

Orange Town News



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

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The Amity Stage is set for their streaming production of "It's a Wonderful Life"

COVID Or Not, It Really Is 'A Wonderful Life'

By BETTINA THIEL
ORANGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

After missing its spring production when the pandemic closed schools earlier this year, the Amity Theater Department is ready to bring to a screen near you a heart-warming and life-embracing adaptation of the story at the heart of the Frank Capra film "It's a Wonderful Life." The production will be streamed by Broadway on Demand Thursday, December 17 to Sunday, December 20, with the link available on the Amity Creative Theater webpage, www.amitytheaterdepartment.com and also on its Facebook and Twitter pages.

The audience — no matter how near or far — will be able to access the show at home, at the time of their conven-

ience. The charge will be \$10 plus a streaming fee.

This play by Westport playwright Joe Landry turns the popular story into a live radio play, set in the 1940s, with live sound effects, voice actors, orchestra and singers. It is the story of George Bailey (portrayed by Ryan Kennedy), a small-town banker whose life of service to those around him is being seriously tested by some setbacks. He comes to the conclusion that his life is useless and might as well end, when his guardian angel (Nick Matalote) appears to show him what the world would have been like without him.

The cast includes Ryan Kennedy as George Bailey; Grace Blanchard as his

See "A Wonderful Life" On Page 5



Driver Troy Lagase & Crew Chief Don Foyer

Highway Department Announces Winter Snow Plowing Policy

There are over 110 miles of streets in the Town of Orange. Snow removal can cost up to \$2,500.00 per hour. Therefore, it is important for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to use its resources wisely with cooperation from the residents to minimize the cost.

Plow Routes: The streets are plowed and sanded in order of priority. Main (collector) roads are addressed first with special attention to steep hills, and difficult intersections. Side streets are done next, then dead-end streets. Side streets will remain unplowed if the main roads require repeat plowing due to heavy volume of snowfall. This may not seem fair to the residents of side streets or dead-ends. However, the main roads must

remain open.

Blocked Driveways: All snow plows angle the same way; to the driver's right. While plowing, the plow will push the snow in front of a residential driveway. The homeowner is responsible for access to his/her driveway. The only way to avoid additional snow removal is to wait until DPW work crews have completed their final clean up of your road.

Mailbox Damage: The town repairs or replaces only those mailboxes and/or posts that are actually struck by the plow blade. Usually, a paint mark or tire tracks provide evidence of a mailbox strike. **The Town does not repair or replace mailboxes and/or posts**

See "Plowing" On Page 4



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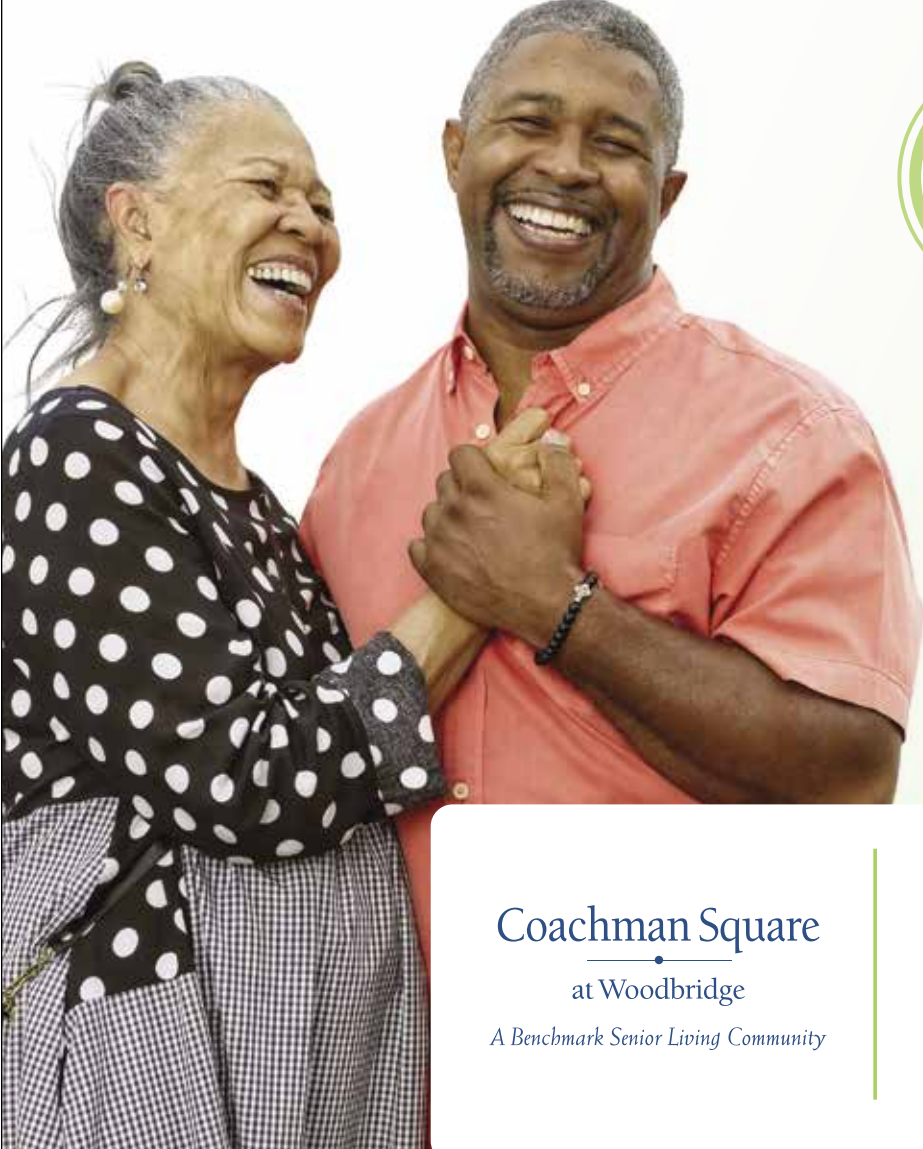
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The Town's newest truck

“Plowing” From Page 1

that fall from the force of plowed snow. Mailboxes and supporting posts must be installed to withstand the rigors of snow removal; including the force of snow pushed from the street onto the roadside. It is recommended that homeowners do not purchase and utilize plastic mailboxes and/or posts as they are subject to damage. DPW recommends the use of a 4” x 4” wooden post or 2” metal pipe with a metal mailbox.

Private Plowing: The Town of Orange prohibits private plow contractors from pushing snow from private driveways or parking lots onto Town streets. This practice is dangerous and impedes the Town’s snow removal efforts. **If there is no other alternative** to pushing the snow into the street, the plow driver must plow off the windrow left across the street by re-plowing until the road is safe. This may not necessarily mean bare pavement, but certainly it should be no worse than when the driver began work.

No Parking: The Town of Orange Snow Removal Ordinance takes effect on November 1 of each year, and continues to April 1 of the following year.

During this time, there shall be no parking on public roads during snowstorms. Should your vehicle be parked on the street causing an obstruction to snow removal vehicles, your vehicle may be ticketed or removed by the Town of Orange Police Department. The cost of removal and any other subsequent fees shall be borne upon the owner of the vehicle.

Snow Stakes: The Town of Orange Highway Department reminds Orange residents to install “snow stakes” now before the ground freezes. It is difficult to distinguish between the pavement edge and the edge of a lawn in heavy snowfall. Installing stakes along property edges as close to pavement as possible without interfering with traffic will help homeowners avoid unsightly lawn damage this winter, especially for properties with underground sprinklers or invisible fencing. Snow stakes should be 30-36” high and can be purchased at a local hardware store. If using wooden stakes, paint the top 3” of the stakes red to increase visibility against snow.

Residents who feel they have a legitimate complaint should call the Town of Orange Department of Public Works at (203) 891-4775.

LOCAL SPORTS



Junioresettes Food Drive

In cooperation with Orange Community Services, Orange Community Junioresettes will be collecting non-perishable food items and personal care products for the Orange Food Pantry. Bins are located at Mary L Tracy School, Peck Place School, Turkey Hill School, Racebrook School and High Plains Community Center, and will be available until December 31st. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

PLEASE BRING IN YOUR FOOD DONATION FOR ORANGE FOOD PANTRY FOR FAMILIES IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

Every little bit helps. They are specifically in need of peanut butter,

canned tuna, canned chicken, canned vegetables, etc. (Beans are in good supply currently). There is also a need for: Napkins, Toilet paper, Tooth Brushes, Soap, Shampoo & Conditioner.

Who are Junioresettes? Orange Community Junioresettes is a parent-run, civic group under the Orange Community Woman’s group which teaches the importance of giving back to our communities, fosters leadership skills, and offers enrichment programs to girls (5th-8th grade) in Orange. Want to find out more or get involved? Email: .orangecommunityjunioresettes@gmail.com.

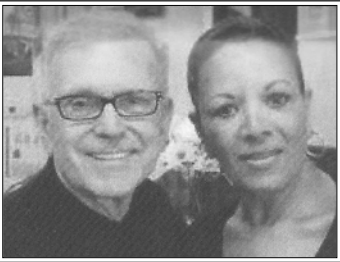
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Below are the next three issue dates & deadlines of the Orange Town News.
Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
January 15 New Year’s Issue	January 8
February 12 Valentine’s Day Issue.....	February 5
March 12 St. Patrick’s Day Issue	March 5

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

FROM OUR READERS

Thank You Volunteers!

Orange Youth Services is beyond grateful for the five high school student volunteers that have been offering their time weekly to assist in organizing the food bank. With numerous food donations during the Holiday Season, we would not be able to manage as efficiently as we do without their help and dedication. Thank you, thank you!!
Orange Youth Services



OTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our "From Our Readers" section to:
Orange Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477
or email: letters@orangetownnews.com.
Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Orange Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.

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

Hamden, North Haven and Amity Adult Education Registration, Hamden Adult Education offering FREE programs to provide adult residents of Hamden, North Haven, Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge to prepare for the GED exam, learn English and study to become an American Citizen. Call the Adult Education office at 203-773-9211 ext. 1139. to schedule an appointment.

“A Wonderful Life” From Page 1

wife, Mary Bailey; Nick Matalote as Clarence, the guardian angel; Michael Perron as Mr. Potter, Mr. Gower and others; Nolan Young as his brother Harry, Uncle Billy and others; Jacob Ebert as young Peter Bailey and others; Bridget Browe as Josephe; Audrey Jurzyk as Violet Bick and others; Macie Cox as Mrs. Bailey and others; McKenna Maxwell as Ruth, Zuzu and others and Harry Rosenay as Bert and the Foley artist.

“We started in October rehearsing once a week in person and three days a week via Zoom,” said theater director Robert Kennedy. “The last few weeks has been 100% on-line rehearsal, which is hard with the lag in internet speeds. But we are making it work.”

The group performed this past week without an audience on the high school stage designed to keep actors at least six feet apart. Actors were wearing custom-made “It’s a Wonderful Life” face masks. Holleran Media from Norwalk took care of the video production. They have been filming Amity shows for the past six years.

Fitting costumes while keeping socially distanced was a bit of a challenge. It started with family members taking performers’ measurements; then the costumers chose outfits and left the costumes at a designated area in front of the school. The kids took them home and tried them on, and sent the costumes back for alterations. “It hasn’t been easy, but the kids have been excited to have any kind of theater experience at all,” Kennedy said.

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EDUCATION

Orange Pre-School Blind Lottery

*“Limited Openings” for 2021-22 Community
Peer/Tuition Based Program*

The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the “Blind Lottery” for our 2021-2022 Pre-School Program. Our Special Education/General Education integrated Pre-School Program is looking for both three- and four-year old children to enroll as community peers. Our Pre-School Program enriches each child’s social, emotional, physical, cognitive, intellectual, and creative abilities through early academic and social experiences. It is designed to prepare the children for early success and school readiness.

Community peer children are selected through the “Blind Lottery”. The total cost of tuition for the community peers will be \$3,250. This fee-based Pre-School Program is held 5-days/week, for 3-hrs/day. No transportation is provided for general education community peers.

The Pre-School Program follows the district’s school year calendar: the AM class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and the PM class is held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Each classroom will be a blend of three- and four-year old children. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, which includes our special education students. By law, students with special needs identified with an IEP are placed in the Pre-School Program by the Dept. of Special Services through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process.

In order to participate in the lottery your child must be 3 years old but not older than 4 years old by December 31st, 2021. All children must be toilet trained and a bona-fide Orange resident. If a child’s third birthday falls between September – December 2021 they will be able to start on their third birthday.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. One: All names are ‘picked out of a hat’ by age group for the “limited number of available spaces”, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list. Two: the 2nd drawing decides if your child will attend the AM or PM class to balance each classroom with an equal amount of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children.

If you wish to have your child participate in the Blind Lottery, please call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to place your child on the list. We will be accepting names for the blind lottery up until 4:00 p.m., Friday, January 29, 2021. Parents will be mailed a letter of the lottery results by February 8, 2021.

A tuition deposit of \$325 will reserve the space in the classroom for your child. Your deposit is the first month’s tuition for September 2021. Registration paperwork needs to be completed by March 31st 2021. Any further questions call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) at the Orange Board of Education.

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ORANGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

Niezrecki Receives Umass Lowell's Top Faculty Honor

Distinguished University Professor Award Recognizes Excellence In Teaching, Research, Service

Whether it's founding a nationally renowned research center for wind energy or recruiting students for an underwater hockey team, UMass Lowell's Christopher Niezrecki, professor and department chair of mechanical engineering, has a knack for bringing people together. "A lot of times, faculty work independently. They just need a little spark to figure out how to come together and leverage their abilities to pursue larger efforts," Niezrecki said. "The whole is greater than the sum of the parts once you do that."

Thanks in part to his team-building talents, Niezrecki has been named the 2020 Distinguished University Professor. The annual award is the highest accolade bestowed on a faculty member by UMass Lowell. It honors educators who are recognized by their peers for outstanding contributions to teaching, research and service. "I'm happy and honored to receive this award. It's nice to be acknowledged and appreciated by the university," said Niezrecki, who has been responsible for 70 research grants and contracts totaling \$15.7 million since joining UMass Lowell in 2004, including \$7.3 million as principal investigator.

Niezrecki is the founding director of the Center for Wind Energy, as well as co-director of the Structural Dynamics and Acoustics Systems Laboratory (SDASL) and the Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy.

The Distinguished University Professor is selected each year by a faculty committee. Niezrecki was nominated by Mechanical Engineering Associate Prof. Hunter Mack and seven others

from the Francis College of Engineering and the Kennedy College of Sciences. "His ability to bring together researchers and identify promising funding opportunities directly impacts the success of early-career faculty members, in addition to raising the profile of the university," Mack wrote of Niezrecki, adding that he is "beyond deserving" of the award for "his leadership during a time of rapid growth and success in the department."

A native of Orange, Conn., Niezrecki holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He was an assistant professor at the University of Florida for five years before joining UMass Lowell, where he was drawn by the opportunity to collaborate with Peter Avitabile, now professor emeritus of mechanical engineering. "I can't think of anyone who has worked harder and done more to assemble great teams to address significant research projects than Chris," said Avitabile, who serves as SDASL co-director with Niezrecki. "He doesn't try to be the focal point and allows everyone to share in the success equally. And he has been instrumental in helping our younger faculty obtain significant and prestigious National Science Foundation awards, helping them become successful and productive."

While Niezrecki says he's always been interested in renewable energy, it didn't become a research focus until about 12 years ago, when he pioneered a vibration analysis technique called "digital image correlation" with the SDASL. "We saw that we could

use this for the inspection of wind turbine blades and also for inspecting the dynamics of wind turbine rotors," said Niezrecki, whose ensuing collaborations led to the formation of the Center for Wind Energy in 2009. That led to the creation of WindSTAR, the country's only National Science Foundation-supported industry-university collaboration focused on wind energy.

Meanwhile, Niezrecki began bringing together other renewable energy efforts across campus. In 2015, he organized a UMass Lowell Energy Summit that drew faculty researchers from the areas of wind, solar, nuclear, biofuels and energy storage, as well as related fields such as sustainability, cybersecurity, public policy and economics. "When I got here, there were only two faculty working in the energy program. Now we have 60 faculty involved in energy work in some capacity," said Niezrecki, whose team-building extends far beyond the campus. He recently forged a joint research project on energy resiliency with Stony Brook University that received \$7.36 million in funding this fall from the Office of Naval Research. UMass Lowell's share will be \$3.7 million. "Without people working together, we can't really accomplish the things that we want to do on a larger scale," said Niezrecki, who in 2018 received the Roy J. Zuckerberg Endowed Leadership Chair, which is given to one professor in the UMass system every two years to reward "leaders of courage, conviction and selflessness."

UMass Lowell's Distinguished University Professors each serve for three years and include 2019 honoree Mu-

sic Prof. William Moylan, Psychology Prof. Meg Bond (2018) and Plastics Engineering Prof. Joey Mead (2017). Niezrecki is the 13th professor to receive the award since it was established in 2008. He will deliver the annual Distinguished University Professor Lecture in the spring.

Although he hasn't been able to meet face-to-face with students and colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic, Niezrecki said he's been able to adapt his teaching and research work to the remote environment. His "next big goal" at UMass Lowell is to take the recently formed Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy "from a concept to a functioning institute that has a real impact."

Niezrecki also looks forward to returning to the Costello Athletic Center pool with the underwater hockey club, which he started at UMass Lowell in 2005 and serves as faculty adviser. "It's a unique sport, for sure," said Niezrecki. "You really need to work together as a team to excel, which I guess goes to my collaborative nature. Successes are sweeter when they're shared with other people."

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"When my wife passed away in November 2018 I remained in our house but within about six months I realized that taking care of the property was becoming too much. I had always been active and mowed the lawn and did general upkeep but started to fall frequently. My three children felt it was time for a better solution and helped me find Maplewood. What I enjoy about living here is that I have much more time to devote to my hobbies. I'm not one to sit around. I've taught myself to play the pan flute and the ocarina. I love singing to myself in my apartment and now I'm learning how to knit. I still love to golf and go out on the putting green here or play with my son and his wife who live nearby. My advice to other men in a similar situation, as we go through life we have to adjust especially if you can no longer take care of your house. I know I made the right decision moving here and so do my children."

— Dana Clark, Resident



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Holiday Greetings

The Friends of the Case Memorial Library extends wishes for peace and good will during these trying times. Book donations are temporarily suspended, since sorting in the Library basement is not allowed due to the COVID pandemic. The Friends look forward to the time when it's safe to resume its #1 fundraising activity.

The Friends has adapted services during these perilous times. As an alternative to holiday shopping, a cart in the Children's Room features holiday-themed books and other titles suitable for gift giving at a reasonable price. A potential benefit is the development of a love of reading, which offers a respite from iPhone addiction.

Likewise, books for adults priced at \$2.00 each are available in the Friends' bookcase adjacent to the main entry of the Library. Reading provides an antidote to the barrage of Breaking News alerts on TV.

Although the Friends' holiday displays created by local commercial and organizational groups are cancelled this year, the Library continues to be open Monday - Saturday 10:00-noon.

While the pandemic is an unwelcomed interruption into daily lives, it is a time for reflection. Our relationships with family, friends, and neighbors are appreciated and treasured. Kindness and generosity have become the most precious gifts. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the Friends of the Case Memorial Library thank the community and patrons for their continued support and look forward to resuming a full schedule of activities when it is safe to do so.

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ARTS & LEISURE

MusicalFolk

Musical Folk Invites You To "Winter Wonderland"

Semester Of Online Music Classes For Young Children This Winter

Musical Folk, offering Music Together® classes, for children ages 0-5 and their caregivers in Greater New Haven, will present an online version of the popular Music Together® classes for kids up to age five through virtual platforms this Winter.

The Music Together® Online courses will feature Musical Folk teachers leading live online classes, through Zoom and Facebook Live, encouraging children and the grownups who love them to sing, dance, and use everyday objects to make music.

Though our Music Together® Online classes are designed for children age 5 and under, every member of the family is encouraged to join in, making an ideal at-home activity for the entire household. In addition, families with older children can sign up for the Rhythm Kids Online program, aimed at children from 4 to 8 years of age.

In addition to online classes, we have planned some fabulous outdoor, physically distanced events for the whole family:

Winter Classes Begin On Saturday, December 5, 2020

Tuition for the Music Together® Online class includes 11 weeks of unlimited Zoom and Facebook live events, as well as access to a private Facebook group. Also, several outdoor, physically distanced, family events will be held this semester. Each family receives a colorful songbook and CD to explore the music of the semester at home. To register, go to the www.mu-

sicalfolk.com.

** Use Code WINTERFUN to receive \$25 Off registration for Winter 2020 semester, for new families! **

The 11-week Winter semester of Music Together® begins December 5, 2020; enrollment is ongoing. For information and class schedules, visit us online at www.MusicalFolk.com. Outdoor events are weather permitting and will be moved to Facebook or Zoom if we cannot be outdoors.

Music Together® is an international music program which has aimed to instill a love of rhythm and movement into kids since it began in 1987. Musical Folk has brought the curriculum of courses to area children for over ten years.

Music Together® classes are based on the recognition that all children are musical. All children can learn to sing in tune, keep a beat, and participate with confidence in the music of our culture. Research shows that children exposed to music making at a very young age can achieve music competence earlier than those who have not had a rich musical environment. Increasing vocabulary and early language skills, building confidence and creativity, and giving children the foundation needed when it comes time to begin formal music lessons are results of this program. The participation and musical role model of the parent or caregiver makes this program so special, and successful, building an emotional bond and a love of music that lasts a lifetime.

Orange Author Releases New Book

Orange resident Jasmine Buynovsky recently published a book called "The Restless Rooster," available at online at Target, Walmart, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.

The book is about a rooster named Rudy. He has a dream to fly, knowing roosters can't fly. All of the farm animals tease Rudy for thinking differently. However, that doesn't stop Rudy. He attempts to catch

flight all night, and fails leaving him tired and sleeping in, which affects the rest of the farm because he doesn't cock-a-doodle-do in the morning. After many failed attempts, he almost thinks about giving up and believes that all of the animals thought

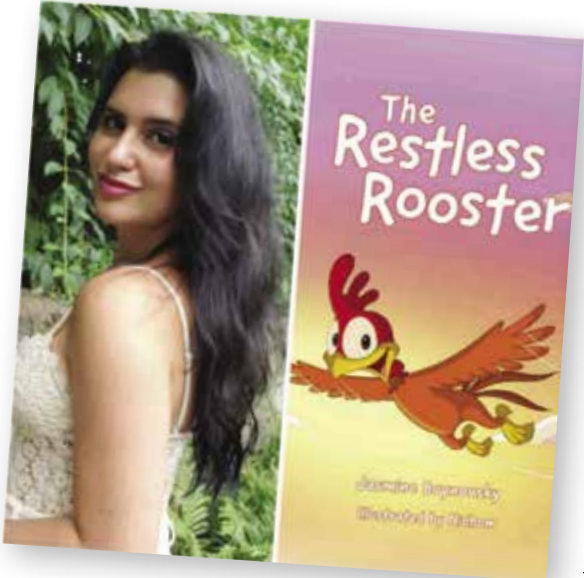
this was a joke. But one night he makes his way up to the top of the farm, and watches the sun go up. He thinks of all of their doubts...but then he starts to believe in his dream and

himself. And he jumps off the top of the farm and flies! yelling cock-a-doodle-do! and waking everyone up. All of the animals are shocked that Rudy's dream actually came true.

Jasmine Buynovsky explains, "I wrote

this to help kids see that anything is possible. You just have to believe in your dreams and yourself, even when others don't."

She is currently working on a Christmas story.



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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Help Orange Firefighters Just By Having Dinner

A local restaurant has arranged a way for Orange-area residents to contribute to the Orange Volunteer Fire Department just by having dinner. Prime 16, 464 Boston Post Road, has set December 15 aside as a special day for supporters of Orange firefighters. The restaurant says it will donate 20 percent of the orders that day to the Fire Department. Orders can include food eaten in the restaurant or picked up as take-out. Diners must tell the order-taker that they are participating in the Orange Fire Department program.

“We appreciate Prime 16’s gesture,” said Orange Fire Chief Vaughan Dumas. “This is a great way to make a contribution to the fire department, take a night off from cooking and support a local restaurant.”

Those who wish to participate can go to Prime 16 or call them at (203) 553-9616. Diners should mention that they’re supporting the Orange Volunteer Fire Department. Sales tax and alcohol sales don’t count toward

the total.

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 few remaining all-volunteer incorporated fire departments in Connecticut. Active members are on-call to serve the community on a 24-hour/seven-day basis, responding from stations on Orange Center Road and Boston Post Road.

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

Town of Orange Meetings for the Month of December 2020



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

12th	Elderly Housing Liaison Cmte	12 noon	Silverbrook Estates
14th	Traffic Authority	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Board of Police Comm.....	4:30 pm	Police Dept.
	Amity Board of Education	6:30 pm	Woodbridge
	Board of Health	7:00 pm	HPCC
16th	CERT	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Recycling Cmte	7:00 pm	HPCC
	Park & Recreation Comm.....	7:30 pm	Town Hall
17th	Bond Construction Cmte	7:00 pm	Town Hall
21st	Family Counseling	9:00 am	HPCC
	Orange Board of Education	7:00 pm	Mary L. Tracy
	Board of Finance.....	7:00 pm	Town Hall
28th	Youth Services	7:30 pm	HPCC

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

From the Elderly Outreach Director

BY DENISE STEIN



I would like to thank all the organizations in town who have organized and carried out food drives for the Orange Food Bank. The churches, the temples, the cub scouts, residential housing complexes. I also want to thank the residents of Orange who have donated so generously this year. When I think about the amount of food and how many people have thought enough to give so much it fills my heart with joy. It's also not just me, it's the whole department [Community Services]. So, we want to thank everyone.



Pictured (l-r): Dennis Marsh, Senior Services Coordinator, Jessica Simone Youth Services Coordinator and Denise Stein Elderly Outreach gratefully accepts this very generous donation from Amazon.

From the Fire Marshal



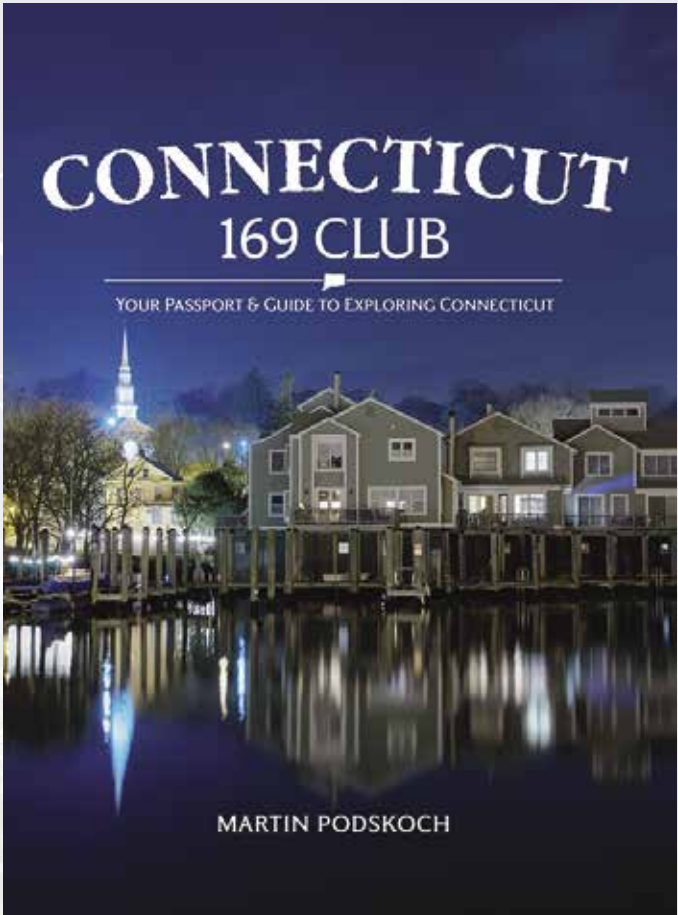
2020 Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest

Orange Fire Marshal Jamie Vincent has announced that the annual Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest, a statewide competition for fourth and fifth graders from public, private and parochial schools has begun. The contest is a cooperative effort of elementary school teachers and the sponsors: Connecticut Fire Marshals Association, Office of The State Fire Marshal, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, Connecticut Board of Education, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and Connecticut FAIR Plan (representing the insurance industry). The purpose of the theme “Fire Prevention – Everyone/Everyday” is to bring awareness to children of the causes of fires, ways to prevent them, and the need for everyone to be alert to fire danger. Prior to the contest, the staff of the Fire Marshal’s Office met with the students to explain the rules and answer any questions. One poster from the fourth-grade entrants and one from the fifth graders will be selected from each town and sent to the county program. Two fourth and two fifth grade winners will be chosen from each county and those students will receive a cash award of \$150.00. Posters will be exhibited in locations throughout Connecticut, including the State Capitol. From these, one poster will be chosen to be reproduced and distributed as Connecticut’s 2021 Fire Prevention Poster. The statewide winner will be awarded an additional \$750.00 and his or her school will receive a \$500.00 Grant. The state winner will be announced at a luncheon for all county winners. Fire safety education is important as a means of preventing injuries, death and economic loss. Children are a val-

uable link in the chain of communication by taking information home to their families that suggests ways to reduce damage and prevent fires. The Orange Fire Marshal’s Office would like to thank the students, administrators and teachers from the Peck Place, Race Brook and Turkey Hill schools for their support and participation.

Important fire prevention measures include never playing with matches or lighters or smoking carelessly, never leaving a lit candle or cooking utensils on a lit stove unattended, using alternate heating sources such as space heaters correctly and keeping flammable items away from heat sources. Some fire escape tips are to never hide, get low and go, know two ways out of every room, have and practice a home escape plan and meeting place, and never go back into a burning building. Call 911 after leaving the building. If your clothes catch on fire: stop where you are, drop to the ground and roll over until the fire is out. Cover your face with your hands. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home including finished attics and basements, inside every bedroom and sleeping area, at the top of the first-to-second floor stairway and at the bottom of the basement stairway. A working detector cuts the risk of dying in a fire by one-half.

The holiday season is a time to be especially careful with the addition of lit candles, Christmas trees, menorahs and other decorations to the home. For questions regarding fire safety, to have batteries replaced, and smoke or CO alarms installed, please contact The Orange Fire Marshal’s Office at (203) 891-4711, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.



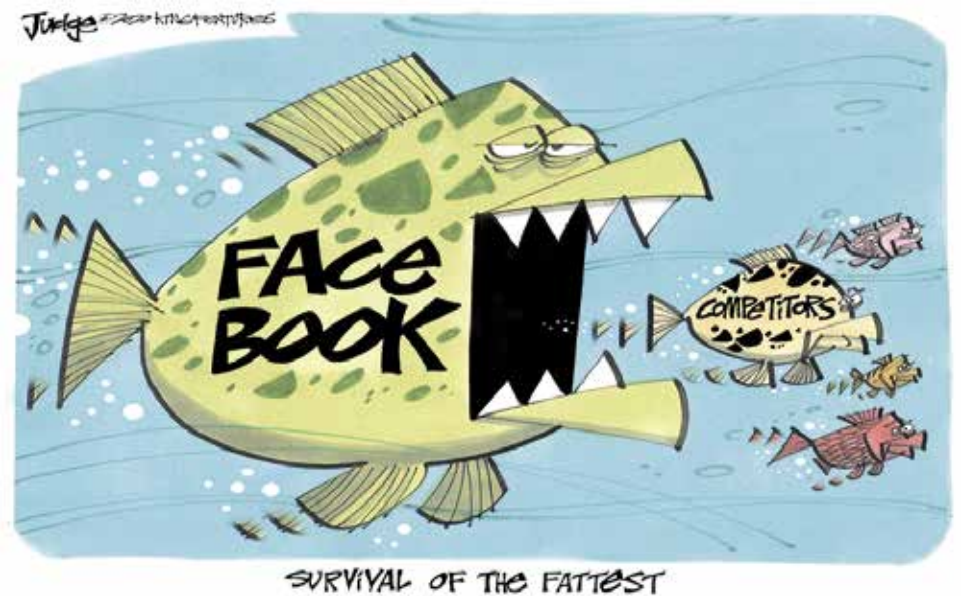
CONNECTICUT 169 CLUB

YOUR PASSPORT & GUIDE TO EXPLORING CONNECTICUT

MARTIN PODSKOCH

The 169 Club book is available at the Academy Museum at 605 Orange Center Road on Saturdays from 9-3.

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



HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Holy Infant Christmas Schedule

Our Christmas Mass Schedule is as follows:

- › Vigil Masses: 1:00 pm in the church;
- › 4:00 pm in the church and school gym;
- › 6:00 pm in the church and school gym.
- › Christmas Day: 7:30 am in the church;
- › 9:30 am in the church;
- › 11:30 am in the church.

There is a limit to 100 persons at each mass. Doors will open 30 minutes before mass for temperatures to be taken. Once we have reached our capacity, doors will be closed and mass will begin. Enter through the Portico Area located by the back-parking lot. You may exit any door at the end of mass. The 1:00 vigil mass will be taped and placed on our website for those who wish to remain at home and view our Christmas Mass. See www.holyinfantorangect.com to obtain this mass and our Sunday masses as well. After each service the church/school will be sanitized for the next service.



Holy Infant Church

The 2021 Boxes of Envelopes are located in the Portico Area on tables for your pick up. If you have been using WE SHARE (on-line giving), they are not there.

This year we cannot hold our Annual Giving Tree as we have done in the past. Rather, if you purchase a \$25 Gift Card at a store you would have purchased a gift for a child, place it in an envelope marked "Gift Card" and return it to our church basket. They will be distributed to those needy children for Christmas. Thank you for your cooperation for this drive this year.

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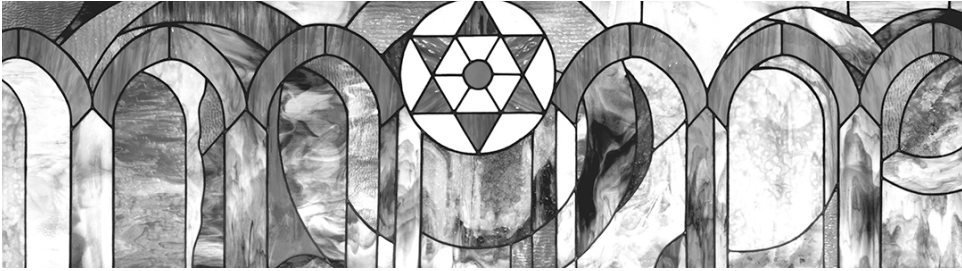
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The Orange Historical Society will have these books for sale at \$12.99 each in the near future at its antique shop in the Academy Building, 605 Orange Center Road; hours: Saturdays, 10am-3pm. For information, call 203-795-3106, visit our website: www.orangehistory.org or email us at orangehistorical@yahoo.com.



Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

Children's Services

Children's Havura (up to age 5) and K-2 Kehila hold outdoor Saturday morning services in the BEKI courtyard. For more information, consult Youth & Family Programming Director Annie Norman-Schiff, anorman-schiff@beki.org.

Indoor Services

- › Fridays 6:00 pm inside the main sanctuary

Outdoor Services

(weather permitting)

- › Saturdays 9:30 am
- › Sundays 9:00 am**
- › Mondays 5:45 pm**

** also available via Zoom, like other daily services

BEKI Hanuka Events

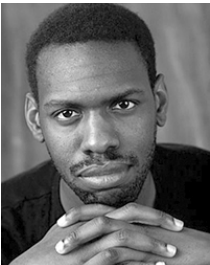
BEKI will host a family Zoom celebration on the Third Night of Hanuka, which is Saturday, December 12, with havdala, candle lighting, singing, and a story.

An Eighth Night Hanuka party on Thursday, December 17 will feature a livestream performance by singer/songwriter Neshama Carlebach. She



Neshama Carlebach

has released ten albums and sold over one million records, showcasing her unique blend of various genres, including classic Hebrew folk songs, contemporary pop music, jazz and gospel. To request the link for these events, email office@beki.org.



Anthony Russell



Levi Brackman

Wednesday Schmoozes

On December 23, it's a film schmooze: watching the short film "Commandment 613" and discussing it with the film maker and its subject, Rabbi Kevin Hale, who restores Torah scrolls saved during the Holocaust.

On December 30, Anthony Russell will return to BEKI, adding his voice to BEKI's ongoing exploration of issues of racial justice. He will demonstrate—through song and discussion—convergences of Ashkenazi and African American music. A classically trained operatic bass, he now specializes in Yiddish and liturgical music.

On January 6, Rabbi Levi Brackman will speak on Judaism as a Health and Wellness Religion, demonstrating how traditional Jewish practice dovetails with many practices that modern science has shown to improve wellness.

On January 13, BEKI's racial justice film series continues with a discussion of "Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North." When filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history, she and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade.

From 8 to 9 pm on Zoom, BEKI Schmoozes include a presentation and time for questions. To request the link, email office@beki.org.

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

ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.

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HOUSES OF WORSHIP



Our Building is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

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To register for a Zoom event, please call the office at (203) 389-2111

Happening This Weekend

- Friday:** 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - on Zoom and live stream only
- Saturday:** 9:00 am Bread & Torah - on Zoom; 10:00 am Shabbat service - on Zoom and live stream only; 5:30 pm Havdalah Harmonics - Join us on Zoom for this new twice/monthly gathering.
- Sunday:** Sunday School classes on Zoom



Upcoming Classes & Events

Sunday-Thursdays, December 13-17

We will light our Hanukkah Menorahs TOGETHER each night on zoom at 5:30 with something special each night.

Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 11AM

"Stitched & Sewn: The Life Saving Art of Holocaust Survivor Trudie Strobel"

Woodbridge native, Jody Savin, will discuss her new biography of Holocaust survivor and tapestry artist Trudie Strobel. Savin will be joined by the artist herself and by Savin's daughter, Maya Savin Miller, the curator of the traveling exhibition of Trudie's work. Visual materials will be included. "Stitched & Sewn" has been called "a testament to ...the ability to endure the worst atrocities and then create meaning and indelible beauty." The book is available through the CBJ Judaica Shop for \$30. A ZOOM LINK WILL BE POSTED FOR THE EVENT.

Christmas Dinner at Columbus House

This year Congregation B'nai Jacob is partnering with BEKI, Westville



Congregation B'nai Jacob

Synagogue, and the Unitarian Society of New Haven to provide Christmas dinners for people staying at the Columbus House shelters. Because of COVID, we will contribute funds toward catered dinners, rather than cook dishes ourselves. This is a wonderful opportunity to make the holidays more healthy and festive for the homeless and hungry, and to collaborate with other houses of faith. See CBJ website for the link for online donations, or you may mail a check to the synagogue office. Thank you for your generosity!

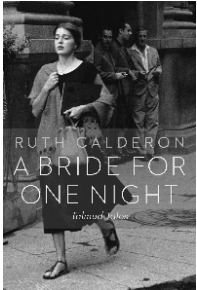
Rabbi Shapiro's Fall Class on Zoom

"A Bride for One Night"

Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm

On Zoom, last few classes: December 21, January 4, 11

In her engaging book, "A Bride for the Night," Ruth Calderon rewrite Talmudic tales as richly imagined short stories, affording the reader an entrance into the fascinating world of this core ancient text. We will read the stories in their original in the Talmud as well as reading Calderon's retellings of them. We will embark on an imaginative journey into the world of the Talmud and get to know it in new and surprising ways. No background or Hebrew necessary. All are welcome. Zoom only — zoom link will be sent to participants upon registration. To register, email office@bnaijacob.org or call 203-389-2111.



DID YOU KNOW? Gifts To You and Your Family

Sometimes, a great gift isn't one that is wrapped in colorful paper. Instead, it may be the gift of peace of mind, a gift to continue a legacy or even a gift that is given long after you have passed away.

Have you ever thought of your estate planning documents as gifts?

- Wills and Trusts direct who receives assets after death, and name people you trust to make decisions. Having these documents in place gives your family the gift of avoiding extensive probate, having clear direction of your intentions after your death, and ideally, the gift of avoiding family conflicts.
- Health care instructions give your family the gift of knowing what your medical and end-of-life wishes are so that they don't have the burden of making difficult medical decisions.
- A Power of Attorney appoints someone to make financial decisions if you're alive but unable to do so yourself, and gives your family the gift of access to and management of your assets without involving the Probate Court.
- Sometimes, Trusts can be used as gifts that keep giving because they hold and protect assets to be given out at different stages, or ages, through someone's life. A Trust allows you to customize and personalize the messages you leave about how you'd like your family to enjoy anything they receive from you and how you'd like to be remembered.

If you have questions about how to create impactful estate planning "gifts" for your family, call us to schedule a free consultation.



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

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2020 HOLIDAY SHIPPING DEADLINES				
Between the astronomical rise in online shopping and visitation restrictions, it's more important than ever to mail and ship early this year.				
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U.S. Postal Service	Drop first-class letters and cards in your mailbox by Dec. 18; Dec. 15 for parcel post.	Priority (1-3 day) service by Dec. 19 Express Overnight by Dec. 23	Your local post office or arrange for carrier pickup. Use usps.com to order supplies, print postage and access a host of other services.	www.usps.com
UPS	Dec. 15 (for packages delivered by Thursday, Dec. 24).	Ship 2-Day Air by Dec. 22 or Next-Day Air as late as Dec. 23 for delivery by Dec. 24. .	UPS Stores nationwide. Go to ups.com or call 800-789-4623 to find a location or schedule pickup.	www.ups.com; 1-800-PICK-UPS
Fed Ex	Dec. 15 for all FedEx Ground packages.	Overnight by Dec. 23; 2-Day Air by Dec. 22 for delivery Dec. 25 ; big spenders can get same-day Christmas Day delivery in some areas.	Any FedEx Office location or FedEx authorized shipper.	www.fedex.com; 1-800-GO-FEDEX



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DEATH NOTICES



Francis (Frank) Feurer

Francis (Frank) Feurer, longtime resident of Orange, entered into a peaceful rest on Sunday, November 15, 2020. He was born on August 1, 1934 in The Bronx, NY, and resided in Orange since 1976. He was the beloved husband of Nancy Feurer, with whom he had 53 wonderful years.

Mr. Feurer served in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was heavily involved in the Boy Scouts in the Town of Orange as a scout leader, having had 25 of his troop members become Eagle Scouts, two of those being his sons. He was awarded the Silver Beaver Award, an award given to adult leaders who have made an impact on the lives of youth through their service to the scout council. Mr. Feurer also acted as a volunteer for the Orange County Fair for many years, and was a regular communicant of Holy Infant Church. He will be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In addition to his wife Nancy, he is survived by his three children, Paul Feurer (Sonya), David Feurer (Jessica), and Susan Perkins (Dave). He also leaves four grandchildren, Mason, Mackenna, Wyatt, and Olivia.

Arrangements were handled by Keenan Funeral Home, 238 Elm Street, West Haven. Services inside the funeral home were livestreamed through One Room for those who could not attend. A Mass of Christian Burial was given at the funeral home following the visitation, with inter-

ment at Orange Center Cemetery, with full Military honors. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in Frank's name be made to The Parkinson's Foundation, 200 SE 1st Street, Suite 800, Miami, FL 33131. To leave an online condolence or tribute, please visit www.keenanfuneralhome.com.



David A. Csejka

David A. Csejka, 85, of Orange, passed away peacefully November 29, 2020. Born on June 9, 1935 in New Jersey, he was the son of the late Anthony Edward Csejka and Anna Pollock.

David graduated from Fordham University with a PhD in chemistry and worked for the Olin Corporation until his retirement in 1991. He then became a professor of Chemistry at Southern Connecticut State University until 2011. David enjoyed dinners with family and long walks with friends at local area trails.

David was married to beloved wife, the late Carol Csejka and is survived by his children, Andrew (Susan) Csejka, Thomas Csejka, Robert (Monica) Csejka, Dianne (Christopher Grillo) Csejka, and Steven (Caron) Csejka; his grandchildren, Madison, Charlie, Tess, Jason, Kennedy, and Celeste.

Services were private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org. The family is being compassionately cared for by the staff at Cody-White Funeral Home, 107 Broad Street, Milford, CT. To leave online condolences, please visit www.codywhitefuneralservice.com.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

A True Gift

BY ROBERTA L NESTOR

Gifting in its traditional sense rarely has strings attached. When you purchase something for someone, and they don't like the gift because it is the wrong size, color or brand, they can return the gift and/or exchange it for something else they do like. Once you give the gift, it is a completed transaction. Gifting money is somewhat similar. You can give someone the gift of cash, but you can't tell them what they can or cannot do with the cash. There are many myths surrounding "cash gifts" and what you can and can't do.

Is there a maximum amount I can gift?

There are no limits on how much you can gift. There is however, a limit on how much you can gift without incurring a gift tax or without having to file a federal gift tax return. That limit is set each year and in 2020 (and 2021) you can gift up to \$15,000 to each individual. A husband and wife could collectively gift a child or individual family member \$30,000 and not have to file a gift tax return. This is called the gift tax exclusion.

What tax advantages do I have for gifting?

In short, none. Despite what many believe, there are no individual tax advantages to the donor – the person giving the gift. If you are gifting amounts over the \$15,000 (for example, a home, larger cash gift or a business) you should be filing a federal gift tax return. While there may not be any tax implications, the IRS is tallying up gifts to make sure they don't exceed the lifetime gift tax exemption. This is the total amount that can be given away by an individual over his or her entire lifetime to any number of people that would be tax free. The lifetime gift exemption is indexed for inflation and for 2020 it is \$11.58 million and for 2021, it will be \$11.7 million.

Will I have to pay any state taxes for gifting?

Over the last decade, all states except Connecticut has abandoned stand-alone gift tax. Connecticut imposes a gift tax for gifts exceeding \$5.1 million in 2020, \$7.1 million in 2021, and \$9.1 million in 2022. That

is unified with our estate tax with a top rate of 12 percent. Of course, this only applies to gifts that exceed the federal exemption amount of \$15,000.

In summary, the rules are simple: There are no tax benefits to receiving or giving gifts of cash, and there are no tax implications of gifting cash unless you exceed the lifetime exemption of \$7.1 million for the state of CT and \$11.7 million for federal taxes in 2021. So, why do people give the \$15,000 gift of cash each year? Some parents reach a stage in their life when they feel financial security and it is unlikely that they will not outlive their savings – in many cases they won't even be able to spend it all. They may see their adult children struggling and in need of funds for many reasons, college for the grandkids comes to mind. Gifting can also be a means of removing assets from your estate. This usually comes into play when there is a potential long-term care situation. You must be cautious about gifting large sums of money based on fears of potentially needing long term care.

Whatever the reason, if you plan on gifting more than the \$15,000 make sure you have guidance, especially when it involves a long-term care situation. Gifting a home or assets bring upon different rules and tax implications; you should always consult an attorney, tax advisor or financial advisor if you have questions about the potential implications of gifting.

Happy Holidays to All and Best Wishes for the year ahead!

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



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

www.OrangeTownNews.com

“They who sing through the summer must dance in the winter.” — ITALIAN PROVERB

HISTORY CORNER

BY GINNY REINHARD

Let's Go South...



South? Florida? No southeast to New London County. Our first stop is Groton, located between the Thames and Mystic Rivers, originally part of New London. John Winthrop, Jr. son of Massachusetts Gov. Winthrop was responsible for the formation of the town, naming it after his birthplace in England. Farming was so very strongly a part of Connecticut towns but for Groton, the rocky soil defeated attempts at farming.

So, in 1723 the people turned to shipbuilding for trade among the colonies and the Caribbean, much like what Milford did some 83 years earlier. Thirty-two vessels were built from 1784 to 1800 building 28 more ships between 1800 and 1807. An interesting note here with General Benedict Arnold, a Norwich native, who sailed into Groton in 1781 leading in the Battle of Groton Heights at Fort Griswold. If I tell you that Lt. Col. William Ledyard was in command of state troops you can piece it together that Arnold, at this point was acting for the other side, Britain.

The battle raged on with over 100 of Ledyard's men perishing having been outnumbered by 800 trained British soldiers. To save the lives of the citizens of Groton, Ledyard ordered his men to lay down their arms and he handed his sword to Major Brownfield who turned it toward Ledyard, killing him. His waistcoat is preserved in the Connecticut State Library. A monument stands on the battlefield today with native Groton stone and Fort Griswold became a state park in 1902.

I can't leave Groton without mention of the submarines with the first being built in 1929. The Cuttlefish, the first with a welded hull was also the first contracted ship with the U.S. Navy in 1933. An aside here. My Dad was the first photographic contractor to be hired to film the refueling of the Nautilus SSN-571, now decommissioned and part of a tour but the part my Dad filmed is off-limits to visitors.

Lebanon, our next stop, is a step

back in time according to its historian Grace Preli. The town surrounds the famed mile-long Green, the longest in the country and the only one still used for agriculture. The town center isn't bustling like others I have written about but a slow-moving farm town. Lebanon is a rich, agricultural community, the pace is slower than most Connecticut towns. Sounds like a nice town to visit.

Originally owned by the Mohegans, Poquechaneed was purchased by several citizens, naming the town after the country of Lebanon. Known as The Heartbeat of the Revolution, this little town was host to Jonathan Trumbull as George Washington's chief quartermaster in command from the War Office on the Green. His son-in-law, William Williams was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. (See Orange Town News article 10/30/20). Many Revolutionary era homes are located in Lebanon, surrounding the Green, a testament to the historical guidance from the town's government and historically grounded citizens. Many are open for tours. Let's not forget Lebanon's agricultural life with 100 farms; 11 of them being preserved with the CT Farmland Trust. The earliest country fair is held here in August and a well-known antique show and old book sale in September. Many dirt roads still exist in Lebanon giving bikers and hikers a true sense of the past of this lovely, little town.

You just read about Lt. Col Ledyard, well you probably were thinking, oh that must be why there is a town named Ledyard. Well, you are right. The citizenry was so devastated by the colonial losses at the Battle of Groton Heights that when it became obvious to Groton citizens that attending church without horses and a long distance to the meetinghouse, Ledyard was created in 1727, establishing a separate Ecclesiastical Society. A meetinghouse was constructed in the center of the 40 square mile society.

A trading post was established along

the Thames River at Allyn's Point and in 1740 Messer's Ralph Stoddard and John Hurlbutt were given a charter to operate a ferry to Montville where the surrounding community took the name Gales Ferry after a ferryman. This eventually opened up whaling and ocean shipping. In 1878, Gales Ferry became the home to the Harvard-Yale Regatta, the country's oldest intercollegiate athletic event. It remains today with both universities establishing boathouses and training camps.

Ledyard, as you all may know, is the home of the Pequot Museum and Research Center and the Foxwood Resort Casino. Take your 169 Club book when you go to the casino and get it signed.

Montville, the home to Mohegan Sun Casino, is the sum of its parts and more. Within the borders of the Town of Montville are distinctive communities of Palmerton, Oakdale, Mohegan, Chesterfield and Uncasville. It's interesting to note that the Mohegans arrived in the area shortly before the English having lived in upstate New York. As Uncas as the leader of the Mohegans, they established agriculture along the banks of the Thames. They formed an alliance with the English which proved beneficial in 1645 when the Narragansett warriors, from what is now Rhode Island, surrounded the village in an attempt to starve them out.

Under cover of night, Uncas sent a scout to the English settlement at Saybrook, asking for help which arrived to end the siege. Thomas Leffingwell, a friend of Chief Uncas, risked his life coming to the rescue. Leffingwell, an English immigrant and early settler of Old Saybrook was co-founder of Norwich and some say that he was the in-

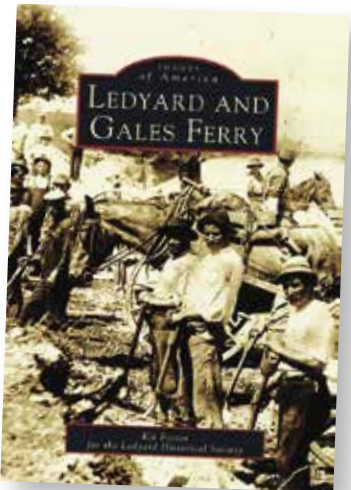
spiration for the character Hawkeye in James Fenimore Cooper's book, "Last of the Mohicans." His prowess as a soldier in King Phillip's War can only be understood by the details of his life, member of the Connecticut Legislature, a member of the council in fighting King James in his attempt to return the colony of Connecticut to English jurisdiction, surveyor of the wilderness and friend to Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans. Native American presence is more prominent in Montville than it is in any other Connecticut Community. The Orange Historical Society is proud to display a sampler by Sally Leffingwell.

Originally called Pequot Harbor after the Pequot Native Americans, the name New London became the name for this small city on the banks of the Thames River where it meets Long Island Sound. Founded in 1646, Pequot Harbor was deep enough to handle large ocean-going ships in addition to pleasure craft. The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is located there and across the Thames is, you guessed it, the U.S. Navy's submarine force. During the Revolutionary War, the town was home to numerous privateers who successfully raided British shipping.

When Britain learned of this effort it sent our once heroic, but disillusioned Benedict Arnold to destroy the town and destroy it he did. It is said

that while the town was burning, several British Officers were eating a noon-time meal at the Hempstead House.

Well, this ends our tour of New London County. I know winter is nye but you can bundle up and travel the roads of Connecticut with your 169 Book in hand as you travel through this interesting county. Don't forget to get it signed.



Wishing you and your family
a warm holiday season!

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