

Orange Town News



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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2022



Orange Honors Its Veterans

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Under the leadership of the American Legion Post 127, and its commander, Lewis Merritt, the town of Orange celebrated its veterans with a ceremony on Veterans Day, November 11. The highlight of the event was probably the invocation by Rev. Joshua Schiff of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, a veteran himself. He preceded the prayer by sharing the memory of his return to US soil in 2008 after having served in Iraq.

He and his fellow soldiers expected to laugh and cry and kiss the ground – which they did. But what they did not expect was the welcome offered by local veterans, who came out in the middle of a chilly night to warmly welcome this new crop of fighters, despite

a whipping, cold wind. “They wanted to make sure we had the welcome that they did not experience,” Schiff said. And he thanked them and all veterans for their selfless service, and for the strength and dignity displayed by so many.

First Selectman Jim Zeoli, when he stepped to the podium to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance, thanked Schiff for those remarks as the most moving speech delivered on this occasion.

Veteran Peter MacDonald read the Soldiers’ Oath, with which they pledge to “support and defend the US Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” “The Constitution is a contract between us, the citizens, and the people we elect to run the govern-

See “Veterans” On Page 13



Mary Welander



James Maroney



Kathy Kennedy



Charles Ferraro

It Was the Year of The Incumbents

Orange Delegation Re-Affirmed

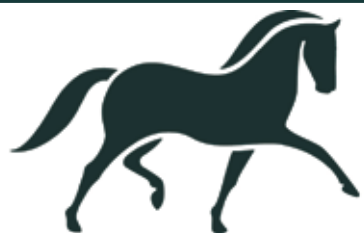
BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

With a turnout of 65.2%, voter participation in the November 8 mid-terms was brisk, but did not produce any surprises. “It all went very smoothly,”

said Orange Head Moderator Mitch Goldblatt. “People left the politicking outside.”

For the Orange delegations, both

See “Incumbents” On Page 8



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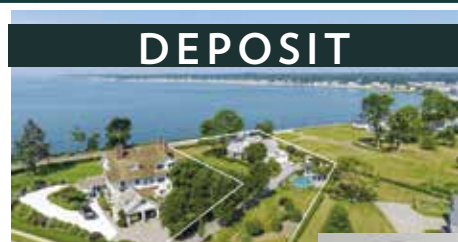
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School Board Fetes Volunteer Extraordinaire

BY BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Beth Cohen – one of the two Bs in B&B Transportation – recently retired from the position of bus route coordinator for the town and BOWA district (Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and Amity).

“We must remember that for most

of our students the school day begins and ends with a bus ride, but have you ever wondered how that component is coordinated for 850 students?” said Woodbridge Board of Education Chairman Lynn Piascyk when she officially announced the impending retirement

See “Volunteer” On Page 4



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“Volunteer” From Page 2

with a heart-felt tribute at the September 19 Woodbridge Board of Education meeting. “The answer is Beth Cohen,” Piascyk said. “She’s a phenomenal leader,” she said, adding, “She leaves me quite in awe about the size of the shoes I will be expected to fill.”

Cohen started working as a substitute teacher at Beecher Road School when John Ploski was school superintendent in Woodbridge in the 1980s. He was looking for help with the bus routes. “That was before I met Brad,” (the other “B” in the B&B team), Cohen said. “It was a need, so I kept on doing it” – for 35 years.

In fact, she has done this for the District as an unpaid volunteer. “It was a labor of love,” she said.

To illustrate what that means, Piascyk pointed to the fact that for 35 school openings Beth Cohen has been creating the bus routes for anywhere between 800 and 1,000 local students, assuring that there is a seat for every child as well as a safe stop for buses to pick up and drop off students. “Each spring and summer, in preparation for the start of a new school year, Beth has traversed the roads of Woodbridge to plot out every single bus stop,” Piascyk said.

Piascyk also talked about the changes that have occurred over the years. In 1989, Beth and Brad founded and incorporated B & B Transportation. “It began with one bus and one contract but all the while Beth was creating the bus routes for all the owner-operators that serviced the Woodbridge School District.”

In 1996, the Woodbridge School District and the Bethany School District decided to utilize the resources

of both districts’ transportation contractors which eliminated the need for double bus runs at both schools. “Then in May of 2001, the Woodbridge and Bethany boards of Education voted along with the Amity board to form a regional transportation system creating one of the first examples of shared services in the state of Connecticut, and Beth took on the task of chairing this Joint BOWA Transportation Committee. (Orange still has its own coordinator, Cohen said).

“Over the years Beth’s vision to create community bus stops allowed for transportation streamlining, which ultimately provided savings in the transportation budget,” Piascyk said. “Now you might think that once school begins Beth’s job becomes less demanding but that is far from the truth. Remember that when students move into the district after the first day, they too, must be assigned to a bus and sometimes this demands some creative thinking and resourceful planning.

“I want to thank her for her mentorship, her sense of humor and her willingness to step up,” Piascyk said. “The English language has two little words that encompass all the above and more, and those two words are “Thank You.”

When asked how she is going to fill her days after retirement, Cohen said, “I’m going to be sitting on my front porch.”

Now the grandmother of 8, she is looking forward to spending more time with family, reading, enjoying some of the winter in Florida. Brad is continuing to run the company and she will stay involved in big-picture decisions. “I’ve been working since I was 15 years old,” she said. “I am looking forward to my retirement.”

Orange Town News

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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.



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Contributing Writers Roberta Nestor | Ginny Reinhard

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Contact us:
Rocky SalpertoRocky@orangetownnews.com
Marlene SilversteinMarlene@orangetownnews.com
J. Michael KrizMike@orangetownnews.com
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Below is the last remaining issue date & deadline of the Orange Town News this year. Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.
Upcoming Issue Date Issue Deadline
December 16 | Holiday Issue December 9
Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

Are you Prepared to be a Caregiver?

BY ROBERTA L NESTOR

Celebrated every November, National Family Caregivers Month (NFCM) is a time to recognize and honor family caregivers across the country. It offers an opportunity to raise awareness of caregiving issues, educate communities, and increase support for caregivers. The statistics are staggering. One survey found that more than half of family caregivers (52.90%) spend 40+ hours each week providing care. Another 15.4% provide 11 – 20 hours of assistance per week to a loved one. All unpaid.

How prepared are you to provide this care? Let’s look at Mom, an 80-year-old widow. While retired for many years, she is still “go-go”, involved in her community, local clubs, and organizations as well as volunteering. She walks daily with a group of friends and is in good health. More importantly, she is proud of her independence and does not like to rely on anyone. She does her own grocery shopping, can schedule all her doctor’s appointments, and prepares her own meals.

Mom is even somewhat tech savvy. She manages her own finances, mostly on-line. She is up to date on her bills and does her own on-line banking. iPad in hand she shares photos with family and keeps up to date on Facebook, she even has a laptop at home. The key take away here is that she is completely independent. Until she is not.

Life for Mom changes in a minute after she falls and breaks her hip. She spends a week in the hospital followed by 4 weeks in a skilled rehab facility. She is learning to walk and trying to regain her confidence. Until then, she is dependent on her only child to care for her. Here are just a few things that her daughter does not know about Mom:

- › Her passwords – Mom uses a multitude of websites to pay her bills – and Mom doesn’t know them either, she depends on the auto-memory of her computer at home;
- › Mom thought that her bills were on autopay from her checking account. The auto bill-pay is not set up with her bank;
- › Mom has multiple bank accounts, and her daughter is only authorized on one of them;

- › Mom does not have a Power of Attorney – or if she did, she can’t remember where it is;
- › There is also the absence of designating a Health Care Agent to make medical decisions on her behalf.

While in rehab, Mom’s daughter’s life has changed. Now, every morning she goes to Mom’s house to get the mail. She must maintain Mom’s laundry and clothing for the month. She spends endless hours with the social worker at the rehab center, even asked to attend physical and occupational therapy so that she will know how to assist her Mom safely once she is sent home. She spends hours with Mom’s insurance company who denied requests for acute rehab (more aggressive PT and OT); she goes through appeals processes to have her care extended. Then she has one week’s notice to get Mom’s house ready for her return. She must make sure that all the throw rugs are put away, that there are no obstacles for moving safely around her home. Mom has stairs to her bedroom and will not be able to use them for several weeks. Her daughter had to re-arrange furniture and provide for sleeping in her living room.

Her daughter must arrange for grocery delivery. She had to deal with Mom’s car insurance to have it suspended since she won’t be driving for several months. Then there are the many medical appointments that need to be scheduled as well as arrangements for Medicare to come to the home for on-going PT and OT. Perhaps the most difficult task is arranging for home care. Can Mom afford home care? Her daughter works full-time in a very demanding job, she will be unable to be there 24/7 and her release from rehab is based on having full-time home care, at least for the first few weeks.

This is not an unusual situation. It happens every day. None of us are fully prepared to become caregivers unexpectedly. Families need to discuss the “what-ifs” in life, especially with an aging parent. Think of it as having a disaster plan. This hypothetical case meant providing a minimal amount of care because Mom still has all her mental faculties. Cognitive decline,

See “Dollars & Sense” On Page 7

ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP



Coast Guard Visits Peck Place School

Students at The Peck Place School (PPS) were treated to a visit from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The USCG Aids to Navigation Team Long Island Sound planned interactive stations for the students. They were able to climb aboard the boat, practice throwing the rescue line, and learned the proper way to wear a life jacket and use all the features. (There was even a built-in flashlight that velcros to the shoulder and stays on for 9 hours!)

Students in grades 1-6 learned a great deal about the various jobs of the Coast Guardsmen. Did you know they maintain all the lighthouses? Did you know there are 500+ buoys they are in charge of?

Thank you to Master Chief Josh Reeve for organizing this awesome community event. Master Chief Reeve, Petty Officer Soto, and Petty Officer Hennessey interacted with EVERY PPS student and made the activities fun and engaging.



Happy Veterans Day and thank you to the students who created these cards, thanking local veterans for their service. The cards were delivered to the Vet Center located in Orange for distribution.



Attention Teachers!

We want to know what's going on in your classroom! Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.

(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News

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From the First Selectman

BY JAMES M. ZEOLI

As First Selectman I have a duty to serve all residents, adults, and children alike. To make sound decisions the Board of Selectmen give careful consideration for practicality, costs, and safety before informed actions that affect our residents are taken.

Recently there have been articles and comments made about the lack of response in meeting children’s needs regarding soccer fields. I am writing to give the residents of Orange an accurate accounting of the history and development status of Fred Wolfe Park. In the mid 1990s the town of Orange acted to be the sole owner of a 67-acre parcel of land to be used for open space, of which some portions were farmed by local farmers. The remainder of that land, which was virtually landlocked and unattended, had uneven terrain, contained wetlands, and had become overgrown with vines.

A costly Master Plan was designed and offered to the Park and Recreation Commission to be implemented as needs and funds arose. Many requests for development proved to be impractical, costly, or unsafe. At that time the Orange Soccer Association (OSA) expressed the desire to have new and additional fields built and that request was granted resulting in 5 fields, at very little cost to the OSA. For many years the fields have been mowed and maintained at no cost to the OSA, but to the town, and children have had a wonderful environment to enjoy playing soccer.

The request now to use existing farmland to develop more fields, parking and create new entrances would be a major cost to the town and deprive the farmers of their livelihood. We do not receive adequate information from the OSA to make an informed decision as to their necessity. Information that I gathered from the Orange Soccer Association’s most current filings show the number of children in the soccer program has remained constant at approximately 300 in the Orange Soccer Association program, and 300 in the Travel soccer program. The area OSA would like to see fields expanded to is a parcel currently leased to Field View Farm for growing corn. The access to this parcel is limited to Hemlock Road and Peck Lane extension off Meetinghouse Lane. There are other areas within the park property that could be considered for fields.

The current development of the park addresses some of the requests made in the past and will assure practicality and safety. The park is getting some new improvements after several years of discussion. A new driveway which will allow access to Wolfe Park from Oakview Drive will be completed in 2023. The current driveway from Hollow Road will see widening and paving as part of the overall access project.

There will be a new all-inclusive playground installed that will be available daily for all to use. This will alleviate the problem of no playground available during school hours and forcing parents to other communities for playgrounds. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved supporting the Playground Committee’s presentation at the February Selectmen’s meeting. The playground is on order and installation will begin soon. There has been curbing installed and rail fencing will also be installed for the safety of the playground. Safety improvements will continue as part of the development process.

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“Dollars & Sense” From Page 5

Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and strokes all would require an entirely different plan of care and decision-making process. Think of the stress, and time, that can be eliminated if there had been a family plan for care.

Recognize the caregivers in your family and your community. Be aware of the time they spend being a caregiver, the stress, and emotional responsibilities they have taken on, to say nothing of the financial burdens that are ultimately realized. Please remember to give thanks this year to all of our nation’s caregivers.

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor

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

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- Donate Your Car, Truck or Van** – FREE, FAST, TOW AWAY, Running or Not Running, can be used for a charitable tax deduction. Call Charter Oak Education dba Sterling Education at 860-643-1100.
- Christmas Market** – Saturday November 19, 2022, 10am-1pm, St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 283 Bridgeport Avenue, Milford, CT, featuring ornaments, toys & gifts. Inside in the parish hall basement - go down the ramp at side facing the church. For more information, contact Mrs. Marty Mautte, c/o the church, 203-874-2701.
- Friends of the Library** – Program of classic blues music featuring “Ramblin Dan” Stevens, Saturday, November 19, 2:00pm, Case Memorial Library, 176 Tyler City Road. Reservations required, online at www.casememoriallibrary.org or 203-891-2170. Please consider
- wearing a mask.
- Woodbridge Recreation Yoga Classes** – Yoga offers ways to relax while developing strength, balance, and self-awareness. Gentle classes, modified for individual needs, also focus on posture and breathing within a caring community of practitioners. Of course, we stretch, too! Classes are every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30-11:45 and Monday evenings 5:30-6:45 until December 21. (A new session begins January 2.) Location: Room 16 at The Center in Woodbridge, 4 Meetinghouse Lane. Please email for specific directions if needed. Late fall special is \$10/ drop-in, paid to the instructor, Diane King. Cash or checks payable to Woodbridge Recreation. Questions: yogadiane@gmail.com or call the Recreation Department at 203 389-3446. A perfect time to give yoga a try!

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of December 2022



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

5th	Zoning Board of Appeals	7:00 pm	Town Hall
6th	Economic Development Comm	5:30 pm	Gusto’s Restaurant,
	Town Plan & Zoning Comm.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
7th	Conservation Comm.....	7:00 pm	HPCC
8th	Elderly Housing Liaison Cmte.	12 noon	Silverbrook Estates
	Community Services.....	7:00 pm	HPCC
	OGAT	7:30 pm	Town Hall
12th	Traffic Authority	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm.....	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Amity Board of Education	6:30 pm	Woodbridge
	Board of Health	7:00 pm	HPCC
13th	Inland Wetlands Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
14th	Safety & Health Comm.....	10:00 am	TBD
	Board of Selectmen.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
19th	Family Counseling Advisory Council.....	9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education	7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
	Board of Finance.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
	Youth Services.....	7:30 pm	HPCC
21st	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Park & Recreations Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall

“Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude.” — NIGEL HAMILTON



When Is The Right Time For Kids To Start Volunteering?

Aristotle once said the essence of life is "to serve others and do good."

It's well documented that volunteerism offers many benefits to those who are recipients of the charitable work as well as the volunteers.

According to The Corporation for National & Community Service, one in four Americans volunteers. Volunteers come from all walks of life and various age groups. Nearly one-quarter of all volunteers are people under the age of 24.

Parents and guardians who want to introduce their children to volunteerism may not know when is the right age to do so. Many experts agree that there isn't a definitive age for children to get involved in volunteering. In fact, no child is too young to volunteer. Joseph F. Hagan Jr., M.D, a clinical professor of pediatrics at Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, says helping out during the toddler and preschool years helps shape a child's sense of morality.

Rather than wondering if a child is too young to volunteer, adults should focus on finding the right activity to match the child's age. For example, a three- or four-year-old child can fill bags or boxes with donated food or

help gather blankets and towels to donate to an animal rescue. However, a toddler or preschooler may not have the stamina to complete a 5K walk.

Volunteerism doesn't even have to be in the traditional sense of working with an established charity. A youngster can pick flowers from a field and deliver them to an elderly neighbor. Or a preschooler can invite a child playing alone to come play together. A toddler who loves sorting items can help sort recycling items at home and watch a parent deliver them to the recycling center.

Another way to engage kids in volunteer work is to match their interests with the tasks. Many kids can't get enough of animals, so they may want to help out an animal organization or be involved with a conservation group. A child can collect change to "adopt" an endangered species.

Kids also can visit a children's hospital and deliver gifts to youngsters battling illnesses. In such situations, kids may be more engaged if they can help kids their own ages.

Children are never too young to volunteer. Finding the right fit can inspire a lifetime of giving back that benefits youngsters throughout their lives.

"Incumbents" From Page 1

at the state level as well as the federal level, these elections did not cause any upsets. "It was the year of the incumbents," Goldblatt said.

State Sen. James Maroney (D-14), State Rep. Mary Welander (D-114), Charles Ferraro (R-117) and Kathy a (R-119) will all return to the state Legislature to represent the people of their districts.

Similarly, at the federal level, US Senator Richard Blumenthal (D) and Rep. Rosa DeLauro, (D-3) beat their respective challengers, giving Blumenthal a third six-year term and DeLauro her 16th term.

Voters in Orange also joined the rest of the state to authorize the General Assembly to work out an early voting framework. Statewide, 60% of voters supported the ballot initiative. In Orange, 3,483 voted for it, and 2,813 against it.

In this election, 937 voted by absentee ballot, of which 19 were rejected. The town also registered 27 new voters the day of the election.

District 114: Incumbent Mary Welander (D) carried the district with 57.8% of the vote. In Orange, she got a total of 1,588 votes for a second term. The district extends into Woodbridge, a part of Hamden and Derby. Her challenger, Woodbridge resident Daniel Cowan (R) received 1,370 votes, or 42.2% district-wide.

Cowan congratulated Mary Welander on her win, saying, "While the results are not what I expected, I am thankful for all the positive interactions I had in our community and the new people I met along the way."

District 117: Incumbent state Representative Charles Ferraro, a Republican, will join the Legislature for a fifth term. The Democratic Party did not file a candidate, but Laura Fucci ran on the Working Families Party ticket. Ferraro had a blockbuster result, winning 78.9% of the vote district-wide. In Orange, he received a total of 1,441 votes, as he was cross-endorsed by the Independent party. Laura Fucci received 337 votes.

District 119: Kathy Kennedy won a fourth term. District-wide she received 52.6 % of the vote. In Orange, the Republican garnered 977 votes, her opponent, Mike Smith, had a total of 831 votes.

These were the Orange results in detail:

For Governor and Lieutenant Governor

- › Ned Lamont and Susan Bysiewicz – (D) 3,506; Griebel Frank 10; Working Families 51;
- › Bob Stefanowski and Laura Devlin (R) – 3, 432;

- › Robert Hotaling and Stewart Beckett (I) – 51;
- › Michelle Louise Bicking and Cassandra Martineau (write ins) – 1.

For US Senator

- › Richard Blumenthal – (D) 3,596; (Working Families) 78;
- › Leora Levy – (R) 3,344;
- › John Anderson (write in) – 0;
- › Shabadjob Bharara (write-in) – 0.

For US Congress, third District

- › Rosa L. DeLauro – (D) 3,597;
- › Lesley DeNardis – (R) 3,348;
- › Amy F. Chai – (I) 70;
- › Justin Paglino – (Greens) 28.

For State Senate, District 14

- › James Maroney – (D) 3,479; (I) 90;
- › Kim Marie Mullin - (R) 3,450.

For State Rep., 114

- › Mary Welander – (D) 1,523; (I) 38; (Working Families) 27;
- › Daniel Cowan – (R) 1,370.

For State Rep., 117

- › Charles Ferraro – (R) 1,369; (I) 72;
- › Laura A Fucci – (Working Families) 332.

For State Rep., 119

- › Kathy Kennedy – (R) 963; (I) 14;
- › Mike Smith – (D) 822; (Working Families) 9.

Secretary of the State

- › Stephanie Thomas – (D) 3,354; (Working Families) 75;
- › Dominic Rapini – (R) 3,455;
- › Cynthia R. Jennings – (I) 77.

Treasurer

- › Erick Russell – (D) 3,202; (Working Families) 67;
- › Harry Arora – (R) 3,575;
- › Jennifer Baldwin – (I) 89;
- › JoAnna Laiscell – (Libertarian) 27.

Comptroller

- › Sean Scanlon – D (3,274), (I) 69; Working Families (52);
- › Mary Fay – (R) 3,534.

Attorney General

- › William Tong – (D) 3,537; (Working Families) 75;
- › Jessica Kordas – (Rep.) 3,325;
- › AP Pascarella – (I) 37;
- › Ken Krayeske – (Greens) 21.

Judge of Probate

- › Ben Gettinger – (D) 3,393;
- › Win Smith – (R) 3,615.

Registrar of Voters

- › Janice Casey – (D) 3,363;
- › Valerie Spinaci – (R) 3,530.

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” — WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

HEALTH & FITNESS

Positional Vertigo: The Lowdown on Dizziness

BY WARREN RODERICK

Despite our own familiarity or experience with dizziness—whether it be a game of Dizzy Bat or lightheadedness when quickly rising from bed—there is still great misunderstanding in regard to different kinds of dizziness and what may be the physiological cause of each. In other words, it is common for such symptoms to be placed under the same broad umbrella, thus making accurate diagnosis and the ensuing treatment a murky process. Perhaps the most misunderstood or misused term associated with this feeling is “vertigo,” which is often used as a generic diagnosis to put a name to what the patient is experiencing. However, in reality, “vertigo” is not a diagnosis at all, nor should it be used as a blanket term for dizziness, regardless of what may be causing it.

In reality, vertigo is described as a SYMPTOM rather than a diagnosis or disease. What differentiates the vertigo symptom from that of more generalized non-descript dizziness is that of a very profound spinning sensation of the patient’s body and/or the room they are in at the time. Once it is confirmed that a patient is indeed experiencing vertigo, it becomes the task of us therapists to determine the source via our specialized assessment and testing.

Among the most treatable of these diagnoses within the Physical Therapy scope of practice is that of Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo, simply known as BPPV. BPPV is characterized by a pathology in the canals of our inner ear, or the balance center of our nervous system. More specifically, it is the displacement of calcium crystals that line the inside of the utricle—or the area located at the base of the canals—that causes the symptoms we have come to associate with “vertigo.” These crystals, known as canaliths, are tasked with telling our brains the position of our head, thus allowing it to send signals to the proper muscle groups that help us maintain balance.

However, these crystals may occasionally become dislodged from their proper place, whether it be from a high-impact trauma or natural degradation due to aging. Once displaced from the inner wall of the utricle, certain movements or postures may



Warren Roderick

cause the crystals to migrate into one of the three canals where they don’t belong. This improper migration causes misleading signals to overwhelm the brain, eliciting a strong spinning sensation accompanied by rapid involuntary movement of the eyes TOWARD the problematic ear, known as nystagmus. By intentionally placing patients in these problematic positions, we as therapists can confirm or rule out issues with the inner ear—or vestibular system—as the cause of a patient’s symptoms.

In confirmed cases fitting these criteria, a corrective maneuver can be done, in which the patient is placed through a specific sequence of postures in order to move the displaced crystals out of the canal that they’re stuck in and BACK to their proper home—the utricle. If done correctly, this sequence should result in nearly immediate cessation of the patient’s dizziness. Comprehensive patient education on proper posture and correct body mechanics can help minimize or eliminate recurrence of episodes going forward.

Warren Rodrick, DPT, is a Physical Therapist and Site Supervisor of our new Wallingford location. Warren has worked with Amity PT since graduating from University of Hartford with his Doctorate of Physical Therapy in 2015. Working with patients of all ages and ability levels, Warren prides himself on his commitment to their goals and providing the individualized care they need. To set up an appointment to see if your Glutes are up to par, contact us at 203-626-5330 or visit amitypt.com.



THE ORANGE TOWN NEWS ONLINE
www.OrangeTownNews.com

DID YOU KNOW?

An Attitude of Gratitude

WE’RE CHOOSING NOT TO WRITE ABOUT SOMETHING LEGAL THIS MONTH.

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we can’t help but take a moment to reflect on all that we, as a firm and our families personally, are grateful for this year. So, we’d like to take a moment to say thank you from our family to yours!

We know these are just two simple words, but they carry a deep sense of gratitude we have for everyone we have been fortunate enough to know and help over the past year. We wouldn’t be where we are today without our amazing clients, wonderful network of advisors, or the support of our friends and family.

We hope that each and every one of you have a wonderful holiday, however that may look for you this year.

Legacy Law Partners, LLC is the author of this article. This article has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to constitute legal advice or to create an attorney-client relationship. Readers should not act upon the information contained in this article without seeking advice from an attorney regarding the specific facts and circumstances of your case.



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OPINION

Amity Budget Surplus and Costs Are Reasonable and Compare Favorably with Peers

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

DR. K. SUDHIR
AMITY BOE AND AFC MEMBER

Over the last few years, many articles complained that the Amity budget surplus is too high, with high cost to the taxpayer. This is the second of a 2-part article to address common questions and clarify misconceptions about the surplus. The first part with 3 questions was published last month.

1. *What was Amity’s surplus this year? How did it compare with previous years?*
The surplus for FY 21-22 was \$1,536,234, much lower than in previous years. An important reason for the lower amount this year is that medical claims were close to what was budgeted. During COVID, staff postponed health visits and treatments, leading to higher unspent amounts in the claims reserve. Also, during the COVID years, the school district operated fewer activities; hence costs were lower than budgeted.

As health insurance claims vary much more than school expenses, a larger reserve (surplus) is needed to cover health insurance claims. In the future, administration will report school-expense-related surplus separately from medical insurance surplus/deficits. This will help taxpayers evaluate the budget surplus better.

The opinion pieces in the town news complain that even this year’s surplus is high. Can you explain why we have a 1.5 million surplus this year? Is this surplus necessarily bad for taxpayers?

The term “surplus” suggests that more money than needed was budgeted. This is not true; the term “unspent funds” is perhaps more accurate. The three main drivers of this year’s unspent funds are:

1. Salary savings (about 20%, 300K): New staff or replacements take time to hire, so there are periods in which allocated budgets are not used;
2. Grants and cost savings (about 20%, 300K): Administration obtains grant money for budgeted items, found cheaper bids and more cost-efficient ways to solve a problem;
3. Special Education (about 60%, 900K): This is the biggest chunk. The number of students and their needs vary considerably across years; so costs are hard to forecast. Further, there is room to optimize costs during the year (e.g., by efficiently grouping students for services and transport) after student needs are known. Services may be moved in-house or outsourced as appropriate. The district should be commended for optimizing costs and finding cost savings.

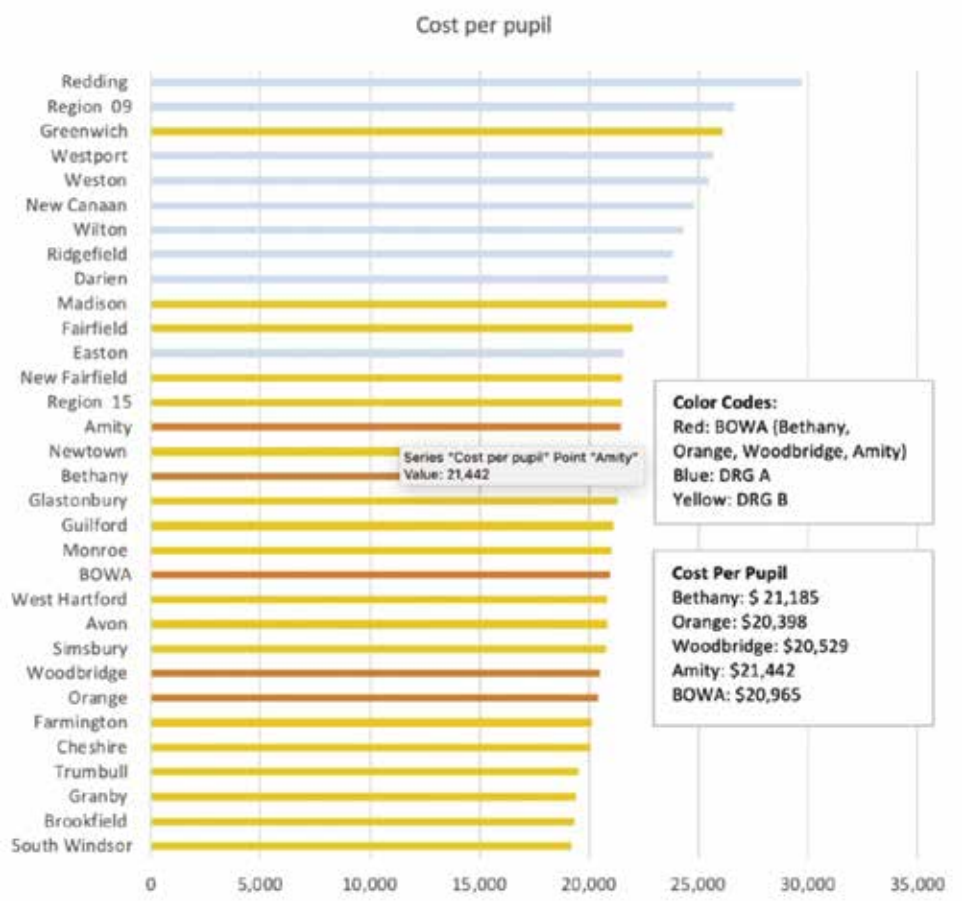
Overall, after a detailed analysis, we found that the unspent funds did not arise from over-budgeting; it arose from savings due to (1) vacant unfilled positions; (2) effective use of grants even after budget was approved; and (3) efficient cost minimization. Also note that over 60% of the surplus is from Special Education, where spending variability is high.

Finally, remember that the cost of “surplus” is at most the interest on it and not the entire amount, as unspent funds are used to reduce next year’s expenses. Further, taxpayers **should want** the administration to aggressively discover cost savings, even if it increases “unspent funds” (surplus) for the year. This is because such cost savings in one year often also reduce costs in future years.

The board’s goal is ALWAYS to minimize total taxpayer cost, WITHOUT compromising on the educational mission. It should NOT be to minimize the surplus. A single-minded focus on reducing surplus will hurt taxpayers because it disincentivizes the administration to find cost savings and grant money after the budget has been approved.

2. *I am a regular taxpayer---I don’t understand budget details and processes. Just tell me, how do Amity’s costs compare to other schools in CT?*

CT groups school districts into tiers called District Reference Groups (DRG) based on their socio-economic profiles. The nine high-income districts of Fairfield County are DRG A. Amity, Orange and Woodbridge are in DRG B, as part of a group of 21 school districts. Bethany is in DRG C. The graph shows the average cost per pupil across DRG A and B districts and Bethany.



Notes: Region 15: Middlebury–Southbury; Region09: Easton–Redding.
Data source: WalletHub. The cost per pupil data is based on state guidelines to compute cost per pupil and helps cost comparisons across districts. It is not equal to Budget/Number of Students.

Overall, the average cost per pupil in the BOWA system–Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and Amity (highlighted in red), range from \$20,398 (Orange) to \$21,442 (Amity). The BOWA system (combining Amity and elementary districts) average is \$20,965; it falls between West Hartford and Monroe. Overall, the cost of schools within the BOWA system is towards the lower end of the distribution.

Note that it is more expensive to educate middle and high school students relative to elementary school students, as they have more course and extra-curricular offerings. So, it should be expected that Amity will have higher cost per pupil than the elementary schools in Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge. It is gratifying that Amity’s cost per pupil is even below many school districts that combine elementary, middle and high schools.

Given Amity’s overall high rankings (10th out of 117 CT school districts by Niche. Com), Amity gives excellent value to the taxpayer in terms of great outcomes at mid-range costs.

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OPINION

Why is Amity Enrollment Rapidly Declining?

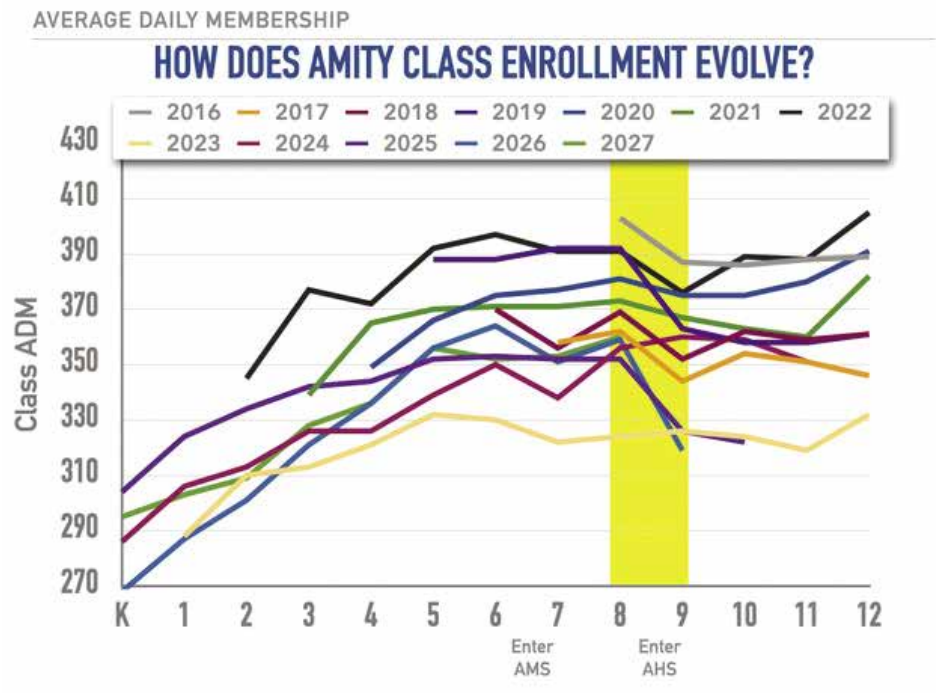
PARENTS TAKING KIDS OUT BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL AT ACCELERATING PACE

BY MEGHAN RABUSE
ORANGE BOARD OF FINANCE - ALTERNATE MEMBER

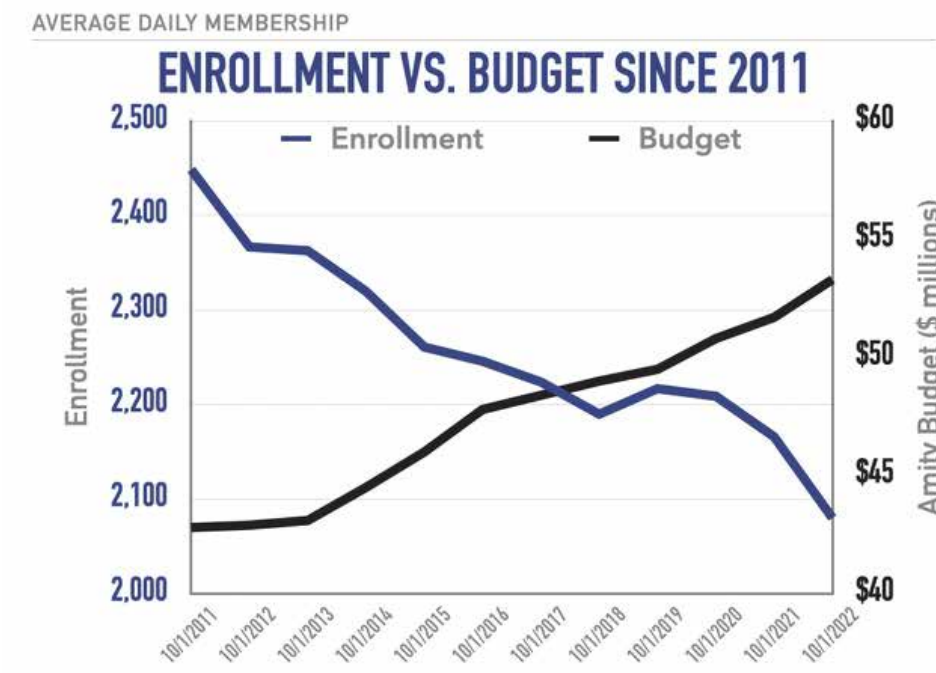
In less than 2 years, my oldest daughter will be off to Amity Middle School. That timeline has made me pay far more attention to what is going on in our Amity Regional District in recent months. We moved here for the school system and have always planned to send our children on from Orange to the Amity system. But I am increasingly alarmed by a trend I am seeing: why are so many of my fellow parents taking their kids out of the Amity system before high school?

During last Spring’s budget referendum, as a former financial research analyst, I started doing what I know best - digging into the data. What stood out was the steep decline in Amity enrollment compared to the growing enrollment in our elementary schools. Over the last 11 years, Amity enrollment is down by 369 students, or 15%. Why such a sharp decline at Amity?

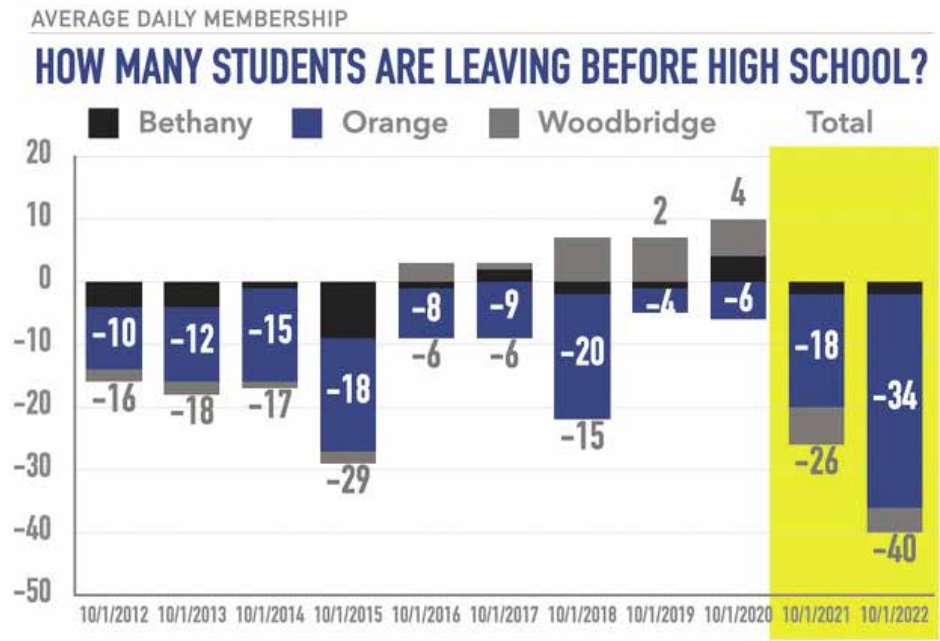
Often, the enrollment declines have been dismissed as merely a demographic trend. However, if we dig into the data, a more concerning trend becomes evident. If we track what happens to each graduating class, from K-12, some clear patterns begin to emerge. For every Amity graduating class from 2016 to the future class of 2026 (current Amity 9th grade), enrollment steadily rises from K-6, flattens at middle school, and experiences a sharp drop between 8th and 9th grade. **That decline has accelerated significantly in the last two years.** In 2021, the Amity 9th grade class had 26 fewer students than the prior year’s 8th grades across both middle schools. In 2022, there were 40 fewer students moving on to 9th grade from our two middle schools.



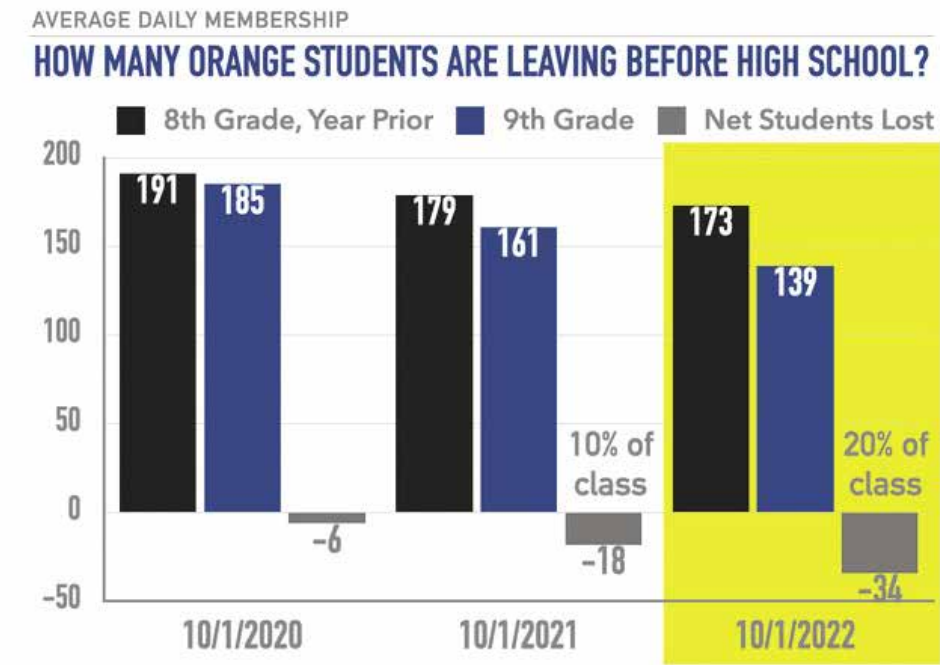
Each October, the Amity Board of Education publishes an Enrollment Report in its monthly Board Packet. This report is used to prepare the budget for the upcoming school year and is also used to allocate the budget to each town and determine each town’s contribution to the Amity budget.



Amity enrollment has trended down for years. Over the last 11 years, Amity enrollment is down by 369 students, or 15%, while the Amity budget has increased 25% over the same time period.



While Orange is the largest of the 3 towns, representing about half of all Amity students, Orange students are leading the departures disproportionately. Of the 40 fewer students in this year’s Freshman class, 34 are from Orange.



As a mom looking at sending my kids to Amity soon, it leaves me worried. WHY are so many of my fellow parents choosing to take their kids out of Amity before high school?

As a graduate of public schools and the child of a public school teacher, I am a strong believer in and supporter of public schools. But it takes a community - parents, administrators, teachers and students - working together to create a great school system. I will not accept that steep declines in enrollment are just a trend Amity is subject to like the rest of Connecticut.

The question I’m left asking is WHY? If Amity is so great, why are so many of our local families withdrawing before high school? I am currently surveying parents who have left Amity to ask just that, and I will share those answers with you in a future article. If you would like to share your experience as a parent who withdrew your child from the Amity system, you can complete an anonymous survey here: <https://bit.ly/AR5ParentSurvey>

I hope as a community we can work together to make Amity a place we all look forward to sending our kids after 8th grade.

Note: All enrollment, ADM and budget data comes from the Amity Board of Education Meeting Packets posted on the Amity Region 5 website. ADM reports are published in the Meeting Packet every year in October.



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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Arti Dixson’s, 33rd Annual Holiday Party

Thirty-three years ago, we started a party to collect toys for children of The Immanuel Baptist Church in New Haven, CT. Thirty-three years later your support and generosity has enabled us to distribute toys to The Immanuel Baptist Church in New Haven, The Hill Health Center in New Haven, The Branford Counseling Center, Life Haven in New Haven, The Orange Community Center, Holy Infant Church, The West Haven Community House, The Boys and Girls Club in New Haven, The Bethel Center in Milford, The Boys and Girls Village in Milford, The Children’s Community Program in New Haven, The Spanish Community Center of Wallingford and Inspirica in Stamford.

This year, the 33rd Annual Holiday Party will be held on December 18th at 5 pm at The Woodwinds located at 29 School Ground Road in Branford, CT. The advance ticket price is \$45.00 along with a new unwrapped toy. Tables seat 10 or 12 and this price includes dinner with performances from three bands. Additionally, this year marks the 40th Anniversary Reunion of the SUNSIGHT band featuring Marion Meadows, Joey Melotti, Brian Keane, Kevin Jenkins and Arti Dixson.

This year we are asking for your continued support because so many people are out of work and struggling financially. Those of us who are fortunate

have an obligation to help those less fortunate and I truly believe that we are our brother’s keeper!!

You can support best by coming to the event. However, if you cannot attend, you can sponsor tickets to permit others to attend. Sponsored tickets will be given away or on radio stations in the greater New Haven area. Businesses may be able to also support this event by contributing gift certificates for door prizes. For example: Anthony Yagavanni donates a Limo ride to give away as the grand prize at the end of the evening valued at \$900.00, The Orange Fence Company donates gift certificates for its products, Rumanoff’s Jewelers contribute gift certificates, and China Pavilion & MOMO’s restaurants offer gift certificates as well as CDs that are given away from our gifted musicians.

If you are sponsoring or purchasing tickets, please make checks payable to Arti Dixson Productions and mail to 357 Taulman Road, Orange, CT 06477. More people at the party translate into more toys and more toys represent more smiles on the faces of children in our communities.

This party has sold out for the past 32 years minus 2020, which was held outside. Please order your tickets now!!! Call for tickets: 203.804.9547.

Tickets are not sold at the door.



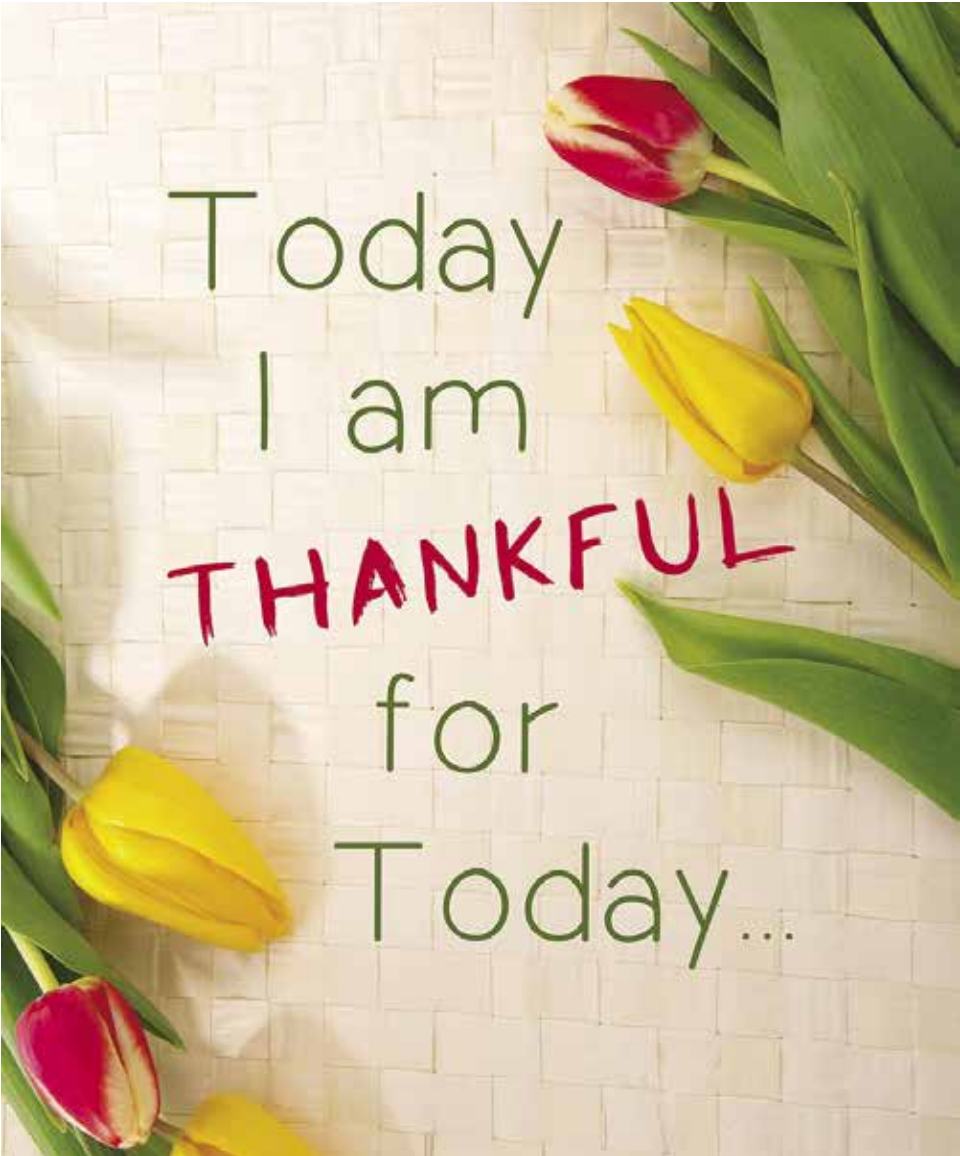
All photos courtesy Pack 922

Pack 922 News

It was a busy month of catapulting for Pack 922. Some members of the Pack traveled to Howard, Pennsylvania to participate in the Punkin’ Chunkin’—an annual event where people from across the nation launch pumpkin hundreds of feet across the air into a nearby lake. Other scouts kept it closer to home, bringing their

own mini catapult to the Orange Trunk or Treat. Scouting is open to all children grades K-5.

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



CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Girl Scout News

It's been a busy fall for Cadette Troop 60274. In September, the troop volunteered with the Orange Conservation Commission to hand out the hiking trails pamphlet the troop designed as part of their bronze award at the Orange Country Fair. Then, this month

the Girl Scouts held a clothing and hygiene drive for the veterans. With their money from fall product sales, the scouts visited Ocean State Job Lot and purchased socks, combs and more while learning a lesson on budgeting and cost. Great job Girl Scouts.

Boy Scout Troop 63 Annual Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scout Troop 63 will be holding its annual Christmas Tree Sale. For over 50 years, Troop 63 has been selling trees, wreaths, kissing balls and other fresh holiday decorations. The sale will be located behind the Public Library in Woodbridge on Center Road. The troop will sell fresh balsam pine trees beginning Friday, November 25. The sales will start on the 25th from 9AM until 4PM and then will be open on the following schedule though Christmas Eve, while supplies last: Wednesday through Friday from 4-8PM; Saturday and Sunday from 9AM-8PM; and closed on Monday and Tuesday. Free delivery will be available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the sales. Various size trees, ranging from 5' to 13', and prices are available to meet your needs and include limited free local delivery.

Boy Scout Troop 63, founded in 1963, is one of the oldest troops in the Connecticut Yankee Council. Our

objective is to bring scouting to the boys in Woodbridge, Bethany, Orange and surrounding communities. Known as an "outdoor troop," we are active all year. Our outings include camping, hiking, backpacking, skiing, canoeing, and whitewater rafting, as well as cultural events such as visits to historical parks and monuments. We also plan and participate in many community events and service projects throughout the year, like the annual Scouting for Food drive that provides critical assistance to the Woodbridge Food Pantry.

Join our adventure and see what scouting is all about. Weekly meetings are held in Woodbridge on Monday nights from 7-8:30 PM. We welcome boys who have completed the fifth grade, up to age 18. Prospective members and their parents are welcome to visit our meetings. For more information about the tree sales or questions about joining, please contact Troop 63 at troop63CT@gmail.com.

Jewish Genealogical Society Meeting

Please join the Jewish Genealogical Society (JGSCT) on Sunday, November 20, 2022, from 1:30 until 3 PM ET, for the third annual Marcia Indianer Meyers Memorial Lecture. JGSCT Board Member Deborah Samuel Holman will present "Sharing Your Family's Stories."

Have you been wanting to share your family stories but feel overwhelmed by the all the possibilities? This presentation will help you determine which method fits your needs. Following a brief overview of the various options, Deb will describe her evolution from blog writer to book author, sharing what she learned through the process. She will also provide examples of differ-

ent ways to structure a family history book and offer suggestions to help you get started.

Deborah Samuel Holman is a member of the JGSCT Board and Editor of Quest, JGSCT's quarterly newsletter. She has been involved in genealogy for almost two decades, and has authored several family books. Her forthcoming novel, "Nothing Really Bad Will Happen," tells the story of her mother's family, whose livelihood was stolen from them when Hitler's men seized the family business in the spring of 1938.

There is a \$5 charge for non-members. Please visit www.jgsct.org for additional information.



"Veterans" From Page 1

ment on our behalf," he said.

The Rev. Todd King reminded those in the audience of the passing of Brad Gesler, long-time member of the Orange Congregational Church, and a Navy veteran, who passed away

November 1.

Due to impending weather, the Veterans Day ceremony had to be moved indoors, and it took place in the newly refurbished gym at High Plains Community Center. As is customary, the police Color Guard added solemnity to the proceedings.



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES



Left to right: Fire Engine 33; Orange Deputy Fire Chief Charles Sherwood, left, and Orange First Selectman James Zeoli spray champagne on the new engine as part of its “wet down”; Orange Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas uses a hose from the old Engine-33 to rinse the champagne off the new truck.

Environmentally Friendlier Fire Engine Dedicated

Orange Volunteer Fire Department Holds Wetdown Ceremony For Newest Apparatus

Orange volunteer firefighters dedicated a new fire engine that improves their ability to protect town lives and property while also protecting the environment. The 2022 Spartan fire truck is equipped with a 1,500-gallon-per-minute pump and 1,000 gallons of water as well as several compartments full of tools. It’s those tools that set the new truck apart, says Orange Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas.

“All the ancillary equipment that we use, such as extrication tools, hand lights, scene lights and ventilation saws and fans, are all battery powered,” he explained. “Prior to this, we used two-cycle gas-powered engines to run saws and other equipment, which adds to the effect on the environment.”

Chief Dumas explained that the batteries are charged while the fire truck is in the station. He also explained that the truck’s main power source is

its diesel engine, but today’s diesels burn much more cleanly than those in trucks just a few years older.

The new truck is part of a long-range plan by the department to update its apparatus. The new apparatus – this is the third purchased under the plan – are designed to address the growth in the town. The new equipment also improves the town’s fire insurance ratings, lowering the cost of fire insurance for home and business owners.

The department is retiring a 1995 model that carried less water and was powered by a less efficient diesel. All the tools on that truck, including a large generator, were powered by gas motors.

Chief Dumas said the cost of the new truck was \$484,000, none of which came from town funds or tax dollars. The department, which is not part of the town’s municipal govern-

ment, raises money with its annual Fireman’s Carnival, Boot Drive, Santa Toy Delivery and other fundraisers to purchase all equipment.

The wetdown ceremony that took place on November 5th included speeches from Dumas, Orange Deputy Fire Chief Charles Sherwood, Orange First Selectman James Zeoli, New England Fire Apparatus President James Feehan and retired Assistant Milford Fire Chief James Wilkinson. A crowd of well-wishers watched and cheered as Sherwood and Zeoli shook bottles of champagne and sprayed the side of the new truck. Chief Dumas then pulled a hose from the old truck and washed down the new one. And with that, Orange’s new fire engine, Engine-33, began officially serving the people of Orange.

The Orange Volunteer Fire Association provides fire protection to

residents and businesses in Orange and, through mutual aid, surrounding towns. Members receive training in fire suppression, rescue, hazardous materials response, homeland security issues and other emergency services.

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

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

The Giving Tree

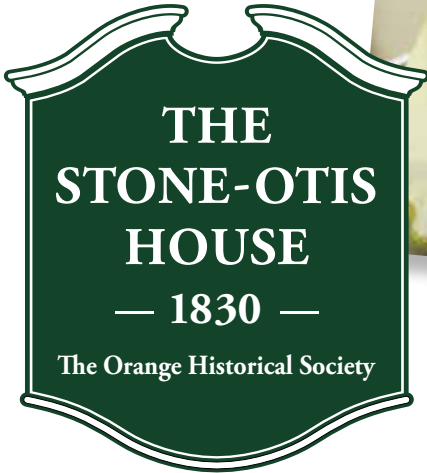
In the spirit of the approaching holiday season, the Friends of the Case Memorial Library is hosting the second annual Giving Tree. The Friends invite residents to trim the tree with donated mittens, hats, gloves and scarves for infants and children, including teenagers, who are town residents in need of warm clothing. The tree will be displayed in the Library, ready for decorating, from December 1 through December 21.

On December 22, the Friends will gather the donations from the tree in time for holiday giving. The “gifts” will be distributed by Orange Community Services to Food2Kids and other town children. Sharing the good will and generosity of the Season, the Friends are grateful for the kindness of tree



trimmers who adorn the tree with a colorful array of warm gifts for children and for the enjoyment of all library patrons.

Stone-Otis House
is open for the
Holiday Season on
Dec. 3, 10 and 27
from 12-3 with
holiday gifts,
new and old.



615 Orange Center Road
(203) 795-3106

Youth Services

BY JESSICA SIMONE, MSW, ORANGE
YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR



Funtober

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2022 Funtober at the Fairgrounds event!! We saw awesome costumes and amazing decorated cars! A HUGE thank you to Kriz Farm for their tractor rides, our DJ Lucas, Magic

by Chris, all the cars that participated, the Orange Police Department, the Orange Volunteer Fire Department, CERT, Orange Park & Rec, all of our student volunteers, and everyone who came out for the day!



Drug Take Back Day

National Drug Take Back Day was held on Saturday, October 29th from 10:00am-2:00pm at High Plains Community Center. We collected 226.5lbs of unused/unwanted medication that

was safely disposed. Thank you to the volunteers from the National Pharmacy Association, the Orange Police Department and CERT.



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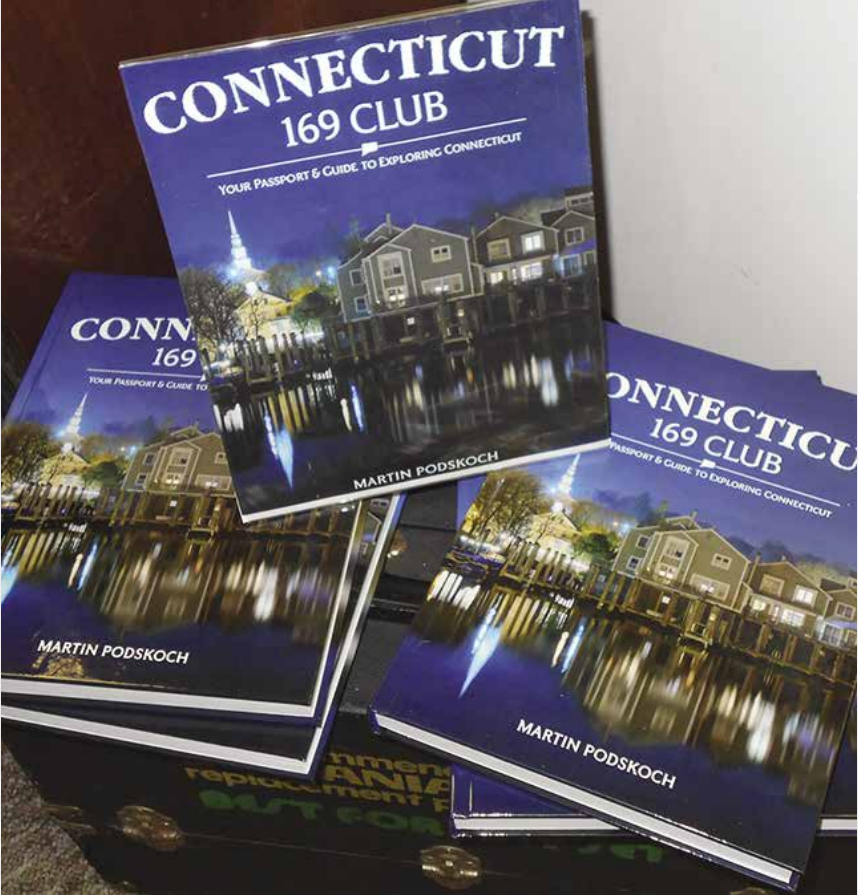
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The 169 Club book is available at the Academy Museum at 605 Orange Center Road on Saturdays from 10-3.

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

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel Events

Children's Programs

Children's Havura, K-2 Kehila, and Junior Congregation, all led by parent volunteers, meet in person each Saturday morning.

On December 2, and every First Friday of the month, BEKI's Kabbalat Shabbat service is kid-friendly, though not specifically a children's service.

BEKI's annual children's Hanukkah party will be Wednesday, December 14. For more information, contact Education Director Annie Norman-Schiff at anormanschiff@beki.org.

Book Talk on Jefferson

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

Violin & Guitar Concert



By popular demand, violinist Ilana Zaks will return to present "Dances for Two" with guitarist Barbie Matthews on Sunday, December 4. Now a student in the Master of Musical Arts program at the Yale School of Music, Zaks has been described as a "fearless, refreshing and commanding" performer. Recent awards include: at Yale, the Broadus Erle Prize for Outstanding Violinists in May 2022, and at Fontainebleau Schools, France, the Ravel Competition in July 2022.

Matthews is a classical guitarist currently pursuing her Master's Degree at Yale, where she studies under virtuoso guitarist and composer Benjamin Verdery. Details at beki.org

Talk on Anti-Zionism

Corinne Blackmer, a professor of English and Judaic Studies at Southern Connecticut State University, will



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

discuss her recently published book "Queering Anti-Zionism," which focuses on academic freedom, LGBTQ intellectuals, and Israel/Palestine Campus Activism, on Saturday, December 10. Details at beki.org.



Enemies into partners

Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger and Noor Awad will speak on Saturday, December 17. Colleagues from Shorashim/Judur/Roots, they will share stories about their work with this Israeli/Palestinian grassroots initiative for understanding, nonviolence and transformation.

This program is made possible by members of the BEKI community, with support from the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Details at beki.org.

Hanukkah Events

BEKI will offer a Hanukkah sing-along with a light dinner and s'mores on Sunday, December 18. The Connecticut Z'mirah Chorale, directed by Dr. Kevin Mack, will perform at BEKI on Tuesday, December 20.

In Person and Online

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

Healing Service

Rabbi Woodward will lead a Kabbalat Shabbat healing service on Friday, December 16, and on the third Friday of each month.

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

Congregation B'nai Jacob Happenings

Weekly Services & Classes

Daily Minyan Services

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

Weekly Shabbat Services

- › Friday: Shabbat Schmooze: 6:00pm; Services: 6:30pm
- › Saturday: Bread & Torah: 9:00am; Services: 10:00am
- › Bread & Torah Saturday Mornings: 9:00am-9:45am

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

Woodbridge Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November 21 at 7:30am

Hosted this year by The First Church of Christ, Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge

Please join us for this beautiful service. Co-sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jacob, First Church of Christ, and Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

Shir Hadash

Saturday, December 10 at 9:00am

A songful, prayerful, soulful service led by Cantorial Intern, Kochava Munro, and Rabbi Shapiro. We use the power of our music and kavanah of our words and hearts to make God's presence manifest. A mini-Kiddush will be served following the service.

Prayerful Shabbat Morning Walk on the Blue Trail

Saturday, December 24 at 8:30am (weather permitting)

Join Rabbi Shapiro for a thoughtful, prayerful, meditative walk on the Blue Trail. Meet behind the church in Woodbridge Town Center. Wear comfortable walking shoes!



Congregation B'nai Jacob

Rabbi Shapiro's Monday Night Class

God is Here: Reimagining the Divine

With this book as a guide, we will explore how we use metaphors in language generally and in speaking about God in particular, and discuss eight metaphors the Bible frequently uses to talk about God and how those metaphors might be useful for us. If you would like to get clearer about what we might mean when we say, "God," and cut through some of the ideas about God that are often unhelpful, this is a great class for you. Please get a copy of the book and read the introduction and the first chapter before the first class. All are welcome; no previous experience is necessary.

Class Schedule: Mondays, November 28, December 5, 12. Class will meet in person at CBJ and on Zoom

Guest Speakers

Dr. Becca Levy, Professor of Epidemiology, Yale School of Public Health and Professor of Psychology, Yale University

Saturday, December 3, Shabbat Lunch and Learn, 1:00pm at B'nai Jacob

Breaking the Age Code

CBJ member and pioneering researcher on the psychology of aging, Dr. Becca Levy, draws on her ground-breaking research to show how age beliefs can be improved on an individual and societal level so they can benefit aspects of the aging process, including the way genes operate and the extension of life expectancy by an average of 7.5 years. All ages of our community are invited for an interactive discussion of this work as

See "B'nai Jacob" On Page 17

Orange Town News

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest. We will publish them for free.

Orange Town News – P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
edit@orangenews.com

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Orange Congregational Church Happenings

Orange Congregational Church invites you to join us for worship Sundays at 10 a.m. in our Sanctuary on the corner of 205 Meeting House Lane and Orange Center Road. You can also view our livestreamed services online at our “Orange Congregational Church, UCC” YouTube page. Church school for children Kindergarten through 6th grade takes place in-person during worship, and fellowship and coffee hour follows afterward. We also have a crib room for babies and toddlers on Sunday mornings. Our Senior Choir leads us during worship and our Handbell Choir performs monthly.

Our next concert in the 2022-23 Music on the Green series will be a traditional “Christmas Handbell Concert & Carol Sing” on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 4 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Our talented church Handbell Choir leads the popular annual Christmas Concert prior to the Town Green tree lighting ceremony. The members will play five octaves of brass bells and complimentary handchimes. The audience joins in singing some favorite carols and holiday songs. Christmas cookies from



Orange Congregational Church

our annual “Cookie Walk” will be available for sale in the lower level before and after the concert. Admission is free. Please visit orangecongregationalchurch.org for more information on our worship, faith formation, and music programming.

The church office can be reached at 203-795-9749 and is open weekdays from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, which means we welcome all people into the full life and leadership of the church regardless of race, class, ability, gender identity, sexual orientation, or family type. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!

“B’nai Jacob” From Page 16

Dr Levy challenges us to reconsider our own beliefs about aging and our experiences with structural ageism. CBJ member Kinneret Chiel, who participated in a cultural redefinition group that is profiled in the book, will join us to add her valuable perspective.

This book will make a wonderful Hannukah gift. Thanks to Dr Levy’s generosity, we will have some copies available in the office that will support the synagogue and offer you a discounted price. Please also feel free to buy online or support your local bookstore.

Elisa Bernick

Sunday, December 11,
10:00am on Zoom

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

Join Award winning Writer and Journalist, Elisa Bernick, on Zoom, for a discussion of her newest book, Departure Stories. The book ponders the ways marginalized individuals find themselves defined, and who and what we hold accountable for the worst and best parts of ourselves. Written with

wit and dynamism, the book explores the long-term effects of intergenerational trauma using the two definitions of departure — leaving and deviating from the norm — to explore the author’s experience of growing up “different” (i.e., Jewish) in the White Christian suburb of New Hope, Minnesota, during the early 1970s. The question at the heart of this book is how the invisible baggage of place and memory, Minnesota’s uniquely antisemitic history, and the cultural shifts sweeping the country during this tumultuous period contributed to her family’s eventual implosion.

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

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

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Congregational Church Holds Christmas Carol Sing, Cookie Walk

The annual Christmas Concert and Carol Sing resumes this year at the Orange Congregational Church on Sunday, December 4th at 4:00 p.m. Friends from the community are welcome to join singing as we share the most loved songs of the season. Between the carols, the Handbell Choir of the Orange Congregational Church will play some holiday selections on their five octaves of brass bells. Bryan Campbell, the church’s Music Director, will lead the event and play the sanc-

tuary pipe organ. From twelve noon through the afternoon and concert time you are invited to participate in the Music Committee’s Christmas Cookie Walk in the lower level of the church and select homemade cookies for \$7 a box. Upstairs, there is no charge for admission to the Christmas Concert. The festivities precede the Town Green tree lighting ceremonies out of doors. For more information, visit orangecongregationalchurch.org or call 203-795-9749.

Holly Fair at Christ Episcopal Church

Save the date! The Annual Pumpkin and Holly Fair will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 526 Amity Road, Bethany (at the blinking light) on Saturday, November 19 from 9 am-2 pm. Get goodies for the holidays at our fabulous bake sale, beautiful Christmas

decorations, Twice as Nice clothing bargains, jams, jellies, pickles, and cheddar cheese direct from Vermont.

Take your chances on gift card trees and baskets. And enjoy lunch at our cafe, either eat in or to go. Hope to see you there!



The Holy Infant Church Women’s Guild recently had a wine and cheese social. They collected a lot of warm hats, gloves, scarves, and socks that will be donated to the Battered Women’s Center in Ansonia.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Temple Emanuel Hosts Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven will host the annual Orange Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 20, at 7 pm.

Every year, clergy and congregants from many of the houses of worship in Orange come together to celebrate Thanksgiving with a family-friendly service full of music and readings representing the spirit of Thanksgiving that is common to all faiths. Participants this year include: Congregation Or Shalom, Holy Infant Church, Orange Congregational Church, Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Saint Joseph of Arimathea Church and Temple Emanuel.

The musical portions of the service will be performed by a small group from the Temple Emanuel Band. We are unable to have massed choir this year - instead, the entire congregation will be invited to



Temple Emanuel

sing along with the band and the officiants.

All members of the greater New Haven community are invited to attend this special service.

Temple Emanuel is located at 150 Derby Avenue (Rt. 34) in Orange. For more information about this and other services and events at Temple Emanuel and for remote access to services, please go to the TE website, www.tegnh.org.

HOW TO MAKE A CHARITY A BENEFICIARY

Giving to charity can be a rewarding endeavor that makes a difference in the lives of people in need. Many people donate throughout their lives, and some people may want to impart a more lasting legacy by continuing to support a charity even after they have passed away.

Incorporating a charity into an estate plan is a great way to continue giving after you pass away. Individuals may not know how to make charities beneficiaries in their wills. A financial planner, attorney or accountant can answer the more complex questions individuals have about naming charities as beneficiaries in a will. In the meantime, this general guide can serve as a solid foundation for individuals who want to give back in their wills.

Most people think of beneficiaries as loved ones, but a beneficiary can be any person or entity one chooses to leave money to, including nonprofit organizations. It's relatively the same process to name a charity as a beneficiary as it is an individual. According to the resource Trust & Will, first identify the charity that will be supported, including getting its Employer Identification Number or Taxpayer Identification Number. Next, determine which type of gift to make, which may be a predetermined financial contribution, a gift of property, or other assets like stocks. For large donations like real estate or cars, it may be best to contact the charity in advance to ensure they are able to accept such gifts. Finally, be sure to include your wishes in an estate plan. A qualified attorney can help clients draft a will that spells out their wishes in detail.

Keep in mind that charities also can be named as beneficiaries on life insurance policies or individual retirement accounts. They also can be listed on bank accounts. Again, people are urged to discuss all options with estate planners to ensure their plans fully reflect their wishes.

When naming a charity as a beneficiary, it can be wise to inform family members and other beneficiaries so no one is caught off guard upon your death. This way the charitable gift is not held up by delays in executing the will.

The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge

The First Church of Christ welcomes you to our Worship Service every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Meetinghouse.

Interim Minister: The Rev. Susan Murtha is the Interim Minister at FCCW and has made quite an impact. Plan a visit to see what is "happening." You can also read about her on our website. We are honored to have such an extraordinary individual here with us at First Church!

Upcoming Events

Classical Concert on a Fall Afternoon: On Saturday, November 19th, at 4:00 p.m., the Woodbridge First Church of Christ will be hosting a concert in its sanctuary, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, featuring Music Director Nenad Ivočić on piano and Filip Tomić on cello.

A reception will be held afterwards in the parish house to meet these musicians. For more information, call the church office, 203-389-2119. A free will offering will be taken.

Children's Sing and Say "Thanks": How can we sing and say thanks in the season of Thanksgiving? Join us for a family-focused event of songs, words, and games for children of all ages! Sunday, November 20 from

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

- › Songs by Michele Urban (Singer, songwriter, performer and Early Childhood Music Specialist)
- › Practicing appreciations at home by Susan Murtha (Interim Senior Minister, FCCW)
- › Games for children of all ages by Forest Vandeflor (Project Leader for Children's Ministries)

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service: The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, will host this year's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. It is a wonderful tradition that welcomes the greater community, and everyone is encouraged to attend. There will be a reception immediately following the service in the church parish hall. Join us in starting Thanksgiving week in the spirit of gratefulness.

FCCW Trimming Bee and Tree Lighting: Saturday, December 3, from 2-6 p.m. Help us Deck the Halls! If you would like to donate greens, please contact Jesse Hubbard: jwinhubb@gmail.com. No Hemlock please! Greens Needed: yew, spruce, juniper (red cedar), holly, pine, and fir. There will be a potluck dinner immediately following the trimming bee in the Parish Hall. Once the wreaths have been

made, we will gather outside for a few Christmas Carols as we light the tree on the green.

December 11 – Outdoor Community Carol Sing



December 18 – Outdoor Children's Pop-up Christmas Pageant at 4 pm in front of the Parish House.

2022 FCCW Christmas Stocking Project: FCCW will again be conducting a Christmas Stocking Project for the benefit of children in New Haven. Christmas Bags will be available for pick up daily, in the Parish House, starting at 9:00 AM, Sunday, November 20, and must be returned by Sunday, December 11 at 12:00, noon. Details for filling a bag will be with the bag when picked up. This has been a successful program of our church for many years, and trust that we will

again make the Christmas wishes of a few children, come true.

Weekly Bible Study: Bible Study meets at the Parish House each Wednesday, 10:30 am. All are invited!

Zoom Option: The option to attend Sunday Service via Zoom continues to be available. To receive an invite, please email the office or log onto our website and add your name to our church email list. All people in the community are welcome in person or via Zoom.

**If you would like assistance gaining access to Sunday Services, please call us by Friday morning, at 203-389-2119, or email us at office@uccw.org.*

Office Hours: The Church office in the Parish House is open from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Join the FCCW Choir!: New members are always welcome. Join us for rehearsals each Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Pre-school space is available: Pre-school/day care space is available in the Parish House at 5 Meetinghouse Lane Three rooms, 1,200 sq. ft., and an outside fenced playground.

For More Information: Visit our website at www.uccw.org for resources such as our calendar of events, monthly newsletter, ministry and volunteer opportunities, photo galleries, scout info, and much more! Follow us on Facebook and stay up to date with parish happenings, including memorials and baptism announcements. Feel free to email us or call the office with all your questions. We are happy to hear from you!

FROM THE SENIOR CENTER

BY DENNIS MARSH

Upcoming Activities at the Orange Senior Center

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

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

- › 11/22: United Health
- › 12/1: United Health

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

- › *December 1* Shelton Lakes 125 Shelton Avenue (Rt 108), Shelton, Pine Lakes Parking
- › *December 8* Orange Triangle (aka Wepawaug Trails) 842 Mapledale Road, Orange
- › *December 15* Fitzgerald Tract, 112-126 Beecher Road, Woodbridge
- › *December 22* Maltby Lakes, Rt 34, West Haven. Gate is unlocked from 9:45-10am
- › *December 29* Ewen Farm Preserve, 648 St. Johns Drive, Orange

Adult Coloring: Join us for Adult Coloring on December 5 at 12:30pm in the café. Fun and relaxing, for all.

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

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

Movie of the Month: Join us December 9, at 1:00pm for "It's A Wonderful Life." An angel is sent from Heaven to help a desperately frustrated businessman by showing him what life would have been like if he had never existed. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Call 203-891-4784 to register.

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

iPhone & iPads: Josh will teach you the basic of how to use your iPhone and iPad. The class will meet on Wednesdays, November 23-December 14, from 5-7:00pm. A fee of \$20 is required. Come by the office to register. Call 203-891-4784 with questions.

Holiday Cabaret: Come out and celebrate the Holidays with John Banker on December 5 at 1:30pm in the café.

Introduction to Macs: Josh will teach an introduction class on Macintosh Computers. The class will meet on Wednesdays, December 7—28 from 5-7:00pm. A fee of \$20 is required. Come by the office to register. Call



As the summer was winding down, the Orange Senior Center Corn Hole team visited North Branford in August & hosted West Haven in September in a friendly corn hole tournament. Orange won 21 of 24 games. Pizza was enjoyed and friendships were made. Pictured are the West Haven and Orange teams together.

203-891-4784 with questions.

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

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

Griffin Hospital/Parish Nurses Blood Pressure Check: Maggie from Griffin Hospital will be here the last Friday of the month from 10:30-12:00pm

to take your blood pressure. Be sure to stop by for this free clinic.

Trips

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

December 7, IN THE CHRISTMAS MOOD @ AQUA TURF: The world-famous orchestra is the most popular and sought-after swing band in the world. A Fun & Lively Holiday Show! Family style menu (format subject to change): garden salad, pasta, roast turkey & baked ham, vegetable, potato, rolls, dessert, beverage. Cost is \$114pp with transportation (Minimal walking).

CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY EVENTS

Visit our website casememoriallibrary.org and sign up for our weekly email newsletter for updates on events at the library.

Hours: The Library's hours are as follows: Monday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Holiday Closings: The Library will be closed on Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Program Fees: Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free, except as noted for materials charges, and open to the public.

Registration: Registration is required for all library programs, unless otherwise noted. Register for events at casememoriallibrary.org/events.

Storytimes

Preschool Storytime

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.

Music, movement, and literacy for



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

our preschool friends! Join us as we get ready for the school years. There will be a craft after the storytime session. Registration is required.

Lapsit Storytime

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Little ones and their caregivers are

invited to explore books, sing songs, and practice interactive nursery rhymes with Ms. Angela! Registration is required.

Toddler Storytime

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.

Get the wiggles out with Ms. Ange-

la! Stories, music, dancing, and more fill this high-energy storytime for toddlers and their grownups. Registration is required.

Events For Children Tree Lighting Activities at the Library

Sunday, December 4

For children and families of all ages.

Join us in the library during the Tree Lighting festivities!

- › 3:30 p.m.: Al deCant, Orange's very own Singing Principal, will perform!
- › 3-5 p.m.: The Library will be open and festive take and makes will be available for pickup, while supplies last.

Toddler Take and Make: Gingerbread People Craft

Pickup dates: December 5- 10

See "Library" On Page 20

“Library” From Page 19

For children ages 1-3.
Make a felt gingerbread man over and over again with the pieces in this kit! Registration is required.

(Paper) Ugly Sweater Decorating Craft
Thursday, December 8, 3:45 pm
For children ages 3-6.

Decorate some festive ‘ugly’ sweaters! This paper craft makes a great decoration, even if it can’t be worn. Registration is required.

STEAM Challenge: Sleighs and Slopes
Thursday, December 15, 3:45 pm
For children ages 7-12.

Put your engineering skills to the test! Create a sleigh that will hold mini presents and a ramp that will send it shooting forward as far as possible. Who can go the farthest without spilling all the presents? Registration is required.

Fairy Mini-Golf
In-person workshop: Tuesday, December 27, 2 p.m.
Kit pickup dates: December 26-30
For families of children up to age 12.

Make a mini mini-golf course using household supplies and your imagination! You can complete this at home or work with a group at our in-person workshop to design and set up your obstacles, then take turns putting your ball into the hole. Registration is required.

Crazy About Coding
Wednesday, December 28, 2 p.m.
For children ages 4-12.

Drop into the Meeting Room and check out our coding toys! From a simple caterpillar for the preschoolers up to Ozobots for tweens, we’ve got something that will inspire the coder in you! No registration required.

Wildlife in Winter: Live Animals at the Library!
Friday, December 30, 10:30 a.m.
For children and families

Meet live animals in this presentation from the White Memorial Conservation Center! Learn about our local wildlife and how animals live in the winter months. Registration is required.

Events For Teens & Adults Book Boxes
November pickup dates: November 21-28
December pickup dates: December 19-30
For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Our free monthly book box service! Each month that you register you will pick up a box containing two books selected by our librarians based on your reading preferences for you to borrow as well as some treats and other surprises for you to keep. Space is limited.

Registration is required and begins on the first of the month for each box.

Ban This Book! Club
Monday, November 28, 7 p.m.

“The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” by Sherman Alexie has made the top 10 most challenged books in the U.S. list nine times since its publication in 2007. Join librarian Rebecca and co-leader Elizabeth Ewen as we discuss this as a work of literature as well as an object of censorship. This program will be held in person at the Library. Registration is required.

Take & Make Craft Kit: Ojos de Dios
Pickup dates: November 28-December 3
For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Create your own Ojo de Dios, also known as God’s Eye, with this fun take-home craft kit for adults and teens. These are not like the ones you did at summer camp! Registration is required.

Cricut Class: Wood & Wool Deer Ornaments
Monday, December 5, 7 p.m.
For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Join us for a Cricut class and ornament craft. Librarian Rebecca Harlow will demonstrate how to use the Library’s Cricut Maker 3 to cut wood and paper then you’ll assemble your own wood and wool deer to take home. This is an in-person workshop. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Mystery Book Discussion Group
Thursday, December 8, 1 p.m.

Join librarian Samantha Jasulavic for a discussion of “Ninth House” by Leigh Bardugo. This program will be held in person at the Library. Registration is required.

Oscar Film: Summer of Soul
Monday, December 12, 7 p.m.”
Wednesday, December 14, 1 p.m.

2022 Academy Award-winning documentary about the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African-American music and culture and promoted Black pride and unity. 1 hr. 57 min. PG-13. Registration is required.

Break-In Bags
Pickup dates: December 19-30
For adults and teens in grades 7-12.

Think escape room except instead of trying to break out you’re trying to break in. Solve the puzzles to find the numeric code that will open the lock and free the loot inside! Registration is required.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group
Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m.

Join Bookcase leader Toby Zabinski for a Zoom discussion of “Radium Girls” by Kate Moore. This program will be held via Zoom. Registration is required.

DEATH NOTICES

Albert A. Rapini
Albert (Al) A. Rapini, of Orange, passed away Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at Milford Hospital with his



family by his side. He was the beloved husband of 77 years to Anne (Mar-tone) Rapini. A native of New Haven, CT, Al was born on November 15, 1919, and was the son of Dominic Rapini and Anita (Sacramone) Rapini. He was predeceased by sisters Jean Farricelli, Helen Rapini, and a brother, Thomas Rapini.

Al proudly served his country as a technical sergeant during World War II where he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, American Service Medal, European African Medal, and the Eastern Service Medal. He fought in the Normandy Invasion, the French Hedgerose, the Battle of the Bulge and the Seifried Line. He saw combat in Ardennes, Northern France, Rhineland, St. Lo, and Malmady, Germany.

He experimented with many different occupations during his life. He worked as a salesman, mechanic, plumber, and carpenter. He was employed at the Southern Connecticut Gas Company as a service technician for 35 years until he retired at age 62. Never one to be idle, he immediately began working for his son’s business delivering doors for the next 20 years.

He was a lifetime member of the American Legion Post 127 in Orange and Amvets Post in West Haven for 50 years, once serving as vice commander and treasurer. He was also Grand Marshal for the Orange Memorial Parade in 2018.

He was honored by the New York Yankees as Veteran of the Game on August 30, 2018.

Al and Anne enjoyed taking their children on summer vacations to see the country. They were frequent visitors to the casino where Albert was an avid craps player. Albert will also be remembered the many years he coached the West Haven and Orange Recreational Baseball Leagues and the impact he had on those players’ lives. Al was devoted to his family, who he loved unconditionally. He leaves behind his loving wife, Anne, daughter Janice DeVylder, sons Dennis and his wife Linda, Albert and his wife Marla, Darryl and his wife Audrey Chung-Wing; Grandchildren Michelle DeVylder and husband Seth Abbott, Peter J. DeVylder, Matthew Rapini, Sandra Yost, and

Lori Dugdale; Great-grandchildren CJ Howard, Faith Roberson, Rhett Abbott, and sister-in-law Norma Rapini, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Infant Church in Orange; followed by interment, with military honors, at Orange Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Bradford G. Gesler
Bradford G. Gesler, 81, of Orange, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth



E. Gesler, passed away on November 1, 2022. Born on May 22, 1941 in New Haven, he was the son of the late Albert M. Gesler and Ruth W. Gesler Galwey. Brad is survived

by his son, Bradford (Maribeth) G. Gesler, Jr.; grandchildren, William and Olivia; and brother, J. David (Marie) Gesler. He was predeceased by his son, James J. Gesler; and brother, Albert M. Gesler Jr.

Following graduation from Amity Regional High School, he received a B.A. from Colgate University. A Navy veteran, he had a long and successful career in the banking industry and later owned Minuteman Press in Milford until his retirement. He lived most of his life in Orange and devoted much of his time to community organizations, including Orange Planning and Zoning, Milford Hospital, Milford Red Cross, Milford Rotary Club, Orange Country Fair and Orange Arts Council, and was also a Free Mason. Music was always important to him; he was a pianist and church organist starting in high school and throughout his life. He enjoyed singing in the New Haven Oratorio Choir and the Orange Congregational Church choir, where he was a lifetime member.

We have many joyous memories of our family time in Madison and Maine; he was a true gentleman and we will forever miss his quick wit and gentle manner.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10am on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the Orange Congregational Church, 205 Meeting House Lane, Orange, CT 06477. Interment will be private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Orange Congregational Church. The family is being compassionately cared for by Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad St., Milford, CT. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.

DEATH NOTICES

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

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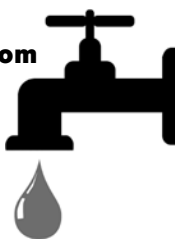
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Everyone Is Invited To A

VIRTUAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

State Project No. 0106-0108
US Route 1 Operational Lane
Town of Orange

The Virtual Public Informational Meeting is being held to provide the public and local community the opportunity to offer comments or ask questions regarding the proposed project. Residents, commuters, business owners, and other interested individuals are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed project.

Please join us on Thursday, December 15, 2022
Formal Presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.
Question and Answer (Q&A) session will immediately follow the presentation.

The meeting will be livestreamed via: Zoom and registration is required.
The meeting will also be live streamed on the CTDOT YouTube Channel and no registration is required.

For instructions on how to access the meeting, ways to provide comments, and how to ask questions, please visit <https://portal.ct.gov/DOTOrange106-108>.

Individuals with limited internet access may listen to the meeting by calling (877) 853-5257 and enter Meeting ID 891 4233 9086. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Persons with limited internet access may also request that project information be mailed to them within one week by contacting Michelle C. Saldana, Project Engineer, at Michelle.Saldana@ct.gov or 860-594-3348.

Language assistance may be requested by contacting the Department's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least five business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

Members of the public may submit comments and questions during the two-week public comment period following the meeting. Please submit comments and questions by January 11, 2023 to DOTProject106-108@ct.gov, (860) 594-2020, or to Michelle C. Saldana, Project Engineer, at Michelle.Saldana@ct.gov or (860) 594-3348. Please reference State Project No. 0106-0108.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



LOCAL BUSINESS

Coldwell Banker Realty
Offices Hosting Food Drive

The Coldwell Banker Realty offices in Orange and Woodbridge are hosting a FOOD DRIVE through November 18th. Giving back to the community is so important every day, but especially during the holiday time.

Non-perishable food items and other requested items are needed such as paper goods, including toilet paper, paper towels, tissues as well as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, pads/tampons, etc. These donations will be benefiting the Community Champions Network on behalf of Orange Community Services, CT Food Bank and Food2Kids.

Drop off boxes will be in the front reception area of each of the offices. The Orange Office is located at 236 Boston Post Road. The Woodbridge Office is located at 270 Amity Road.

For more information about the Food Drive collection, please contact Aileen DeFeo at (203) 795-6000.

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Students from Orange Community Nursery School 3s class are enjoying the beautiful fall weather.

www.OrangeTownNews.com

LOCAL SPORTS



First row: (left to right) Nanxin Zhou(Milford public school), Maya Zhou(milford public school), Elsie Guo(Amity Middle School Orange), Elaine Guo(Peck Place School), Angela He on the right end(Amity High School); Second row: (left end) Jayson Lu (Peck Place School), (right end) David Ke(Amity High School); Other students are from neighboring towns: Trumbull, Monroe and New Haven

Orange-Milford Students Won Regional Kung Fu Team

The students learn and practice Kung Fu at Wu Dang Kung Fu Academy in Milford with the instruction of Master Jack Guo (in the middle of the picture). They participated in the 12th New England International Wushu Championships held in Manchester, CT on November 5, 2022 and won the Regional Team to be qualified to compete in the international Wushu/Kung Fu competitions.



The children at Orange Congregational Church Nursery School enjoyed their Halloween celebrations.



The Congregations of Orange Collaborative is sponsoring a Food Drive to support

FOOD2KIDS

ORANGE

Sunday, December 11, 2022
1:00 — 3:00 pm
High Plains Community Center
JUST POP THE TRUNK — contact free!

Donations must be single-serve packaged foods that require no or water-only preparation.

Shelf stable milk
Juice boxes
Cereal cups
Breakfast cereal bars
Instant oatmeal packets
Microwaveable mac and cheese
Microwaveable ravioli
Applesauce and fruit cups

Granola Bars
Raisins
Fruit snacks
Salty snacks (chips, pretzels, etc.)
Sweet snacks (cookies, pudding cups, etc.)
Full size peanut butter and jelly

Donations through VENMO @OrangeFood2Kids or by check payable to Orange Food2Kids also accepted.
(Mail/deliver checks to the Park & Recreation office at 525 Orange Center Road, Orange, CT)



Orange Town News

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HISTORY CORNER

What Do We Know About Their Skills...?

BY GINNY REINHARD

So, I imagine you have seen the TV program entitled “How it’s Made,” right? So, if you can watch each episode, you will get a look at the past, with a bit of a spin from today. I am going to give you the past without today’s spin, ok? I am going to start out with the cooper...hmm. What you might have learned, over the years with us, is that a cooper was a barrel maker. Such an important occupation as foods and drink had to be secured in a tightfitting vessel, large enough to hold a week’s worth of grain and rainwater for the cleansing of dishware and iron cooking cauldrons...we often call them kettles but that is a different “animal” all together.

Although a farmer could hollow out a tree trunk to make a barrel, it was a long and tedious job. A cooper, working with wood, spans a myriad of functions but none are more interesting than that of the barrel. This wonderment of his craft was more often made of oak having a large portion of trees to choose from and the handcrafting of barrels took years to master.

The wood is first seasoned either in a kiln or out in the yard allowing the wood to evaporate and dry out leaving the wood ready for any household purpose. The wood is then milled and cut into rounds for the bottom and the top while long slats are shaped to run vertically to the rounds and grooved to fit into each other. No glue is used in a good constructed barrel. Once the staves are in place a ring holds it together while the barrel is “toasted” to make the wood soft. Using a mallet, the finishing bands are hammered around the softened barrel and it’s ready to sell. By 1800, iron hoops began to be used but before that the hoops were made of thin strips of wood, mostly from hickory or chestnut.

If this cooper kept to the barrels, what was called a “white” cooper made the small items such as grain measures, sieves, firkins and boxes. A firkin was also used for liquids and a common one measured 72 pints of liquid and could be used as a measure for beer and ale.

Cloth had two places to come into being in our early American history. One is the mill for wool and the other is in the home. Linen, the most common material of the early colonies was

a labor-intensive process starting out with the flax plant...yes, a plant. In order to retrieve the fibers within the plant the woody stem must be rotted away. To do this the flax is laid in a brook where it is constantly wet until the fiber within can be taken away from the stem.

It is then taken by a handful and run, along a series of nails in a board called a hatchel...this is a nasty looking tool but needed to separate the fibers. Those fibers are then spun on a flax wheel, similar to a spinning wheel but set up with a cage-like holder called a distaff. Most of the linen worn and used in the United States comes from foreign lands. It is said that linen from Belgium is the finest with that from Scotland and Ireland not far behind. There is no significant commercial production of linen fabric in the United States.

The cultivation of linen goes back as early as 3000 B.C., being processed into a fine, white fabric for the wrapping of the Egyptian Pharaohs. The ancient Greeks and Romans valued it as well and due to its value, flax was introduced into Northern Europe and, of course, to the New World.

Both wool and linen were important fabrics and flax is an easy plant to grow but the process, oh the process, all done by hand, all of it. The preparation was only the beginning...the threads had to be woven which meant a loom needed to be involved.

Now this was the easy part. Once the thread was spun and wound onto spools, an itinerant weaver could be hired to set up his loom in the barn, weave whatever was needed, seek payment and take down his loom and move on. Since settlers were urged to plant a small plot of flax as early as the 17th century, it is not surprising that linen clothing and household items exist in museums today. With wool becoming the fiber most easily processed by New England textile mills, linen production was mostly abandoned in the US. However, some New Englanders of Scotch and Irish background continued to cultivate some flax for

domestic linens such as bedsheets, towels and tablecloths and if she so desired, the weaver could put the two fabrics together, resulting in what is called linsey-woolsey.

What has become a staple at the Bryan-Andrew house is the iron cooking pots with the ever-present life of the blacksmith that made them. We have one with his initials carved into

the long handle leading back to the tell-tale rat’s tail at the end. A sure sign of its age. It is said that the blacksmith was the most important of the American artisans because few men had the ability to do the work. A forge or oven was built of stone, more often than brick with an opening for the intense fire using bellows to keep the fire hot and then some.

After heating the iron, getting it red hot, an anvil, a heavy mass of iron was fastened to a large chunk of log secured in such a way as to withstand the blow of the hammer, the shape of which can be seen after continual heating and hammering. So, the blacksmith could make utensils, tools, pot hooks, trivets, toasters, broilers, and handles of every kind. But who made the iron pots and the spiders? These items are formed, to specifications deriving from its intended use. Iron ore is melted to remove the oxygen and in this mouton stage it is poured into a mold and thus cannot be bent into shape but to take on the shape of the mold of compacted sand.

One particular artisan appears in most towns but passing by a cemetery does not elicit the question, who were the carvers of gravestones? The staff of the Orange Historical Society has cleaned* over two dozen stones, noting few differences except for the extensive wear on some verses others. Each stone, cleaned had over 200 years of crud and vegetation, obscuring the life of the deceased while water and a toothbrush gave “life” to them, not to be forgotten. These stones memorialize both the people and the ideals of their day and we forget that who they were is obliterated by time.

The cemetery was created in 1805,

before the Congregational Church was built and to our sadness, a little boy, Joseph Treat was the first to be buried there at the age of 4 months. This is the part of our job that is sad and Mary Clark, 1 month old wasn’t a pleasure to clean either but I felt she was remembered as I read her name, Mary A. Using church records we found that her middle name was Augusta, daughter of Treat and Sarah Clark. In comparing the monuments, more young people are buried in New Haven’s Grove Street cemetery giving rise to the health conditions surrounding children changed by the time Orange Cemetery was created. Other stones are fascinating. While cleaning off a very cruddy stone we found John Gunn, a Revolutionary soldier. His epitaph is no longer legible and rubbing with tissue paper is no longer allowed in any cemetery, to my knowledge. I know where to find Civil War veteran, Joseph Casner, just a few yards from one of the roadways. I will be cleaning his stone so he will be recognized as folks pass by.

Unlike the stones in the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven, the decorated, top portion of most of the stones, here in Orange, are pretty much the same, a willow tree and sometimes with an urn. We have seen a hand with a finger pointing upward which means the pathway to Heaven with an angel meaning the same. There are four Merwin Andrew stones, side-by-side for his children died within days of each other from the dreaded diphtheria epidemic of 1859. Each stone has a different design at the top. What seems to be common among the stones cleaned so far is the willow and urn or just the willow. That meaning, according to sources is the ability to

live, a symbol of immortality. The urn together with the willow is the soul will journey to heaven. Both have Greek and Roman interpretations.

So far, we have not seen a signature of a carver but research tells us that Frank Andrew has an open book which could mean the Divine Word. Keep in mind, however, the book could have been another meaning to the family. Charles Andrew’s stone has hands clasped which means farewell and the hope of meeting again. Artists in a world of sadness but in the 21st century a history lesson.

**The cleaning of the monuments is vital to the preservation of the inscriptions and adds to the history of the Town of Orange.*



Holiday Festival & Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4th, 3-6pm • Orange Town Green



Town Green

Lighted Tractor Parade - 4:30pm
Santa Arrives - at parade conclusion
Tree Lighting - 5:30pm

Clark Building Front Lawn

Ice Carving Demonstration
by Ice Matters - 3:00 to 5:00pm

Case Memorial Library

Al DeCant performing 3:30 to 4:30 pm
Take and Make crafts while supplies last

Clark Building - 3:00-6:00pm

Gingerbread House Making Contest
Guess How Many Candies in a Jar & Bicentennial Quilt Raffle

Stone Otis House - 3:00-6:00pm

Come see a Victorian Christmas!

The Academy Building - 3:00-6:00pm

Visit the Historical Society's Antique Collections & Emily Prudden Watercolors
New Haven to Derby Line Model Railroad – Lower Level

Orange Congregational Church

"Cookie Walk" - Christmas cookies available for sale
in the lower level of the church
Handbell Concert and Carol Sing - 4:00 to 5:00pm

CALLING ALL CREATIONS!



Gingerbread House Making Contest

Drop-off on Dec. 4 from 2-3pm at The Clark Building

All entries must be decorated with edible embellishments!

Group entries welcome! Prizes awarded!

• Pick-up between 5:30-6:00pm. Entries left will be discarded! •

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