

The Orange Times

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

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November 19, 2018

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School, Communities React To Allegations Of Antisemitism At Amity High

By *Brandon T. Bisceglia*

After an emotional Board of Education meeting Nov. 12 at which numerous students voiced apprehensions over rising antisemitism at Amity High School, school officials, community leaders and various organizations have been working to address their concerns and restore a sense of safety.

Students at the meeting, some in tears, spoke of how they felt afraid to come to school or to reveal their Jewish identity.

"It was emotionally exhausting to be in school today. The hate in this school is bigger than us," one student said.

They cited instances of swastikas being carved into desks and talk of anti-Jewish sentiments, including "We are Nazis," going around in the hallways.

A swastika has since been found carved into a desk at Amity, though it is unclear how long ago it was made.

Immediately following the meeting, Amity Regional District No. 5 Interim Superintendent James A. Connelly issued a letter to the community promising to take a leadership role in curtailing such behavior.

"The Amity School District will not tolerate this type of harassment and will investigate and take disciplinary action against students who demonstrate unacceptable behavior. We will also cooperate and coordinate with the local police department in some of these investigations," the letter said.

Students had spoken out at the board meeting because they felt that too little was done after prior allegations of antisemitic acts were brought to the high school's attention.

An earlier memo sent by the Amity administration said, "The complaints regarding in-school incidents were also investigated by the high school administration. ...We have found no evidence in the high school of wide-



Students packed the room at the Board of Education meeting for Amity Regional District No. 5 Nov. 12 to voice their concerns over rising antisemitic activities at their school. Photo courtesy of the Amity Board of Education.

spread anti-Semitic behaviors."

By Nov. 14, the Amity administration held what it called in a news release a "very productive meeting" with leaders from local organizations and clergy to discuss the school's and community's response to the incidents. The release said the administration was working with groups of students, faculty and members of the Anti-Defamation League, and would be releasing an action plan to be released by Nov. 30.

Worries in the Jewish community have been heightened in part by the Oct. 27 mass shooting that killed 11 and injured seven at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. The FBI reported earlier in November that hate crimes nationwide rose 17 percent in 2017, with a 37 percent spike in crimes against Jews and Jewish institutions.

Tensions have also been heightened by the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the night of the broken glass, which occurred Nov. 9 to 10, 1938. The event is sometimes considered the beginning of the Holocaust, when the Nazis turned from social and economic isolation of the Jews to beatings and murder.

Reaction throughout the district, which includes students from Bethany, Orange and

Woodbridge, was swift.

"I feel this is a sad day for our communities and it will take the communities to help overcome this evil," said Orange first selectman Jim Zeoli. "The Town of Orange cannot and will not be part of such hate. The towns and schools must work with our children and families to solve this hate of others. Orange has always been a balanced community of all types of families and respect of others and this will not change."

"I was disgusted by what has been happening to Amity students at the hands of some of their peers," said Bethany first selectwoman Derrylyn Gorski. "I am so proud of the students and their families who had the courage and fortitude to speak out in a public forum to share their experiences and to inform the community at large. The intolerance that has infected our nation has spread to our high school. Shining a light on it is the only way to effect change."

"As Bethany's first selectwoman, I wholeheartedly welcome this community-wide open dialogue. This abhorrent behavior cannot be allowed to continue," she added.

Continued on page 16.

Distribution Facility Planned For Orange's Stew Leonard Property

The "Stew Leonard" property in Orange inched closer to development after languishing for years when a proposal to build a distribution facility and maintenance building was brought before the Town Plan & Zoning Commission Nov. 7 for approval of the site plan application and a temporary request for removal and filling of earth materials.

The proposal includes 47,178 square foot business-to-business distribution facility and a 9,680 square foot maintenance building at 161 Marsh Hill Rd.

Attorney John W. Knuff, of the firm Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff, who is representing the contract purchaser of the property, developer Scannell Properties LLC, and the owner, Stew Leonards Orange LLC, said 15 acres of the 41-acre parcel would remain undeveloped and set aside as a conservation easement.

"I thought it was important to share with you that a good portion of the property would be conserved in its natural state and also as a protection of the wetlands," he told the commission.

The developers pointed out that the facility would be near the I-95 entrance and suggested the increased truck traffic would not present an undue burden on the roads or area residents. The area is zoned Light Industrial 2.

Stew Leonard Jr. had tried for 14 years to create a supermarket and petting zoo on the property but gave up in 2010.

The TPZC held its public hearing on the proposal open until its Nov. 20 meeting because it first needs final approval on the application from the Inland Wetlands Commission.

WE HAVE THE MARKET



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WISHING YOU A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM OUR HOME TO YOURS!

NEW LISTING!



160 Englewood Dr, Orange
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NEW LISTING!



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Listed for \$419,000

NEW LISTING!



845 Hillcrest Road, Orange
Listed for \$327,500

NEW LISTING!



540 Howellton Road, Orange
Listed for \$319,000

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Please Check Out Our Facebook Page for Updates

All events are valid only during school year. Not valid on holidays or school closings. Must present student ID for student specials. Not valid with other offers.

MONDAY MADNESS

Unlimited Jumping
\$12 per person

Unlimited Laser Tag
\$15 per person

Unlimited
Virtual Reality
\$15 per person

After School
Student Special
(with valid student ID)

\$80 for group of four
(only \$20 per person)

Unlimited Laser Tag, Virtual Reality and Jumping includes 1 pizza and 1 soda pitcher.

TUESDAY

Family Night



Pick any 3 in addition to Trampolines: Go Karts, Virtual Reality, Laser Tag, Sky Rider, Spin Zone, Ropes

Includes a Food Voucher for 1 slice of pizza and 1 regular fountain drink *(sharing not allowed)*

\$29.99 per person
Or Family of Four only \$110

Sensory-Friendly Jump

3rd Tuesday of every month
10am to 12noon.

Trampolines \$12.99
Go Karts \$12.99

WEDNESDAY

Jumperoo
10am to 12noon

An event for toddlers who are not in school to have a mommy meet-up place for kids to play and moms to socialize.

\$9.99 for 2 hours

Introductory special
4 passes for the price of 3

Homeschool Jump
1pm to 4pm

Trampolines \$12.99
Go Kart add-on \$12.99

Kids Eat Free

on Wednesdays with purchase of one regular admission ticket. Meal includes 1 slice of pizza and 1 regular fountain drink per person.

THURSDAY

Jumperoo
10am to 12noon

An event for toddlers who are not in school to have a mommy meet-up place for kids to play and moms to socialize.

\$9.99 for 2 hours

Introductory special
4 passes for the price of 3

Family Night

Pick any 3 in addition to Trampolines: Go Karts, Virtual Reality, Laser Tag, Sky Rider, Spin Zone, Ropes

Includes a Food Voucher for 1 slice of pizza and 1 regular fountain drink *(sharing not allowed)*

\$29.99 per person
Or Family of Four only \$110

MON-THURS

BOWLING

1 Lane - 1 Hour
1 pizza - 1 soda pitcher

\$35 with a maximum of 5 persons per group. Additional person is \$7 per person.

First come first serve only per lane availability.

FRIDAY

AIR 456

4th, 5th and 6th graders

Every Friday starting Nov. 9th
9pm to 11pm

Ultimate Pass for \$21.99 per child includes one slice of pizza per child.

SATURDAY

TEEN NIGHT

Every Saturday starting Nov. 10th
8pm-11pm
Must be age of 13 - 17 to participate. (Must present school ID)

Platinum for the price of Ultimate at \$29.99 per teen, including one slice of pizza per teen.

News & Events

Orange Gardeners Earn State Recognition



Members of the Garden Club of Orange were recognized Oct. 24 at the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. Awards Luncheon held at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Plantsville. Back row, from left: Pat Dray, Gail Nixon, Diana DeFilippo and Larry Huzi. Front row, from left: Nancy Matthies, Terry Azoti and Lana Ho. Photo by Linda Bradford.

Several of the Garden Club of Orange's members received state recognition at the Federated Garden Clubs of CT, Inc. Awards Luncheon held on October 24, 2018 at the Aqua Turf Country Club in Plantsville.

Nancy Matthies received the Lillian M. Rathburn Award, a traveling silver tray established in 1990 by the Lyme Garden Club. It's the highest award presented to an individual garden club member.

Maryellen Bspuda received a Certificate of Individual Achievement for her leadership work in designing and planning the herb gardens at the historic Stone-Otis House in Orange, and for horticultural projects for the club.

The Terry Stoleson Creative Design Award was given to Larry Huzi for his "Velvet Green Hills" floral design at the 2018 Connecticut Flower Show – a purple and orange rosette presented to the design that best represents

the creativity, imagination and originality in creative design.

Lana Ho earned a Tribute Award in Design for sharing her creativity in floral design as a club member for 35 years.

A Club Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Patricia Dray for her consistent support of club activities.

Caroline Dirsra earned a Certificate of Individual Achievement for her commitment as a volunteer in the club's garden therapy program.

The club newsletter, "News N'Notes," edited by Terry Azoti and Brenda Zandri, and the club's yearbook, edited by Nancy Mellone, each were awarded first place certificates.

The Garden Club of Orange is a member of the FGCCT, NEG and NEC. For membership information contact Joanne Friedrichs at 203-795-4255.

Milford Concert Band Beginning Fall Series



The Milford Concert Band is beginning its 26th season with events for the holidays throughout November and December. Photo courtesy of the Milford Concert Band.

The Milford Concert Band is beginning its 26th season as the official band of the City of Milford. Rehearsals are Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Fowler Memorial Building next to the library. Musicians of all ages and experience are welcome to share their talents and join the band. Information about the MCB can be found at milfordconcertband.org.

The fall concert series continues with Santa and DJ Sheila at the Milford Gazebo

on Friday, Nov. 23 for the Milford Tree Lighting ceremony.

The band's annual "A Milford Christmas" will be at the Milford City Hall Auditorium on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. If you cannot make it Saturday night, the MCB will also be performing at the Milford Senior Center Sunday, Dec. 16 at 1:30 p.m. The band will be playing Christmas and Holiday favorites for kids of all ages to sing along.

Admission to all programs is free.

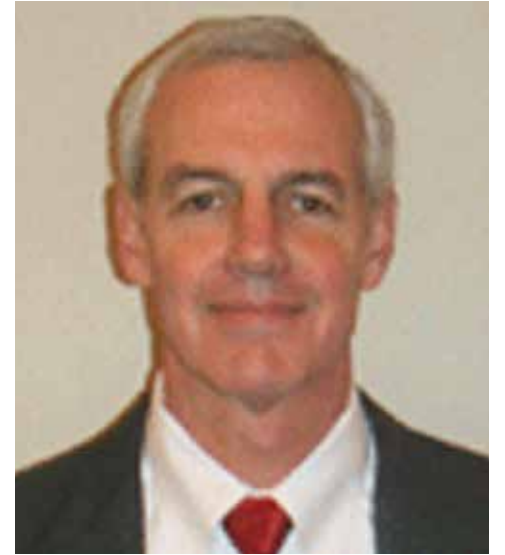
Milford Chamber Of Commerce Executive Director Steps Down

The Board of Directors of the Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce announced Nov. 2 that Gary Mullin will be stepping down as executive director of the Chamber.

"The chamber has sharpened its focus on the business community and is poised to provide greater support to an increasing membership base," Mullin said. "The past two years have been a terrific experience with this community, and I am confident the chamber is positioned for continued growth. The young professionals' group, EPIC, is growing in strength and numbers as the next generation prepares for the future. I want to thank everyone in Milford, especially the chamber Board of Directors and chamber staff for their counsel and support these past two and a half years."

Mullin is expected to remain at the chamber until the appointment of a new executive director.

Board Chair Dewey Forbes said, "Gary Mullin has done an excellent job at balancing our operations with a sustainable financial plan moving forward. As a result, we're in a much better position from which to grow our membership and better serve local businesses and the community. The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce has long



Gary Mullin. Contributed photo.

been a bright spot for local businesses and among its constituent chambers in the state. I have every expectation that our path moving forward will continue this legacy."

The Board of Directors will assemble its search committee to call for applicants and begin looking for a new executive director. Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume (in PDF format) for consideration to apply@milfordct.com.

Milford Real Estate Agent Earns Top Award



Tracy Lee Edwards, a Milford real estate agent, accepts the 2018 Community Service Award from the New Haven Middlesex Association of Realtors. From left, Yolanda Lowe, president-elect of the New Haven Middlesex Association of Realtors; Edwards; and current president Joel Grossman. Photo courtesy of Tracy Edwards.

Tracy Lee Edwards, a Milford real estate agent, was recently awarded the 2018 Community Service Award from the New Haven Middlesex Association of Realtors.

Edwards is a top agent at Stacy Blake Realty, LLC in Milford and a consistent recipient of the Quarterly Achievement Award for Excellence in New Haven/Middlesex County, which is awarded to top producers.

Edwards was honored at NHMR's 2018 Trade Show, Technology Update and Legislative Rally amongst 1,000 of her peers at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford. She said she is very proud of her accomplishments and is thankful to all of her clients for their trust in her, knowing that she is attentive to their wants and needs. Her motto is that she believes in putting her clients' best interests first, and that she is with them from start

to finish throughout the process. She is a dedicated full-time agent who believes in giving back to the community.

Edwards is closely involved with various nonprofit organizations and philanthropic groups, including the as a board member of the Literacy Center of Southern Connecticut and as past co-president of the Jr. Woman's Club of Milford. She is also involved with the W.O.M.E.N. Group, the Network of Executive Women, the Milford Chamber Of Commerce as an ambassador, Devon Rotary and the Woman's Auxiliary for the Pequonnock Yacht Club.

Edwards has held various director and vice president positions in corporate America, including at Sony Music and William Raveis Real Estate. She currently holds two licenses: real estate salesperson and mortgage loan originator.

Opinion & Editorial

In The House:

Toll Report Death Shows How Much Motorists Would Pay



STATE REP. (R-114)
THEMIS KLARIDES

If you needed any more proof that reinstallation of tolls on our state roads and highways will be a costly proposition for Connecticut motorists, take a look at the details of the plan put forth Nov. 15 by the Department of Transportation.

The report, conducted by the consultant CDM Smith, is not related to the \$10 million set aside for a report Gov. Dannel Malloy pushed through the State Bond Commission last summer. That \$10 million report authorized by the Bond Commission approval would examine in detail the environmental aspects of a tolling system.

The details now show that up to 82 separate gantry areas or tolling spots could be located throughout our interstate highways and on routes 15, 9, 8 and 2 – all limited access highways. Connecticut is the third smallest state in the country and would likely be among the most densely tolled if this plan was enacted.

The details of the report were kept quiet since last summer and were made public more than a week after election day by the DOT, although officials referenced the plan in previous testimony to lawmakers.

The proposal would raise more than \$1 billion a year and would cost about \$100 million to operate. Travel during peak times of the day – rush hours when motorists basically have to be on the roads to get to and from work – would cost about 8 cents a mile. One obvious side effect of this proposed system would be to funnel more traffic to local roads and streets, thereby creating greater local congestion.

The plan would cost Connecticut motorists hundreds of millions a year, according to the DOT projections. Any reasonable solution to maintaining our roads and bridges must be considered. But this appears to be another revenue grab to make up for the failures to manage our state's finances.

Governor-elect Ned Lamont, when asked about his position on tolls during the campaign, said he would like to limit it to only charging out-of-state truck drivers, similar to the plan put in place in Rhode Island. That operation is the subject of a pending lawsuit.

The number and locations of the tolls would be subject to legislative approval of the final plans. Several toll bills were raised in the last legislative session but none of them were voted on. Final approval is likely to become a political showdown.

Tolls Not The Answer



STATE REP. (R-117)
CHARLES FERRARO

I first want to thank the residents of the 117th district for their support this election. I am ready to get back to Hartford to be your commonsense voice and to work to make our state the best in the country.

Next session will be another difficult budget year. We are billions in the red and will need to make tough decisions to turn our state around.

On the campaign trail, I knocked on thousands of doors and talked to many residents who are tired of the never-ending attacks on their wallets. The majority of residents I heard from want tax relief and want Hartford to stop overspending and overborrowing.

One of the top concerns many residents expressed was tolls. Residents who travel to work were deeply concerned about tolls being placed throughout the state. Other residents said they wouldn't mind tolls if residents didn't have to pay or if they were on our borders. After explaining to them that border tolls were illegal and nearly 70 percent of residents would pay, neighbors overwhelmingly rejected tolls.

Now just days after the November election, the Department of Transportation released another study that calls for Connecticut to install 82 electronic tolling gantries throughout Connecticut.

Looking at the map, there would be seven tolls on I-95 from New Haven to Greenwich, and eight tolls on Route 15 from Woodbridge to Greenwich.

According to the Yankee Institute, "A single, one-way trip on I-95 from New York to New Haven during peak hours would cost \$2.11 or \$4.22 for a round trip. That could equal \$21.10 per week for a regular commuter with an CT E-Z Pass commuter discount."

I find this blueprint for tolls to be completely unacceptable. Placing this many tolls throughout our state would punish taxpayers and businesses owners. We don't need tolls to fix our decaying roads and bridges; we need to get serious about prioritizing spending and reducing administrative costs.

During the 2019 legislative session, I will keep you up to date on tolls and much more related to our state government. I encourage all residents to follow me on Facebook or to visit my website, RepFerraro.com. You can always email me at Charles.Ferraro@housegop.ct.gov or call 860-240-8700.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Editorial: A Lot To Be Thankful For

By Brandon T. Bisceglia

If you're reading this, you have a lot to be thankful for already. You can read.

Sadly, that's not the case for many. Right next door in New Haven, as much as 30 percent of the adult population is at the "lowest literacy levels," according to estimates from the New Haven New Haven Adult and Continuing Education Program.

You also can be thankful for access to high-quality schools for your children. The Greater New Haven Community Index in 2013 estimated that over 80 percent of high school graduates in that city who enrolled in state or community colleges had to be placed in remedial programs.

Amity Regional High School's graduation rate in 2017 was 96.3 percent; Milford's public schools were at 90.1 percent. Compare those to New Haven public schools at 80.0 percent, or Bridgeport at 74.5 percent – both of which marked improvements over previous years.

If you're reading this paper, you almost certainly received it at your home. That wouldn't be possible for the estimated 3,387 homeless people who lived in the state at last count in 2017, according to the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness.

Milford and Orange residents also benefit from some of the lowest property taxes in the area. The mill rate for Milford in 2019 will drop for the third year to 27.74, while in Orange it will be at a slightly higher 32. Derby meanwhile will have a mill rate of 39.37; Stratford's will be 39.90.

Chances are that you also have a job. According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, Milford's unemployment rate stood at 3.8 percent in September. Orange's was even lower, at 3.1 percent.

You might not feel like you're earning enough, of course. Connecticut is undoubtedly an expensive place to live. Yet the median household income in Milford was \$86,495 in 2016. It was even higher in Orange, at \$112,351. Both are well above the median for New Haven, at \$40,457, and the state as a whole at \$73,433.

These higher incomes are reflected in the United Way's latest ALICE, or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, report. The report sheds light on people who are employed but struggle to meet basic needs because of their low incomes. Milford and Orange rank low on the percentage of residents who fall below the ALICE threshold compared to cities like Bridgeport and Hartford, where more than 70 percent of the population qualified.

It's well-documented that people do not judge their happiness or their status in society by any objective measure. If we did, the homeless people sleeping on the benches of New Haven would count themselves among the happiest in history.

No, we evaluate ourselves primarily by the standards of those we interact with on a daily basis. We're not worried about keeping up with the Mitras in Dhaka; we're worried about keeping up with the Joneses down the street.

Still, by any measure – regional, state, national or international – the people of Milford and Orange have it pretty good.

There's always room for improvement, even in the best of places. But this Thanksgiving, we would all do well to remember how lucky we are. We would do well to help our neighbors around the corner and around the globe move a little closer to the quality of life we enjoy.

Letters To The Editor:

To the Editor:

As a former student-athlete and alumnus of Amity High School, I am saddened to hear about the recent actions that have taken place at my former high school. I am proud to call myself an Amity alum and a Jew, but I am disappointed to hear what has taken place at a place where I was always comfortable. One of the best parts about Amity was that I always felt safe and never had to worry about what I wore, where I walked, and most importantly my religion. There is no place for these displays of hate and I am saddened to hear about the disturbing actions that have taken place. I am at a loss for words after hearing about these incidents of antisemitism. I can only hope that the Amity community can rise as one and prove that love is stronger than hate.

Carl Goldblatt, Orange

To the Editor:

In response to the recent antisemitic, homophobic and racist rhetoric and actions that have been reported at the Amity High School, we, the members of the clergy of the Town of Orange stand together and condemn any and all such language and express our profound sadness that students in the Amity school system are being subjected to these hurtful words and symbols of hate. We find these actions gravely offensive and totally unacceptable.

As leaders of the houses of worship in the town of Orange we have always enjoyed an engaging and thoughtful interfaith dialogue. We stand united and affirm our longstanding and positive relations with the Jewish community and peoples of all religions.

Furthermore, we encourage the parents in our congregations and in the wider community to discuss these issues with their children and to model for them respectful regard for the dignity of all people. We have been working closely with the Amity High School Administration, ADL and local teenagers establishing the next steps forward.

We pray that during this holy season that celebrates peace, thankfulness and good will among all people, that with God's grace and help, mutual respect, understanding and love will prevail.

Rev. Timothy Boerger, Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Rev. Father Norman Brockett, Holy Infant Roman Catholic Church
Imam Bachir Djehiche, New Haven Islamic Center
Rabbi Michael Farbman, Temple Emanuel
Rev. James Latimer, Orange Congregational Church
Rev. Peter Orfanakos, St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, Congregation Or Shalom

Orange Recycle Tips



Single-use plastic straws are an environmental problem that few people consider. According to the activist group For a Strawless Ocean, we use 500 million straws every day. Those straws are difficult to recycle and add to the plastic catastrophe happening in our oceans. There are many practical alternatives to the single-use plastic straw: reusable straws made from acrylic; metal; bamboo; or paper. Better yet, reduce your usage of straws.

To learn more about what is and isn't recyclable visit the town website at orange-ct.gov or visit the Orange Recycling Committee Facebook page.

Have A Tip? Send It To Us At
editor@theorangetimes.com

Rotary's Fight To Eradicate Polio

By Roger Tausig



I was reading the *New York Times* recently and came across a headline that captured my attention as a Rotarian. The headline read "Afghanistan Is the World's Polio Capital. These Afghans Hope to Fix That."

As I read the article, I became more and more astounded that nowhere in it was there a mention of Rotary and the extraordinary role it has played in virtually eradicating this menacing disease outside of North America.

It is appropriate for people to fully understand the part that Rotary has played in the quest to wipe out polio worldwide, once and for all. Here are some facts taken from the Rotary International website I bet very few are aware of.

"In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle

global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort."

"Today, there are only three countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Just 37 polio cases were confirmed worldwide in 2016, which is a reduction of more than 99.9 percent since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day."

"More than one million Rotary members have donated their time and personal resources to end polio. Every year, hundreds of Rotary members work side-by-side with health workers to vaccinate children in polio-affected countries. Rotary Members work with

UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute mass communication tools to reach people in areas isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. Rotary members also recruit fellow volunteers, assist with transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support."

"Rotary has a growing roster of public figures and celebrities participating in its 'This Close' public awareness campaign, including Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; actresses Kristen Bell; WWE superstar John Cena; Nobel Peace Prize laureate Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu; action movie star Jackie Chan; boxing great Manny Pacquiao; golf legend Jack Nicklaus; conservationist Jane Goodall; premier violinist Itzhak Perlman; and Ziggy Marley; and peace advocate Queen Noor of Jordan. These ambassadors help educate the public about polio through public service announcements, social media and public appearances."

All of this effort starts at the grassroots level; local Rotary clubs just like ours run fundraising events to bring in money that goes into the Rotary Foundation, which then doles out the proceeds of these events to numerous worthy causes to help those in need around the world.

So next time you see a Rotary fundraiser advertised, whether it's the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, the annual Lobsterfest or the Mother's Day Rose Sale, please join in with the knowledge that you are contributing to the kind of effort that will help mankind. I cannot begin to describe the pride that I have in being a part of an organization that is doing such noble work.

If doing service work for the less fortunate is something that you are inspired to do, don't hesitate to contact me at rogetausig@yahoo.com to learn how you can become a Rotarian and make a difference in the local community and the world.

Derby-Milford Road Bridge Project Delayed

Orange Town Engineer Robert Brinton said Nov. 17 that the bridge construction at the intersection of Grassy Hill Road and Derby-Milford Road will not be completed as previously projected on Nov. 30 and could be delayed until spring.

Brinton said the causes of the delays included obtaining state approval for traffic signal modifications necessary to close the road, problems with the valves installed to shut off the water main over the bridge and

installation of the bridge support piles taking longer than anticipated.

The bridge abutments are nearly complete, and beams are scheduled to be installed the first week of December.

"Bridge construction work will continue into December, and the bridge will be reopened to traffic if weather and temperature permit completion. If not, the bridge will remain closed to traffic over the winter and work will be completed in the spring," he said.

The Orange Times

Stephen Hechtman, Publisher: publisher@theorangetimes.com
 Patricia Miller, Entertainment Editor: patmiller605@sbcglobal.net
 Brandon T. Bisceglia, Editor: brandontbisceglia@yahoo.com
 Creative Director: Wendy Macomber Photographers: Steve Cooper • Lexi Crocco

In The House:

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

Columnists:

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David Crow, Conversations	James Maroney, SAT Prep	Hon. Beverly K. Streit-Kefalas, Probate
Allison DePaola, Legal	Annamarie Mastrangelo, Flooring	Eric Tashlein, Finances
Steven Floman, Legal	Marianne Miller, Lions Club	Fern Tausig, Hypnosis
Pat Dray, Gardening	Karen Panzer, Travel	Roger Tausig, Rotary Club
Peter Hechtman, Books	Trish Pearson, Insurance	Michele Tenney, Health

The Orange Times is published by The Orange Times LLC, P.O. Box 584, Orange, CT, 06477
 Phone: 203.799.7500 Online: www.theorangetimes.com
 Facebook: @theorangetimes Instagram: @theorangetimes



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Arts & Entertainment

Art...is a question in the minds of those who want to know what's happening. – Attributed to Aaron Howard

by Patricia Miller

FRIENDS OF THE CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange), in this season of holiday celebration, invites families and friends to join in a program of musical merriment by the Silk'n Sounds Chorus, a women's a cappella group. This festive holiday concert will be at the library on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m. The chorus was formed in 1998 by seven dedicated singers of traditional close four-part harmony. The chorus has grown to include 40 members. Silk'n Sounds provides high-quality a cappella performances for a wide range of audiences, participates in regional and international competitions and partners with charities working to improve life in local communities. Current leader Kia Lampe-Onner has over 23 years of chorus leadership in many musical genres. She has led the chorus to continue to build vocal skills and showmanship, and the repertoire has broadened.

The Prown Fund is the sponsor of this Friends of the Library program. The fund was founded to honor the memory of Shirley ("Sam") Prown, one of the founders of the Case Memorial's Friends of the Library program, a tireless volunteer and an enthusiastic supporter of presenting programs for children and families.

Since this is bound to be a popular program, patrons are encouraged to reserve seats early by calling the library at 203-891-2170 or by going on line at casememorylibrary.org.

FRIENDS OF THE CASE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) also welcome patrons to the Bookfair at Barnes and Noble in Milford on Friday, Dec. 14. On that day, Barnes and Noble will donate a percentage of all transactions using a voucher coupon to the Friends. There is no additional cost for the shopper. Online purchases for the next five days are also included at bn.com/bookfair. Ask for the voucher code at Barnes and Noble.

ART IN THE LIBRARY (176 Tyler City Rd., Orange) continues "Getting Close: Photography Exploration by Veterans" through the month of November. This show is presented through the collaboration of the Art in the Library Committee, the New Haven Vet Center, and the Josephine Herrick Project. The December show will feature the work of the students of Audrey Galer.

THE ORANGE ARTS AND CULTURE COUNCIL (525 Orange Center Rd., Orange) will provide free bus transportation to the New Haven Symphony Orchestra's Classic Series concert, Beethoven, featuring the heroic "Symphony No. 3" and the groundbreaking "Piano Concerto No. 4," with Yale faculty member pianist Boris Berman. Tickets can be obtained by calling 203-787-4282 or by going to newhavensymphony.org.

THE GARDN CLUB OF ORANGE sponsors its biennial holiday house tour, "Deck the Halls," on Sunday, Dec. 9 from noon to 3:30 p.m. Pat Nizen and Lisa Stockpole are co-chairs of the event, which will feature five charming and unique houses decorated for the season by members of the Garden Club. Each house will be hosted for viewing by a Garden Club member as well. Limited tickets are available at \$25 each. Call Nancy Becque at 203-795-9425 to purchase a ticket.



Gary and Francesca Scarpa with their successor, Martin Scott Marchitto. Contributed photo.

THE SHUBERT THEATER (247 College St., New Haven) will be the venue for *A Charlie Brown's Christmas* on Friday, Nov. 23 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. It will also be showing *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 25 at 2 p.m. The hilarious musical, *Something's Rotten*, plays Friday, Nov. 30 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 2 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. This play is a spoof on Shakespeare and combines the appeal of *The Producers*, *Spamalot*, and *The Book of Mormon*.

CENTER STAGE (54 Grove St., Shelton) directors Gary and Francesca Scarpa have announced they are passing the torch to Martin Scott Marchitto after 42 years of devoting their lives to local theatre in Shelton. The nonprofit was founded in 2005 by the Scarpas, who have made the theatre a huge success. They will continue to serve in an advisory capacity and may direct an occasional play in the future, but they are looking forward to slowing down a bit and enjoying their lives with family and friends.

Marchitto appeared in Scarpa productions when he was in high school and college and has recently been a guest director at the theatre. He has spent the last 30 years as a freelance theatre artist, teaching, directing and designing throughout Connecticut and the United States. He holds a bachelor's degree from Albertus Magnus, a master of fine arts degree from the University of Illinois and a certificate in drama from the Yale School of Drama. He says that the Scarpas have been a profound influence on him and he is honored to have been chosen to continue their legacy.

Marchitto will begin working at Center Stage Jan. 1. The Scarpas plan to assist him in making a smooth transition for the rest of the season and to retire completely by July 1.

THE PALACE THEATER (100 East Main St., Waterbury) offers *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. This is a musical version of the TV classic, an adventure that teaches what makes you different can make you special. Favorite characters include Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, Herme the Elf, the Abominable Snowman, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius, and, of course, Rudolph. Tickets can be bought at 203-563-6334 or at palacetheaterct.org.

THE REGINA A. QUICK CENTER FOR THE ARTS (1073 N Benson Rd., Fairfield) presents the Soweto Gospel Choir in "Songs of the Free," a celebration of Nelson Mandela, on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. Direct from South Africa, the two-time Grammy Award-winning Soweto Gospel Choir is an awe-inspiring 20-member ensemble that performs worldwide. The choir celebrates the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, the "father of the rainbow nation," with "Songs of the Free." The evening will include South African classics as well as freedom songs and the gospel music that Mandela enjoyed.

The center is also hosting "Global Theatre: A Performance Series," curated by Cheryl Wiesenfeld, a Broadway and off-Broadway producer. The first of the series is *Cell*, written by Cassandra Medley. This powerful short play "definitely explores the antidemocratic secret of institutionalized racism," according to the *New York Times*. When a jaded prison guard arranges jobs for her sister, Gwen, and her niece at an immigrant detention center, the family erupts into a battle over home and homeland security. As time lessens for Gwen to save a detained child, *Cell* paints a searing picture of the secrets we keep to survive. The next in the series will be *gUN COUNTRY*, a theatrical exploration of firearms in America, which will come to the Quick Center in April. The box office number is 203-254-4010. To learn more, visit quickcenter.fairfield.edu.

YALE SCHOOL OF MUSIC (470 College St., New Haven) presents the Horowitz Piano Series throughout the year. On Nov. 28, Melvin Cohen will play an arrangement of Brahms' Third Symphony and music of Ravel and Sibelius. The concert is at Sprague Hall. Tickets start at \$15, and can be bought by calling 203-432-4158 or at music.yale.edu.

STEPPING STONES MUSEUM (303 West Ave., Norwalk) is celebrating Mickey Mouse's 90th birthday Nov. 13 through Nov. 25. Meet Mickey and friends, directly from Disney on Ice, on Wednesday, Nov. 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. when they drop by the museum. You can see him and his pals in action in January when Disney on Ice comes to the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. For more information go to steppingstonesmuseum.org.

LONG WHARF THEATRE (222 Sargent Dr., New Haven) is running *Paradise Blue*, written by Dominique Morisseau and directed by Awoye Timpo, from Nov. 21 to Dec. 16. Blue is a trumpet-playing blues club owner who picks up his trumpet when he just wants to "get things out." His club, Paradise, was once *the* club in Detroit's Black Bottom neighborhood, until Silver, a mysterious woman, appeared on the scene with her own ideas for Paradise and a walk that drives men crazy. She turns everything upside down. It's dynamic, sultry and spiced with humor. Go to longwharf.org or call 203-787-4282 for tickets

THE JOHN LYMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS (501 Crescent St., New Haven) will have Sinbad on stage Friday, Nov. 23. For 30 years he has been entertaining audiences with his unfiltered marathon performances. Comedy Central rates him as one of the 100 best standup comics of the century. His comedy is a mélange of stories based on everyone he's ever met and everything he's ever seen.

On Tuesday, Nov. 27, the center will host An Evening with David Hogg, a Parkland shooting survivor, and from Tuesday, Nov. 27 to Saturday, Dec. 1, the Crescent Players will present Paula Vogel's *How I Learned to Drive* in the Kendall Drama Lab. Tickets and information for any of these events can be obtained by calling 203-392-6154 or by going to tickets.southernct.edu.

STRESS FACTORY COMEDY CLUB (167 State St., Bridgeport) invites all those who think they're funny to prove it by participating in an open mic night held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for all. Featured comics include John Romanoff on Wednesday, Nov. 21, Kyle Dunnigan and Tony Rock on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 24, Michelle Wolf from Thursday, Dec. 6 to Saturday, Dec. 8, and Candice Guardino Sunday, Dec. 9. For more information, call 203 576-4242 or go to bridgeport.stressfactory.com.

RIDGEFIELD PLAYHOUSE (80 E. Ridge Rd., Ridgefield) has an appearance scheduled by the Marshall Tucker Band, characterized as one of the greatest Southern rock bands of all time, on Thursday, Nov. 29. Ronnie Spector and the Ronettes will perform on Friday, Nov. 30. And on Saturday, Dec. 2, Ben Vereen performs "Steppin' Out for the Holidays" in a special 4:00 p.m. show featuring Vereen's Broadway hits, a Frank Sinatra tribute, and Christmas and Hanukkah favorites. For tickets, call 203-438-5795 or go to ridgefieldplayhouse.org.

NELSON HALL THEATRE (150 Oak Hill Rd., Cheshire) has Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Rhythm is their business. Their specialty is recreating old-style jazz classics from the 20s and 30s, but there is something fresh and new about their music, too. The Grammy-winning Giordano will take his audience on an incredible journey, with music that has been featured in film and TV, including *Empire*, *Café Society*, *The Cotton Club*, *The Aviator*, and the soundtrack of *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

Have an event, a comment or an idea? Send it to patmiller@sbcglobal.net.

<p>Requiem. See Page 6.</p>	<p>one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's exiled Republic of China (ROC) government. Chen's star was so bright that he was offered a fellowship at Northwestern in 1960. Very shortly, everything changed for Chen.</p>	<p>between the group's rotating list of doctors and America's star shown so brightly that universities were offered a fellowship at Northwestern in 1960. They once called him the most outstanding young man in the country," he said while sitting in the Case Memorial Library in 1960. the town he has long called home.</p>	<p>the same. The ROC saw things differently. Neither much cared for dissent among the people. Most nations eventually adopted the ROC's One China Policy, generally cutting off direct diplomacy with Taiwan in favor of international stability. In many cases, such as the United States, acceptance of the policy was not an inherent</p>	<p>Eye Care cont. on page 18</p> <p>Home Sales Rise by Joseph Cole editor@theorangetimes.com Home sale values in Orange are outpacing neighboring communities according</p>
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The Book Club:

A Monster Lurks In The Basement

Dirk Kurbjuweit, *Fear*, House of Anansi, 2017

A monster going by the name of Dieter Tiberius lives in the basement flat. On the ground floor live Randolph and Rebecca, an attractive, educated professional couple, and their two perfect children. Dieter's initial friendliness soon goes south. Although there are no physical assaults, Dieter begins to leave letters that are either obscene poems directed at Rebecca or accusations of child abuse aimed at both. These are also sent to the police who, of course, must investigate.



PETER HECHTMAN

Fear is not simply a gothic horror novel escalating the angst in carefully controlled stages. It is, among other things, a meditation on the fragility of the pillars of the middle-class lifestyle. Over the course of a few years, Randolph and Rebecca relate to their children as if the world is watching and waiting to see acts of abuse. They spend family weekends conscientiously *not* abusing their children.

It becomes so bad that husband and wife cannot help asking each "well, did you ever?"

How can Randolph and Rebecca get rid of this man? One pillar of respectable life is a belief in the rule of law, and that belief would appear to rule out the use of force.

They seek redress in the law. But the law, as Charles Dickens wrote, "is an ass." Slander suits would not work, their lawyer advises. Restraining orders would not be granted.

And yet this same majestic machinery of the law still arrives to investigate them with every slanderous letter Dieter sends. What really shocks Randolph is asking a police officer how he would handle this and

seeing the officer silently tapping his gun. Other solutions, such as buying Dieter's flat or bribing him to move, also fail.

Randolph begins to believe that clinging to the rule of law is a fig leaf masking his own cowardice. Such anxiety undermines one of the chief props of male identity – the defender of the hearth. Randolph's brother tries to cut through this smugness by the following assurance:

"Just smash his face. Civilization will survive."

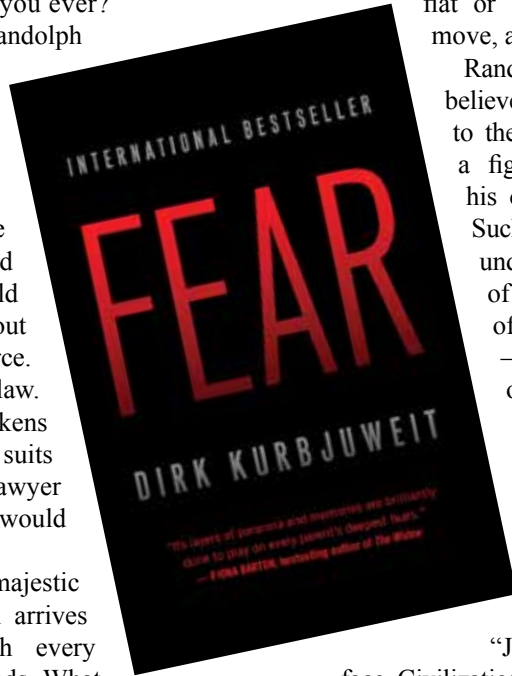
There is more. There are chapters that appear to be unnecessary digressions from

the main plot. Some are about Randolph's troubled history with a brooding and uncommunicative father, a man whose monumental insecurity could only be appeased by assembling a massive gun collection, leading his children to believe that they might be shot for not brushing their teeth. Other chapters focus on the failure of intimacy between the protagonist husband and wife. Life has taught Randolph to withdraw into himself.

It is just when the reader is losing patience with these digressions that the author begins to pull all the threads of the story together, and the reader realizes that the "solution" is one that, given Randolph's history (and/or his genes) is virtually inevitable. What does one want from a story? One thing is that all its parts fuse seamlessly into a believable whole.

I won't reveal the ending, but it does involve an ingenious plot twist.

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



Holy Infant Church Holds Confirmation

Holy Infant Church in Orange held a retreat on Sunday, Oct. 14, for 62 students preparing for their confirmation. In preparation for confirmation, students attended nine years of religious education classes at Holy Infant. The education classes are held weekly during the school year for first through ninth grade. In addition, each of the students completed a minimum of 20

hours of church and community service. Bryan Mercier, Catholic retreat leader in the Hartford Archdiocese, presided over the retreat.

Confirmation was held Oct. 24 at Holy Infant Church with Rev. Peter A. Rosazza presiding. Father Norman Brockett is the pastor of Holy Infant Church, which is located on Racebrook Road in Orange.



Students at Holy Infant Church in Orange attended a retreat Oct. 14 in preparation for their confirmation. Photo by Anna Marieb.

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Lifestyle

On Your Mind:

Avoid Feeling Overwhelmed On The Holidays

Have you noticed the frenzy around the holidays that begins mid-November? I often wonder what that's about. Each holiday is only one day, except Hanukkah, and that's generally not a particularly overwhelming holiday. I guess the preparation for guests, shopping for gifts and the expense of it all can be overwhelming.



FERN TAUSIG

For those who are far from family or who are alone, the feeling is overwhelming in a different way. Many may feel disappointed that the holidays are never as good as they expect or want them to be.

I have a few suggestions to help reduce

those unwanted feelings that seem to come with the holidays.

All tasks seem huge when you look at them as a big picture. The best way to begin to put things into better perspective is to make lists. The first list is to identify all the things you need or want to do. Be sure to include charitable activities you feel strongly about on your list. If you have more time than money, there are places that could use your help. There are so many people in need. Consider how you may help to make someone else's holiday brighter. Be mindful of those who may be alone and consider including them.

The first list may include preparing

invitations, food preparation, buying gifts, shopping, arranging or planning travel. Each item on the list then gets its own list for organizing and completing. Each list has a schedule for completion so you see there is no need to worry.

Parkinson's Law states that work expands to fill the time available for its completion. You know that everything will get done as it always does, but with planning you don't need to feel overwhelmed and you avoid the stress and regret of leaving something out.

Although all this planning can be stressful, remember it's the best kind of stress because you are fortunate to be doing it in the name of celebrating. Plan to include friends or family in your tasks to make the process more enjoyable. Always include stress relievers in

each day. That can include time for exercise, yoga, warm beverages, massage or time with your feet up to relax. Remember to take long, slow, deep breaths throughout all the tasks.

Feeling overwhelmed sometimes means you know there's a lot to do and little time in which to do it. Remember that feelings aren't 'things'; they are just feelings. By changing your thoughts and perspectives, you can change your feelings and feel better.

Making a plan to face the holidays differently this year can change those overwhelmed feelings to overjoyed feelings. Remember you always have a choice.

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

Getting To Know You:

Tone It Down

I was taught that it's impolite to talk politics. Lately with all the tension surrounding politics this little adage seems all the more true. Yet when my wife told me she had bought us tickets to see Lewis Black I saw an opportunity. Black is a comedian who focuses on political commentary. Anyone who goes to one of his shows knows this, so I figured it would be an opportunity to ask a few people what they thought regarding the tension in politics these days.



DAVID CROW

When we got to the theater, I struck up a conversation with the couple behind me in line. I made a point to ask them what they thought caused all the tension in politics in the US today. I got a lot of input.

"Absolutism," a woman named Jennifer told me, a remark that drew nods from everyone within earshot. "Everyone thinks they're one hundred percent right and the other side is one hundred percent wrong. No one gives an inch. They just call each other

names now."

"That's why people are afraid to talk politics nowadays," remarked a man named Pete. "I'm a small businessman and I don't want people not using my business because of my politics."

When I pointed out that was simply good business, he shook his head.

"No, it's different now," Pete said. "I knew people disagreed with me before, but it seems that now we can't just disagree. Now people treat politics like it's good versus evil, and when you mix that with social media and review sites like Yelp, someone who doesn't like your politics can damage your business in minutes."

"It's like public hangings. Neither side gives the other side any slack," said a woman named Marta. Everyone chuckled at her pun. "They don't talk. They're just out to get each other."

I asked Marta if she had experienced this in her personal life.

"Well, I know that there are certain friends and family I'd better not talk politics with because..." she shrugged. "It's just the times, I guess."

I asked everyone if they thought that not discussing politics was a healthy thing.

"Definitely not," said Pete. "Things just fester. People don't understand each other if they don't talk. But what are you going to do? Ordinary people don't want to take a chance. And while politicians say it's important to talk about it, they don't discuss things either. They just shout slogans and blame the other side."

I then asked if there was any place to have a discussion of politics.

"Well, the media should be, but they seem more concerned with whipping up the frenzy to get viewers rather than providing the public a platform for discussion," answered Marta to a sea of nods.

I asked what they thought the solution was.

"Face-to-face conversations like this," replied a man named Richard. "If we want

this tension to go away, we have to do it ourselves. We can't keep expecting the government to fix it for us."

With that in mind, I'd like to encourage everyone to try and let some air out of the taut balloon that is politics these days. In the spirit of the coming holidays, give that person you've been avoiding having a political conversation with a chance to have their say, and resist the impulse to argue back. With Veterans Day just past, we owe it to the veterans who fought for our right to govern ourselves to back away from the angry and inflammatory rhetoric we see flying around and get back to giving each other room to be who we are.

Until next time, y'all come out.

David Crow lives in Orange with his wife and three children. He practices law and he asks everyone to call him "Dave." Only his mother and his wife call him "David," and only when they're mad at him. You can contact Dave at Sit.a.Spell.and.Visit@gmail.com. He'll always find a half hour for a good chat.

Wine Talk:

Canadian Valley Wines Worth A Try

"Wine makes daily living easier, less hurried, with fewer tensions and more tolerance." – Benjamin Franklin

Ninety-nine miles across the Canadian-US border north of the state of Washington there is an area called Okanagan Valley. The Okanagan has a continental climate due to the Lake Okanagan, which is large and connected to three other lakes. It is located near the 50th parallel, giving it the same latitude as the Champagne region of France and the Rheingau region of Germany. There is little rain thanks to the mountains blocking the atmospheric moisture. Most vineyards therefore require irrigation from nearby water sources. The winters are moderately cold but short.

There are over 60 grape varieties grown in the Okanagan Valley, including Merlot, Cab,



RAYMOND SPAZIANI

Pinot Noir, Chardonnay Marechal Foch and Cab Franc. There are several German varieties as well, including Riesling, Bacchus, Optima and Gewurztraminer.

Recently growers have been planting more warm-climate varieties not thought of as typical Canadian wines. These include Syrah, Tempranillo, Trebbiano, Pinotage, Malbec, Zinfandel and even Sangiovese. Prior to this, Canada was known for dessert wines, such as ice wines. Sparkling and fortified wines were also produced. The warm weather wines are doing quite well, though.

Wine production in the Okanagan dates to the 1850s, when French monks produced sacramental wines. Canada went through a

prohibition period that knocked out many Okanagan early wineries. The area was revived in the 1930s with the production of fruit wines and some hybrid grapes. Famous German viticulturalist Helmet Becker in the 1970s encouraged growers to grow German grapes such as Gewurztraminer and others he had developed in his laboratory to resist the cold. With this the wine industry in the area started to take off.

Canada entered into the North American Free Trade Agreement in the 1990s. This opened Canada to American wines. The Canadian government came up with a grant for the wine producers to pull up their hybrid and labrusca vines and replace them with more modern and popular vines.

Some interesting Canadian wines include Stratus 2015 Cabernet Franc. This single

variety wine is made by a French winemaker and it is reminiscent of the great French Cab Francs. Pelee Island Winery has a Cabernet-Petit Verdot that is a killer. It is a 2012. These wines run around \$20 and are a good buy.

So be on the lookout for wines from Canada's Okanagan valley. 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 Amentil 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

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Real Talk: You Ask, A Pro Answers

Get An Inspection Upfront



BARBARA LEHRER

Home sales are getting more and more intricate. A good inspector goes through every inch of the property, and you can be sure that a 50-year-old building has weathered and aged just as much as we do.

So what can happen? The list adds up, and suddenly the seller and the buyer see a couple dozen sentences starting with “evaluate and repair.” Psychologically, these dings sound like money to be spent after giving a good deal to the buyer on one side. On the other side, it appears to the buyer that the property has been neglected. It is neither;

they are usually small items, such as repointing the chimney or clearing the gutters’ drains. These items can lead to the need for a new flue or a wet basement if left unaddressed.

Whether you are selling or not, sometimes a home inspection flags maintenance you just forgot about. Mr. Seller needs to maintain his home, especially if he wants to market it. Electrical problems, old attic insulation, a pull-down attic access ladder or windows that are in bad shape can all look like huge, expensive problems when they really are not.

If you have a well, make sure that the

backwash goes into a drywell and doesn’t hurt your pipes by emptying into the septic. When was the last time you had your well water checked? This water should be checked for your own family’s safety. Machines, such as furnaces and central air units, need yearly maintenance. The home inspector will be happy if that maintenance is done, even if the machines are older. Small corroded pipes sometimes have a leak somewhere that should be repaired, and electric boxes are sometime double-tapped, which can cause a fire.

What is the condition of your oil tank? Is it dirty, deteriorating on the bottom? Can you clean it and paint it? These are some of the expenses that add up if they come up in an

inspection. Check that garage: is it vented or damp? Do the doors work well, with no water rotting the sides?

Getting ahead of problems will make a seller look like he has great pride of ownership. This phrase is commonly used in real estate and goes far in promoting a good price. Clean your grout and wash those windows. Keep the basement and garage floors clean. That home inspector will already have positive expectations as he sweeps your property looking for issues to show that he has earned his fee. Don’t get caught in the crossfire.

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

Here’s To Your Health:

Dive Right In



MICHELE TENNEY

Although years ago water fitness was considered to be primarily for older adults, these days people of all ages and ability levels are finding great benefit in water workouts. Aquatic training is highly beneficial to those who suffer from joint pain, stiffness and overuse injuries.

Water exercise helps the aging population as well as professional athletes by supplementing land training. It adds variety to the mix of workouts, which in turn can help you overcome training plateaus. Aquatic training also increases muscle strength because both cardio and muscle endurance training

can occur in the water, and once you’ve finished your training the water can facilitate a post-workout recovery.

For the aging population, aquatic training improves your ability to perform activities necessary for daily living. Studies have shown water fitness actually lowers blood sugar levels for people with type 2 diabetes. Now that’s great news.

I have been guilty myself of believing that when I am “old” I will have to succumb to the pool for my workouts because I will be unable to do the things I’m doing now. However, I have changed

my way of thinking over the years not only by teaching water aerobics but seeing for myself the benefit of teaching those classes in my own fitness level. These days there are many more choices as new water fitness programs are emerging. There is shallow and deep-water training, including deep-water running for endurance athletes. There is aquatic boot camp, high-intensity interval training, boxing and even cycling – right up my alley.

I have yet to take the paddleboard yoga offered on our summer lake but have a client who’s done it and loves it. Pilates, dance and barre are also offered as aquatic training programs. These are excellent programs for core training. The sky is the limit, friends.

Take your exercise routine into uncharted territory and dive right in; the water is fine. You can hit the YMCA, your own backyard or the Orange Town Pool and start today.

With the holidays quickly approaching, it’s smart to jump ahead of the game and begin a new program rather than wait until after the holidays when you’ve gained between 5 to 10 pounds. Start your new year now. Be proactive, fight the good fight and take authority over your 2019 journey. You can do this. I believe in you. Here’s to your health.

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

Travel Matters

Emerging Travel Destinations



KAREN QUINN-PANZER

Looking for someplace different from the tried and true? Perhaps you go to the Caribbean each winter but you are looking for a new type of experience – you feel like exploring. You have been to Italy, France and Germany and you want to try someplace that is not as touristy next year. We have some new and renewed ideas that are gaining interest from savvy travelers. Most of the names are familiar; others may initiate a Google search. All offer authentic vacation experiences.

Instead of the Caribbean, how about Panama in Central America? You may have cruised through the Panama Canal but not really spent any time in the country itself. With a great combination of beaches and big city, the country’s history, tradition and culture are attracting more visitors. The region’s largest airport is making direct flights from most US cities accessible. Key attractions include the ruins of the original 500-year-old Spanish settlement, a modern downtown area with a bustling dining scene and rainforest national parks nearby.

Been to all the top areas of Italy? How about Matera, Italy – a European Capital of Culture for 2019? It’s famous for its ‘Sassi,’ or cave dwellings, carved into the hillside. Matera is located in the region of Basilicata within the arch of Italy’s boot, between Puglia and Calabria. Matera is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, dating back to the Paleolithic period. It’s now a UNESCO World Heritage site. There are uninhabited grottos on the edge of town to

explore and ancient crypts dating back to the eighth century. Some of the caves in town are now used as residences, shops, restaurants and hotels.

How about Malta? Recently made popular by season one of “Game of Thrones,” Malta is also a favorite film location for many gladiator films. Most visits to this island nation start in the capital of Valletta – a 2018 European Capital of Culture – which was built by the Knights of St. John. You will find the only signed painting by Caravaggio and prehistoric temples dating back some 6,000 years. What’s more, Maltese restaurants are known for their fresh seafood, making it a mecca for foodies. The island of Gozo is picturesque with fishing boats, beautiful villas and great cuisine. Malta made the *New York Times* annual “Places to Go” list, and Dream Vacations is offering a group trip to Malta/Sicily in September 2019.

Last but not least, Egypt and the Nile are back on travelers’ bucket lists. Many river cruise companies, including Uniworld and Scenic, have launched new trips down the Nile with luxury hotel stays in Luxor and Cairo. Abercrombie & Kent offers a family Egypt and the Nile trip – a new addition to their Luxury Family Journeys. Highlights include a treasure hunt in a labyrinthine bazaar, exploration of a pyramid from the inside out, and a ride like a local on camelback.

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

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Home & Garden

The Garden Spot:

What's Your Environmental Footprint?

As I walk around my neighborhood, I often see irrigation systems running even while it's raining, lawn services putting down weed and insect control products, and lights burning in nearly every room of the houses.

I wonder what the environmental toll of these habits is.

In general, a lawn needs about 1 inch of water a week. It's best to have that water at one time, since deeper watering encourages deeper root growth. If sprinklers are run for a short time every day, the water stays closer to the surface and therefore so do the roots of your lawn and plants. Interestingly, lawns

with deeper roots are much less vulnerable to disease and insects, so less frequent watering means fewer lawn chemicals are needed.

Everyone is, and should be, security aware. But we also need to be aware of the cost of the energy we use to light and heat our homes, not just in dollars and cents but also from an environmental standpoint. Do we really need to have lights

on in every room? Have we switched to more energy efficient LED lights? Do we keep the thermostats at 68 degrees in the colder weather?

The Department of Energy estimates savings of about one percent for each degree of thermostat adjustment per eight hours and recommends turning thermostats back seven to 10 degrees from their normal settings for eight hours per day to achieve annual savings of up to 10 percent. The DOE also estimates that LED lightbulbs use at least 75 percent less energy, and last 25 times longer, than incandescent lighting, over time saving the extra cost of LEDs.

On a recent trip to Atlanta, I was at the airport early enough to grab a quick lunch before my flight. It was surprising to find that the only water available in the food



PAT DRAY

court was Fiji Water. I was even more surprised when I read the label and learned that the water actually does come from Fiji – almost 8,000 miles away. And it's in a plastic bottle.

A recent article in the Science Times section of the *New York Times* reported that about one million plastic bottles are purchased around the world every 60 seconds. The plastic shows up as microplastics, and is found in seawater, tap water and salt. It also shows up in the human gut – not a pleasant thought. Rather than buying bottled water, try drinking tap water in a reusable bottle. This is smart for the environment and your pocketbook.

If you'd like to learn more about your environmental footprint, attend the Garden Club of Orange's Jan. 8 meeting at the Case Memorial Library in Orange, when the topic will be discussed by Susan Quincey, the environmental educator at the Kellogg Environmental Center. The presentation starts at 1 p.m.

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

Room 911:

Hosting The Holidays

With the holidays upon us, there is something coded in each of our DNA that makes us panic when it comes to making our house not only presentable, but stunning to all who grace its doors. Not only are we supposed to bake 50 varieties of cookies, clean everything (including the slats of window blinds), have the tableware in tip top shape (no chips) and 25 extra folding chairs. But we also pray that our children and our animals

will be on their best behavior (that includes relatives who may bicker over their favorite politicians and why).

Here are a few decorating and decluttering reminders that will bring you peace and serenity so you, too, can enjoy the holidays.

Don't get nuts cleaning. With a big crowd,



TEDRA SCHNEIDER

who can see the crumbs on the floor? If you have a major concern over this, use your four-legged vacuum cleaner to help you out. It's about time those animals pull their weight in a home that provides them with food and shelter.

But what about dusting? Remove 60 percent of your knickknacks. Put them in a labeled box and put them in the basement if you have one. Now your house will look calmer, and it's easier to dust those shelves.

What about the other rooms in your house? What if you have to have the guests put their winter coats on a bed because your coat closet has limited space? Don't worry; tell your kids to put all of their dirty clothes that are all over their bedroom floor into the hamper, and all their other junk (I mean their stuff) into another labeled box. Down into the basement it goes. If your kids are old enough, have them vacuum their own bedroom floor and dust. What is the motivation for them to exert themselves in such a fashion? It is the same as for the animals. They are so grateful to have food and shelter and be part of the team. If they had tails, they would wag them.

Decorating the house comes down to one word: fruit. Yes, fruit. It is natural, often fragrant and so easy to replace. Use green Granny Smith apples, evenly spaced along the mantel of your fireplace. A pineapple could anchor each end of this display. If after 10 days they are looking tired and on their way to being mushy, then take them down, peel them and make applesauce. Buy new apples. Forgo all the elaborate decorations from expensive catalogs that end up looking plastic anyway.

Don't forget bowls of pomegranates, with their deep red color that adds depth to your room, as well as bowls of mini-pumpkins, gourds and mixed nuts in their shells to display on coffee, dinner or side tables. Candles safely ensconced in hurricane lamps, spiced cider simmering on the stove and a few vases of flowers scattered about the rooms will make you the entertaining host or hostess of the year.

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

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Just Floored:

Solving The Storage Dilemma

Designing a kitchen involves more difficulties than one might think. A kitchen is no longer just a place for cooking and eating. Nowadays clients are asking for more open space for family interactions as well as entertaining. This space has become an important place where a family gathers at the end of the day to discuss a multitude of things such as school projects or the newest electronics, or to complete tasks such as paying bills and do homework.



ANNAMARIE MASTRANGELO

my favorite storage solutions. They have easy access and are mess-free. When combined with a lift-up appliance garage, a pullout utensil holder as well as a “command central” feature is an amazing concept that allows organization as well as the capability to charge electronics. Pullout fittings also help to increase access to larger pots and pans. I personally love these pieces; you can actually see what is in the cabinetry. Cabinets that have pullout drawers with pegs keep the plates and bowls organized without damage from the pullout.

An important part of the kitchen is storage. Having proper storage allows the convenience of having all you need in one place. There is a right as well as a wrong way to set up and maintain storage. If it is done correctly, you can have everything they you need at arm’s length. Proper storage creates a clutter-free kitchen that brings a semblance of peace by knowing everything has its place.

One of the best solutions for opening the kitchen space and creating proper storage is a walk-in pantry. The benefit of a walk-in pantry is that it can accommodate anything, from large bags of dog food to occasionally used kitchen appliances. If you take this option, you do not have to spend money on custom cabinets, therefore saving some money.

The days of displaying expensive mixers and blenders on the countertop are gone. Most appliances are hidden in places that do not create clutter while simultaneously allowing easy access. According to Kim Berndtson, contributing editor to Kitchen & Bath Design News, being a designer requires one to remove all appliances from view and find the perfect place for them in order to provide a clean look. Most of the clients I work with love their kitchens and are at peace while in them because their belongings are tastefully organized.

When it comes to storage there are also new products that designers are incorporating. These products make storage more efficient and functional. One of these products is the corner unit. This unit can allow easy access to pots and pans. The new storage ideas make it so that everything can easily come to the cook rather than the cook having to waste time searching for a certain appliance.

There are some helpful tips for organization and clutter-free kitchen I have found successful. A sawtooth spice rack is one of

Kitchens are now meant to be efficient and aesthetically pleasing. Utilizing your open space for storage can be easier than ever.

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

Tabletop Networking Event



The Milford Chamber of Commerce held a tabletop expo Nov. 14 at the Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange. L to R: Rod Kaufman Tanya Wallace and Chris Barre. Photo by Steve Cooper.

Selectman Goldblatt’s Statement On Antisemitism At Amity At The Board Of Selectman Meeting, Nov. 14, 2018

I stand before you tonight as a graduate of the Amity Class of 1975 and the proud father of two Amity graduates, the latest just this past June. But, as I stand here wearing my Amity colors, none of us could foresee the hate and bigotry that we have heard about at the high school in just the last few days.

into listening sessions over the past two days, but also by partnering with clergy, elected officials, law enforcement, the Anti-Defamation League, and others to address this issue that exists in our schools and our community.

I am proud of the courageous Amity students who were willing to stand up to such hate and expose the anti-Semitism, racism, and homophobia that exists there. Amity represents friendship and a bond between the towns of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. That very fabric is being torn by the vile and disgusting acts that have caused many students not to feel safe in their own school.

As town leaders, I expect us to work with the administration in any way possible to understand and then end this intolerance of others. As a first step, I urge all of you to join me this Sunday evening at 7 p.m. at the annual Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service being held this year at Holy Infant Church. Let us come together to show our respect for each other’s faiths and rise together as one community during this holiday season.

This hurts all of us and weakens us not just as a school system, but as a community; for this is not just an Amity problem, it is a community problem. I am pleased that the Amity administration has quickly taken a leadership role in not only inviting students

Those who participate in hate crimes should be held accountable and punished. However, from this negative publicity, sadness, and shock, I can only hope that we will become a stronger community and a stronger Amity, so that we can all be proud once again, because hate has no home here.

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Youth & Education

Test Prep:

Junior Year A Time For College Shopping

Families of students who take the PSAT in early October often wonder what they should do next. Students start to see an influx of marketing and mailings from various colleges. It's an exciting but also sometimes overwhelming time. It's important to make the most of it.

One thing that juniors should start to plan are college visits. Some students may already have a fleshed-out list of what they want in a school, while others may feel like they don't even know where to begin. All of that is okay. Even if you feel that you have everything planned, it never hurts to take a hard look at what you really want. There are so many different factors to finding the right college – it's not just about where they fall on the ranking lists.

What are your academic and career interests? If you know that you want to pursue a career in digital art, for example, it's a good idea to check out what people in that industry

major in, and where they went to school. Some careers require more specialized training on the college level, while others may not. If you're at all undecided, look at how easy it would be to change majors or tracks at any school you are considering.

Beyond your academic and career interests, you want to be thinking about extracurriculars as well. College isn't about the classes alone, and to really succeed beyond school it helps to be a well-rounded individual.

You may have a thought like "I want a big school" or "I'd rather be on a small campus," but it helps to have a solid idea of what that really means. Check out the campuses from different categories: massive state schools, tiny liberal arts schools and everything in the middle. You might think you want a big



JAMES MARONEY

school, but there's a difference between 10,000 students and 40,000 students. Urban, suburban and rural are also important considerations – and those labels may be defined differently in different parts of the country.

For now, you don't need to focus your visits on schools that you know you want to apply to. The most important thing at the beginning of junior year is to get a sense for what you want in terms of category. There are a lot of options out there, so give yourself time to shop around.

This is a great time for juniors to check out college fairs that may be hosted at their schools or at local community centers. College fairs give you a chance to get some promotional material and ask questions about schools that may interest you. They are often

staffed by admissions staff and/or alumni, who can be great resources. College fairs are especially convenient if you are interested in applying to schools outside your region.

With college on the horizon, don't forget to keep your grades up and focus on forming a good relationship with your junior year teachers. These teachers are most likely the ones who you will be turning to for letters of recommendation, so make sure you're showing them your best self. While college applications may seem like they are far away, it's always a good idea to get started early. Ask any senior – the time goes by quickly.

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.

Mathewson Students, Barnes and Noble Hosting 'Give Back Day'

In partnership with Barnes and Noble of Milford, Mathewson Elementary School's fifth grade class will be hosting a Give Back Day shopping event Thursday, Dec. 13 from 11 p.m. to 9 p.m., with a portion of all purchases benefiting the Mathewson Elementary School fifth grade class and the school library.

The event will be held at the Barnes and Noble located at 1365 Boston Post Rd. in Milford.

In addition to the shopping event, there will be other fun holiday family activities led by Mathewson students and parents including complimentary gift wrapping of purchases; free holiday glitter tattoos at

5 p.m., a holiday story time presented by Mathewson students with an appearance by Spike, the Mathewson bulldog from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.; and a vocal performance by Mathewson fifth graders at 7 p.m.

Funds raised this event will support fifth grade activities, including the purchase of a

class gift. Book donations can additionally be made to the Mathewson library.

Families who are unable to attend the event but would like to support the students or purchase books for the Mathewson library can visit bn.com/bookfairs from Dec. 13 to Dec. 17 and enter Bookfair ID 12464046 at checkout.

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DeCant Performs At OCNS



Children's performer Al DeCant recently led the 4-year-olds at Orange Congregational Church Nursery School in song and helped the 3-year-olds at OCCNS enjoy Halloween with music. Photos courtesy of OCNS.

Students Take Over Orange Government For A Day



Students from Amity Middle School in Orange stepped into the roles of town officials Oct. 17 for Government Day. Front row, from left: Benjamin Wilson, Landon Rocchio and Erin Callahan. Middle row, from left: Luciana Dottori, Mallory Parlato, Evelyn Alfaro, June Lin, Selma Krehic and Grace Cavallaro. Back row, from left: First Selectman Jim Zeoli, Peter Ivanov, Lindsey Pidlipchak, Angelina Li, Frank Cavallaro, Kyra Shevis, Anthony Stankye, Sarah Ginsberg, Isabelle Rosewater, Democratic Registrar of Voters Janice Casey, Town Clerk Patrick O'Sullivan and Republican Registrar of Voters Fred Kendrick. Photo courtesy of Amity Middle School.

Students from Amity Middle School in Orange took over the government offices for the town of Orange Oct. 17.

It was part of the annual Government Day event, during which students step into the role of the town hall official whom they are shadowing. Jennifer Marganski, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at Amity, has coordinated this event for the past 15 years.

"Every year when we get on the bus at the end of government day the students' conversations are so inspiring because the kids have had a learning experience unlike anything they can learn in the classroom," Marganski said.

Student Frank Cavallaro said, "Government

Day is such a great time; we all wanted more time to talk with the government officials. Some of us eighth graders even came back for a second year after doing it last year. I'm definitely speaking for everyone when I say we had a great time."

"Community service is such a major part in every community," said student Angelina Li.

Student Isabelle Rosewater said, "There are so many things that firefighters do that we don't think about, but they do help the community and should be recognized for all of it."

By the end of the day students learned about town government, the services the town provides, and the history of Orange.

Youth & Education

Evening Under The Stars Promotes Milford Planetarium



The Milford Education Foundation's hosted "An Evening Under The Stars" Nov. 9 at the Joseph A. Foran High School planetarium. Seated, from left: Cynthia Dobie and Jack Fiorella. Standing, from left: Steven Mingrone, Grace Mirsch, Mia Hamilton, Anna Gutierrez, Katherine Cepetelli and Charlotte Rascoll. Photo courtesy of the Milford Education Foundation.

The Milford Education Foundation hosted its third annual Evening Under the Stars Nov. 9 to a sold-out crowd on a rainy night at Joseph A. Foran High School. The event featured one of Milford's hidden treasures, the planetarium at Foran. The foundation uses this event to showcase the planetarium and promote other education outreach initiatives it conducts for the local communi-ty.

"Foran High School's wonderful planetarium is truly a Milford treasure that still has the evocative ability to make us look up and wonder," said David Mestre, director at the Henry B. duPont III Planetarium at Bridgeport's Discovery Museum. Mestre hosted the planetarium shows for the evening and brought his passion for astronomy and astrophysics to an audience of children and adults of all ages.

"This is an event that is fun and enlightening for all ages, and helps us raise

some funds and share with the community some things we are passionate about," said Ed Faruolo, president of the Milford Education Foundation. "Expect more to come from us!"

Between the shows the audience was entertained by the Foran High School Jazz Band. There were also kids' games and activities, food trucks and a well-attended exhibit by Miford Robotics.

Two teams from Milford Robotics will be competing at the Ridgefield qualifier tournament Saturday, Nov. 17. The event is free and open to the public. Anyone interested in participating in the ongoing Milford Robotics program should contact MEF Board Member Kris Seluga at kseluga@alum.mit.edu.

More information about the Milford Education Foundation is available at milfordedfounda-tion.org.

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PASTA

Ziti
Small...15 Large...30

Baked Ziti
Small...25 Large...55

Gnocchi
Small...35 Large...60

Gnocchi w/ Meat
Small...40 Large...70

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Planning Ahead

From The Bar:

New VA Pension Benefit Rules

As of Oct. 18, the new Department of Veterans Affairs pension benefit rules are now in place. These new rules make it much clearer for claimants to understand the financial eligibility rules when applying for the VA benefit, specifically the VA Aid and Attendance Benefit, that assists eligible Veterans and their surviving spouses with paying for long-term care.

The stated intent of these new rules is “to maintain the integrity of the pension program” and respond to Government Accountability



ALLISON M.
DEPAOLA-
DROZD

Office recommendations, which specifically included making people more aware of the pension benefits. In this article, we will cover the new net worth rules. Next month, we will cover the new look-back and penalty period.

In the past, unlike the federal Medicaid program, the VA pension program did not have definitive eligibility figures. With these new rules, there is finally an exact, maximum amount of assets that an applicant may own in order to be

eligible for benefits. Net worth for VA pension purposes will be equal to the maximum Community Spouse Resource Allowance amount, which is currently \$123,600. The CSRA is scheduled to increase each year and follows the same increase as the Social Security benefit increase.

The new net worth CSRA of \$123,600 is equivalent to the current Medicaid Community Spouse Protected Amount. However, unlike Medicaid, for which the CSPA is the amount protected for the “community spouse” for married couples, the CSRA applies to all applicants, regardless of marital status. This means that a single individual veteran can have \$123,600 of assets in his/her name and still be eligible for the VA Aid and Attendance benefit.

It is important to note how “net worth” is defined for VA purposes. Net worth includes all income and assets. The term “assets” is defined as the fair market value of all property owned by claimant and any dependents minus any mortgages and other encumbrances. This means that the assets of any dependents, such as children or parents, will be counted when calculating net worth. Including the assets of dependent children and parents in the calculation of assets is

very different from the Medicaid program, which does not include assets that do not belong to the applicant or applicant’s spouse.

The home that the applicant resides in will be excluded from the asset calculation and not considered part of the applicant’s net worth. Additionally, the applicant may keep a “reasonable lot area,” meaning not more than two acres, unless the additional acreage is unmarketable. However, unmarketable is not defined in the new rules.

Also excluded from the calculation are personal effects and family transportation vehicles. Since “vehicles” (plural) is used, it seems that perhaps the applicant and dependents may be able to keep more than one vehicle without the value of the additional vehicles adding toward the total asset amount.

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

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Prepare For Your Financial Future

Thinking ahead to your retirement years may bring a feeling of uncertainty: Will you have enough money? Will you be able to retire when you want to? How long will you live? Will your health hold up?

If you are still a few years out from retirement age, there are steps you can take to reduce these uncertainties and look forward to a secure financial future. Here are some ways to shore up your financial foundation.

Inventory your assets. Start by gaining a clear understanding of how much money you have saved toward retirement, including retirement plans, investment portfolios, savings and other assets such as your house. There are various rules of thumb to assess how you're doing, but they don't all necessarily fit your circumstances. You have to estimate how much income you will need in retirement, determine how much income you can expect from various sources, and then address the difference, if any, ahead of time. A financial planner will look at a number of variables and help you develop a financial plan for your future, and studies show that people who have a clear financial plan to follow feel more secure than those who don't.

Get a handle on your spending and increase savings. Track your spending for 90 days, then take a look at the overall picture. If you are spending every dime that comes in – or worse, spending more than you have by piling up credit card debt – it's time to draw up a budget and find ways to trim spending. The first priority of your budget is to set aside savings for retirement planning. As the old saying goes, “Pay yourself first.” In today's world this means be sure you are contributing the maximum amount to your 401(k) plan or other retirement plan, and on top of that put money aside in a savings account.

Establish an emergency fund. If you don't have a special savings account set



ERIC
TASHLEIN

aside to take care of unexpected expenses, create one before you take care of your other savings priorities. People get sick, lose jobs, face major house repairs. You can't let these events destroy your retirement plan. If you have enough money set aside to pay your expenses for three to six months, either in a savings account or money market account, you'll have peace of mind knowing that you can handle most things that

come your way.

Put debt behind you. There is nothing as destructive to your financial future as carrying debt. Paying off credit cards and other debts not only costs you in interest expenses, it also takes current income to pay for past purchases. That means a portion of your current earnings is unavailable for investment or retirement savings – unavailable for your future. Make it a priority to pay off all debt, beginning with credit cards, and avoid incurring any new debt.

A final word: Following a financial plan will help control anxiety about the future. Get started on a comprehensive plan today.

Eric Tashlein is a Certified Financial Planner professional™ and founding Principal of Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC, 2 Schooner Lane, Suite 1-12, in Milford. He can be reached at 203-877-1520 or through 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, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representative, Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., A Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge Investment Research Inc., and Connecticut Capital Management Group, LLC are not affiliated.

Profiles

Those Who Give:

Youthful Spirit Of Service

As the second-oldest of three in a family committed to giving back to the community, Soledad Meade embodies the spirit of service that she, her parents and siblings are committed to sharing. The Joseph A. Foran High School sophomore is an example of someone who takes the initiative to reach out and help others.



SHAILEEN LANDSBERG

Beginning around 2011, Meade and her older sister, Isabela, were introduced to Mary Ann Wasil, the founder of the Get in Touch Foundation, a global breast health nonprofit with a free curriculum available to school nurses. The Meade sisters decided they wanted to raise funds for the organization and founded Rock On, selling rocks painted with different themes. They marketed the rocks at farmers' markets, Pirate Day in Milford and other events, and donated a large portion of the proceeds to the Get in Touch Foundation. "It was a great way to get to know other

people and raise money for charity," said Meade. "Painting rocks eventually faded out and we started face painting to raise the funds. And Get in Touch honored us with a hero award when I was in fourth or fifth grade."

Volunteering comes naturally to Meade, who helps out on an initiative with her family called United for the Troops, where once or twice a year they write letters and make care packages for deployed service members.

"And it's not just food, but other things they would like," Meade said.

She also volunteers to help out with the East Shore Middle School Drama Club, helping to run the club's annual play, which is a popular Milford event each year.

As a member of St. Peter's Church youth group, Meade said she has had the opportunity to participate in many different types of outreach, fundraising, and service.

"I've helped with car washes to raise money for the youth group, helped serve meals at the Beth-El Center's soup kitchen, participated in the '30 Hour Famine' to learn about hunger, and gone on mission trips," she said.

Meade lit up when reminiscing about the mission trips she had been on.

"I've been to Rutland Vermont, Jamaica Queens, and Steubenville Ohio, and have done things like sorting items at a Goodwill, helping out at a senior center, gardening and weeding, and lots of other things," she said.

"I have a lot of fun volunteering, especially on the trips. It's exciting, since you don't know who will be in your group or exactly what you're going to be doing - I love the suspense," she said. "It's a good way to get out of your comfort zone, make new friends, and learn new things. But you don't have to go far to experience that. I've even done things close by like helping to pack bags of food for the hungry - the group I was with packed over 500 bags in two hours."

When asked what advice she would give someone interested in getting involved in volunteering, she was quick to answer.

"I'd tell them to go for it! If they are unsure, they could do it with a group of friends, but they'd likely make new friends too," she said. "It is so rewarding."



Soledad Meade. Photo by Lexi Crocco.

Amity Girls Volleyball Team Wins Championship



The Amity girls varsity volleyball team won the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Class LL Division State Volleyball Championship Nov. 17 at East Haven High School. The Spartans defeated Darien High three sets to one in four closely contested sets (27-25, 26-24, 22-25, 25-22). Coach Seth Davis took over the team five years ago, and the championship was his first. It brought the perennial power Spartans back to the top after a 15-year absence. At the conclusion of the championships, team members were presented medals, the school was presented with the championship plaque, and Amity Senior co-captain Abby Harbinson was awarded Most Valuable Player for the tournament. Photo courtesy of Paul Davis.

Or Shalom Remembers Kristallnacht



About 450 people attended Congregation Or Shalom's program Nov. 18 remembering the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or the night of broken glass, which marked the shift in the Nazi campaign against Jews in Europe from isolation to brutality and murder. Photo by Larry Lambert.

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Insuring Your Future:

The Challenges Of Individual Insurance

The Affordable Care Act survived the latest attempt to eliminate it, but it did not come out unscathed. Renewal notices went out late last month, and many people are still in shock over the premium increase and/or the benefit changes. The two current carriers in Connecticut will remain for 2019, and the best place to purchase insurance is through the health exchange Access Health CT.



TRISH
PEARSON

The process of enrolling through the health exchange can be confusing, as can choosing which plan is best. The easiest and least time-consuming approach is to contact a broker who is certified on the exchange. He or she can walk you through the process as well as advise you on the various benefit plans.

If you are self-employed or own a small business, small group plans could be a better option next year. Even a group of three or less can qualify for a plan, and it can be less expensive than individual insurance. Plans that qualify as HAS-compatible will also provide some tax savings by allowing you to use pretax dollars for medical expenses (not premiums).

There are two important changes. Open enrollment ends Dec. 15 (this is a week earlier than last year), and if you are on COBRA and do not switch during open enrollment, you only have 60 days to drop COBRA after enrolling or wait until the coverage period ends, which is generally 18 months.

Beginning in 2019 there is no longer a tax

penalty if you don't get health insurance, but the financial ramifications can be great. Health insurance protects you against unlimited medical charges and controls the rate that you pay. Each plan still also covers wellness visit and screenings such as mammograms, colonoscopies and most annual blood/lab tests. Many people are opting for a lower-cost plan, and using the money they save on the premium as a cushion against an unexpected medical expense.

The new federal legislation allows companies to offer short-term medical plans, but each state sets the guidelines and standards that insurance companies must follow. Connecticut has strict rules about this type of plan. The coverage period is only for six months, and there is no renewal option. The plans are not allowed to take preexisting conditions into account, but may exclude some medical conditions such as pregnancy

and certain chronic illnesses. These plans are still generally pricey and the coverage is limited.

What about face time with the doctor? Technology has caught up with medical care delivery. Many insurance companies are offering "virtual" doctor visits, also known as telemedicine, for much lower copays. This type of visit works best for routine ailments, like cold or flu symptoms. They can also be useful for psychological counseling in which talking is the best therapy. This type of visit is also helpful when you are on vacation or away from the home network. It can save a visit to a walk-in, which involves a higher copay or is subject to a deductible.

Trish Pearson is a licensed independent insurance agent and certified long term care specialist. Contact her at 203-640-5969 or trishpearson281@gmail.com.

Retired and Rejuvenated:

Difficulties In Being Thankful This Season

This has been a difficult year on a personal and on a national level. Loss of dear friends along with so many national tragedies diminishes, defeats and makes us feel sorrow for our loved ones and for our country.

Last year's devastating hurricanes Harvey and Irma destroyed parts of our own country. Puerto Rico is still recovering from Irma over a year later. This year hurricane Michael brought profound impact on the communities of the Gulf Coast and completely wiped out towns in the Florida Panhandle. These destructions were caused by nature, so it is difficult to blame anyone, except perhaps our refusal to give any credence to global warming that is affecting the increasing number of strong storms we have been experiencing.

Just recently pipe bombs were mailed to many of our most prominent leaders and a news organization who speak out for



JOANNE
BYRNE

civil liberties and social justice. Thanks to the excellent work of our FBI, the perpetrator of these hate bombs was quickly found, arrested and held in custody.

Then we experienced the horrific tragedy with the ruthless killing of 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue by an individual who possessed several guns and an AR-15, a weapon of mass destruction – the same type of weapon used to kill innocent children in Sandy Hook six years ago. How is it possible that one can still purchase this lethal weapon that is not even used for hunting? The killer continued to express his hate for Jewish people as he was being treated in a Pittsburgh hospital by doctors and nurses who were of the Jewish faith themselves.

At the same time as the Pittsburgh killings, two black people were killed in Kentucky by a white individual as they shopped in a Kroger supermarket. Another hate crime.

The gunman had tried unsuccessfully to invade a black church before he headed to a shopping center.

We are still reeling from Charlottesville where, to our utter amazement and horror, racial hate spilled out on our TV screens as we sat in the comfort of our homes. How could this still be happening in our country? Have we not made any progress in all these years?

Now a costly and unnecessary military response has been initiated to stop hundreds of refugees who are still thousands of miles away from their own countries' violence and murders. We cannot save the world and welcome everyone, but we are a nation that still has compassion for people who can no longer live safely in their own country and who are seeking the freedoms offered here.

The United States does not seem to be united any more. Thoughtful, intelligent, and humane leadership is becoming harder to find. Hate and discord is growing at an unprecedented rate.

As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, perhaps we can consider not only giving thanks, but by showing our humanity and appreciation by giving gifts of time, talent and treasure to community organizations and charities with missions to provide basic needs, safe housing, food security, shelter from violence and quality care for infants, children and elders. Instead of just prayers and words of blessing for those who are suffering, let's take action and start a new level of commitment. By doing so, we can inspire others to follow our lead.

Let's do whatever we can to bring kindness and respect back into our country. As the Talmud asks, "If not you, who? If not now, when?"

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.

Antisemitism continued from page 1

Woodbridge first selectman Beth Heller called on the Amity administration to take appropriate actions to meet the challenge of rising hate.

"I will state firmly: There is no place for antisemitism or any other type of intolerance in any community," she said. "Hate will not find a home in Woodbridge. I assure all residents that I will do everything necessary to uphold our community's values and our equal rights to be free from harassment and bias incidents."

At the Nov. 14 Board of Selectmen meeting, selectman Mitch Goldblatt, himself Jewish and an Amity graduate, read a statement decrying the rise of hate and calling on the community to tamp it down.

"This hurts all of us and weakens us not just as a school system, but as a community; for this is not just an Amity problem, it is a community problem," he said.

An interfaith group of clergy in Orange also said in a statement that faith leaders in town stand with the Jewish community and "express our profound sadness that students in the Amity School System are being subjected to these hurtful words and

symbols of hate. We find these actions gravely offensive and totally unacceptable."

The group called on parents to discuss the issues with their children and to model for them respectful regard for the dignity of all people.

Andy Friedland, associate director of the Connecticut ADL, said instances of antisemitism in schools is common and has been occurring more frequently in recent years, rising 94 percent nationally in 2017.

"We often say that it's not the measure of a community that an incident like this happened, because they happen everywhere," Friedland said. "The real measure of a community is how they respond. When a community shines a light on the problem and says with a clear and unified voice that this incident is not acceptable and that steps will be taken to prevent similar future incidents, that says a lot more about the community than the fact that an incident like this occurred."

Friedland said his organization is partnering with students, administrators and parents to make sure everyone feels "heard, included and safe."

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5 Bethany Orange Woodbridge 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



James A. Connelly
Interim Superintendent of Schools

james.connelly@reg5.k12.ct.us
203.392.2106

November 13, 2018

Dear Amity Community,

The Amity Board of Education and the Amity School District were shocked and saddened by the fears and concerns reported by the students and community members about the anti-Semitic behaviors they have experienced in both school and the community. The students feel unsafe because of these hurtful and hateful acts against them and their community.

The Amity School District will not tolerate this type of harassment and will investigate and take disciplinary action against students who demonstrate unacceptable behavior. We will also cooperate and coordinate with the local police department in some of these investigations.

The district will take a leadership role in partnering with the community, including religious leaders, elected officials, advocacy groups such as the Anti-Defamation League, state and federal officials, youth groups and other people of good will in a comprehensive effort to address this issue in our schools and community.

The most critical members of this partnership are the students, families, and staff of our schools. We sincerely welcome their involvement. Our goal is to make the Amity Schools and community the inclusive, tolerant, and safe community we all demand it should become again.

Sincerely,

James A. Connelly
Interim Superintendent of Schools

News & Events

Orange Gearing Up For Holiday Festival

The Town of Orange will host its annual holiday festival and tree lighting on Sunday, Dec. 2 with festivities on and around the Orange Town Green beginning at 3 p.m.

Visitors may tour the Stone-Otis House to learn what a Victorian Christmas was like.

The Academy Building and the antique shop will be open. Visitors will be able to view the Historical Society's antique collections and Emily Prudden watercolors, as well as the New Haven to Derby line model railroad in the lower level from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Orange Congregational Church will hold a cookie sale, hand bell concert and caroling in the church sanctuary from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Case Memorial Library will be decorated for the season and will host a performance from Al deCant of Half Moon Music, who will perform a children's musical program in the library meeting room

from 3:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Guess how many candies are in the jar at the library and win a prize. Write a letter to Santa Claus and make a craft in the craft room. The library will be open from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The annual gingerbread contest will be featured in the Clark Building. Friends of all ages are invited to enter a gingerbread creation. Entries must be dropped off at the Clark Building from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 2 and must be picked up between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Prizes will be given to the winner.

An ice carving demonstration will take place in front of the Clark Building from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. A light tractor parade will take place down Orange Center Road at 4:30 p.m. Santa Claus will arrive at the conclusion of the parade. The tree lighting will take place at 5:30 p.m. Children can visit with Santa on the Town Green. The Holiday Festival will end at 6 p.m.

Milford Chamber Of Commerce Seeks New Director

The Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce is looking for a full-time director responsible for the day-to-day coordination and execution of all chamber activities. Primary objectives in this role consist of new member recruitment of large and small businesses, community relations, staff leadership and achieving business goals for the chamber. Compensation is commensurate with skills and experience. Health benefits are available.

Responsibilities include leading new member recruitment of both large and small businesses; planning, organizing and leading chamber programs and initiatives; and leading staff, committees and volunteers to ensure that goals and objectives are attained. Requirements include a college degree

or related business experience, with a bachelor's degree preferred; excellent communication skills, both written and oral; leadership experience; demonstration of success in membership development as well as in community development and involvement; experience in budget planning and management; experience in small staff management; experience in volunteer coordination; and a minimum of three to five years in non-profit, membership-driven programming and membership development.

Interested applicants may submit a cover letter and resume in PDF format for consideration to apply@milfordct.com.

Please visit our Job Posting on Indeed at: <https://goo.gl/BR7DvV>.

Wave Of Milford, Orange Businesses Closing

As the 2018 is coming to a close, so are several area businesses around Milford and Orange.

Commercial giant Sears announced in October that it would be closing its anchor store at the Connecticut Post Mall in Milford on Dec. 31 as part of a massive restructuring of the bankrupt company that includes the closure of 142 locations overall.

The Lowe's home improvement store at 48 Boston Post Rd. in Orange will close by

February. It is one of 20 closures happening across the country at underperforming locations.

The TD Bank at 175 Boston Post Rd. in

Orange will be shutting its doors for good on Dec. 7. Four employees will be moving to TD's Milford branch and two to a branch in Hamden. A spokesperson for the bank said it decided to close because it was too close to its Milford branch.

Outdoor clothing retailer L.L. Bean has announced it will be closing its location in the Orange Meadow Shopping Center at 560 Boston Post Rd. in Orange. The company said it determined the store was too nearby to its New Haven location.

Liberty Travel has closed its location in the Hitchcock Plaza at 185 Boston Post Rd. after years of service to the Orange community.

Milford Tree Lighting Set

The annual Milford tree lighting kicks off Friday, Nov. 23 at 5:30 p.m. on the Milford Town Green. This year the City and Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce has added more to the program with caroling, ice sculptures, horse-drawn carriage and

more. As always, Santa will arrive via the Milford Fire Department. The Milford Bank will simultaneously be hosting a "Winter Wonderland" with food, face painting and entertainment.

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In 1958, Lung-chu Chen was considered one of the most remarkable young men in Taiwan and was believed destined for a place in General Chiang Kai-shek's cabinet. Chen's star shines so brightly that universities in America turned their eye toward him and

in Taiwan. In fairness, the Chinese and Taiwanese seem to be having trouble with it as well. Mainland China and the People's Republic of China (ROC) insisted on the location being the same. The ROC saw things differently. Neither much cared for dissent among the

we're taking the week to move it and get everything set up," Dr. Peter Branden said. He will be one of several doctors working out of the 10,000 square foot space. He estimates between the group's rotating list of doctors and

on page 18

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News & Events

Milford Library Events

Electric Vehicle Information Session – Saturday, Dec. 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Milford’s Energy Advisory Board and Milford Public Library are hosting an electric vehicle information session for all interested people. The event will provide information about these now widely-available alternative vehicles. Experienced EV owners will discuss why they like their EVs and how they use them on their daily commutes and longer distance drives, as well as how they charge the cars’ batteries. Learn about the differences between EVs and conventional gas-powered cars (including why EVs are much less expensive to operate and maintain), the widespread locations and different types of charging stations, the range of EV models available, and the benefits of EVs for the environment and for public health. Attendees will also learn about financial incentives from the state as well as from Mutual Security Credit Union for purchasing and leasing EVs.

Signs of Connecticut Author – Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Did you know that each and every town in Connecticut has a blue plaque that gives a short history of the town? Do you know where Milford’s sign is located? Thomas Fatone does. He has visited every one of the 169 towns in Connecticut, taken a photo of every sign, and met a lot of interesting people along the way. Fatone will be visiting Milford Library with his book *Signs of Connecticut*. He will talk about how his hobby became a book, the history of the signs, and the interesting things he discovered about Connecticut. Fatone is an avid amateur historian, loves running, exploring old maps, exploring the state on the weekends with his family and searching for old railroad beds and hidden roads.

Copies of his book will be available for sale for \$20. Cash or check accepted.

Craft a Gift – Wednesday, Dec. 5, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Can’t shop for a gift or need something from the heart? Milford Library can help with its a “Craft a Gift” session. There will be easy crafts, and some that are a little harder. Gifts can be made for kids and for adults. From simple paper crafts to decorated picture frames, there will be a craft to suit your needs. Open to all ages. Wrapping paper will also be available. Library staff will be on hand to guide and assist. All materials will be provided. Free while supplies last.

The Coastal Chordsmen – Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. The Coastal Chordsmen is a men’s barbershop chorus from Trumbull and surrounding towns. They entertain audiences all over New England with their unique style of high-energy barbershop harmony. They will be performing a holiday program, with songs ranging from hymns to Jingle Bells. All are welcome to this free performance.

One-on-One Business Advice from SBA – Wednesday, Dec. 12, noon to 2 p.m. The Milford Public Library is partnering with the Small Business Administration in offering one-on-one advice to entrepreneurs trying to start and to business owners trying to grow their own business. SBA’s knowledgeable, dedicated expert will be at the library to help you develop your vision and bring it to life. Whether you have a great idea and want to turn it into a great business, or need help developing a business plan, launching, managing your day-to-day operations or growing your business, SBA can give you free counseling to assist you. Bring your dream to fruition with the SBA’s advice. Register for a time slot by calling the Milford Public Library Reference Department at 203-783-3292.

Case Memorial Library Events

Programs at the Case Memorial Library are free (except as noted for materials charges) and open to the public. Library hours are Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is highly recommended for all library events.

Technology Basics – Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m. Learn the ins and outs of using different types of technology, including computers and devices, the internet, social media and various applications. New topics are explored monthly. Call the library for this month’s topic. Space is limited. Registration is required.

Adult Make & Take Workshop: Marbled Clay Ornaments – Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m. Create your own personalized ornaments using a clay marbling technique at this small hands-on workshop. Led by Librarian Rebecca Harlow. Space is limited. Registration is required and begins Monday, Nov. 19.

Silk’n Sounds: A Cappella Chorus – Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m. Enjoy Greater New Haven’s premiere a cappella chorus perform a broad repertoire of songs in traditional and contemporary musical styles, including jazz standards, ballads and rhythmic pop favorites. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Nov. 24. Sponsored by Friends of the Library.

Fall Film Series: RBG – Monday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 21, 1 p.m. The exceptional life and career of US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who has developed a breathtaking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. PG. 1 hr., 38 min. Registration is required.

Fall Film Series: Tea with the Dames – Monday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m. Dames Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith have let the cameras in on a friendship that goes back more than half a century. The four acting greats discuss their careers and reminisce about their humble beginnings in the theater. 1 hr., 24 min. Registration is required.

Mystery Book Discussion Group – Thursday, Nov. 29, 7 p.m. *A Duty to the Dead* by Charles Todd. Led by Librarian Samantha Jasulavic. Registration is required.

The Bookcase: Evening Discussion Group – Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m. *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Led by Toby Zabinski. Registration is required.

Teen Cooking Class – Tuesday, Nov. 27, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., for students in grades 7–12. Learn to cook tasty treats with ShopRite’s Registered Dietician Courtney Huggins. Notify the library of any food allergies or restrictions at least 24 hours in advance of the program. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, Nov. 6. Space is limited.

Ornament Decorating – Saturday, Dec. 1, 2:30 p.m., for students in grades 6–12. Help decorate ornaments for the town tree lighting. Create your own ornaments at the decorating stations and make one to put on the library’s tree. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Nov. 10.

The Amazing Race at the Library – Tuesday, Dec. 4, 3:45 p.m., for students in grades 4–6. Compete in a modified version of the show, *The Amazing Race*. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, Nov. 13.

Cookie Bonanza! – Tuesday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m., for students in grades 7–12. Bake, decorate and eat cookies at this holiday cookie workshop. Led by ShopRite’s Registered Dietician Courtney Huggins and Librarian Rebecca Harlow. Registration is required and begins Tuesday, Nov. 20. Space is limited.

Dance Dance Revolution with MakeyMakey – Wednesday, Dec. 12, 3:30 p.m., for students in grades 4–8. Learn about circuitry and play Dance Dance Revolution with the MakeyMakey. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, Nov. 21. Space limited.

Wearable Binary Code – Wednesday, Nov. 28, 3:30 p.m., for children ages 8–11. Learn about how computers read binary code, then use it to spell your name. Registration required and begins Wednesday, Nov. 7. Space limited.

STEM Challenge – Thursday, Nov. 29, 3:30 p.m., for children ages 7–9. Work in groups to complete STEM challenges. Registration is required and begins Thursday, Nov. 8. Space is limited.

Kids Cooking Class – Wednesday, Dec. 5, 3:45 p.m., for children ages 5–10. Cook tasty treats with ShopRite’s Registered Dietician Courtney Huggins. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, Nov. 14. Space is limited.

LEGO WeDo – Saturday, Dec. 8, 10:30 a.m., for children ages 7–12. Build and program your own robot using LEGO WeDo kits. Registration is required and begins Saturday, Nov. 22. Space is limited.

Chess Club – Wednesday, Dec. 19, 3:30 p.m., for children and tweens in grades 3–6. Learn and play chess at the monthly chess club for children and tweens. Registration is required and begins Wednesday, Nov. 28.

Drama Workshop: The Mouse Bride – Thursday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m., for children ages 5–10. Hear the tale of the Mouse Bride, then reenact it and complete a fun art activity. This drama workshop is funded by a grant from the Orange Foundation Trust U/A, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee. Registration is required and begins Thursday, Nov. 29. Space is limited.

3–5 Year Olds Storytime – Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Enjoy storytelling, books, music, fingerplays and puppetry at this story time series especially for 3–5-year-olds. A story-related craft is offered following each session.

Lapsit Storytime – Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., no storytime on Dec. 25. Little ones and their caregivers are invited to this high-energy story time with Ms. Michelle. Practice nursery rhymes, sing and move together, and explore touch-and-feel books.

2-Year-Old Storytime – Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Audience participation is highly encouraged at this story time session just for 2-year-olds. Enjoy books, stories, music and movement, fingerplays and puppetry together.

Art in the Library: November – Photographs by the Veterans’ Photography Club, on view Nov. 2 to 29.

Art in the Library: December – “Waterworks,” on view Dec. 1 to 28. Reception Dec. 6 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Homebound Delivery Service – Are you a book lover who is unable to leave your home? If so, the library will bring the books to you. Orange residents who are homebound may contact the library to arrange for regular library book delivery service to their home at no charge. Some restrictions apply. For more information, call the library’s head of Circulation Services, Samantha Jasulavic, at 203-891-2170 or email sjasulavic@casememoriallibrary.org.

New EverWonder Children’s Museum Pass – The library is now offering a pass to EverWonder Children’s Museum in Newtown, a children’s museum with hands-on exhibits and activities that help cultivate a child’s love of learning and imagination. The pass grants 50 percent off regular priced admission for up to two adults and up to four children. The Case Memorial Library’s museum pass program provides free admission or discounts to a variety of Connecticut attractions, including museums, parks, aquariums and zoos as well as the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum in New York and the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Rhode Island. The passes may be checked out with a valid library card for two days at a time on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations or renewals are permitted and only one pass per family may be checked out at any given time. The Library’s museum pass program is sponsored by the Friends of the Case Memorial Library.

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News & Events

Orange Police Host Tip-A-Cop For Special Olympics

Officers with the Orange Police Department traded in their badges for aprons when they hosted a Tip-A-Cop fundraiser Nov. 16 to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut at Chip's Family Restaurant.

Throughout the event, officers volunteered their time to assist restaurant waitstaff with taking orders and serving customers. All tips that the officers received for their efforts go to Special Olympics Connecticut to support its year-round sports, health and fitness programs for athletes of all abilities.

Tip-A-Cop is a Law Enforcement Torch Run event to benefit Special Olympics Connecticut. The torch run is one of the

movement's largest grass-roots fundraiser and public awareness vehicles. This year-round program involves law enforcement officers from across the state who volunteer their time to raise awareness and funds.

Each year in June, over 1,500 officers and athletes carry the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" through hundreds of cities and towns across the state, covering over 530 miles over three days. The runners run the "final leg" and light the ceremonial cauldron during opening ceremonies for the Special Olympics Connecticut Summer Games.

For more information, visit soct.org, call 203-230-1201 or email specialolympicsct@soct.org.

Thanksgiving Peak Time For Cooking Fires

Thanksgiving is the number one day of the year for friends and family to enjoy a meal together. However, it is also the top day for home fires due to cooking equipment.

Cooking equipment is involved in almost half of all reported fires and injuries and it is the second highest cause of home fire deaths, with unattended food preparation the top contributing factor. On holidays, it is easy to become distracted with multiple dishes to provide and guests to entertain. These distractions may cause you to leave the kitchen or forget that food is cooking in the oven or on the stovetop.

The Orange Fire Marshal's office suggests a few tips for an enjoyable and safe day. Stay in the kitchen when food is on the stovetop, especially when frying with oil. Remain in

the home when the turkey is in the oven and check it often. Use a timer. Keep children at least three feet away from the stove and away from hot food and liquids. Store knives, matches and utility lighters in a safe place out of the reach of children. Keep the floor clear of objects such as toys or bags. Be sure electric cords from kitchen appliances are not hanging off a counter. Keep oven mitts, towels, food wrappers and other flammables away from the cooking area. Do not leave a candle burning in an empty room. Check that the smoke alarms are working.

For any questions regarding fire safety, please contact the Orange Fire Marshal's office at 203-891-4711 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit the website at orangefiremarshal.com

Orange Names Youth Services Coordinator

The Town of Orange has named Jessica Simone as the Youth Services Coordinator for Orange Community Services. Born and raised in Orange, Simone said she is looking forward to working with the youth of her town. She obtained a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University. Between her bachelor's program and master's program, she worked at Orange Community Services as a clerical assistant. Simone has prior experience at Wilbur Cross High School and the Branford Counseling Center, working one-on-one with children and their families. Simone said she is eager to facilitate preexisting programs offered by the department and come up with new ideas for programs and events to



Jessica Simone. Contributed photo.

encourage youth involvement and enhance youth development. She can be contacted at 203-891-4785 or jsimone@orange-ct.gov.

Chinese Educators Visit Amity Middle Schools

Twenty-five distinguished Chinese educators, mostly principals, visited the Amity Middle Schools in Bethany and Orange on Nov. 13. These educators were selected by Guangdong Province, one of China's most progressive provinces, to come to the United States this year.

The trip for the delegation, which visited Connecticut Nov. 4 through 16, was arranged by Daniel W. Gregg, director of international programs at the Connecticut Association of Schools. The purpose of the visit was to explore how schools in the United

States provide innovative school types and approaches to address student populations; develop management strategies to ensure teacher quality and student learning; employ innovative teaching methods to improve learning for all students; and promote effective teaching and learning by engaging in dialogue with American educators.

The visit to Amity focused on middle school programs in Connecticut. It was the second year the Connecticut Association of Schools hosted educators from Guangdong Province.

Milford Library Celebrates With Costume Party



Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Milford Library.



Winners of the Most Creative award Colleen Reilly-Rees and Nigel Rees as The Owl and the Pussy Cat. Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Milford Library.



Winners of the Most Literary award / Chris and Nancy Hebert as The Old Man and the C. Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Milford Library.

The Milford Public Library was transformed Oct. 20 with sailboats, a submarine and underwater adventure décor for the third annual "Party in the Stacks: Legends of Charles Island."

Party guests visited Charles Island on the library landing, where photos were taken. Many guests registered for the prizes content in hopes of winning one of the prizes donated by the Stress Factory Comedy Club in Bridgeport. Joining Library Director Chris Angeli in judging the event were Liz Davies of The Crushed Grape, Allen McGehee of The Milford Bank, and Dr. Anna Cutaia, superintendent of Milford Public Schools.

Radio personality and Milford resident Brian Smith emceed the evening events. There was dancing to the music of The DJ Company. Many guests earned a treasure from the treasure chest by participating in the "Literary Photo Quest" game. The game was developed by Anne Bolin and Kathy Goldbach and artistically designed by Ronda Zalenski. Guests followed the clues

to photograph themselves with Moby Dick's tail, Virginia Woolf (To the Lighthouse), Captain Hook, Ernest Hemingway (The Old Man and the Sea), a yellow submarine (20,000 Leagues Under the Sea) and with a skeleton on Treasure Island.

The food was a highlight of the evening, with guests enjoying the antipasti table and nautical-inspired hors d'oeuvres prepared by Christopher Martins Restaurant and passed around by volunteers. Beer, wine and a rum punch were donated and served by The Crushed Grape.

Bidding took place on almost 60 silent auction items. Winners went home with restaurant gift certificates, theater tickets, a honeymoon to Africa, a Red Sox autographed baseball and more. Some auction items included a ride on a Milford firetruck, a day with the mayor and a tour of the Connecticut State Capitol.

Many members of the Friends of Milford Library as well as library staff members played a role in making the party a success.

Milford Library Hosting Performance Of 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* is always a favorite play for this time of year, and the Milford Library is hosting a performance by Gary Poholek on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m.

Poholek not only brings to life the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future, but he also brings the spirit of Charles Dickens himself.

Written by Dickens in 1843, *A Christmas Carol* is one of the most treasured Christmas tales. Sometimes dubbed the Father of Christmas, Dickens wrote this "ghost story of Christmas" to help support his struggling family since his prior publication, *The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit* was not a moneymaker. Written in under three weeks, Dickens himself was transformed, as was his character Ebenezer Scrooge. The short story is a reminder to us that the spirit of Christmas lies within us all and can be found in the simple gift of love.

In just under an hour, Poholek narrates and performs with great delight several of the characters, including Ebenezer Scrooge, Marley's ghost, all three spirits of Christmas, and Scrooge's boss Fezziwig.



Gary Poholek. Photo courtesy of the Milford Library.

A graduate of the Boston Conservatory, Poholek is an accomplished Massachusetts actor with credits that include Barrington Stage Company, North Country Center for the Arts, Festival Ballet Providence, Glassboro Summer Theatre, Christopher Ryder Opera House and the Boston Park Plaza Terrace Room. He has been performing his own one-man adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* for about 17 years.

Milford, Orange Elect New Leaders

By *Brandon T. Bisceglia*

The 2018 midterm elections marked significant changes for the nation and the state. In Connecticut, Democrats maintained their hold on the governor's seat, electing businessman and perennial candidate Ned Lamont. They kept a lock on all of the state's other constitutional offices. The General Assembly also turned significantly bluer. The current 18-18 tie in the state Senate will shift to at least 22-13 in favor of the Democrats, with one race still too close to call. Republicans also lost ground in the state House of Representatives, where the Democratic majority of 79-72 has increased to at least 90-59, with two seats pending recounts.

In the most contentious race in Milford and Orange, Democrat James Maroney eked out a victory over

Republican Pam Staneski for the seat being vacated by retiring state Senator Gayle Slossberg, a conservative Democrat. Orange voters broke for Staneski, while Milford, West Haven and Woodbridge went for Maroney.

"James Maroney's win showed that campaigning on your platform is what people want," said Jody Dietch, chair of the Orange Democratic Town Committee. "We are so proud to be able to call James our state Senator-elect. The people of the 14th state Senate district elected a candidate who will vote with integrity, with the will of the people, and not the will of special interests, such as the NRA."

Staneski's House seat, which she left in her bid for the Senate, stayed in Republican hands, with Kathleen Kennedy easily winning out over Democrat Ellen Russell Beatty. Likewise, the two other state

House districts with sections in Orange reelected their Republican incumbents, House Minority Leader Themis Klarides and Rep. Charles Ferraro.

"As democrats, the local election showed that we need to do a better job getting our voice to the people of this town," Dietch said. "With more registered democrats than republicans now in Orange, we were hoping for a better outcome."

In Milford, incumbent Democrat Kim Rose fended off challenger Connie Jagodzinski to remain in Hartford for another two years.

Full results for Milford and Orange are below. Bold indicates the overall winner statewide or district-wide. All results are unofficial until certified by the Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Governor
Ned Lamont/Susan Bysiewicz - D
 Milford: 10,965
 Orange: 3,061
Bob Stefanowski/Joe Markley - R
 Overall: 647,772
 Milford: 13,077
Attorney General William Tong - D
 Milford: 11,700
 Orange: 3,243
Sue Hatfield - R
 Milford: 12,235
 Orange: 4,083
Secretary of the State Denise Merrill - D
 Milford: 12,319
 Orange: 3,431
Susan Chapman - R
 Milford: 11,341

Orange: 3,857
Treasurer Shawn Wooden - D
 Milford: 12,135
 Orange: 3,321
Thad Gray - R
 Milford: 11,538
 Orange: 3,949
Comptroller Kevin Lembo - D
 Milford: 11,999
 Orange: 3,353
Kurt Miller - R
 Milford: 11,507
 Orange: 3,909
US Senate Chris Murphy - D
 Milford: 13,619
 Orange: 3,773
Matthew Corey - R
 Milford: 10,553
 Orange: 3,610

US House of Representatives - District 3
Rosa DeLauro - D
 Milford: 14,339
 Orange: 4,080
Angel Cadena - R
 Milford: 9,973
 Orange: 3,327
State Senate - District 14
James Maroney - D
 Milford: 12,464
 Orange: 3,415
Pam Staneski - R
 Milford: 12,016
 Orange: 4,035
State House - District 114
Mary Welander - D
 Orange: 1,719
Themis Klarides - R
 Orange: 2,504

State House - District 117
Cindy Wolfe Boynton - D
 Milford: 2,254
 Orange: 646
Charles Ferraro - R
 Milford: 2,341
 Orange: 887
State House - District 118
Kim Rose - D
 Milford: 5,678
Connie Jagodzinski - R
 Milford: 4,417
State House - District 119
Ellen Russell Beatty - D
 Milford: 4,493
 Orange: 765
Kathleen Kennedy - R
 Milford: 5,118
 Orange: 935



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Eye Care cont. on page 18

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by Joseph Cole

editor@theorangetimes.com

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Full obituaries and pictures (if provided) of the deceased are on our website at www.theorangetimes.com and are published at no cost to residents of Milford and Orange.

- Alice Ozanian Abrahamian**, 93, longtime resident of Orange passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 6, 2018.
- Doris L. Ains**, 97, of Orange, passed away peacefully on November 4, 2018.
- Ruth Evelyn Bartha**, 94, of Milford, passed away on October 30, 2018.
- Juel DeNezzo Calnen**, 94, of Milford, formerly of Orange and Hamden, passed away peacefully on Sat., Nov. 3, 2018.
- Sonya Foldy Casey**, 75, of Milford, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2018.
- Mary Maxine Chadwick**, age 96, of Milford, passed away on Nov. 11, 2018.
- Peter Craig**, age 70 of Milford, CT passed away November 6, 2018.
- Gloria A. DeCarli**, 86, of Orange, passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018.
- Joan L. DeLuca**, age 84 of North Branford, formerly a resident of Milford and Avon, passed away October 26, 2018.
- Raymond E. Desrosiers**, 83, of Milford, died on November 7, 2018.
- Mary Estelle (Burns) Knapp**, age 76 of Milford, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 1, 2018.
- Sidney Alan Griffith** died on Thursday, November 1, 2018.
- Michael Iassogna**, age 81, of Milford, passed away on Friday, November 16, 2018.
- Adaline M. Kuser**, age 91, of Milford passed away on October 4, 2018.
- Carmen D. LaGaipa Sr.**, of Milford, passed away on November 15, 2018.
- John Powers McGill**, age 92, passed away peacefully at his home in Orange, CT on Tuesday, October 30, 2018.
- Edward J. Obert Jr.**, died peacefully at home in Milford, CT on September 15, 2018 at the age of 94.
- Andrew L. Petrahai, Jr.**, age 59 of Milford, passed away November 3, 2018.
- Anita De Mio Pol**, 92, of Orange passed away November 10, 2018.
- George D. Robbins**, age 59 of Milford, passed away November 6, 2018.
- Nancy Wolf Rosenblum**, passed away on October 20, 2018.
- Vincent J. Saverese**, 81, of Orange, passed away on November 9, 2018.
- Constance V. Schutter**, age 88, of Milford, passed away in Milford Hospital on Sunday, November 10, 2018.
- Thomas Terzakis**, 88, of Milford and formerly of Orange, entered into rest on Tuesday, November 13.
- Nancy Wadhams Smith Valley**, age 87, passed away on November 1, 2018.
- Sharon N. Dwyer Varga**, 57, of Milford, passed away on November 8, 2018.

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