

The Orange Times

When there's better writing, there's better reading.

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December 14, 2017

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Orange TP&Z Approves TODD

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

The Orange Town Planning & Zoning Commission ended a year-long process Dec. 5 with a vote to create a Transit Oriented Development District that would set the town up to take advantage of a future train station.

The commission's vote was ultimately unanimous to approve amendments to Orange's zoning regulations as well as the Plan of Conservation & Development. A separate proposed change to the zoning map was left open until the next meeting, but is expected to be similarly accepted.

The new regulations will allow for denser residential and commercial development in an area that's currently zoned as light industrial.

Transit-oriented development entails building a mixture of walkable residential and commercial properties in close proximity to public transportation. It's popular among municipalities seeking to attract young professionals and families.

Orange's own TODD may never come to pass, however. The effort to create the district was spurred primarily by the expectation that the state would move forward with building a Metro North train station on Marsh Hill Road – an idea that has been in the works on some level since at least the late 1990s. The TP&Z regulations stipulate that the TODD will not be built unless the station is.

The Connecticut State Bond Commission approved \$21 million in funding for design work on the station in February, but the station is far from a reality and could be further delayed by the state's ongoing fiscal problems.

TP&Z members have been cognizant of how hypothetical the new district might be. During a discussion on the changes in November, commissioner Judy Smith said she's seen little need for a train station since one was completed in neighboring West Haven in 2013.

The TODD discussions have not been without controversy. For months while public hearings were being held, Dichello Distributors, which

Orange Community Thanksgiving Service



Pictured from left to right, 2nd row: Rev. Peter Orfanakos (Greek Orthodox Church), Rabbi Michael Farbman (Temple Emanuel). 1st row: Rev. Suzanne Wagner (Orange Congregational Church), Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus (Congregation Or Shalom), Imam Bachir Djehiche (New Haven Islamic Center), Rev. Norman Brockett (Holy Infant Church) and Rev. Diana Rogers (Church of the Good Shepherd).

On Sunday evening, Nov. 19, it was Congregation Or Shalom's turn to host the annual Orange Thanksgiving service. Over 250 people of all faiths participated. The service featured an interfaith children's choir, led by Bryan Campbell and Cindy Chandler of the Orange Congregation

Church. Donations went to the Orange Food Pantry & Fuel Assistance Fund. Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, spiritual leader of Congregation Or Shalom said, "The wonderful feeling of unity we enjoy here tonight is sorely needed in our country. In fact, it's what America is all about!"

is located within the proposed district, argued that the commission was holding back too much on the amount of development it would allow, calling the plan "half a TODD."

Even on the last night of the process, the commissioners didn't seem to be entirely satisfied with the new regulations.

"Where we are is better than where you started," said commissioner Kevin Cornell. "The developer part of my experience says that the actual ratios we're considering adopting will prove to be too challenging to most developers."

The commission had earlier entertained the idea of allowing a cap of 500 residential units in the zone, but eventually settled on 250. Chair Ozzie Parente left himself open to the idea of going over

the cap in the future "if the right project came in."

Smith agreed, but said she preferred the lower threshold. "If we set it at 500," she said, "that's what we'd be looking at."

There was some doubt about what would happen to land in the zone if a project didn't come to fruition under the TODD rules. Cornell pointed out that the language didn't explicitly say if it would revert to its original LI2 status. The other members agreed that the omission was less than ideal, but said the intent was to have the land revert to LI2 and that they'd be inclined to interpret the regulations that way.

As the vote came, Parente joked, "I don't know what we're going to do if we don't have this to talk about anymore."

Slossberg Disappointed Over Silver Sands Development



Photo Courtesy of Randal J.

Senator Gayle Slossberg, D-Milford, released the following statement Nov. 29 regarding the State Bond Commission's decision to approve over \$9.1 million for construction on Silver Sands State Park in Milford:

"Today's decision was deeply disappointing, but not at all surprising. This project has been widely opposed from the beginning, and that opposition has consistently been ignored. The simple fact is that no one wants this project and the State of Connecticut cannot afford it.

"People from within my district and other communities in Connecticut joined me at Silver Sands yesterday to express their opposition to

this ill-conceived project. They know that the significant construction being pushed through by the state of Connecticut will ruin the tranquil appeal of this beach, which draws visitors from around all the state. Paving over and building on a natural environment does not improve it; it ruins it. Silver Sands is unique in its character, and the proposed construction will ruin that, turning it into the kind of cookie cutter beach that we do not need more of. If people want to go to that beach, they can, but they come to Silver Sands seeking a purely natural environment in which to relax. The state is willing to spend over \$9.1 million to take that away.

"This construction is not right for Silver Sands,

and it is not right for Connecticut. Our state continues to face serious financial hardships and deficits. State funds should be invested in our schools, our transportation infrastructure, our social safety net, or any other item that will help move this state forward. Spending such a large amount on an unwanted and unneeded construction project at a state park is irresponsible.

"Today's decision is disappointing, but it does not change the commitment of myself and others around Connecticut to fighting this construction. We will continue to work to identify ways to stop the damage this project will do to Silver Sands State Park."

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News & Events

Rotary Distributes Dictionaries To Third-Graders

Milford Rotary Club and Devon Rotary Club partner each year to distribute a brand-new dictionary to each public and parochial school third-grader in Milford. As they do each year, Rotarians delivered them this November to the classrooms and shared a bit about Rotary's philosophy of living life with integrity and service. The children and teachers were all excited to receive their dictionaries, and many teachers shared they would be using them in their lessons on that very day.



Photo credit R. Persi
From left: Milford Rotarians Bill Parry III, Shaileen Landsberg, and Sam Bergami III

Orange's New Library Director Named

Kathy Giotsas has been named the new director for Orange's Case Memorial Library. She replaces Meryl Farber, who is retiring Dec. 1. In a statement Tuesday, Giotsas said, "It is great coming back to Connecticut and I am very excited in starting my new position at the Case Memorial Library. Meryl Farber has done a fantastic job as the Library Director for many years and I hope to expand on those services. I am looking forward in hearing

from everyone in the community as we embark on creating a new strategic plan for the library. The great library staff and I are at your services to meet your library needs."



'Pints & Politics'

House Republican Leader Themis Klarides, R-114, along with State Reps. Pam Staneski, R-119, and Charles Ferraro, R-117, are co-hosting a 'Pints and Politics' legislative conversation for all Orange and Milford residents. The three legislators want Orange and Milford residents to enjoy a casual setting and ask any questions they might have regarding the just-adopted state budget, the

upcoming 2018 legislative session, or any state issues of interest to them. The event will be held Monday, Dec. 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at SBC Restaurant & Beer Bar at 33 New Haven Ave. in Milford. The legislative conversation is a cash bar event. For anyone who is unable to attend but would like to talk to Klarides, Staneski or Ferraro, please contact their office at 1-800-842-1423.



From left: Themis Klarides, Charles Ferraro, Pam Staneski

Toys For Tots

Milford Professional Firefighters joined Santa, the Mayor, City Clerk, and Fire Chiefs today at City Hall to officially kick-off the 2017 Toys for Tots in Milford. For donations to the Toys for Tots Program, please bring a new, unwrapped toy, book, or game to any Milford Fire Station, the Milford's City Clerks' Office,

Café Atlantique, Give a Dog a Bath, US Remodeling or Matties Auto. Checks may be mailed to Milford Professional Firefighters, Toys for Tots, 980 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460. This program, sponsored by Milford Professional Firefighters Association, Local 944, supports over 300 Milford families each year.





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Opinion & Editorial

In The House:

New DMV



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

Our region over the past two years has taken a blow from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's failure to reach an agreement with AAA, and most recently with the Department of Motor Vehicles shutting down the Derby and Milford offices. But I am excited to finally report good news about the DMV this month. The department will be entering into a new partnership with the West Haven Chamber of Commerce and the City of West Haven to open a Customer Service Center at the West Haven City Hall.

The City of West Haven has signed a three-year agreement with the DMV, and a subcontract with the West Haven Chamber to operate the facility. The chamber is currently in the hiring part-time staff who will be trained and will have a background check before being hired, which will take six to eight weeks.

The chamber's goal is to have this new service station up and running by February. At the start, the center will be open Wednesday and Thursday with an option on Friday. The times are still to be determined, but according to the chamber, they are aiming to have the center open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This first-of-its-kind partnership is a major plus for our communities and will cost taxpayers' very little to get quality DMV services locally. To pay for the operations of the center, the chamber will be charging a small \$5 convenience fee.

I want to thank my colleague Rep. Dorinda Borer and the West Haven Chamber for their proactive approach in teaming up with the DMV to have a customer service center open in our backyard.

For more information about the new partnership, visit www.ct.gov/dmv. To stay in the know, please follow me on Facebook and Twitter @RepFerraro. Sign up for my email updates at RepFerraro.com.

Have a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year.

Medicare



STATE SEN. (D-14)
GAYLE SLOSSBERG

Many of you have contacted my office regarding changes to the eligibility requirements to the Medicare Savings Program. Thanks to your advocacy, I'm happy to announce that the Department of Social Services has announced its intention to delay the implementation of eligibility reductions to the program past Jan. 1, 2018. This means that eligibility requirements will not change on Jan. 1 as was previously announced. DSS plans to explore alternatives that could provide coverage to people who will not meet the new eligibility requirements. The agency expects that their study of the issue will take at least two months.

In the meantime, I am working with my colleagues in the legislature to find solutions to ensure state residents are not left without necessary healthcare as a result of the changes made to the income eligibility requirements in the bipartisan budget. No final decisions have been made yet, but I will continue to update you on our work as the discussions progress.

The Medicare Savings Program offers financial assistance to eligible Medicare enrollees. Connecticut pays into the Medicare Savings Program to extend its eligibility to more people than most states. The bipartisan budget changed the income eligibility requirements so that Medicare recipients making up to 135 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible to participate in the program. This is a significant reduction in eligibility, made in response to Connecticut's ongoing financial struggles. However, we are still one of only a few states that extend eligibility to Medicare recipients making more than the federal poverty level.

While changes to the plan have been delayed, the new eligibility requirements could still impact over 110,000 Connecticut residents. This impact may not be a loss of coverage, but rather a transition to a different program based on income.

I will continue working to advocate on your behalf on this and other issues. However, if you are concerned about your Medicare status, there are things you can do today. Call 2-1-1 to speak to a trained professional about what options may be best for you. Alternatively, you can call CHOICES, an organization that provides Medicare coverage assistance to seniors and persons with disabilities. CHOICES can be reached at 1-800-944-9422. Finally, consider visiting the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut, located at 1 Long Wharf Drive, Suite 1L, in New Haven. You can also call them at 203-785-8873.

Thank you to everyone who called my office to speak about this important issue. I always appreciate hearing directly from you so that I can better advocate on your behalf. I will continue to keep you updated on this and other important issues facing our state, and in the meantime I hope that you and your loved ones will have a safe and warm holiday season and a happy New Year.

Opioid Abuse



STATE REP. (R-119)
PAM STANESKI

As Connecticut communities continue to deal with increased emergency room visits and drug overdose deaths caused by the opioid epidemic, the legislature, in an effort to help curb this crisis, amended and enacted several laws during the 2017 session.

Narcan is an opioid antagonist that can reverse an opioid drug overdose. In 2017, Connecticut amended the law on prescriptions for Narcan to allow a physician to prescribe, and a pharmacist to dispense, the antagonist to a family member, friend, or other person who would be in a position to aid a person at risk of an overdose.

Coverage for substance use disorder by certain individual and group health insurance policies will now be required to be covered if medically necessary. These include inpatient detoxification services that are medically managed, and will apply to all health insurance policies issued in Connecticut with one exception: self-insured benefit plans that are exempt from state mandates because of federal laws.

Legislation was also passed this session that requires the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Policy Council to develop a one-page fact sheet on opioid drugs that includes the risks of opioid drug use, the symptoms of opioid use disorders, and available services in Connecticut for those experiencing these symptoms. The sheet will be available on the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services website.

As part of the public education initiative, there will be more public service announcements on the risks of opioid use. Along with the PSA campaign, DMHAS has just rolled out a new link on their webpage that shows the current availability of substance use disorder treatment beds: www.ctaddictionservices.com.

This new website link can help those in need of a bed to begin their recovery immediately without the past practice that involved those making phone call after phone call, with many giving up after several "no vacancy" answers. Facilities are required to update their bed availability throughout the day.

With almost 1,000 drug overdose deaths this year, these are just a few of the steps Connecticut has taken in the hope that more people will choose to fight their addiction.

If you or a loved one is battling addiction, please consider calling the DMHAS ACCESS LINE at 1-800-563-4086 for help. It is manned 24/7.

As always I am available to discuss this or any matter of importance to you.

Silver Sands



STATE REP. (D-118)
KIM ROSE

Many state residents enjoy the pristine Silver Sands State Park every year for its wonderful, natural-state quality – a quality sorely lacking in other shoreline parks. It is one of the main reasons visitors are attracted to this Connecticut gem, with thousands making the trip to experience the park's undeveloped beauty.

Milford residents who are intimately familiar with this property are fighting to keep it the way it is and not overdevelop it. For these reasons I am against a plan purportedly intended to provide better services. The \$9 million plan that was recently approved by the State Bond Commission includes additional facilities that will turn it into a commercialized version of a park we feel is already beautiful and functional.

This development is not needed – if there was such a need, there wouldn't be the consistent popular interest in visiting. However, over 250,000 people visit each year, and the park reaches capacity almost every weekend, with cars being turned away. Overdeveloping it will negatively affect the small local businesses that are frequented by beach goers.

The project's potential effects on the environment, local community and the safety of the public cannot be understated. It's especially important to note they are using an outdated Environmental Impact Evaluation that may be underestimating the damage the construction project will have on local plants and wildlife. At the very least, we should give additional time to work with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to reach an agreement on the best way to proceed.

I worked hard to address this issue by helping to introduce legislation last session that sought to put a moratorium on this construction project until it received local approval. The measure, however, was unable to pass due to a last-minute amendment that changed the bill on the last night of session. I lobbied colleagues and members of the State Bond Commission to oppose or table the funding. I testified verbally and in writing, in addition to others who testified, all to no avail.

I am pleased that I have a commitment from the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee that we will work on this legislatively next session through the Committee. I will make sure to emphasize that we would be happy to discuss restrooms, but there is no need for anything in addition to those facilities.

The Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher:
publisher@theorangetimes.com

Patricia Miller, Entertainment Editor:
patmiller605@sbcglobal.net

Brandon T. Bisceglia, Associate Editor:
brandontbisceglia@yahoo.com

Photographers: Steve Cooper • Lexi Crocco

In The House:

Rep. Themis Klarides (R-114) • Rep. Kim Rose (D-118)
Rep. Pam Staneski (R-119) • Rep. Charles Ferraro (R-117)

Senator's Seat: Sen. Gayle Slossberg (D-14)

Columnists:

Joanne Byrne, Retirement
Allison DePaola, Legal
Pat Dray, Gardening
Mark Fagan, Restaurant
Steven Floman, Legal
Peter Hechtman, Books
Barbara Lehrer, Real Estate
James Maroney, SAT Prep
Annmarie Mastrangelo, Flooring
Marianne Miller, Lions Club
Karen Panzer, Travel
Trish Pearson, Insurance
Tedra Schneider, Interior Design
Raymond Spaziani, Wine
Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Legal
Eric Tashlein, Finances
Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Roger Tausig, Rotary Club
Michele Tenney, Health
Shailen Landsberg, Volunteers
Trish O'Leary Treat, Profiles

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Salvation Army



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

The clang, clang, clang is in the air again this holiday season, the reminder that the little things that we can do for one another as we go about our busy schedules can make big differences in others' lives.

This column typically deals with politics and government, and in trying to keep readers informed of what is going on in Hartford and how it will affect the residents of my district and the rest of Connecticut. Not so with this issue.

Each year I, along with scores of others throughout our little area of Connecticut we

call the Naugatuck Valley, ring the bells for the Salvation Army holiday fundraising effort. The money that goes into the red kettles that are placed outside shopping malls and stores goes directly to the Salvation Army accounts.

The organization was started more than 150 years ago in London by a minister and his wife to help the poor and destitute. It was brought to America in 1880, and has been working to aid those in need ever since. We all feel better from volunteering our time to such a worthy cause, and in knowing the money raised goes directly to the Salvation Army. When you spot those kettles and hear the bells ringing, please consider making a donation and pause to reflect on what great work this organization does.

It is so important.

Giving Back

Rotary Makes Medical Equipment Available



By Roger Tausig

I have written in this column over the past several months about the many ways that Rotary Club of Orange helps to support the needs of people locally, regionally and internationally. Some of our many programs are one-time annual events, such as Operation Warm, during which we donate new winter coats to schools in the surrounding towns for distribution to children who otherwise do not own adequate winter coats. Another is our annual program where we distribute dictionaries and story books to the three local Orange elementary schools. These are just a few of the many annual, one-time community service projects that ROC undertakes to meet the needs of our community and surrounding towns.

There are lesser-known, yet equally important programs that we operate that fill important gaps for those in need. One such program is our medical equipment service, which we provide at no charge. A few years ago, a town citizen called ROC and indicated she had a wheelchair that

she no longer needed, and asked if Orange Rotary would be interested in accepting it as a donation. We responded “Yes!” and picked the item up from the donor.

That one action prompted us to consider providing an ongoing service of accepting donations of unneeded or surplus medical equipment and offering it to local residents in need of such items. We decided to publicize this to make it known that we were available to collect medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, shower chairs, portable toilets, and other items and redistribute them to area residents who call and let us know they have a need.

It has been a few years since Orange Rotary has taken on this service and has helped many area residents who contacted us. Conversely, we are occasionally contacted by people who are aware of this program and who have items that they no longer have any use for. We have done this in a relatively quiet way for the past few years and feel it is important to publicly announce the program again.

If you or a person that you know needs any of the items that we offer, we would love to hear from you. If you are in possession of equipment that you no longer need, we would be happy to pick it up from you and add it to our collection. Again, there are no fees associated with this program for recipients or donors.

To inquire about availability or request an item for delivery, or to donate items, please contact the Town of Orange Parks and Recreation Department at 203-891-4790, or Orange Rotarian Don Lewis at 203-795-3486.

Lions Pride Through The Holidays



by Marianne Miller
Special to The Orange Times

The Orange Lions Club hosted its fantastic Thanksgiving Dinner for the twenty-ninth year on Sunday, Nov. 26 at High Plains Community Center. With chairpersons Ann Carollo and Harold Cavallaro – who have been at the helm for the past 21 years – in attendance, the gym was lit up with smiling and thankful participants. We served a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings that Orange Lions Club members prepared for over 180 people. We are very grateful to Jeff Chandler, owner of Julia’s Bakery, for not only cooking our turkeys in his ovens, but for donating all the rolls and a delicious variety of pies.

Servers included Boy Scouts from Troop 925 along with Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, server extraordinaire. The entertainment was provided by the one and only “Vinnie Carr.” Thanks also to Orange Community Services and to all who helped or attended, leading to another successful day.

We hope everyone who visited the Lions at the Stone Otis House for hot chocolate during the festivities on the Town Green last Sunday, Dec. 3, enjoyed themselves. Thanks

go to Lions George Lesko and Lawrence Messina for doing that.

Don’t forget to visit High Plains Community Center and vote for your favorite decorated door. Thanks to Lions Marion Nugent, Lea Turner, and Betty Hadlock, the Lions door decorators.

A festival of trees was held on Dec. 5 at Maplewood Senior and Assisted Living Facility of Orange. The Lions donated an adorable tree for bidding. It was decorated with many stuffed lions and ornaments. The event benefited the Community Assistance Program that aids our residents in need of fuel assistance. Thank you to all the businesses, the Maplewood staff, and Orange Community Services. This was a fun and exciting evening.

Our Lions Club will be conducting free vision screenings of our Mary L. Tracy kindergarteners with a precise camera system that can detect eye defects and vision problems at an early age. We have already screened the preschoolers of Orange. Thank you to chairperson Betty Hadlock.

A new service has been added by Lion President Fred Turner. The Lions will pick up Orange residents’ dried out Christmas trees curbside and turn them into mulch. Pick up dates are Saturday, Jan. 6 and Saturday, Jan. 13. Call 203-389-4866 to sign up. No more needles and sap in the trunk. No more waiting in line at the dump. Just donate \$15 for this service, the proceeds of which will go to Lions charities.

Don’t forget to save the date of Friday, March 16, 2018 for our Wine Tasting extravaganza at the St. Barbara’s Greek Church hall.

For more information about the Lions or how to become a member call me at 203-795-3906.

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Letters To The Editor:

To the Editor:
The holidays are a time to surround yourself with family and friends, eat seasonal treats, and toast what’s to come. Help keep the celebrations going and #GiveADamn about the safety of your family, friends and community this holiday season.

If you choose to celebrate the holidays with a “cheers,” always remember to drink responsibly and plan ahead to use a ride share service, designated driver, or public transportation to get to and from your destination safely.

Drunk driving is 100 percent preventable and it’s up to you to do your part this holiday season to keep our roads safe. That’s why we’re joining Budweiser to celebrate the holidays by reminding everyone to plan ahead for a safe ride home from his or her holiday celebrations.

Over the past 35 years, Anheuser-Busch and its wholesaler partners have invested more than \$1 billion in the United States to promote alcohol responsibility and reduce drunk driving, and we are looking forward to continuing this effort through 2018 and beyond.

From everyone at Dichello Distributors, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

Tonty Lota
Alcohol Awareness Coordinator,
Dichello Distributors, Inc.

To the Editor:
I would like to thank the many residents who took the time to come out and vote on Election Day.

I feel quite fortunate to be re-elected to the Board of Selectmen and appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve our community. I remain passionate about the Town of Orange and will always speak up for what I feel is right. I also look forward to continuing to work with the entire board and I congratulate each of them on their re-election, as well.

As one of your selectmen, I urge all residents to feel free to contact me at any time with questions, concerns, or ideas about our town.

I am humbled by your support and look forward to serving my thirteenth term on the Orange Board of Selectmen with pride, conviction, and integrity.

Mitchell R. Goldblatt
Orange Board of Selectmen



Recycling Tips



Paint recycling available! Bring old latex or oil-based paint in containers up to 5 gallons to the Orange Transfer Station for recycling. Stop at the booth and they’ll direct you to the designated area. You do NOT need to empty the cans first! “Like” us on Facebook bit.ly/ORC-Facebook to get updates on recycling opportunities or visit our website bit.ly/OrangeRecycling.

Arts & Entertainment

“Art is the lie that enables us to realize the truth.” –Pablo Picasso

by Patricia Miller

OACC’S Eighth YOUTH CONCERT, held Nov. 19 at the Miford Art Center’s East bound Theatre, was a smashing success. The young performers, ranging in age from age seven to age 18, delivered performances that prompted enthusiastic reactions as well as standing ovations. They all were outstanding, and the audience reactions underscored the point. There is a wealth of talent in our area, and the Orange Arts and Culture Council is proud to showcase that talent so that it can be shared and appreciated by the community. The Youth Concert has been an annual event for the past eight years. Some artists have performed in two or more of the concerts. Each year there are others who are new to us. It is gratifying to see the development of our returning performers and exciting to discover new talent: singers, actors, composers, dancers, young people exploring any aspect of the performing arts. If you haven’t yet attended any of these concerts, make a point to do so next year. You won’t be disappointed.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd.) continues the showing of the work of five Amity High School students: Erica Chen, Francesca Giannattasio, Anisha Jain, Puja Sinha, and Rachana Yetakuri. These young women have been studying watercolor for several years with Audrey Galer, who describes them as unusually skilled, all displaying exceptional talent. Here is yet another example of the accomplishment of our youth. Don’t miss this show. It is available for viewing during regular library hours (except when there is a program scheduled in the Meeting Room). The Case Memorial Library is open Monday and Thursday from noon to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

ARTSPAPER COVERART CONTEST is being sponsored by the Arts Council of Greater New Haven. The idea is to spruce up the covers of the bi-monthly Arts Papers sent to all Arts Council members. This is a new initiative to highlight the work of local artists. Works selected will have a solo appearance on the cover of the region’s only all-arts newspaper. There will be 10 works selected – one for each issue. To submit work for this contest, bring it to the Arts Council Headquarters on the second floor of 70 Audubon St. in New Haven. All mediums are acceptable. Artworks accepted must be donated to the Arts Council. Artworks not selected will be ready for pick up 30 days after the date of submission. There is no deadline; art is accepted and published on a year-long, rolling basis. If a submission has a seasonal or holiday theme, check the editorial calendar at newhavenarts.org. It’s best to submit early in the year. For questions and submissions, contact lucy@newhavenarts.org or communications@newhavenarts.org.

ARGUS QUARTET FELLOWSHIP CONCERT (1080 Chapel St., New Haven) will take place Thursday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at the Yale Center for British Art. The Argus was Artist in Residence at the Yale School of Music from 2015 to 2017. This dynamic and versatile group is committed to reinvigorating the audience-performer relationship through innovative concerts and a diverse repertoire. The program will consist of music by Haydn and Mendelsohn, as well as a newly commissioned work by Juri Seo. The concert is free and open to the public.



Photo By Lexi Crocco
Young performers prompted enthusiastic reactions as well as standing ovations at the Orange Arts and Culture Council' Eighth Annual Youth Concert Nov. 19 at the Miford Art Center's East bound Theatre. From left: Jason Chen, Julie Chen, Timothy Harrell, Conor Wall, Kyla Hackett, Emily Kilian, Lily Stockwell, Talya Braverman, Brynn Weirsmann and Hallie Syrop.

THIRTEEN/NORTHERN LIGHTS (54 Broadway, New Haven) concert is on Friday, Dec. 15 at Christ Church from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. This candlelit concert is from The Yale Institute of Sacred Music and will transport the audience to the exposed landscapes of the far north with works by Scandinavian, Baltic and New Haven Composers. There also will be renditions of many holiday favorites, as well as Thirteen’s own arrangement of Silent Night. This open to the public, free concert is not to be missed. For more information, call 203-432-5052.

YALE REPERTORY THEATRE (91120 Chapel St., New Haven) continues the run of *Native Son* through Saturday, Dec. 16. The stage version is an adaptation of the ground-breaking novel by Richard Wright. Set in Chicago’s South Side, the play graphically chronicles the efforts of a young black man, struggling to find and make his place in an inhospitable world. This is a powerful play. One cannot avoid becoming intensely involved in the performance of this iconic work. There are only a few days left to have a theatrical experience to remember. For tickets, call 203-432-1234 or go to yalerep.org.

PANTOCHINO PRODUCTIONS (MAC – 40 S. Railroad Ave., Milford) continues the run of *School for Elves* through Sunday, Dec. 16. The company’s original musical takes children and adults alike to the Far North, where Santa’s Yule School is training new recruits for Santa’s team. It is the happiest holiday musical of the season. For tickets, call 203-937-6206 or go to pantochino.com.

NEW HAVEN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA (500 College St., New Haven) presents *Holiday Extravaganza* at Woolsey Hall Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:30 p.m. This holiday celebration is filled with classics such as *Winter Wonderland*, *White Christmas*, *Sleigh Ride*, and much more. The popular and dynamic Chelsea Tipton, NHSO Pops Conductor, will conduct. For a night of music and nostalgia, as well as a few surprises, celebrate the holiday season with the NHSO.

HOP THE BUS with the OACC on the trip to Woolsey Hall for the *Holiday Extravaganza* concert on Dec. 21. The bus will leave High Plains Community Center at 6:45 p.m. and will return after the concert.

The OACC is grateful to the Orange Foundation for its support in this service to our community. The bus drops passengers off right in front of Woolsey Hall and picks them up there again. Join the group of concertgoers and take a convenient ride to hear some great music. OACC considers this service a valuable perk for Orange residents. To reserve a seat on the bus, call 203-397-8915.

SHUBERT THEATRE (247 College St., New Haven) presents two performances of *Pinkalicious*, The Musical, Friday, Dec. 29, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. This musical is based on the best-selling children’s book, *Pinkalicious*, by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann. For tickets, go to the box office, call 203-562-5666 or 888-734-2663, or go to shubert.com.

SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS (100 East Main St., Waterbury) returns to Connecticut with an all-new 2018 show at The Palace Theater Dec. 22 and 23. Shen Yun presents the rich, profound culture of classical China in all its authenticity. Decades of Communist suppression had left the culture scarred and impoverished. In 2006, a group of elite Chinese artists came together in New York, united by a mission: to revive their cultural heritage and to share it with the world. A decade later, the success of their mission is realized in Shen Yun’s deeply moving and beautiful works – an inspiration to the world. Shen Yun is accompanied by a live orchestra. Shen Yun promises “profound wisdom and divine beauty.” For tickets call 888-974-3698 or 203-022-2338, or go to ShenYun.com/Waterbury.

RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE (80 East Ridge, Ridgefield) offers *The Rockapelia Holiday* on Sunday, Dec. 17. *Rockapelia*’s golden voices will sing you home for the holidays. On Saturday, Dec. 30, *The Oak Boys Christmas Celebration* will feature the Oak Boys in traditional, contemporary and holiday tunes. Call 203-438-5795 or go to ridgefieldplayhouse.org.

FIREHOUSE GALLERY (81 Naugatuck Ave., Milford), part of the Milford Arts Center issues a call for artists for its “Go Figure” exhibition. Receiving dates are Jan. 5, 6, and 7. For a prospectus, go to <http://milfordarts.org/firehouseart-gallery/exhibits/>.

KEHLER LIDDELL GALLERY (873 Whalley Ave., New Haven) features an exhibition titled “Deck the Walls” through Dec. 23. Artists participating in this show include Lia Antle, Robert Bienstock, Edith Borax Morrison, Amy Browning, Frank Bruckman, Penrhyn Cook, Rob Cook, Tom Edwards, Brian Flinn, Julie Frankel, Matthew Garren, Joan Jacobson Zamare, Sven Martson, Ray Money, Hank Paper, Alan Shulk, Mark K. St. Mary, Gar Waterman and Marjorie Wolfe. The gallery is open Monday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment. The gallery can be reached at 203-389-9555 or kehlerriddell.com.

GOLD STAR, the movie written, produced, and directed by Orange native Victoria Negri, is now out in theaters and on Amazon. Negri, who also starred in the film with actor Robert Vaughn, says, “This month has been a whirlwind for the *Gold Star* team. The film has been released to theaters and on video on demand via Turn Key Films. We had a week-long packed theatrical release in New York City at the historic Cinema Village Theater in Greenwich Village and played in Los Angeles and Boston. The film is receiving rave reviews from both critics and viewers, and we’re thrilled that Robert Vaughn’s final performance is getting the attention it deserves.” OACC sponsored the Orange premiere of the film in the fall. The Case Memorial Library was filled to capacity, and the response from the audience was very positive.

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART (52 Lexington St., New Britain) displays the work of Harry Everett Townsend in “Illustrations of a World War I Artist” through Jan. 7. The New Britain Museum has partnered with The Connecticut State Museum and the New Britain Industrial Museum to present this exhibit. The exhibit commemorates the centenary of America’s entrance into WWI and marks the inaugural showing of NBMAA’s historic and rare collection of Townsend’s war sketches. He was one of eight official combat artists commissioned by the American Expeditionary Force to illustrate World War I for the broader American public. Townsend spent nearly a year in France between 1918 and 1919, observing the rigors of war and the advent of industrial combat. The Harry Everett Townsend collection consists of over 300 graphite sketches, ink drawings, and watercolors that the artist made as he moved through trenches, battlefields, and army bases. These preliminary field sketches were the basis for the more developed, refined and carefully crafted depictions of war that were submitted to the AEF for circulation on the home front. Through never-before displayed collections of work, this exhibit chronicles a moment in history that changed our world forever. Created on the battlefield, these depictions of machines and the human toll of war will present the intensity of combat with a unique, raw immediacy.

THE INSTITUTE LIBRARY (847 Chapel St., New Haven) announces *Listen Here* on Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. Actors from The New Haven Theatre Company will read *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* by Raymond Carver and *Mr. Sweetly Indecent* by Bliss Broyard. Tea, hot chocolate and freshly baked cookies will accompany the talk-back after the readings. To register, contact home@institutelibrary.org.

Have an event, an idea, a comment? Send it to patmiller605@sbcbglobal.net.

Wine Talk:

Wines For The Holidays

With the holidays fast approaching, there are many preparations to be made and many alternatives to consider. It is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends and gather together with those we love.

A northern Italian tradition that my family has adopted is to begin our holiday festivities with a light, refreshing glass of a wonderful sparkling wine called Prosecco. This wine is from the Venito region of Italy, which is the right corner of the Alps where Italy borders Yugoslavia near Trieste. In the middle of the region is a village called Prosecco where the wine gets its name from. This is where the grape Glera is grown. The wine can be made “Spumante,” which is sparkling, “Frizzante” or semi-sparkling, and “Tranquillo,” which is a still wine. The wine is white, and 85 percent of the grape variety is Glera. However, many other white grapes can be included in the other 15 percent depending upon the style chosen by the wine maker.



RAYMOND
SPAZIANI

Unlike champagne, most Prosecco is produced by the method called Charmat-Martinotti. This is a method where the secondary fermentation that gives the wine its sparkle is produced in a stainless-steel tank. This wine is given the designation DOC. This is much less expensive than the champagne method, where the secondary fermentation is done in the bottle. In the champagne method a still wine is produced and then a small amount of sugar and yeast are added to the still wine, causing a secondary fermentation in the bottle. The wine must be riddled or turned so all the debris from the secondary fermentation falls into the neck of the bottle. Then the neck is frozen, and the wine is disgorged or the bottle is opened and the frozen wine containing the debris is disposed of. The champagne is topped off and corked. This method is very labor-intensive and much more expensive than a secondary fermentation done in a large tank.

Prosecco Conegliano Valdobbiadene Superiore DOCG (try saying that three times fast) is made in a small region of Venito where the grapes are all harvested by hand between the two towns of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene. The quality of this wine is spectacular. The wine is produced Metodo Classico. This is the same as the champagne method described above. This wine is a labor of love and is subtler and a little crisper and more delicate than the DOC wine. It’s more labor intensive and more expensive.

I recently attended a lecture and wine tasting of Prosecco wines at the American Wine Society Conference held in the Poconos. We tried four prosecco wines and two grappas made from the skins the Glera grape. The first three Prosecco wines were DOC wines and were made with 85 percent Glera. One was 15 percent Pino Blanc. The next was 15 percent Chardonnay, and the third was 15 percent Pinot Grigio. All three were very nice wines; they had some small differences, and it was difficult to determine the other grapes used in the wine. The forth Prosecco was a DOCG wine, and the label Superiore was well-earned. That one stood

out. The grappa made from the skins of the Glera grape variety was terrific. It made regular grappa taste like gasoline. When they make grappa, they take the skins after pressing and distill them. It makes a very high-alcohol beverage.

Ray’s wine deals: Gerard Bertrand Terroir Languedoc 2014 Blend of Syrah and Grenache 90 points Wine Spectator 100 top values of 2016 in Big Reds. Buy This Wine. At 10 bucks it is a steal. Buy a case if you can. Costco, Total Wines and many others have it. It drinks like a \$30 wine. Have some Prosecco Superior during this holiday season. You will be glad you did!

Ray Spaziani is the Chapter Director of the New Haven Chapter of the American Wine Society. He teaches wine appreciation classes at Gateway Community College and for the Milford Board of Education Adult Ed Program, and is a member of the International Tasting Panel of Amenti Del Vino and Wine Maker Magazine. He is an award-winning home wine maker. Email Ray with your wine questions and wine events at Realestatepro1000@gmail.com

The Book Club:

The Fall Of The House Of Golden

Salman Rushdie,
The Golden House,
Random House, 2017

The appearance of a new book by Salman Rushdie is, for this reviewer, a great treat. *Golden House* has a fast-moving plot, characters who are just at the margin of plausibility and much erudite speculation on the politics of identity.

Rushdie may have created the first post-Trumpian novel. The main character, Nero Golden, is a bombastic real estate mogul, with a sexy and perfectly toned Slavic wife and three hapless sons who are kept on short leashes. Any of that sound familiar? In addition, the place (Greenwich Village) and the time, the years leading up to the 2016



PETER
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presidential election in which a green-haired candidate (referred to as “The Joker”) with only an accidental relationship with the truth, is emerging as the top contender, give the novel a sense of the approaching apocalypse.

The Goldenes have emigrated (in a bit of a rush) from Bombay. In America, they are free to reinvent themselves. Is this not the land of the legendary second chance?

They become classical Roman figures. In addition to Nero-Julius, the father, there are Petronius (a.k.a. Petya), an autistic boy who creates video games, the artistic son Apu and the youngest, Dionysius, known simply as D. D’s sexual confusion is used as a springboard for the author to explore contemporary ideas about sexual identity.

The story of the fall of the House of Golden is told through a narrator character, Rene, an aspiring filmmaker, for whom the Golden family tragedies are “his story,” the subject of the planned cinematic masterpiece always evolving in his mind and causing him to report events as if viewed through a movie camera.

It is hard to imagine the combination of an author with the ambitions of Rushdie and a faux “great family” without a Greek tragedy waiting in the wings – as in “woe to the house of Atreus.” Indeed, the author creates a sense that doom is about to unfold this family, whose changes of name and venue fail to shield them from the debts they owe to the past. Apparently, Golden senior allowed himself to believe that one can be permitted to grow wealthy at the expense of gangsters without incurring any debts to them. This is what passes for hubris in our era.

There are several interesting subplots. One depicts, in clinical detail, the ruthless conquest of Nero by the devastatingly beautiful Vasilisa, a Russian prostitute, who first gains control of his heart, then his purse, and then his household. A second subplot concerns the sexual confusion of D, son number three.

If novels can be compared to paintings, then we can divide them into “portraits,” a group which delivers an intimate exploration of one, or a few, human souls and another group which attempts to describe an entire world – think of Dickens’s novels as Bruegel’s peasant scenes. *The Golden House* certainly belongs to the latter group: more difficult to read perhaps, but, for all that, very rewarding.

Peter Hechtman is the founder and owner of The Book Maven. Peter can be reached at thebookmaven@sympatico.ca.

On Your Mind:

Do You Have Insomnia?

Do you have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep? Do you take pills to help you sleep? Have you ever told yourself, “I can’t sleep?”

Sleeping is as normal as breathing. So, why do so many people have trouble doing it? Sleep is a habit like any other habit and can be changed if you are willing to do it.

Begin by telling yourself, “I can’t stay awake” instead of saying, “I can’t sleep.” Remember, your unconscious mind doesn’t know the difference between reality and fantasy. If you tell yourself you can’t sleep... you can’t sleep! And, of course, it’s not even true – everyone sleeps.

I have helped many clients with insomnia. There are the obvious things that effect sleep



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like caffeine, medications and work schedules, but the sleep issues I treat are mostly from stress and fear. Everyone has stress, but not everyone has trouble sleeping. If you don’t have coping skills, sleep can be affected. Coping skills can be learned. The fear or belief that you can’t sleep is the biggest culprit causing insomnia. Many people experience a bad

night’s sleep and then become afraid they will continue to have problems. What we think about comes about. Fear of not being able to sleep will keep you awake.

Unfortunately, doctors are quick to prescribe medications for sleep that are habit-forming or addictive. Wouldn’t it be nice if medication was the last resort for resolving sleep issues and people took responsibility for their

own habits? All hypnosis is self-hypnosis. Empower yourself by learning how to control your thoughts and eliminate negative beliefs.

There are things to learn about sleep that can help to make it easier to fall asleep or go back to sleep if woken during the night. There are a few things you can do to improve your sleep. Here are a few tips: Begin to plan to have a good night’s sleep. Expect it. Create a routine that begins at least a half hour before you want to be asleep. This routine should include writing a list of all the ‘to do’ things on your mind. When it’s on paper you won’t need think about it. Avoid caffeine, obviously, after 3 p.m. Establish a ‘sleep side’ of the bed where you know you fall asleep easily.

Use deep breathing when in bed, three times in for the count of five. Hold it for five and release slowly for the count of 10. This will slow down the heart rate, shut off the

adrenaline and relax your mind and body. If your mind continues to be too active, focus all your awareness on your breath. It’s impossible to focus your mind on more than one thing at a time. If your mind wanders, bring it back it your breathing and then focus on a word like “sleep” or “delete” to stop the unwanted thinking. The most common complaint I get is that it’s difficult to shut off the mind. It’s not difficult if you know how. Distracting your conscious mind with a single word like “sleep” or “delete” will do the trick.

If all else fails, on the home page of my website is a free video to hypnotize you to sleep. Use it regularly until you have corrected your habit. Learn self-hypnosis!

Fern is a certified hypnotist, lifecoach and health educator. She can be reached at www.myhealinghypnosis.com.

Home & Garden

The Garden Spot:

Poinsettia For The Holidays

The poinsettia, or Euphorbia pulcherrim, has been cultivated in Central America for centuries. In its native state it's a perennial shrub that can grow from five to 10 feet tall. The earliest known use was by the Aztecs, who grew the plants to make a purplish-colored dye from the bracts (the colorful, modified leaves) and used the white sap (which is actually latex) for the treatment of fevers. If you have a latex allergy, it's important not to come in to contact with the sap. You should also be



PAT
DRAY

sure to keep pets away. Although the plant is not poisonous, it may cause mild irritation, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea if your dog or cat eats the leaves. The future of poinsettias changed in 1828, when President James Madison's Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, saw the plants in the area of the small city of Taxco. He fell in love with the unique look of the poinsettia and sent some back to his home and greenhouse in Greenville, South Carolina.

He soon started to propagate them. The plant was shared among other propagators, and was first called poinsettia to honor Poinsett in the mid-1800s. There are currently over 100 varieties of poinsettia on the market. Most sold in the U.S. are grown in California. When shopping for poinsettia, keep in mind that they drop the bracts and leaves soon after the flowers have pollen. Look at the center where the actual yellow flower is, and choose one with as little pollen showing as possible. To care for your poinsettia, the rule of thumb is that if the temperature in your home is comfortable to you, it's also right for your

poinsettia. Don't overwater or let the plant sit with "wet feet" – only water it when the soil feels dry. You should put it in a window that gets a minimum of six hours of indirect light. Avoid placing it in drafty areas. Following these simple tips should keep your plants healthy and beautiful throughout the holiday season. And don't forget to celebrate Dec. 12, National Poinsettia Day, which is the anniversary of Poinsett's death in 1851.

Pat Dray is a past president of the Orange Garden Club.

Just Floored:

Trends For 2018

As we are nearing the end of the year, we start to see a glimpse of what we can expect for 2018! Throughout 2017 we have noticed bold colors take the stage and this trend will continue into the next year. Bold statement pieces like a teal backsplash or even a navy blue vanity continue to be some of our favorite looks. Although very bold, they pair very well with some of the trends that designers from all over are predicting for 2018. Here are just a few of our favorites.... You can open any magazine, turn on any home improvement show, or even Google "Trends for 2018" and an array of new and exciting things will pop up! Our favorite has to be reclaimed wood. There are so many companies out there that offer hand scraped



ANNAMARIE
MASTRANGELO

or wire brushed hardwood that truly looks like it has been salvaged from an old barn. There are even LVT products that have the same look with a similar feel. They come in an array of sizes, widths and colors! You can even get the look of reclaimed wood with a porcelain tile. Some of the porcelain tile is so realistic you almost do a double take. But, if you love the reclaimed wood look and aren't completely ready to overhaul all the flooring in your home, you can always opt for an accent wall with reclaimed wood or even a coffee or end table. No matter how big or how small the presence of the reclaimed wood is in your home, it will bring a warm and cozy feel to your space. Now speaking of warm and cozy, we are also very excited to see that fringe is making a come

back as well! Whether it be in your window treatments or even just on a blanket or pillow, it is taking all of the grey tones that we love so much and softening them up just enough! We have done our research and the designers have spoken, we will probably be seeing some fringe on small furniture like ottomans. Another great trend we will be seeing more of this coming year is iridescent touches. We are already seeing a lot of this finish in some of the new mosaics we are getting. What a great way to brighten up a dark bathroom or drab kitchen. The iridescent finish adds light and even a little sparkle while still keeping it sophisticated and elegant. The last of our favorite new trends for 2018 is the use of geometric patterns! Wallpaper is coming back and it is bigger than ever! Some of the wallpaper coming out this year is absolutely stunning and when used to update

a room with an accent wall or even pairing it with traditional wainscot paneling you have a timeless look! We are even seeing geometric patterns in tile. Many companies have introduced lines for both wall and floor use that have a very "mod" look to them. Some in bold colors like black or navy and some with a more iridescent look to them. Either way, we are not escaping this new look and we are loving it! As 2018 gets closer we will see these trends more and more in stores, magazines and even social media. If you have been waiting for something extra special before you took the plunge and did some remodeling, some of these trends are timeless classics and they are here to stay!

Annamarie Mastrangelo is founder/owner of A.A.I. Flooring Specialist. She can be reached at amoreinteriorsllc@gmail.com.

Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Commit To Selling

The decision to sell your property is both time consuming and serious. It takes the whole family and a partner in the real estate profession to complete the transaction together. What this means is that the seller consciously drives through obstacles such as repairs, decluttering, and financing to prepare for this life-changing experience. It is a great time, a celebration of sorts, designing the route to take with certain unknowns as we surge ahead. Sellers must have an understanding that patience is going to be needed this endeavor. Once the home is prepared and listed, the homeowner waits for calls to show the property. A prominent listing company has exposed your property on a good twenty websites with professional pictures, great write-ups and networking throughout their sphere of influence. The showings reveal many prospects – some not ready to buy, others looking for something other than what you are offering and choosing a different home. Whatever the case, sellers must learn to hang in there and wait the process out. As a seller you are continually watching the market, straightening up and leaving the house for showings, and wondering why this is taking so long. The average home price affects the length of time a home is on the market. In other words, if your home is \$350 thousand it may take 45 days to get a buyer because there are more prospects in this range. If your home



BARBARA
LEHRER

is \$499 thousand, you will have fewer showings and wait longer because the buyer pool is smaller. I know that the day you list your home you are anticipating speedy action and a moving date, maybe even worrying about the not knowing where you're going. Welcome to the real estate market. This process works 99 percent of the time. The seller sells and finds a dream house that is not even on the market yet. Be excited, work with your realtor to get the home as perfect as you can, and then be patient. This is the time of year when serious buyers make appointments. The holidays and the weather are a complication, but prospects will come if they are ready to buy – and there are plenty right now. Open houses are busy because the rates are low, and in the winter, you have less competition as a seller. Do not wait until spring to list, as too many homeowners do. Don't be discouraged and remove your listing during the holidays. If you are on the market for one hundred days and your price is right, sit tight. It is coming. Our area is the finest around, and the buyers know it. Listen to your agent, decorate and stay with the program. You will sell, and you will buy. Each real estate transaction is a story, make your own and make it happen.

If you need more information on these issues, email Barbara.Lehrer@cbmoves.com.

Room 911 – Do You Know Your “Art?”

In today's decorating world, many people have chosen to mix styles of furniture into the décor of their home. Yet one can walk into a house today and still get a sense that there is an overriding style – modern, traditional, neoclassic and the like. Every now and then, however, I will have a client say that they want to design and decorate their home in a very specific style. Below are some styles that are still embraced today, whether in an entire house or a piece or two of furniture or art. **Art Deco:** Popular in the 1920s and 30s, art deco was based on geometric shapes. You can see examples of this at Radio City Music Hall and the Chrysler Building in New York City. Typical upholstered pieces had rounded backs with geometric decoration, streamlined and sleek. Chrome, plastic and stainless steel emphasized zigzag patterns, a nod to industrialism. Gone were the sharp right-angled furniture. The leading interior designer of this movement was Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann. In graphic art, illustration and sculpture, the name of Erte is well known, as are the paintings of Tamara de Lempicka. **Art Nouveau:** The art nouveau period of design predates the art deco movement. It begins in the late nineteenth century and is exemplified by a desire to create natural forms. Many curvy details could be seen in its furniture and its architecture. One only has to look at the architectural works of Antoni Gaudi that are so prevalent in Barcelona. His most famous work was



TEDRA
SCHNEIDER

the Basilica “La Sagrada Famillia,” started in 1882 and still under construction. Other artists who embraced this style based on curvy plants such as ivy vines, flowery and sinuous lines are Gustav Klimt and Charles Rennie Macakintosh. The Eiffel Tower is a good example of this style. **Arts and Crafts:** The arts and crafts design movement was also known as the aesthetic movement. It started in England around the latter part of the nineteenth century. The leading exponent of this style was William Morris, who rejected industrialism and based his designs on simplicity and exquisite craftsmanship. Another name associated with it is Gustav Stickley. It is fairly common for a client to tell me that they want to buy Stickley-styled furniture. Realtors also get requests from house hunters looking for a Bungalow, many of which embrace the craftsman quality. Broad, low-gabled roofs, wide eaves, often a couple of front dormers, as well as open porches and overhanging beams, are evident. It is most often constructed with shingles and brick. Your “assignment” today is to take the time to log onto your computer and explore these design movements. A piece or two from these movements mixed in with the style of your house and furnishings can really create a “wow” effect.

Tedra Schneider can be reached at: restagebytedra@gmail.com

Business

Your Finances:

Resolve To Improve Your Financial Fitness

The arrival of January offers you an opportunity to review your financial picture over the previous year and resolve to improve that picture in 2018.

Yes, I'm talking about New Year's resolutions. The most common goals revolve around shrinking your waistline. But resolutions to improve financial fitness usually figure in the list as well. And don't you think it may be easier to keep resolutions involving your money than resolutions involving your weight? Here are a few ideas as you move into a new year:



ERIC TASHLEIN

2018. If you don't write it down, chances are you won't follow it.

Prioritize paying off debt. I can't emphasize enough the importance of becoming debt-free. Carrying debt hurts you in a number of ways, starting with adding stress to your life. More concretely, debt eats away at your financial future because you have to dedicate funds that

could be saved or invested toward paying for past actions, with interest.

Have a financial plan. Calculate your current net worth by adding up your assets and subtracting your liabilities. Review the performance of your portfolio over the past year. Has the picture improved? If you have a financial plan, determine whether you followed it effectively in 2017, and if any adjustments may be needed. If you don't have a financial plan, you need to create one, preferably with the help of a professional financial planner. You need a road map to get to your destination, especially when it comes to retirement planning.

Write up a budget and stick to it. Yes, this is part of your financial plan, but it's worth mentioning separately because it's an area in which many people fall short. Start by reviewing your income and spending in 2017. Hopefully you spent less than you earned. If not, it may be time to cut up the credit cards. If so, look for ways to cut spending further and boost your savings rate. Finally, use your findings to write down a detailed budget for

2018. If you don't write it down, chances are you won't follow it.

Maximize 401(k) accounts. The tax benefits of utilizing workplace retirement plans can substantially increase your retirement nest egg, along with any matching funds your employer contributes to your 401(k) account. In 2018 you may defer up to \$18,500 from your paycheck into your 401(k) plan, and if you're age 50 or above you can make that \$24,500.

For inspiration, remember that a little here and a little there can add up quite significantly over a period of years or decades. And even if you're nearing retirement, every penny redirected from spending to savings and investments can help your bottom line.

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, "CCMG" 67 Cherry St., C-2, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through www.connecticutcapital.com. This is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as personalized investment advice or legal/tax advice. Please consult your advisor/attorney/tax advisor. Registered Representative.

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- Residency in adult psychiatry Yale University
- Fellowship in geriatric psychiatry Yale University
- Board Certified by American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry
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Youth & Education

Test Prep:

The PSAT And Your Child

Members of the class of 2019 and 2020 will be able to access their PSAT scores online on Dec. 11. Schools and guidance counselors will have earlier access to their students' scores, starting Dec. 4. After seeing their son or daughter's scores, many parents will ask the same question: What do these mean?

Parents who have an older child may find these scores strangely unfamiliar. The scores have gone back to the future and returned to the 1600 scale instead of the 2400 scale. There are two scores on the test now: a math score and an evidence based reading and writing score. Each of these is scored from 200 to 800, and those scores are combined to give you a score from 400 to 1600. It isn't immediately obvious how the number of right answers a student received connects to their final score because the PSAT and the SAT are graded on a scale. First, a student gets a raw score based on how many



JAMES MARONEY

questions they answered correctly. That raw score is then calculated into a scaled score, which is the score out of 800. The reading and writing raw scores go through additional step of being converted from a raw score to a sub-score from 10 to 40. Those two subscores are then put together to get the final scaled score out of 800. There will be a number of other kinds of sub-scores listed, but colleges are mainly focused on the total score out of 1600. Whew! Sound complicated enough for you? Don't worry - look out for our next article, which will talk more on how to use those scores to create a preparation plan.

The PSAT is a good predictor of how a student will do on the SAT. So what is a good score? How do you know if your student has one? As with most issues related to college planning, the answer is "that depends." As far as scores are concerned, it depends on

where you would like to apply to college. According to the College Board, the national average score for 2017 is a 1083. To give you an idea of score ranges for a few different colleges, I will list the middle range for a few popular schools. The bottom number is the number that 25 percent of the accepted students scored below, and the top number is the number that only 25 percent of the accepted students scored above. The scores in between are what they call the "middle fifty":

UConn - 1220 to 1410
University of New Haven - 1050 to 1240
Yale - 1490 to 1600
Trinity - 1200 to 1440
Southern Connecticut - 920 to 1120
If a student finds that there's a gap between the score ranges for the colleges where the student would like to apply and their score, then you may want to consider some form of test preparation before taking the SAT. The SAT is offered 7 times a year on Saturdays. The state of Connecticut will be giving the

SAT to every public school junior on March 21. That means students and families should start preparing soon. With approximately three months to the next major test, students should start by reviewing the PSAT and looking over all of the questions that they had wrong. They should see if they just made careless mistakes, or if they have some particular area of weakness. Students who are self-motivated can find a number of resources for extra practice. I highly recommend all students take as many of the free College Board practice tests as possible. If self-study isn't enough, then you should consider either a group class or private tutoring to help prepare the student for the SAT. As I've said before, schools want to see that you are as prepared as possible each time you take the test.

James Maroney, is the owner of First Choice College, which has been helping local students prepare for college since 1999. James is also the former co-chair of the Financial Aid Working Group for the Connecticut State Planning Commission for Higher Education.

Amity Joins Sustainability Program

Amity Regional School District No. 5, which includes Orange, has joined the Connecticut Green LEAF Schools program. Connecticut Green LEAF helps schools to grow greener and focuses on "Leading, Educating, Achieving, and Fostering healthy, green schools for all." There are three goals to the program, including providing effective environmental and sustainability education; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and reducing environmental impact and cost. Connecticut Green LEAF Schools is a program of the Connecticut Departments of Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, Administrative Services, and Public Health, in collaboration with more than 35 environmental and educational partners. The program celebrates and recognizes those Connecticut schools

making progress toward sustainability. Connecticut Green LEAF Schools is free and open to all K-12 schools, both public and private. Implementation starts with a letter of commitment from the school administration. The school then can complete a self-assessment of their "green" activities and goals. Schools receive support in meeting their goals, including webinars, lessons, and professional development. All three schools in Amity Regional School District No. 5 have signed on to the Green LEAF program. All participating schools are recognized for their accomplishments. Schools that show substantial progress in greening their schools may be eligible for nomination for the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon honor. To date, 13 schools and one district across the State have earned federal Green Ribbon recognition.



Listed left to right: Ms. Anna Mahon, Amity Regional High School principal; Dr. Richard Dellinger, Amity Middle School Bethany principal, and Ms. Kathy Burke, Amity Middle School Orange principal.

Nursery School Registration

The Orange Congregational Church Nursery School is currently accepting applications for 3- and 4-year-old children for its 2018-19 program. Children must reach their third birthday by Dec. 31, 2018 to be eligible. The school day runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday for 3-year-olds, and on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for 4-year-olds. We also offer a five-day option

for returning students. OCCNS is a faith-based program, but welcomes children of all faiths. It has served the community for over 50 years. The OCCNS will hold an open house on Feb. 4, 2018 from noon to 1:30 p.m. for prospective families. For further information, applications, or to schedule a visit, please contact at 203-795-9749 ext. 305, or by email at occns@yahoo.com.

St. Mary School Visits Yale University Art Gallery



Photo courtesy of Kristie McMinnis
St. Mary School in Milford's fifth grade enjoyed a fun and informative field trip to the Yale University Art Gallery in New Haven! They explored how artists tell a story and determined the point-of-view and setting of two art pieces. They also described objects from colonial times in a room that was recreated from a New England colonial house within the museum. So nice to be so close to such museums.

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EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS!

Youth & Education

Chinese Educators Visit Amity

Educators from the Guangdong Province of China visited Amity Regional High School Dec. 4 and spent three hours shadowing students and talking with administrators. Members of the delegation were led by the Associate Dean and the Director of the School of Professional Development and Research on Primary and Secondary Education from Guangdong Province. Their goal was to observe teaching and learning in the comprehensive high school.

Approximately 14 students were shadowed by the 20 guests. Gifts were exchanged with the guests as well.



Photos by Daniel Gregg
Top: Amity Regional High School principal Anna Mahon, second from right, and Associate Principal Monica Kreuzer, second from left, present copies of the 2017 Embers Yearbook: *The Story Behind* to the heads of the Chinese delegation. Bottom: The full Chinese delegation poses with principal of Amity Regional High School Anna Mahon in front of the school.

Orange Post 127 American Legion Baseball Tryouts

Orange Post 127 Junior Legion and Senior Legion tryouts will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Connecticut Sportsplex at 216 Foxon Boulevard in North Branford.

Players 14 through 19 are invited to try

out. Any questions should be directed to Bob Mirto at (203) 687-8299 or Nick Mirto at (203) 464-9971.

Besides the Legion season, the program will include an out-of-state tournament and a winter hitting league, as well as instruction.

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Lifestyle

Here’s To Your Health:

It’s A Community Affair

I am not lying when I tell you I love my job. I love what I do for a living and consider it an absolute privilege to help people live longer, healthier lives. I also wouldn’t be lying if I told you there are times I feel very alone and frustrated. Childhood obesity is still on the rise, as well as cancer, and yet we have a world of information at our fingertips on the basic principles of living healthy lives.



MICHELE
TENNEY

For years and years, I have tried to “be the change” in giving of my time, knowledge and desire to help other people get healthy. Some of my efforts have been met with resistance, some embraced, and some successful in making lasting changes. However, it has occurred to me this is far greater than simply my desire to “be the change.” It’s a community affair of the heart. Health has to include a community coming together to make small but lasting changes that become the culture. If “everyone was doing it” it would just be a natural, everyday occurrence. It would be a lifestyle.

People would take long walks together, perhaps bike to the office, grow gardens at home and at school, and encourage those who need a boost. We don’t need the greatest gym membership or boot camp

class to stay healthy. We need each other. Let’s face it; we live in a town with eight working farms. That’s a great place to start. The “don’t smoke or you’ll croak” campaign was a great success. The recent policy change to food in the classrooms will singlehandedly drop the school’s body-mass index by 11 percent, and it’s permanent. We can do this. We can start with simple changes, like rethinking the way we do bake sales and incorporate fruit kabobs, veggies and dip. We can begin a walking group in our neighborhoods. We can walk our kids to school or encourage a group of neighborhood children to ride bikes to school together. We could bring in health mentors to our schools to teach our children about nutrition. But the best thing we can do is come together as a community, start a conversation and make some plans for the future. I have a dream and I know I’m not alone in that dream. From my family to yours, we hope you have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. Here’s to your health.

Michele O’Brien-Tenney is a personal trainer and nutritionist. She can be reached at 203-668-2969

Culinary Travel Trends

Recently reported, the “Lure of Celebrity Chefs” was cited as a top consumer trend by Cruise Lines International Association’s “2017 Cruise Industry Outlook,” the trade group’s annual state-of-the-industry report.

Famous chefs who are now partnering with major cruise lines include Nobu Matsuhisa, Thomas Keller, Curtis Stone, Jose Garces, Roy Yamaguchi, Guy Fieri and others. These chefs have developed onboard restaurant concepts, created new menus with one-of-a-kind dishes and they have definitely enhanced the appeal of the onboard culinary experience.

Some lines also have tapped into partnerships with the James Beard Foundation or Relais & Chateaux for themed cruises or branded culinary experiences with Bon Appetit Culinary Center or America’s Test Kitchen. One premium line even has an advisory Culinary Council with five celebrity chefs.

Although it’s still available on the larger cruise lines, the traditional main dining room has changed sizably with many more tables for two or four, not just for larger groups. Open dinner seating is possible on any ship these days, so you can decide when you want to eat and who you want to eat with. Many lines, ocean and river, offer al fresco dining on an outer deck or casual poolside dining featuring grilled specialties, salads and sides. Cruisers will also find expanded dining options with small-plate tasting menus; sushi, sashimi and raw bars; seafood shacks, tapas bars, taco stations, build-your-own burger joints and Asian-style wok eateries.

If you love wine, beer or craft cocktails, you can find special offerings onboard almost any ship – or even a themed cruise devoted to wine connoisseurs in Provence



KAREN
QUINN-PANZER

or Bordeaux, France or beer tasting in Germany. These offerings may include lectures by vintners, Wine-and-Food Pairing Dinners, Port & Whiskey Tastings, shore excursions to vineyards, breweries and distilleries, craft beer tastings, cocktail lessons and more. The Culinary options abound on and off the ship:

- **Shopping with the Chef:** On a small or luxury ship, the chef will often head ashore with a small group of guests as they source fresh vegetables and meat/seafood at a local market.
 - **Culinary Center Lessons:** State-of-the-art culinary centers offer a line-up of cooking classes. They’re hands-on, and often conducted in mini-culinary stations with burners, sinks and utensils.
 - **Epicurean Evenings Ashore:** Many cruise ships now remain in port late in the evening or even overnight at some destinations, perfect for people wanting to dine ashore independently, or with a small group at a local, authentic restaurant.
 - **Walking tours ashore:** focused on local culinary hot spots and regional cuisine, including family cooking experiences such as pizza-making in an Italian family’s home. And if all this starts concerning you about coming home five pounds heavier, healthy choices are now in abundance along with wellness programs that can be coordinated with special dietary menus – including gluten-free, heart healthy meals and more.
- So scope out your options for your next culinary adventure on the water.

Karen Quinn-Panzer is the owner of Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel. She can be reached at kpanzer@dreamvacations.com

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Retired And Rejuvenated:
Holiday Wishes

This is a magical time of the year. I love the lights of Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza and other religious holidays this time of year. For many people, the season starts with the appearance of Santa in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade passing by the store's main entrance with the word BELIEVE emblazoned in the store's ads. Growing up, I remember the television ads for new cars all tied up in huge red ribbons, the jewelry ads, children sitting on Santa's lap whispering their list of "wants" in his ear, and snow falling outside as I looked through our windows. We now have elves on the shelf, cookies in the pantry, and an abundant supply of Hallmark Channel holiday stories.

In that spirit of hope and seasonal delight, I have decided to do a little "magical thinking" myself and make my list of "wants and wishes" for this world we live in. I am sure you will be able to add your own wants and wishes to this incomplete list.

I wish that all children could live in safe homes, free from hunger, with enough heat to keep them warm and enough hugs to let them know they are valued and cherished. I wish that older people would be free from unnecessary pain, financial stress, and useless worry. I wish they would have the right amount of purpose in their lives and an excitement for living.

I wish that our cities and towns would be crime-free with good transportation systems, cultural activities, well-maintained infrastructures and caring neighbors who watch out for each other. I wish that our educational system would be adequately funded and responsive to the cultural backgrounds of all students. I wish there would be an increased appreciation and acceptance of the many ethnic groups in our schools.



JOANNE
BYRNE

I wish that TV shows and movies would be free of horrific scenes of violence and destruction. I wish that all assault weapons would be banned and that we would have stronger regulations on firearms and more stringent background checks.

I wish that our elected officials and other world leaders would govern and make decisions based on the greater good rather than on their own personal agendas. I wish they would possess a spirit of service and humility rather than inflated egos that must be constantly fed. I wish that all forms of media would take their role of reporting accurate news seriously without regard for ratings or sensationalism.

I wish that all people would respect each other and not use power and influence to gain personal pleasure and gain. I wish that all employable people would have fulfilling jobs with fair pay. I wish that immigrants who have no criminal records, have jobs, pay taxes, and have families here in the United States, would not live under the threat of deportation. I wish that we would have a health care system that takes care of all people regardless of their ability to pay.

I wish that we would all have concern for our environment and the future of the planet for generations to come. And most of all, I wish that each of you has a very happy holiday season free from want and strife, in the company of those you love and who love you.

Joanne Byrne served as Senior Services Coordinator for the Town of Orange. She is now actively and happily retired. Email her at joannebyrne41@gmail.com to share your thoughts on retirement.

Milford Senior Center
Winter Events

We begin the New Year with Tax Preparation for all ages and low-income families every Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. and every Monday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The tax preparations begin Jan. 28 and run until April 16. Participants will be required to register by calling TEAM at 203-736-5420, extension 206.

We're all pretty much used to harsh New England weather, but for those experiencing pulmonary disease, activities of daily life can be a struggle. Our center is presenting some great tips and tricks on how to maintain your pulmonary health during the coldest months of the year. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 1 p.m. for this informative event.

Have your hearing health assessed Wednesday, Jan. 17, during a personalized hearing health assessment that puts you in control of deciding the best solutions for your individual hearing needs. Screening appointments will be at 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sign up for a convenient time slot by calling 203-877-5131.

In the mood for a matinee movie? Come on down to the center on Friday, Jan. 19 and enjoy the movie Kinky Boots at 1 p.m.

The center is offering a Pet Massage Workshop on Monday, Jan. 22 at 1 p.m.

Come be inspired by local artist Curt Avery, who will display the basic steps for carving in the round on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 1 p.m. Examples of wood include butterflies, birds, angels and Christmas. This artist has competed in many local fairs and has won best in show at the Durham Fair.

Like to play Bingo? We're hosting a super bingo Monday, Jan. 29, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with an hour for lunch. Call 203-877-5141 for more information.

The musical talent of Pierce Campbell will get you tapping your feet and singing along on Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 12:30 p.m. Bingo will follow the entertainment.

Annual membership at the Milford Senior Center is just \$15. All that is required is residency in Milford and being at least 55 years old. Call 203-877-5131 for additional information on our programs.

Milford Public Library
December 2017 Calendar

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES Sunday December 3 at 2pm Actor Colin Lane and Musician/Actor Rebecca Zaretsky bring Dylan Thomas' wonderful Christmas memories to light in this dramatic reading

GENEALOGY Monday December 4 at 1pm Presented by genealogist Greg Thompson
COASTAL CHORDSMEN Tuesday Dec. 5 at 7pm All your holiday favorites (and more) sung barbershop style by a 30 man chorus.

ADULT CRAFT – HOLIDAY TABLE DECOR Thursday December 7 at 2pm We will be making decorative cutlery holders. Please register by calling 203-783-3292. Space is limited.

JAZZY CHRISTMAS FEATURING THE BOB KOLB TRIO Sunday December 10 at 2pm Hear that old familiar music in a new, cool way.

ROMANCE BOOK DISCUSSION Thursday December 14 at 10:30am The Mischief of the Mistletoe by Lauren Willig will be discussed.

EVENING BOOK DISCUSSION Tuesday December 19 at 7pm The Little Red Chairs by Edna O'Brien will be discussed.

LINCOLN CENTER AT THE MOVIES PRESENTS GEORGE BALANCHINE'S THE NUTCRACKER BALLET Thursday December 28 at 2pm Join us for a free all ages viewing of this beloved New York City Ballet holiday tradition. Originally recorded in 2011 at the Koch Theater at Lincoln Center.

CLASSIC BOOK DISCUSSION Thursday December 28 at 10am. The Chimes by Charles Dickens will be discussed.

Orange Senior Center Events

A Special Double Feature Christmas Cabaret! Come join us on December 20 at 5:30 for Christmas cookies and Egg Nog. At 6:00pm the Girls Scouts will sing Christmas Carols At 6:30 Willie Nininger will take the stage for a Holiday show. Call (203) 891-4784 to reserve a seat!

Suzanne's Rock Painting Party Join us on December 29 at 1:00pm for egg nog & cookies as we paint rocks to replenish our Kindness Rock Garden. Let us know that you are coming at (203) 891-4784 and we'll supply the paint!

Lunch & Fun We screwed up our Social Tea! We are mixing tea and chocolate. What are we thinking!?! Join us January 12, 2018 from 11-2pm for Social Tea & Chocolate as Kim Larkin of Klassic Kreations as she leads us in a pairing of teas and chocolate. Sitting is very limited, \$10 per person.

Hot Lunch The Orange Senior Center offers a lunch Monday through Friday, 11:30am – 12pm. A \$3 donation is suggested for persons 60 years and over. To register call (203) 891-4765 before 1pm, the day before.

Movie of the Month Friday, December 8 "Moonlight", 1pm. 2016 Oscar winner for Best Picture, A chronicle of the childhood, adolescence and burgeoning adulthood of a young, African-American, gay man growing up in a rough neighborhood of Miami. Popcorn & soda to be served. Call for a seat (203) 891-4784.

Money Management Join us for Money Management the first and third Tuesday of the month, Dec 5 & Dec 19 from 9:30 – 10:30am. On January 16 Drazen Law Firm will present "How to Keep Long Term Care from Becoming a Long Term Financial Crisis". Call (203) 891-4784 to reserve a seat!

Try our New Class! Yopalates You tried the demo now come out for the class. Hot New Class Yoga meets Pilates with Traci Weber, Tuesdays at 10:30 starting January 2, 2018. 10 weeks \$50.

Caregiver's Home Solution Sponsors Bingo Come try out Bingo! Join us December 14 when Debra Syrowsky of Caregiver's Home Solution sponsors Bingo at 1pm.



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Profiles

Those Who Give:

Teaching English To Open The World To Others

Retired Norwalk Public Schools teacher and local resident Martha Salmon is a woman on a mission. For the past seven years, she has been a dedicated volunteer with the Literacy Volunteers of Southern Connecticut (formerly the Literacy Center of Milford). She uses her skills teaching English as a Second Language to those reaching out to the Milford-based nonprofit for help learning to speak, read, and write in English.

“My mission is to welcome as many students as I can to the United States and help them assimilate and learn English,” explains Salmon. “I teach classes, and also do a lot of one-on-one tutoring. I do love working with



SHAILEEN
LANDSBERG

groups, though. I learn so much from each one of the students, and in that multiculturally rich environment, we can all share our culture and find out about other cultures.”

Salmon has taught students from many diverse backgrounds. She has had students from South and Central America, Haiti, Thailand, Cambodia, Belarus, Iraq, Turkey, and various other parts of the world.

“It takes courage for them to come to us for ESL lessons and tutoring,” she says. “I am impressed when I see how strong their motivation is; they want so hard to do well.”

Helping students who are interested in becoming United States citizens is one of

Salmon’s favorite parts of being an ESL tutor. She beams when describing her two most recent students who have become U.S. citizens.

“It was rewarding to see them pass,” she says. “The citizenship test is hard, and also costly – it is \$700 just to take it, so they were very motivated to pass on the first try. One of the women who passed went on to get a job at her son’s school. She was so happy!”

A person unable to read, write, speak or understand English can feel quite isolated in the United States, according to Salmon, and she says learning English can open up the world to them.

Salmon tells of a woman who fled the Middle East and spoke only a few words of English when she came to the U.S. At that time, she was homebound with her children,

since she was not able to understand the people, road signs, or even the labels on products at the grocery store. She became a student of Salmon’s, and before long was proficient enough to get her learner’s permit and then her driver’s license, allowing her to integrate into the community and be involved in activities outside of her home.

When asked what her favorite part of being an ESL teacher is, Salmon is quick to respond. “I get such gratification watching the progress my students make in literacy and English proficiency. Their lives improve so much – they become able to get jobs, drivers’ licenses, and citizenship. They are able to participate in their children’s schooling. They can shop for needed items. I am so proud of them and the progress they make; it is so rewarding.”

Heroes Among Us:

War Engineer

Orange resident Bob McKay was born in Tillicoultry, Scotland, 40 miles northwest of Edinburgh. When he was 3, he and his parents emigrated from Scotland to New York. He graduated from John Adams High School in Ozone Park. After Pearl Harbor, McKay, then 18, registered for the draft. A year later he was called to active duty and ordered to Texas for basic training.

McKay had shown an aptitude for math and was offered an appointment to West Point, but he turned it down because he did not want a military career. Instead he accepted an appointment to the Army Specialized Training Program and was sent to Princeton for an intensive study of engineering and math in an accelerated program. This meant waking at 5:15 a.m. and marching in uniform before a busy day of classes. “Lights out” was at 9:30 p.m. Because it was so rigorous, over a third of the men in the program dropped out.

When McKay completed the program, he was appointed to the 329th Combat Engineers, a branch of the 104th Infantry Regiment, and sent to France. They landed in Cherbourg, France, about two months after D-Day. About 60 combat engineers, including McKay, were there to support the 12,000 soldiers in the regiment.

Their path was relatively smooth as they passed through France, Holland and Belgium. Sometimes, though, they would see local people who had seized others in the village who had fraternized with Germans. They showed no mercy, shaving their heads and treating them roughly.

The combat engineers’ duties were to assemble Bailey bridges to cross small waterways and to support the infantry by searching out and destroying land mines. Like a giant erector set, the Bailey bridges came in sections which the engineers assembled on land and pushed into the water. These sections were bolted together on two sides. They then laid a flooring. The Bailey bridges could hold only a small tank or car, or soldiers walking across. There were lots of these bridges to be put together, because the retreating Germans blew up every bridge as they withdrew. Behind McKay’s group of engineers were others who used their base to build bigger bridges that could handle heavier vehicles.

The other part of McKay’s duties was to find and disable the landmines the Germans had laid as they retreated. His group would



TRISH
O’LEARY TREAT

clear a path through a minefield so that the infantry could stay inside the marks they laid to guide them. It was a bitter cold winter, reaching ten below zero some days, and in some areas four feet of snow had come down. In such conditions, the landmines could only be found by the engineers’ setting a mine detector ahead of them. When a mine was detected, they disabled the firing cap.

Sometimes a call would come in the middle of the night ordering the engineers to retrieve infantrymen who had missed the markers and inadvertently stepped into a minefield. Many of these soldiers died or were wounded. Those still alive were petrified and afraid to move forward.

The retreating Germans would assault them with mortar fire in the meantime. Using a small radio – the only communication device they had – McKay’s group would tell the artillery unit behind them to “fire for effect” in a given area. This meant they shot five rounds. Seeing where the shells landed, McKay’s group could then guide the artillerymen more accurately.

Living conditions were harsh. Supply trucks carried K-rations, which consisted of dried food, energy bars and cigarettes. The C-rations, which included items like spaghetti and meatballs, were frozen and the troops would have to put them on a vehicle’s hot radiator for five hours to at least partially thaw them. They slept in sleeping bags on the frozen ground. No one got a change of clothes. Occasionally a wash truck would appear. When it was your turn, you had one minute to clean yourself and the clothes you were wearing. The Germans might meanwhile start a barrage of fire, causing everyone to scatter.

McKay said the war became more brutal once they moved into Germany. The Germans were now defending their own country. Bombers from England carpet bombed, and McKay said on a clear day you could see “an incredible density of planes.” When his group entered a town that had been carpet bombed, they would see unbelievable sights: buildings crumpled, dead bodies, dead animals.

As the German army retreated, the Allied air forces would drop leaflets on towns telling

the village inhabitants to either surrender or be destroyed. For a few days the villagers ignored the threat. When they did, the planes would bomb and flatten everything. The sign of a town surrendering was three people with the one in the middle carrying a white flag.

Looking back, McKay said he lived day-to-day sensing all the enemy trying to kill them. “You never met a hero. There was no room for that. The point was just to stay alive.” He said they saw far more tears than smiles.

As the troops progressed in Germany, McKay’s company was told to stop at a point where they were to meet Russian soldiers who had attacked the Germans from the east.

When his company reached the river at which they were to meet the Russians, they stopped for several days. When they looked at the horizon, they could see thousands of German soldiers who wanted to surrender to the Allies because they knew the Russian soldiers would kill them.

When the war in Europe ended on May 9, 1945, the troops expected they would be sent to fight in the Pacific. They were put on ships to the U.S. and given a week’s leave before they had to report to San Luis Obispo to train

for the invasion of Japan. When Truman ordered the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the plans changed.

McKay was discharged Dec. 1, 1945. Once home, he married Mary Sheehan, whom he had first met when he was a paperboy. He finished college on the GI bill, still focusing on engineering and math. His specialty was electrical and mechanical engineering. Construction of buildings needing electrification and heating was going on everywhere. He decided to get into the overseas market and partner with local engineers. All documents had to be in two languages and all drawings had to be in the metric system. After about six years and extensive travel, McKay, along with his wife and three children, moved to Orange. He started his own engineering firm.

McKay’s first wife and their oldest son passed away. About 12 years ago, he remarried. His wife, Betty Jane, was from Hamden. His daughter now lives in Florida and his son has a technology firm in Wallingford. Since his retirement, he has been active in the Orange Players and other civic groups.



Bob McKay

Photo By Lexi Crocco

Rescue Me

by Fred Dray



Monty has been offered for adoption several times with no takers for this young, neutered male American Bully mix in a gorgeous peanut butter cup color. What he needs is to be described through the perspective of someone who truly knows him, Woodbridge Animal Control Officer Ashley Sakelarakis. She says: “When Monty first came to Woodbridge Animal Control last February, it broke my heart seeing the distrust he had for humans. However, within a short amount of time he opened up and began to trust me and the staff here at WAC. Monty loves to spend most of his time sunbathing outside in his kennel and looking forward to his one-on-one playtime. He will romp and play in the yard, loves to play fetch and throw the rope toys in the air showing off for me...He is a truly amazing dog who deserves to find his forever home.” Monty and other dogs and cats are available for adoption at Woodbridge Animal Control. The shelter is located at 135 Bradley Road and can be reached by phone at (203) 389-5991.

Deanna (Dee) Diamond Employee Of The Month



From left: Director of Economic & Community Development Julie Nash, Mayor Ben Blake, and Dee Diamond.

As the recipient of the award for the Mayor’s Employee of the Month Program, please join us in extending a warm congratulation to Dee in receiving this recognition. After a review of all of the nominations, the Selection Committee unanimously chose her as the winner for her strong work ethic, outstanding customer service and teamwork. Dee began her employment with the City of Milford as a Clerk A in the Assessor’s Office on November 10, 2014, and transferred to her current position as Clerk A in the Economic and Community Development Department on November 30, 2015. Dee performs her job knowledgeably, professionally, and quickly responds to the public, board and commission members, and co-workers, always with a very positive

attitude and a smile. Dee is a key member of the City’s Wellness Committee, taking the lead on a special project idea the committee is planning to start in the spring. She was also instrumental in starting the pilot program, Lunchtime Fitness, that the Wellness Committee sponsored. Dee is hard-working, conscientious, and quick to take on new challenges and responsibilities, evolving her position since taking the job. Dee exemplifies the type of employee the City of Milford appreciates and relies on to provide competent service. These are just a few of the many reasons the Mayor extends his sincere congratulations and appreciation to Dee for the outstanding attributes she exhibits as Employees of the Month. Again, congratulations to Dee!

Writers Wanted

To cover news and events in Milford and Orange. Minimum of one article per issue. Published every 3 weeks. Please contact Steve at publisher@theorangetimes.com or call 203.799.7500.

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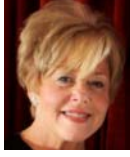
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WESTVILLE 29 JUDWIN AVENUE
NEW LISTING! \$300,000
Beautiful remodeled 3 Bedroom, 1.5 Bath , 1755 sf Colonial. Brand new granite Kitchen, formal Living Room w/fireplace, Family Room, Sunroom/Office. Updated ML half Bath. New roof. Beautiful deck.
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WESTVILLE 165 STEVENSON ROAD
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Sprawling, custom built 3 Bedrm, 3 Bath Ranch w/2682 sf ft opens up to rear of Yale Golf Course. Versatile floor plan. Living Rm w/fpl. Open screened in porch off Dining Rm. Fam Rm w/fpl, sliders to deck.
BARBARA LEHRER ~ 203.640.6407



SEYMOUR 19 BOTSFORD ROAD
NEW LISTING! \$319,000
Expanded 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath, 1581 sf Cape. 1st floor hardwood floors. Living Rm w/firepl. Updated Eat-In Kitchen w/granite, S/S appliances. Formal Dining Rm. Large level private backyard. Above ground pool!
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SUNFILLED END UNIT! \$234,900
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WOODBIDGE 50 ORCHARD ROAD
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Gorgeous 5 Bedrm, 3.1 Bath, 3122 sf Colonial on 3.07 ac! ML Family Rm w/cathedral ceilings & sliders to deck. Living Rm w/fpl. Custom remodeled Eat-In Kitchen w/granite. Master Bedroom Suite.
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News & Events

Murphy Demands Mental Health Protection



U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), a member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and co-author of the bipartisan Mental Health Reform Act, lambasted insurance companies on Dec. 5 for violating mental health parity laws and failing to provide equal coverage of treatment for mental illness, including addiction, and physical illness. During a U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on “Addressing the Opioid Crisis in America: Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery” with Former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, a member of the President’s Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, and Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, Murphy called on the Trump administration to use their authority to enforce parity laws and hold insurance companies accountable.

“Behavioral care and addiction care is four to six times more likely to be provided out-of-network than for other medical or surgical care. You’ve got 24 states where the reimbursement disparity between addiction and mental health care is 30-70% higher than for medical and surgical care,” said Murphy. “These are giant, gaping violations of the parity law and there’s no way to explain these differences in reimbursement rates, these differences in network quality, other than the discriminatory treatment of these patients.”

Murphy continued, “HHS and Labor have not...issued a report on investigations, and they have not conducted any audits on insurance companies. I would beg you – and I would beg the Department of Labor – use the authority you have to make sure that people suffering from addiction and mental illness are treated the same as people who have cancer diagnoses and orthopedic diagnoses. You can do it, and you have the authority under existing law.”

Among other things, Murphy’s Mental Health Reform Act strengthened enforcement of mental health parity laws, promoted integrated mental health and physical health, and established new programs to assist those with, or at risk for, mental illness. A fact sheet on his bill is available here.

According to Connecticut Chief Medical Examiner Dr. James Gill, there have been 538 accidental drug overdose deaths in Connecticut over the first half of the year. The figures include 323 deaths involving fentanyl. If this rate continues, Connecticut will see a projected 1,076 overdose deaths in 2017, up from the 917 deaths last year and nearly triple the 357 deaths five years ago.

Islamic Center Donates \$1,000 To Orange



The New Haven Islamic Center gave the Town of Orange Nov. 21 a check for \$1,000. Left to right: M. Asaf Sheikh, Imam Dr. Bachir Djehiche, First Selectman James Zeoli and Dr. Amir Mohammed. Contributed photo.

The Town of Orange announced Nov. 28 that it received a \$1,000 donation from the New Haven Islamic Center last week for the Orange Food Pantry.

The folks from the Center came to see First Selectman Jim Zeoli on Nov. 21, 2017 to present the check in the spirit of the holidays.

The announcement said Zeoli was humbled by the donation and is grateful to the members of the New Haven Islamic Center for their thoughtfulness. It added many residents in need will benefit from the gift.

The New Haven Islamic Center is located on Bull Hill Lane in Orange.

The Orange Chamber Welcomes 6 New Members

- Wine & Liquor Superstore, 116 Boston Post Road, Orange, 203-553-9139
- American Cancer Society, 203-379-4790
- Scarcella Realty Corporation, Interstate Realty Advisors, 203-283-3994
- Camp Argo, an inclusive sports & creative arts camp, 203-799-2746
- Geo. M. Hatch Co. LLC, Well Water Tanks, Filters, Woodbridge, 203-387-2286
- Lux Design Furniture, 326 Boston Post Road, Orange, 203-444-2494
- Kimberly Restaurant, 501 New Haven Avenue, Milford, 203-878-1910

Orange Tree Lighting



Photos By Lexi Crocco

Milford Tree Lighting



Photos Courtesy of Mayor Ben Blake's Office

News & Events

DMBA Stores Hosting Shop N’ Sip

Savor a glass of wine while checking off your holiday gift list. Downtown Milford stores are hosting a Shop N’ Sip event on Thursday, Dec. 14 throughout downtown, offering wine, champagne, cheese, crackers and cookies. Shoppers can treat themselves while treating others, making holiday shopping a festive occasion for everyone. The event, hosted by the Downtown Milford Business Association, runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. **Participating shops include Lovet, Galina’s, Duck Duck Goose, Makeup Makeup, Whispers, and The Canvas Patch.**

Milestones Day Care Announces New Director



Erica Cardona, Director, Milestones Day Care Center. Photo courtesy of Milestones Day Care.

The Milestones Infant, Toddler and Preschool Day Care Center, located at 95 Wolf Harbor Road in Milford, announced a new Director, Erica Cardona.

Cardona has worked with Milestones for the past five years and was promoted to the position by Suzanne Letso, CEO and Founder of Milestones Behavioral Services. Cardona received a Bachelor in Special Education at Southern Connecticut State University.

“Over the past five years, Erica has been involved in our school programs and intervention

teams and has shown strong leadership and interpersonal skills,” Letso said. “She is already growing our Day Care activities.”

Milestones Day Care Center’s goal is to promote a safe, secure, educational, fun, nurturing environment. The staff is comprised of certified head teachers and teaching assistants. The focus is for each child to reach his or her own potential. There is a special needs inclusion aspect to the program, through which trained educational specialists further age appropriate development.

Conveniently located near exits and entrances to the Merritt Parkway and close to the Boston Post Road, the program is available for children from 6-weeks old through preschool. There is an outside playground, inside gym, and a full-time registered nurse.

Milestones Day Care is open Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, please visit mbs-inc.org/programs-services/daycare/. To schedule a tour, contact Erica Cardona at ecardona@mbs-inc.org or 203-799-4110.

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News & Events

Milford Chamber Holiday Party At The Milford Bank

Photos By Steve Cooper



Classic Car Dealer Eyeing Orange

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

Dragone Classic Cars wants to move its Westport and Bridgeport operations to Orange. The company restores antique, rare and special interest vehicles. It wants to rent a 66 thousand-foot building located at 5 Connair Rd. from Saunders Legatees, LLC. Dragone currently has a showroom in

Westport and a repair facility in Bridgeport, both of which would be relocated to Orange. Dragone was approved for a used car dealership license for antique auto restoration and sales. According to Manny Dragone, this third-generation business employees 30 to 40 workers in both locations, but wants this spot so he can have everything under one roof: renovation, sales and auctions.

Medicare Update And Forum

by Kim Rose

After hearing the concerns of the 1,100 Milford elderly and disabled individuals and the 113,000 statewide who may be affected by some of the budget changes to the Medicare Savings Program, I organized a forum with representatives from the Agency on Aging and the CHOICES Program to update and share information on Monday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. at the Milford Senior Center.

Some good news is the announcement from the state Department of Social Services that it will slow down the implementation of eligibility reductions in the 'Medicare Savings Programs' while they review the process. That will result in moving the date of changes in the Medicare Savings Program past Jan. 1, 2018.

DSS expects that its review process will take at least two months to complete,

at which time the reduced income limits will go into effect. DSS will continue to keep beneficiaries informed as the process is put into place.

Those who are potentially affected by the lower income eligibility levels are encouraged to call the CHOICES program for health insurance assistance provided by the state Department on Aging at 800-994-9422.

Please attend the informational forum and/or let someone you may know that might want to attend. You can also call for additional health care plan options and assistance that might be available to you. To find out more about the Medicare Savings Program changes by calling 211.

Please feel free to contact me at the Capitol at 1-800-842-8267, on my cell phone at 203-701-6098, or by email at Kim.Rose@cga.ct.gov. Please like my official Facebook page for news and legislative updates.



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News & Events

Milford Chamber's Leads Group Annual Holiday Party



Photos By Steve Cooper

Milford Audubon Society To Host Winter Vacation Fun

Winter's no reason to stay inside. Bundle up and come to The Connecticut Audubon Society's Coastal Center in Milford for Winter Vacation Fun on Dec. 27, 28 and 29. They will be fun-filled days with plenty of hands-on, nature-based activities, both indoors and out. Exploring, experimenting, crafts, stories and games are planned, for ages 4 through 8.

The program will be held at the Coastal Center, 1 Milford Point Rd., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Choose one, two or all three days. Come prepared with winter outerwear, snack, lunch and water bottle. Pre-registration is necessary. The cost for CAS members is \$45 per day; for non-members it's \$50 per day. For more information or to sign up, call 203-878-7440 or visit www.ctaudubon.org/coastal-center.

Wreaths Across America

Mayor Benjamin B. Blake and the Freeloze Baldwin Stow Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution cordially invite you to attend:

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 12:00 noon
King's Highway Cemetery at Veterans Circle
270 Cherry Street, Milford, CT



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Featuring Johnny Rizzo & friends

March 3rd....To be named Blues Band...a whole roomfull

March 9th....To Be Named Dead Band & Creamery Station

March 24th....Cold Hard Cash Show
Featuring The Most Authentic "Johnny Cash" show in the US

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April 20th....The Lords of 52nd Street
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Obituaries:

Anne M. Anderson, 70, of Milford, beloved wife of Dennis Anderson, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2017. Born on August 18, 1947 in New Haven, CT she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Mary Klarman Murray.

William H. Auger, a resident of Milford for all his life, passed away November 24, 2017. He was born on July 3, 1938. After graduation from Milford High School, he joined the Air Force, serving four years, which allowed him to see some of the world countries. Upon completion of his service, he worked at the New Haven Correctional Center for 31 years before retiring at the age of 53. His remaining years were spent traveling, whether it be to spend the winter in Florida or to another country in Europe. He had a condo in Ft. Lauderdale for many years where he visited.

Joan P. Bernard, 84, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Roger R. Bernard, Sr., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on December 2, 2017. Joan was born on September 1, 1933, in Milford, CT, to the late Edward and Doris Frank.

Frank Caparulo, of Orange, CT, born May 12, 1938 in El Paso, TX, passed away suddenly on November 28, 2017 in Montclair, NJ. Mr. Caparulo was known as Frankie, Cappy, Coach, Dad, Granpa and Poppa to the family and friends who best loved him for his raucous sense of humor, his deep, abiding love for his family and a lifetime of compassion for his fellow man.

Phyllis J. Copertino, 86, of Milford, beloved wife of Paul L. Copertino, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2017. Phyllis was born on March 19, 1931 in Danbury, CT to the late Cornelius and Lucy Leahey.

Karen S. Coughlin, a 74 year old Milford resident and former longtime Ansonia resident, entered into eternal rest December 2. She was born April 7, 1943 in Ansonia, daughter of the late Thaddeus & Mary Chrzanowski Slade. She graduated from The Assumption Church School as well as Ansonia High School. A parishioner of The Church of the Assumption, Karen worked as an administrative assistant for The Knights of Columbus.

Lucy Margaret Devlin, age 94, of Milford, beloved wife of the late John Devlin, died on Monday, November 20, 2017. Lucy was born in Nutley, NJ on December 10, 1922 to the late Ralph and Rose Pastore Piccorelli. She lived in Milford for over 65 years and was a longtime parishioner of Saint Ann Church. She loved to garden and enjoyed her long walks on the beach.

John DiLeone, 103, of Orange, an accomplished cellist, died at Milford Hospital on November 22, 2017. He was born in New Haven on January 4, 1914, a son of the late Frank and Paolina Brunelli DiLeone. He graduated from Hillhouse High School in 1931 and attended the Yale School of Music. He studied the cello under Louis Hunazek, professor Emmeran Stoeber, William Ebaun and Rosolino DeMaria. In 1935 he was the staff cellist at Station WXBS of Waterbury. He was a member of the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, The Hartford Symphony Orchestra and others. Upon the death of his father Frank, he operated the DiLeone Music store until it closed in 1993. John was a professional musician and he had many interests. He was a WWII Army veteran.

Jeffrey Alan Eccleston, age 53, of Milford, CT, beloved husband to Rhonda Eccleston, passed away peacefully at home on November 27, 2017. He was born in Milford, CT. In addition to being a devoted husband and father, Jeffrey was a toolmaker at Bic Corporation where he was employed for 22 years. He loved his job and in his spare time enjoyed outdoor activities, spending time with his family, cooking, and discussing in-depth topics with family and friends.

Jacqueline A. Fino, 83, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Dominick Fino, passed away on November 17, 2017. Jacqueline was born in Bridgeport, CT on October 20, 1934. She was the daughter of John and Ethel (Berard) Hovan.

Ivez Hendlin, age 93, of New Haven, formerly of Orange, beloved wife of the late Alexander Hendlin, passed away at home on November 16, 2017. Ivez was the daughter of Harry and Sophie Rievman of Bridgeport, a Navy Veteran of WWII, and worked as a bookkeeper throughout her career. She enjoyed travel and visited five continents. One of the highlights of her personal life was her appearance on the game show Jeopardy!

Emilie Kelly, 96, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Ellison J. Kelly, Jr., passed away peacefully on December 2, 2017. Born on July 25, 1921 in Sudetenland, Königswart, Czechoslovakia, she was the daughter of the late Johann and Julia Bachmann. Emilie immigrated to America in 1948 and settled in Milford in 1951. She was an avid gardener and was tremendously talented at knitting, crafting and fixing things around her home.

Elaine Kennedy, 88, of Wallingford, CT, formerly of Orange, CT, died peacefully in her sleep on Dec. 1, 2017 at Masonicare Hospice, in Wallingford. Born on Dec. 1, 1929 in New Haven, CT, she is predeceased by her parents Alfred and Susan Persico Lenzi and her late husband of 60 years ,Hugh A. Kennedy, Jr. Elaine went to high school at St. Mary's in New Haven, CT and graduated in 1947. She went on to earn an Associate's Degree in Science from Larson (Quinnipiac) College in Hamden, CT in 1949. Elaine held various secretarial positions throughout her life, but her greatest joy in life was always as a devoted wife, mother and homemaker. She was an

avid tennis and golf enthusiast who enjoyed spending winters with her husband at their home in Fort Myers, Florida.

David F. Kuch (RRMF), age 57, of Milford and formerly of Stratford, beloved husband of his "One and Only", Tweed (Irvine) Kuch, entered peaceful rest on Friday, November 24, 2017 in Masonicare Healthcare of Wallingford, surrounded by family and friends. Born in Van Nuys, CA, on June 18, 1960, he was a son of the late Karl and Genevieve (O'Reilly) Kuch. "Big Dave", as he was affectionately known, worked at Sikorsky for 39 years and enjoyed fishing, the outdoors and nature, especially bald eagles and red-tailed hawks. He could often be found riding his motorcycle and vacationed in upstate New York. An avid Led Zeppelin and Jimi Hendrix fan, Big Dave was a talented musician and played drums for many local bands.

Charles A. Laufer Sr., age 80, of Milford, beloved husband of the late Ardyth (Williams), passed away Wednesday, December 6, 2017 in the Northbridge Nursing Facility, Bridgeport. Mr. Laufer was born October 30, 1937 in Bridgeport, son of the late Daniel and Anna (Bedient) Laufer and had been a lifetime area resident. He was a retired driver for Connecticut Distributors and enjoyed camping, working on cars and spending time with his grandchildren.

Serena Mulston, 90, passed away on November 26, 2017 at home after a long battle with scleroderma. She was born in Westerly, RI on March 22, 1927 to the late Gaspare and Angelina Tudisca. Serena attended Stonington High School and graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1949 with a B.A. degree in Liberal Arts. She worked at the University of Connecticut where she was responsible for issuing scholarships. It was there she met her future husband who was a graduate student and they married in December 1951. A longtime resident of Milford, Serena was a substitute teacher and special education teacher in the Milford School System for a short period of time.


Sandra Pelliccia, 77, formerly of Milford, died Dec. 6, 2017, surrounded by her loving daughters, Stacy (Richard) Carleton, Mechele Amedeo and Jodi (Michael) Dzikowski; also survived by a brother William (Mary) Cardarelli, & nine grandchildren; predeceased by her husband Robert Pelliccia, her parents Michael & Elsie Baptista Cardarelli and brother Michael. Sandra was a registered nurse at St. Raphael's & Yale N.H. Hospitals, and several West Haven nursing homes. Special thanks to Tandet House staff at Jewish Senior Services for their love and care given to our mother.

Brad C. Smith, age 47 of West Haven, formerly of Milford, passed away suddenly November 24, 2017. Brad was born in Milford, April 23, 1970, son of Judy Smith and the late Donald Smith. His true passion was as a mechanic where he enjoyed fixing many cars at work and as a hobby. He also enjoyed fishing and loved all creatures and was known to all his family and friends as a very generous, loving, and caring person.


John Joseph Soberaiy June 5, 1940 ~ December 6, 2017 (age 77)

Bruce Thomsen, 64, of Milford CT, beloved father of Heather Angelico and Bonni Abel, entered into eternal rest on November 27th, 2017. Born on October 24th, 1953 he was the son of the late Neil and Mary Thomsen. Bruce was a lifelong Milford resident and a graduate of Jonathan Law High School. He received his associates degree from Norwalk State Technical College and worked at IBAG North America as an Applications Manager for over 20 years.

Dolores Varzaly Yearsley, age 95, of Milford, beloved wife of the late Joseph H. Yearsley, died peacefully on Friday, November 24, 2017 surrounded by her family. She was born on September 19, 1922 in Dickson City, Pennsylvania.



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- Lobsters Bisque.
- Champagne Crab Bisque.
- Minestrone.

Salad.

- Classic Caesar.
- House Salad w/ Italian Dressing.
- Mesclun Green Salad.

Apps.

- Clams Casino.
- Lobster Cocktail.
- Crab Meat Stuffed Mushroom.
Stuffed w/ Crab and Cream Cheese.
- Shrimp Cocktail.
- Crab Cakes.

***Please make reservations**

Entres.

all come w/ Mashed Potatoes or Rice & Veg.

- Filet Mignon and Stuffed Shrimp.
8 oz. Filet w/ 2 Stuffed Shrimp.
- Stuffed Sole Oscar.
3 Filet of Sole Rolled w/ Stuffing, Crabmeat, Asparagus topped with a Hollandaise Sauce and Broiled Oyster.
- Prime Rib of Beef 20 oz. Rib
- Roasted Cornish Game Hen.
Stuffed w/ Wild Rice and Spinach w/ a Champagne Cream reduction.

Deserts.

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- NY. style Cheesecake.
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