

# Woodbridge Town News



## Woodbridge's Exclusive Newspaper

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

## Beecher Moves To Temporary Remote Learning

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to keep the corona virus infection outside its building, the Woodbridge Board of Education voted to go temporarily to full remote learning the week after the Thanksgiving holiday. “We have some concerns about the week after Thanksgiving,” Interim School Supt. Christine Syriac said at a special meeting of the board on November 11. Beecher Road School has been doing well in terms of students and staff staying healthy, she said, and to keep it that way, she, along with the local health department and the BOWA districts, suggested to switch to all-remote learning for a week.

So far, the school has been operating on an in-person, five-days-a-week schedule, albeit with about 20% of the student population studying at home. To practice the remote learning, the superintendent suggested — and the board approved — to schedule two hybrid learning days before Thanksgiving — Monday and Tuesday, November 23 and 24 — during which those whose last name start with A-K come in on Monday, those L-Z on Tuesday.

By staying home the week after the holiday — which is being done in many districts across the state — schools are allowing travelers to get

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## School Board Appoints New Superintendent

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

At a special meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the Woodbridge Board of Education unanimously appointed Dr. Jonathan Budd as the next school superintendent of the Woodbridge School District. Dr. Budd currently serves as assistant superintendent in Trumbull, a K-12 district. He will officially start in his new position on December 14.

“The depth and breadth of Dr. Jonathan Budd’s work in the field of education is impressive,” said board Chairman Lynn Piascyk when she introduced the board’s choice on Novem-

ber 11. She said the board had received 27 applications and interviewed nine. “One candidate emerged as a fit for the Woodbridge School District,” she said.

The board had hired consultant Dr. Joseph Erardi to conduct the search for and get community input through forums, staff meetings as well as a stakeholder survey.

Dr. Budd has served as assistant school superintendent in Trumbull since 2015. Prior to his appointment in Trumbull, he was an English teacher in Region 9 (Easton and Redding)

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Poll workers open mail-in envelopes at Town Hall in preparation for Election Day 2020.

## Record Number Of Voters Participate In Election

BY BETTINA THIEL

WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The 2020 presidential election is one for the record books, with close to 88% of eligible voters in Woodbridge participating. According to Head Moderator’s Bernard “Pat” Madden’s report to the secretary of the state, 5,909 Woodbridge voters cast a ballot, of 6,718 eligible voters.

Despite the record number of voters, voting overall went smoothly. Some 2,835 had voted absentee, which was another first in the history of presidential elections. The registrars had set up a counting station in the Parish House of First Church, next to Town Hall and across from the polling stations at the Center Building. Poll workers could start opening the envelopes the day before Election Day, but counting didn’t start until November 3,

said Town Clerk Stephanie Ciarleglio.

By opening the mailed envelopes the day before, poll workers could cull those that had not been signed, about 13 or so. Registrar Anna Dickerson said they contacted the voters, and a few came back on Election Day to vote in person.

Only a certain number of voters were admitted into the building at one time, so as to ensure social distancing. Poll workers sprayed down the booths after each use, and wiped them dry before the next voter was admitted, a procedure that took time. During certain hours lines formed and snaked around the Center Building and the police parking lot, but at other times the wait was short. People seemed to be wearing masks, and Dickerson

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**"Superintendent" From Page 1**

and Windsor and has held adjunct professorships at Quinnipiac University, Trinity College and Columbia University. He received his undergraduate degree from Connecticut College, his Masters from Trinity College, his Superintendent Certificate from the University of Connecticut and his Doctorate from Columbia Teachers College. He is familiar with the Readers and Writers Worship instructional method that is used in Woodbridge.

Piascyk said she is confident that he will build on Beecher's excellence and that he will bring a dynamic excitement to providing quality learning experiences for students and inspirational leadership for the faculty and staff.

Former School Supt. Dr. Guy Stella, a Trumbull resident, was present on the Webex meeting platform as a guest, and was seen applauding the applicant along with Board of Education members. Dr. Stella and Dr. Budd met during the 2015-16 school year, when a group of educators from Trumbull came to Beecher School on a site visit to study the literacy mode, Piascyk wrote in an email.

Their paths crossed again in the Spring of 2016 when Dr. Stella participated as a member of a Tri-State team of educators that did a 3-day comprehensive study of Trumbull's K-12 writing program. Dr. Budd was the organizer for that event.

Dr. Budd will be spending some time visiting the school and meeting with stakeholders over the next few weeks to familiarize himself with the District. He will have an opportunity to work with Interim Supt. Christine Syriac to provide a smooth transition of leadership, Piascyk said.

Piascyk did not announce an annual salary for the incoming superintendent, which, according to District Business Manager Al Pullo, as of November 13, was still in final negotiations.



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# Welander Announces Victory In 114<sup>th</sup> State Representative Race

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Mary Welander announced her victory in the race for the 114<sup>th</sup> State Representative District which includes Derby, Orange and Woodbridge. “I would like to thank everyone who took the time to be part of a campaign that I am incredibly proud of. This was always a difficult race made even more so by the conditions surrounding it, so I would also like to thank my opponent, Dan DeBarba, for stepping up to run for office. It is a challenging but important part of civic action, and I wish him and his family the best.”

Welander continued, “I am truly humbled by the support and trust shown by voters yesterday and I am even more determined to work for all of the residents and families of Derby, Orange, and Woodbridge as we face the challenges ahead. While we are proud and excited by these results, I recognize that we are still in the middle of a global pandemic. I take my new role and responsibilities very seriously and will continue to make the needs of all



Mary Welander

of the residents of the 114<sup>th</sup> district a priority. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any issues or concerns you may have (203-881-6207).”

The 114<sup>th</sup> House seat was previously held by Minority Leader, Themis Klarides. Mary Welander successfully flipped this seat from red to blue for the first time in 22 years.

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I am writing this recent column a day after the State Department of Public Health has designated the Town of Woodbridge as an “orange-alert” municipality, due to the number of positive COVID cases recorded in our Town. Except for Bethany, all our surrounding towns are in the “red alert” category. If you are interested in viewing the State of Connecticut centralized data map, please google “CT COVID-19 data tracker.” The State has also reverted to Phase 2.1 from Phase 3, due to a significant increase in cases and hospitalizations throughout Connecticut. I remind you that this includes limiting gatherings at private residences to ten people, whether these are indoors or outdoors. I remain very concerned that as we head into the colder fall and winter months, our numbers of positive cases will only continue to rise.

We must all do our part and remain vigilant. I have stated over and over again over the past nine months, it is up to us to do the three simple things that will save lives and stop the spread of COVID 19. Number one: WEAR A MASK! Number two: Wash your hands! Number three: Maintain a safe social distance from each other! Woodbridge residents must continue to each do our part to show that we care and respect each other by doing these three simple things. Thank you all for your help.

All residents in orange-alert and red-alert towns are encouraged by the State of CT Department of Public Health to get tested regularly – even if you are asymptomatic. To find a convenient testing site, please visit [www.211ct.org/covidtesting](http://www.211ct.org/covidtesting), enter your zip code or town, and press the yellow search icon. Additionally, Griffin Hospital in Derby has expanded its hours to offer weekend testing times. If you call 203 437 6815 to make an appointment, and use the word “community” you will not need a doctor’s note for a test.

Our Town Clerks and Registrars of Voters did an outstanding job running the recent presidential election. Turn-out in Woodbridge was just shy of 90%! The Town Clerks have also been dealing

*From the First Selectman* BY BETH HELLER



with the significant increase in home sales here in Town, and the Building Department has reported that there are several new homes being built, and have also received inquiries about a few more that may or may not start this winter. Despite the pandemic, we continue to do the business of the Town for our residents. Our Town buildings remain open to residents by appointment. I also send special thanks to our Library staff for all they have done to make our library open for residents. So many folks have called me to let me know what a wonderful lifeline our town library has been for them during this pandemic.

Recently I visited the town-owned Darling House property and watched the deconstructed one room schoolhouse (AKA “Little Lucy”) being removed from the yellow cow barn. It was quite an impressive sight. The Woodbridge resident who took the pieces plans to reconstruct the barn, if possible, as a project with his children, and perhaps repurpose some of the wood as well. I thank the members of Public Works, especially Brad Parsons and Bob Hauser, the Amity Woodbridge Historical Society (the Society), and the Thomas Darling House Advisory Committee for all their help working together to complete this project. Special thanks go to Woodbridge resident Chris Sorensen for removing all the pieces and transporting them to their new home.

Getting this accomplished will now help with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) grant that we hope to receive soon, to survey the cow barn, the ice house, and the horse barn attached to the home. Hopefully, this will enable the Society and the Town to apply for grant funding for improvements to all three structures. In other Darling House news, occupancy for the home’s caretaker apartment has now been approved by the Fire Marshal

and Building Official, following several safety upgrades and repairs, and the new tenants have moved in.

I am pleased to announce that the Town has been awarded a \$128,205.00 STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) grant for renovations and improvements to the Senior Center. That is certainly wonderful news. This grant will provide much needed funding to help transform the antiquated space into a modern and welcoming location for our senior residents. Many thanks to Human Services Director Jeanette Glicksman and Administrative Officer Tony Genovese and our Human Services and Finance Departments for submitting this grant application. Additionally, the Town has just received notice of an award of \$70,098 from the CVRF (the Corona Virus Relief Fund) and \$36,519 from FEMA, confirming reimbursement through June 30<sup>th</sup>. A special thank you to Town Employee Kelly Hammill for all her efforts getting all the data entered for this grant application. Lastly, the CT State Library Office of the Public Records Division has awarded the Town a \$5,500.00 Historic Preservation Grant. Many thanks to our Town Clerk Stephanie Ciarleglio for submitting this application.

The Board of Selectmen voted at our Regular meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup> to fund a new part-time planner position. I envision that a planner will create a plan to determine long-term use for the Town-owned former Country Club of Woodbridge; revitalize the Town’s business district; work on and help implement the Town’s Complete Streets plan; help us coordinate with the federal government on the terrible flooding issues in lower Woodbridge; help work on the State-required creation of an affordable housing plan; and add support to the ad hoc 2030 Task Force, among many other things. Despite the pandemic, the forward

work for our Town continues.

The Board also received and reviewed a proposal from an engineer who might provide the Town with technical advice to review the proposed Verizon application to place a cell tower in a residential neighborhood at 118 Newton Road. At a special meeting in October, the Board voted unanimously to hire Attorney Ira Bloom to advise the Town in its opposition to location of the tower in a residential neighborhood, and I anticipate we MAY need to hire an engineer as well. The Board is not opposed to a new cell tower being located in Woodbridge, but believe it should NOT be in a residential neighborhood. We continue to explore alternative sites, and we are told that Verizon is in no hurry to file an application, which gives us more time to do our due diligence and find an appropriate and suitable site.

Lastly, the ad hoc Woodbridge Community Council invites all new residents to save the date for a virtual Welcome Coffee in late January. I created the ad hoc Community Council to organize events and provide other opportunities for Woodbridge residents to interact, learn about each other’s culture, create “community,” and celebrate Woodbridge. Due to the pandemic, homes are selling quickly to folks who want to leave the cities and work from home in a more suburban setting, and thus Woodbridge has many new residents. If you are a new resident or know one, please keep an eye out for more details about this event.

I wish you all have a safe and healthy, happy Thanksgiving. My family and I will be celebrating virtually this year. If you plan on hosting or attending a celebration, please review the CDC’s guidance on how to do so safely, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to worsen. Again, please do your part to keep you, your family and friends safe! We will remain TOGETHER, Woodbridge Strong!

As always, my door remains virtually open to you. If you need to reach me please call 203-389-3401 or email me at [bheller@woodbridgect.org](mailto:bheller@woodbridgect.org).

# A Simple Way For Local Charities To Connect With Volunteers

Volunteering in your community is a great way to make cities and towns more livable for all residents. Many people take the initiative to volunteer without prompting on the part of a friend, colleague, school official, or religious organization, while others may find it difficult to discover volunteering opportunities in their communities. Thankfully, one

program was started to help address that very issue.

VolunteerMatch was designed to facilitate connections between people who want to volunteer and charities that are in need of volunteers. Since its inception in 1998, VolunteerMatch has connected millions of volunteers with charitable organizations, many of which rely on the

contributions of volunteers to meet their missions.

Prospective volunteers who visit [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) can type their ZIP codes into the site’s search engine. Once they do, the results page will indicate local volunteering opportunities. Visitors can even fine tune their searches by choosing certain categories, including Ad-

vocacy & Human Rights, Animals, Children & Youth, and Community, among others.

Volunteering is a selfless endeavor that can strengthen communities and make them better, safer places to live for all residents. People interested in volunteering can visit [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org) to find opportunities in and around their communities.

“Thanksgiving just gets me all warm and tingly and all kinds of wonderful inside.”— WILLARD SCOTT



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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the next three issue dates & deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.  
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Upcoming Issue Date	Issue Deadline
December 11   Holiday Issue .....	December 4
January 15   New Year's Issue .....	January 8
February 12   Valentine's Day Issue.....	February 5

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

# TPZ Considers New Proposal For Bradley Road Lot

BY BETTINA THIEL  
WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A new development currently is before the Town Plan and Zoning Commission that would breathe new life into the Woodbridge Village area. Attorney John Knuff, representing Woodbridge Village Associates, made a presentation for the zoning board via Webex on November 2, asking for revisions to the zoning regulations in order to allow revised plans for the corner of Litchfield Turnpike and Bradley Road to go forward.

The parcel of about 15 acres – parts of it north of Bradley Road, parts of it to the south, is the site for an approved Active Adult community known as Woodbridge Village Estates, which was approved back in 2008 and never built. Attorney Knuff said his client would like to sell the southern parcel to Eclipse Development, which is under contract to purchase the 8+ acres, develop the property and lease it to New England Brewing, which is currently located off of Amity Road and is looking for a new home.

However, since Woodbridge Village Estates was approved in 2008, the town has reworked its Plan of Conservation and Development and has updated its zoning regulations. In the new zoning regs, active adult communities are listed under permitted uses, but no zone has been assigned to it, Knuff said. The property owner

would like to make sure that the regs would allow for development of some 46 units of active adult housing across the street from the proposed brewery.

For instance, the 2008 approval was for a parcel of at least 10 acres, which the northern parcel in and by itself would not meet; the original approval also included some storefront facades, which would not mesh with the townhouses.

“It’s a straightforward application,” the attorney said. “We need the amendment [to the zoning regs] because now it is not permitted whatsoever. The amendment puts us back in the shoes where we were in 2008.” The drawing he submitted for a potential development on the north side was taken from the originally approved project. He did not say that development was imminent, rather that the development of the southern parcel is tied to his options of developing the northern parcel.

In the meantime, Eclipse Development has applied for, and was granted, several variances to a development plan for the brewery on the corner of Bradley Road and Litchfield Turnpike. A formal application to the zoning commission is due to follow in December, he said.

The hearing was continued to the December 7 regular meeting. Comments from the public can be emailed to [ksullivan@woodbridgetownnews.com](mailto:ksullivan@woodbridgetownnews.com) or delivered on Webex during the hearing.

## FROM OUR READERS

Woodbridge Town News

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From Across the Aisle

BY CHUCK PYNE  
WRTC CHAIRMAN



# Patience Is A Virtue, And A Smart Voting Strategy

Every election is an opportunity to learn something about voters, and not just their choice of candidates. This year we saw the downside of early voting. Not mail-in voting, mind you, but voting so early that important information that comes late in the campaign season cannot be acted upon with an informed vote, and the result can spell real trouble. Such is the case in Woodbridge with the 2020 election.

An issue we are going to hear a lot about over the next months is the threat to our zoning laws. As was discussed at some length in this column last time, our 1.5-acre, single family zoning is being characterized by a team of non-resident troublemakers as, basically, racist. Their cure, which they seek to implement through the courts if we don't bow to their threats, is to blow up our zoning regulations and our local control thereof. Now, the situation could be characterized in softer terms, but the net is Woodbridge's zoning regulations, the foundation of the quality of life in our town, are under serious threat. How does this relate to the 2020 election? Simple. Before over 1,700 voters in Woodbridge knew where the two State Senate candidates stood on this critical issue, their votes were cast.

A mailer outlining the positions of Sen. George Logan and then-candidate Jorge Cabrera on the issue of local zoning control hit Woodbridge mailboxes on or about October 27 – a week before Election Day. This was done to inform Woodbridge voters that the Democrat majority in the state legislature supports stripping Connecticut towns of local zoning control. If the state legislature has its way, we lose zoning control. You can't have an issue more local than this. Logan is on record, having voted in support of Governor Malloy's effort to veto a bill that weakened local zoning control. Cabrera is on record as wanting to "redraw the map" when it comes to expanding high density housing into the suburbs. Clearly, Sen.

Logan looked to protect Woodbridge zoning and Mr. Cabrera has vastly different ideas.

By October 27, the day that mailer hit, 991 Democrat, 535 Unaffiliated and 207 Republican Woodbridge voters in the 17<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District had already voted. This is a matter of public record. Now, these are secret ballots, so we don't know how any individual voted, but Cabrera carried the Woodbridge mail-in voting 1,553 to 616. Looking at the lopsided numbers in registration and by how much Biden carried the town, it's reasonable to say many of these votes were "straight ticket," with the Unaffiliated votes somewhat split. Taking it a step further and to be perfectly candid, an anti-Trump motivation created a lot of straight ticket Democrat votes, with Mr. Cabrera being the beneficiary. The same Mr. Cabrera who wants to "redraw" our map. We did not do ourselves any favors, as a town, by this straight ticket vote. Unless, of course, you want our zoning control to be gutted.

The in-person voting in this race further supports the point. Sen. Logan actually beat Mr. Cabrera by nearly 400 votes cast on Election Day – and all those votes could not have come exclusively from Republicans – there just are not that many – so something had tipped the scales for these voters. The new information contained in that October 27 mailer was most likely that "something."

The point is if you are going to vote by mail-in ballot, do it at the last minute. Casting your vote early takes away the option to change your mind if new and important information comes your way late in a campaign, which is not uncommon. While a more dramatic swing in Woodbridge votes would not have changed the outcome of the 2020 State Senate election in the 17<sup>th</sup>, when we vote next in May, it could have a profound impact. Keep your options open. Vote by mail at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

## "Beecher" From Page 1

tested before they return to school, and families to quarantine as needed. As of November 11, the plan was to return to full in-person learning on Monday, December 7.

"We are not seeing a spread in schools," Syriac told the Woodbridge Board. "In-person learning is benefiting our students," she said, adding that "arbitrary date-based closings [beyond the one week after Thanksgiving]

are not warranted at this time."

The Amity school system was planning to do the same, however a spike in coronavirus cases and contact tracing caused the high school to revert to full remote learning already this week. The middle schools, where students are cohorting in their classrooms, will stay open until the Thanksgiving break, as long as "the metrics continue to support some version of in-person learning," according to School Supt. Jennifer Byars.

From the Democratic Town Committee

BY LAURENCE GROTHEER



Hundreds and hundreds of ballots arrived early: some were delivered by mail, others were dropped off at Town Hall, and literally thousands more ballots were cast in person at the Center Building, when voters turned out on Election Day. All told, more than 5,900 ballots – from 87.9 percent of the town's registered voters – were cast before the polls closed at 8:00 p.m.

And after all those ballots were counted it was confirmed: Woodbridge voters generated a plurality for each candidate running on the Democratic slate, thereby contributing to winning campaigns for Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, Rosa DeLauro, Jorge Cabrera, Mary Welandier, and James Maroney.

For me, the prospect of having these hard-working public servants advocating on behalf of Woodbridge and all its residents – in Hartford, Washington, and on the world stage – is positively inspiring.

All credit for the safe, smooth, and reliable Election Day operation, through which each ballot was counted – and accounted for – is due to the hard work and conscientious efforts of Town Clerk Stephanie Ciarleglio and her staff, Registrars of Voters Pennell Hamilton and Anna Dickerson and their staff, other town employees in the police, building, and public works departments, and volunteer firefighters and election workers.

All these people have one thing in common: a commitment to being helpful, and to making government services and procedures work as intended. Those who would discredit or dismantle government offer no substitute, no alternative, and no other framework for continuation of these services, upon which so many rely and so much depends.

It's easy for me to envision comparable crews at polling sites across the country that day, Republicans and Democrats alike, sharing that same commitment to a complete and accurate count, no matter the results,

simply because it's the right thing to do, and because it's how they honor and follow through on what they said they would do.

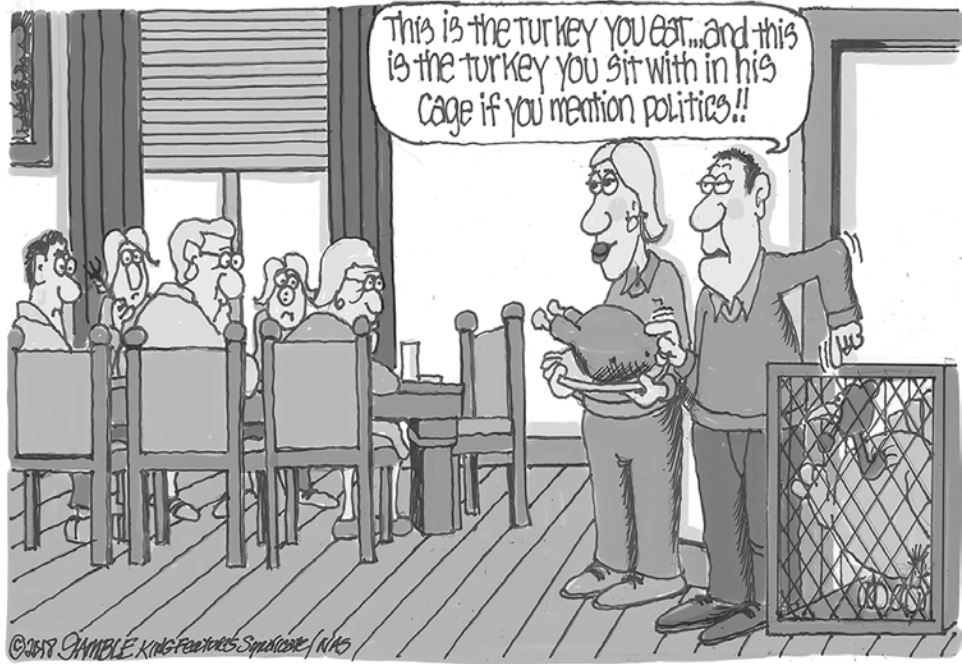
With elections now decided, the result of extraordinary efforts and participation both in Woodbridge and nationwide, the rest of government's essential work resumes, with abundant opportunity for people to stay involved.

In Woodbridge, examples of selfless dedication to the deliberative process of government operations are evident every week. For example, residents who voluntarily serve on the boards and commissions that advise town departments make budget and policy decisions year 'round; the consequences of those decisions impact every town resident.

Each board and commission is set up for a two-year term, but mid-term vacancies are filled with some frequency. Woodbridge residents are invited to follow an easy path to involvement by sending an expression of interest to woodbridgedtdems@gmail.com, or by calling Town Hall.

In my opinion, the Democratic candidates on the ballot in Woodbridge this year were elected in part because of their record of prior government service, and their demonstrated, documented commitment to advance the best interests of the community – and constituents – through a deliberative, collaborative process. That process is most effective with a comparable measure of voter engagement after Election Day. The collective decision to put these people in office only starts the cycle: there is now the opportunity – some would say responsibility – to continue participating throughout their respective terms.

Laurence Grotheer is the current chairman of the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee. His experience includes more than 20 years in state and municipal government working professionally, in appointed positions, and in elected office.





# WOODBIDGE EDUCATION ROUNDUP

## Amity Adopts 2021-2022 School Year Calendar

BY BETTINA THIEL  
WOODBIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Amity Board of Education at its Nov. 9 meeting adopted a calendar for the 2021-22 school year. After the summer break, schools will open to students on Monday, Aug. 30, 2021. The last day of school is June 9, 2022.

There are no snow make-up days on that calendar, as the state has allowed towns to switch to remote learning on days when inclement weather makes travel hazardous. However, there may be other emergency closings, which could add make-up days beyond the June 9 date. A post-script alerts parents that, if emergency closings extend past June 30, make-up days will be taken from spring recess.

Winter recess is two days, Feb. 21 and 22, 2022; and spring recess is the second week in April, April 11 to 15.

As it stands, the calendar provides for 181 school days for students, 185 for teachers.

Provided there are no other make-up days, graduation will take place on the last day of school.

Several early release days are sprinkled throughout the year, to allow for periodic teacher professional development opportunities in addition to two full-day professional development days. Professional development has proved crucial this year as schools across the nation had to develop new computer-based teaching strategies due to the pandemic.

The calendar was developed in collaboration with the elementary schools of the BOWA member towns, School Supt. Jennifer Byars said. That is done in part to accommodate family schedules, and to coordinate the school bus system.



## Amity High School Abruptly Switches To Remote Learning

BY BETTINA THIEL  
WOODBIDGE TOWN NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Amity Regional High School on Friday, November 13, informed its families that high school students would be learning from home starting Monday, November 16. The two middle schools, however, where cases were fewer, would remain open in the hybrid instructional model, with only half of the student population attending school at any given time.

The decision came on a day when 18 people at the high school were isolating because they had tested positive, and approximately 170 were in quarantine. In addition, the Amity Transition Academy had one positive case and 22 quarantining. Those numbers are fluid, cautioned School Supt. Dr. Jennifer Byars in an email to this reporter, as individuals move in and out of isolation and quarantine, and officials were still contact tracing for the latest batch of positives.

In her letter to parents, Byars said the decision to cancel in-person classes was made in consultation with the Orange Health Department and the Quinnipiac Valley Health District. The

closure affected all school programming, including athletic and extracurricular practices and competitions.

Meals for students continue to be available for pick-up at the high school daily between 11 am and noon.

This period of remote learning was limited to three weeks, including the week after the Thanksgiving recess, with all students returning to partial in-person learning on December 7.

Dr. Byars said as of November 13, the number of cases at the middle schools remains low. There were three positive cases at the middle school in Bethany, with 16 in quarantine; and two positive cases in Orange, with 19 in quarantine. The middle schools will remain open in the hybrid instructional model until the Thanksgiving recess.

The week after Thanksgiving, however, all district schools will operate in a remote learning model through December 4, as had been planned previously. By working from home — which is being done in many districts across the state — schools are allowing those who traveled to get tested before they return to school, and families to quarantine as needed.

## Zoom Environmental School a Success in Connecticut

On September 22-23, 2020, The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc., presented NGC Environmental School 3 - Air and Related Issues, in a virtual format, for the first time. The course was originally scheduled to be held at the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. In March, the team structuring the course had to pivot to bring professors and technical people together to deliver the course virtually. Sharon Bender, Environmental School Chair, and a member of the Garden Club of Woodbridge and the Garden Club of New Haven, along with committee members Ginger Casanova, Co-President, Arbor Garden Club of Clinton, and Millie Legenhausen, Garden Club of New Haven, organized a Zoom training program and Environmental School virtually. Tremendous help was given by Susan Quincy, Environmental Education Specialist, Kellogg Environmental Center, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The Zoom training and Environmental course were well received by the 5 presenters from Connecticut and 43 attendees from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Florida, Virginia, West Virginia, Missouri, Michigan and North Carolina. Linda Cedarbaum, a member of the Garden Club of Woodbridge, and Celeste Suggs of the Garden Club of New Haven have successfully completed the course.

The two-day course featured 8 one-hour modules on a variety of topics

related to the natural environment and its effects on all living things. In addition, there was a 2-hour “virtual field trip” on Wildlife Migration Adaptations Due to Climate Change.

The program began with a module on “Air”: its composition, how it affects climate, and how its quality affects our environment and our health. Other modules addressed environmental ethics and stewardship. Endangered plants and animals were addressed in several of the modules. The course ended with a module on how to bring environmental education into schools by partnering with industry, business and environmental groups, as well as Garden Clubs.

Very positive feedback was received from the attendees, who appreciated the quality of the presenters, topics and Zoom training. 5 Proctors volunteered from all over the country. A Proctor was assigned to each student to provide assistance and support throughout the virtual school experience. Students working towards an Environmental Consultants Certificate took an exam at the end of each day. Exams and evaluations were all conducted on-line.

The mission of NGC Environmental School is “to teach environmental literacy; to cherish, protect and conserve the living earth.” Environmental Schools are open to anyone interested.

Environmental School 4 – Water and Related Issues, is scheduled for September 22-23, 2021, either on

Zoom or in Connecticut, depending upon COVID-19 safety precautions and NGC course protocols.

If interested in participating, please contact Sharon Bender, slbender16@gmail.com.

### Attention Teachers!

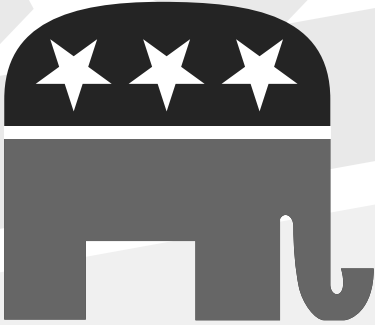
We want to know what’s going on in your classroom!  
Let us know about any fun activities or holiday projects.

You can also send us your pictures.  
(Parental consent required)

Orange Town News  
P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 • edit@OrangeTownNews.com



The **Woodbridge Republican Town Committee** is seeking residents who may be interested in **running for local office in May 2021**. There will be many positions on that ballot and the winners will make important decisions that impact our community.



**HERE ARE THE POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION:**

**First Selectman; Board of Selectmen;  
Woodbridge Board of Education; Amity  
Board of Education; Zoning Board of Appeals;  
and Board of Assessment Appeals.**

If you are interested in learning more about running for any of these important offices and being endorsed by the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, please contact Amey Marrella at 203/752-8658 or Lynn Piascyk at 203/387-3545.

**Offering candidates who can deliver good, local government is our priority and we welcome potential candidates from all political parties.**

Woodbridge Town News

## WOODBIDGE RESIDENTS!

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# DOLLAR\$ AND \$EN\$E

## Saluting Our Caregivers During National Caregivers Month

BY ROBERTA L. NESTOR

For 8 of the last 10 years, I have written the praises for our caregivers in recognition of National Caregivers Month. This year, I am at a loss for words that could possibly express the thanks and gratitude that go out to our nation's caregivers. It is hard to imagine the strain that the pandemic has caused for these selfless individuals and their families.

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving recently published "Caregivers in Crisis: Caregiving in the Time of COVID 19" and while not surprising, their surveys tells a sad tale.

- › 83% of caregivers surveyed reported increased stress related to caregiving since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- › 42% noted that the number of other caregivers available to help them has declined during the pandemic;
- › Isolation, increased burden resulting from additional caregiving/household responsibilities, and worry about getting infected or a family member becoming infected with COVID-19 were key sources of stress;
- › Financial concerns, instability, and resource insecurity were also a source of stress.

There is no single solution that is sufficient in helping caregivers weather this storm. Research in the field has identified many of the challenges and stressors identified in this report but clearly there is a mental health crisis that has been exacerbated and amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are numerous reasons why you might not be able to be there for a loved one: Nursing and medical facilities now have visitor restrictions; you work at a high-risk COVID workplace; you have children in school and fear potentially infecting a loved one or, you can no longer travel to that state due to travel bans. No matter, the reason, there are plenty of things you can still do. Here is what we have learned from our clients and families who have a loved one that they can't visit:

- › Zoom often has more successful results than a smart phone. Smartphones are challenging for most older adults, let alone somebody who may have physical disabilities. Nurses will assist with Zoom and they can see you

without the frustration of trying to figure out how to use the phone.

- › You can still drop off their favorite foods, you can drop off homecooked meals (just check any healthcare/nursing home's policies first) or use an online restaurant delivery service to get them something special.
- › Try baking virtually with them – they can give you the recipe and you can make a family tradition together or have a virtual bake-off!
- › Nothing nicer than receiving a good old-fashioned card or handwritten letter updating your loved one on your life and including an actual picture, maybe even in a small frame.
- › If you live close by, simply helping them out with getting groceries, picking up prescriptions, or any items they may need can go a long way. If you can't do it in-person, you can always get it delivered, too.
- › Going to the movies or watching a family-favorite show might not be possible in real life, but you can always video-chat and watch a show together.
- › Above all, find means to stay in constant contact with your loved ones.

Caregiving has never been easy and with today's challenges it can be overwhelming. Don't forget to take care of yourself. It is okay to take time for self-care and it is necessary to stay as healthy and as positive as possible. A very, very, special thank you to our Nation's Caregivers.

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

**www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com**



# LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Kim Vigliotti



Judy Stebbins

## Vigliotti and Stebbins Join Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate

Greg Robbins and Rhonda Young, Managers and Partners of the Branford office, take great pride in welcoming Kim Vigliotti and Judy Stebbins as a Licensed Real Estate Salespeople to the company. They will work from the company's Branford office.

Kim Vigliotti is a real estate professional focusing on the residential real estate market in the New Haven County and Shoreline area. She grew up in Guilford and spent most of her life there. Kim was formerly on the Guilford Little League Board of Directors, an active Calvin Leete Elementary School PTO member, and is the Community Relations Coordinator for the Sarah Foundation. Well-known and respected throughout the area, Kim and her husband are the owners of a small brewery business on the Shoreline as well.

Kim received a Bachelor's degree in History and also in Public & Community Service Studies from Providence College, a Master's degree in Education from UNH and a Master's in Educational Leadership from SCSU. Kim has vast experience in every aspect of working with and serving the public through her administrative positions and local business.

An up and coming real estate agent, Kim has great business instincts and management skills. Her drive is to help buyers and sellers obtain a positive and rewarding real estate experience. With a level of attentiveness to meet her clients' needs, Kim is already creating a very positive track record in sales and service. Contact her at 203-214-8453 or kim.vigliotti@wdsells.com.

Born in Statesville, NC, Judy Stebbins is a graduate of Catawba College in Salisbury, NC with a AB in Business Administration and a SCSU graduate with an MS in Economics. Judy has

over 30 years of experience working in housing for faculty, students and institutional visitors at Yale University and OMSC, an international study center for world mission leaders, academics, research and publication initiatives and international artists program.

Growing up, her father was a builder and along with his businesses, he sold and purchased real estate. When she reached legal age, she was an officer of two of the family businesses and silent partner. Judy enjoyed gaining experience in meeting prospective buyers and learning about their life situations and highlighting the pros of their future residences. Today, Judy's desire to be successful in real estate was born in her experience of matching personalities with the needs and desires of clients and witnessing the joy and satisfaction with a successful end result.

She and her husband live in Branford. Contact Judy at 203-507-8107 or email her at judy.stebbins@wdsells.com.

"We are delighted to have Kim and Judy affiliated with Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate," said John Wareck, Partner/broker. "Our strong and growing position in the Shoreline community and continued growth helps us attract new additions like Kim and Judy to the company. The combined efforts of our veteran agents and our new Realtors have enabled us to achieve a level of sales growth unsurpassed in the New Haven and Shoreline real estate market," added Frank D'Ostilio, Jr., Partner.

*Real Living Wareck D'Ostilio Real Estate has offices in Milford, Woodbridge New Haven and Branford and is part of The Real Living Network of Home Services of America, a Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate.*

## Woodbridge Resident Named to Connecticut Super Lawyers List

Woodbridge resident Atty. Stephen M. Kindseth has been selected for inclusion on the Connecticut Super Lawyers® list in the category of Business Litigation. He is one of five partners in the firm of Zeisler & Zeisler who were selected to the 2020 Connecticut Super Lawyers list. Two other attorneys from the firm were selected to the 2020 Connecticut Rising Stars list.

The four other Zeisler & Zeisler attorneys on the 2020 Connecticut Super Lawyers list are:

- › Matthew K. Beatman, Bankruptcy: Business;
- › James Berman, Creditor Debtor Rights;
- › Eric Henzy, Bankruptcy: Business; and
- › Jed Horwitt, Creditor Debtor Rights.

The two Zeisler & Zeisler attorneys on the 2020 Connecticut Rising Stars list are:

- › John L. Cesaroni, Bankruptcy: Business; and
- › Aaron Romney, Business Litigation.

The Super Lawyers list recognizes no more than 5% of attorneys in each state. The Rising Stars list recognizes no more than 2.5% of attorneys in each state. To be eligible for inclusion in Rising Stars, a candidate must be either 40 years old or younger, or in practice for 10 years or less.

Super Lawyers is a rating service of

outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas. These attorneys have been recognized by their peers and attained a high level of professional achievement. The selection process includes independent research, nominations from other attorneys and peer evaluations.

The seven Zeisler & Zeisler attorneys will be featured in the November 2020 issue of *New England Super Lawyers Magazine* and in a special supplement in the November issue of *Connecticut Magazine*.

For over 50 years, Zeisler & Zeisler has provided representation that empowers clients to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities. The firm offers a broad range of legal services to local, regional and national clients in the areas of insolvency, litigation, business law, commercial and real estate transactions, and personal injury. Zeisler & Zeisler's insolvency group has a national reputation in the areas of bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, creditors' rights and other insolvency matters, leveraging its vast experience, passion and creativity to resolve its clients' most daunting financial challenges. The firm's litigation team blends tenacious representation and practical counsel to win high-stakes disputes in a diverse range of legal matters. For more information go to zeislaw.com.

## NHTSA Consumer Alert

### IMPORTANT CHEVROLET BOLT RECALL FOR FIRE RISK

*Owners should park their vehicles outside until they are repaired*

Owners of select Model Year 2017-2019 Chevrolet Bolt vehicles should park their cars outside and away from homes until their vehicles have been repaired, due to a new recall for the risk of fire.

GM has issued a recall of 50,932 Chevrolet Bolt vehicles for the potential of an unattended fire in the high-voltage battery pack underneath the back seat's bottom cushion. The affected vehicles' cell packs have the potential to smoke and ignite internally, which could spread to the rest of the vehicle and cause a structure fire if parked inside a garage or near a house.

These vehicles can catch fire even if they are turned off, parked, and disconnected from a charging unit. NHTSA has confirmed five known fires with two injuries; at least one of the fires spread from the vehicle and

ignited a home. Until these recalled vehicles have been repaired, the safest place to park them is outside and away from homes.

For more information, visit [www.chevy.com/boltevrecall](http://www.chevy.com/boltevrecall).

NHTSA has an open defect investigation into this issue. The opening resume for this investigation is available here.

Vehicle owners can visit [NHTSA.gov/recalls](http://NHTSA.gov/recalls) and enter their 17-digit vehicle identification number to see if their vehicle is under recall. If it is, vehicle owners should call their nearest dealership immediately to schedule a free interim repair.

Owners can also download NHTSA's new SaferCar app for Apple or Android. Enter the vehicle, tires, car seat, or other vehicle equipment, and the app will push a notification if a recall is issued.





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# ARTS & LEISURE

## ‘Pearls From Carol’ By Carol Ann Ruggiero Released

*Husband Pays Tribute To His Late Wife By Sharing A Collection Of Her Writings Filled With Wit, Humor, Pathos And Common Sense*

Albert Ruggiero wishes to pay homage to his late wife, Carol Ann Ruggiero, who passed away on March 20, 2020, by sharing with others her wit, humor, pathos and common sense. He now releases a collection of her writings in “Pearls from Carol” (published by Balboa Press).

For 20 years, Carol lovingly attended and wrote for a writing group known as Writers Unlimited. These are her words, her thoughts, her humorous outlooks on life. This book is meant to be enjoyed by anyone of any age or social background. It is real and utterly without pretense. Carol possessed no hidden agenda nor did she ever aspire to be anything but who she was — just a genuine lady.

Carol’s life experiences endowed her with a healthy respect for humanity along with a large dose of common sense and humor. This book can be read cover to cover but, it also can be read and savored in small doses over a long period of time. Each story centers on one brief moment. Each story is a tiny world of its own.

“When Carol passed away, I gathered her writings into this collection. They are short, very funny, always thought-provoking and just what the world needs in these often sad and scary times,” Albert says. “It is my firm

hope that readers will both enjoy and pass on these pages for the enjoyment of many. This is a timeless gem. In our troubled, complex and anxiety ridden society, this book will provide many a smile and no small amount of comfort.”

The late Carol Ann Ruggiero came to the world of writing almost by accident. One day, her best friend, Dorothy asked if she would like to join a writing group in the local senior center. At that time, her interest was in ceramics. In this pursuit, she won several awards.



After several refusals, she joined the writing group and there, she stayed for the next 20 years. Her writing style immediately drew praise in the group. She enjoyed telling a story or turning a serious topic on its head with a surprise ending. She usually refused to write about her personal life except in heart-warming cases. Truth be told, she suffered many tragic events

such as the loss of her children and yet, she was always ready and pleased to smile at a greeting and listen to any call for help. She was a petite 4 feet, 10 inches, pithy in her speech and possessed a huge amount of common sense. She was constantly working on crosswords and logic problems.

*‘Pearls From Carol’ is Available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble.*

## MASSARO COMMUNITY FARM

### Gratitude From The Farm

Despite all the obstacles, 2020 was an extremely productive year on the farm, with one of our best growing seasons ever. COVID-19 increased demand for local products; we responded by increasing the number of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares by 20% and creating an online store. We want to express our gratitude to all those who subscribed to our vegetable CSA this season, and who purchased items from our online store. This expression of support showed us how important it is to all of you to have an organic farm in your community. Your support also made it possible for us to donate over 7,700 pounds of produce to hunger relief so far this year.

While COVID-19 forced us to close the farm to visitors for most of the season, we were delighted by the attendance at the three socially distanced events we hosted this fall. An outdoor movie, a play by the Valley Shakespeare Festival, and a concert by The Jolly Beggars were all sellout performances. Attendees told us how grateful they were to gather with friends and neighbors in a safe setting to enjoy a live event.

#### Online Store Will Remain Open For Business

Our weekly CSA distribution has ended for the 2020 season, and we won’t be holding a drop-in Thanksgiving produce sale as we have the past several years. However, you can still

purchase farm produce, our jarred tomato sauce and salsa, honey, eggs, milk, cheese, pork and (new!) coffee from our online store: Massarofarm.square.site. Order each week by Wednesday evening for Friday afternoon pickup.

#### Registration Is Open For Our 2021 Seasonal Vegetable Subscription

Even with the 20% increase in CSA shares this year, we sold out and had to turn some customers away. Now is the time to secure your order for next season. Reserving your spot now means farm manager Steve Munno can assemble a plan and order seeds and supplies in January for the 40-50 crops we plant each season. Crop planning is a complex task for a mixed vegetable farm like ours that takes into account field location, length of growing time, quantities needed to feed 300 families, and pest management. In reality, having high tunnels (plastic enclosures that protect crops) on the farm means the cycle of planting and harvesting can almost run year-round; garlic and carrots planted this fall will be some of the first things we harvest next spring! Print out and return a subscription form or pay online with a credit card at [www.Massarofarm.org](http://www.Massarofarm.org).

With a deposit of as little as \$100, you can hold your place in our 2021 CSA. Subscribing in advance means our farmers can attend to adminis-

See “Massaro” On Page 23

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

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# TOWN DEPARTMENTS



Woodbridge Police Officer Vinny Lynch instructed students with Youth Services Director Nancy Pfund at the Home Alone Class hosted by Woodbridge Youth Services

## Outdoor Home Alone Class

Woodbridge Youth Services recently held a 2-session outdoor Home Alone class for children ages 9 to 12. Topics included answering the door or phone, internet caution, fire safety, calling 911, and nutritious snacking.

Due to COVID-19, most jobs are currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard work, dog walking, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an interview at 203-389-3429 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org.

## Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work

The Job Bank in Woodbridge offers occasional jobs to teen residents (ages 13 – 18) who would like to work to earn some extra cash. The application process provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay.

## Need Yard Cleanup and Leaf Raking? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help

Woodbridge Job Bank teens will work for Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone to assist for odd jobs like yard cleanup, raking, planting bulbs, weeding, and moving boxes. Call 203-389-3429 for more information.



# GIVING TUESDAY

Each year Massaro Community Farm donates thousands of pounds of fresh produce to hunger relief

- 1 in 6 CT residents will be food insecure by the end of 2020
- Food insecurity increased 40% since the onset of Covid 19
- Children make up 29% of those struggling with hunger

Donate December 1



MassaroFarm.org  
41 Ford Road, Woodbridge  
(203) 736-8618



# AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER



Call 203-389-3430 or email [kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org](mailto:kmoriarty@woodbridgect.org) for information and registration for all programming

**STEAP Grant Award:** Thank you to Governor Lamont and the State of Connecticut for granting Woodbridge's Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) application to provide state funding for renovations and improvements at the senior center. This grant will build on work already completed at The Center including an accessible restroom and ramp for emergency egress. New plans include measures for safety during COVID and for future programming needs such as a reception area, and a sports equipment closet for Bocce, Shuffleboard, Pickleball equipment and weights for exercise classes. Other amenities include a small office area for consultations with the VNA nurse, the Town's social worker and tele-health medical appointments for those without internet connectivity at home. We're looking forward to a time when we can welcome back our participants and once again be the robust community center our senior population deserves.

**The Holiday Luncheon** will be held on December 8 from 12 to 1 pm. Woodbridge residents 60+ may RSVP for this drive-thru event by December 1. This annual event is generously sponsored by the Rotary Club and catered by Lasse's Caterers. Lunch will include baked stuffed chicken breast, mashed potatoes and vegetables. Salad and dessert come with the meal. Space is limited. Please wear your mask when picking up your meal.

**Zoom Exercise!** Sign up to receive a weekly zoom link for Targeted Strength Training with Michele Tenney. The class will be offered via Zoom beginning November 23 on Mondays from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Cost of class is \$35 for 8 weeks including one free class for new members. A resistance band may be purchased from the instructor. Please call to reserve your spot.

**Statewide Senior Center Virtual Holiday Bash** on December 18 from 1 to 2:30 pm featuring VIP greetings from around the state, seasonal music, ballroom dancing performances, and holiday vignettes celebrating diverse cultures and traditions. Please use this link to register: <https://cthealthyliving.org/events/statewide-senior-center-holiday-bash/> or contact the Woodbridge Center and we will help you register. There will be a 'Grab n Go' treat bag provided by the event's sponsors. The treat bags will be available for pick-up at The Woodbridge Center for registered participants - one bag per household.

**Transportation** for medical appointments and local shopping is available for those 60+ or disabled Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm (with some limited exceptions). Call to arrange transportation for all. Transportation for grocery shopping and pharmacy pick-up is also available. For safety reasons, masks are required, and temperatures will be taken.

Please know the vehicle is cleaned between each use.

**Meals:** Seniors may reserve frozen meals (\$5/ meal) by noon on Monday for delivery to your home on Tuesday. Minimum order of two lunches please.

**Email address:** Want to receive updates from The Center? Call or email us with your email address.

**Human Services:** Call 203-389-3429 for information. The Human Services Department social worker, Judi Young, is available to those in need of assistance due to isolation and other issues associated with long-term quarantine and social distancing.

**Holiday Baskets, Toys & Fuel:** Woodbridge residents may call for an appointment to apply for CT Energy Assistance program administered by TEAM Inc. Income eligibility requirements must be met. Call social worker Judi Young at 203-389-3429. Residents may also apply for the Toys for Kids program and Holiday Basket program. Sponsors are needed to participate in the Adopt-A-Family program to provide holiday food baskets to families in need for the December holidays. To adopt a family, contact the Human Services Dept. at 203-389-3429.

**Food Pantry:** Woodbridge Human Services is available to assist seniors and families in need with non-perishable food items from the food pantry as well as gift cards to Stop & Shop for perishable items. To view items currently in need you can download a new

app, Pantry Angels, for your iPhone; the app was designed by Ethan Lavi to provide up to date needs for local pantries. Once you download the app, select Woodbridge Town Food Pantry to view the updated list.

**Donations:** Monetary donations and gift cards are appreciated. Donations of canned fruit, Parmalat milk, coffee, tea, cereal (hot & cold), tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, cookies, snack foods, baking mixes, oil, bar soap, toilet paper, paper towels and other non-perishable items are welcome. Please make sure all items are not expired. Call 203-389-3429 to arrange a no-contact drop-off appointment.

**Masks:** Woodbridge residents may call to arrange pick-up or delivery of a cloth mask. Volunteers making masks are invited to contact Woodbridge Human Services to donate.

**Emergency Call List:** Prepare for storms by stocking up on water, canned goods and batteries. Residents can call the Human Services Department to be added to the Emergency Call List. For those who are elderly, have a health issue, are disabled or know someone who falls into these categories, please sign up for the Human Services' Emergency Call List. During emergencies, the department calls listed residents to ensure they are safe and to offer help as needed. To be added to the list, please call 203-389-3429.





# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



## Historical Society To Hold Winter Event

The Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society will hold an outside Winter Event on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 to 4 PM at the Historic Darling House, 1907 Litchfield Turnpike in Woodbridge. Although we cannot yet welcome you inside the Darling House, we still want to spread some holiday cheer so invite you to an outdoor display & sale of specialty wreaths and holiday decorations from 2-4 pm on the grounds of the Darling House. From the porch, you may take a “peek” through the windows to view scenes

of a Victorian Holiday celebration. You may even glimpse some live-action inside!

In addition, there will be an ever-green “2021 Wish Tree” in the front yard. We invite you to stop by to record your personal wish for the coming year on one of the paper ornaments provided and hang it on the tree. Masks are required and strict social distancing guidelines will be followed. As always, your support for the Amity & Woodbridge Historical Society is greatly appreciated.

Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society

OUTDOOR  
OPEN HOUSE

"Peek" into the Darling House for a Holiday scene  
of years gone by!  
Decorate a tree  
Baked Goods for sale ~ Wreaths for sale  
Light Refreshments

see you there!

Sunday, December 6 ~ 2 tp 4 PM

1907 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
All CDC guidelines will be followed | Please dress warmly



Woodbridge Rotarians recently distributed masks at local senior health facilities. Pictured are (from left) Neelima Kaushal, Deb Meehan of Coachman Square, Anna Dickerson, Diane Millan and Dorothy Martino while on the Million Mask Challenge Tour. (Photo by Rhea Kaushal)

## Rotary Makes Mask Donation

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge recently participated in the New England Rotary Million Mask Challenge Tour. A million masks were donated to Rotary by the Rossi Family Foundation to be distributed to local groups that the clubs identify. Woodbridge Rotary distributed 1,500 masks, 500 to each of the three senior health facilities in town: The Willows, Coachman Square, and The Linden.

President Anna Dickerson, Past President Diane Millan, President-Elect Neelima Kaushal and Rotarian Dorothy Martino met with officials of the three locations and

presented the masks to be used for staff and residents. Neelima’s daughter Rhea, a high school volunteer, took the photos. Woodbridge Rotary also will soon be receiving 500 children’s masks (with a dinosaur design) which will be distributed in Woodbridge, Bethany and Westville.

The Rotary Club of Woodbridge members are business and professional people who work or live in the area. The club has been active in community service projects to Woodbridge, Bethany and Westville since 1971. To learn more about Rotary, e-mail Anna Dickerson at [annadickerson@yahoo.com](mailto:annadickerson@yahoo.com).

## Calling All Girls in Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade!

You know that feeling when you can’t seem to fall asleep because you’re so excited for the adventures of tomorrow? That’s the feeling you get in Girl Scouts! Join us and you can meet new friends, do art projects, and learn about animals and plants. Become a Girl Scout Daisy!

Daisy Girl Scouts enjoy discovering the world around them, trips to the zoo, museums, learning about animals, and getting outdoors. Daisies are the first level in Girl Scouting where girls get the opportunity to choose what they want to learn, and how they want to learn it! Girl Scouts gives girls a supportive space to take chances, try new things, and learn to succeed through

failure – improving all aspects of their lives. Our trained leaders offer age-specific activities that foster learning in a caring and thoughtful way. As a Girl Scout Daisy, a girl will learn the basics of Girl Scouting through games and activities, work with their leader to make decisions about their troop, and interact with their community through service projects. Start the fun today!

For more information on this and other Girl Scout programs in the Amity New Haven area, contact [GSCTAmitySU@gmail.com](mailto:GSCTAmitySU@gmail.com), or visit [gsocfct.org](http://gsocfct.org). A new Daisy Girl Scout troop is currently forming for Girls in Woodbridge & New Haven, email for information about upcoming meetings.



# CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



## This Old House Gets a “New” Look

The Orange Historical Society (OHS) has been fortunate to receive several grants from The Fred A. DeLuca Foundation for the restoration of the 1740 Nathan Bryan-William Andrew house. The Foundation has been very generous in the past 4 years to see that the society would be able to complete its restoration projects of the oldest house in Orange.

Each project was unique, enhancing the continuation of work undertaken by the society in 2000, when the Town

of Orange purchased the house. The OHS agreed to take on the restoration and has done just that with the gratefulness to The Fred A. DeLuca Foundation for the recent donation which has allowed them to re-clapboard the western and northern sides due to the failure of the existing exterior.

The home is open to the public upon request and all Covid-19 protocols will be in place. Visit [www.orangehistory.org](http://www.orangehistory.org) to see additional photographs. For information call 203 795-3106.

## Jewish Genealogical Society of CT To Host Virtual Lecture

Please join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut (JGSCT) for the First Annual Marcia Indianer Meyers Memorial lecture on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:30 pm. Arthur S. Meyers, the widower of Marcia Indianer Meyers, will present “Marcia’s Genealogical Journey”. Arthur Meyers is a retired librarian, genealogist, and long-time JGSCT board member.

Marcia Indianer Meyers began exploring family history in her father’s jewelry and watch repair store in Detroit in the mid-1940s. She would ask her Dad about their family name, “Indianer,” and took notes. This early asking about her family history led to

a lifetime of researching, documenting, visiting family (alive and in cemeteries), and sharing the history. As much as I helped in her work, she ignited my interest, and shaped me in the same way with my family.

Her father loved to talk more about their shtetl, Chodorow, which he had left after World War I, than their name. Marcia concluded this part of her journey in November 2019, shortly after she turned 80, in our assisted living facility in Middletown, Connecticut. She was still just as eager then to help new friends explore their own history.

This program is free and open to the public.

## Start Thinking About May Elections

It’s time to think about the next round of elections – at the local level. The Town of Woodbridge will hold local elections in May 2021. There will be many positions on that ballot and the winners will make important decisions that impact our community.

Here are the positions up for election: First Selectman, Board of Selectmen; Woodbridge Board of Education; Amity Board of Education; Zoning

Board of Appeals; and Board of Assessment Appeals.

If you are interested in learning more about running for any of these important offices and being endorsed by the Woodbridge Republican Town Committee, please contact Amey Marrella at 203/752-8658 or Lynn Piascyk at 203/387-3545.

We welcome potential candidates from all political parties.

### “Election” From Page 1

said she was not aware of any issues in that regard.

There were three lines – one each for Voting District 1 (including the 17<sup>th</sup> state Senate seat) and Voting District 2 (including the 14<sup>th</sup> Senate seat); the third line was for Election-Day registrants.

The “blue wave” of Democratic wins may not have happened nationally, but in Woodbridge not a single Republican made it into office, incumbent or otherwise. And the one candidate with the fewest votes was at the top of the ticket: The Trump/Pence team received 1,817 votes, as opposed to Biden/Harris with 3,856 votes.

for the 114<sup>th</sup> House seat that was held for many years by Republican Themis Klarides. With the votes from the Working Families Party Welander got a total of 3,403 votes; her opponent, who was cross-endorsed by the Independent Party, 2,185.

A sliver of southern Woodbridge is part of the 14<sup>th</sup> State senatorial district, which is currently held by Democrat James Maroney. He was cross-endorsed by both the Independent Party and the Working Families Party. He beat his Republican challenger, Mike Southworth, 550 to 359.

The biggest part of Woodbridge is part of the 17<sup>th</sup> state senatorial district. Here, Democrat Jorge Cabrera beat the incumbent, Republican George Logan, 2,633 to 2,051. The district includes parts of the Naugatuck Valley and stretches east to Hamden. District-wide, Logan trailed by 47.8% of the vote to Cabrera’s 52.2%.

Some Woodbridge voters were looking for alternatives to the two traditional parties and voted either for the Libertarians, Jorgenson & Cohen (37) or the Green Party candidates, Hawkins & Walker (31); one voter cast a vote for write-in-candidates West & Tidball, but none of the other write-ins garnered any local votes.

Dickerson said a couple of local names were written in, but those votes cannot be counted. Write-in candidates need signatures to get their names onto the ballot.

Another race that got attention due to its ugly ad campaigns was that between Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, a Democrat representing the Third District, and her challenger, Republican Margaret Streicker. DeLauro, who was endorsed by the Working Families Party, won with 3,569 votes; Streicker, who was cross-endorsed by the Independent Party, got 2,024. Green Party candidate Justin Paglino received 75 votes.

Democrat Mary Welander beat Republican Dan DeBarba in the race

Two years ago, the two candidates had had a very close election result, which required a recount in which Logan came out ahead by 87 votes. This time around, Cabrera won with a comfortable margin of more than 2,076 votes.

He thanked Woodbridge voters for their support. “I’m looking forward to working with First Selectman Beth Heller and the rest of Woodridge’s leadership team to make the lives of Woodbridge residents better,” he wrote in an email.

The only local names on the ballot were those for the local registrars, namely Pennell Hamilton for the Democrats (3,294) and Anna Dickerson for the Republicans (2,195). Dickerson has been serving in this capacity for a long time. “This election was three times as hard as a regular election,” she said.



HEALTH & FITNESS

E-Visits and Telehealth During Covid-19

BY KYLE BRANDAY, MSPT

The last few weeks have hit everyone like a punch to the gut. Our world and day to day lives have been rocked in ways few of us could have imagined. Schools and restaurants closed, grocery stores with lines out the doors, and all of us attempting to limit interactions. Social distancing has been at the center of what we are doing currently in our society. The attempt to limit the spread of COVID-19 has created a societal need for distance. And while medical facilities and grocery stores remain open, many people are locking their doors and throwing away the key until the storm clears and the Lysol kicks in.

The reality is that during a period of time such as this, it is imperative that we move often and move well to stay healthy. Yes, some people are tentative about leaving the house for even simple outdoor exercise. Others are spending the vast majority of their day setting up their work station at their dining room table, perched on a barstool at the kitchen counter, or lounging with a laptop on their lap with their feet on the coffee table. All of this to adapt to the new temporary norm of working from home.

Bottom line is...we are more home bound and we are bound to be more sedentary. This is going to lead to more spinal pressure, stiffer joints, weaker muscles, and more pain. This is bad enough for everyday people, but imagine all those patients that suddenly lost access to their care. Some of whom can't leave because they fall into higher risk categories with immune systems that are compromised or have other conditions that would lead to a higher risk of COVID-19.

Luckily, we have been hard at work for our patients. While we are still in clinic as essential healthcare workers, we have also launched E-Visits! These are one on one visits held through a website (very similar to FaceTime) in the comfort of your own home.

While these visits are not a new thing in the world of healthcare, insurance companies have finally been getting their ducks in a row to allow Physical Therapists to bill them for these sorts of online visits. They are essential to allow us to provide proper care to the abundance of patients who are unable to access their Physical Therapists currently.

All you need is a smart phone or a computer with a webcam. The process is as quick and easy as opening your email. But what about patients who don't have technology that can accommodate an E-visit? Most insurance is



Kyle Branday, MSPT

also permitting telephone-based visits such as telehealth which will allow your provider to give you advice and direction in your medical care over the phone.

Like every other profession that provides telehealth services, there are limitations to providing online medical services. For most of you that have been through PT, there is typically a hands-on portion whether it be stretching, massage, or joint mobilization. Lucky for all of us that one of the best skill sets we have as therapists is our ability to detect dysfunction, improper movement, or weaknesses without laying a set of hands on a patient. The quality of movement speaks volumes to us about the problems going on.

Working through that assessment visually allows us to then prescribe the proper changes. Whether stretching, strength training, specific muscle isolation and engagement; physical therapists can change those faults through a virtual medium.

During these difficult times we have to get creative in our solutions to the more complex problems challenging our lives. For those of you with orthopedic or neurological dysfunction, don't think that social distancing halts your care. Allow your physical therapist to show you the difference E-Visits can make for you.

Kyle Branday, MSPT is a licensed physical therapist and partner at Amity Physical Therapy, founded fifteen years ago by Michael Dow MSPT CEO/Director with offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. Kyle is a graduate of Quinnipiac University with his Masters in Physical Therapy. He works with patients of all ages and ability levels, treating high level athletes with fractures and sprains to gait and balance dysfunction in the elderly. Kyle can be reached to set up an evaluation at (203) 389-4593 or visit [www.amitypt.com](http://www.amitypt.com).

Rosenblum Named Medical Director

Woodbridge resident David Rosenblum, MD, Director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare, was named Medical Director of the recently launched Milne Institute for Healthcare Innovation. Located within Gaylord's Wallingford headquarters, the Milne Institute for Healthcare Innovation aims to leverage Gaylord's expertise in brain and spinal cord injuries, complex strokes, amputations and pulmonary diseases to conduct research and develop evidence-based practices and applied technologies with the potential to change lives around the world.

Since 1992, Dr. Rosenblum has treated patients at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare with spinal cord injury as well as many other conditions and diseases. Board-certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation with additional subspecialty board certifications in both spinal cord injury medicine and brain injury medicine, he is an active researcher, teacher and clinician. Dr. Rosenblum directs the spinal cord injury clinical care and research at Gaylord which is part of one of only 14 Model SCI Centers in the country.

He is an associate clinical professor, Yale University School of Medicine in the departments of Neurology as well as Orthopedics and Rehabilitation.

For more information on the Milne Institute for Healthcare Innovation, please visit [www.gaylord.org/research](http://www.gaylord.org/research).



David Rosenblum, MD

Gaylord Specialty Healthcare is a rehabilitation-focused, nonprofit health system headquartered in Wallingford, Connecticut, that provides inpatient and outpatient care for people at every point in their journey from illness or injury to maximum recovery. Gaylord Specialty Healthcare is anchored by Gaylord Hospital, a long-term acute care hospital, and includes Gaylord Outpatient Services and Gaylord Physical Therapy for patients who require diagnosis and treatment on an outpatient basis. Together, these entities deliver a complete continuum of rehab care driven by technology, research, clinical experience, and human compassion. For more information, visit [www.gaylord.org](http://www.gaylord.org).



Happy Thanksgiving  
• NOV. 26 •

RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE TODAY. CALL US AT 203-298-4399.



HEALTH & FITNESS

# Bernstein Named Inaugural Chief Research Officer, Other Roles

Steven L. Bernstein, MD of Woodbridge, has been named as the inaugural Chief Research Officer for Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H), Associate Dean of Clinical Research at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and Director of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Geisel.

Dr. Bernstein currently serves as Professor and Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and Professor of Public Health (Chronic Disease Epidemiology) in the Yale School of Public Health.

As Chief Research Officer for D-H, Dr. Bernstein will oversee all aspects of research at D-H, including serving as the designated Institutional Official for Research, leading D-H's Office of Research Operations, and overseeing development and implementation of a forward-looking strategic plan for growth of our clinical, translational, population-based research portfolio. "Our rapidly growing research enterprise is poised to take the next step toward national prominence," noted D-HH Chief Clinical Officer Edward J. Merrens, MD, MHCD. "Dr. Bernstein's appointment moves us closer to our goal of having a significant impact on health locally, nationally and even internationally."

As Associate Dean for Clinical Research for Geisel, Dr. Bernstein will be responsible for growing and supporting the School's clinical and translational research programs, and, working with colleagues from across D-H and Dartmouth College, will develop opportunities and processes for clinical and translational research that span our organizations.

In his role as director of the C. Everett Koop Institute, Dr. Bernstein will lead the Institute's efforts to advance health and well-being through research, education, and policy activities to protect the public health and prevent disease. The Institute seeks to mitigate threats posed by the unhealthy promotion and use of consumer products, including tobacco, alcohol, and highly processed foods, as well as prescription drugs. In his current roles at Yale, Dr. Bernstein develops screening and treatment interventions for tobacco users in hospital settings, and programs to train providers in tobacco control.

"Dr. Bernstein has a long and deep experience in building training and research programs, engaging in policy-relevant research and advocacy, mentoring junior colleagues, and advising on institution-wide matters of research governance, training, and support," noted Geisel School of



Steven L. Bernstein, MD

Medicine Dean Duane Compton, PhD. "We are delighted to welcome him as a colleague and a partner."

Dr. Bernstein holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton University, and he earned his medical degree from the Temple University School of Medicine. He trained in residencies at SUNY Health Sciences Center in New York and at Long Island Jewish Medical Center. Dr. Bernstein was a fellow in hematology-oncology at SUNY Health Sciences Center and was a visiting fellow in clinical epidemiology at the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program at Yale.

His research has received funding from a broad range of agencies, including the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and other agencies and foundations. His work has appeared in journals as diverse as *Health Affairs*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, and *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*.

Dr. Bernstein has strong interests in implementation science and is the founding Director of the Yale Center for Implementation Science.

He is currently studying the efficacy of a brief counseling intervention, nicotine replacement therapy, a telephone quit line service, and an SMS texting program in helping adult smokers in the emergency department quit tobacco. Another project in which Dr. Bernstein is immersed is using network analysis to model patterns of adherence and abstinence in human health behavior.

He has additional interests in teaching the principles of public health, population health, and prevention to medical students, residents, and practitioners, and he has maintained an active clinical practice in the Emergency Department at Yale New Haven Hospital.

Dr. Bernstein will join D-H and Geisel in early February 2021.



## Simple Ways To Give Back Every Day

Giving back to one's community strengthens towns and neighborhoods and makes them better places to live. Many people volunteer with local charitable organizations, while others make annual donations that help charities and nonprofits achieve their missions.

Giving back to your community can require a big commitment, but there are simple ways to give back each day as well. Whether you're strapped for time and can't volunteer or simply want to do a little more than you already do to support your community, the following are some simple ways to give back every day.

Support a local business. Many small businesses have suffered mightily since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19. Such businesses help communities thrive in many ways, including employing local residents. According to The Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, small firms with fewer than 100 employees employed roughly 70 percent of the Canadian population in 2017. In the United States, the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy reports that nearly 62 percent of the country's net new jobs between 1993 and 2016 were created by small businesses. By supporting such firms, whether it's ordering takeout or buying from local retailers instead of their big box competitors, men and women are giving back to their communities while spending money they would be spending anyway.

Help a neighbor. The pandemic turned many people's lives upside down, and some people have had to overcome long periods of isolation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that the elderly are at greater risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 than younger people, while those with preexisting conditions such as type 2 diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, are at increased risk as well. Because of that heightened risk, such people have been urged to stay at home as much as possible. If you want to give back, offer to help at-risk neighbors with their grocery shopping or other errands that could put them in danger of getting sick. Another way to help at-risk neighbors is to visit them and keep them company. If you do so, wear a mask at all times and stay at least six feet away.

Donate used items. Many people are still working from home full-time as employers remain hesitant to bring staff back into the office. That extra time at home has no doubt made people realize just how much clutter they have around the house. Rather than leaving items out at the curb for the garbage man to take away, donate lightly used clothing and still-function appliances to nearby charities. Unemployment figures remain high across the country, and more people than ever before are in need of affordable goods. Donating rather than discarding lightly used items can help the less fortunate in your community get through a very uncertain time.

Giving back to one's community does not require a significant commitment of time or resources. Simple things that can be done every day can strengthen communities and show support for your neighbors.



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## Our Building is Closed, but Our Community is Open!

Please join us on Livestream or Zoom!

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

### Happening This Weekend Friday

- › 6:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat - on Zoom and live stream only

### Saturday

- › 9:00 am Bread & Torah - on Zoom
- › 10:00 am Shabbat service - on Zoom and live stream only
- › 5:30 pm Havdalah Harmonics - Join us on Zoom for this new twice/monthly gathering

### Sunday

- › Sunday School classes on Zoom

### Upcoming Classes & Events Havdalah Harmonics

November 21

#### Pajama Havdalah

Come in your pj's, break out some milk and cookies, and we'll make havdalah, tell some stories, and sing some songs!

#### Daniel Headrick, Ph.D.

Sunday, December 6, 10am

#### "Climate Change: A New Perspective" on Zoom

This talk draws on Professor Headrick's book, "Humans Versus Nature: A Global Environmental History." Please call the office to register (203) 389-2111.

#### Tuesday Tea with Rabbi

Join the rabbi for tea on Zoom every Tuesday at 4pm.

Pour yourself some tea and grab a cookie too! Come to connect with each other and share comfort, counsel and cheer! From time to time the rabbi will host special guests in conversation.

#### Rabbi Shapiro's Fall Class on Zoom

Mondays, 7:30-9:00pm On

Zoom: November 30, December

7, 14, 21, January 4, 11

#### A Bride for One Night

In her engaging book, A Bride for the Night, Ruth Calderon rewrite Talmudic tales as richly imagined short stories, affording the reader an entrance into the fascinating world of this core ancient text. We will read the



Congregation B'nai Jacob

stories in their original in the Talmud as well as reading Calderon's retellings of them. We will embark on an imaginative journey into the world of the Talmud and get to know it in new and surprising ways. No background or Hebrew necessary. All are welcome. Zoom only — zoom link will be sent to participants upon registration. To register, email office@bnaijacob.org or call 203-389-2111.

### Woodbridge Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Monday, November

23, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Please join us outdoors in the parking lot of Our Lady of the Assumption Church on Center Road for this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. In order to gather together safely, we are planning a brief outdoor candlelight service. Please join us for this unique program of thanks and community. Co-sponsored by Congregation B'nai Jacob, First Church of Christ, Trinity Evangelical Church, and Our Lady of the Assumption Church.

### ZOOM SCHEDULE of weekly services and classes:

- › **Morning Minyan** at 7:45am
- › **Evening Minyan** at 6:00pm (Sunday-Thursday)
- › **Shabbat Shmooze** at 6:00pm Friday
- › **Kaballat Shabbat** at 6:30pm Friday
- › **Bread & Torah** at 9:00am Saturday
- › **Shabbat Morning** at 10:00am Saturday

Congregation B'nai Jacob | 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 | 203-389-2111 | info@bnaijacob.org | BnaiJacob.org



## Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

### Children's Services

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

### Indoor Services

Fridays 6:00 pm inside the main sanctuary

### Outdoor Services (weather permitting)

Saturdays 9:30 am

Sundays 9:00 am\*\*

Mondays 5:45 pm\*\*

\*\* also available via Zoom, like other daily services

### Thanksgiving Events

BEKI's teenagers will pack Thanksgiving baskets for food insecure families on Sunday, November 22. For more information, contact Annie Norman-Schiff.

The BEKI community will gather via Zoom for a "Thanksgiving Together" lunch on Friday, November 27.



Corey Stone

### Wednesday Schmoozes

On December 2, Corey Stone, who was part of the executive team at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, will discuss issues of debt, debt forgiveness, bankruptcy and finance through the lens of Jewish texts.

On December 23, it's a film schmooze: watching the short film

"Commandment 613" and discussing it with the film maker and its subject, Rabbi Kevin Hale, who restores Torah scrolls saved during the Holocaust.

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

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



Daphne Geismar

### A Family's Account of Separation and Survival

Daphne Geismar, author of the new book Invisible Years about her Jewish family's years of hiding in the Netherlands during WWII, will speak at an 11 am Zoom Schmooze on Sunday, December 6.

### BEKI Hanuka Events

BEKI will celebrate the Third Night of Hanuka, which is Saturday, December 12, on Zoom with havdala, candle lighting, and a sing-a-long.

An Eighth Night Hanuka party on Thursday, December 17 will feature a performance by singer/songwriter Neshama Carlebach. To request the link for these events, email office@beki.org.

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



# HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration Set to Inspire

A special commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass, will be held on Sunday, November 15 at 9 a.m. on Zoom. This event is free and open to the public.

All are invited to a community-wide Kristallnacht Commemoration to be held at 9 a.m. on Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom. This year's Commemoration, presented by Congregation Or Shalom in Orange in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, will honor the conscience and courage of Mr. Odd Nansen of Norway.

### What was Kristallnacht?

The horrific event known as Kristallnacht, which took place on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 1938, is regarded by historians as the prelude to the Holocaust. In the course of 48 hours, mobs rampaged throughout Nazi Germany, Austria and German-occupied Czechoslovakia, murdering, maiming and sending tens of thousands to concentration camps. During those two days, hundreds of synagogues were fire bombed and thousands of Jewish-owned businesses were plundered. The violence of those days would be infamously called "The Nights of Broken Glass" - "Kristallnacht" - referring to the shattered windowpanes that littered the streets in the aftermath of the nightmare. Tragically, in the face of all this, the world was largely silent; almost no countries reached

out to the Jews living under Nazism. "That widespread inaction in the face of evil," according to Rabbi Wainhaus of Congregation Or Shalom, "is all the more reason to highlight the moral courage shown by a few. At our community's Kristallnacht Commemoration, we focus on the unsung heroes whose life-saving acts defied the moral darkness of the Holocaust. This year we'll focus on the heroism of Odd Nansen of Norway."

### The Norwegian anti-Nazi resistance

As Adolf Hitler's noose was tightening around the neck of German Jewry, Odd Nansen, a Norwegian architect, threw himself into the work of providing a haven for Jewish refugees and all who were fleeing Nazi persecution. To that end, he and his wife Kari formed a humanitarian organization in Oslo called "Nansen-hjelpen" ("Nansen-Relief") along with a Children's Shelter. On April 9, 1940, Norway was overrun by Nazi Germany. Tragically, therefore, most of the Nansen's refugees, along with many of Norway's Jews were murdered by the Nazi regime. Nansen's staff at the Children's Shelter, however, managed to rescue 14 of their children by secretly transporting them to neighboring Sweden. These children survived the Holocaust and subsequently found new homes all over the world.

Meanwhile, Odd Nansen went underground and joined the Norwegian anti-Nazi resistance. As a result, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942 and deported to the Nazi concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, Germany. In Sachsenhausen, Nansen courageously maintained a secret diary on tissue-paper pages which included his drawings of the horrors of concentration camp life in real time. (Nansen was a sketch-artist.) This diary and its drawings, published after the war, provided an important first-hand account of the atrocities perpetrated at Sachsenhausen. After the war, Nansen's diary was published in Norway, where it was and still is widely known. (The diary was re-published in 2016 under the title, "From Day to Day" by guest speaker Timothy Boyce.)

At Sachsenhausen, Odd Nansen risked his life to save a ten-year-old Jewish boy named Tommy who had miraculously survived the infamous death march from Auschwitz. Today, Tommy is Professor Thomas Buergenthal, a former judge on the International Court of Justice at the Hague, and Professor Emeritus at George Washington University Law School in Washington, DC. Years later, Professor Buergenthal would write, "Odd Nansen not only saved my life; he also enriched it with his philosophy of life."

### About the special commemoration Sunday, November 15 at 9 a.m. on Zoom

The event will begin with the lighting of a yellow Holocaust candle and brief remarks about the significance of Kristallnacht. Mr. Timothy Boyce Esq. will eloquently recount Nansen's life-saving work, and Senator Richard Blumenthal will present Odd Nansen with a posthumous U.S. Senate Commendation. The Nansen family in Oslo will "virtually" receive the Commendation in the presence of Odd Nansen's rescues. This Commemoration will be emceed by Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, spiritual leader of Congregation Or-Shalom, and Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

**Please sign up for this event at [jewishnewhaven.org/Kristallnacht](http://jewishnewhaven.org/Kristallnacht). Pre-registration is required.**

This event is presented by Congregation Or Shalom in Orange, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Thank you to our co-sponsors: the Jewish Community Relations Council of the United Jewish Federation, the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford, the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, and UJA-JCC Greenwich.



### ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

Send us your organizations events listings and items of interest.

We will publish them for free.

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## Pop-The-Trunk Food Drive

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at High Plains Community Center from 1-3 pm, the Orange Town Clergy is sponsoring a POP-THE-TRUNK Food Drive for its Thanksgiving Appeal.

Their congregants have been

encouraged to donate non-perishable food items for the Orange Food Pantry.

Residents of Orange will be helping their neighbors facing food insecurity in these difficult times.





# WOODBIDGE LIBRARY

All information accurate at press time. Be sure to check our website or call us before your visit for any changes to our hours or events.

The Woodbridge Town Library opened its doors to the public with Express Service on Thursday, November 5. We look forward to welcoming you back into the building.

**Express Service Hours:**

- Tuesdays: 11 am to 3 pm;
- Thursdays: 4 pm to 7 pm;
- Fridays: 1 pm to 4 pm.

**Express Service includes:**

- Browsing for books, movies and music;
- Limited reference, readers' advisory, and technology assistance;
- Limited computer use by appointment;
- Access to printing, faxing, photocopying, and scanning.

**Computers and Other Technology**

Computer use by appointment only is available during Express Service hours. There are three computers for use; appointments are 45 minutes each and start at the top of each hour.

To book a 45-minute computer reservation, please call or email the Reference Desk at 203-389-3434 or [wbrstaff@lioninc.org](mailto:wbrstaff@lioninc.org). Up to two people in a family unit are welcome to sit together at a computer station. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For more information about our computers and technology, go to [www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/computer-appointments-begin-november10](http://www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/computer-appointments-begin-november10).



WOODBIDGE  
TOWN LIBRARY

**Library Safety Rules**

We are happy to be open again and want to stay that way. Thank you for respecting the health and safety of the staff and other patrons by following these rules:

- ✓ Do not enter the building if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last fourteen (14) days;
- ✓ The Library currently has a very limited capacity and visitors may need to wait to enter the building;
- ✓ The Library is only open for limited services: studying, reading, meeting, etc. are not allowed;
- ✓ Please limit your visit to 30 minutes or less;
- ✓ Hand sanitizer use is required upon entry;
- ✓ Masks must be worn over nose and mouth by everyone over 2 years of age and for the entire visit;
- ✓ Social distancing must be practiced, especially in the stacks. One person at a time per aisle;
- ✓ Children under the age of 12 must stay with their caregiver at all times;
- ✓ Our mezzanine is closed, including the study room, bookstore alley and the Woodbridge Room;
- ✓ Computer appointments must be made separately, with the Reference Desk;
- ✓ Magazines and newspapers will not be available;

- ✓ If you pick up or touch an item but do not plan to check it out, please place it in the designated area so it can be quarantined.

**Park & Pickup Still Available**

Park & Pickup will continue, but the pickup tables will be moved into the Friends' Meeting Room. Please use the doors on the right side of the library to enter and leave. Passage from the meeting room to the library and vice versa will not be permitted. Remember to wait until you hear from the Library before coming to pick up your order. Your online account may not always be accurate! Park & Pickup hours are Monday & Thursday, 11 am to 7 pm, and Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday, 11 am to 4 pm.

**Can't Make It In? Remote Library Service Available**

Phones and emails are answered by staff Monday – Friday, 10 am to 5 pm. Place holds, ask questions, find out information, and more even when the Library is not open for Express Service.

**Department phones and emails:**

**Adult Services/Reference:** 203-389-3434 [wbrstaff@lioninc.org](mailto:wbrstaff@lioninc.org)

**Children's Department:** 203-389-3439 [childrensprogram@lioninc.org](mailto:childrensprogram@lioninc.org)

**Circulation/General info:** 203-389-3433 [askus@woodbridgetown-library.org](mailto:askus@woodbridgetown-library.org)

**Long Overdue Items**

Please return outstanding items as soon as possible, even if they are BILLED on your library account. No replacement costs will be charged, but the items need to come back. The book drop is open 24/7; items will be quarantined for 96 hours, in accordance with new guidelines. No fines will be charged for late items. Fines or bills on your account will be waived— simply call us to remove charges.

**Are you on our email list?**

Sign up to get alerts about our events, new offerings, and any updates about reopening. Go to our website: [woodbridgetownlibrary.org](http://woodbridgetownlibrary.org) and scroll to the very bottom. Enter your email address and you'll start receiving our emails! We typically only send one email per week.

The Children's Department is delighted to provide materials for homework assignments and pleasure reading/listening via Park & Pickup or during Express Service. Place holds via your online account, or contact us if you need suggestions or ideas.

The Friends of the Library thank the Woodbridge Community for their donations in October. They will not be taking further book donations until possibly Spring 2021. You are welcome to make a monetary contribution to the Friends via PayPal. More information: [www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/about/friends-of-the-library/](http://www.woodbridge.lioninc.org/about/friends-of-the-library/).

## How To Give Safely During The Pandemic

Donations are the lifeblood of many charitable organizations. Unfortunately, donations also can be the lifeblood of criminal operations designed to scam would-be donors.

The potential for charity scams could be even greater in 2020. Charities accept donations year-round, but the spirit of giving that prevails during the holiday season makes the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas especially popular times to donate to charity. In addition to being on the lookout for the usual scams, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia warns prospective donors to beware of potential scams involving the COVID-19 virus.

Recognizing the challenges people in their communities have faced as a result of the economic fallout of the pandemic, donors may be more

inclined to donate to charities purporting to help laid off workers, small businesses or others adversely affected by the outbreak. That's admirable, but prospective donors must recognize that their eagerness to support COVID-related charities may make them vulnerable to criminals looking to exploit their charitable nature. In recognition of that, the OAGDC offers these tips to men and women who are considering donating to charity in 2020.

Be wary of recently launched operations. Operations that were formed in response to the pandemic may be viable, but the OAGDC also warns that many have been formed by scammers looking to exploit the outbreak for their own gain. Be especially wary of crowdfunding campaigns.

Ask questions. The OAGDC says

that any charity, even those formed in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, should be able to provide you with the same information as charities that have been around for years. Prior to donating, ask for the charity's name, address, telephone number, and mission. In addition, don't feel skittish about asking how your donation will be used and the percentage of each donation that goes to programs that directly help the people you're trying to assist.

Be vigilant before donating via peer-to-peer social networking websites. It's especially difficult to verify how donations made via texts or websites are ultimately used. While these can be convenient ways to donate, the OAGDC urges donors to be especially vigilant about vetting before donating to charities through these channels.

Never donate using cash, gift cards or wire transfers. Reputable charities do not ask for donations to be made in this way. The OAGDC advises donors to use credit cards whenever possible.


The terms "COVID-19" or "coronavirus" do not authenticate a charity. A reputable name or logo does not mean the charity is actually reputable. Prior to donating, donors can confirm a charity is legitimate by contacting organizations such as Charity Navigator, the BBB Wise Giving Alliance or the National Center for Charitable Statistics.

Scammers will no doubt try to exploit the pandemic to take advantage of donors during the upcoming giving season. Savvy donors can employ various strategies to ensure their charitable donations end up in the right hands.

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



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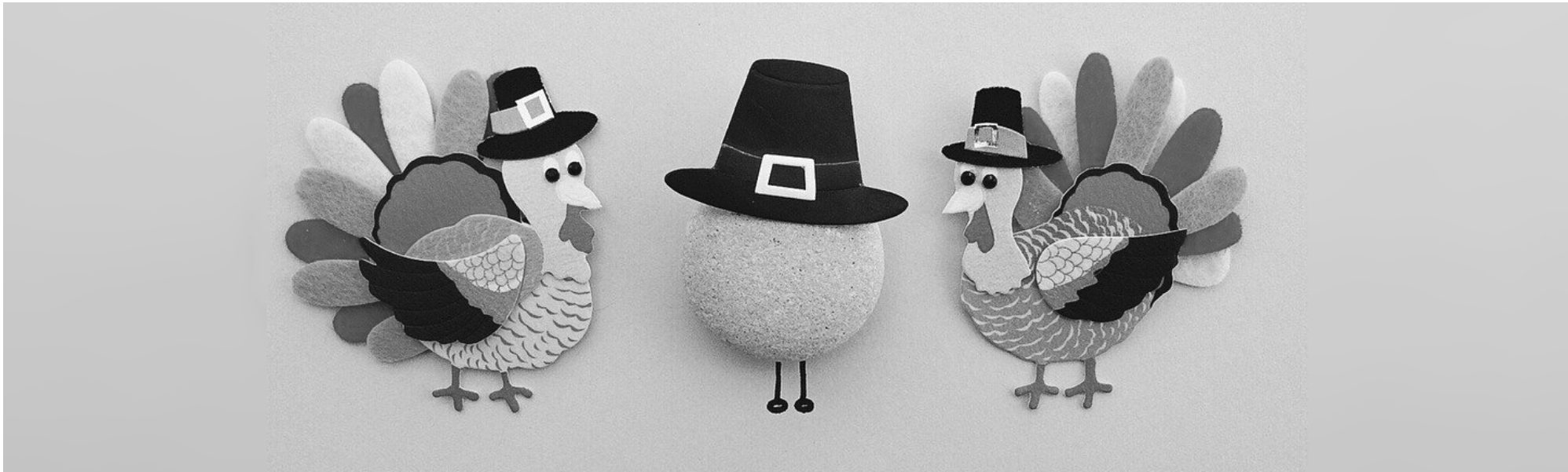
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# How Woodbridge Voted

**President**

**Biden and Harris (D): 3,856**  
Trump and Pence (R): 1,817  
Jorgensen and Cohen (L): 37  
Hawkins and Walker (G): 31

**State Senator District 17**

**Jorge Cabrera (D): 2,542**  
George Logan (R): 1,932  
George Logan (I): 119  
Jorge Cabrera (WF): 91

**Representative in Congress District 3**

**Rosa L. DeLauro (D): 3,457**  
Margaret Streicker (R): 1,928  
Justin Paglino (G): 75  
Rosa L. DeLauro (WF): 112  
Margaret Streicker (I): 96

**State Representative District 114**

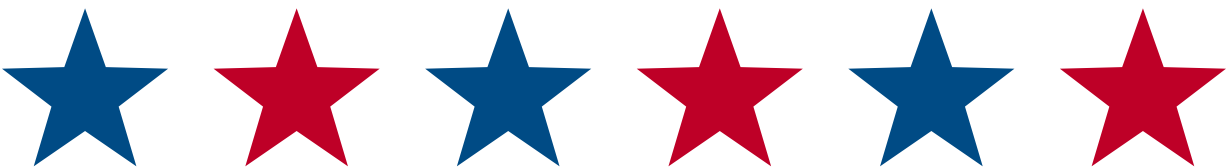
**Mary Welander (D): 3,277**  
Dan DeBarba (R): 2,070  
Mary Welander (WF): 126  
Dan DeBarba (I): 115

**State Senator District 14**

**James Maroney (D): 532**  
Michael Southworth (R): 359  
James Maroney (WF): 18  
James Maroney (I): 18

**Registrar of Voters**

Pennell Hamilton (D): 3,294  
Anna D. Dickerson (R): 2,195



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The Amity Fall Ball baseball team held its annual pink fundraiser in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Thanks to the generosity of parents, family members and the Amity Community we were able to donate over \$700 to the Get In Touch Foundation in Milford. Pictured above is co-captains Jacob Crow, Jack Ranani and Get In Touch volunteer Eddy Nilan (missing from photo co-captain Julian Stevens). Thank you to everyone who participated.

“Massaro” From Page 11

trative work over the coming winter months, preserving the 12 hours of daylight in spring for planting. Once the soil warms up in April and May, it becomes a race against the clock to get fields plowed, prepped and planted with your favorite varieties of crops like cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes and squash. In addition to many other tasks like removing row cover, laying thousands of feet of drip watering tape and rock removal, farmers work to ensure the thousands of seedlings (planted in the greenhouse in February and March) get into the ground so they can grow, grow, grow under the warmth of the sun.

Lastly, securing your place in our 2021 CSA now provides funds to the farm when they are needed most. Small farms like ours often purchase seeds, equipment and materials over the winter to take advantage of dis-

counts. It also allows us to finalize an annual budget and plan for how many staff we’ll need in the coming year. Your commitment now helps ensure a living wage for farm staff. Your early subscription ensures continued employment for the farm’s committed, trained employees who care about the land and our mission.

Massaro Community Farm is a non-profit, certified organic community farm on 57 acres of land whose mission is to keep farming, feed people, and build community. In addition to growing vegetables for seasonal subscribers, the farm donates thousands of pounds each year to hunger relief. The farm serves as a hub of education for all ages and shares its space with the community. The farm’s nature trail is open to the public 365 days a year. For more information, visit our website at [www.MassaroFarm.org](http://www.MassaroFarm.org) or contact Executive Director Caty Poole at 203-736-8618.

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