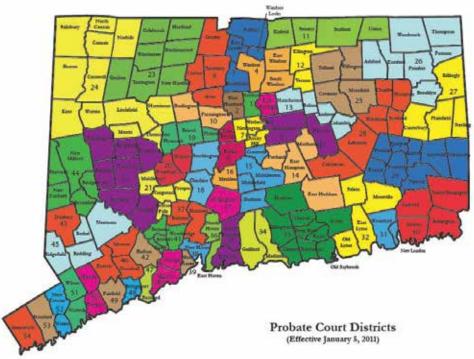
VOL. 8 - ISSUE 2

CIRCULATION 2615

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019



Proposal To Merge School Districts Causes Concern

By Melissa Nicefaro

With over 1,000 new bills before the General Assembly in the January session, one in particular is causing quite a stir in the tri-town BOWA community: Senator Martin Looney's Proposed Bill No. 454, An Act Concerning the Creation of Regional School Districts. If the bill were to pass as is (with redistricting based on existing probate map), the Orange school district would be merged with Milford; Woodbridge would be merged with Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour; Bethany would be merged with Hamden.

In a news release, State Representative Charlie Ferraro shared concerns 'about a Democrat proposal to regionalize school districts based on the current Probate Judge map, which means Amity Regional School District #5 would be broken up.' Ferraro, who represents Orange, Milford and West Haven, said, "This proposal would penalize a school district that already regionalizes," said Ferraro. "I haven't heard from local officials who believe that this is a good idea. You would think Democrat lawmakers would consult with their boards of education, first selectmen, and mayors before proposing something so ridiculous."

State Representative Themis Klarides agrees. "This proposal to mandate the regionalization of all Connecticut's schools is completely misguided. If you look at the current probate map, there will be students from around the state with impossible commute times to school, this plan doesn't make sense. Left as is, the plan will break apart already regionalized school districts like Amity for example, which is made up

See "Merge" On Page 7



Rising Enrollment: Beecher Will Need More Teachers

By Bettina Thiel

The Woodbridge School District is asking for a 5.77 percent budget increase for the 2019-20 school year, in part to deal with the continued influx of new students at Beecher Road School. "This is not a typical budget," warned School Superintendent Robert Gilbert when he presented his funding request at a joint meeting of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen. "But it represents what we need to maintain the quality, depth and breadth of our program."

The proposed operating budget adds up to \$15.5 million, up from the current \$14.6 million, for an increase of \$847,000. About 55.5% of that amount goes toward funding for regular education; 44.5% for special

Enrollment is predicted to reach

868 students next fall which represents an increase of more than 20% over the course of the last ten years. Demographers project the upward trend to continue in the next five years, bringing the total number of students to 939 by 2023-24.

Gilbert therefore included a new position for a full-time classroom teacher in the 2019-20 budget (\$82,769), and projects two further additions in subsequent years. He plans to open another first-grade classroom, in order to adhere to the recommended class sizes. Currently the guidelines call for 17-19 students per classroom in grades K-3; and 19-21 students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Some classrooms already are at or above the upper limit of those

"To reduce the budget means in-

See "Beecher" On Page 3



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²¹ Merritt Avenue * Indicates co-sale transactions



"Beecher" From Page 1

creasing class size," said Board of Education member Steve Fleischman in support of the budget request. Low class sizes are part of what makes Beecher attractive to young families, he said.

In addition to the classroom teacher, the budget calls for a half-time school psychologist, and a full-time teaching assistant; also 1.5 special education teacher positions. Back in 2006, 72 students received special services, which were delivered by 11 teachers. Currently, 94 students are receiving instruction by 9.5 teachers, for a student/teacher ratio of almost 10 to 1.

Special education needs have increased state-wide, Gilbert said, not just in numbers, but in intensity. More students are being recommended for one-on-one time. The school tries to meet the needs of most of its students and avoid outplacement, which is expensive not only in tuition, but also transportation. Even so, in most years, outplacement expenses were higher than budgeted, the superintendent said.

Even though the proposed budget would increase the teaching staff, it reduces a half-time position for an accounts-payable clerk in the business office. The budget also seeks to recoup some savings by seeking shared services such as sharing transportation for out-placements; partnering with Amity for IT support; cost-sharing with the Extended Day Program for the school resource officer; and continuation of the retirement incentive plan.

The budget keeps in place the current administrative structure with a superintendent, a principal, an assistant principal and special education director. It does not provide for an additional assistant principal or curriculum coordinator, although curriculum review is being done on an ongoing basis, during the summer or after school hours. The budget also does not allow to hire an additional part-time music teacher to introduce a string program at the school.

cut \$50,000 from the Beecher budget. This has put the district behind even before the school year started. Without that \$50,000 hole, the budget increase would be 5.4%, he said.

Finance Board Chairman Matt Giglietti was skeptical that the townspeople would accept an increase of this magnitude. "That's ¾ of a mill for every tax payer," he said. The increase would add \$255 to a tax bill for any house assessed at \$300,000; or \$300 for any house assessed for \$400,000. "When this hits the news, I think people are going to be very upset," he said. "I don't question your needs," he said, "but I don't see how this is sustainable."

Going forward, the Board of Selectmen will look at the budget requests of town departments and make a recommendation to the Board of Finance. The finance board is scheduled to meet March 7 to finalize a budget proposal.

Beecher Road School continues to offer unique learning opportunities, such as creating a weekly news program; the Learn to Swim program; and after-school enrichment including the Poetry Guild, the Math Olympiad, Spanish Club and open tech lab.

"Beecher Road School is recognized as a school of excellence in our region and there is great sense of pride in our school throughout the Woodbridge community," the superintendent said when he presented the operating budget to the Board of Education in December. Among the achievements he named "strong student achievement levels in Language Arts, math and science as measured by state assessment."

BRS students earned top ranking in the state math awards in the Continental Mathematics League and nationally in the National Math Olympiad competition. Two fourth graders were regional winners in the Euclidean Division of the Continental Math League.

The concert band took first place in competition; gold and platinum awards for Jazz, string and choir ensembles. Robotics teams also came home with awards: The Beecher Eagles won Core Values Award; Beecher Hawks won the Science Project Award; and the Orbiting Owls won the State Championship in robot design.





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stainless-steel apps, & slider to deck. MBR suite is privately separated by a study & lit w/ natural light, from HW floor to cathedral ceiling, through French doors to a dedicated sun room w/ 4 skylights & slider to the rear deck. 2 more skylights illuminate the 2-room MBA complete w/ Whirlpool tub & shower. 3 BRs, all w/ HW floors complete the main level, & 1,444sqft in the walk-out lower level includes 2 guest rooms, full bath, & large rec room w/ 3rd FP. Sliders lead out to the rear stone patio & yard. Spend Summer hours by the 700sqft, heated gunite pool or on the large upper-level deck above the patio. Privacy for these wonderful outdoor spaces is provided by the fully fenced & tree-shaded back yard. 4-car garage, whole house propane generator, & multi-zone heat & A/C. The good life you've been picturing has an address!

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Woodbridge Town News

Below are the next three issue dates and deadlines of the Woodbridge Town News.

Thank you for your submissions to Your Home Town Newspaper.

<u>Upcoming Issue Date</u>	<u>Issue Deadline</u>
March 8 St, Patrick's Day Issue	March 1
April 12 Easter and Passover Issue	April 5
May 3 Mother's Day Issue	April 26
Note: Copy due by 4:00p.m. Thank you.	

FROM OUR READIERS

Former Amity Board Member Opposes Proposed Redistricting Bills

I am in opposition to both proposed Senate Bills 457 and 454 regarding forced consolidation of smaller school districts. These proposals would tear apart the Amity Regional School District #5 and eliminate Town control over the Bethany, Woodbridge and Orange elementary schools. Both Bills are detrimental to the exceptional school results currently experienced by our children. Call your representative and state senator in Hartford immediately to express your concerns over loss of local control of our education system.

As past Board Chair of the Amity Region 5 District with over 13½ years of experience with the Amity District, I can tell you first hand that Amity #5 Regional schools and the Town elementary schools aren't broken and do not need the benevolence of the state government to help us make things "better".

From time to time we have discussed as Towns and the Regional District the possibility of regionalizing our entire K-12 system and many cost savings might be possible, but that should be a local decision of the Towns, not forced upon us from on high. If Senate Bill 454 passes through the legislature we may have to seriously reconsider adding the elementary schools to the

Amity Region 5 District as there is an exemption for regionalized K-12 Districts from this nightmare of a bill and doing so would save the Amity District from ceasing to exist and our elementary schools dispersed to other new regional districts. I suggest our Town Fathers work on a "just in case" committee to implement this escape clause as Town votes would have to approve this change to the Regional District's structure and significant planning is required.

From Proposed Senate Bill 454: "That part III of chapter 164 be amended to create a commission responsible for developing a plan to implement regional consolidation of school districts, and that such plan shall (1) realign those school districts with a total student population of fewer than forty thousand students, except those regional school districts that provide instruction for grades kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, in manner similar to the probate districts set forth in section 45a-2 of the general statutes, and require such school districts to join a regional school district,..."

Senate Bill 457 could result in schools outside BOW being forced into our Regional District. These bills are currently being reviewed in education committees in the legislature.

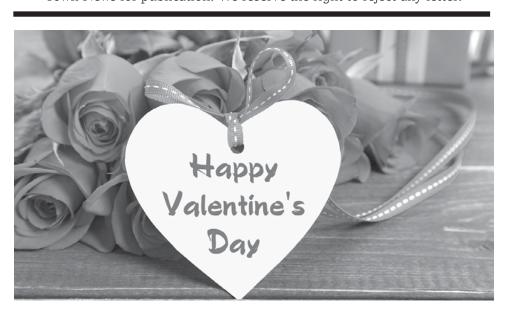
Thomas P. Hurley Former Amity Region 5 Board Chair



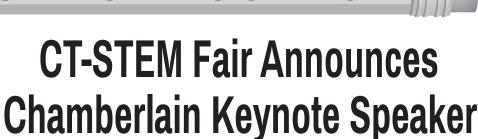
WTN LETTERS POLICY

Submit your letters for our **"From Our Readers"** section to: Woodbridge Town News, P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 or email: letters@woodbridgetownnews.com.

Please limit letters to 500 words and include a daytime phone number in case we have any questions. Letters must be exclusive to the Woodbridge Town News for publication. We reserve the right to reject any letter.



WOODBRIDGE HOUCATUON ROUNDUP



Bridges Accepting Kasdan Scholarship Applications

Shaun Mee, Chairman of Bridges Healthcare, Inc. announced that applications are now being accepted for The Barry Kasdan Scholarship for the pursuit of a Graduate or Undergraduate Degree in Human Services. Eligible applicants must reside in one of the towns located in Bridges' service region, or be employed or related to a Bridges employee.

Criteria For Awarding The Scholarship

We anticipate awarding two \$1,000 scholarships in 2019. The successful candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a Bridges employee, or spouse, child or grandchild of a Bridges employee, or a resident of Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven, or Woodbridge Connecticut;
- 2. Must be pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in Human Services; and
- 3. Must have completed at least two semesters of college.

To request an application please contact smee@bridgesmilford.org. Completed applications are due no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2019. Scanned electronic applications with requested additional materials can be emailed to smee@bridgesmilford. org or hard copy applications with requested additional materials can be mailed to:

Barry Kasdan Scholarship Committee 163 Woodvale Road West Haven, CT 06516.

This scholarship was established by Bridges' Board of Directors, the Board Endowment Fund Committee, and the Board Scholarship Committee in honor of Barry Kasdan's 30+ years of leadership and service to Bridges Healthcare, Inc. Funding for the scholarship is derived from the proceeds of the Visionary Leadership dinner, held in honor of Mr. Kasdan's retirement in 2014. Mr. Kasdan was appointed President and CEO of Bridges, then known as Milford Mental Health, in 1984. Under his leadership, the organization grew from a small mental health agency with 22 employees and a \$700,000 budget, to an integrated healthcare system with 160 employees and an annual budget of \$13 million. Bridges Healthcare, Inc. continues to grow in size and scope serving over 5,000 areas residents in Ansonia, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Seymour, Shelton, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

Bridges Healthcare offers a comprehensive range of mental health, substance abuse and primary care programs and services. With its headquarters in Milford, CT, Bridges is the state designated Local Mental Health Authority for Milford, Orange and West Haven and provides services to residents of several other area towns. Bridges is licensed by the State Dept. of Children and Families and the Dept. of Public Health. Nationally accredited by the Joint Commission, Bridges has been providing services to families, children and adults since 1957.

Largest Regional STEM Fair Affiliated with International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)

Nearly 500 people, students, judges, volunteers, and staff, will participate in the 19th Annual CT STEM Fair on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at Amity Regional High School in Woodbridge. This is the third year of the Fair's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) affiliation. First place winners are eligible to represent Connecticut at the 2019 ISEF competition held in Phoenix, AZ from May 13th-17th, 2019. The Fair is sponsored by the CT STEM Foundation, Inc. (www.ctstemfoundation.org).

Students from 15 schools in Fair-field and New Haven counties will participate in this year's fair. The CT-STEM Fair anticipates close to 200 team and individual projects this year. Students are currently finalizing their research projects or research proposals so they can compete for over \$8,000.00 in prizes.

This year's keynote address will the given by Dr. Stormy Chamberlain, UCONN Health Science Center's Associate Director of the Graduate Program in Genetics and Developmental Biology. Dr. Chamberlain holds the Raymond and Beverly Sackler Endowed Assistant Professorship and is the recipient of the Women of Innovation award in Research and Leadership from the Connecticut Technology Council.

The Fair is seeking judges to help evaluate research projects on the day of the fair. Volunteers with a background or expertise in a STEM field are invited to register online at http://ctstemfoundation.org/register-to-judge or email the judging coordinator directly at judges@snet.net.

The Connecticut STEM Foundation, Inc. is an all-volunteer non-profit organization. Its mission is to foster interest among pre-college Connecticut students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Our

objective is to instill in them understanding and appreciation of the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to help them become scientists, citizen scientists, and enlightened citizens prepared to navigate a world in which STEM is ever more important.

CT STEM advocates for STEM and seeks to inspire and educate students, academics, parents and other members of communities in Fairfield and New Haven Counties. The Connecticut STEM Fair is the Foundation's flagship event. In addition to sponsoring the Connecticut STEM Fair each year, the CT STEM Foundation has supported advanced teacher training, has held some extraordinary events for students to see the practical application of science via field trips and lectures, and has a scholarship program for high school seniors participating in the annual Fair. This year we are initiating both a state-wide essay competition and a state-wide laboratory equipment donation program. We are also initiating scholarship programs for summer study both for high school students and for middle school students.

The Connecticut STEM Fair was started in 2001 as the Westport Science and Engineering Fair. Over the last 17 years it has grown in size and in its geographical reach to encompass schools in Fairfield and New Haven Counties.

In 2016 The Foundation became an affiliate of the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) and selected 3 of the 2017 CT STEM Fair students to participate in ISEF. This award is now the top prize awarded at the CT STEM Fair.

The Fair promotes critical thinking skills, and motivates students to pursue science and engineering after high school.

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Woodbridge Town News

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WOODBRIDGE HOUCATION ROUNDUP



Tips For Parents On Kindergarten Readiness

BY LAURA RICCIO-PRESTASH

HEAD/MENTOR TEACHER, YELADIM EARLY Learning Center At The JCC

Laura holds both a Master's and a Bachelor's degree in Early childhood education and she has been honored as the "Teacher of the Year" by the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children. It seems hard to imagine planning for a new school year when winter has only just begun, but it is at this very time that kindergarten registration begins in many of our communities. Is your child ready?

"Readiness" can have a variety of implications depending on perspective. Recently, many schools in both the public and private sectors have adopted a curriculum based on a set of "standards" for learning. While there is value in planning with intention, it is also generally recognized that many of these skill-based standards are not necessarily developmentally appropriate for children of kindergarten age. This can place an enormous burden of stress on children who find that school is often no longer a place for play, creativity, exploration and socialization. In these instances, children of differing developmental levels may have very different school experiences. Readiness for this type of programming can be defined by a list of skills or knowledge mastered prior to the start of school.

Parents may wonder what can be done to support their child's readiness for kindergarten. This does not need to be done in a structured way. Natural opportunities for learning and supporting readiness can easily be made a part of your daily routine.

Children entering kindergarten should have a growing facility with language. You can support this by providing many opportunities for speaking and listening during your time together. Encourage your child to talk about his or her day. Ask questions to help them elaborate and use descriptive language. Talk about your own day when appropriate or share experiences from your childhood that are relatable to your child's experience.

See "Kindergarten" On Page 8



"Merge" From Page 1

of Woodbridge, Bethany and Orange. I believe that we should put our trust in the towns to decide what is best for their communities and schools." She represents Orange, Woodbridge, New Haven and Hamden.

With the proposal comes conversations about combining Orange, Woodbridge and Bethany Pre-K through 12 into one regional Amity district.

Former Orange Board of Education Chairman Jody Dietch, whose sons attended Orange and Amity schools, says that there has been conversation for years around combining into one district. "It's ridiculous to have four superintendents in three towns," she said. She said merging of the towns makes sense academically as well as financially. "If we had one district, we'd all have the same curriculum and it would be even keel from kindergarten on up through high school." She does not believe Looney's proposed redistricting will happen as proposed.

"The best part of this proposed legislation is the thoughtful conversations it provoked about how to make public education in Connecticut more efficient - and more effective," said Laurence Grotheer, chairman of the Woodbridge Democratic Town Committee. "The challenge remains how best to minimize redundancies and devote more energy and resources directly to student development."

Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller has been following four different bills that focus on education. "I

too have been following reports on proposed legislation and now find there are several different proposed bills that either support, encourage, or require regionalization, merger, or shared service agreements between school districts," she said.

When asked her opinion on combining the three towns into one district, she said she's looking forward to taking an active role in the ongoing dialog about how to best secure the long-term viability of the excellent public education we offer the children of Woodbridge.

"We are known for our schools, which are second to none, both at the elementary level at Beecher Road School and at Amity. Above all I want to protect the quality of education we provide and not allow any compromise that might diminish it," she said.

She has scheduled meetings with Senator George Logan, Senator James Maroney, and Representative Themis Klarides to discuss her concerns with them and seek their assistance in representing the needs of Woodbridge as these and other bills make their way through the General Assembly.

"I have also reached out to my counterparts, Bethany First Selectman Derry Gorski and Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli to gauge their thoughts on potential expansion of the Amity district to include grades pre-k through six. I am interested in learning their opinions, as well as hearing more from our local Board of Education members as these state level legislative initiatives develop," Heller said.

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Achievements

Eastern Connecticut State University

Willimantic, CT -- Twenty psychology students expanded their worldview over winter session during a global field course in Hawaii. Titled "Cross-Cultural Well-Being and Relationships in Hawaii," the course ran from January 2-11. Students were immersed in the local culture and visited some of the island chain's most breathtaking sites. Among the students was Jessica Ahern '19 of Woodbridge, who majors in Psychology. The Eastern students examined differences in attachment styles, social support, parenting, psychological disorders, personality and emotional expression, physical attraction, romantic relationships and compassionate love. A highlight of the trip was a volunteer project at the 800-year-old Pae Pae fishpond, which is a source of food for the locals but currently damaged by storms and the growth of invasive plant species. The Eastern group also went on several excursions to sites such as Pearl Harbor, Puako Petroglyph Field, Rainbow Falls, Imiloa Astronomy Center, Volcanoes National Park, Punalu'u Black Sand Beach, Pu'uhonoa o Honaunau National Historic Park, and St. Benedict's Catholic Church (Painted Church).

Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY -- Haritsa Halepas, a senior at Hofstra University majoring in Criminology, was recently honored at the University's inaugural Academic Excellence Awards, presented by Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (HCLAS). Haritsa was one of 42 award recipients from 23 departments and a variety of interdisciplinary programs. Nominated by their chairpersons and professors for outstanding achievement, each student received a certificate and a \$100 gift. Aritza has successfully completed challenging courses in her major, including the Economics of Latin America, Economic Development, Economic Geography, and Intermediate Macroeconomics. She is currently studying abroad at the University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands, and is actively involved in several student organizations.

Dean's List Central Connecticut State University

New Britain, CT - Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) President Zulma R. Toro is proud to announce the students who earned a spot on the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester. To achieve this academic distinction, an undergraduate student at CCSU must carry at least 12 academic credits during the semester and earn at least a 3.50 GPA out of a possible 4.0 GPA. The student from Woodbridge who earned a place on the Dean's List is: Dawn Rosenberg.

Colby-Sawyer College

New London, NH -- Colby-Sawyer has named Hayley Scherer of Woodbridge to the Dean's List for fall 2018. Scherer, who majors in studio art, is a member of the class of 2022. To qualify for the Dean's List students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours in graded courses.

Ithaca College

Ithaca, NY -- Harris Andersen, a Woodbridge resident majoring in Performance/Music Education at Ithaca College, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester.

Lehigh University

Bethlehem, PA - Dean's List status, which is awarded to students who earned a scholastic average of 3.6 or better while carrying at least

12 hours of regularly graded courses, has been granted to Stephanie Laugeni of Woodbridge, CT in the Fall 2018 semester.

Southern Connecticut State University

Southern Connecticut State University has named the following Woodbridge students to the Fall 2018 Dean's List: Jennifer Jordan, Business major; Victoria Acampora, EXS major; Nicholas Alexiades, PSC major, Serena Arduini, Nursing major; Sandra Britton, SED major; Trimaine Brown, Psychology major; Nilay Durdu, Psychology major; Joshua Fraser, Psychology major; Rachael Garcia, Nursing major; Matthew Lockhart, EXS major; and Danielle Schwartz, CMD major. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must attain a 3.5 or higher GPA.

University at Albany

Albany, N.Y. - The University at Albany has announced the Dean's List of Distinguished Students for the Fall 2018 semester. In order to qualify for this distinction, students at the University at Albany must earn a grade point average of 3.25 or higher during their first semester of study. In subsequent semesters of study, students must earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher. The following Woodbridge student has been named to the University at Albany Dean's List: Peri Sosensky.

University of New Hampshire

Durham, NH -- Jordan Conn of Woodbridge has been named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire for earning High Honors for the fall 2018 semester. Conn is majoring in Communication. Students named to the Dean's List at the University of New Hampshire are students who have earned recognition through their superior scholastic performance

during a semester enrolled in a fulltime course load (12 or more graded credits). Highest honors are awarded to students who earn a semester grade point average of 3.85 or better out of a possible 4.0. Students with a 3.65 to 3.84 average are awarded high honors and students whose grade point average is 3.5 through 3.64 are awarded honors.

University of New Haven

West Haven, Ct - The following students were named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven for the fall, 2018: Stephen Buda, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Fire Science; Mark Dutka, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Associate in Science, Criminal Justice; Mark Dutka, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Mark Dutka, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Undergraduate Certificate, Forensic Comp Investigation; Joy Miu, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Dental Hygiene; Patrick Neumann, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Marine Biology; and Thomas Yelenik, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice.

William & Mary

Williamsburg, Va. - William McLean from Woodbridge, CT was recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2018 semester. In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester. William & Mary is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the United States.

"Kindergarten" From Page 7

Use new vocabulary when speaking with your children, explaining meanings as needed. Sing songs together and share poetry. Rhyming is an important part of supporting auditory discrimination, and also sets the stage for the introduction of "word families" later on.

Children should be familiar with their names. Give them many opportunities for seeing their name in print and encourage them to print their own names. This is easily done by printing names on their pictures or allowing them to sign their own names on greeting cards or letters to family members. Remember that children's art is their first means of communication. Give them lots of opportunities to use crayons, pencils, markers, and scissors to

express their creativity and build fine motor skills!

Help children to focus on printed language in their environment. Traffic signs, food labels in grocery stores and menus all provide opportunities for parents to point out letters for children to become familiar with.

Of course, one of the most important things any parent can do to support their child's literacy development is to read, read! Read to your child often. Allow your child to select favorite stories for their own collection, and visit the local public library to augment their exposure to quality children's literature.

Supporting mathematics development can be as simple as sorting laundry! Have your child assist in sorting laundry based on clothing item (socks, pants, etc.), size, or color as a concrete

experience with classification!

Have your child assist in setting the table for dinner. "Grandma and Grandpa are coming to visit. Can you count out enough plates for our family's dinner?" One to one correspondence can be demonstrated by having your child match one napkin for each plate...The possibilities are endless!

Encourage your child's curiosity about their world. Most children have a natural curiosity about the outdoors. It is important, not only to encourage questioning, but also to encourage children to hypothesize about their observations, make comparisons, seek answers and pursue deeper understandings.

Provide your child with multiple real-life experiences and limit screen time as well as time using technology for entertainment. Active engagement in the real world is the best preparation for kindergarten and for life!

The Beverly Levy Early Learning Center at the JCC is a quality program in a supportive, nurturing environment that promotes the social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development of young children ages 3 months to five and one-half years. Our child-emergent curriculum encourages experimentation, problem solving, logical thinking and cooperative learning, as well as the assimilation of values, development of social skills, and positive self-concept. Children explore, create and build in an enriched and stimulating learning environment. Beverly Levy ELC is fully licensed by the State of CT. Children and families of all religious and cultural backgrounds are welcome in our programs.

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDUP



Coachman Square Making 100 Little Red Hats For Babies

Partnering With American Heart Association To Raise Awareness For Congenital Heart Defects And Support Parents With Ailing Infants

Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) are the most common type of birth defect in the country, and every year thousands of babies are born with this life-threatening condition. To help raise awareness for CHD during February's American Heart Month and support affected families with newborns at local hospitals, Coachman Square at Woodbridge, a Benchmark assisted living community in Woodbridge, Conn., is hoping to knit 100 red hats for the American Heart Association's (AHA) annual Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign.

As an extension of its mission to elevate human connection and provide support for people of all ages in the towns and neighborhoods they serve, on January 29, Coachman Square residents, associates and volunteers gathered to knit tiny red hats. The hats will warm the heads of newborns at New Haven area hospitals. Twenty-seven hospitals in Connecticut participate in the campaign, including Bridgeport and Yale-New Haven Hospitals.

"We want parents to know they aren't alone in this fight," says Sarah Malaspina, executive director of Coachman Square. "It's a small gesture to show we're thinking about them, and we hope that will give them strength."

Many of Benchmark's 58 independent living, assisted living and memory care communities located throughout the Northeast are participating in the campaign in hopes of donating more than 1,000 hats to the cause.

AHA is committed to raising awareness for CHD and helping children live stronger lives through education, research and public policies. In fact, the organization's funding for pediatric cardiac research is second only to that of the federal government. Thanks to AHA advocacy, laws were passed in Connecticut to ensure that every baby born receives pulse-oximetry testing, which can help identify heart defects immediately after birth. The AHA also trains parents, caregivers and medical professionals in infant and child CPR for which it has created guidelines.

"Heart-related conditions impact so many of our beloved residents, so it's important to us to support the good work of organizations like the American Heart Association," says Tom Grape, chairman and CEO of Benchmark. "Whether it's our continued sponsorship of the annual Heart Ball or participating in campaigns like Little Hats, Big Hearts, we are delighted to support such an important cause affecting so many."

Marrakech Holds Special Recruitment Event

On Tuesday, February 12, 2019 from 3pm to 7pm, Marrakech will be holding a Career Open House Event

at its main office, located at 6 Lunar

See "Marrackech" On Page 10



New Woodbridge Nail Salon Opens

Ceci's Nails opened for business in mid-December in the 214 Amity Road shopping plaza, next door to the newly expanded Lucky Soul Tattoo. Ceci's Nails, owned by Cecilia Bermeo, offers waxing, eyelash extensions, facials, manicures, pedicures and eyebrow threading. Bermeo has been in the nail business for 12 years (most recently she worked at Blue Sky Nails in New Haven) and always knew she wanted to open her own salon. "I have a lot of experience but I knew that wouldn't be enough," she said, so she enrolled in business classes to be better prepared for this next step.

The salon space is newly renovated (it used to be a bakery) and the result is calm, relaxing and airy. The walls are

a soft blue-gray. Metallic accents and a chandelier add a touch of elegance.

Bermeo stresses how important cleanliness is to her. "Everyone should feel safe and welcome here," she said explaining that she uses a liner for the pedicure chairs and individual one-time-use packages for manicures and pedicures. She wants customers to relax and not worry about hygiene.

The salon accepts appointments and walk-ins. Ceci's Nails is open 9 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday and 10 am to 5 pm on Sunday. It is also open for bridal parties, birthday parties and other group events. For appointments call 203-939-6524 and more information can be found at facebook.com/cecisnailsandspa.

Piccirillo Affiliates With Coldwell Banker

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage is pleased to announce that, Alison Piccirillo has affiliated with the company's Coldwell Banker office in Woodbridge. As an affiliated agent, Piccirillo will provide residential real estate services in New Haven and Fairfield counties, specializing residential sales and purchases.

Alison brings with her 4 years of experience in the industry. Her extensive resume includes assisting first time home buyers, investors, renters, as well as, assisting sellers with a strategic marketing plan.

"Alison's passion for real estate and dedication to her clients perfectly align with Coldwell Banker's standard of excellence," said Aileen DeFeo, Vice President of the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices in Woodbridge



 $All is on\ Piccirillo$

and Orange. "We are looking forward to watching Alison grow her existing business in new and strategic ways."

Alison Piccirillo can be contacted at Alison.piccirillo@cbmoves.com or 203-521-7506.



WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY



Please note the Library will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of Presidents' Day

Adult Programs

For more information about our events, or to register, please contact the reference desk at 203-389-3434. Registration is also available on our website.

Adult Winter Reading Program

The Adult Winter Reading Program runs through Feb. 28. Read books, write reviews, and enter the reviews in our weekly drawings to win prizes! Drawings are held every Thursday. "Get Toasty Thursdays" with cocoa and cookies have also returned at 5 pm every week. For more information and to register, visit the Information Desk.

Massaro at the Library Series Continues with A Pre-Valentine's Day Potluck

Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 6 pm Come celebrate your love of local, healthy food with friends and neighbors in the community. Bring a dish (savory or sweet) to share, its recipe, and serving utensils. If possible, please bring your own plate, bowl, cup, napkin, and utensils to lessen waste at the event. We will bring the drinks, as well some disposable plates, napkins and utensils for those who have not brought their own. Need some inspiration? Stop by the library for a full range of cookbooks from cultures all around the world. Register online or at the library.

Series of Events Planned to Celebrate Diversity

No registration required for either event. All are welcome. Co-sponsored by the Town's Ad Hoc



WOODBRIDGE TOWN LIBRARY

Community Council, a book reading and discussion of Ta-Nehisi Coates' Between the World and Me will be held at the Amity Regional High School Library on February 26 at 7 pm. Copies of the books are now available for check out at the Circulation Desk in regular print, large print, and on audio CD.

On February 28 at 7 pm, the Library and the Community Council will co-sponsor the Thursday Night Film Screening of I Am Not Your Negro, followed by a discussion. This event will be held at the Library. Rated PG-13 | Documentary | 93 min. (Can't make it to the film? Watch it on our streaming services Kanopy or hoopla, or check out the DVD.)

Springfield Confidential with Mike Reiss

Monday, March 4 at 7 pm

With The Simpsons now in its 30th season of television, join us to meet Connecticut native Mike Reiss, a former head writer for the show and author of the new book Springfield Confidential. Enjoy a humorous presentation with plenty of Simpsons trivia and show clips as well as a Q&A. Registration is required; please register online or at the library.

Thursday Night Film Screenings

Film screenings start at 7 pm. No registration required. (The Friday matinees at 1 pm have returned to the Woodbridge Senior Center. Call 203-389-3430 for information.)

- Thursday, Feb. 14: The Old Man and the Gun
- Thursday, Feb. 21: The Village: Life in New Haven's Little Italy
- Thursday, Feb. 28: BlackKkKlansman (rescheduled from our November date)

Dog Days

112 minutes; PG; Comedy, Romance Elizabeth is a charming anchorwoman who seeks advice from her dog's therapist. Tara is a spunky barista who dreams of a life beyond the coffee shop. Daisy is a dog walker who's enamored with a client. Garrett pines for a woman while trying to keep his adopt-a-dog business afloat. The beloved canines in their lives soon start to influence their careers, friendships and romantic relationships in funny and unexpected ways.

Bad Times at the El Royale

140 minutes; R; Mystery, Suspense In 1969, an aging priest suffering from early onset dementia, a struggling African American female singer, a talkative salesman on vacation and an unfriendly young woman who may or may not be a hippie, arrive by chance on the same day at Lake Tahoe's "El Royale", a once glitzy but now rundown roadside motel lying on the very border between California and Nevada, and operated by a single troubled staff member who holds many dark secrets. Over the course of one fateful night, everyone will have a last shot at redemption... before everything goes to hell.

I Am Not Your Negro

93 minutes; PG-13; Documentary In 1979, James Baldwin wrote a letter to his literary agent describing his next project, Remember This House. The book was to be a revolutionary, personal account of the lives and assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time of Baldwin'sdeath in 1987, he left behind only 30 completed pages of this manuscript. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished. Co-sponsored by the Town's Ad Hoc

Community Council. This is part of a series of events to celebrate diversity.

Children's Activities & Events

For more information on our Children's Events, please visit our website or call 203-389-3439.

Eager Readers Book Group (Grades K-2)

Monday, Feb. 11, 6:30 pm

Stop by the Children's Desk to pick up a copy of this month's title, and to register. Read the book at home and then come for a book discussion and craft.

Sneak Peek Club (Grades 4-6)

Thursday, Feb. 21, 5:30-6:30 pm

Get first dibs on new books at the library, make snowball bath bombs, and have a snack. Please register online or at the Children's Desk.

Lion and Lamb Craft (Ages 4 and up)

Saturday, Feb. 23 at 3 pm

Will March come in like a lion or a lamb? Make one or the other at our paper bag workshop.

ONGOING CHILDRENS PROGRAMMING

Babies Session (0–18 months)

Every Wednesday, 10:30-11 am

Join us for songs and rhymes, fun
for little ones. No registration.

Ready to Read (18-36 months)

Every Thursday, 10:30-11 am

Find out how talking, singing and reading build vocabulary and a love of books! No registration.

Preschool Storycraft (3-5 years)

Every Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Stories and crafts for ages 3 to 5 with an adult. No registration, unless otherwise noted.

"Marrakech" From Page 9

Drive, Woodbridge. Attendees will learn about working at Marrakech and will have the opportunity to meet with the recruitment team for on-the-spot interviews. Anyone attending should come prepared for an interview and bring two letters of recommendation and/or previous employment evaluations.

Marrakech is currently seeking staff in all areas of the state including New Haven, Fairfield, and Hartford Counties to assist individuals who face barriers to securing employment, connecting to necessary supportive services, accessing housing, and participating fully as contributing members of the community. The individuals we serve are encouraged to strive for long-term goals such as a higher level of self-sufficiency and greater acceptance by the community in which they live. There are positions to match any availability with part-time, full-time, and per-diem openings. While having Human Services experience is a plus it is not necessary; Marrakech will train the right candidate. Potential staff should

be compassionate, caring, and dedicated to helping others. The list of current openings and the online application can be found at https://usr54.dayforcehcm.com/CandidatePortal/en-US/marrakech.

Potential staff must be 18 or older, hold a valid Connecticut Driver's License, and provide a copy of their high school diploma, GED, or college transcripts. The hiring and promotion of staff will be based upon qualifications without regard to race, color, sex, pregnancy, religion, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, disability (in-

cluding past or present mental learning or physical disability), sexual orientation, genetic information, protected activity or any other basis prohibited by law. All staff must be legally able to work in their position. Marrakech is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Drug Free Workplace.

For over 45 years, Marrakech has been providing person-centered, unique and cost effective supports to children and adults with and without disabilities across Connecticut. To learn more about Marrakech visit www. marrakechinc.org.



WOODBRIDGE LIBRARY



Library Adds Film Streaming Service Kanopy

The popular on-demand film streaming service Kanopy is now available for free at the Woodbridge Town Library. Library card holders can access Kanopy and sign up to start streaming films instantly by visiting woodbridge.kanopy.com. Films can be streamed from any computer, television, mobile device or platform by downloading the Kanopy app for iOS, Android, AppleTV, Chromecast or Roku.

Offering what the New York Times calls "a garden of cinematic delights," Kanopy showcases more than 30,000 of the world's best films, including award-winning documentaries, rare and hard-to-find titles, film festival favorites, indie and classic films, and world cinema with collections from Kino Lorber, Music Box Films, Samuel Goldwyn, The Orchard, The Great Courses, PBS and thousands of independent filmmakers.

With the motto of "thoughtful entertainment," Kanopy provides Woodbridge patrons with access to films of unique social and cultural value; films that are often difficult or impossible to access elsewhere, and programming that features diversity, with a wide array of foreign language films and films on race, and current affairs.

"We're thrilled to be able to provide access to this wonderful streaming service to the community," said Library Director Eric Werthmann. "The array of movies it offers is diverse and impressive and we feel like it will be a valuable complement to our DVD/Blu-Ray collection. We're extremely grateful to the Friends of the Library for providing funding that makes this new service possible."

The Kanopy collection includes indie hits like Hunt For the Wilderpeople and 2 Days in Paris, classic masterpieces like Aguirre, the Wrath of God and Seven Samurai, and award-winning documentaries like the 2017 Oscar®-nominated I Am Not Your Negro and Sundance Film Festival winner Mother of George. All Woodbridge patrons have access to seven films per month

In addition, Woodbridge patrons have access to Kanopy Kids, thoughtful entertainment for children aged preschool and up. Parents can trust in a curated selection of educational and enriching videos on Kanopy Kids with developmentally appropriate, agebased ratings from Common Sense Media, as well as additional parental controls to keep kids safe. Kanopy Kids highlights films and TV series that inspire and inform, helping children develop empathy, mindfulness, and self-esteem through entertaining and educational videos.

Kanopy Kids categories include TV Series, Learning Languages, Animated Storybooks, Anime Favorites, Classic Films and Movies for the Whole Family. Key titles include Arthur, Babar, Franklin & Friends, Maya The Bee, Wild Kratts, Between the Lions, Little Pim, and Nigerian-animated Bino &Fino. The collection also highlights Classic Films from Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton and Oscar® nominated titles including A Cat in Paris and The Secret of Kells, plus family-friendly documentaries, Girls Rock and The Endless Summer.

Kanopy was founded in 2008 by CEO Olivia Humphrey as an educational tool for colleges and universities. More than 5 million Kanopy users stream the most acclaimed movies and documentaries from award-winning filmmakers, and experience the best in independent, classic film, and world cinema. www.kanopy.com



Friends of the Woodbridge Library Bring Back Mini-Golf

The Friends of the Woodbridge Library's next Mini-Golf fundraiser will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9, at the Woodbridge Town Library, 10 Newton Road, Woodbridge. On Friday night, the Library will re-open from 6:00-9:00 p.m.; adults (18+) can play Mini-Golf and partake of appetizers and refreshments served at the "Nineteenth Hole" in the Meeting Room. This evening is FREE to members of the Friends of the Library. If you don't already have a membership, they may be purchased at the door, with prices starting at \$10 for seniors. On Saturday, Mini-Golf will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for adults and families. Admission: Children (age 5+) \$3, Adults \$5, Family \$15.

After last year's Mini-Golf event was a smash hit, many sponsors will be returning, but there is room for a few more. Sponsorship at \$250 per hole is an opportunity to memorably showcase a business, while also supporting your library. Sponsors

are invited to promote their business with advertising, business cards and/ or handouts. Sponsors may decorate their hole themselves or the Friends can help design a hole to best promote your business. For a \$100 donation, sponsors names will appear on the players scorecards and in all publicity.

The Friends is also looking for local food and beverage sponsors for the "Nineteenth Hole" on Friday, March 8.

If interested, please contact contact the Friends for details at 203-389-3493 or woodbridgectfriends@gmail.com.

The Friends of the Woodbridge Library is a 501c (3) not-for-profit organization. Contributions from the Friends provide the Library with books, programs, equipment, and professional training for staff that would otherwise not be funded. The Friends' support of the Library covers hundreds of activities for all ages from preschool story times to cooking demonstrations, movie nights, and statewide museum passes.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Tell them you saw their ad in the Woodbridge Town News.

"If you live to be a hundred, I want to live to be a hundred minus one day so I never have to live without you." — A. A. MILNE



ARTS & LEISURE







Milos Bielico

Prelude 4 Spring - A Duo Performance

"Prelude 4 Spring", a concert featuring renowned pianist Nenad Ivović and international clarinetist Milos Bjelica will be held Saturday, March 9th, at 4:00pm at the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge. The four selections will feature Brahms, Schumann, Poulenc, and Grgin. Following the concert, there will be a reception and opportunity to meet Nenad and Milos at the Parish House adjacent to the Church at 5 Meetinghouse Lane. For more information, please contact the Church office at 203 389-2119.

Pianist Nenad Ivović began his musical studies at the age of 4. He graduated from the University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, in the studio of Professor Nevena Popovic. He went on to spend three years in Tel Aviv, Israel at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, where he received his master's degree. He has won prizes in over 15 international piano competitions, including first

prize in the 9th International Competition, "A Step Towards Mastery," held in St. Petersburgh, Russia, where he performed with the St. Petersburgh Philharmonic. He currently is in his final year of study and performance under renowned Yale Professor Boris Berman. In addition, he serves as organist and pianist at the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge CT.

Milos Bjelica, international clarinetist and educator, currently studies with Professor Jonathan Cohler at the Longly School of Music at Bard College in Boston. Bjelica holds a BA (2009) from the University of Belgrade and an MA from the Longly School. He has been regularly performing formal recitals and concerts and has received numerous prizes in national and international competitions. His most recent awards are in the Concerto and Honors Competition at Longly School, and the Harold Wright Merit Award in Boston.

P.V. O'Donnell Comhaltas Irish Music Session

Loretta Egan Murphy will join the P.V. O'Donnell Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann traditional Irish music session on Thursday, Feb. 21, at St. Gabriel's Church Hall, 26 Broadway, Milford, CT, 7:45 pm. Admission is free. Musicians, dancers, singers and guests are welcomed. BYOB.

Loretta plays the concertina and button accordion, has won numerous awards nationally, and has taught Irish music to hundreds of students in New York and Connecticut. Her most recent CD, "Beyond the Watery Lane," was released to critical acclaim.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann was founded in 1951 in Ireland to promote Irish traditional music, song, dance and language. Today there are 415



Loretta Egan Murphy

branches worldwide and over two million people attend Comhaltas functions each year.

Ansonia Nature & Rec Center February Calendar

GRUMPY GROUNDHOGS

Saturday, February 2, 1:30 pm

You'd be grumpy too if someone forced you to wake up when you weren't ready! Come learn all about the best winter nappers of all. For all ages. A short hike to discover a groundhog den, a craft and a story are planned. Pre-registration required. FREE. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

IT'S ALL IN THE BARK: Winter Tree ID

Sunday, February 3, 1 pm

Tired of straining your eyes trying to discern leaves to determine what type of tree you are looking at? Never worry about leaves again! During this guided hike, Ranger Jess will show you how to identify at least 20 common woodland trees by their bark alone! For adults and children 9 and up. Dress for the weather and wear footwear appropriate for hiking. FREE. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

SWEET TREATS FOR VALENTINES

Saturday, February 9, 1:30 pm

Join Ranger Dawn and make a basket filled with chocolate dipped goodies that we will make for your favorite Valentine! Please pre-register. FEE: \$5 for a small basket, \$10 for a large basket. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

FUNDRAISER: Creature Parade

Saturday, February 16, 12 noon-3:30 pm

Our Nature Center animals serve as ambassadors for their species, here for the purpose of teaching about the natural world. This is a chance to get up close and learn about each animal individually, how they've adapted, and where they came from. The cost of their care is considerable; your contributions will help with their specialized diets, daily care, and creature comforts. You'll get a chance to hold a dove, pet a snake and high-five a spider. Each animal will get a 20-minute spotlight during this fundraiser. A schedule of animal showings will be listed on our website. This program is for all ages. DONATION: \$6 per person/\$15 per family. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

SNOWSHOE SUNDAY: Getting Ready for Bluebirds

Sunday, February 17, 1 pm

Need to get outside? Enjoy the winter with this guided hike through

our woodlands and fields. Join Ranger Dan and snowshoe around the Nature Center grounds to clean out the bluebird boxes. Bluebirds will start nesting again in March and April. Great exercise and fun for adults and children ages 8 and up. We have snowshoes to borrow! FREE; please pre-register. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

WINTER BREAK: Winter Wonderland Activities

Tuesday, February 19, 1-3 pm

Come for fun outdoor activities on this day off from school. There's nothing better than gliding through the cool air on your sled. We'll take the whole family to our awesome hill for sledding fun; toddlers should ride with a parent. Everyone should be well-bundled in layers to stay warm. After our adventure we'll come inside for hot cocoa and a chance to meet one of the Nature Center's animals. FREE; for families and all ages. Registration required. Families must bring their own sleds. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

THE ART OF ANIMAL TRACKING WITH ANDY DOBOS

Saturday, February 23, 10 am

Naturalist and educator Andy Dobos will take you on a wildlife tracking walk through the Nature Center's fields and forests. There are always clues left behind by the animals for us to decipher, telling a story of their habits and lives. Get to know our beloved wildlife that much better. Wear good boots and extra layers; there will be a lot of standing and time off trail. For ages 6 and up. FEE: \$6 per person. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

NATURE EXPLORERS

Wednesdays, February 27, March 6, 13, 20; 10 am

Join us for this 4-week pre-school/toddler program for children ages 2-5 and their adult explorer. Participants will have fun exploring nature every week in these outdoor classes. The classes are typically loosely structured and influenced by the seasons and the interests of the children. We will go outside for a short hike and to explore nature every class so please dress for the weather. Classes will end with a light snack (provided or bring your own) and conversation. TUITION: \$40

See "Ansonia Nature" On Page 26

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



DOLLARS AND SENSE

Are You An Emotional Investor?

By Roberta L. Nestor

No matter how you look at it investing is an emotional experience. Investment experiences can be equated to a love and hate relationship. Love it when you are making money and hate it when losing. Fear and greed is another type of relationship that investors often have with markets. Fear of losing money means "get out" and greed means "put me back in". Countless times investors have made comments about markets as if the market itself was a real, live, breathing thing.

Study after study shows that the majority of investors make investment decisions based on reactions of sudden market declines or, of late, geopolitical events such as Brexit, the recent US government shutdown, and on-going tariff talks. And, it's not only negative news that brings investors to make rash decisions. After a few years of an upward trend investors want to get back in. The concept of buying low and selling high has no regard for investor emotions.

These emotions are real and "Behavioral Finance" is on a fast-track. It is the study of investor behavior and is designed to help investors and advisors better manage emotions when it comes to investing. We live in a time where more and more complex financial decisions are shifting increasingly from institutions to individuals. A solid example of the shift of investment decisions is the 401k; when companies offered traditionally pension plans, employees did not have to decide how to invest their funds. 401k plans shift that responsibility to the employee.

That shift of responsibility has not paid off for most investors. Dalbar is a company that has been producing the "Quantitative Analysis of Investor Behavior" for the past sixteen years. One of their more well-known studies is that of the average 401k investor versus the markets. It goes like this: Over the last 19 years from 1998-2017 the average equity fund investor earned only 2.6% annually over the 19-year period includ-

ed in the study, compared to annualized inflation of 2.10% and the S&P 500 Index average annual return of 7.2%*.

2.60% versus 7.20%??? Why does this happen?

According to behavioral studies, as human beings, we generally have a stronger preference for avoiding losses than for making gains when evaluating the risks of an investment. Because of this behavioral tendency, we respond and react more quickly to the onset of negative events that could trigger painful losses in our portfolios than we do when faced with a similar likelihood that could lead to performance gains.

How can you avoid these emotional pitfalls? Work with a qualified financial advisor - someone who will listen to your fears but will remain the voice of reason. There is a cost to making emotional decisions and shown in the 401k study, emotional decisions can have a large impact on your retirement plan. An advisor will ask about your investment experiences and will craft a portfolio that is based on your individual risk tolerance, not that of the markets.

*All indices are unmanaged and investors cannot actually invest directly into an index. Unlike investments, indices do not incur management fees, charges, or expenses. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Investors should consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, and/ or a lawyer.

Roberta L. Nestor is a financial advisor practicing at 491 New Haven Avenue, in Milford, CT offering retirement, long term care, investment and tax planning services. She also offers securities and advisory services as an Investment Adviser Representative of Commonwealth Financial Network – a member FINRA/SIPC and a Registered Investment Adviser. She can be reached at 203–876–8066 or roberta@nestorfinancial.com.



Did You Know?

A New Year, New Numbers to Keep in Mind for 2019

Estate and Gift Tax:

- The federal lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries *has been increased* to \$11,400,000.00.
- The Connecticut lifetime exemption for property passing to non-spouse beneficiaries *has been increased* to \$3,600,000.00.
- There is still an unlimited gift/estate deduction for property passing to a spouse; however, in order to qualify for the unlimited gift/estate tax deduction the spouse must be a U.S. citizen.
- The amount that can be gifted to any one person without needing to file a gift tax return *remains the same* at \$15,000.00 per recipient. Additional gifts can be made for qualified medical expenses and qualified education expenses without needing to file a gift tax return.

Long Term Care in a Nursing Facility:

- If one spouse is living in a nursing home and the other spouse remains at home ("Community Spouse"), the maximum amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep *has been increased* to \$126,420.00.
- If one spouse is living in a nursing home, the minimum amount of non-excluded assets the Community Spouse can keep *has been increased* to \$25,284.00.
- If one spouse is living in a nursing home, the minimum amount of monthly income the Community Spouse can keep remains the same at \$2,057.50, and the maximum amount it can be increased to, without an administrative hearing, *has been increased* to \$3,160.50.
- If one spouse is living at home and the other spouse is living in a nursing home, the maximum amount of equity in the family home that can be excluded *has been increased* to \$878,000.00.

Long Term Care Provided in Your Home:

- The amount of gross monthly income you can have and still be eligible for the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders (CHCPE) *has been increased* to \$2,313.00.
- The amount of gross monthly income that triggers a co-pay requirement *remains the same* at \$2,023.00.
- Use of a pooled trust for excess income to establish eligibility or to avoid co-pays remains a viable option.

If you are interested in learning more about how these 2019 numbers affect you and your family please visit our website and read our blog for recent posts. For advice specific to you or your family, please contact the office. We would be glad to meet with you for a no hassle, no charge initial consultation, no matter how long it lasts.



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

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TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Town Offers Two New Donation Opportunities

The Town of Woodbridge has two new donation opportunities — benches and trees —for people looking to provide a lasting gift to the Town. "One of my goals is to make the Town Center Campus a more attractive public gathering space," says First Selectman Beth Heller. "These two donation programs will help us maintain and upgrade the look and feel of our Town Center, which is an important reflection on our town."

Following input from the Commission on the Use of Publicly Owned Properties, the Board of Selectmen agreed to use one style of bench going forward to provide a cohesive look and feel to Town-owned properties.

The tree donation program came into being following the tree removal at Fitzgerald Tract. Heller asked staff to look into the possibility of replanting the denuded area along Center Road with trees that would not interfere with the power lines and would add to the space's natural beauty. In addition to Fitzgerald, the Town is seeking to replace three trees that were removed from the Green.

Benches available for donation cost \$2,800 for a 6-foot bench and \$3,100 for an 8-foot bench. The price includes the cost of delivery, installation by the Town and a plaque on which the purchaser may have a message inscribed.

The Town has identified several locations where benches are needed. A form for bench donation is available on the Town website (woodbridgect. org) and can be reached via the Town's Public Works Department page and through the Recreation Department page.

Until local nurseries receive their tree stock for the season it is difficult to pinpoint a price, but the Town estimates that a donation of \$600 or \$700 will cover the cost of a tree, delivery fee, installation and a plaque to thank donors. More accurate pricing will be available in the spring. The plan is to line Fitzgerald Fitness Tract along Center Road with Seven Sons, Dogwoods and Crabapples. Currently the Town Green is in need of three salt-tolerant shade trees. Species under consideration for this location include Dawn Redwood, Sweet Gum, Honey Locust, White Oak or Black Gum.

Anyone interested in the tree donation program should contact Betsy Yagla at byagla@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3403 or fill out on the tree donation form which can also be found on the Town website on the Town's Public Works Department page and through the Recreation Department page.

If enough interest is generated, the Town could begin planting trees as early as the spring.

VNA Events

Tai Chi For Better Balance

Join VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice at Woodbridge Senior Center, 4 Meetinghouse Lane to increase balance and stability, and manage arthritis pain. Class is held on Wednesdays, March 6 to May 29 from 10 to 11 a.m. Only \$15 for series. To register, call 203.389.3430. Funded through a grant

from the CT Collaboration for Fall Prevention at Yale University School of Medicine through the CT State Department on Aging. For more information about all of VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice's wellness programs, visit www.vnacommunityhealthcare. org or call 1.866.474.5230 (toll-free).

Ask The Nurse

Join VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice on February 5 and February 19 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Woodbridge Senior Center, 4 Meetinghouse Lane for a free nursing clinic. A registered nurse (RN) can check your blood pressure, heart rate, weight and work with you to set goals. The RN can also review your medications, help you create a medication list, and discuss how

you can prepare for a medical appointment. There is no cost for this service and appointments are not required. This clinic is held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. For more information about all of VNA Community Healthcare & Hospice's wellness programs, visit www.vnacommunityhealthcare.org or call 1.866.474.5230 (toll-free).

CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!

Display ads start at only \$110 per issue. Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!

Woodbridge Rec. Gentle Yoga

Classes are ongoing except for holidays. Schedule may be different in April so check with Woodbridge Recreation's website or 203-389-3446. The morning classes move from standing postures to the floor, and for those with sensitive knees, we omit any exercise on the knees. Standing, we stretch and practice balances and mobilize all the joints of our body. Sitting and lying down, we focus on shoulder and hip flexibility and abdominal strength. Throughout the class we emphasize developing spinal strength and flexibility and breathing practices to enhance

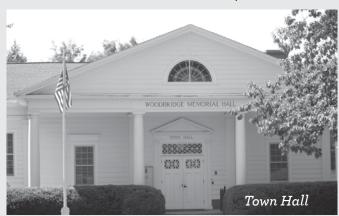
stamina and overall ease of body and mind. We end with a relaxation practice and brief meditation.

Where: Room 16 Old Center School between Woodbridge Library and Town Hall. Enter either side door nearest the street.

When: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-11:45 and Monday evening 5:30-6:45

Questions: yogadiane@gmail.com or Woodbridge Recreation. \$10 dropin fee or 1 session free with full 7 or 8-week session (see website or email yogadiane@gmail.com).

Town of Woodbridge Meetings for the Month of Feb/Mar 2019



(Subject to Change, Check with Town Clerk's Office, 203-389-3422)

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2/11	Fire Commission	Firehouse Public Works Bldg Town Hall
2/12	Police Commission6:15 PM	Police Department
2/13	Board of Selectmen5:00 PM	Town Hall
2/20	Inland Wetlands Agency7:30 PM	Town Hall
2/21	Conservation Commission7:30PM	Town Hall
2/25	Recreation Commission7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So
2/26	Govt Access TV Commission7:15 PM	Town Hall
3/4	Human Services Commission7:00 PM Town Plan & Zoning Commission7:30 PM	Center Building Town Hall
3/7	Board of Finance Budget Meeting6:00 PM	Town Hall
3/11	Library Commission6:30 PM Zoning Board of Appeals7:30 PM	Library Town Hall
3/12	Police Commission6:15 PM	Police Department
3/13	Board of Selectmen5:00 PM	Town Hall
3/14	Complete Streets Team1:00 PM	Town Hall
3/18	Fire Commission6:00 PM	Firehouse
3/20	Inland Wetlands Agency7:30 PM	Town Hall
3/21	Board of Finance	Town Hall Town Hall
3/25	Recreation Commission7:00 PM	Beecher Rd School So
3/26	Gov't Access TV Commission7:15 PM	Town Hall

TOWN DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Youth Services

BY NANCY PFUND







Teens at Amity Middle School-Bethany Kindness Klub, under the direction of Kim Ahern (far left) and Program Coordinator Cindy Kruger (far right), generously worked after school to create Bot Buddy drawings on dominoes and to make blankets for donation to children in treatment at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital

Do You Know An Outstanding Woodbridge Student?

Woodbridge Youth Services, in collaboration with First Selectman Beth Heller, is seeking nominations for the First Selectman's Youth Award. The annual award, now in its twentieth year, will be presented to a deserving young Woodbridge resident at the Human Services Volunteer Tea on Thursday,

April 11, 2019. Call 203-389-3429 for more information or find the nomination form on our Town's website under "Departments/Youth Services." Please submit nominations to Woodbridge Youth Services at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, by Monday, March 11, 2019.

"Have a Heart" Evening Program

On Friday, February 8, Woodbridge and Bethany 7th and 8th grade residents are invited to hang out with friends, play games, dance to music by a DJ, and enjoy snacks. Party from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Amity Middle School Bethany's cafeteria at 190 Luke Hill Road in Bethany.

The \$5 entry fee includes a free raffle ticket for cool prizes. Advance

registration earns an extra ticket. Bring a \$1 donation to make your own Valentine craft with candy to give to a friend or relative. Proceeds raised from crafts will be donated to the American Heart Association. Call 203-389-3429, or email Youthone@ woodbridgect.org to register. Adults and college students, please call to volunteer.



CALL TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR AD SPACE!

Display ads start at only \$110 per issue. Call 203-298-4399 to place your ad!



Pictured on the right Kathy Adamovich, Coordinator of the 37th Annual Road Race sponsored by the Woodbridge Recreation Department presenting a donation of \$3,600 from the proceeds of the race to Mary Ellen LaRocca, Director of Human Services for the Town of Woodbridge Emergency Food and Fuel Fund. The fund provides emergency assistance to qualifying residents with their primary heating source and emergency food.

Community Council Winter Events Celebrate Diversity

Woodbridge residents are invited to explore and celebrate diversity at free events this winter organized by the Town's ad hoc Community Council. The ad hoc Community Council was created to organize events and other opportunities for Woodbridge residents to interact, learn about each other's culture, create community and celebrate Woodbridge.

February 26

Amity Regional High School Diversity in Action club members and other community members will be reading from Ta-Nahesi Coates' book, "Between the World and Me" at an event on Tuesday, February 26 at the Amity Regional High School Library at 7 pm. Following the readings there will be a dis-

cussion about the book. The snow date for this event is March 5. The Woodbridge Town Library has extra copies of the book available for check out. The book, a #1 New York Times bestseller and National Book Award winner, is a

deeply personal story about race which started as a letter to the author's black teenage son about how to navigate living in America with black skin.

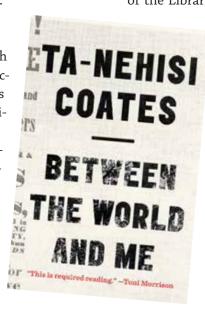
February 28

On February 28, the Woodbridge Town Library will host a screening of *I Am Not Your Negro* at 7 pm as part of the Library's regular film series. *I*

Am Not Your Negro is an Academy Award nominated documentary that envisions the book that James Baldwin never finished, "Remember This House." The documentary uses the writer's words, narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, archival film footage and up-to-date footage to examine race in America. Following the film, the Community Council will lead a discussion. The snow date for this

event is March 14.

In January the JCC hosted a children's book reading that explored lessons of kindness, inclusion and acceptance.



AT THE WOODBRIDGE CENTER

Woodbridge Emergency Shelter Information

Many thanks for assistance and support of the First Selectman, the Police Dept., Fire Dept., Dept. of Public Works, Building Maintenance Dept., AMR, District Animal Control, staff of the Human Services Dept., Brookdale Woodbridge and town volunteers who all worked together during the recent ice storm and power outages. The Emergency Shelter, operated by the Human Services Dept., served 58 residents and gave phone support to 41 others on the Emergency Call List. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from being placed on the Woodbridge Emergency Call List, please contact the Human Services Dept. at 203-389-3429. For emergency shelter and assistance during power outages and storms, call the Woodbridge Police Dept. non-emergency number at 203-387-2511.

If you or a family member would like to be added to the United Illuminating Company's (UI) "Storm Woodbridge Life Support/Life Threatening Medically Code Customer List", please call UI's Customer Care Center at 1-800-722-5584 and provide account information along with a doctor's note. For more information regarding this program please contact UI.

Elder Scams

Have you heard of: "You've Won" scams, "Grandkid" scams, Identity Theft? Come learn more about Medicare scams, insurance scams, prescription drug scams and other exploitations. Christine Buck, Legal Investigator at the Office of the CT Attorney General, will present information about how to prevent these crimes, what to do if you are a victim and who to contact. This program is offered Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 pm during the lunch program; call The Center for more information or to reserve a meal.

February Lunch Menu

Lunch is served Tuesday and Friday at The Center café, at 12:15 pm. Cost is \$3 for dine-in meals, \$4 for take-out. RSVP is required by noon one day prior. Meals include bread, juice, coffee/tea and dessert. 2/5 Chinese New Year! Chicken stir fry, won ton soup, 2/8 Beef pot pie, soup, 2/12 Valentine's Day! Seafood Newberg, Strawberry Short Cake, 2/15 Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, 2/19 Taco Tuesday! Make your own tacos, black bean soup, 2/22 Vegetable quiche and soup, 2/26 Manicotti, meatballs and garlic bread, 3/1 Shepherd's pie, 3/5 Meatloaf and potatoes, 3/8 Crab cakes, 3/12 St. Patrick's Day luncheon (RSVP by 3/5).

Special Programming

Events are held at The Woodbridge Center unless otherwise noted. To

RSVP or for questions, call 203-389-3430 or email jglicksman@woodbridgect.org.

February 5-April 9: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), 9 am - 12 pm, Tuesdays through April 9. VITA is a free tax preparation service available to low-income individuals, people who have a disability or those who speak limited English. Appointments are made through Human Services and The Woodbridge Center and are available Tuesdays, 9 am - noon. Call for information on required documents and to make an appointment.

February12: Valentine's Day celebration! Entertainment provided by John Paolillo at 12:15 pm, a delicious Seafood Newberg lunch and strawberry shortcake – join us!

February 13, 26: Tech Wednesdays from 2:45-3:45 pm at the Woodbridge Library. Learn new skills on iPads, smart phones and e-readers. Classes are held in collaboration with the Woodbridge Library. Staff will guide participants through navigating operating systems, mastering messaging, discovering downloadable books and other materials, as well as taking photos and maintaining proper storage techniques. Registration for this free class is required.

February 14: The grand opening of the Meetinghouse Café has been cancelled and will not reopen at this time.

February 26: Lunch entertainment with Jim Sheehan begins at 12:15 pm. RSVP required.

March 4: AARP Safe Driver Class 9 am - 1 pm in The Woodbridge Center lounge. Fee is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. Reservations are required.

Breakfast at 10 Lecture Series

February 27: Cooking for 1 or 2 and Proper Freezing Techniques with Elaine Marcucio and Penny Pompa of New England Young at Heart. Learn how to navigate recipes without having to eat leftovers all week—unless you so choose! Freezer-friendly foods, proper containers, and food storage will be discussed. RSVP is requested.

March 27: Adding Years to Your Life & Life to Your Years with Louis Cofrancesco, DC, of Cofrancesco Chiropractic & Healing Arts. RSVP is requested.

All lectures are held in The Woodbridge Center lounge.

Change for Life! Diabetes Prevention Program

Beginning February 6, (call for information on joining in progress) Diabetes Prevention will be offered as an ongoing program that will meet regularly on Wednesdays from 10-11 am in The Center lounge. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention–National Diabetes Prevention Program



Brother and sister-in-law Vinny and Dolores Cofrancesco celebrate their 90th birthdays at the Woodbridge Center's lunch program. Hot, delicious meals are available by reservation Tuesdays and Fridays for \$3.00 eat-in and \$4.00 take-out.

can help individuals make a change for life! This program will offer lifestyle changes to help prevent Type 2 diabetes. Groups meet for 16 weekly sessions and six-monthly follow-up sessions with a trained lifestyle coach. There is no fee associated with this program but you must register. This program costs up to \$500 at other facilities. The program is sponsored by Griffin Hospital, Area Agency on Aging of South Central CT. To register, please call The Woodbridge Center at 203-389-3430.

Ongoing Programming New! Weekly Craft Group begins

March 21 (Thursday) from 10 am - 1 pm in The Center lounge. Calling all knitters and crocheters to join the group. No RSVP necessary.

New three-month session! Yoga for Healthy Aging Class begins February 22 and meets Fridays, 11:45 am - 1 pm, in the Center Building, Room 16, with instructor Julie Luciani. Class combines seated and standing postures and is safe for all. P lease register to reserve your spot—12 sessions for \$75. The class fee will be pro-rated if join late.

Mahjong: Monday & Friday, 10 am, Center Building, Room 11.

Exercise with Laurie: Workout includes a combination of strength training, cardio, flexibility and balance. Bring weights if you have them. Class is in the Center gym, Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11 am. No need to sign up— just pay a drop-in fee of \$2.

Book Club: The book club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 11 am at the Woodbridge Town Library. The next meeting is February 26 and the book will be Unsheltered by Barbara Kingsolver. New members are welcome.

Art Class: Class begins February

6 and meets each Wednesday, 10 am - 12 pm, in The Center café. The class is taught by local artist Graham Dale. Call to register. The ten-week class is \$60 and will be pro-rated for those joining late.

Friday Movies: Following lunch in The Woodbridge Center lounge at 1 pm: 2/8 The Hate U Give, 2/15 Dog Days, 2/22 Favorite Film Friday: Nebraska.

Ask the Nurse: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 11 am - 12:30 pm, blood pressure screenings, weight and conversation with a registered VNA Community Healthcare Nurse in The Center lounge.

Duplicate Bridge: Mondays, 9:30 am, in the café.

Bridge: The Center's Wednesday bridge group invites new members! Join in for a friendly card game. No reservations—just come to The Center lounge.

Pinochle: Monday, Wednesday or Thursday, 1-4 pm, in The Center lounge. Come any day—the group looks for new players and is willing to bring rusty players up to speed!

Pickleball: Meets Monday-Thursday in the Center gym for group play, 12:30-2:30 pm and Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm. Paid annual members may arrange playing times with other players through the Doodle scheduling tool. Annual membership is \$20 for Woodbridge residents and \$25 for non-residents. Equipment is available on a first come, first served basis.

Bocce: Begins again in April, Tuesdays from 11 am - 12 pm at the bocce court in the picnic grove behind the Old Firehouse.

Calling all poker, canasta and spades players—call The Center and let us know if you are interested and we'll put a group or a game together!

Woodbridge Dems Unanimously Nominate Heller For Re-Election

Incumbent First Selectman Beth Heller was nominated at the town's Democratic caucus on February 1 to run again for First Selectman this year. Prior to her 2017 election as First Selectman, Heller was a member of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen since 2008 and served as its Deputy First Selectman since 2009. She previously served as First Selectman to complete the remainder of Ed Sheehy's term after his sudden passing, from April 25th through June 30th 2013.

Heller's nomination was unanimously endorsed by Democrats at the party's official nominating caucus. The town's municipal election will be held Monday, May 6th 2019.

"I am grateful for this continuing vote of confidence in my leadership. I believe the best ideas are born from a diversity of input from all constituencies. Good government is at its best when it is more collaborative than partisan." Heller said after accepting the nomination. "Stability in town government and ongoing excellence in its public schools will continue to make Woodbridge an attractive community in which to live and raise a family."

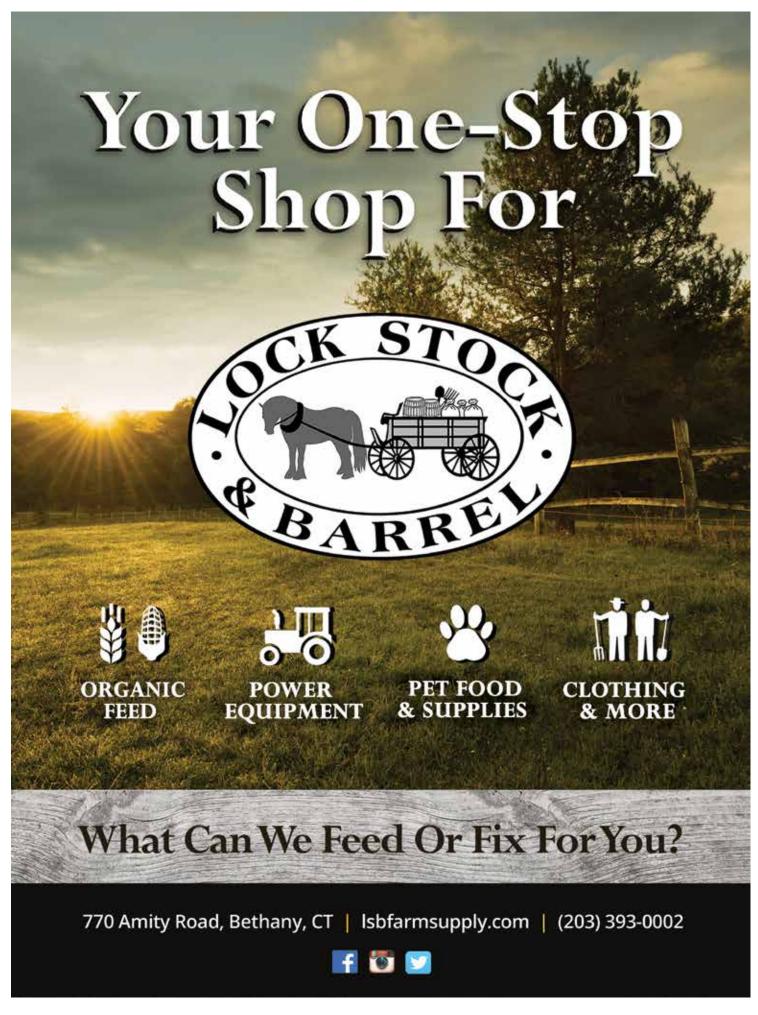
Joining Heller on the ballot for the May municipal election are Board of Selectmen incumbents Mica Cardozo and Joe Crisco, and Claire Coleman; Amity Regional Board of Education incumbent Sheila McCreven and candidate Patrick Reed; and Wood-

bridge Board of Education candidates Joyce Shavers, Todd Jokl, and Jeffrey Townsend.

Also nominated are: for the Zoning Board of Appeals, Shawn Flynn and Joi Prud'homme (as an Alternate), and Jeffrey Ginzberg for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

"This slate of candidates is comprised of creative and talented residents and I'm grateful for their willingness to contribute to the town's good government as effective public servants," Heller said. "Each of us is dedicated to making this town live up to its full potential and its reputation for excellence; I'm proud to have been nominated and honored to lead a team of candidates who offer so much experience working on behalf of our community."











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From the First Selectman BY BETH HELLER





Storm Response And Neighborly Actions

As January concludes and we turn the page of the calendar to February, we are cleaning up from the recent ice storm and preparing for more winter weather to come. My thanks to all town residents for your patience and cooperation as Woodbridge experienced the bitter cold, high winds, ice, snow, rain and power outages on January 20 and 21.

First Responders

I would like to highlight and express deep appreciation for the work of our Town's First Responders during this storm. They answered an extraordinarily high volume of calls related to the many downed trees and tree limbs that fell due to ice accumulation which in turn blocked roads and took down power lines. In all, over 100 calls were answered by our dedicated Fire, Police, Public Works Road Crews and our Animal Control Officers over the long holiday weekend. These men and women are always there when we need them, and I am sure I speak on behalf of residents when I express gratitude for all they do on our behalf.

Our Human Services Department also sprang into action to open the Emergency Shelter and Warming Station in the Center Building, and their work to provide a place to warm up and charge devices for all affected residents is appreciated, as always. Kudos also to the JCC for opening its doors to members and non-members alike, for warming, charging and hot showers. Thank you!

Neighbors reaching out to neighbors

I also want to acknowledge and thank those residents who offered to open their homes to neighbors, to charge devices, get warm, or take a hot shower during the lengthy power outages some households experienced. This spirit of neighbor reaching out to neighbor in times of trouble is inspirational. This is what makes Woodbridge a truly wonderful community - thank you to everyone who offered to help!

Fees waived for brush disposal

As we do in the aftermath of all major storms, my team at Town Hall and I have again met with representatives from UI and our First Responders to go over the response to this storm, and suggest ways that we can improve and continue to prepare for future weather events. In addition, I have waived the fee associated with disposal of brush at the Transfer Station through February 9th to assist in the cleanup efforts of residents. Please see the Town website for details: woodbridgect.org.

Contact number during storms

As a reminder to residents, during storms or other high call volume conditions in Town, please use the Police Non-Emergency Phone Number (203-387-2511) to contact the Town for help with NON-EMERGENCY assistance. When we are closed for storms, all other phone numbers for departments in Town (including Human Services, Public Works, Animal Control, and Town Hall offices) will not be answered and messages are not monitored during the storm. By calling the Police Non-Emergency number, you will be connected to available services to assist you - please do not hesitate to call.

As always, my door at Town Hall remains open. Please feel free to visit or call me with any questions or concerns you may have, or just to say "hello."

Beth Heller is Woodbridge First Selectman. She may be reached by phone at Town Hall, 203-389-3401, or by email to bheller@ woodbridgect.org.

"For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul." - JUDY GARLAND





GOP Lawmakers Oppose Bill to Break Up School District

Area lawmakers are expressing their concerns this week about a Democrat proposal to regionalize school districts based on the current Probate Judge map, which means Amity Regional School District #5 would be broken up.

Under the bill, S.B. 454, the Orange School district would be merged with Milford; Woodbridge would be merged

with Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour; Bethany would be merged with Hamden.

"This proposal to mandate the regionalization of all Connecticut's schools is completely misguided. If you look at the current probate map, there will be students from

around the state with impossible commute times to school, this plan doesn't make sense. Left as is, the plan will break apart already regionalized school districts like Amity for example, which is made up of Woodbridge, Bethany and Orange. "I believe that we should put our trust in the towns to decide what is best for their communities and schools," said Rep. Themis Klarides

"This proposal would penalize a school district that already regionalizes," said Rep. Charles Ferraro. "I haven't heard from local officials who believe that this is a good idea. You would think Democrat lawmakers would consult with their Boards of Education, First Selectmen, and Mayors before proposing something so ridiculous."

"Amity Regional is an educational success story, we should hail, not elim-

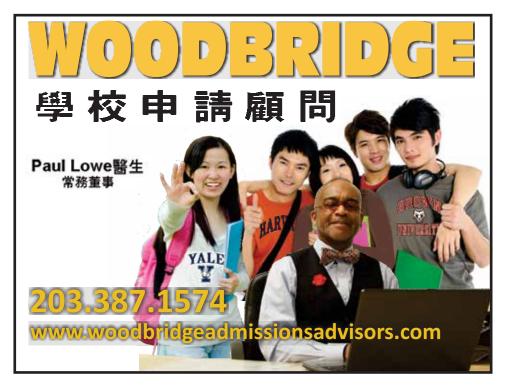
inate. I will fight to defeat any bill which looks to end Amity current regional district," Rep. Kathy Kennedy said, who is an Amity alum.

"This policy is nonsensical, shortsighted and destructive,"
Sen. George S. Logan said. "We will work as a team to

defeat it. We will need the support of parents, educators and students in order to stop this from becoming reality. Please spread the word about S.B. 454 – we must speak out with a united voice against it."

Amity Regional School District #5 currently is comprised of Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. The towns don't regionalize schools K-12 and the bill only excepts districts that do.

The bill is now before the Education Committee.





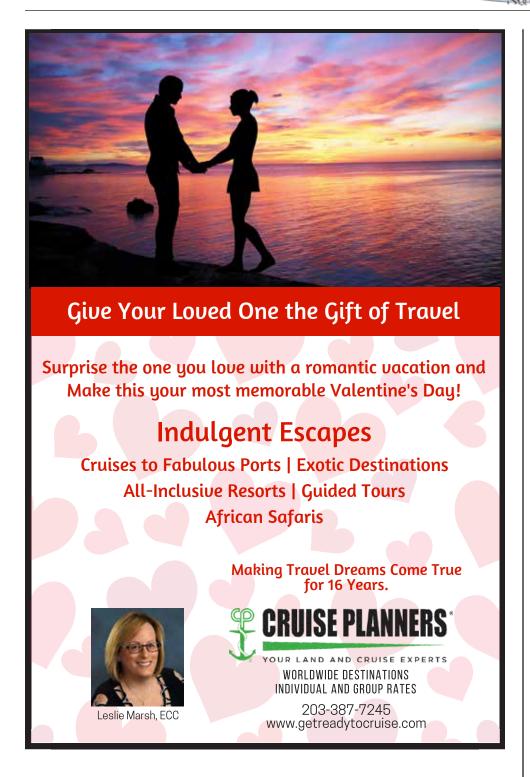


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Date: Thursday, March 14 - Coachman Square, Woodbridge

Time: 11:30 a.m. Buffet Lunch followed by programs from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Location: Coachman Square at Woodbridge, 21 Bradley Rd, Woodbridge, CT 06525

RSVP: Coachman Square, Woodbridge - 203-397-7544

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FEALTH & FITNESS

What Is Dry Needling And How Can It Help?

BY JUSTIN MAURIZIO, DPT

Dry Needling (DN) is a skilled intervention performed by physical therapists at our clinic which uses a thin needle to penetrate the skin and stimulate underlying myofascial trigger points, muscular spasms, connective tissues for the management of nerve/skeletal pain and restricted movement. Trigger points are defined as palpable, tense bands of skeletal muscle fibers that can produce both local and traveling pain when compressed. DN is a technique used to treat said trigger points, overall dysfunction in our muscles, fascia (the fibrous netting encompassing muscle), and connective tissue.

One may ask how DN differs from acupuncture as both techniques consist of the insertion of a monofilament, sterile, thin-gauge needle, a needle that also happens to be used by acupuncturists. DN is not to be confused with acupuncture, as acupuncture is routed in traditional Chinese Medicine with its theories focused on the manipulation of specific energy channels, meridians, and the concept of chi, or life-force coursing through our body following these unique routes. However, DN works directly with needle placement into muscular trigger points, spasms and tender points identified on an individual. The practice of DN works on the soft tissues of the body—specifically the muscles, ligaments, tendons, and fascial tissues. The practice of DN is firmly based in Western concepts of anatomy, physiology, neurology, and biomechanics. The only parallel between both techniques is the thingauge needle or "tool" used.

The purpose of DN is to provide diminishing stimulation of pain receptors, reduce inflammation and restore impairments of body structure, thus allowing individuals to return to their normal lives with less pain and greater motion. Essentially, there are a few goals of DN. Firstly, to target and stimulate a twitch response, an instantaneous and brief contraction of the muscle to allow the muscle to release or unwind. Secondly, to neutralize irritated soft tissue and to restore and improve muscle and fascial function. Lastly, to disrupt the physiologically malfunctioning area by means of causing micro-traumas to the involved tissue, which aides in a localized kick-starting of the body's natural healing processes.

Fascinatingly, various research revealed DN to be equally, or in some cases, more effective than injections of a localized anesthetic by a MD with a hollow-bore needle. This was discovered when patients were receiving instantaneous results after anesthetic



Justin Maurizio

injections, however, it was surmised that the drug could not act that fast and in turn be that effective. Further investigative testing of this phenomenon was carried out revealing that something else was going on. The main proponent of instantaneous relief felt by these patients was the actual mechanical action of the needle itself penetrating the involved tissue. This discovery coupled with the common knowledge that drug injection has limited value because of drug toxicity, in that sense, DN is widely considered a better choice.

DN is a beneficial intervention for a myriad of diagnoses, such as neck and back pain, arm and leg pain, lower back pain, tendinitis, headaches/migraines, muscle spasms, arthritis, joint replacements, fibromyalgia etc. Furthermore, everyone can benefit from dry needling, ranging from professional athletes to weekend warriors, and those behind a desk for the majority of the day. Consequently, DN techniques aide in reducing pain, spasm, soft tissue restrictions, and alleviate referred symptoms as soon as one treatment.

Justin Maurizio, DPT, graduated from the University of Hartford in 2012 Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. He then completed his Doctorate in Physical therapy at University of Hartford with a focus on orthopedics in 2015. Working in our Branford location, Justin treats patients from pediatrics to geriatrics with particular interest in sports related injuries, neurological dysfunction, and assisting patients with regaining their function. Justin continues to be very active in sports and exercise, which helps to keep assessment and treatment current.

Amity Physical Therapy was founded 14 years ago by Michael Dow MSPT/CEO. The practice has offices in Woodbridge, Hamden and Branford. For more information call 203.389.4593 or visit amitypt.com.





Q: I read that the actor who plays mobster Sonny Corinthos on the day-time soap "General Hospital" is going to play John Gotti in a new movie. Didn't John Travolta already play Gotti just this year? -- B.A.

A: Yes, you are correct in that Maurice Benard played mob kingpin John Gotti recently. He's a great actor and his fans never tire of seeing him getting his hands dirty onscreen in organized crime.

In the TV movie "Victoria Gotti: My Father's Daughter," which premieres Saturday, Feb. 9, on Lifetime, young Victoria, played by Chelsea Frei ("Sideswiped"), tries to come to grips with the fact that her beloved father was also public enemy No. 1 and sent to prison. The real Victoria Gotti cowrote, executive produced and narrated the film. She gives viewers an inside look at the other tragedies (her brother's death) that she experienced and shares stories never before told.

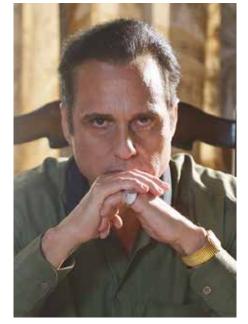
As for Travolta, while a great actor himself, the motion picture "Gotti" was mostly panned by critics. Lifetime's version is entirely different, with Victoria overseeing the movie and Benard stepping up to the plate as Gotti, a role he was born to play.

Q: Is it true that **Brad Pitt** and **Charlize Theron** are dating? Will they attend the Oscars together? -- S.P.

A: As much of a gorgeous couple as they would make, apparently the news of their pairing is only a rumor -- at least for now.

The U.K.'s "Sun" reported that the two started seeing each other over Christmas after having met on set filming a commercial. An unnamed source told "People" magazine that they, in fact, were not a couple and that even more absurd was the rumor that Theron's ex-boyfriend, **Sean Penn**, played cupid for them.

As for Pitt and Theron walking down



Maurice Benard [Sergei Bachlakov/Lifetime]

the red carpet together on the biggest night in Hollywood, be sure to tune in to ABC on Sunday, Feb. 24, to find out.

Q: Whatever happened to Katharine Ross, the actress who starred in "The Graduate" with Dustin Hoffman? -- J.E.

A: Ross, who was born in Hollywood in 1940, has had quite a long career since landing the role of Elaine Robinson, who escaped her wedding with the help of Hoffman's Ben Braddock, in the Oscar-nominated classic. She also starred with Robert Redford and Paul Newman in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." I remember watching her on the "Dynasty" spinoff "The Colbys." She also had a small role in the indie film "Donnie Darko," and more recently voiced roles in the animated series "American Dad" and "Family Guy."

What most people don't know is that she's married to actor **Sam Elliott**, who sports the most famous mustache in Hollywood next to **Tom Selleck**. Ross and Elliott met in 1978 while filming the horror movie "**The Legacy**." They have been married 34 years and have a daughter, **Cleo Rose**. Probably best known for his role in "**Mask**" opposite **Cher**, you can see Elliott in "**A Star Is Born**" with **Bradley Cooper** and **Lady Gaga**.

Send me your questions at NewCelebrityExtra@gmail.com!





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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS



Denise Roy from ConnectiCare (left) and Amity Teen Center board member, Jason Pinkus (right).

Connecticare Presents \$9,000 Donation To Teen Center

On January 10, ConnectiCare presented a \$9,000 donation to the Amity Teen Center in collaboration with the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) tax credit program. The Connecticut NAA program provides tax credits to local businesses who support municipal and tax-exempt organizations. These donations fund specific initiatives at each organization, from energy conservation projects to neighborhood assistance and community services. Through the NAA program, ConnectiCare has been able to donate to 26 of its neighboring non-profits.

"We recognize that each of these organizations give our members outlets to be creative, active and involved in the world around them," said Kim Kann, director of public relations and corporate communications at ConnectiCare. "They help create healthier and happier communities for all of our neighbors. That's why we're proud to be part of this program and support these vital organizations."

For more information on the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act tax credit program, please visit the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services' website.

JGSCT To Hold Monthly Meeting

Please join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut on Sunday, February 17, 2019, at 1:30 pm, at Temple Sinai, 41 West Hartford Road, Newington, as Dr. Dan Oren presents "The Wedding Photo". A visit to an abandoned Polish Jewish cemetery in 1993 launches a 20-year search to solve the mystery of "Who is Buried in Sarah's Tomb?" A visit with a cousin unearths a breathtaking photo of a

Berlin family wedding from 1926 and leads to discovering their unimaginable post-wedding history.

Dan Oren, M.D., has worked for thirty years as a psychiatrist and faculty member at Yale University, the U.S. Institute of Mental Health and the University of Rzeszow, Poland.

The program is free and open to the public. Visit www.jgsct.org for additional information.



Rotary Clubs Honor Three Eagle Scouts

Recently the Orange and Woodbridge Rotary Clubs honored three Eagle Scouts at a luncheon at Birchwood Restaurant at The Tradition Golf Club at Oak Lane. Pictured from left to right are Woodbridge Rotary Club President Spencer Rubin, Orange Rotary Club President Roger Tausig, Eagle Scouts Sam Martin, Tim Frieden and Sean Farrell, and Orange Rotarian, District Director of the Boy Scouts of America Connecticut Yankee Council and Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 41, Jonathan Glassman.



Left to right: Denise Rock, Debbie Schlegel, Sharon Bender.

Garden Club of Woodbridge January Meeting

Speaker and Master Gardener, Marie Hayes, spoke about the Golden Age of Horticulture (1863-1901) and the history of Grand American Victorian Gardening at the January meeting of the Garden Club of Woodbridge. Marie delighted the group with picturesque slides of gardens she has visited around the world. She noted the beauty of some of the homes and gardens in Connecticut, e. g., the Lockwood Matthews Mansion in Norwalk and the Bellamy-Ferriday House and Gardens in Bethlehem. Marie's

unique perspective and delightful humor made her slide presentation informative and fun.

Former president of the Garden Club of Woodbridge, Denise Rock, is pictured standing in back of the vibrant floral design that she made for the meeting's tea table. Next to Denise are Debbie Schlegel and Sharon Bender with their floral designs, embracing this month's theme of "Winter's Cold." Design themes and designers are in-

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Girl Scouts Is The Place For Girls To Shine!

UNLEASH HER G.I.R.L. (GO-GETTER, INNOVATOR, RISK-TAKER, LEADER) ™ AND SIGN HER UP AS A GIRL SCOUT DAISY TODAY!

Are you looking for a place for your kindergartner or first-grader to shine? As a Girl Scout Daisy (K-1) you can watch her unleash her inner strength while having a blast and making friends who will last a lifetime. Because the sooner your girl begins to realize the power in her potential, the sooner she'll know that no matter how young or small she might think she is, there's nothing she can't accomplish!

As a Girl Scout, girls K-12 discover their passions and gain leadership skills. They learn how to problem-solve, embrace challenges, and try new things. Girl Scouting prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership; from dabbling in STEM programming to selling the most popular cookies in the world, Girl Scouts thrive in an all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment. As a Girl Scout Daisy, she can let her full, magnificent personality shine through while:

- Making new friends as part of a troop or at Girl Scout activities and events;
- Earning petals and badges while trying new things and learning a ton;
- Making a difference in her community through a leadership journey as she learns to stand up for what she believes in;
- Selling Girl Scout Cookies (and having fun!) while learning how to work in teams, set goals, and

become a tiny entrepreneur;

- Exploring nature and the outdoors, learning to appreciate and care for the environment and reaping the benefits of less screen time and more "her" time;
- > And so much more...

There is power in every G.I.R.L. Unleash her strength at Girl Scouts. Join now at gsofct.org/daisy or call (800) 922-2770.

We're nearly 39,000 members strong over 26,000 girls and over 12,000 adults - who believe that every girl can change the world. We're part of a sisterhood of 2.6 million strong around the globe-1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Gogetter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ to change the world. Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, she organized the very first Girl Scout troop, and every year since, we've honored her vision and legacy, building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit gsofct.org.

"Garden Club" From Page 22

dicated for each meeting in the club's yearbook. A Master Gardener critiques arrangements at the meetings.

The Garden Club of Woodbridge has a mentoring program for new members. New and experienced gardeners are welcome. If you would like information about the garden club, please contact Judy at jsmam@aol.com.

The Garden Club of Woodbridge

invites guests to join the club's March 5 meeting. The theme is "50 years of Gardening." Speaker Sydney Eddison is an award-winning Connecticut poet, writer, gardener and lecturer. The speaker wrote Gardening for a Lifetime-How to Garden Wiser as you Grow Older.

Location is First Church of Christ, 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT at 11:45 am. There will be a nominal fee of \$5.00 charged for non-members.

BULLETIN BOARD

Please Note: If you have an event for the Bulletin Board, please send it along no matter how far in advance it is. We will include it in the appropriate issue(s) until the event has taken place.

Boy Scout Troop 63, meetings Monday nights 7:00pm-8:30pm, Our Lady of the Assumption "Mother" Church, 1700 Litchfield Turnpike (Route 63), Woodbridge; September-April and May-June outdoors at Camp Whiting, all boys ages 10 and up or who have completed the fifth grade are welcome to stop by and see what we're all about. For more information, visit http://www.troop963. org or email Troop63CT@gmail.com.

Bereavement Support Groups, Tuesdays 4:00-5:30pm and Wednesdays 6:30-8:00pm, Griffin Hospital, 130 Division Street, Derby, support groups for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. Contact Janice Lautier at 203-732-1100 or jlautier@griffinhealth. org to register.

Woodbridge Republican Town Committee Meetings, second Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm, Center Cafeteria. Visitors welcome and we urge you to join us. For information, go to www. woodbridgegop.org.

Cancer Support Group, meets the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons of the month at Coachman's Square, 21 Bradley Road, Woodbridge. If interested contact: Lucille Ranciato lranciato2@yahoo.com or Bernie Siegel, MD bugsyssiegel@sbcglobal.net for details.

Alzheimer's and Dementia Family Support Group Meeting, last Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge in the West Rock Room. For more information, contact Averi Kelly, Ms, R-DMT, 203.389.2911.

Trap Falls Kennel Club Obedience Classes, every level, AKC STAR Puppy (obedience for dogs under 12 months) and Family Manners Classes/Obedience & Canine Good Citizen; Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Pawz for Wellness in Shelton. For registration and/or information, call 203-450-9485 or email tfkctraining@gmail.com. Trap Falls Kennel Club is a non-profit member club of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

Boy Scout Troop 907, Come find out why Troop 907 has been Making a Difference in the Life of Scouts since 1968. Meetings Thursday nights 7:00-8:30PM at the First Church of Christ in the Parish House (enter via back parking lot), 5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge next to Town Hall. Boys aged 10 and older or who have completed 5th grade are invited to visit an upcoming meeting and join the adventure of scouting. For more information, visit our website Troop907. org or use the website "contact us" link to communicate directly with troop leadership.

Alzheimer's Community Caregivers Support Group, 2nd Thursday of the month, 5:00pm, Arden House, Conference Room, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden. Call Maria Paduano, Program Director to RSVP or for more information at 203-281-3500, ext. 7669; www.genesishcc.

Woodbridge Rotary Club Meetings, 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 7:30am breakfast meeting, Country Corner Diner, 756 Amity Road, Bethany and the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 12:15pm luncheon meeting, Woodbridge Social, 12 Selden Street, Woodbridge. Anyone interested in learning more about Rotary should contact Anna Dickerson, 203-710-0223 or annadickerson@yahoo.com.

Goat Yoga, every Saturday at 9am, 10:15am and 11:30am, Locket's Meadow Farm, Bethany, \$25.00. Stretch and pose with our sweet baby goats (and pigs and puppies and who knows who else will wander through) and learn what the goat hype is about! All funds from our programs go directly to support the rescued animals of Locket's Meadow as well as to help fund our programs for special needs individuals. Please bring your own yoga mat, but if you forget, we have a few extra.

Ansonia Nature Center Events, 10 Deerfield Road, Ansonia; call 203-736-1053 to register for all events.

Donate Your Car, Truck or Van, help raise funds for a local private school; FREE, FAST, TOW AWAY; Running or Not Running; Can be used for a charitable tax deduction. Call Charter Oak Education DBA Sterling Education at 860-643-1100.

Agency On Aging Of South Central CT Is Moving!

The Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut (AOASCC) will relocate its office to 117 Washington Avenue, Suite 17 in North Haven, 06473 beginning January 28th. We expect to be fully settled in and back to full operations on or by January 31st. Phones will be disrupted from January 25th to January 27th while equipment is re-

located — urgent calls will be directed automatically to our answering service and on-call care managers.

From our President & CEO, Ted Surh: After many years of being in New Haven, we are moving! We want to thank all those in the New Haven community who have been partners and advocates to us and expect this partnership to continue. Our new location in North Haven will be more convenient for those coming to the office and the cost savings will allow us to maintain our services into the future.

The Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut is a non-profit organization

serving older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers in a 20-town region in the greater New Haven area and lower Naugatuck Valley. Our mission is to empower adults to remain as independent and engaged as possible within their communities through advocacy, information, and services. Find out more at www.aoascc.org.

RSHIPHY

Orange Congregational Church Happenings

Orange Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation, located at 205 Meeting House Lane in Orange. We invite you to come to our regular wee kly Sunday Worship Services at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Our 10 a.m. worship service includes music from our choirs, a church nursery for all birth to Pre-K children, and Sunday School programming for school age children.

The Pilgrim Fellowship Youth will be hosting a Valentine's Bake Sale during coffee hour after the 10 a.m. worship service on our Laity Sunday, February 10, to raise funds for this year's Mission Trip. Our annual Pancake Supper will take place on Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 2019, from 5-7 p.m. in the church's John Ho Dining Room. Tickets will be



Orange Congregational Church

available at coffee hour beforehand and at the door. An Ash Wednesday service will be held on March 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel for worship and the imposition of ashes.

For more information about our church community, please call the office at 203-795-9749 or visit our website at orangecongregationalchurch.



ATTENTION CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES, AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

Woodbridge Town News - P.O. Box 1126, Orange, CT 06477 edit@woodbridgetownnews.com



Temple Emanuel Annual Scholar in Residence March 8-10, 2019

RABBI URI REGEV, President of 'HIDDUSH - For Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel'.



Friday, March 8

- 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat Welcome Shabbat with joy and songs (for under 5s & their families)
- 6:00 pm Shabbat dinner Please RSVP for dinner/lunch online: www.tegnh.org
- 7:30 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Rabbi Regev will speak on "The

Challenge of Pluralism in Israel: Can Israel be Truly Jewish and Democratic?"

Saturday, March 9

- 10:00 am Parashat Pekudei Torah Study with Rabbi Regev.
- HIDDUSH
- 11:30 am Dairy lunch. RSVP at www.tegnh.org
- 12:30 2:00 pm "Kotel, Conversion, and Rabbinic Blacklists: What Are the Effects of the Latest Conflicts on Israel-Diaspora Relations?"

Sunday, March 10

10:15 - 11:45 am "Israel heading to the polls April 9: How will the

elections impact Religious Freedom and Israel-US relations"

About our Speaker: Rabbi Regev serves as the President and CEO of the educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, "Freedom of Religion for Israel" and of its Israeli counterpart, "Hiddush— For Freedom of Religion and Equality ". A past President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, Rabbi Regev served as founding chair, and later as executive director and legal counsel, of the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the advocacy group established by the

This weekend is generously supported by an Anonymous TE Leave a Legacy Donor.

150 Derby Avenue, Orange CT 06477 <u>www.tegnh.org</u> 203-397-3000



Congregation B'nai Jacob Adult Education Winter 2019

Guest Speakers

Cormac Levenson, Executive Director and Lead Meditation Instructor, Elm Village, New Haven, Sunday, February 3 at 10:00am

"The Sh'ma and Mindfulness: How the practice of meditation can deepen our relationship with God" - Mr. Levenson, graduate of Harvard Divinity School, former Griffin Hospital Chaplain, student of eastern religions, and respected teacher of meditation, will lead this BJ program about Judaism, mindfulness, and relating to G-d. This is so important for our troubling times.

Christine Hayes, PhD, Weis Professor of Religious Studies, Yale University; 2015 winner of the National Book Award in Scholarship, Saturday, February 23, after Kiddush 12:30 pm

"We're No Angels: Perfectionism in Rabbinic Judaism" - What is the nature of the perfection to which humans should aspire? Beginning with the Talmudic phrase "The Torah was not given to Ministering Angels" this lecture explores radically diverse ancient Jewish conceptions of the nature of human perfection and whether or not humans can be, or should aspire to be, like angels.

Ongoing Classes Reading the Talmud Rabbi Rona Shapiro

Monday evenings 7:30 pm February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1,8,15

The Babylonian Talmud, in many ways more so than the Bible, is the core text of the Jewish people and yet it is unknown to many of us. We will explore some of its breadth and depth, looking at both stories (aggadah) and law (halacha) as we work to gain insight into the rabbinic project and its meaning for us. No knowledge of Hebrew or Aramaic is required.

The Poetry of Yehuda Amichai

Group Discussion, Saturdays 1 pm



Congregation B'nai Jacob

March 2, April 13

Amichai is Israel's poet laureate. He, more than any other poet, captures the paradoxes of faith and love and "Israeliness" in familiar language and bold simile. We will take two Shabbat afternoons to explore a poem or two each time. Poems will be sent out to participants ahead of time, so registration is necessary.

NEW! B'nai Jacob Book Group

Open to all members

First meeting February 20, 7:30 pm in the B'nai Jacob Library

Join in a discussion of "If All the Seas Were Ink," by Ilana Kurshan. This memoir about a young woman's study of Talmud ties in nicely with the Rabbi's class, Reading the Talmud. "In this deeply personal and often hilarious story, Kurshan shows us how the Talmud's thousands of strange and demanding pages...become a conversation about how best to live one's life." Dara Horn.

Future books and dates will be decided by the group. Please RSVP to 203-389-2111 or cbj.receptionist@ gmail.com.

Learning and Prayer **Bread & Torah**

EVERY Shabbat Morning Before Services, 9:00 - 9:45am

Rabbi Shapiro explores the weekly Torah portion and how its story relates to our own. This year we will explore the Book of Jonah and the Five Megillot. Lively discussion over bagels and coffee. No experience necessary.

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild To Meet

The Holy Infant Church Women's Guild February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 12 at 6:45 pm in the Guild Hall. The program for that evening will be making valentines for the veterans at the VA Hospital in West Haven. We also ask that you bring a homemade dessert item to be given

out at the Men's Shelter in New Haven as part of the Midnight Run ministry. Suggested items are brownies, cookies, sliced breads, bars. No cupcakes, pies or items with frosting, please.

After the meeting we will celebrate St. Valentine's Day by serving wine and chocolates!

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Congregation Or Shalom Events

Weekly Services Minyan Services

- > Sunday 9:00 AM
- > Monday 7:30 AM
- > Thursday 7:30 AM

Healing Circle

> Wednesday 7:30 AM

Shabbat Services

- > Friday 7:00 PM
- > Saturday 9:30 PM

Coffee and Learn with the Rabbi Wainhaus

Every Wednesday, (please call the office for schedule) Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus teaches an hour-long class focusing on the ancient texts of our heritage and the light they shed on current issues. The class begins at 11:00 am and ends at 12 noon sharp. All Welcome. Synagogue office: (203) 799-2341, Website: orshalomct.org, .email: info@orshalomct.org

Our Adult Education Committee Will Be Showing, "Three Identical Strangers"

Sunday, February 10 @ 2:00 pm. The true story of identical Jewish triplets who were separated at birth, adopted by three different families and reunited by an astonishing coincidence! Their fairy-tale reunion instantly became a global sensation complete with fame and celebrity; however, it set in motion a series of events that unearth a dark secret -- a secret with radical implications for us all. This documentary film has enjoyed world-wide acclaim!



Congregation Or Shalom

Runtime: 96 minutes, Genre: Documentary. Rabbi Wainhaus will lead a discussion on this provocative film, for all who remain.

Saturday, April 6, 2019-A Night of "Magic & Mentalism"

Doors open 8:00 pm, Show: 8:30-10:00 pm, Tickets: \$36.00 per person "BYOD" (Bring Your Own Drinks!) NOTE: wine & champagne need a KOSHER label, light snacks provided. Please call the office 203.799.2341 for tickets.

ZUMBA GOLD AT OR SHALOM

Congregation Or Shalom announces the continuation of ZUMBA GOLD on Tuesday nights at 7 PM. ZUMBA Gold is an easy to follow dance movement program that incorporates music from every decade to create an upbeat and fun exercise class. Burn lots of calories, meet new friends, and have a blast. No experience needed and classes are on a drop-in basis. Contact Robin at zumbarobin@gmail.com or call 203-314-8176 or temple office at 203-799-2341.

Congregation Beth El - Keser Israel Events

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

Daily Services

- > Sunday 9:00 am and 5:45 pm
- Monday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- Tuesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- Wednesday 7:00 am and 5:45 pm
- > Thursday 8:15 am and 5:45 pm
- > Friday 7:00 am

Shabbat Services

- > Friday 6:00 pm
- > Saturday Morning 9:15 am

Saturday Children's Services 10:45 am

> Saturday Afternoon 1:00 pm

Exhibition of Masks by Beckie Kravetz

Work by Beckie Kravetz, a sculptor and mask-maker, is on display until March 31. The exhibit will feature Purim-themed masks as well as other theatrical and art masks.

Kravetz studied at the Yale School of Drama, Taller de Madera in Guatemala, the Instituto Allende in Mexico, and the Centro Maschere e Strutture Gestuali in Italy. Her masks and sculptures have been exhibited at the Jewish Community Museum of San Francisco, Metropolitan Opera Gallery and Lincoln Center Library, Roark Gallery and Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (Los Angeles).



Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

Study Groups

Shabbat Shalom Torah Study,

which meets every other Saturday morning at 10:45 am, explores the scriptural readings and liturgy of the day, led by Professor Steven Fraade, with Rabbi Alan Lovins, Nadav Sela, Isaiah Cooper and others.

Rashi Study Group, which meets Monday mornings at 7:45 am (at 9:45 am on 18 February) to read Rashi's commentary on the Hebrew Bible with Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen, is examining First Kings.

Berakhot Talmud Study Group meets on Thursday mornings at 10 am to study Talmud Bavli Berakhot with Rabbi Tilsen.

Knowledge of Hebrew or background in texts is not necessary. Visitors and new participants are welcome.

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

The First Church of Christ Concert Series

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge is pleased to announce a series of two concerts this Spring featuring Nenad Ivovic, our church organist and internationally award-winning pianist. The first concert, Prelude 4 Spring with selections from Brahms, Schumann, Poulenc & Grgin, will be held on Saturday March 9th, at 4 pm in the First Church Meetinghouse at 5 Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge. Performing with Nenad will be internationally award-winning clarinetist, Milos Bjelica. There will be a reception following the concert in the Parish House adjacent to the church where attendees will have the opportunity to meet Nenad and Milos. The concert and reception are open to the public.

There will be a free will offering.

The First Church of Christ invites all members of the community to join us at 5 Meetinghouse Lane in Woodbridge for the following weekly services and special events:

Sunday Services – 10 a.m. including our Intergenerational Service the first Sunday of each month. Nursery care for small children is available during the Sunday services.

Special Ash Wednesday Service

– Wednesday, March 6, 7 p.m.



The First Church of Christ

- Sunday at 10 a.m. the second through fifth Sundays during the school year. The middle school curriculum is based on Middle School Talk Sheets which provides a Christian perspec-

Church School

tive on how to handle common issues effecting the lives of our youth. The younger students are watching Veggie Tales which explores stories from the Bible with common concerns for preschoolers.

Middle School Youth Group for 5th – 8th graders - the February

meeting of the youth group will be on Sunday the 10th. The group will be making fleece scarves which will be taken to Chapel on the Green along with donated winter socks, mittens and gloves. For details on this meeting or the Youth Group in general contact MorganNancyAery@gmail.com.

Boy Scout Troop 907 – meets weekly on Thursdays at 7 pm.

Weekly Bible Study - Wednesday, 10-11 a.m., in the Parish House. We study both Old and New Testament passages based on the Lectionary. Bible study is open to the community so everyone in the community is welcome.

For more information on these events please contact us at (203) 389-2119 or office@uccw.org.

"The minute I heard my first love story, I started looking for you, not knowing how blind that was. Lovers don't finally meet somewhere. They're in each other all along." - RUMI

HOUSES OF WORSHIP EVENTS

Recognition At International Lions Of Judah Conference

Woodbridge resident Stacey Trachten was recognized as a Kipnis-Wilson/ Friedland Award winner at the 2019 International Lions of Judah Conference of the Jewish Federations of North America, which took place January 13-16 in Hollywood, Florida. Since 2004, the prestigious Award has been given to Lions of Judah -- "Lions" are women who contribute at least \$5,000 annually to the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation." - who have demonstrated the highest ideals of leadership and involvement. A longtime Lion of Judah, Stacey's leadership has spanned many years and organizations including Ezra Academy Jewish Day School, The JCC of Greater New Haven, and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, both as a lay leader and staff member.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Stacey's strategic direction in outreach, engagement, and Women's Philanthropy has paved a path for others to follow. In her roles as Women's Philanthropy chair and later as a young adult professional, Stacey has infused the community with her energy. She currently serves as Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy Lion of Judah Endowment Chair and currently sits on the Jewish Federation's Planning and Allocations Committee.



Stacey Trachten

Stacey has been the recipient of the Harry Lender Young Leadership Award, the Ezra Academy Community Service Award, and her family was presented with the Anti-Defamation League Torch of Liberty Award. She has been a proud Lion of Judah since 1998 and an endowed lion since 2008. She is married to David and has three children, Samantha, Perry and Max.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is a community-building organization that cares for those in need in our community and promotes the continuity, security, and unity of the Jewish community here, in Israel, and around the world.

Sunday Soul Service Brunch

What do you get when you combine a lively praise band with a hearty brunch and friendly people? You get a totally unique worship experience that is perfect for folks of different ages and backgrounds. The 'Soul Service' is the creation of three different churches who came together in the hopes of reaching folks for whom 'church as usual' just doesn't work for them.

The Soul Service starts with a hearty meal served at 12:30 p.m. every Sunday. Guests are free to come and enjoy what's on the menu free of charge. As one participant noted; "Real communion, doesn't just happen in church, it happens every time we break bread together." (*Note, you don't have to stay for the service to have lunch.) "It's all about getting to know our neighbors, and having a good time," said another participant.

At 1:00 p.m. the worship service begins with some lively contemporary

praise music, a brief message on the reading of the day and communion. The band, aptly named 'Soul Satisfaction' consists of twelve members who come together from four area churches to make music together. They are led by internationally known Jazz musician Fabian Ortiz. Mr. Ortiz, who also has an extensive background in liturgical music, created the group as a way "to praise God while making a joyful noise." "I come for the music, it makes me want to get up and dance, and here at this service, you can if you want to," said Maura Pasley, a 23-year old teacher from Ansonia.

So, if you are looking for something different, a place where people promise to feed you body and soul, check out this service. The Sunday Soul Service returns to Trinity Episcopal Church, 91 Church Street in Seymour, CT on Sunday, February 17th. All are welcome.

"Ansonia Nature" From Page 12

for all 4 weeks, space permitting (cash or check payable to Ansonia Nature Center), due at first class. Class is limited to 10 children. Please call to register: 203-736-1053.

March Calendar 2019 MAPLE SYRUP PROGRAM FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, March 2, 1 pm

A very long time ago, the Native people of the northeastern part of our country shared their sweet tree know-how with the newcomers from Europe. Join us as the Nature Center staff presents an introduction to making maple syrup the old-fashioned way, and help us to choose just the right tree for tapping into this sweet treat! FEE: \$6 per person. Please call in advance to register. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 203 736-1053 to register.

FREE ONGOING PROGRAMS

Creature Features

Saturdays, 12 noon

Come to meet our furry, scaly, and feathery animal ambassadors. You'll have the chance to touch and hold them in this FREE family program for all ages.

Sunday Guided Hikes

Sundays, 1 pm

Join a Nature Center guide on Sunday afternoons for fun, exercise, and learning about our trails! See the above listings for hikes with a specific theme.

Fiber Arts Group

Tuesdays, 6 pm

Get together with others to work on your fiber arts projects! Bring any kind of fiber work—knitting, felting, crocheting, etc. A great way to dedicate time to your handiwork and socialize

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com

Assumption Church Welcomes New Pastor

Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Woodbridge welcomed Father Christopher Ford to take over the helm of the Parish after the retirement of Father Gene Gianelli. Father Ford came to Woodbridge from Waterbury, where he served as rector of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and Episcopal Vicar for the Waterbury Vicariate.

According to the bio published on the Assumption Church website, Father Ford was born in Hartford and grew up in Needham, Mass. As a young adult, his parents moved to Madison, where they lived the next 30 years. Father Ford attended Syracuse University where he received a degree in Public Policy: Urban Affairs from the Maxwell School of Public Administration.

Feeling drawn to the priesthood, he enrolled in St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia and was ordained a priest in 1987. After serving four years in St. Francis of Assisi in Naugatuck he was appointed by Archbishop

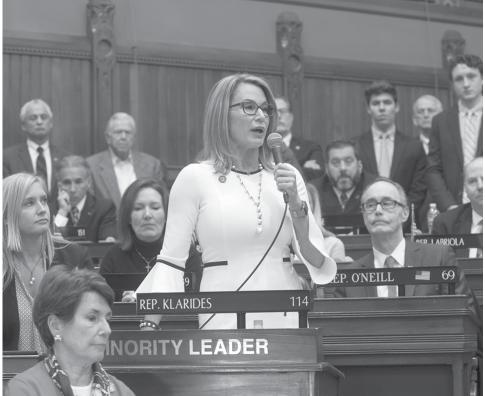


Christopher Ford

John Whealon to graduate studies in Rome. In 1993, he received a license in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University. Upon returning home he has served in various parishes and in the Metropolitan Tribunal as both judge and defender of the bond.

His previous pastorates include St. Justin in Hartford and St. Mary in Branford.





Woodbridge Lawmakers Sworn-In For New Term

State Representative Themis Klarides and State Senator George Logan took their oath of office on Wednesday, January 9th, commencing the 2019 legislative session.

"The start of the new legislative session offers us all a chance for a clean slate and renewed opportunities to do the hard work and produce the best outcomes for the people of the state of Connecticut. I am optimistic that we can accomplish great things and complete our work on time," House Republican Leader Themis Klarides said.

"I'm excited to begin my second term as state senator. It is an honor to serve the taxpayers of the 17th Senate District. Please contact me at George. Logan@cga.ct.gov with any questions or comments. Sign up for my State Capitol email alerts at www.Senator-GeorgeLogan.com and friend me on Facebook. I am fighting for you, the taxpayers. I am trying to make Connecticut more affordable, and I want to hear from you."

The lawmakers will be entering a "long session", which will run from January 9th to June 5th. During the long session, the lawmakers are able to propose legislation and will be tasked with framing a two-year state budget.



DEATH NOTICES

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



Woodbridge GOP announced its slate of candidates at the January 15 caucus. Ed Weinberg (center) is running for the spot of First Selectman. Candidates for the Board of Selectmen are (from left) Dwight Rowland, Joseph Dey and David Lober.

Republicans Announce Slate For 2019 Municipal Vote

Woodbridge Republicans chose Ed Weinberg as their candidate for the spot of First Selectman in the upcoming municipal elections May 6. The slate also includes for the Board of Selectmen incumbents Joe Dey and Dave Lober and new to the board, Dwight Rowland.

For the Amity Board of Education, they put forward Matt Schwartz and Jonathan Arpaia; for the Woodbridge Board of Education Lynn Piascyk and Jeff Hughes and, for a two-year term, Dan Cowan.

Cindy Gibbons and Bob Wiznia are running for the Zoning Board of Appeals; Vinnie Carrano and Frank Ciarleglio for Zoning Appeals alternate.

Chuck Pyne is running for the Board of Assessment Appeals.

The message they want to emphasize is that this is an election on local issues, not national ones, said Chuck Pyne at the caucus on January 15. "This is not DC. This is Woodbridge. There are things that can be improved and that will be improved," if people

vote for their candidates.

Ed Weinberg currently serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals. This is his bio from the 2015 election cycle: Ed Weinberg moved from New Haven to Woodbridge with his wife, Jackie, and son, Jeremy, in July of 2013. They chose Woodbridge because it reminded Ed of the small town, Hastings-on-Hudson, where he grew up. Woodbridge is a little more rural, but has about the same population. Ed has a BS in Electrical Engineering, and currently owns Edergy LLC, a sales and marketing company. Ed has been involved with the founding and management of several other businesses, and is a past member of the Rotary Club, the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, and Business Network International (BNI).

As a business owner and resident, Ed understand the needs of local businesses, and believes they are important to Woodbridge while understanding the value in blending business and residential areas for the benefit of all.

DEATH NOTICES

Barbara (Babs) Schwartz Gervasi

Babs Gervasi of Woodbridge, CT passed away peacefully after a brief illness on January 18, 2019 at the age of 76. Born in New Haven, CT on May 6, 1942, she was the daughter of the late Eli and Rosalind Schwartz and the beloved wife of Daniel V. Gervasi who predeceased her in January, 2009. She is survived by her devoted companion James Darling and her daughters Robin (Charles) Levine of Coatesville, PA, Karen Woodward (Craig Johnson) of Bethany, CT, Michelle (William) Mc-Neil of Orange, CT. She also leaves behind her dear grandchildren Elayna (Aaron) Stein, Michael (Kari) Levine, Paige and Samantha Woodward, Amy

and Brett McNeil. She was also blessed with five great grandchildren, Acelynn and Mason Levine, Eli and Ryleigh Stein as well as the late and precious Danny Stein.

Babs attended the University of Connecticut where she met her husband of 45 years. She was the owner of Centerville Card and Candy in Hamden, CT for over 20 years. She loved animals especially her cats Elliott and Oscar.

Funeral services were private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to One Big Dog c/o Woodbridge Regional Animal Center, 136 Bradley Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525. To sign an on-line registry book or to leave a message of condolence, please visit www.shurefuneralhome.com.



JCC Forms New Partnership With Chapel Haven

By Jeannette Brodeur

The JCC of Greater New Haven is now partnering with Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, an award-winning, nationally accredited school and transition program for adults with disabilities in New Haven, to open up their facilities and programming to people of all abilities in the Greater New Haven community.

JCC Executive Director Scott Cohen said the organization has been thinking of ways to be more welcoming to children and adults with disabilities. Cohen said the staff has always been well intentioned and thoughtful when it comes to making people of all ages and abilities feel welcome when they come to the JCC, but now, he said they are ready to professionalize their practice.

Currently, a small group of adults from Chapel Haven visits the JCC each week to participate in a variety of supervised activities including swimming, basketball and using the Rothberg Family Climbing Wall.

Beginning in January, all Chapel Haven students are becoming JCC memberships so they can use the pool, which they don't have at Chapel Haven, and participate in the many different activities that the JCC offers. The JCC will also be working to create additional programming for Chapel Haven that utilizes the MakerSpace and the climbing wall.

Another group from Chapel Haven will also begin working with job coaches to explore vocational opportunities at the JCC. Danielle Chiaraluce the leader of the vocational programming at Chapel Haven, will be involved in training the JCC staff. On January 3, Cohen said staff from the JCC and

the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven toured Chapel Haven and met with staff and residents to learn how to become "the best hosts we can be." Cohen said JCC President Scott Hurwitz was instrumental in developing the new partnership between the JCC and Chapel Haven. "He met a Chapel Haven parent at an event," Cohen explained. "And then he went to Chapel Haven and met with the executive team there and asked what we could do together."

The JCC has also created a committee of laypeople from the community, including a number of enthusiastic Chapel Haven parents who live outside the area who want a warm and welcoming local Jewish community like the JCC for their children to belong to. Additionally, the JCC is hiring a consultant to survey the community and create focus groups to determine what's currently being done to address people of all abilities and where the gaps are and what new programs can be created, Cohen said.

Cohen and Hurwitz both look at the JCC of Manhattan's inclusive, accepting and innovative programming as inspiration for how the JCC of Greater New Haven's programs could develop. Cohen said Allison Kleinman, the Director of Special Needs Programming at the JCC of Manhattan, is part of the JCC of Greater New Haven's new committee. "We want to make sure we get it right and Allison is a tremendous resource who is willing to give of her time," he stressed. Cohen sees the new partnership with the Chapel Haven community as just the beginning of the drive toward more inclusive programs at the JCC. "We want to see what we can do together," he said. "We want the JCC to be open to everyone."



THE WOODBRIDGE TOWN NEWS **ONLINE**

Online Version of the Woodbridge Town News

www.WoodbridgeTownNews.com



GROW At JCC Day Camps

There is something magical that happens in the summer, as children transition from one phase to the next. Summer is the time for them to experience new things, spread their wings and fly, and, at the same time, collect memories that will last a lifetime.

JCC Day Camps help children expand their horizons, practice their social skills and build cooperation and leadership skills - while having the time of their lives.

Developing Leadership Skills

As our campers grow from children to young adults, they have the opportunity to join the Counselor in Training (CIT) program. Our CITs not only get the chance to develop the necessary leadership skills to become excellent counselors for future summers, but they form close bonds with each other as they grow and learn together. Our program does not simply put our CITs to work; it allows them to learn from each other, overcome obstacles, grow, and create the type of camp environment they hope to work in some day. With the right mentoring, any camper can learn what it takes to be a successful and effective leader. Our program helps ensure every future counselor is successful.

Doing Good in the World

Developing awareness and empathy for others while doing Tzedakah (charitable giving) and Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) is central to our camp's values. The community service projects woven throughout the camp

experience empower and inspire our campers to help others and make an impact in our community. Our campers select a charity that speaks to them and then roll up their sleeves and get to work...engaging in hands-on fundraising activities like car washes or bake sales, to name a few.

Other community service experiences have included sandwich-making for homeless shelters, card-making for hospitalized children and food collection for the local food pantry. Last summer, our campers raised nearly \$1,000, which was split between the Make a Wish Foundation and Send a Kid to Camp scholarship fund.

Shaping the World Around Them

Children earn a special sense of pride and ownership when they build things that get us engaged in the world around them. Our campers had a blast building a GaGa pit for the entire camp last year – from scratch! For those who are not familiar with GaGa, it's the Israeli version of dodgeball which became extremely popular with children in the US. The campers collaborated in teams of four to construct each of the eight sides of the pit and then made sure to sign their names on it when they finished and it was ready to use.

This creation was one of many projects built at our MakerSpace – a new offering at JCC Day Camps. In addition to the GaGa pit, our campers created and built a variety of wooden games for team-building as well as stands to hold water jugs throughout our campsite.





Blum-Santandreu Engagement

Maggie Blum and Ben Santandreu, along with their families, are happy to announce their engagement.

Maggie is the daughter of John and Monica Blum of Woodbridge, Connecticut. She is a 2013 graduate of Amity High School and received her B.S. in Criminal Justice and B.A. in Psychology from the University of New Haven in 2017. Maggie is employed by a New Haven law firm.

Ben is the son of Paul and Susan Santandreu of Hamburg, New York.

He received his B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of New Haven in 2017. He is a 1st Lieutenant in the United States Army.

Maggie and Ben met at the University of New Haven when they were both employed as Resident Assistants. They are excited to celebrate love, laughter and their happily ever after, at their August 2019 wedding.

Song of Solomon 3:4 "I have found the one whom my soul loves."



Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller met with staff from Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's office at Town Hall to explore opportunities for federal grant funding to help the Town address flooding and other hazard mitigation efforts. Pictured with Ms. Heller are Christopher Daddio and Zeb Kayani, who are both Amity High School graduates (Class of 2016 and 2012, respectively) and currently interning in the Congresswoman's New Haven Office along with Constituent Services Manager, Lou Mangini.



Rep. Klarides, Sen. Logan Host Town Hall Meeting

Over fifty residents packed into the Woodbridge Library on Wednesday night to hear from State Representative Themis Klarides and Senator George Logan about the 2019 legislative session.

Many residents in attendance were there to express their deep concerns with a Democrat proposal to force schools to regionalize. The bill, S.B. 454, introduced by Senator Martin Looney the highest ranking Democrat in the State Senate, would force schools to regionalize based on the current Probate Judge map.

Sen. Looney's plan would force Woodbridge to combine with Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour, and Orange would merge with Milford.

Rep. Klarides and Sen. Logan told the residents in attendance that forcing schools to regionalize is not the answer.

"Proposals to force regionalization of schools is not the way to approach this topic," said Rep. Klarides. "We need to encourage communities to work together and combine resources when they can and when it makes sense. I encourage residents that are concerned about this proposal to stay vocal and together we can stop this bill from moving forward."

"To the people of Woodbridge: Thank you for speaking out against forced school district regionalization!" Sen. Logan said. "Rep. Klarides and I noted how these Democrats' proposals would lead to less time in the classroom and more time on the school bus. Forced regionalization would negatively impact the quality of education our students receive. We

discussed the potential loss of local control over school decision making. We also spoke about how forced regionalization could result in fewer teachers. To talk to the lawmakers who proposed these bills, contact Senate Democrats at 800-842-1420. Stay active and vocal! We will let you know once a public hearing is scheduled so you can submit testimony or testify in person at the State Capitol. We will need the support of parents, educators and students in order to stop this from becoming reality. We will work as a team to defeat it."

Page 29

On Thursday morning, Senator Looney said in a New Haven Register Article that the bill was a "misdraft" and that the bill "would not break up the regional school district, and would, in fact, consolidate all of the three towns' schools into one regional district.

Rep. Klarides responded saying, "Sen. Looney doesn't know what is best for the communities of Woodbridge, Orange, and Bethany. The residents and local town officials should be deciding if they should regionalize K-12."

In addition, area residents panned proposals to legalize marijuana and increase the minimum wage. A long-time educator said legalizing marijuana would create more issues with drug problems and vaping in schools. And a resident that hires a lot of high school kids in the summer said increasing the minimum wage to \$15 would prevent her to hire more kids.

Residents are encouraged to contact Rep. Klarides at Themis. Klarides@housegop.ct.gov and Sen. Logan at George.Logan@cga.ct.gov.





EDITERIAL DE LA CALLA DE LA CA



1. Glass (PG-13)

James McAvoy, Bruce Willis

2. The Upside (PG-13)

Kevin Hart, Bryan Cranston

3. Aquaman (PG-13)

Jason Momoa, Amber Heard

4. Dragon Ball Super: Broly (PG)
animated

5. Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG)

animated

6. A Dog's Way Home (PG)

Kimi Alexander, Farrah Aviva

7. Escape Room (PG-13)

Deborah Ann Woll, Taylor Russell

8. Mary Poppins Returns (PG)

Emily Blunt, Lin-Manuel Miranda

9. Bumblebee (PG-13)

Hailee Steinfeld, Jorge Lendeborg Jr.

10. On the Basis of Sex (PG-13)

Felicity Jones, Armie Hammer

10P 10 V.O.D.

1. Night School (PG-13)
Kevin Hart

2. Crazy Rich Asians (PG-13)

Constance Wu

3. Venom (PG-13)

Tom Hardy

4. Bad Times at The El Royale (R)

Jeff Bridges

5. A Simple Favor (R)

Anna Kendrick

6. The Equalizer 2 (R)

Denzel Washington

7. White Boy Rick (R)

Matthew McConaughey

8. Peppermint (R)

Jennifer Garner

9. The House With a Clock

in Its Walls (PG)

Jack Black

10. Mission: Impossible

-- Fallout (PG-13)

Tom Cruise





Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy in "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" [Laurie Sparham/Disney]

EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column are available in stores the week of January 28, 2019.

PICKS OF THE WEEK "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"

(PG-13) -- At Christmas, a spirited young woman named Clara (Mackenzie Foy) receives an enigmatic gift from her late mother. The key to this gift is presented by her godfather (Morgan Freeman), who sends her on a quest across a fantastic land where she must battle as queen for the Fourth Realm against the Mouse King and the plucky and terrifying Mother Ginger (Helen Mirren). Delightful and fanciful but moderately hard to follow, the whole thing is a little too over-the-top, including Keira Knightly as an aggressively flighty Sugar Plum Fairy. But we loved relative unknown Jayden Fowora-Knight as the steadfast Nutcracker soldier Phillip.

"Boy Erased" (R) -- Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe play small-town, religious parents whose world is rocked by the admission that their seemingly normal son (Lucas Hedges) is gay. The preacher and his wife send the boy to a Christian conversion camp, where he is to be reprogrammed out of his wayward feelings. It's tragically hard to be a loving parent whose values are at odds with your child's sexuality. It's tragically hard to be happy and well-adjusted at the expense of being yourself. This film recognizes those realities while exposing the shameful practices and futility of so-called conversion programs. Based on the autobiographical account of Garrard Conley.

"Hunter Killer" (R) -- When a U.S. submarine goes missing in icy waters off Russia, intel determines that a coup d'etat is developing and a super-sinister rogue minister is looking to cause World War III. Sub commander Joe Glass (Gerard Butler) is called upon to check it out -- because he's not like those other by-the-book captains, obviously -- while the Navy Seals go in to rescue the kidnapped Russian president. Glass brings his special brand of rule-breaking disaster management, enlisting the help of a salty Russian commander (the late Michael Nyqvist). "The Hunt for Red October," it's not. So batten down the hatches, because this cheese-action flick has no chill at all.

"Suspiria" (R) -- Talented, ambitious American dancer Susie (Dakota Johnson) is accepted into a renowned German dance company, whose artistic director (Tilda Swinton) runs a decidedly immersive program. Another student, Patricia (Chloe Grace Moretz), goes missing after outing the dance company to her therapist as a coven of witches. Susie climbs the ranks, while violence and mayhem surround the ritualistic actions of the dance company. Swinton plays three parts in this film and one is an older German male psychotherapist. I still can't tell if it's supposed to be obvious that it's her under all that latex. That about sums up how I feel about this art-house horror.

Sudoku answers

1. Which group's first No. 1 hit was "Anything for You"?

- 2. Who released "Party Doll"?
- 3. What San Diego rock band was originally called Mighty Joe Young?
- I. Who wrote and released "High Time We Went"?
- Name the song that contains this lyric: "If you are confused, check with the sun, Carry a compass to help you along."

is a takeoff on the bubblegum songs of the '60s.

1. Miami Sound Machine, in 1988. Gloria Estefan got her start as the lead singer when the group was still known as the Miami Latin Boys. 2. Buddy Knox and the Rhythm Orchids, in 1956. Knox wrote the lyrics sitting on a haystack. Within a year the song went to No. 1 on the charts. 3. Stone Temple Pilots, aka STP. They were asked to change their original name because there already was a Mighty Joe Young, a Chicago bluesman. And yes, legend says they were inspired by STP motor oil labels. 4. Joe Cocker, in 1997s. 8. "Stand," by R.E.M. in 1989 on their "Green" album. The song, their second to make the Top 10 charts, is a stelesty on the highly and the start of the

Sports Quiz

By Chris Richcreek

- 1. How many of the top five spots for intentional walks for a season does Barry Bonds hold?
- 2. Entering 2019, Washington's Max Scherzer had struck out 250 or more batters for how many consecutive seasons?
- 3. Since the 1970 merger, six rookies have led the NFL in rushing for a season. Name three of them.
- 4. In 2018, Jay Wright became the winningest men's basketball coach (career victories) in Villanova history. Who are second and third on the list?
- 5. Who are the only two Russian-born winners of the NHL's Conn Smythe Trophy (MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs)?
- 6. In how many different seasons has Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton recorded at least 10 victories?
- 7. Name the last country to repeat as tennis' Davis Cup champion.

1. He holds the top three, including a record 120 intentional walks in 2004. 2. Five (2014-18). 3. Earl Campbell Hunt (2017). 4. Alexander Severance (413 wins in 25 seasons) and Rollie Massimino (357 wins in 19 seasons). 5. Pittsburgh's Evgeni Malkin (2009) and Washington's Alexander Ovechkin (2018). 6. Four times (2014, '15, '16 and '19). 7. Czech Republic (2012-13).

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

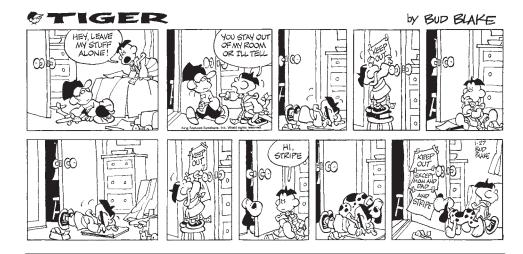
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7				6			1	
	9	2			1			4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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The Spats







Amber Waves



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King Crossword

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- 40 State 41 Jerry Herman heroine
- 42 Pinnacle
- 44 Secondhand
- 45 Teeny bit
- 46 Back talk 48 Altar affirmative

HOLLYWOOD

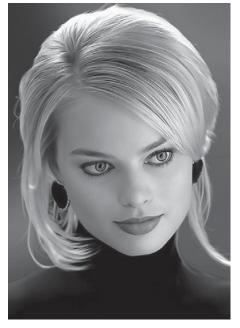
By Tony Rizzo

No sooner had "I, Tonya" Oscar-nominee Margot Robbie agreed to play Barbie for the live-action bigscreen movie coming from Warner Bros. and Mattel, than the internet began screaming that Margot as Barbie would perpetuate the iconic doll's unrealistic stereotype to young girls. Of course, it's an unfair assumption since the movie hasn't even started shooting, and in the hands of an accomplished actress such as Robbie it'll be anything BUT shallow.

In addition to Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," with Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt, in which she plays Sharon Tate, and "Fair and Balanced," with Oscar winners Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman and Allison Janney, Robbie also has signed up for the thriller "Dreamland" with Travis Fimmel and Garret Hedlund. It's unlikely that "stereotype" is in her vocabulary.

Sam Elliott, who just received an Oscar nomination for his role in "A Star Is Born," has leant his golden voice to "The Gettysburg Address" documentary with Dermot Mulroney, Matthew Broderick, Cary Elwes, Aiden Quinn and Ed Asner. The success of Broadway's "Hamilton" has amped up demand for other projects re-creating American history. Sam's currently shooting "The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then The Bigfoot" (in theaters Feb. 8), with Aiden Turner (of all three "Hobbit" films). Based on the 40 years I've known Sam, as selective as he is, you can be sure it's a serious, important film.

Jennifer Aniston, prepping her web television series "Top of the Morning" with Reese Witherspoon and Steve Carell, is filming the Netflix mystery-comedy "Mystery," with Adam



Margot Robbie [Robert Sullivan photo]

Sandler, Luke Evans and Terence Stamp. Aniston plays the wife of a NYC cop, and both become prime suspects in the murder of an elderly billionaire on his super yacht in Europe.

The latest movie to become a musical on Broadway will be the 2004 Nicholas Sparks film "The Notebook," which starred James Garner, Gena Rowland, Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams ... hard shoes to fill.

Is there a support group for Hallmark movie addicts? During the holidays, when TV was the "dead zone," I became a Hallmark Christmas movie junkie, sometimes until 4 a.m. Hallmark, emulating the old Hollywood studio days, has a big company of actors it uses repeatedly. It showed the films on the Hallmark Channel and its Murders and Mysteries channel for two months leading up to the holidays. Now that Christmas movies are gone, they've begun showing Valentine films and all kinds of love stories starring, for instance, Prince Harry's wife, Meghan Markle, "Full House's" Candice Cameron Bure and Lori Loughlin in their series, "When Calls the Heart." On second thought, I don't want to be cured!

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One of the biggest mistakes players make on the overhead is letting the ball get behind them. It's important to move your feet as soon as you see the lob go up.



To get good speed on your overhead you should snap your wrist down on contact. This will also help you angle the ball more sharply to the sides of the court. You don't have to hit the overhead with lots of power if you can angle it to the sides of the court. By snapping your wrist on contact, you can add zip to your overhead

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Answer

1	7	4	9	8	3	6	2	5
8	6	3	2	5	7	4	9	1
2	5	9	1	4	6	7	3	8
3	1	7	6	2	8	5	4	9
9	2	6	4	3	5	1	8	7
4	8	5	7	1	9	3	6	2
5	3	1	8	9	4	2	7	6
7	4	8	5	6	2	9	1	3
6	9	2	3	7	1	8	5	4

– Weekly SUDOKU — — **King** Crossword — **Answers**

Solution time: 21 mins.

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The 4s classes at Orange Community Nursery School (OCNS) enjoyed a pajama and bear day to celebrate learning about all different kinds of bears. Registration is now open for the 2019–2020 school year at our new Woodbridge and renovated Orange locations.

LOCAL SPORTS



The Brazil CT Samba 2007 Girls futsal team, which is coached by Everson Maciel out of Woodbridge, CT, recently traveled to Massachusetts to compete in the Northeast Regional Youth Futsal Competition. The girls beat out 9 different regional teams competing in their age bracket to clinch the championship game with a final score of 6–2. The girls will go on to compete in Atlantic City next month as they work to defend their National title received last July after traveling to California and winning against the top futsal teams in the nation. Players on the team include: Macie Salado, Alexa Pino, Alexa Kudasik, Mackenzie Johnson, Zoe Garces, Annabelle Belden, and Bianca Maciel.

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By Vicki & Richard HOROWITZ



Can You Be A Responsible Dog Owner and Still Love Your Canine Companion?

February is Responsible Pet Ownership Month and the 14th is a special day to express love for sweethearts with flowers, candy or a romantic dinner. This year, remember your furry, four-legged valentine, too! Make the day extraordinary by including your canine companion in the day's festivities.

Dogs need order and leadership from their "pack leader," which means that good canine manners start with you. Making the decision to become a dog owner brings a lot of responsibility and you need to build a great relationship between you and your dog and help your canine companion live a long, healthy and happy life.

- ★ Get your dog spayed or neutered. Spayed/neutered pets not only live longer and healthier lives, but they also make better companions. The best age to spay/neuter a dog is around five to six months old, at the beginning of puberty. Talk to your vet about the right time for your dog.
- 🦮 Provide proper identification. Your dog should always wear an I.D. tag with your name, address and phone number. Getting your dog microchipped gives an added layer of protection and increases the chances that he will be returned to you if he is lost or runs away.
- ★ Schedule regular check-ups with your veterinarian. Choose a veterinarian who shares your medical philosophies and beliefs; then follow his/her recommendations for vaccinations, diet, spaying/neutering, annual check-ups, and other care.
- Make time for your dog. Owning a dog is a big responsibility that takes time and discipline. Make time daily to pet, play with, do some training, take a walk, or do other activities with your dog that are fun for both of you.
- M Provide shelter for your dog. A crate or doghouse is an ideal place for your dog to rest, sleep, and feel safe. The enclosure should be large enough for your dog to sit, stand and turn around comfortably, but small enough to retain his body heat inside the shelter.
- ★ Travel safely. Keep your dog safe in the car by using a crate or by attaching the dog to a seat belt with a harness. Never let your dog ride free in the back of a pickup truck (he could be thrown into traffic) or allow him to hang his head out of the car window (a danger to his
- ★ Pick up after your dog. If your dog leaves a mess on your neighbor's

- lawn or a public area, clean it up right away.
- ★ Control nuisance behaviors. Do not allow your dog to jump on visitors or bark uncontrollably.
- ★ Keep your dog under control. Use a leash when outside. Many towns have leash laws and you want to obey those regulations.

There are some "special" things we can do for our canine friends

- ₩ Get some exercise. A spirited walk or some time at the park is a great way to burn energy and spend some quality time together.
- ★ Spend time together on a shopping spree at your favorite pet retailer or boutique. Clothing and accessories aren't the only things that will spoil your dog. How about a luxury pet bed that will send your dog to an ultra-comfortable dream world? You both will sleep easy knowing this purchase was meant to pamper.
- ** Remember this special day forever by having a one-of-a-kind pet portrait made of your dog. You will appreciate the elegance and joy that this artwork will bring for years to come.
- ₩ Give your furry friend a new toy. Nothing says "Be My Valentine" like a dog appropriate toy. Be sure it is dog-safe and your four-legged friend will get hours of enjoyment out of a new plaything. Plus, those cute little toys scattered throughout the house are just little reminders of how much you love your pup.
- ★ Bake some homemade dog biscuits for your pooch. If baking isn't your forte, pick up gourmet treats at a local pet boutique. Even our furry friends deserve to have their tummies pampered on Valentine's Day. Remember - no chocolate for our furry friends.

It doesn't really matter how you spoil your dog this Valentine's Day as long as you both have fun. Whether you opt for simple or extravagant, make it a safe and enjoyable holiday for both you and your furry best friend.

So yes, you can shower your dog with love and affection and still be a responsible dog owner! You will enhance your relationship and your furry friend will love you even more.

Vicki and Richard Horowitz, of Woodbridge, are dog behavioral therapists and trainers with Bark Busters, the world's largest dog training company. For more information, call 1-877-500-BARK (2275) or visit www.dog-training-new-haven-ct.com.





ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Doing something nice for others is typical of the generous Arian. But be prepared for some jealous types who might try to question one of your more recent acts of kindness.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to take on new responsibilities. But before you do, you might want to check out exactly what would be required of you so that you don't face any "surprises" later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It might be best to put off an important decision until a fluctuating situation becomes more stable. Recently received news could help resolve a long-standing family matter.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) If you still have a problem getting that information gap closed, you might consider asking a higher authority to resolve the matter, leaving you free to move on to another project.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A family matter needs to be dealt with at the start of the week. Once it's resolved, the Big Cat can devote more attention to that new opportunity that seems to hold so much potential.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Pay attention to those niggling doubts. They could be warning you not to make any major decisions until you've checked them out -- especially where money matters might be involved.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

A business venture might need more of your attention than you are able to provide. Consider asking a trusted friend or family member to help you work through this time crunch.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November

21) A more-positive aspect helps you get a clearer focus on how to handle your time so that you can deal with several responsibilities that are just now showing up on your schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to De-

cember 21) A very close friend (you know who that is!) has advice that could help you work through a confusing situation. So put your pride aside and ask for it. You'll be glad you did.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January

19) A workplace situation could turn a bit tense. The best way to handle it is to confront it and deal with it openly. Doing so can help reveal the underlying reasons for the problem.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February

18) A colleague's remarks appear to be especially cutting. But don't waste your time or your energy trying to deal with the situation. You have more important things to do.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

Support for your work comes as a surprise from someone you thought was critical or, at least, indifferent. Your spouse or partner has big plans for the weekend.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your spiritual strength often acts as an inspiration to help others make decisions about their lives.

Fat Cat, Thin Cat

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two cats -- one very fat, and the other way too thin. "Star," my fat cat, was adopted a year before "Comet," my skinny cat. You can probably guess that Star is the confident one, and

in fact he bullies Comet a bit. And skinny little Comet is very shy -- he won't let anyone except me pet him, and hides when anyone comes to visit. The trouble is, Comet is not gaining weight. I think Star is steal-

ing his food, but Comet won't eat unless Star is eating next to him. Any suggestions? -- Worried Cat Mama in Oak Park, Illinois

DEAR CAT MAMA: It can be tough to change a cat's eating habits. Still, give it a try. Feed Comet as usual, next to Star, but observe them

closely to see if your bigger cat is indeed taking Comet's food.

Next, bring Comet into a separate room from Star and see if he will eat if you are sitting next to him. A friend of mine who was experiencing

> a similar problem with her cats did this and had a lot of success. The only drawback is that her cat now insists that she sit next to him and pet him while he's eating!

I'd be remiss if I didn't also

suggest that you take Comet to the vet for a checkup, just to make sure that he doesn't have any underlying health issues that could be preventing him from gaining weight. The vet also may suggest a different food for Comet in the short term to make sure he's getting plenty of nutrients.

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO ASK@PAWSCORNER.COM.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN. I DON'T THINK WE'RE READY TO BE PARENTS WHEN WE CAN'T EVEN KEEP AN ARTIFICIAL PLANT ALIVE



"Five vanilla and four chocolate."

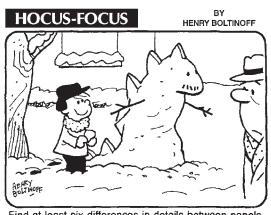
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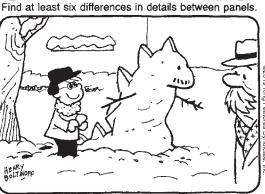












Differences: 1. Window is missing. 2. Man has mustache. 3.Boy is wearing glasses. 4. Snow creature is shorter. 5. Man's scarl is different. 6. Creature's "arm" has more branches.



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