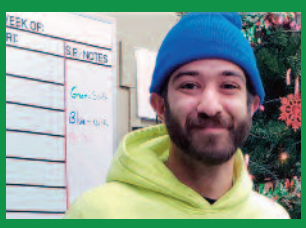
February 1, 2019

THE VILLAGER

FEATURE
5 Employee of the Month



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Thanks to Dina Glantz for submitting the cover photo, which was taken fom her home on Seminole Lane. *The Villager* welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to *cking@oronoquevillage.com*

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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

This column originally was distributed to residents as an Eblast on Friday, Jan. 18, 2019.

OVCA BOARD MEETING, JAN. 15, 2019

By Bob Grosso

To all residents: I sincerely hope that you, your families and friends had a joyful, loving holiday season!

Employee Appreciation Fund: Per request of the employees, Fred hosted a buffet breakfast in the NCB on Friday, Dec. 7. The event took place in just under an hour and the staff departed happily with holiday checks in hand which were distributed by Fred and Mark. 44.3 percent of residents contributed along with 21 districts and clubs. The total amount collected was $30,200.

THE VILLAGER

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Please direct all questions regarding *The Villager* publication, to Carol King. Unsolicited manuscripts, which we invite from all residents, should be discussed first with Carol King. We also welcome unsolicited photographs of Oronoque scenes and events, which should be submitted to Marcia Klein.

The Villager is published by the Communications Committee of The Oronoque Village Condominium Association. Disclaimer: All advertisers are paid submissions and *The Villager* makes no representation of their credibility. Neither OVCA nor OVTD discriminate in the use of facilities by resident groups.

Oronoque Country Club: Fred and I had a follow-up meeting with the VP of Operations and the new general manager, Matt Stewart. The primary topic discussed was flooding and the impact to OV residents. They recognize that there is an issue around the third hole (primarily the Boxelder area) as well as off the ninth fairway (primarily the Algonquin area). The country club has asked OV to provide a quote to paint their main ballroom this winter. They also inquired if we could help secure town approval for a shed around the water pump on Oronoque Lane.

Flood Zone: As previously reported, our surveyor, Barry Hammonds, has had significant health issues and unfortunately cannot continue with his work. We have been in the process of interviewing surveyors and evaluating options. We are hoping to have a transition plan in place this February. This plan will include initiating a proposal with options related to overall flood management and possible reduction of some of the remaining 53 units in the flood zone.

Town Hall Meeting: We will be meeting with the mayor, our councilmen, South District 8 and North District 9, and other town officials with the primary topic being the flooding issue at OV and Oronoque Country Club.

Insurance: Good news! There have not been any claims to date, this fiscal year, July 1, 2018 through Dec. 31, 2018. OV's largest liability claim of $435,000 has been settled by Greater New York for $111,322. This means that our liability loss run data has been updated from 168.72 percent down to 87.43 percent.

Communications Committee: Due to family reasons, Harriet Liss has stepped down from the Communications Committee. We thank her for her service over the past several months proofing The Villager and working with Carol King. I am pleased to announce and welcome Jeanette Caron as our newest member of the Communications Committee.

Ad Hoc Golf Tournament Committee Volunteers: The golf tournament is months away on Monday, Aug. 12, 2019. This is a great opportunity, especially for new residents, to volunteer. This has been a very successful fundraiser for our village and charitable organizations which receive a significant portion of the proceeds. The committee volunteers begin organizing in the spring. If you would like to volunteer or if you have inquiries regarding helping out with this event, please contact the ad hoc chair, Judy Waldeyer, Fred or myself.

Human Resources Committee: The HR Committee met with all of the employees in December. The most pressing concern of the employees is the negative way some residents interact with them. This concern is further discussed on page 6 of the January 15th issue of The Vil-

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER: MIKE CAPLINGER

Mike Caplinger, head mechanic for the Oronoque Village Maintenance Department, was named Employee of the Month for December 2018.

The Employee of the Month program was launched recently by Director of Maintenance Operations Mark Rhatigan. Maintenance Department staff members vote, monthly, on the co-worker whom they feel should get the title of Employee of the Month. As part of the recognition, the winner receives a gift card as well as temporary possession of the Oronoque Village Employee of the Month Trophy Belt.

"It's great to get this recognition," says Mike. "It's nice that my co-workers think so highly of me."

Mike has worked at Oronoque Village since 2009. He started as a member of the grounds crew. However, thanks to his training in mechanics -- taking automotive courses at Bunnell High School as well studying aviation mechanics at Sikorsky Airport -- he quickly moved up. He took on the position of assistant mechanic in 2015.

He has held his current title since June 2018 and is accountable for keeping the OV work trucks up and running and in tip-top shape. "I like that I play an important role in the company operation," says Mike. "I enjoy having the responsibility."

Mike notes that he has always had an interest in -- and enjoyed working on -- cars. He currently drives a 2006 Subaru Impreza 200WRX sports car, which he rebuilt himself.

"Mike does tremendous work on the OV vehicles and machinery, but he also is a key player when it comes to pitching in and helping his co-workers," says Executive Director Fred Rodriguez. "Mike will shovel snow, blow leaves and do anything else that is needed to get a job done.

"We appreciate the good work that he does." OV

lager. Changes to the office (location of entrance) in the maintenance building will further improve safety of residents and provide space for some organizational changes within the department.

New Business: The following motions were approved at the meeting:

- Motion to approve future annual donations from SAC to the Employee Appreciation Fund up to $300.
- Motion to disallow use of drones at OV except for official purposes under the direction of the executive director.
- Motion to disallow live streaming at OV.

New Employee: Marilyn Williams has been added to the office staff. She will be doing some of the front office work. Linda Arvers will provide administrative assistance both in the office and in the Maintenance Department.

House Committee: Walk-throughs of both the NCB and the SCB were completed in December. Most of the issues relate to housekeeping and the need for paint touch-ups. Fred has followed up with maintenance and stated the repairs/issues will be accomplished by the end of February.

Resident poker players have requested new poker tables. Due to the expense, Fred is having maintenance refurbish existing tables as a first step.

The piano in the SCB is in need of significant repair. Presently it is stored on the stage and is not to be moved off the stage for any reason. Moving it can cause damage to the piano and the need and expense of retuning. The piano can be repositioned on the stage as needed. Fred is exploring the cost and value of piano restoration.

The sauna is not operational at this time. In order to meet current codes, it requires new controls, alarm system, new wiring, plumbing at significant cost (approximately $7,000.00).

Fred has been investigating an integrated gym access system, which was recommended by our insurance company. However it is cost-prohibitive. Fred will institute a liability release form for all residents. These forms will be renewed on a yearly basis. OV

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Left, some of the participating artists in the current Galerie OV Show. Right, People's Choice Award winners from the previous show, "The Way We Were," from left, Fred Bridschge, Kathleen Wells and Sonya DeBiase.

A SMASHING SEASON OPENER FOR THE OV ARTS GUILD'S 'SCAPES'

Story by Sharon Sells ~ Photos by Ray Vermette

After all the stresses the holidays can bring, the opening of the OV Arts Guild winter season 2019 was a wonderful respite from "guest" fatigue, "food" fatigue and "clean-up" fatigue!

On Sunday, Jan. 6, 60-plus Villagers gathered at Galerie OV in the South Clubhouse to view the "Scapes" exhibit. This show features a variety of art forms: stained glass, bas relief, crochet, photography and paintings.

Also visible in this exhibit is the love that the artists put into their work. Stop in to see the show and cast your vote for The People's Choice Award.

The participating artists in "Scapes" are Carole Guglielmino, Marcia Hayducky, Kathleen Toombs, Lynette Steinfeldt, Joseph Hayducky, Jeffrey Sells, Cynthia Harms, Virginia Brown, Robert Collins, Betty Mulholland, Kirsten Olsen, Carroll Bowser, Barry Wilensky, Kathleen Wells, Mary Haynes, Wallace Sloves, Cheryl Comen, Lois Foster, Nancy Gloh-Rosenthal, Ben Snaider, Mike Lucas, Peter Feick, Fred Bridschge, Pearl Spodick, Mark Sills and Wendy Swain.

The artists were invited to discuss their pieces and covered aspects of their methods including how they do it, why they do it and the evocation of memories that motivate them to do it. Their works reflect their interests, experience, efforts and feelings.

We learned a lot and we laughed a lot while we enjoyed each others' company.

During the reception, the People's Choice Award winners from the previous show, The Way We Were," were announced. First place went to Sonya DeBiase for "World War II, Three Brothers," 1943, and second place to Kathleen Wells for "Cameras," 1900-1970. Tied for third place were Jeanette Caron for "Young Historian," 1938 and Fred Bridschge for "Aunt Kay's Wedding," 1920.

None of the Arts Guild events happens without the generosity of our volunteers. Thank you for your selfless and constant support ... from set-up to clean-up to presentation, we are so grateful for your hard work. And a big shout out to our wonderful Maintenance Department staff members who helped us hang the lovely stained glass and set up the seating and tables.

We hope you will join us for our next event. On March 14 the Arts Guild will present a wonderful program featuring a performance by professional musician and OV resident Michael Coppola and singer, Maria Tiscia. Michael plays an instrument of his own design, a 9-string guitar. The program will delight us with songs we know and love, and new renditions.

Please join the OV Arts Guild! Your $15 gets you free admission to all events, which take place here at OV. So, in the snow ... you can still go. OV

More information about the OV Arts Guild appears on page 10.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

'TAI CHI WITH JONATHAN' WILL BEGIN ON APRIL 8

Residents have shown a high degree of interest in attending tai chi classes. Therefore, two one-hour classes per week will be offered in two separate six-week programs.

The schedule is as follows: evening classes wil be held on Mondays at 5:15 p.m. starting April 8. Morning classes occur on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. starting April 11. Classes will be held in the auditorium of NCB.

The fee for the programs will be announced in an upcoming issue of The Villager.

Please contact Lucy Clifford if you wish to participate: lmclifford@yahoo.com or phone/text 203-644-7710.

'CHAIR YOGA WITH ROMY'

Chair Yoga with Romy will be held on Thursdays, starting Feb. 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the NCB Library.

Chair yoga is a gentle, mellow and restorative movement practice for men and women needing to heal, grow in strength, flexibility, and stamina -- no matter what their fitness level.

Additional benefits include addressing illness or injury that needs healing movement, relieving anxiety and depression and helping cognitive function.

Romy is a certified holistic health practitioner who holds additional certifications in Chair Yoga Instruction and Hands on Healing.

There is a complimentary first class. The cost thereafter is $10 per class or $50 for a six-week session. Please bring a yoga mat.

To sign up or for more information, call 203-610-3781 or email RomyGanser@yahoo.com.

OV WRITERS GROUP ANNOUNCES TWO LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is pleased to announce two new OV Library additions: "The Oronoque Village Writers Group Collection" and "The Oronoque Village Writers Group: An Anthology." The collection includes a variety of works -- essays, fiction, poetry, memoirs by our authors. This is a notebook designed to expand with the addition of new authors and new works.

The anthology is a small group of works collected and published by Steven Learner, son of the late founder of the OVWG, Len Learner, with the help of Sylvia Penzel, a former resident of Oronoque Village.

The anthology includes works by early members of the OVWG. We are all honored by this gift in tribute to Len Learner. We are sure he would enjoy reading it and we are sure he would have some wonderful words to write about it!

WEEKENDERS PRESENTS DIXIELAND BAND ON MARCH 23

Mark your calendars for March 23 when Weekenders presents the Eastside Ramblers Dixieland Band at NCB at 6 p.m. This group consists of freelance musicians: teachers, a college professor, a conductor and a chef. They were formed in 2010 to play for a fundraising event and the band was so well-received and the musicians had such a great time performing, they subsequently formed a permanent group to share their love of music with others.

The Eastside Ramblers have performed for theaters, churches, outdoor concerts and senior centers. The musicians have a wide range of professional experiences including symphony and chamber orchestras, chamber, military bands, musical theater, big band and small group jazz as well as ventures into popular, commercial and Latin music.

Plus, it wouldn't be March without Weekenders serving delicious corned beef sandwiches and salads for St. Paddy's Day and, of course, a fabulous array of desserts.

To secure a reservation, get your checks for $22 per person made out to Weekenders in our box at the North Clubhouse by March 10. Please include any instructions for seating. Questions? Call Carol Tepper 203-375-2101.

FUNSEEKERS' PRESENTS DAMIEN CONNELLY BAND

Prepare to tap your feet to an Irish jig or reel as Funseekers features entertainment by The Damien Connolly Family during its St. Patrick's week celebration on Tuesday, March 12, at 7 p.m. at SCB.

Damien and his family will perform traditional Irish songs, along with Irish step dancing demonstrations, for your enjoyment. Samples of Bailey's Irish cream and homemade Irish soda bread will round out the evening.

DISTRICT 3 MEETING

District 3 will hold its first meeting of 2019 on March 13 in the South Clubhouse at 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: ***To ensure accuracy, information must be submitted, via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of*** **The Villager,** ***on Feb. 15, is Feb. 4 at noon.***

CORNHOLE

• Cornhole , a bean bag toss game, is played on Thursdays at 10 a.m. at SCB. Everyone is welcome. Questions? Call Sue or Ralph Trapasso at 203-916-7156.

CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesday Feb. 13 and Feb. 27. Please bring a news article to the meeting.

DOLLCRAFTERS

• Dollcrafters meets in the NCB Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible study group meets at 10:30 a.m. on the second and fourth Fridays of each month in the NCB Library. All ladies are welcome. The next meetings take place Feb. 8 and Feb. 22 We will be studying the Gospel of Luke. Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

LINE DANCING

• Line dancing takes place Wednesdays at NCB. A beginner class is held at 9:30 a.m. followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m.

MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

• Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group meets in the SCB Back Card Room at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays Feb. 26, March 26 and April 30. Please bring information and be prepared to participate in discussions.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

• Anyone who enjoys summer socializing in and around the pools is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the second Thursday of each month. Come with your favorite appetizer and/or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-375-1515.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

• Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons next to the kitchen at SCB. Annual dues are $10. Questions? Call Cynthia Harms at 203-402-9083.

OV WRITERS GROUP

• The OV Writers Group meets alternate Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Card Room at NCB. All are welcome. The group encourages its members to write, to expand their writing and publishing horizons and to find support in a trusting, respectful and professional environment. For information, contact Mary at MvonZ@optonline.net/203-767-9760.

SEARCH FOR OV HISTORY UNDERWAY

In preparation for Oronoque Village's 50th anniversary celebration in 2021, Sandy Lunt is searching for historical information regarding OV clubs, groups, committees, etc.

If you would like to discuss this with him, please call 203-377-5833.

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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: ANITA KARASU

Story and photo by Carol King

The artist of the month for February is Anita Karasu, a multi-talented artist who works in clay, paint and photography. "I majored in sculpture while I was a student in the Fine Art Department at the School of Architecture at Cornell University," says Anita. "Later I migrated to other media, including painting in oils and taking and developing my own photographs. At one time I had a dark room, but I now concentrate on painting in oils. I have a painting studio here at my unit at Oronoque."

In 2016, Anita had a very successful foray into the world of abstract art. Her painting, titled "Abstract Landscape," was the winner of the People's Choice Award for a Galerie OV summer exhibition.

"At that time I painted the piece particularly to be entered into the summer show, which had the theme of abstract art," she explains. "I rarely paint in a completely abstract style, therefore this was a new direction for me. Since then I am painting more and more in a somewhat abstract style."

She adds, "When I painted that piece, I envisioned a landscape that does not include specific trees, leaves or anything 'realistic,' but at the same time still reads as a landscape to the viewer. This was a challenge, but I like challenges."

Anita, a former art teacher in the New Rochelle, N.Y., public school system, now offers classes at OV. A beginner oil painting class takes place on Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the art room at SCB. These five-week sessions cost $50.

Anita explained, "Often participants continue month after month, and reach a stage where they can no longer be considered beginners! "

Before moving to Oronoque Village, Anita lived on Cape Cod, Mass., where she was able to pursue her passion for painting and taking photographs. She had successful exhibitions of her work at the Falmouth Art Gallery on Cape Cod as well as other venues. Also, she mentored high school art students and started a group of artists who met monthly to critique each other's work.

She arrived in Oronoque Village during the spring of 2013, moving to Stratford to be closer to her children and grandchildren. "I like it here," she says. "It's a friendly and quiet place to live and I like the lush, green scenery. There is always a lot to do and it's not too far from New York City." OV

ABOUT THE OV ARTS GUILD

By Judith Lessler

It's only natural that in 2016, a part of the hard-working House Committee tasked with decorating the clubhouses during the renovations evolved into a more focused Oronoque club ... The Arts Guild.

Early activity included the popular "Arty Party" where residents could share their interest in crafts and the creative, visual and performing arts in an informal social setting.

Under the leadership of Ray Vermette, president, and Barbara Stewart, vice president, the programs grew. This dedicated group has devoted itself to bringing into Oronoque Village a wide variety of stimulating programs and classes from Artist of the Month, featuring the work of one resident for four weeks, to workshops in beading, painting, sculpture and pottery as well as literary readings and foreign films.

Additionally, the Galerie OV quarterly art shows at SCB feature works by our multitalented Villagers and subjects of community interest. Who knew, for example, that your quiet neighbor across the street creates inspired art!

All residents who are interested in knowing and experiencing so many aspects of the arts are invited to join the OV Arts Guild.

For more information, please contact Barbara Stewart at 203-612-1373. OV

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CALENDAR

For the latest on OV news and events, go to* www.oronoquevillage.com *or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box. O=Open / C=Closed

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 5:00 p.m. – It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere, NCB (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

- 5:00 p.m. – Men's Club Super Bowl Party, NCB

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O
- 11:30 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 3:30 p.m. – Arts Guild Planning Committee, NCB (C)
- 6:45 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Beginner Bridge Group, NCB, Library (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Carp Poker Game, SCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB (O)
- 7:30 p.m. – SAC Mtg, NCB, B/R (O)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB, C/R2 (O)

- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Men's Club Cards, SCB, C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers Board Meeting, SCB (C)

FUNSEEKERS' SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, April 9: An evening of songs performed by local tenor, Michael Rea, who will make his first appearance at a Funseekers event at 7 p.m. at SCB.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 8:30 a.m. – Communications Committee Mtg, NCB (O)
- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Men's Club Billiards, NCB (C)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:30 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R (O)
- 700 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library (O)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Beginner Oil Painting, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilters, NCB, C/R (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – House Committee, NCB (O)
- 1:00 p.m. – Dominoes, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 1:00 p.m. – Mahjongg and Card Playing, NCB, C/R (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, Aud (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, Library (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *The Wife,* NCB (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10: No events scheduled

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee, NCB (O)
- 11:30 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)

CALENDAR

- 6:45 p.m. – Beginner Bridge Group, NCB, Library (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Carp Poker Game, SCB (C)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

- 9:00 a.m. – Yoga for Seniors, SCB, C/R2 (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba Gold, NCB, Aud (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 2:00 p.m. – Men's Club Cards, SCB, C/R (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers General Meeting, SCB (O)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *The Wife,* SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Men's Club Billiards, NCB (C)
- 5:00 p.m. – Poker, NCB, C/R (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)
- 6:30 p.m. – Men's Poker, SCB, C/R (O)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Beginner Oil Painting, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB (O)
- 1:00 p.m. – Dominoes, SCB, C/R2 (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, Aud (C)
- 1:30 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Writers Group, NCB, C/R (O)
- 2:00 p.m. – Rummikub, SCB, Lounge (C)
- 4:00 a.m. – Winter Pool Social Group, SCB (O)
- 6:00 p.m. – Jerry's Poker, SCB, C/R1 (O)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB (O)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17: No events scheduled

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- 9:00 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O)
- 11:30 a.m. – Chair Yoga, NCB, Aud (O)
- 6:45 p.m. – Bridge, NCB, C/R (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Beginner Bridge Group, NCB, Library (O)
- 7:00 p.m. – Carp Poker Game, SCB (C)
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB (O)

SAC SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

Please mark your 2019 calendar for:

- Saturday evening, April 27 -- "OV's Got Talent " (new event -- see page 19 for details).

- Saturday morning, June 1 -- Our 6th annual Alzheimer's Morning Mini Walk and Car Collection Show.

- Sunday, June 30 -- A Red, White, & Blue Patriotic Celebration.

- Saturday evening, Aug. 17 -- Our Fabulous Summer Pool Party. (The big splash of the summer!)

WORKS BY THE OV WRITERS GROUP

A SAFE PLACE

By Mitchell Fink

The first words I ever remember hearing came from my Grandma Gertie telling me I was "God's perfect child." Looking back over these many, many years, I could not have asked for a nicer phrase coming from a human voice. God, evidently, was a big idea, and for some unexplained reason he decided to bestow his perfection on me.

Perfection, I later learned, can have its drawbacks. Little annoyances in life – a paper cut, a broken shoelace – can become puzzlingly catastrophic to one who is made to feel perfect, But Grandma Gertie thankfully took care of that too. She just let me know she was praying for me every day, non-stop, and that God would see to it that her prayers were answered.

A lover of classical music, she bought me my first ever record, "Rusty in Orchestraville," believed to be the first recording ever made for the express purpose of proving to children that classical music might actually be fun. My grandmother also had a beautifully melodic voice, and she used it to serenade me with the Cameroonian children's song, "How Do You Do, My Partner," over and over again, until I could sing it with her.

She also made best the apple pie on the planet. If there was ever a safe place in my life, it was in the presence of my grandmother.

But that doesn't mean I didn't regularly abuse this idyllic privilege. For one thing, she never revealed her age. Any time I asked her, she would say, "I'm 39, like Jack Benny," who claimed throughout a very long career in comedy that his age was frozen at that same number.

But as I grew from childhood, I figured out a way to trick her, first by asking her when she came to America – 1905, she said. Then, many weeks later, I asked her how old she was when she came to America – 10, she said. I held no special aptitude for math, but this one I figured out. Of course, I never busted her with an "ah-ha moment," preferring to let her continue being 39 for as long as she wanted.

When she cooked for us – my younger brother, younger sister, and myself – and we weren't eating heartily enough to satisfy her, she would pick up the phone receiver and shout, "Police Headquarters," as if she was ordering some operator somewhere to connect her to the local precinct so she could facilitate our immediate arrest. She obviously didn't think we saw her finger pressing down on the plunger, effectively shutting off the phone, but we watched her every move.

And instead of saying, "Oh, come on, Grandma, not the 'Police Headquarters' bit again," we simply put our heads down and ate the rest of our food.

If she thought I might be going off the rails somewhat and not progressing quickly enough in my life to suit her, she would step up her prayer activities by calling in reinforcements. She would actually pay a man known only to me as Mr. Solomon to pray for me, specifically for me, at $5 a pop. If I was flying anywhere, I had to furnish my grandmother with both my departure time and arrival time, so she and (I suppose) Mr. Solomon could cover me for the duration of the flight.

I guess it worked. She kept me safe. Ultimately, I don't know whatever became of Mr. Solomon, but Grandma Gertie lived for another 55 years after Jack Benny's age, and I'm still here. OV

CAUGHT RED-HANDED

A sonnet by Kees Adema

night had fallen - motionless in th'alley he was biding his time

surreptitiously checking the blade honed to perfection

staying still all the time thus avoiding detection

though his heart now beat faster foretelling the crime

her approaching clogs clanged loud on the clinkers - she then opened the door

quite unaware of what lurked in the dark

as the hooded threat began to size up his mark

from the shadows he pounced knocking her to the floor

unfolding a stiletto should not be that hard

but the knife caught his thumb, the blade did not buckle

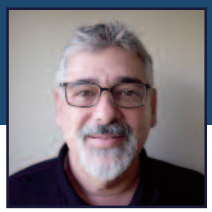
and all that remained was one bloody knuckle

the scoundrel'd been dealt an unfortunate card

the dastardly deed by this bastardly bandit

miser'bly failed as cops caught him red-handed. OV

Writers Group Works continue on page 17



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BEYOND THE VILLAGE

As part of Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday celebration, The Norwalk Symphony and The New Paradigm Theatre will partner for a one-night only production of "West Side Story" at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Norwalk City Hall, 125 East Ave.

In addition to presenting the musical, the two organizations announced they have selected a local nonprofit to benefit from ticket sales: The Center for Immigrant Opportunity (B1C), which is a nonprofit organization that educates, employs, empowers and engages immigrants and the community.

Further, The Norwalk Symphony Orchestra and New Paradigm Theatre have cast Officer Dave Vetare of the Norwalk Police Department to play the role of Officer Krupke. Vetare is a 26-year veteran of the police department. As part of a partnership, the Norwalk PD will present a free self-defense workshop on Feb. 3, 2-4 p.m., at Norwalk High School.

For tickets or more information, visit www.norwalksymphony.org or call 203-956-6771.

Leonard Bernstein at 100 is a worldwide celebration of the composer, conductor, educator, musician, cultural ambassador and humanitarian, which officially began on Aug. 25, 2017 and will continue through Aug. 25, 2019.

~

The Kweskin Theatre in Stamford presents "Shakespeare in Love" through Feb. 23. Young Will Shakespeare has writer's block ... the deadline for his new play -- "Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter" -- is fast approaching but he's in desperate need of inspiration. That is, until he finds his muse – Viola. This beautiful young woman is Will's greatest admirer and will stop at nothing (including breaking the law) to appear in his next play. Against a bustling background of mistaken identity, ruthless scheming and backstage theatrics, Will's love for Viola quickly blossoms and inspires him to write his greatest masterpiece.

For tickets, call the box office at 203-461-6358 or visit www.https://www.curtaincallinc.com.

The theater is located at 1349 Newfield Ave. within the Sterling Farms Golf Course. OV

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ACCREDITED BUSINESS

HELLO ~ (ROBO) CALLING

By Elisabeth Breslav

I never realized I am such a popular person until I started to get all these telephone calls from people who seemed interested to know how I am today. I am not talking about messages from my loving kids or my caring neighbors. No, these calls come from all over the country, including Atlanta, Georgia, and Milford, Ohio, and my home state has been represented by Danbury, Seymour, Watertown and Windsor Locks.

Some of my callers seem to move around a lot, like the mysteriously named "Unavailable" who might attempt to reach me several times a day a few days in a row, each time from a different number according to my phone registry. Others use odd names like "Round Cube" or unknown to me acronyms like PPFA, and recently I have been receiving what are identified as "Political Calls". Imagine an aspiring senator or representative taking the time to inquire about the health of little old me!

But, and I hate to admit this, little by little I am beginning to feel less flattered by all this attention because the calls often seem to come just as I am preparing my dinner or sitting down to enjoy it. Also, I am kind of fussy about unplanned and unwanted interruptions on weekends – especially Sunday afternoons. To be totally honest, I have reached the point of being fed up with what really has turned into a constant invasion of my privacy. What to do?

Advice columnists in magazines like The AARP offer helpful suggestions: Install Caller–ID service on your phone. If you don't know the name of the caller or recognize the number, don't answer the call. This sounds eminently reasonable, except if you've reached that stage in life where the name of even your dearest friend occasionally disappears in the mist of time. So do you stand by your ringing phone, asking yourself do I know this person or don't I?

As for recognizing the number, the last time I was at Staples to buy an ink cartridge the check-out person asked for my telephone number, and all I could come up with was that of my daughter who does not have an account with the store. As a matter of fact, she does not even live in Stratford. Fortunately, the helpful young man found me on his computer; meanwhile, the people made waiting in line did so with facial expressions that ranged from exasperation to amusement to pity. And I am expected to identify a caller by the number?!

I guess I'm on my own in dealing with this issue and I am happy to share a couple of approaches I have tried. Upon being asked "How are you today," I gush forth with "Oh, I have such a miserable migraine –do you (the caller) ever get one? And what do you take for it? And today of all days, when I have to take my pooch to the vet because the poor dear got a flea in its ear – do you have a dog? No? A cat maybe?" While you're doing this, don't come up for air, don't pause for a response and keep going until you hear a click. End of call.

I use a different technique for toll-free 888 calls, because these invariably represent serious computer scammers. The last one I received supposedly came from Windows and alerted me to the possible loss of my (nonexistent) contract with them. I put on my sternest voice and thundered "young man, do you ever stop to think how your mother would feel if she knew that her son is scamming people like herself? SHAME ON YOU"! Click. End of call.

Have I been successful in limiting the number of these pesky calls? It's too soon to tell. (There were three while I was writing this essay.) But I confess enjoying the "So There!" feeling, as opposed to just being frustrated each time one comes in. OV

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Funseekers to Attend "Hair: The Love-Rock Musical"

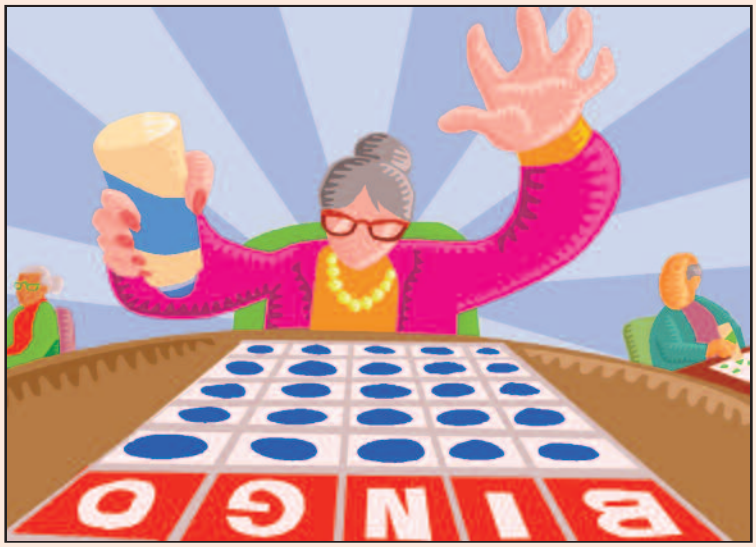
It's 1967: the Vietnam war is raging…the Age of Aquarius is dawning. Claude and his "tribe," a group of politically active, long-haired hippies, are fighting the establishment, dodging the draft, getting high, living and loving in NY City. When Claude receives his draft notice, he must decide between joining his friends in resisting the draft, or bow to the pressures of society and his conservative parents; thereby sacrificing his ideals and, possibly, his life.

Join Funseekers on Sunday, April 7th for this 3 PM show at the Edgerton Center for Performing Arts at Sacred Heart University. Memorable songs include… "Aquarius", "Good Morning Starshine", "Hair" and also "Let the Sunshine In".

Tickets are $12 and available to Funseekers members. Drop your check in our mailbox at the NCB to reserve your tickets or you may pay for them following our February 12th and March 12th events at SCB. If you have any questions contact Ann Gallo, Funseekers Trips Coordinator, at (203) 380-1022.

Refreshments will be served

Open to all



Questions?
Call Sandy Lunt
203-377-5833.

Bingo: Presented by the Men's Club

Thursday, February 21
at 7:00 pm at SCB

Come and bring your friends. Cost: $2.50/card

GOT TALENT?

Looking for OV singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, jugglers, comedians, etc. for our April 27th variety show featuring YOU!

All Talent Levels WELCOME
Opportunity to "SHOW OFF" your Talent
We need your Participation

Performers, please respond before:
Friday, February 22!

Linda: 203-970-6159 or lseastwood3@gmail.com

Pat: 203-375-1788 or spodickp@gmail.com

Sponsored by Social Activities Committee (SAC)

The Oronoque Village Book Club meets at 7 p.m.
on the first Wednesday of the month at NCB.
All Villagers are welcome.
Need a ride or information? Call Hinda at 203-385-3855.

The book for **February 6** is *Beartown* by Fredrick Backman.

The book for the **March 6** meeting is *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Relay.

Lilac Girls is inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine. This debut novel reveals a story of love, redemption, and secrets that were hidden for decades. New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But her world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939 and then sets its sights on France. The story crosses continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline strives to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

"Matinee"...
Songs & Jest...at its best!

Funseekers kickoff event for 2019 will feature "Matinee," a 4-part female Barbershop octet. This will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 12th, 7 PM, at SCB.

Doors will open at 6:15 PM.

These eight entertaining ladies came together 20 years ago and they haven't stopped singing (or talking, for that matter) since. Known for their witty repartee and talent of weaving songs and stories together, you are sure to have an enjoyable evening. Songs range from old standards to parody to pop.

Admission is $2 members ($10 annual dues), $5 guests. BYOB/wine/food with snacks provided. Coffee/tea/beverages and desserts will follow the event. No reservations required.

Call Bob Krakovich at (203) 752-6105 with questions.

JOIN US FOR
"IT'S 5 O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE"
ON THE FIRST FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH
AT NCB at 5 P.M.

BYOB * Relax and Mingle
Drop By With An
Appetizer to Share

Hosted by SAC
We hope to see you on February 1

HADASSAH WINTER LUNCHEON

All Villagers are invited to attend Hadassah's Winter Luncheon on February13 at 12:30 p.m. at the Red Lotus Restaurant, 872 Bridgeport Avenue, Shelton (Stop & Shop Shopping Center).

Entrees that you may pick from are: Steak Teriyaki, General Tso's Chicken, Crispy Shredded Beef, Chicken or Beef with Broccoli or Sauted Mixed Vegetables. All selections are served with soup or salad, California roll, fried rice, soda and dessert.

To partake in this delicious luncheon, please put your checks - made out to Hadassah for $25 - with your menu selection written on it and place in our box at the North Clubhouse.

Questions? Call Carol at 203-375-2101 or Barbara at 203-378-7781

OV Karaoke Club

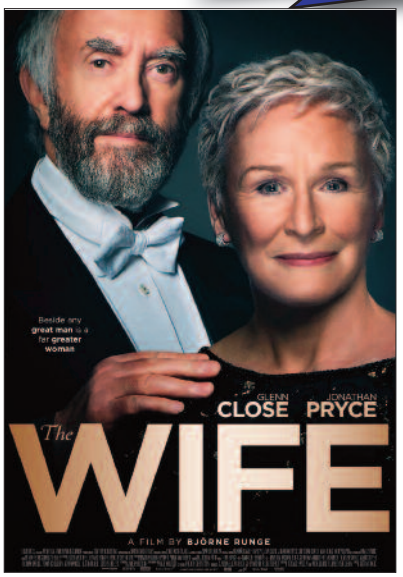
No fees or dues
No commitments
Just fun!

Join us for our February event on **Friday, February 22** in the South Clubhouse Auditorium from 7–9pm.

Come sing or just listen to your friends and neighbors showing off their talents. No need to RSVP…just come on over, grab a seat, and either watch or join the fun by putting in a song or two!

BYOB, food, and refreshments!

The Movie Club Presents
The Wife



Friday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m. at NCB
Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. at SCB
$1 admission includes popcorn

After nearly forty years of marriage, Joan and Joe Castleman (Glenn Close and Jonathan Pryce) are complements. Where Joe is casual, Joan is elegant. Where Joe is vain, Joan is self-effacing. And where Joe enjoys his very public role as Great American Novelist, Joan pours her considerable intellect, grace, charm and diplomacy into the private role of Great Man's Wife. Joe is about to be awarded the Nobel Prize for his acclaimed and prolific body of work. Joe's literary star has blazed since he and Joan first met in the late 1950. *The Wife* interweaves the story of the couple's youthful passion and ambition with a portrait of a marriage, thirty-plus years later -- a lifetime's shared compromises, secrets, betrayals, and mutual love.

The Movie Club was founded by Len Learner and is sponsored by Marcia Klein, Dee Tuozzoli and innumerable volunteers.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Screenings take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the NCB Card Room at 10 a.m.

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