirenstein, Horowitz & Associates P.C. We practice exclusively in the areas of Wills, Trusts, Estate Planning, and Elder Law.

Our Law Firm is hosting **SIX COMPLIMENTARY WORKSHOPS** in Hartford, New Haven and Fairfield counties to explain options families have to get their legal affairs in order.

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- “Why should I have a Trust instead of a Will?”
- “Will my family be forced to deal with PROBATE when I die?”
- “Will my family be able to make medical decisions for me if I get sick?”
- “How can I ensure I am NOT forced to go into a nursing home?”
- “Can I protect my property from being taken by the state if I go into a nursing home?”

We cannot answer these questions in a telephone call. As each family is unique. We know that a workshop is the best way for us to educate people about these issues.

These workshops allow us to give you this important information in a safe, sanitized & comfortable environment.

I teach many of the classes. I am a senior partner with the firm, and am a frequent speaker on trusts, wills, and proper estate planning. One of our associate attorneys, Brian Karpe, may be speaking. Attorney Karpe has been practicing law in Connecticut for 35 years, and is also dedicated to helping clients with their estate planning needs.

You must call and make a reservation if you wish to attend. Seating is limited. Therefore, if you want to attend one of the workshops, please call as soon as possible to reserve your seat.

Safety First:

The workshops have limited seating in sanitized rooms.

Face masks may be required depending on town mandate.

6 Complimentary Workshops

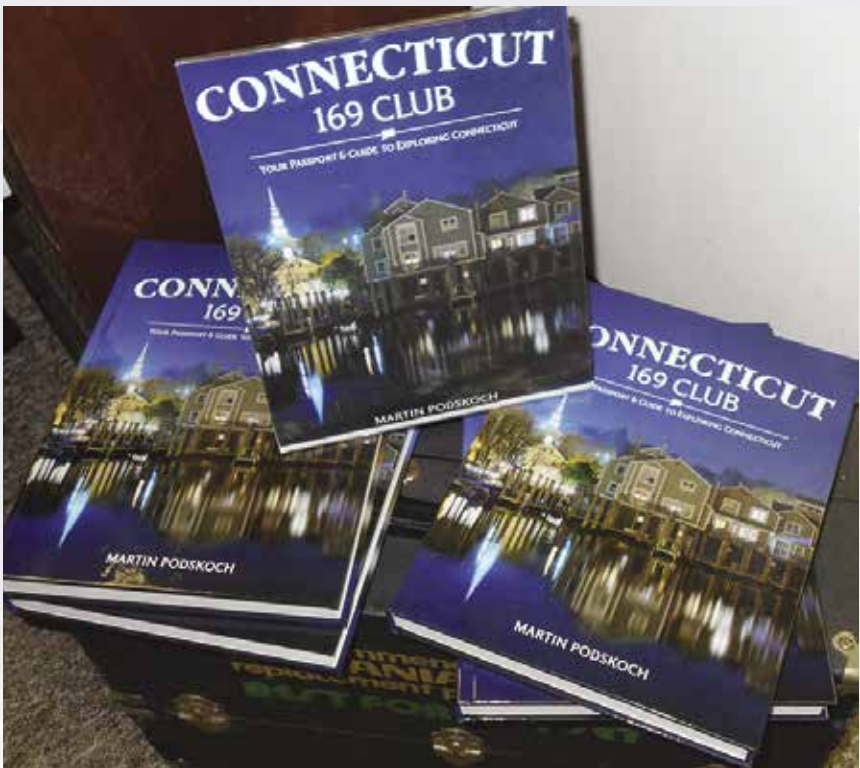
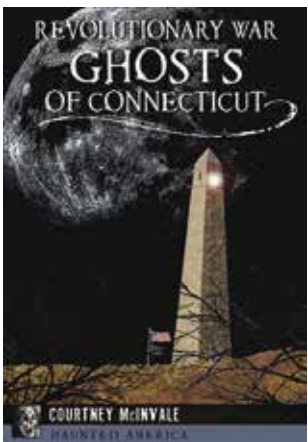
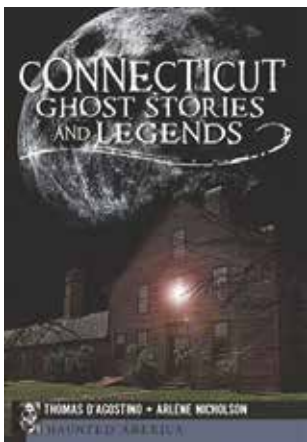
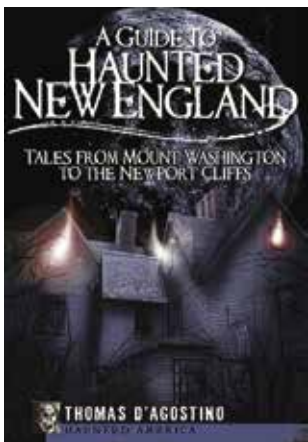
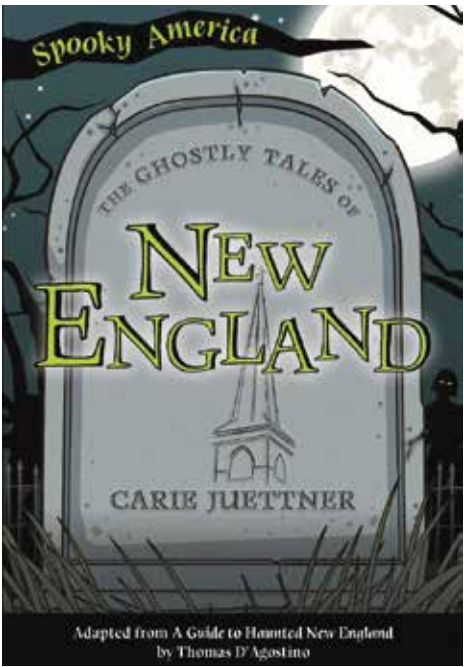
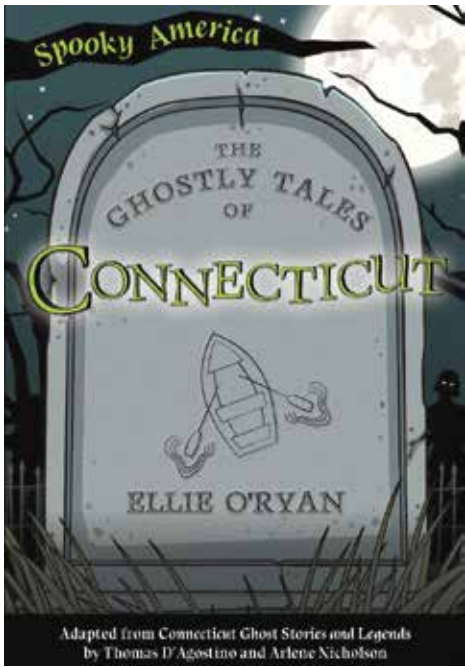
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ORANGE Wednesday, November 9 2:00pm-4:00pm (Refreshments) Courtyard by Marriott 136 Marsh Hill Road	NEWINGTON Thursday, November 10 10:00am-12:00noon (Continental Breakfast) Indian Hill Country Club 111 Golf Street
SHELTON Saturday, November 12 10:00am-12:00noon (Continental Breakfast) Hilton Garden Inn 25 Old Stratford Road	SHELTON Saturday, November 12 2:00pm-4:00pm (Refreshments) Hilton Garden Inn 25 Old Stratford Road

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