Orange Town News



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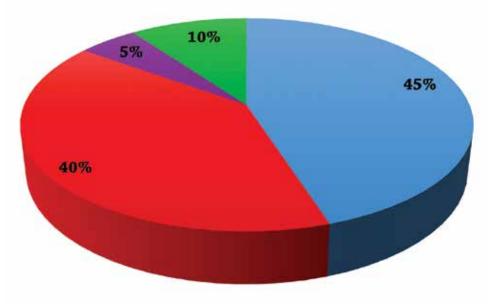
ORANGE SCHOOLS CREATE MORE EFFECTIVE TEACHER EVALUATION PLAN

By Melissa Nicefaro – Orange Town News Correspondent

While keeping the integrity and goal of the original plan in place, Orange Schools has streamlined and strengthened the focus of its plan for teacher evaluations. Co-chairs Patty Moffett and Mike Gray presented the plan and the impetus behind the changes to the Board of Education in late November. "Updating of teacher evaluation plan has been a goal for quite a while now," Moffett, a first grade teacher at Peck Place School explains. The plan was last changed in 2014 with minor grammatical changes.

A committee was formed, made up of members of the committee that drafted the original document. "They were willing to continue serving so that the spirit and deliberation from the inception of the plan were familiar to everyone as were the portions of the plan that were in need of updating," Moffett said. The committee is a cross-section of the district's teaching staff with representation from all four buildings, grade levels, special education and specialists and administrators, overseen by Director of Curriculum Evelyn Russo.

The goal was to minimize time spent on paperwork for teachers and administrators and maximize time spent on



■ Student Growth ■ Student Feedback

communication, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue to improve and support instruction. As Gray, principal at Race Brook School, explains, "Teacher evaluation is made up of process and paperwork. The process of how teacher evaluation works is not something we changed at all. To give you a frame of

Teacher PerformanceParent Feedback

reference, last year alone I filled out 787 forms in the program, Talent Ed. Each of those forms gets shuffled between myself and a teacher at least twice, sometimes three or four times that a form goes back and forth. Sometimes when you're dealing with that many forms, you tend to lose efficiency and focus. We

want the focus to be on improving our instruction," he adds.

At the start of this school year, teachers set goals through a series of four forms: Student Learning Outcome (one tied to mathematics, one tied to reading), Teacher Practice Goal, Parent Feedback Goal and Student Feedback Goal. "What we have done is put all of those onto one form. We've gotten positive feedback already that it is so much easier on one form," said Gray. At the middle of the school year, teachers use the same 'oneform' process to detail their progress toward each specific goal. A meeting is held mid-year with each teacher and principal as is an end-of year meeting. "We've taken 12 forms and made them into three. We've gotten rid of a lot of information that we didn't need on each form and are focusing on each teacher's practice in the classroom." Gray said.

As part of their constant evaluation, each year, teachers choose one of four practice goals including Planning for Active Learning, Classroom Environment, Instruction for Active Learning, Professional Responsibilities and Teacher

See "Evaluations" continued on Page 7 $\,$



Amity Regional Middle School - Orange Campus First Marking Period Honor Roll - Page 16









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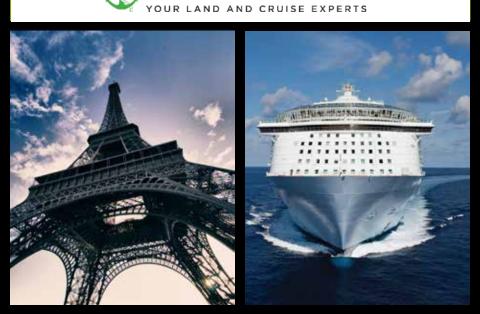
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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK Rocky Salperto



The 2016 Town of Orange Independence Day Concert and Fireworks Show set another attendance record as the area residents packed the Orange fairgrounds to watch the performance of "Queen Flash" from Montreal, Canada which was followed by the traditional fireworks show. Both the band and the fireworks received rave reviews and a good time was had by all. The show was produced by Orange Town News Owner Rocky Salperto in coordination with the Town of Orange and the support of Community Sponsors including: Yale University, Cohen & Wolf, The Orange Foundation's Olga Fund & Regent Wealth Management Group.

It is hard for me to believe that we have completed our 11th year as **"Your Hometown Newspaper"**, but time sure does fly when you are having fun! As we approach another year's end, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a Joyous Holiday Season & Happy New Year to all of our loyal readers. The **Orange Town News** has done its best to continue providing our readership within and outside of Orange, a diverse community newspaper that has something for everyone to enjoy. We Cover Orange Exclu**sively!** We do not try to cram Orange & Milford content into 20 pages, but rather devote as many as 48 pages of content solely to the lives and events of this great town.

Our sister paper, the "Woodbridge Town News", now in its 6th year, has grown as area residents have come to rely on both of our publications as their source for positive community news, events and happenings.

In 2016, the **Orange Town News** was once again proud to produce the Town's largest single day event when over 8,000 people attended the **Independence Day Concert and Fireworks Show**. The Montreal based "**Queen Flash**" rocked the Orange Fairgrounds followed by another spectacular fireworks show. Plans are already underway for the **July 4th**, **2017 Concert & Fireworks Extravaganza!** (Date to be announced soon.)

I would like to commend our staff of professional writers and contributors: Melissa Nicefaro, Laura Fantarella, Bettina Thiel, Susan Noonan, Ginny

Reinhard, Roberta Nestor & Ray Spaziani.

My editor, **Marlene Silverstein** (who has been our editor since day one) and our production manager, **Mike Kriz** continue to produce top notch publications for which area residents can be proud.

In addition, the **loyalty of our advertisers** and their continued support through their patronage of the OTN & WTN has not gone unnoticed. While the State & Local economies continue to suffer, we are committed to provide local businesses, large & small, an affordable means to promote their goods and services.

But most of all, my heartfelt thanks go out to the hundreds of **townspeople** who submit their letters, articles, photos, bulletin board events and more. While our paper has grown to as many as 48 pages, do not worry; we will continue to make room to publish your local news and events, no matter how big or small.

In addition, readers continue to rely on our **enhanced websites** for our publications at **www.orangetown-news.com** & **www.woodbridgetown-news.com**.

Lastly, I would like to personally wish you all a **Safe, Happy and Healthy 2017**. If you have any comments or suggestions, please always feel free to contact me at rocky@orangetownnews.

Sincerely, Rocky Salperto – Publisher Orange Town News, Woodbridge Town News





The students in the 5s class at Orange Community Nursery School were thankful for friends as the shared in a feast together celebrating Thanksgiving.



Joldwell Banker

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Friends in the 4s class at Orange Community Nursery school sang songs together as a part of their Thanksgiving day celebration!







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To submit a letter to the editor mail us or Email your letter to: letters@orangetownnews.com

To submit a Bulletin Board event

Email us at: bulletinboard@orangetownnews.com All articles, photographs and letters must include your name, address and daytime

telephone number for confirmation. The Orange Town News reserves the right to reject any advertisement, article, photograph or letter. Letters to the editor must be unique to the Orange Town News.

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Pick-up Extra Copies of the Orange Town News!

Extra Copies of the Orange Town News are available \mathbf{FREE} at the following locations:

Case Memorial Library	176 Tyler City Road
China Pavilion Restaurant	185 Boston Post Road
Chip's Family Restaurant	321 Boston Post Road
Dip Top	263 Boston Post Road
Dunkin' Donuts	297 & 377 Boston Post Road
Orange Community Center	525 Orange Center Road
Orange Town Hall	617 Orange Center Road
Prime 16 Gourmet Burgers/BBQ	464 Boston Post Road
Shanghai Gourmet	533 Boston Post Road
Sponge Brothers Car Wash	79 Boston Post Road
The UPS Store	554 Boston Post Road
Urgent Care Center	109 Boston Post Road

If you would like to have additional copies of the **Orange Town News** available at your organization or business, please call 203-298-4399.



Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Orange Town News. Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Deadline	<u>Upcoming Issue Dates</u>
January 6th	New Year Issue January 13th
February 3rd	Valentine's Issue February 10th
March 3rd	St. Patrick's Day Issue March 10th
Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you	ı.

FROM OUR READERS

Friends of the Library **Holiday Decorations Invitation**

We invite you all to stop by the Case Memorial Library during the month of December to see the beautiful holiday decorations created by local businesses, civic organizations, and social groups. You will be amazed with the creativity and inventiveness of your neighbors.

We wish you Happy Holidays,

From the "Friends" of the Library

Thank You Orange Town News & Townspeople

I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for printing the press release about our teddy bear drive that I sent you on 11/7. The response from the generous townspeople in Orange has truly made me "thankful".

One resident called me to say that her Thanksgiving dinner guests asked her what they could bring and her reply was "a teddy bear!" Another resident is crocheting 3 teddy bears and a young man stopped by with the most beautiful Hallmark bear with cub that plays "You Can Count on Me"! Truly doesn't get any better than that!

Thank you once again for allowing our press release to take up space in your paper - the children in our local hospitals will be so happy to receive their bear!

Debbie Fedorko

Thank You School PTO/PTA's

I would like to take a moment to offer a giant Thank You to the members of the PTO/PTA's of the 4 schools that make up the Orange Elementary School system. On Thursday November 17th all families of the 4 schools were lucky to watch the Harlem Wizards play various members of our entire school community - including our very tall Superintendent...Dr. Vince Scarpetti!

It was a fun night that brought us all to Amity High School for the event. A packed house comprised of many families from Mary. L Tracy, Turkey Hill, Peck Place and Racebrook Schools were in attendance - along with all 4 Principals... and many teachers and staff members. It was fantastic! The kids had a blast and the grown-ups did too!

This would not have happened if the members of the 4 PTO/PTA's did not come together. There were raffles and door prizes and balloons upon entering...souvenirs and concessions too! I can only imagine the HUGE UNDER-TAKING it must have been to organize this evening.

These volunteers devote hours upon hours of their free time to pull something like this together - while most of us just show up and have fun. Let this serve as a big THANK YOU from the entire school community of Orange, CT!

A Grateful Parent



OTN Letters Policy

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

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



THE ORANGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE

Online Version of the Orange Town News www.OrangeTownNews.com



ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP





DOCUMENTARY & PANEL ON OPIOID EPIDEMIC AT AMITY

"Chasing the Dragon" documentary film and a panel to discuss the Opioid Epidemic will be held at Amity Regional High School, 25 Newton Road on January 11th at 6:00 p.m. Parents

and community members are invited to educate themselves about the cycle of addiction. The film includes strong language and content, and is not appropriate for younger viewers.

"Evaluations" continued from Page 1

Leadership. "They choose something they want to target to build their own capacity. It is something that will affect their instruction and therefore effect learning of the students in the classroom," said Gray. "In the past, they would choose a goal and not talk too much about it until the end of the year, but now when they do this, all of the observations that the administrators will be doing can focus on that teacher practice goal that they have chosen throughout the year."

Teacher evaluations are made up of four components: student growth, student feedback, teacher performance and parent feedback. Originally, each component was weighted equally at 25%. Under the new initiative, the practice goal and student growth are more heavily weighted 40 and 45 percent re-

spectively. "We're changing the weight of the focus for the goal. We're saying that your teacher practice, which is making up that 40% of the entire summative evaluation. If we really truly want people to focus and put the work in and build their own capacity to really effect change in the classroom, changing that weighting makes sense," Gray said.

"From a teacher's perspective, if there is something you really want to focus on and you have four domains that are equally divided, it is much more laser focused to change what you want to change in your classroom to improve instruction for children," Moffett said.

"It was a reflective process, looking at the plan again. It provided that focus for us as a committee and we hope it will provide that focus for our staff as well. Based on feedback I've already gotten, people are excited to be doing this." Grav





PECK PLACE LEGO LEAGUE TEAM

The Peck Place Lego League team, the Outrageous Oranges, finished up its project for the November 19th competition by meeting with the local Bark Busters dog training company of Woodbridge, CT to get feedback on their idea to deter puppy biting and reduce how many puppies are returned to shelters each year. The owners Richard and Vicki Horowitz were very helpful and supportive and told the kids they had a great idea and to reach out with any other questions and keep them updated on

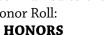
the competition outcome. This STEM opportunity is supported by the Orange Board of Education. They purchased the Lego Competition kit, robots, ipads, t shirts, and anything else the kids needed to ensure the kids have a great learning opportunity. This is a great example of our community and surrounding communities coming together to support our kids and their futures. More information on the Bark Busters Dog Training Company can be found at dog-trainingnew-haven-ct.com/.

ORANGE RESIDENTS NAMED TO SACRED HEART HONOR ROLL

Sacred Heart Academy

Sacred Heart Academy Principal Sr. Kathleen Mary Coonan, ASCJ has an-

nounced the Honor Roll for the FIRST marking period of the 2016- 17 academic year. The following students from Orange have been named to the Honor Roll:



Emily Drezek Jessica Gallagher

Academic honors are awarded at the end of each quarter to students attaining an average of 3.5 or better. Those students achieving a grade point average of 3.8 or greater are awarded high honors.

> Founded in 1946 by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Sacred Heart successfully prepares young women in grades 9 - 12 for learning, service,

and achievement in a global society. Sacred Heart Academy welcomes 500 students from more than 80 schools and 60 towns in Connecticut and is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Visit www. sacredhearthamden.org to learn more.

STRUIDIDINHRINIDAM

Jonah Schwartz Of Orange Graduates From Roger Williams University

Bristol, RI -- Roger Williams University is proud to announce that Jonah Schwartz of Orange, CT earned a B.S. in Economics.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS



ELM CITY GIRLS' CHOIR HOLIDAY CLASSICS CONCERT

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is pleased to host Holiday Classics featuring the Elm City Girls' Choir. The concert will take place on Friday, December 16 at 7:30 PM. The program will include a variety of holiday music performed by New England's premiere girls' chorale ensemble. The choir is based in New Haven and has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and throughout North America, Europe and Asia. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors/students. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors/students. Advance tickets may be purchased after church services on Sundays or by contacting the church at (203)795-6577. Proceeds from all ticket sales benefit the United Girls' Choir scholarship program. For any questions regarding the performance or to book future performances, please contact the Elm City Girls' Choir at (203) 787-1244 or send an email to info@unitedchoir.com.

All are welcome to celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons at the Church of the Good Shepherd. On Sunday, December 11th at the 9:30 am service please join us for Advent

Lessons and Carols. The Annual Christmas Pageant and Wassail Party take place on Sunday, December 28th at the 9:30 am service. Early worshippers can attend our 8am service on that day if they wish. On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, our Choir will begin singing at 4:30 p.m. and our service will begin at 5 p.m. Our regular Sunday services will take place on Christmas Day at 8 am and 9:30 am. Contact the Parish Office at (203) 795-6577 or via email at the goodspheherd@optonline. net with any questions. Please join us for joyous music, fellowship, and the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd is located on 680 Racebrook Road, Orange, Connecticut. Sunday service times include Rite II Holy Eucharist without music at 8 a.m. and Rite II Holy Eucharist with music @ 9:30 a.m. For more information about the The Church of the Good Shepherd's many other programs, please call the Parish Office @ (203) 795-6577, email us @ thegoodspheherd@optonline.net, visit our website @ www.thegoodshepherdorangect.org, and of course, check our Facebook page www.facebook.com/cg-sorangectfor frequent postings.

SHARE YOUR JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SUCCESSES

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut will meet on Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 1:30 pm, at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington, CT 06111. The program is free and open to all.

Come and share your successes with other Jewish genealogists from throughout Connecticut. Attendees will have about ten minutes to explain at least one success found on their genealogical journey. Describe your brainstorms, your interviewing and research techniques, advice given—anything and everything that added to your family tree. You never know, your success may demolish someone else's genealogical brick wall!

For additional information, visit the JGSCT website, www.jgsct.org.

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, ADVENT SERVICES & EVENTS

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge invites all members of the community to join us at 5 Meeting House Lane, for the following Advent Services and Events:

Sunday, December 11, is the third Sunday of Advent. The Bell Choir will bring its special gifts to the 10 a.m. service and at 3 p.m. we open the Meeting House doors for the Annual Community Carol Sing for the entire family, followed by a reception in the Parish House. After the carol sing members of the Middle School Youth Group for 5th – 8th graders will go out for a holiday dinner.

Sunday, December 18, is the fourth Sunday of Advent. The annual Christmas Pageant will be held during the 10 a.m. service. After the service members of the congregation will go caroling to seniors.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve candle light service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.



First Church of Christ

Sunday, December 25, A service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., will continue to meet through Advent in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary.

Nursery care will be available for the Christmas Eve service in addition to the Sunday morning services. For more information on these events, please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or office@uccw.org.

COMMUNITY CAROL SING

There will be a Community Carol Sing, Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge.

Bring family and friends to join us at the church sanctuary to sing favorite Christmas carols. A reception will follow in the Parish House.

ORANGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH HOLIDAY SERVICES

Orange Congregational Church, located at 205 Meeting House Lane, welcomes you to join us for our upcoming holiday services. On Sunday, December 11th we will gather at 10 a.m. for Advent worship and "A Christmas Story" led by the children and youth of the congregation, with music from the Junior, Senior and Handbell Choirs. On Sunday, December 18th we will have Advent services at 8 a.m. in the Chapel and also at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with a Blessing of the Blankets which our congregation is donating to the Department of Children & Families and to Boys & Girls Village. On Wednesday, December 14th the "Longest Night Interfaith Service of Healing and Hope" will take place at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. You are invited to come and be filled with healing light during this darkest time of the year; through readings, song and prayer, may you experience hope for your life.

For December 24th on Christmas



Orange Congregational Church

Eve there will be two services in our Sanctuary: a family service will take place at 5 p.m. and a traditional Candlelight service of Lessons and Carols will take place at 10 p.m. On December 25, Christmas morning service will be at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary, with all children invited to come in their pajamas; our Crib Room will also be open for all birth to Pre-K children. Please note, there will be no regular coffee hour following the Christmas morning service. For more information or any questions, please call the church office at 203-795-9749.

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" — CHARLES DICKENS



HOUSES OF WORSHIP

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

In the midst of joy and the anticipation of Christ's arrival, a Blue Christmas service sets aside a time to acknowledge the darkness of the loss and pain that are present in our lives. For some, the loss is new and immediate; for some, the loss is well-worn with times' passing. Come

on December 18 to this contemplative, peaceful service, creating a space for memories that may seem out of place this season. All are welcome. Sunday Dec. 18, 2016 at 7:00 pm.. 283 Bridgeport Ave., Milford, CT 06460.Phone: 203-874-2701.



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> Sunday Mass: 9:00am, Daily Mass: 9:00am Rev. Bernard Champagne, 203-795-5076 378 Spring St. Orange, Ct 06477



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Did You Know?

Happy Holidays!

Thank You and an Invitation for the New Year

With the holidays upon us, it is with sincere appreciation that we thank you for reading our articles throughout the years. We enjoy writing to you each month and are committed to sharing plain English educational material on estate and long term care planning to help protect what's important to you.

It is very gratifying when someone comes to the office with a prior article and explains how it helped them answer a question or prompted them to take action they had been putting off.

The articles we write are all original content based on frequently asked questions from our clients and colleagues.

We now invite you to write to us with your questions or suggestions for estate planning and long term care planning topics that are of specific interest to you. Is there a question looming that you'd like us to answer? Was there a topic we covered for which you'd like more detail? If you have a topic or question in mind that you'd like us to write about in 2017, please write to us at:

Floman DePaola, LLC 378 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477 or office@flomandepaola.com

We hope to hear from you!

Sending you the best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

Steve, Allison, Nicole, Lori D., Staci, and Lori A.



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

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FRIENDS ADD HOLIDAY BOOK SALE AND MITTEN TREE

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library have added a new dimension to the Annual Festival Of Trees. For the first time there will be special holiday books displayed near the Friends tree—all for sale. The books, brought up from the treasure trove of books from the Friends' sorted books in the basement—where the Great! Book Sales are held—all have a holiday or seasonal theme—Christmas, Chanukah, etc. Books for children will include board books, picture books and chapter books. For the older crowd there will be fiction and non-fiction books, including novels, collections of stories, cookbooks, craft books and decorating books. All are in very good to excellent condition and could even be appropriate for gift giving. The sale items will be near the Friends Tree—in front of the Reference Desk. All children's books are \$1.00; adult books are \$2.00—bargain prices for the holidays! Customers can pay at the Circulation Desk. Any books in the glass bookcase display can be purchased after the holidays.

Follow the signs to The Mitten Tree in the corner near the Friends Tree and the stairs. Residents can help decorate a tree for a good cause by bringing in new mittens or gloves in all sizes to adorn the tree. Please leave mittens (or gloves) attached to the mate for easy hanging on the tree. After the trees are taken down, the donated items will be donated to shelters. Please help keep everyone warm this year. Bring in those mittens or gloves! Follow the signs to the Mitten Tree! Show your holiday spirit and contribute to this good cause.

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SENIOR CENTER

By Dennis Marsh



Return of Pilates!

January 5, at 1:30pm - Pilates class with Michele Tenney begins. Join us for this 10 week class for \$50. Sign up in the Senior Center office.

Weekly Bingo

Sam's Club of Orange will be the Business Bingo Sponsor on Thursday, January 5 from 1 to 3:30. Come join the fun for this special bingo. Sam's Club will provide the dessert so come one come all! Cards are \$1.25 for the first card, \$.25 for each card after. Paper sheets are a \$1.00 each.

New Class! Cribbage Club

Join us on January 9, as the senior center and Assisted Living Services sponsor Cribbage Club Mondays from 1:00—3:00pm. Mark Halliday of Assisted Living Services will instruct students on how to play cribbage for the first hour. The second hour will be time to play. Call (203) 891-4784 to reserve a seat!

Turkey Hill School Technology Partnership

The Orange Senior Center and the Turkey Hill School with a grant from the Jamie Hurley Foundation have partnered to bring you 3 free Technology Seminars. Learn from the experts, the Kids! Call (203) 891-4784 to reserve a seat.

Gmail and Google Hangouts

Stay Connected with Friends & Family, January 9, 10am

How to Connect with Friends & Family with Devices, February 6, 10am

Wellness Book Club

Marianne Pysarchyk of the Case Memorial Library and the Orange Senior Center will host the Wellness Book Group at HPCC on January 11 (the 2nd Wednesday of the month) at 11am. January's title is: The Road to Character by David Brooks. Call (203) 891-4784 to register.

Movie of the Month

Friday, January 20 "Sully", 1:00pm;

Directed by Clint Eastwood, starring Tom Hanks. The story is about of Chesley Sullenberger, an American pilot who became a hero after landing his damaged plane on the Hudson River in order to save the flight's passengers and crew. Popcorn & soda will be served. Call for a seat (203) 891-4784.

They Call Me Reckless -Lunch & Fun

Join us on Thursday, January 26, as Janet Barrett discusses her book They Call Me Reckless: A True Story of War, Love and One Extraordinary Horse. This is an amazing story of the power of the human-horse connection—aweinspiring, heartwarming, and at times downright funny. You bring your lunch for 11:30, we supply coffee and dessert. Speaker goes on at noon. Be sure to RSVP to (203) 891-4784.

Book Club

The monthly book club will meet on Friday January 27. The book is The Messiah of Stockholm by Cynthia Ozick.

New Class! Introduction to Computers

Calling all newbie computer users! Frank Marini has agreed to teach an introductory computer course! This 5 week course starts February 2, 9:30-11:30am, for only \$25. Sign up at the Senior Center office.

Lions Club Pizza Party Brazilian Carnival Cabaret

Join us on February 6, for a Brazilian Carnival themed Cabaret from 1:30—3:00pm. Jose Paulo will perform Brazilian Carnival music. The Lions Club of Orange will serve pizza and soda. Call (203) 891-4784 to reserve a seat!

Submit Your Living Treasure Nominations Now

Nominations are being accepted through March 11, 2017 for the 2017 Living Treasure Awards. Nomination forms are available in the Orange Community Services office, Town Hall, and

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AFTER-SCHOOL LITERACY TUTORING!

Experience Corps needs volunteers age 50+ to tutor literacy starting in January, Mondays through Thursdays 2-6pm, on Willow Street in New Haven. Volunteering continues during the summer. Volunteers receive a small stipend & help for their own or their child/grandchild's college costs or student loans. Training will be held in January. Must have a H.S.

diploma and will be fingerprinted. For more information, call Sheila at 203-752-3059 or email sgreenstein@aoascc.org.

Experience Corps - Greater New Haven is a program of the Agency on Aging of South Central and an Ameri-Corps National Service program. For more information, visit www.aoascc.org/experiencecorps.

can be printed from the town's website. The three individuals chosen will be honored at the Living Treasure Award ceremony on May 5, 2017.

2017 Trips

ESCAPE TO SOME SUN @ **MOHEGAN SUN**—No minimum trip Wednesday, January 25-26, 2017. At Mohegan Sun every turn leads to a new adventure with an indoor 7-story waterfall, the world's largest and most spectacular planetarium dome and the awe-inspiring Wombi Rock. Cost \$163pp double, \$228 single, \$153pp triple. This no-minimum trip includes round-trip transportation, Hotel Accommodations, and more. Full payment due at registration.

UCONN vs. SMU BASKETBALL at Gampel Pavilion—No minimum trip,
Saturday, February 11, 2017. There is
nothing like seeing a live game. Cost
\$56pp. This no minimum trip includes
transportation and tickets to the game.
Full payment due at registration.

CT FLOWER SHOW & LUNCHNo minimum trip February 23, 2017

(snow date 2/24). "The Spirit of Spring" at the CT Flower & Garden Show at the Connecticut Convention Center with a lunch stop. Cost \$80pp. Includes transportation, Lunch, & Admission. Full payment due at registration.

MOHEGAN SUN 2017 AAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TOUR-NAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME-

March 6-7, 2017 no minimum overnight trip. Cost \$229pp double, \$315 single, \$214pp triple. Includes transportation, hotel accommodations, AAC Final Game Ticket, taxes, gratuity, baggage handling and more. Full payment due at registration.

ST PATRICK'S DAY at the Aqua

Turf - no minimum trip March 14, 2017. Enjoy live Irish entertainment by Padraig Allen and the Maclean Avenue Band. Enjoy an Irish lunch including corned beef & cabbage, baked scrod, and all the fixings, topped off with carrot cake. Also, a complimentary glass of wine or beer. Cost: \$77pp. Includes transportation, lunch, show, & driver gratuities. Full payment due at reservation.

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES







COMMUNITY SERVICES TRACY BUNCH RECENT ACTIVITIES

We thought we would share some pictures of our Special Needs group "Tracy Bunch" who have been busy with some fun activities. In October the group had its picture taken with the Pink Police cruiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. In November the group went to our new Orange Shoprite and participated in a cooking class. Also, in November the group had a wonderful delicious Thanksgiving Dinner that was enjoyed by all. A special thank you goes out to our Police Department and to Shoprite for

their participation with the group. Thank you to our very dedicated Tracy Bunch staff who keeps the program energized.

We are always looking for volunteers from our community. If you have a special talent that you would like to share with the group, please let us know, or if you have a loved one that may be interested in joining the group, please let us know. Contact Joan Cretella, the Director of Community Services, at jcretella@orange-ct.gov or 203-891-4786.

ORANGE LAND TRUST RECEIVES LAND DONATION

The Orange Land Trust (OLT) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that a 9.3 acre parcel of natural, undeveloped land was donated earlier this year by John and Patricia Alexander to the OLT to be preserved and maintained forever as open-space and habitat. The board is eager to explore the possible ways this beautiful area can best be preserved for the benefit of wildlife as well as the people of Orange.

The Orange Land Trust is a private, non-profit, Connecticut Corporation, staffed entirely by volunteers, and is not connected to any level of town, state or national government, businesses or foundations. The OLT was organized and incorporated in December of 1968. Its purpose is the acquisition, preservation and protection of natural areas, including plants and wildlife and the unique habitats they require, within the Town of Orange for the benefit of its citizens through passive use. We conduct guided walks and hikes for the public in many of these areas throughout the seasons of the year.

We work closely with the Town of Orange and the Orange Conservation commission in these endeavors for the benefit of both residents and visitors from surrounding areas.

The funds of the Orange Land Trust are the result of bequests, gifts or donations from interested individuals who wish to support our efforts. We strongly encourage people to consider the possibility of donating existing land or funds to enable us to acquire new, or to maintain and improve existing open-space held by the Orange Land Trust.

We volunteer our time and talents because we are committed to the organization's goals and, as volunteers, we are able to keep operating expenses to the very minimum necessary.

The Orange Land Trust currently holds 21 properties throughout the town, making a total of over 80 acres with a wide variety of habitats. These include small parcels of under an acre, medium sized areas of 4 to 6 acres, and up to over 20 acres for the largest.

Several of these are located adjacent to the Town of Orange Conservation Areas and have been developed for passive use with off street parking, hiking trails, overlooks, benches etc. These unique properties contain natural habitats that include rocky forest, woods, meadows and wetlands. Within these large and small protected places, wildlife is abundant and native plants and animals thrive.

These are great places to look and see all sorts of creatures from owls and hawks to smaller thrushes and song birds and other rarely seen birds and animals. Many are great places to stroll, hike, ski, snowshoe, sit, rest, watch and enjoy. The smaller serve as pockets of protected, natural habitat within neighborhoods. All are in easy reach within our town's borders.

By purchasing, preserving and protecting, we will have saved these beautiful and unique places for the enjoyment by us, our children, and for future generations. We are the fortunate recipients of similar decisions made by those who acted before us to provide unique places such as our town green, historical buildings, our remaining farmland and natural open spaces. In short, if we don't do this, they won't have it to enjoy. Please consider making a donation.

For more information on donating, and the potential tax advantages, please contact our president, Fred Kendrick at 203-799-7622.

FROM THE YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

By John Ulatowski



Area Residents Need Job Help - Youth Services Job Bank Can Assist

The Orange Youth Services Job Bank provides a service of pre-screened students, ages 13-16, who can be employed by area residents to do a large variety of jobs such as yard work, garden help, attics/basements, raking, snow shov-

eling, small painting, party helper, tutoring, clerical assistance, mother's helper...and more. For further information, please call John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at 203-891-4785.

Youth Services High School Volunteers Can Assist With Orange Community Events

Orange Youth Services has a list of Orange High School youth who are available to assist their community with a variety of volunteer needs. Our volunteers have signed up with a parent with Youth Services to access opportunities in regard attaining their necessary

school volunteer credits. They are available for a wide variety of community and organizational services located in Orange. For further information, please email John Ulatowski, Orange Youth Services Coordinator, at julatowski@orange-ct.gov.



TOWN DEPARTMENTS

OCC ANNOUNCES NEW BIKE RULES FOR RACEBROOK TRACT

After much deliberation, the Orange Conservation Commission (OCC) has decided to restrict bicycle riding on the trails at the Racebrook Tract from December 1 to May 1 each year. This will allow the unauthorized trails that have sprung up throughout the area to reestablish new growth and return to their natural condition.

Effective December 1, 2016 Racebrook Tract will be closed to all bicycle riding. When it re-opens on May 1, 2017, the OCC reminds users that bike riding is only permitted on OCC-designated trails. Unauthorized trails have caused erosion, destroyed sprouting undergrowth, and harmed the overall beauty

of this piece of Orange Town Property. It is the hope of the OCC that this closure, along with more thoughtful use of the area in the future, will allow this valuable piece of Open Space to recover.

The OCC asks all users of Racebrook Tract, as well as other Town Open Spaces, to continue to be good stewards of these beautiful pieces of land by staying on OCC-designated trails, picking up litter, cleaning up after your dogs, and notifying the OCC of fallen trees or other trail obstructions. Please contact us at 203-891-4768, see us on Facebook–Orange Conservation Commission or contact any member of the Commission with your observations or concerns.

TOWN OF ORANGE MEETINGS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2016

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



12th	Amity Board of Education	Woodbridge Police Dept. Police Dept.
13th	Inland Wetlands Comm7:30 pm	Town Hall
14th	Board of Selectmen7:30 pm	Town Hall
15th	Senior Advisory Board1:00 pm	НРСС
19th	Family Counseling	HPCC Town Hall HPCC Mary L. Tracy School
21st	Recycling Cmte7:00 pm	НРСС
26th	Youth Services Advisory Board7:00 pm	НРСС
28th	Safety Comm	Town Hall Town Hall

DINING WITH SUSAN

By Susan Noonan



"Dining with Susan" wishes all the OTN and WTN readers a very happy and healthy holiday season. She will be back in 2017 visiting all the new local restaurants along with our favorite well established ones.





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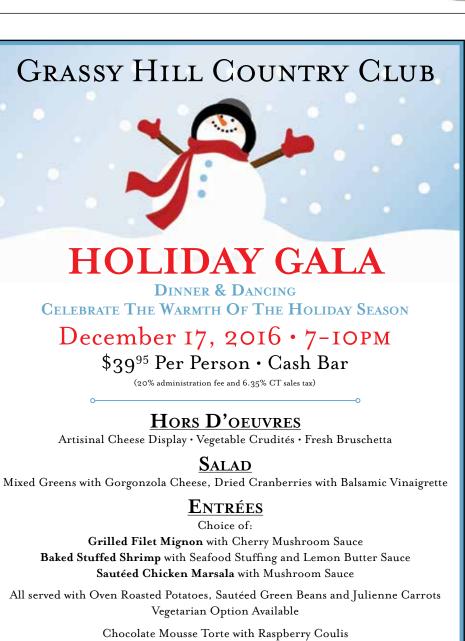


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ORANGE \$899,000 To be blt, custom 4,200sf Col N353425 Tom Cavaliere, 203-795-2300



TRUMBULL \$465,000 Expanded Ranch 5BRs N10163102 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365



WEST HAVEN 349,000 Close to beach: 8 rm Ranch N10156131 Mary Radzizzewski, 203-795-2389



SEYMOUR \$279,900 8 rm, 4/5BR, 3 ba Colonial N10152455 Lori Miko, 203-795-2328



GUILFORD \$639,990 Must see beautiful 8 rm Col N10183611 Rosemary Sowitcky, 203-795-2390



SEYMOUR \$409,900 Beautiful 9rm, 4BR Colonial N10175163 Lori Miko, 203-795-2328



Lovely, 13 rm Colonial N10159311 Tom Cavaliere, 203-795-2300



MILFORD \$269,900 Cozy 5rm, 3BR, 2 F ba Cape N10181266



BROOKFIELD \$549,000 Expansive 13 rm, 5BR Cape N10150613 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365



NEW HAVEN \$399,900 Stately Colonial 4,200+sf N10176079



BETHANY \$324,900 Spacious 8 rm, 3BR Colonial N10156319 Tom Cavaliere, 203-795-2300



BETHANY \$260,000 10 rm, 3BR 2.5ba RR N10154736 Darlene Eaton, 203-795-2392



BETHANY \$499,000 9rm, 4BR Colonial on 3.3 ac N10115809



EAST HAVEN \$394,900 Gorgeous waterfront condo N10170790 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365



Multi unit beach house N10163720 Mike Sirochman, 203-795-2365



NAUGATUCK \$155,000 HUD Home 3BR, 2Ba N10184371 Toni Ross, 203-795-2332



236 Boston Post Road, Orange 203-795-2700









The four year old class at Orange Congregational Church Nursery School ended a month of learning about Native American traditions with a pow-wow.



Three year olds at Orange Congregational Church Nursery School just after their pow-wow.



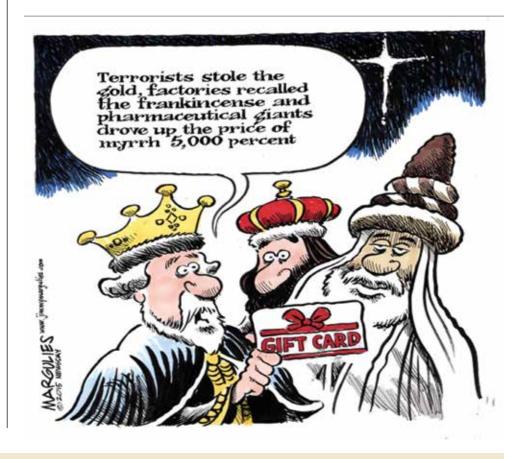
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LOCAL SPORTS



The Amity Youth Varsity Cheerleaders will compete against teams from across the country in the Pop Warner National Cheer and Dance Competition at Walt Disney World Friday, December 9. The team, made up of girls ranging from 11-14 years of age from Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany, placed first place in the Southern Connecticut League Competition and at the State Competition. Their performance at the New England Regional Competition in November earned the team a spot to compete at the national level. Under the leadership of Cheerleading Coordinator Alicia Soderquist, this is the third consecutive year that Amity Pop Warner cheer teams have qualified for the national competition.



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First Honors 7th Grade

Daniela Abreu Anika Agrawal Mitchell Bachman Benjamin Bae Julianna Barretta Faith Bernier Molly Blair Jack Bordeleau Alison Bowler Avery Butt Allison Callahan Aditi Chalasani Cindy Chen David Cho **Brett Chodos** Ryan Cohutt Ava DeMaio Mia Dow Keira Droney Jake Genovese Adam Glassman Noah Grauer Padraig Haughton Seamus Hennessy Claudia Homiski Levi Huss Eric Iheanoacho Amir Jarad Niharika Jog Jasmina Krehic Jade Krukar Martyna Krzysztopik Jason Kwon Meredyth Laskowski Alec Lee DuGohn Lee Ryan Lima Anibal Loureda Alexandra Louros Scott Lowder Brodey Lu Jessica Luo Jason Marino Elizabeth Massey Brian McMilleon John McNabola Kaia Melville Cassandra Millea Colby O'Connor Varun Prabhu Akil Rajendran Liliana Restrepo Corey Richards Carly Ryan Colleen Shaw Melanie Sherrick Andrew Soldra Kevin Sweeney Liam Tassiello Juliana Tran Anna Varholak Ledgm Washington Rose Wegman Megan Wu Nolan Young Yaroslav Zabel Ivy Zheng Piper Zschack

Mohammad Zulfiquar

First Honors 8th Grade

Isabella Antonucci Alynn Balocca

Sibelle Basyouny

Abigail Bonat

Elizabeth Buckley

Skylar Burzynski Arsenio Bustos Juliana Cavallaro Eugene Chang Caroline Chen Christian Chen Carter Correia John Coughlin Jacob Crow Alexandra DaVia Charlotte DelVecchio Ava DiVincenzo Zoe DiZenzo Jonah Dohr Kelly Dougherty Mari Dragan Annemarie Driscoll Jessica Ejlli Jack Fearnley Leia Foyer Brigitte Gagnon Mackenzie Gallagher Amy Gao Ariana Garay Luke Hauser Michael Haverstock **Brady Hutchison** Gannon Iannantuoni Kayla Johnson Srilekha Kadimi Alexis Kaiser Saeed Karout John Keegan Adarsh Kongani Keerthi Kongani Laurence Lambiase Owen Leszczak Claudia Lihar Meredith Liu Philip London Maeve Malone Kyle Margenau Alexandra Marinescu Kiana Marmolejos Sarah Maroney Claire Marquis Emma Marsh Annika Minotti Arity Morrison Shannon Mulherin Jaclyn Nordyk Riley Palazzo Giustina Parente Armaan Patel Nishaan Patel Nicole Pulie Bethany Qian Morgan Rahn Xavier Ramos Lauren Ronai Mark Russo Olivia Russo John Santangelo Thomas Schittina Zakarai Schneider Rebekka Schwartz Julia Scuccuglia Xinqi Shen Meghan Smith Emma Tirollo Sebastian Todeasa William Wei Aaron Yang Dohyeon Yeo

Jessica Yocher

Emily Zielinski

Second Honors 7th Grade

Amal Abbasi Madeline Abdelmesih Rocco Antonucci Hadley Boguniecki Elizabeth Bowler Benjamin Cap Joseph Carangelo Matthew Carloni Aayan Chaturvedi Ibrahim Cosar Macie Cox Christian D'Astous Emma DelVecchio Corey Donovan Anthony Duro Dylan Ekstrand Mackenna Feurer Adrian Fielosh Matthew Fitol Erika Fontana Violet Foyer Chloe Hawkins **Emily Hoddinott** Jeffrey Hutchinson Greta Imre-Seres Hannah Johnson Alexander Kovalsky Makena Legault Katelyn Losty Jillian Lucibello Kalliopi Maniatis Aaron Mayerson Bailey McDermott **Kayley Mingione** Patrick Mizzone Ethan Moffett Melissa Musante John Neary Charlotte Nicefaro Josephine Querker Jonathan Salado Alaina Schneider Lauren Sender Nolan Smith Gabriel Sousa Jacqueline Tice Andrew Visnic Tiffany Yang Martin Zhang

Second Honors 8th Grade

Alexis Agapiou

Camilla Bautista Gabriella Benjamin Kiera Bova George Brito Natalie Carrington John Carroll Corynne Chadwick Michael Chervenak Melita Collins Kennedy Csejka Abigail Eschweiler Kathryn Flora Abigail Ganun Aarush Garg Dylan Gherlone Luci Giuliano Brett Gloria Olivia Greco Mia Hall Hyunjin Kim Mia Kiska Preston Kral Max Kruger Mia Lorenti Nicholas Martins Nicholas Matalote Sydney Pitter Kelly Pritchard Gabriella Proto Julia Proto Remy Sasso Macy Saxa Sara Schultz Gurshaan Sidhu Zoe Smith



Citizenship Recognition - 7th Grade

Seamus Hennessy

Payton Bakis Molly Blair Ava DeMaio Emma Hatjopoulous

Martyna Krzysztopik John McNabola Colby O'Connor Kevin Sweeney Liam Tassiello

Colleen Shaw

Citizenship Recognition - 8th Grade

Isabella Antonucci
Camilla Bautista
Abigail Bonat
Juliana Cavallaro
Christian Chen
Carter Correia
Kennedy Csejka
Alexandra DaVia
Charlotte DelVecchio
Zoe DiZenzo

Mari Dragan
Annemarie Driscoll
Brigitte Gagnon
Abigail Ganun
Ariana Garay
Michael Haverstock
Dana Jossick
Alexis Kaiser
Yujin Kim
Annika Minotti

Arity Morrison
Jaclyn Nordyk
Julia Proto
Morgan Rahn
Xavier Ramos
Lauren Ronai
Rebekka Schwartz
Julia Scuccuglia
Emma Tirollo
Emily Zielinskia





Q: Oh, my gosh! I can't believe the cliffhanger for "**How to Get Away with Murder**"! Please tell me I don't have to wait until next fall to see how this all pans out. -- Nancy F., via email

A: You won't have to wait TOO long for "HTGAWM" to return. Right now, the show is on winter hiatus and will return to ABC on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 10/9c. SPOILER ALERT: I can't wait to see the aftermath of Wes' (played by **Alfred Enoch**) grisly death, discover who killed him and placed him in Annalise's (**Viola Davis**) house before caught it fire, and see the events that led up to poor Waitlist's demise.

I also am thrilled to report that Jan. 19 marks the return of "Scandal," which makes its sixth-season premiere right beforehand at 9/8c. You might recall that "Scandal" was scheduled for a midseason debut this year to accommodate star Kerry Washington's reallife pregnancy. However, this does mean that it will be a slightly shorter season — 16 episodes instead of 22. I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing, though: To me, it just means that every episode will have that much more bang for the buck, and I can't wait!

Q: Will **"The Path"** be back for another season? If so, can you give me any hints as to what we can expect? -- Paula T., Birmingham, Alabama

A: Hulu did indeed order a second season of this thrilling drama, and starts streaming the first episode Jan. 25. "The Path" follows the Meyerist Movement as its followers try to make sense of Dr. Meyer's (**Keir Dullea**) mysterious departure.



Viola Davis [ABC/Bob D'Amico]

Tormented by strange visions, Eddie (Aaron Paul) struggles with a new life in the secular world, while Sarah (Michelle Monaghan), despite her skepticism of Cal (Hugh Dancy), now stands beside him as Co-Guardian of the Light. When Sarah finally learns of Cal's dark past, she buries the truth for the betterment of the Movement. Cal and Sarah, now closer than ever, strive to atone for their misdeeds, while Eddie, confronted with the meaning of his visions, discovers the truth of Dr. Meyer's departure.

Q: Is it true that "**The Lion King**" is being remade? Why? The movie is perfect as is. -- Kelli Y., via email

A: Actor-director-producer **Jon Favreau**, who brought us the live-action remake of "**The Jungle Book**" this past April (and it was recently announced that he is making a sequel), is at the helm of the live-action remake of "The Lion King." Walt Disney Studios has stated that the reimagining is on the fast track to production and will include the songs from the original -- written by **Elton John, Tim Rice** and **Hans Zimmer** -- including the Oscar-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight."

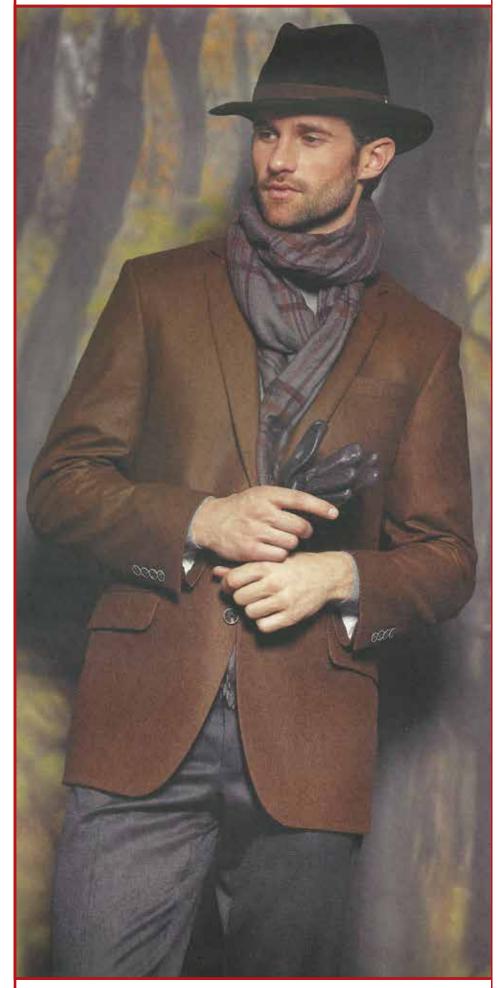
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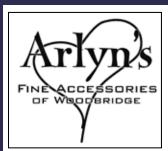
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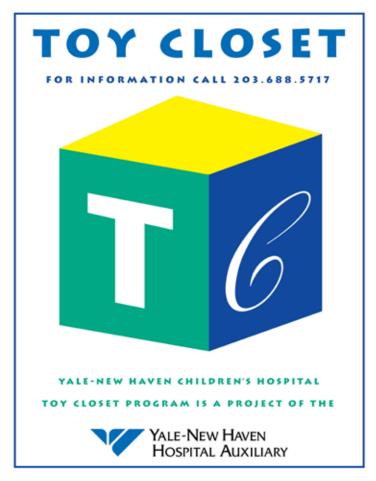
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LOCAL BUSINESS



COLDWELL BANKER COLLECTS TOYS FOR THE YALE TOY CLOSET

The Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage office in Orange has been designated as a local drop site for the Yale Toy Closet program again this year.

Founded in 1993 by Ann Nyberg, WTNH News 8 anchorwoman, the Toy Closet helps insure that pediatric patients come away from their hospitalization with a pleasant memory. In addition, the toys serve as gifts for special occasions such as birthdays and holiday celebrations for hospitalized children. Toys, gifts and financial contributions are needed throughout the year. The success

of the Toy Closet program is directly related to community involvement.

The Orange Office, located at 564 Racebrook Road, will be accepting donated toys through December 15th. Once the reception area of the office is full of toys, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage staff and sales associates will deliver the toys to the Yale Toy Closet.

For more information about the Yale Toy Closet collection, please contact Aileen DeFeo at (203) 795-6000. A list of toy suggestions is also available upon request.

GODDARD OWNER AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE

Kimberly Kick, owner of The Goddard School® located at 42 Old Tavern Road in Orange, CT, has been presented with the Outstanding Customer Experience Award by Goddard Systems, Inc. (GSI), franchisor of The Goddard School. The award acknowledges a Goddard School owner for continually exceeding customer expectations. Besides providing an exceptional educational program, Kick has made her School a family business in every aspect – it is family-run and family-focused.

"We continually strive to provide an educational program that not only prepares children for success in school but for success in life as well," said Kick. "We pride ourselves on collaborating with our Goddard School families to ensure that the children's developmental and educational needs are met and exceeded."

To learn more about The Goddard School located at 42 Old Tavern Road in Orange, CT, please call Kimberly at 203-795-5575 or visit www.GoddardSchool.

com/OrangeCT.

About The Goddard School®: Learning for fun. Learning for life.® For nearly 30 years, The Goddard School has used the most current, academically endorsed methods to ensure that children from six weeks to six years old have fun while learning the skills they need for longterm success in school and in life. Talented teachers collaborate with parents to nurture children into respectful, confident and joyful learners. The Goddard School's AdvancED- and Middle Statesaccredited F.L.EX.® Learning Program (Fun Learning Experience) reaches more than 50,000 students in more than 450 Goddard Schools in 36 states. The Goddard School's comprehensive playbased curriculum, developed with early childhood education experts, provides the best childhood preparation for social and academic success.

To learn more about The Goddard School, please visit www.goddardschool.com.



HISTORY CORNER

By Ginny Reinhard



Say It With Herbs...

For centuries, mankind has used herbs to enliven a dreary menu, conjure up spells for healing and for evil, but today, if you watch enough episodes of the food channel you will find herbs, once again being used for culinary delights. Rosemary often blooms at Christmas with a mist of tiny white, blue or pale lavender flowers. The plant, not hardy in winter, can be brought indoors feeding it once a month with a liquid plant food and water well, every day. Misting it will help to keep it from drying out, keeping it in light but no need for sunlight in the winter months.

Dried herbs make wonderful holiday wreaths especially those with a strong fragrance like lavender and thyme. Dried rose petals mixed with juniper, pine or yew sprigs will add to a festive table decoration. If it's a gift you're looking to make, try the herb and spice wreath. All you need is a base of assorted greens and place bay leaves, cinnamon sticks, whole nutmegs, sprigs of Rosemary, ginger root, and using small jars place cardamom, caraway or anise seeds among your greens.

If you don't have access to florist wire, dental floss will work well to fasten the bay leaves together or any other dried herb you choose. If a culinary wreath is not what you think your friend would like, make one with dried flowering herbs.

Gathering your herbs at different times of the season will give you a variety of colors. For yellow, tansy dries nicely and is fragrant as well with oregano blossoms, gathered again at different times will give you a color pallet that will mix well with yarrow. Our often maligned but not true to its reputation flower is golden rod. It too dries in a variety of shades. Seedpods are a nice change from the lacy flowers and a walk through your garden, in the fall will give you the necessary accents you

Cookies are a favorite at holiday time and herbs make a definite difference in that plate of cookies you bring to your hostess. Try adding an herb to those shortbread cookies. Any of the dried herbs and spices like ground coriander seed, cloves or anise will liven up the traditional shortbread or butter cookie recipe. Herb breads are always a welcomed treat and for those of you who still have a bread making machine

will need for this wreath. Go outside

and use your imagination.



stored in the cellar, making a fresh loaf of herb bread will not only fill your kitchen with a homey scent but make your family ask for more. Try a combi-

and sage but don't get too heavy handed with either one. A half-teaspoon of anyone of them will do the trick. Tarragon is a tasty herb for bread, all by itself. Just be sure to have softened butter at the ready.

nation of rosemary, thyme

Herb butters are a treat on store-bought bread and any combination of ground, dried herbs can be used and frozen for use during the holidays. Using candy molds, found in local craft stores makes an interesting addition to the dinner table. Collecting all of the molds throughout the year, one can make and serve herb butter at any holiday gathering. Who wouldn't like a witch's hat spread on their nice, warm toast?

For those cold evenings, spent with friends, a punch bowl of warmed Port

wine will bring an aroma of winter herbs and spices using bay leaf, coriander seeds, cinnamon, star anise, ginger root, allspice and cloves. All of these ingredients need to be whole, not ground, as the wine will become cloudy and unappetizing. Using a

small, piece of cloth, tie the herbs and spices in a little bag, floating it in a half gallon of wine warming it slowly on a low flame. Believe or not, Port wine can burn. This brew is known as Bishop's wine, a wine fit for a "king". Interestingly enough, most of these herbs and spices can be purchased at the local Adams stores. Golden Bish-

op's wine consists of apricot juice, sauterne, vermouth, brandy nutmeg and Rosemary.

Now inasmuch as the former Bishops wine can have an unknown quality of herbs, usually

to suit the taste of the guests this punch needs specific ingredients: 2 quarts apricot juice, 1 gallon dry sauterne, 1 quart dry vermouth, 1 pint apricot brandy, 1 pint unflavored brandy and 8 springs of Rosemary. Now obviously this amount is for a large crowd but simple math will get you to a family size portion. The trick here is to refrigerate the Rosemary with

the apricot juice for three hours. Then just before your guests arrive, put a large cake of ice in your punch bowl and pour in the ingredients. If the Rosemary looks wilted or

unappetizing, float some fresh sprigs if desired.

Lovage, a fairly unknown herb can be used in potato dishes. Grown by the Orange Historical Society, this herb, tasting somewhat like tender celery leaves, is a cherished dish served at the

Woodbridge Tavern Night. As a soup, it works wonders in the winter to warm the heart after being out in the cold. Any commercial soup can be enhanced

with herbs although cooking soup over a hearth as was done in the Colonial Days, takes on a special character of its own. Next time, the electricity goes out, light a fire and using a heavy skillet, warm up some soup, throw in some herbs and enjoy. Iron kettles are readily available now, as iron seems to be a popular metal for cooking. So next time you are at a kitchen store, buy a small, iron kettle for those winter soup days.

Basil was a favorite charm in Greece and used to banish the mysterious beings called Karkanzari who made life miserable for the peasants. These creatures wandered about during the twelve days of Christmas supposedly being the souls who had found no rest in heaven and had returned to disturb the living. To banish these unwanted guests, the priest came to each house with a cross adorned with sprigs of basil. Dipping them in holy water, he sprinkled and blessed each room and the Karkanzari disappeared.

The Epiphany or January 6th can give the hostess another opportunity for guests. The 12 days of Christmas ends on January the 6th heralding the arrival of the Three Kings, Balthazar, Caspar and Melchior. It was originally a pagan celebration with wild tricks, masquerades and practical jokes and obvious upheaval of the social order of the time. By the 16th & 17th centuries, the Puritans put a stop to the carnival atmosphere. The wreaths of Christmas can be refreshed for this

celebration by adding fresh
thyme, rue, pennyroyal and Rosemary,
herbs to honor the
Wise Men. Gold stars
can be added for that
royal flavor. Frankincense
and myrrh, burned together
can add to the delight of the
evening but proportions are
required: 6 frankincense to 1
th. This should be put into your

of myrrh. This should be put into your fireplace, off to the side to heat slowly. If the flavor is not to your liking, you can shovel it into the center of your hearth to burn itself out.

This time will be enhanced with your fruitcake which by now, if made early in the season will be of good cheer. Slice it thin, serving it with rum butter, thinly spread on each piece. Your guests will probably laugh at your trying to "get rid" of your fruitcake but this cake is also known at Twelfth Night Cake, so serve it to your guests and laugh at their reactions.

Enjoy the holidays everyone.

Christmas has come to the Academy at the Orange Historical Society Antique Shop. Loaded with quality gifts from days gone by, this one stop shop is the place to visit on Saturdays from 10-3 located at 605 Orange Center Road. Find antiques and collectibles for all members of the family and for those hostess gifts that you need during this festive season. For information call 203 795-3106.

MODERN-DAY MENORAHS COME IN MANY FORMS

It's an old and cherished story: A small band of faithful Jews defeats a mighty army, then reclaims and rededicates the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. But when they go to light the menorah at that dedication, they find only a day's supply of uncontaminated oil. Yet somehow that small supply burns steadfast and bright for a full eight days.

It's an old and cherished symbol, the centerpiece of Hanukkah: A nine-branched candelabrum with one candle, the *shamash* (or "helper" candle) set at a different level from the others and used to light them, as Jewish law requires that the regular candles be used solely for viewing and spreading the word of the miracle.

One wonders what the lighter of that original lamp might make of the myriad options in today's menoravhs. There are, after all, just a few basic requirements: The lights must be arranged in a straight line and at the same height (save for the shamash) and burn for at least half an hour after nightfall, and the menorah itself must be no taller than 37 feet. Beyond that, they are as highly diverse as those who make or purchase them. Whether your taste runs to the sleek and contemporary, the flowery and ornate, or the unusual and whimsical, there's something for every home and price range.

While bronze, brass, silver plate and

aluminum are some of the common materials for traditional menorahs, many families also use electric versions to light their windows while keeping an oil or candle version for the nightly ritual. If you enjoy a classic look, a sterling silver menorah makes an excellent fit. As Haim Palagi, a 19th-century Turkish rabbi, wrote, "Fortunate is the one who is privileged to make the Hanukkah lamp from silver."

Or you might want to help your kids get into the spirit of the season with one that includes such adornments as dolls, bears, cartoon characters or sports figures -- but whimsy isn't limited to the younger set. Go outside the box with recycled bike chains from India, bullet casings, or even Qassam rockets exploded in Israel -- menorahs have been made from all of them.

As for lighting, since the miracle of Hanukkah occurred with olive oil, an oil menorah is preferred by many, especially Orthodox Jewish families, with olive oil serving as the ideal fuel and cotton wicks preferred for the smooth flame they produce. A tray can be included underneath to catch any drips or leaks. If your menorah uses candles, choose the dripless variety to make it easier to keep clean.

Whatever form this ancient symbol of the season takes in your home, may it light your days with treasured reminders of faith, tradition and celebration.



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LUBS & ORGANIZATIONS





Photos by Lana Ho

LIBRARY GETS DECORATED COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB

Garden Club of Orange has been very busy decorating the Case Memorial Library rotunda, for the holiday season. Members have decorated and hung wreaths on the public buildings. For the 6th year members have decorated the living room and solarium at the Osborne Homestead Museum for 2016; the theme, "A Sparkling Holiday". Each room is aglow with decorations representing the 12 birthstones. The museum is open November 25-December 17; call 203-743 2513 for times.

The Garden Club of Orange is a member of The NGC, Inc., The NERofGC INC, and The FGCOfCT, Inc.



SECOND ANNUAL FIRST NIGHT WOODBRIDGE

A New Year's Eve Event for Children & Families

The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven is starting off the New Year with a bang! The center, located at 360 Amity Road, will host its second annual family New Year's Eve event, complete with face painting, craft-making, a DJ dance party, games, and a "new year's toast" from 5PM to 9PM on Saturday, December 31st. With Hanukkah arriving later than usual, potato latkes, candle lighting, and festive games will be an added bonus this year. Families will have an opportunity to make noise and throw confetti before heading home ahead of the masses. The schedule will run as follows:

- 5 p.m. 6 p.m.: Free Swim in the
- 6 p.m.: DJ, Dancing, Food, Games, and more!
- 6:30 p.m.: Hanukkah candle lighting
- 6:45 p.m. PJ library Hanukkah story in the living room (optional)
- 7 p.m.: Dreidel tournament begins
- 8 p.m.: Ice cream sundae bar opens
- 8:45 p.m.: Ball drop and New Year's

All children must be accompanied by

First Night Woodbridge at the JCC will provide families with a fun and safe place to spend their evening together, without breaking the bank, or having to be on the roads late at night. As a large

community space, the JCC is eager to offer this opportunity for families in the Greater New Haven area.

Registration includes entry, food, and soft drinks, as well as fun NYE giveaways. Prices: Adults and Children 13+ \$10 in

advance/\$15 at the door

- Children 12 and under \$5
- Children 2 and under free
- Family max \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door

Tickets at jccnh.org/rsvp beginning December 1st.

"First Night" events happen in more than 50 US cities, including three in Connecticut: Hartford, Westport/Weston, and Danbury. What's unique about First Night Woodbridge at the JCC is that families will be able to come inside to experience a variety of activities without having to brave the cold or worry about parking.

For additional information, please contact Eliana Sugarman, Youth Programs and Family Events Coordinator at the JCC: elianas@jcc.org; 203-387-2522 x306, or visit jccnh.org.

Sponsorships from area businesses are being actively pursued. If you would like to become a business sponsor for First Night Woodbridge, please contact Dr. Mara Balk, JCC Program Director: marab@jccnh.org; 203-387-2522 x300.



COLLECTION FOR HAITI FLOOD VICTIMS

Dr. T.C. Nanavati is again collecting supplies for Haiti flood victims. Please clean your attics. All clothing items (shoes, socks, etc.), bedding, bath toiletries, first aid and non perishable items should be packed in a cardboard box. Please do not bring in trash bags. Boxes should be labeled as Haiti Relief. Please do not enclose defective bulky items or food. Clothing for the temperate region are desirable.

These items can be dropped off at these two locations:

ANSONIA ANIMAL HOSPITAL: 876 South Main Street, Seymour, CT 06483 • 203-735-9915 • Hours Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

OXFORD-SEYMOUR ANIMAL HOSPITAL: 105 Oxford Road, Oxford, Ct 06478 • Hours Saturday 9am-11am Items can be dropped off inside or outside by the door if closed.



CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free (except as noted for materials charges) and open to the public. Registration is required where noted. Library hours are as follows: Monday and Thursday 10-8; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10-5; Saturday 10-4. The Library will be closed Saturday, December 24 through Monday, December 26 in observance of Christmas as well as Saturday, December 31 through Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year holidays.

Weekly Storytimes

3-5 Year Olds Storytime

Mondays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Enjoy storytelling, books, music, fingerplays, and puppetry at this story time series especially for three to five-year-olds! A story-related craft is offered following each session. No storytime on December 26 or January 2.

Lapsit Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

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

2-Year-Old Storytime

Thursdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

Audience participation is highly encouraged at this storytime session just for twos. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays, and puppetry together.

Events for Children

The Prince and the Pauper presented by the Hampstead Stage Company

Monday, December 19, 4:30 p.m.

For children ages 5 and up. An unexpected and thrilling adventure unfolds when two boys – one a poor beggar, the other a prince –trade places in order to see how the other lives. Prince Edward Tudor lives a life of luxury with servants to grant his every wish while Tom Canty spends his days begging on the streets of London. A simple switch of clothing sets them on a path they'd never dreamt possible! Registration is required.

Drum Making for Children

Tuesday, December 27, 2 p.m.

For children ages 5 and up. Jam out with us this winter! We'll rock out with our homemade drums after we make them out of cans, tape, and balloons.



176 Tyler City Road, Orange, CT 06477 203-891-2170

www.casememoriallibrary.org

This program is an excellent introduction for those interested in exploring rhythm and music. Registration is required and begins on December 6. Space is limited.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid "Double Down" Release Party

Wednesday, December 28, 3 p.m.

For children in grades 3-6. Zoo-wee-mama! We're hosting a Diary of a Wimpy Kid party and you're invited (but only if you don't have the cheese touch). Meet other Wimpy Kids, play some hilarious games, and grab an awesome goody bag to take home! All materials will be provided. Registration is required and begins on December 7.

Homemade Lava Lamps

Wednesday, January 25, 3:45 p.m.

For children ages 3 and up. Children who love science will adore this simple craft and story time! All materials will be provided and you can take these projects home! Registration is required and begins on January 4. Space is limited.

Valentine Crafts

Wednesday, February 1, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For children ages 5-12. Choose a Valentine craft or two to give to someone you love. Make a heart wreath (choose from two styles) or write a special message on a scratch-off Valentine. Registration is required and begins on January 11.

Take Your Child to the Library Day: Bach 2 Rock: The Science of Sound

Saturday, February 4, 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 4-12. Come to the library and make some noise! Join elec-

tric violinist Caryn Lin as she makes music come to life before your very eyes with "Bach 2 Rock: The Science of Sound". Using sound effects, musical instruments, modern technology, and plenty of audience participation, Caryn will show how creativity and science have taken us from the days of classical music to today's techno-wonders. Registration is required and begins on January 14. Throughout the day, stop by the Children's Room to make a kazoo using common household items.

Teens

STEM Craft: LED Light-Up Boxes

Thursday, December 29, 3-4 p.m.

For students in grades 6-12. Come learn about simple circuitry and design your own working light-up box using copper tape, batteries, LED lights, and an alligator clip. Registration is required and begins on December 8. Space is limited.

Adults

Cookies and Coloring for Adults

Tuesday, December 13, 2 p.m.

Think of the fun you had and the hours you spent with your coloring books and crayons in your childhood. Let's return to those happy days and in the process reduce your stress, make new friends, and nibble some cookies. All supplies will be provided. Presented by the Friends of the Library. Registration is required.

FILMS

Film Buffs: Where to Invade Next

Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m.

To learn what the USA can learn from other nations, Michael Moore playfully "invades" them to see what they have to offer. R. 2 hours. Registration is required and begins on December 22.

BOOK DISCUSSIONS

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group

Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase discussion leader Toby Zabinski for a discussion of The Hours Count by Jillian Cantor. Check for copies at the Circulation Desk. Registration is required.

Wellness Book Group

Wednesday, January 11, 11 a.m.

Join Adult Services Librarian Marianne Pysarchyk for a discussion of The Road to Character by David Brooks. Check for copies at the Circulation Desk. This program is held at the Senior Center and is free and open to participants of all ages. Please call the Senior Center at 203-891-4784 to register.

Books & Breakfast: Morning Discussion Group

Tuesday, January 17, 10 a.m.

Join Books & Breakfast discussion leader Carol Davidson a discussion of A Man Called Ove by Frederik Backman. Check for copies at the Circulation Desk. Registration is required and begins on December 27.

ART IN THE LIBRARY

December: Monotypes and oils by Joan Jacobsen Zamore and Violet Nastri. On view December 2-29.

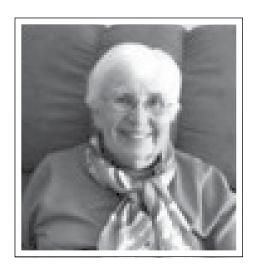
Museum Pass to Long Wharf Theatre

The Library is pleased to announce we offer a new museum pass for the Long Wharf Theatre which is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The pass allows patrons to call Long Wharf Theatre and reserve two free adult tickets for the Long Wharf performance of their choice. Reserving a pass is simple: Call or stop in the Library up to one week in advance of the performance you would like to attend to inquire about its availability. If the pass is available, you will have two days to come to the Library to check it out with your valid library card. Once you have the pass from the Library, call Long Wharf Theatre to reserve your seats. The day of the performance, bring the library pass to the box office to exchange it for your tickets.

"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us - a time when we can look back on the year that has passed and prepare for the year ahead." — DAVID CAMERON



DEATH NOTICES



Kathryn Jean Bonyai

Kathryn Jean Bonyai, 93, passed away at Carriage Green, Milford, on Wednesday, November 30, 2016, in the care of her family and Caring Hospice Services.

Jean was born in South Hero, Vermont on May 5, 1923, daughter of the late Clarence and Alice Cootware. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from St. Francis College, Hartford, CT. She also attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Jean became an Army nurse and was stationed in Framingham, MA and Fort Bragg, North Carolina. After the war, she worked for the Visiting Nurse Association in New Britain, CT.

On November 30, 1946, she married William J. Bonyai, an attorney and Judge of Probate. He died April 19, 1969.

Jean worked as a supervisor of public health nurses for the Milford Health Department. After her retirement from the City of Milford, she worked at Yale University working on aging and geriatric studies. She was an active volunteer for Catholic Charities and the Milford Historical Society. She was a member of the Carriage Green community serving on the welcoming committee, acting as a liaison between residents and administrators, and working in the community store. Jean enjoyed spending time with people especially her family and friends.

Jean is survived by her five daughters: Mary Ann McGaughey and husband, William McGaughey; Kathy Bonyai and husband, Larry Shaper; Susan Remington and husband, Harold Remington; Eileen Bonyai; Linda Newell and husband, Harry Newell; daughter-in-law, Donna Bonyai; grandchildren Jennifer, Sean, Justin, Dara, Kate, Hannah, Hal, Cody, Allyson, Jillyan and Harry and great grandchildren Liam, Finnegan and Claire. Jean was predeceased by her husband, William J. Bonyai, and her son, William J. Bonyai, Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Gulf St., Milford on Saturday, December 3rd. Internment followed at the Milford Cemetery with full Military Honors.

Donations may be made in Jean's memory to The Milford Historical Society, 34 High Street, Milford, CT 06460; Catholic Charities, 839-841 Asylum Avenue Hartford, CT 06105-2801; the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Dr, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Online condolences may be made at http://www.georgejsmithandson.com./.

Joseph Greene

Joseph Greene "Joe" passed away unexpectedly, November 14, 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, while vacationing overseas. Born in Bridgeport, CT to the late Michael and Sadie Greene, Joe was a lifelong resident of CT.

Joe was a principal of Park City Foods in Stratford, CT and then went on to found Distribution Management Systems, a company that wrote computer solutions for the food distribution industry. As President/CEO of DMS, Joe led and grew his company from 1979 until 2005 when he sold it to Advanced Food Systems (AFS Technologies). In business as in life, Joe had the deepest respect for those he worked with and those he worked for. He had the kindest heart and welcomed all to the table.

An avid skier for over 50 years, Joe was a board member and active contributor to the Sterling Ski Club and the CT Ski Council. Joe was a Past Master member of the Lafayette Masonic Lodge in Fairfield, CT and a member of the Baldwin Chapter # 13 R.A.M. He served his country during the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged from the US Army. Joe received his Bachelor's degree and Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Bridgeport



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



Call Today To Reserve Your Ad Space!

Display ads start at only \$110 per issue. Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad! where he served as a sportscaster and radio personality on WPKN. He was an avid fan of the CT Yankees Rugby Football Club.

Joe leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 48 years, Constance Greene and his two sons Michael (Amy Romatzick) and Jonathan (Kristine Morgan). Joe leaves four grandchildren that he treasured with his whole heart, Nicole Brianne, Hazel, Sofia and Evan. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Joseph's name to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, 1069 Connecticut Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06607 or to The "Papa Joe Greene Kids Ski Awareness Day Program Foundation" C/O Wells Fargo Bank, 20 Cherry Street, Milford CT 06460, Attn: Joanne Citrella. The Memorial Service was held at the Smith Funeral Home, 135 North Broad Street, Milford CT on November 30, 2016.

John Joseph Pierce

John Joseph Pierce, 74, of Orange, beloved husband of 46 years to Linda Kregel Pierce, passed away peacefully, on November 18, 2016. Born on November 24, 1941 in Fort Monroe, VA, he was the son of the late Harold and Catherine Kelly Pierce.

John proudly served his country in the United States Airforce, where he was

trained as a radar technician. He was employed with Grumman Aircraft and worked on the L.E.M. that went to the moon and then with Sperry Gyroscope, where he was responsible for teaching navy personnel how to use the MK-92 Radar. John went on to retire from Sikorsky Aircraft in December of 1999. He was skilled in the art of wood working and liked to read science fiction. His greatest joy in life was the time he spent traveling and being with his family.

In addition to his wife, Linda, John is survived by his children, John K. (Rebecca) Pierce and Melissa Pierce; grandchildren, Emma and Meghan Pierce; siblings, William Pierce, Patricia (Lee) Hendershot, Robert (Susan) Pierce and James (Peggy) Pierce; several nieces and nephews. John was predeceased by his sister, Mary Beckman.

A Memorial Service with Military Honors was held on November 26, 2016 at the CODY-WHITE FUNERAL HOME, 107 Broad St., Milford, CT. Interment was private. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in John's name to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105; CT Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford, CT 06405, or a charity of choice. To leave online condolences, please visit www. codywhitefuneralservice.com.



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ENTERTAINMENT

TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them (PG-13)

Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston

2. Dr. Strange (PG-13)

Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel Ejiofor

3. Trolls (PG)

animated 4. Arrival (PG-13)

Amy Adams, Jeremy Renner

5. Almost Christmas (PG-13)

Kimberly Elise, Omar Epps

6. Hacksaw Ridge (R)

Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington

7. The Edge of Seventeen (R)

Hailee Steinfeld, Haley Lu Richardson

8. Bleed for This (R)

Miles Teller, Aaron Eckhart

9. The Accountant (R)

Ben Affleck, Anna Kendrick

10. Shut In (PG-13)

Naomi Watts, Charlie Heaton

TOP 10 VOD

1. Bad Moms (R)

Mila Kunis

2. Sausage Party (R)

animated

3. Star Trek Beyond (PG-13)

Chris Pine

4. Nine Lives (PG)

Kevin Spacey

5. Independence Day:

Resurgence (PG-13)

Liam Hemsworth

6. Ghostbusters (PG-13)

Melissa McCarthy

7. The Legend of Tarzan (PG-13)

Alexander Skarsgard

8. Nerve (PG-13)

Emma Roberts

9. Central Intelligence (PG-13)

Dwayne Johnson

10. Lights Out (PG-13)

Teresa Palmer





Meryl Streep, Hugh Grant in "Florence Foster Jenkins" [Paramount Pictures]

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column are available in stores the week of December 12, 2016.

PICKS OF THE WEEK

"Suicide Squad" (R) -- A gaggle of super-villains are rounded up to form a special team that bickers its way through waves of underdeveloped enemies in a no-holds-barred assault on Marvel's domination over super-ensemble movies. The titular squad includes assassin Deadshot (Will Smith); Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie), the Joker's steady girlfriend; some boomerang guy (Jai Courtney); a special-forces guy (Joel Kinnaman); and a host of other hastily introduced characters you'll struggle to like. Viola Davis plays the government official responsible for sending this motley bunch against the Enchantress (Cara Delevigne), an evil super-witch.

First off, this ain't "The Avengers." These heroes are anti-heros. Also, Jared Leto's much-hyped version of the Joker makes an appearance -- and that's it, an appearance. You'll be grateful it's brief, because it's hard to imagine listening to that strained voice for much longer.

"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children" (PG-13) -- Jake (Asa Butterfield), a teenage boy raised on his grandfather's tall tales, finds himself in a little corner of time and space where he gets to see how real the fantastic stories are. After a bit of time travel, Jake finds himself on a Welsh island where Miss Peregrine (Eva Green) looks after a class of children with bizarre abilities -- a floating girl, an invisible boy and so on. The inhabitants are threatened by nonpeculiar human society that fears them, and another group called the Hollows (led by Samuel L. Jackson) that wants them for nefarious purposes.

Adapted from a young-adult novel series of the same name, the movie toys with how to properly pace itself. The first act really limps along. When things really get rolling, director Tim Burton finds some surreal imagery to indulge in like he likes to do. The plot eventually starts whirring so fast that it's difficult to keep track of all the time-loops, dread beasts and peculiarities.

"Florence Foster Jenkins" (PG-13)

-- OK, no more superpowers. This one has a woman who lacks a special talent (singing), and still manages to be inspiring and filled with life. Florence (Meryl Streep) has always been in love with music and dreamed of being a celebrated opera singer. She's an awful singer, but she's also a wealthy New York elite, and $her \, husband \, (Hugh \, Grant) \, is \, determined$ to make her dream come true before she loses her battle with syphilis. Also, it's the 1940s and people really need entertainment. Streep's performance is charming, but you can't help but see her smiling at herself on the inside with each mangled note.

1. Which Chattanooga group was originally called The

- Name the Canadian group that netted its second gold record with "Laughing."
 - Who released "Tiger Feet" in 1974?
- Which Heatwave song made it to the R&B charts in 1977?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "The old house is still standing tho' the paint is cracked and dry, and there's that old oak tree I used to play on."

song, a man dreams that he's back at his childhood home, but awakes to find himself a prisoner on death row. The song was first released on the country charts in 1965, but it was Jones who made it a worldwide No. 1 hit. in London. 4. "Boogie Wights," [ater covered by KC and the Sunshine Band. 5. "Green, Grass of Home," by Jom Jones in 1966. In the L. The Impressions. The group was inducted into the 1998 Grammy Hall of Fame for their hit "People Get Ready." 2. The Guess Who, in 1999. It came out first on their "Canned Wheat" alloum. 3. Mud. The song played in part in the 2012 Summer Olympics opening everenony "International Wheat" allows.

By Chris Richcreek

- 1. Who was the last Kansas City Royals player before Kendrys Morales in 2015 to belt three home runs in a game?
- Between 1970 and 2000, who hit the most triples in any one majorleague season?
- 3. In 2015, QB Christian Hackenberg became the all-time passing yards leader (8,318) at Penn State. Who had held the mark?
- When was the last time before 2014-15 (Kyrie Irving) that an NBA player had two games of 55 or more points in the same season?
- 5. Of the previous 10 NHL Hart Memorial Trophy winners (league MVP), five have been either Alex Ovechkin or Sidney Crosby. Name three of the other five.
- 6. In 2016, Christian Pulisic (17 years, 253 days) became the youngest player to score a goal for the U.S. men's national soccer team. Who had been the youngest?
- 7. How many times did Ken Norton go the distance in a heavyweight boxing match against Muhammad Ali?

scored a goal in 2010. 7. Three times, with Morton winning one of them. 4. Kobe Bryant, during the 2006-07 season (he had three such games). 5. Henrik Sedin, Corey Perry, Evgeni Malkin, Carey Price and Patrick Kane. 6. Juan Agudelo was 17 years, 359 days old when he (1996, New York Mets) each hit 21 in a season. 3. Zack Mills, who passed for 7,212 yards (2001-04). 1. Danny Tartabull, in 1991 versus Oakland. 2. Willie Wilson (1985, Kansas City) and Lance Johnson

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging



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Sudoku answers on



COMICS/CROSSWORD/HOLLYWOOD



























King Crossword

ACROSS

- U.K. television option
- 12 Opposed to,
- 13 Always, in verse
- 14 Mimicked
- 15 Get bigger
- 16 Banner "- Street"
- 20 Leads
- 21 Edges
- Adam's mate
- Recklessly 28 Book after
- Joel Sphere
- "SNL" alumna Cheri
- 34 Debt notice
- Seniors' dance
- Vexing situation
- By way of
- 41 Use scissors **DOWN** 42 Offering a nice view
- Illegal steroid use, e.g.
- Vertical space 4 Birthright barterer
- Not working
- Genetic stuff (Abbr.)

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 - 23 29 25 31 32 34 35 38 43 44 47 45 52 53 54
 - 54 Matterhorn's range

55

- 55 Pinochle ploy
- 56 Affirmative
- 57 For fear that
- 1 Trails behind 17 Payable
- Shrek is one 3 Life stories,
- for short Ahead
- 5 Huge monster
- Spelling con-
- test
- 7 Rugged cliff

- 8 Digestive aid Widespread illness
- 10 Kelly or Hackman
- 11 Rhyming tributes
- 19 Venus de -22 Old daggers
- 24 Bounce 25 Blunder
- 26 Especially 27 Baby-sitters, often
- Partner of aah
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- 30 Take to court 33 Personal (Pref.)
 - 36 Paid heed to 38 Attraction
 - 40 Atmosphere 42 Thin wedge
 - 43 Relinquish 44 Buffalo Bill's
 - last name 46 Capri, e.g.
 - 47 Siestas 48 Sudden rush of wind
 - 50 Individual

HOLLYWOOD

By Tony Rizzo

HOLLYWOOD -- When Bradley Cooper was shooting "American Sniper," his director, Clint Eastwood, told him about his problems trying to schedule Beyonce to film his planned remake of "A Star Is Born," because of her concert appearances. He finally gave up and suggested Bradley should take it on as his first directing project. Bradley mulled it over and decided to look for a female singing star to fill the shoes of Judy Garland (in the 1954 version) and Barbra Streisand (in the 1976 remake). He approached Lady GaGa, and she said "yes." Not only is he set to direct and star in it, but he's got a release date from Warner Brothers -- Sept. 28, 2018.

When The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences re-signed with ABC to broadcast the Oscar Awards until 2028, it was with the proviso that it take a backseat in decision-making and not interfere. ABC was hot for Jimmy Kimmel to host, but The Academy insists that the hosts be movie people. They're considering using multiple hosts, and Matt Damon, Andy Samberg, Mike Meyers, Tom Hanks and Justin Timberlake are on the short list. That should give the Academy more diversity. The awards air Feb. 26.

Tom Cruise has "The Mummy" rising June 9, and the \$80 million crimethriller "American Made," with Domhnall Gleeson, coming Sept. 28, followed by the July 2018 release of "Mission: Impossible 6." By the time "M:I 6" is released, Cruise will be 56 years old and maybe a grandfather.

Dwayne Johnson will follow "Baywatch" (out May 19) and "Jumanji" (Dec. 22) with "Rampage," based on the classic



Bradley Cooper [depositphotos.com]

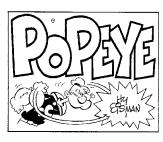
1980s video game featuring apes and monsters destroying cities, due in April 2018.

Wonder why Meryl Streep hasn't announced any new projects? Could it be her last film, "Florence Foster Jenkins," with Hugh Grant, which cost \$29 million but earned only \$44 million, has made her more cautious?

Burt Reynolds will be back on the big screen, playing a real-estate mogul, with the Dec. 2 release of the crime/thriller "Pocket Listing," with Rob Lowe. The film, completed in 2015, had problems getting distribution until now.

Also hitting screens the same day is "The Comedian," starring Robert De Niro and a great cast, including Leslie Mann, Cloris Leachman, Danny DeVito, Edie Falco and Harvey Keitel. The following week we'll see Oscar-winner Natalie Portman as Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy in "Jackie," with Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt, and "Office Christmas Party," with Jason Bateman, Olivia Nunn, Kate McKinnon and Jennifer Aniston.

Every year I try to avoid using the "C" word for as long as I can, but without using it now, that last film would be called just "Office Party."





















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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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6	1	5	8	9	2	3	4	7
7	8	3	4	5	6	1	2	9



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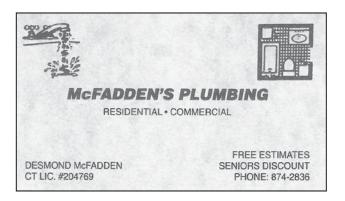
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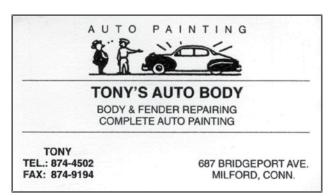


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ARTS & LIEISURE



GNHCC TO PERFORM 2016 FALL CONCERT – TAPESTRY OF VOICES

Celebrating its 53rd year making music in the community, Greater New Haven Community Chorus invites the public to its concert, Tapestry of Voices, on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m. at Battell Chapel in New Haven.

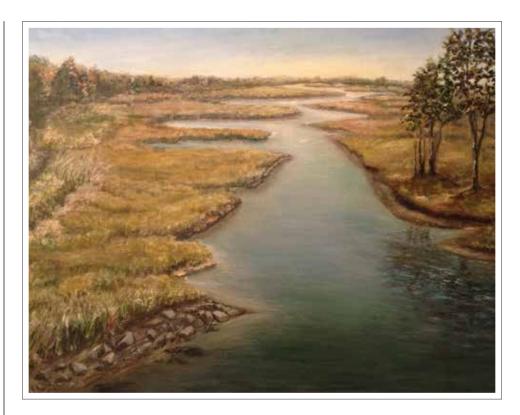
The Tapestry of Voices program weaves a diverse array of selections to spice up the concert season with exciting works like Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata and favorites like the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. The chorus will also feature Haydn's Missa Brevis accompanied by a full brass choir, Philip Kern's Mary Had a Baby, and Jake Runestad's Nyon, Nyon - a piece designed to vocally imitate an orchestra - complete with wah wah pedals, synthesizers, drums and bass. Also on the program is one of Morton Lauridsen's six Italian madrigals, and Sleep by well-known American composer, Eric

Whitacre. The concert will be under the direction of Noah Blocker-Glynn with Barbara Robbins as the piano accompanist.

Tickets are available online at www. gnhcc.org or from a GNHCC chorus member in advance for \$15. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for \$20 immediately prior to the concert.

GNHCC regularly consists of between 85 to 100 voices and draws its membership from throughout the Greater New Haven area. The nonprofit chorus strives to embrace the wide diversity of the community and is committed to making quality music accessible and approachable for audiences and members alike, and has done so since its founding in 1963.

For more information about GNHCC, please visit www.gnhcc.org, or email info@gnhcc.org.



OIL PAINTINGS BY ARTIST VIOLET NASTRI SHOWCASED

The oil paintings of artist Violet Nastri will be on display during December at the Case Memorial Library as part of its "Art in the Library" series.

Violet Nastri is a local Orange artist who specializes in paintings that capture the natural beauty of the outdoors. An avid drawer and painter since childhood, Ms. Nastri has always had a keen eye for color and light. With a love for traditional oil painting, she today works to evoke emotion through landscapes set in some of her favorite places along the East Coast.

Ms. Nastri's current show is an expression of the artist's love of New England with landscapes inspired by local farms, woodlands, ponds and streams. Her seascapes capture the many changing faces of the ocean. Whether the scene is of the crashing of a wave or the calm of a marsh at sunrise, the viewer is transported to the moment, imparting feelings of calm

and tranquility while staying true to the places represented. This show contains paintings using both plein-air and studio techniques to create scenes from Connecticut, Cape Cod and Maine.

Ms. Nastri is a graduate of Fairfield University, where she studied art and interior design. After a 25-year career in interior design, Ms. Nastri decided to focus exclusively on her lifelong love of painting. She has continued to expand her artistic skills through studies with various Connecticut artists, and has achieved elected artist member status in the Madison Art Society, where her paintings have been shown in juried shows. Ms. Nastri is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and holds national interior design accreditation (NCIDQ). Local interests include membership in the Garden Club of Orange and the Orangewood Woman's Club.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E: THE ANNUAL GIFT EXCLUSION

By Roberta L. Nestor

It is somewhat interesting that the IRS "allows" you to gift money to family members each year. The way this is phrased might lead someone to believe that there are some actual tax benefits if you give away cash to your kids! There are many misconceptions when it comes to the IRS Section 2503(b) that allows you to exclude certain gifts that would otherwise be required to be filed on a gift tax return.

At the risk of oversimplification, in 2016 and 2017, the maximum gift you can give without having to file a gift tax return is \$14,000. Now for the misconceptions:

Gifting \$14,000 will give me a tax break. FALSE. There is no tax benefit to the person giving the gift or to the person receiving the gift.

I can gift \$14,000 to as many family members as I want. TRUE. For example, if you are married and you have a son who is married with 2 children, you could gift \$14,000 to your son; \$14,000 to his wife and \$14,000 to each of their children. In addition, your spouse can also gift \$14,000 to each family member. In this example between husband and wife, you would be able to gift \$112,000 to your son and his family.

If I gift more than \$14,000 and file a federal gift tax return I will have to pay taxes. FALSE. You will not have any tax liability unless, at your death you have exceeded the lifetime estate and tax gift exemption.

If I gift my \$300,000 home to my son, I don't have to file a gift tax return since it is not cash. FALSE. It doesn't matter if the gift is cash or an asset. If it exceeds the \$14,000 annual gift exclusion you have to file a federal gift tax return.

The IRS is keeping track of how much money I gift. TRUE. The IRS is tracking your lifetime gifts to make sure they do not exceed the lifetime estate and gift tax exemption of \$5.45 million (2016 limit) during your lifetime. For most of us this should not be a concern.

The annual gift exclusion is relatively simple; however, you have to use extreme caution when there is a long term care situation. Gifting a home could jeopardize eligibility for Medicaid and trigger the five year look-back period. You should consult a tax advisor, financial advisor or attorney if you are unsure of the implications of gifting in a long term care situation. Happy

Holidays to All and Best Wishes for the year ahead!

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 491 New Haven Avenue in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment and tax planning services. She also offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network - a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products offered through Nestor Financial Network are separate and unrelated to Commonwealth. Commonwealth Financial Network or Nestor Financial Network does not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult a legal or tax professional regarding your individual situation. Roberta can be reached at Nestor Financial Network, 203-876-8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.



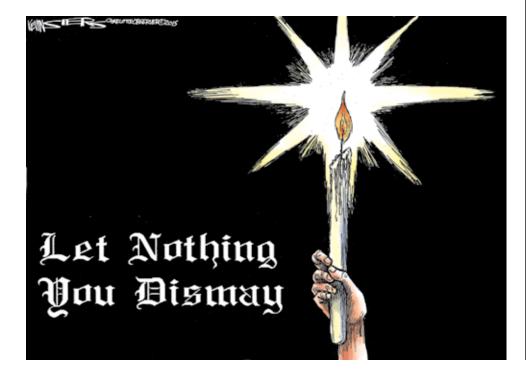
ARTS & LEISURE



O'ROURKE TO DISPLAY ART AT ORANGE TOWN HALL GALLERY

Haegan O'Rourke, a junior at Amity High School will be exhibiting his art at the Orange Town Hall during the month of December. Ever since he was young, he loved making his own mark on paper. He started, as most kids do, with finger paints, smelly markers and crayons provided by his mom. Although he has refined his techniques since then, he still likes to attack art with the same vigor and excitement that he had as a young child. Haegan has been fortunate

enough to participate in a summer plein air watercolor workshop in southern Vermont for 3 years. This experience has widened his appreciation for the link between the environment and humans which he seeks to demonstrate in his works. In addition to the arts, Haegan also enjoys hiking, snowboarding and volunteering at the Connecticut Beardsley zoo. This is the first time his work has been displayed in a public setting and he hopes you enjoy!



BULLETHINBOARD

Al-Anon Parents Meeting, Monday nights, 7:30pm year-round, United Church of Christ, Plymouth Building, 18 West Main Street, Milford – supporting parents of alcoholics and/or substance abusers. For more information, go to www.ct-al-anon.org or call Margaret at (203) 877-4313.

Al-Anon Meeting, Monday mornings, 10:00 - 11:30am, Holy Infant Church Hall, 450 Racebrook Road, Orange; a support group for relatives and friends of alcoholics. For more information, contact www.ct-al-anon.org.

Nicotine Anonymous Meetings, Mondays, 6:30 – 7:30pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, 21 Robert Treat Parkway, Milford, open to all, no dues or fees, only requirement is the desire to be free of nicotine. For more information, call Bridges, 203-878-6365.

Zumba Gold Classes At Congregation Or Shalom, Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., Congregation Or Shalom, 205 Old Grassy Hill Road, simple and easy routines to follow, designed for people of all ages and no experience is needed. If interested, call Robin at 203.314.8176 or temple office at 203.799.2341.

Clean Energy Task Force of Orange, meets on the third Tuesday of every month at HPCC, 525 Orange Center Road, conference room, 8 o'clock. The public is invited.

Orange Arts & Culture Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month, 7:30pm, HPCC, 525 Orange Center Road, check chalk board for meeting room. The public is invited.

Orange Recycling Committee meets every 3rd Wednesday 7:00pm, HPCC conference room, 525 Orange Center Road, public is invited to attend. For more information, email Orangerecycles@gmail.com. Beginning August, meetings will be held every 3rd Tuesday at 7:00pm except for October which will be held on October 14, 2014.

Elm City Kennel Club General Meetings, third Wednesday of each month, except during July and August, 7:30pm, Paws'N Effect, 36 Corporate Ridge Drive (off Sherman Avenue), Hamden. For more information, contact New Member Coordinators Gary Wilson, at 203-996-2245 (gwilson86@comcast.net) or Maureen Anderson, at 203-430-5229

(maureenanderson@snet.net).

Blood Pressure Clinic presented by Gentiva & Maplewood of Orange, 1st Thursday of every month, Maplewood of Orange, 245 Indian River Road, 1:30-2:30pm in the Community Room. No appointment necessary.

The Rotary Club Of Orange meets every Friday, 12:15pm at the Racebrook Country Club, 246 Derby Avenue; prospective new members may contact Diane Eger at 203-530-4526 or visit www.rotarycluboforange.org for information about the club.

Orange Historical Society Academy Antique & Gift Shop Museum, open Saturdays, 10:00am-3:00pm. For information call 203-795-3106.

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 18, 2016, 7:00pm, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 283 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT, 203-874-2701. In the midst of joy and the anticipation of Christ's arrival, a Blue Christmas service sets aside a time to acknowledge the darkness of the loss and pain that are present in our lives. For some, the loss is new and immediate; for some, the loss is well-worn with times' passing. All are welcome.

NAMI Support Group Meeting, meetings begin promptly at 6:00pm and end promptly at 7:30pm, BRIDGES, a community support system, 949 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford (entrance in the rear of the building), conference room on the second floor, on the following dates for 2017: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 14, and December 5. They are free of charge and facilitator led. Family & Friends welcome.

15th Annual Dressage4Kids' Weekend Equestrian Program,

January 28 and 29, 2017, Nonnewaug High School, 5 Minortown Road, Woodbury, CT; Program includes talks from leading experts as well as three special forums – an Eventing Forum, a Judges' Forum and a two-day Business Management Seminar for Professionals. For more information regarding the Weekend Equestrian Program, go to www.dressage4kids.org or contact Susan Sieber, Event Coordinator, at ssieber@interstatelumber.com or at (203) 223-4261.

	Coast to			
	Coast	Cutting It Close	Where To Take It	Contact
J.S. Postal Service	Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 20; Dec. 15 for parcel post.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 21 Express Overnight by Dec. 23	Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 14, check transit times on website or at drop- off location.	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 22.	UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.	www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 16 for all FedEx Ground packages.	Overnight by Dec. 22; 2-Day Air by Dec. 21 for delivery Dec. 23; big spenders can utilize priority overnight or sameday delivery on Friday, Dec. 23 for Christmas Eve delivery (in some areas).	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX





7th grade students serve hot chocolate to the many attendants who came out to enjoy the many the activities during Annual Holiday Festival and Tree Light Ceremony.



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WHETHER IT'S BUSINESS OR PERSONAL FOLLY GOALS ARE OUR PRIORITY.



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BARK BYTES...

By Vicki & Richard Horowitz





SHOULD PETS BE GIVEN AS A SURPRISE HOLIDAY GIFT?

By Richard and Vicki Horowitz

Every year as the Holidays approach, the topic of giving a pet as a gift comes up. If you plan to give a pet as a surprise, you need to realize that the new owners may be too occupied with holiday preparations, celebrations, guests and overall activity to give the new pet the attention he needs for proper housebreaking, crate training and overall puppy manners.

Holidays are a hectic time of year for most households. Introducing a pet during this time may cause stress for both the new pet as well as younger family members. The chaotic times of the Holidays may create a potentially hazardous environment for the unfamiliar puppy, especially if the household is not used to having a four legged creature under foot. It can be hard to keep ornaments, decorations, tinsel, wrapping paper, Poinsettias and other poisonous plants out of reach of the new pet.

Owning a pet is a lifetime commitment that every family member needs to agree upon. This is an important process every family should make together. Pets should never be given on an impulse.

Adding an animal to the family is an important decision. Hold family meetings to create rules about caring for

the dog before you get the furry family member. What kind of dog fits in with the family dynamics -- large or small, young or old, active or low energy? Who is financially responsible? Where will he sleep and eat? Who will walk him and clean up after him? Will he be allowed on the couch, the bed, and in all rooms of the house?

Making sure the family has time for the new pet is essential to the puppy's development into a well behaved dog. A stressful introduction can have negative effects and hinder a safe, successful integration into the family.

To improve the chances of a successful transition into your home, introduce pets during a relaxed, quiet time when the family can devote full attention to helping the animal adjust. Also have the proper supplies (food, crate, collar, leash, food and water bowls, hard dog appropriate toys) as well as a planned visit to the veterinarian.

Vicki and Richard Horowitz, of Woodbridge, are dog behavioral therapists and trainers with Bark Busters, the world's largest dog training company. For more information, call 1-877-500-BARK (2275) or visit www.dog-training-new-haven-ct.com.







ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September

22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most com-

fortable with.

immediate attention.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your

SCORPIO (October 23 to November

21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to **January 19**) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

TALES OF FERAL CATS

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I wanted to add to your recent columns about

feral cats. Maybe some can't be tamed, but my friends and family would disagree.

I recently visited with friends in North Carolina and met their beautiful cat, "Stormy." Their story is this: They had been feeding

this feral cat for some time outside, and of course, he wouldn't come near them. Then one night they heard a howling outside. Looking out, they saw a mountain lion or panther, whatever they call them there, threatening Stormy. They opened the door, and Stormy came in, and never went outside again.

Another story I have is of a feral cat that was "adopted" by my son's chickens! He has six chickens in his backyard in Florida, and one day someone dropped off a very young kitten. He got into the coop, but

instead of running or attacking, the kitten assumed those chickens

were his parents! Now a full-grown cat, he remains mostly feral and won't come inside my son's house, but he hangs out in the chicken coop daily with his new family.

Hope your readers enjoy the

stories! -- John S., via email

DEAR JOHN: What amazing stories! I'm glad both cats found loving homes and new families. Thank you for sharing them.

It's rare for feral cats to be coaxed inside and become fully domesticated cats that are comfortable around humans. But for those that do find a home -- even if they never quite cross the threshold of the house -- life can be happier and more rewarding for them as well as the humans who care for them.

Send your questions or comments to ask@pawscorner.com.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps





"No, really, I was an efficiency expert for the

THE CASHIER

"PAIR OF PUPPIES

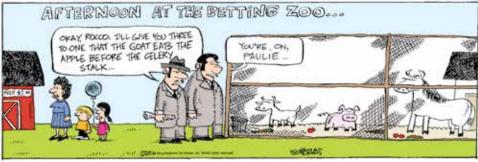
SUSPECTED OF SETTING OFF BURGLARY ALARM."



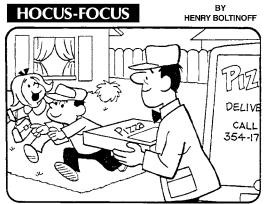
BY RICARDO GALVÃO

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

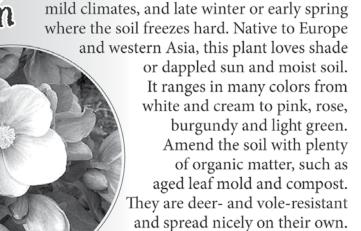








Differences: 1. Custains are missing. 2. Purse is missing. 3. Fence top is different. 4. Cap is different. 5. Pocket is missing. 6. Telephone number is missing.



Christmas rose blooms in early winter in

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.hgtv.com, www.whiteflowerfarm.com

Wishing you and your family a warm holiday season!

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