

July 15, 2021



# THE VILLAGER



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## FEATURES:

- 4 SAC's "50 & Fabulous" Cocktail Party
- 5 50th Anniversary Gala Info
- 10 Compliance Committee Report
- 12 Monitors & Substitutes Wanted
- 13 OV Snapshots: Flower Power!
- 14 Pickleball Club BBQ
- 16 Works by the OV Writer's Group
- 18 From the Community
- 19 Re-Joyce With Joyce
- 20 Club & Group Events



## NEWS DEPARTMENTS:

- 8 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 10 ACTIVITIES
- 12 CALENDAR

Thank you to Peter Feick for submitting the cover photos of the SAC "50 & Fabulous" Cocktail Party. A recap of this event appears on page 4.

The Villager welcomes photo contributions for cover consideration. Submissions must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com)



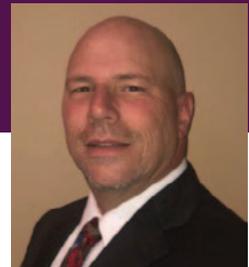
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## SAC '50 & FABULOUS' COCKTAIL PARTY GETS RAVE REVIEWS

By Dee Varholak & Dianne Binford  
 Photos by Peter Feick

The North Clubhouse was buzzing with excitement for the SAC "50 & Fabulous Cocktail Party," which took place on Saturday, June 12. Everyone was so excited to finally be able to get together once again and socialize.

The D.J. for the night was Earl Crutchfield who — with his brother, Jim Crutchfield. — has played at SAC's Sock Hop events in previous years.

The food served at the party was packaged appetizers presented in containers with decorative 1950s' stickers on top. Stuffed with pastry puffs, chicken wrap swirl, cheese and crackers plus strawberries, there were nothing but rave reviews for the food.

Kudos to SAC reps and alternates for all their hard work; 230 containers were prepared on the morning of the event. This would not have been possible without the help of volunteers,

Dorothy Tanski baked cookies for everyone, packaged with love in clear treat bags beautifully adorned with black and gold ribbons.

Step right up at the balloon-bedazzled bar for your choice of wine and taking one back to a friend. The wine flowed!

Speaking of bedazzled: Elegant black tablecloths, gold flowers in beautiful little lamp shade "vases" sprinkled with little star lights, punctuated with gold and black balloons. Gold and black ribbons. Beautiful ... Fifty and Fabulous! Everyone came ready to party!

Much ado about the very fancy gold and black tickets in beautiful gold envelopes with attendees' names on them. Gold nametags finished off the gold and black theme.

Volunteers Edie Briner, Dee Varholak, Sonya DeBiase and Monica Dalton stepped up to help out when really needed. Treasurer, Linda Eastwood assisted with the shopping and compared pricing with SAC Chair Mary Ann Weaver (coordinator of this event) to stay within budget.

SAC's "50 & Fabulous Cocktail Party" was a huge success due to all the residents who came to enjoy the moment of us all being together once again.

This event was just a kick-off to the "50 & Fabulous Gala" that will be coming up in September.

Stay tuned for more upcoming events at Oronoque Village and join in for our celebrations coming up soon. **ov**



SAC volunteers, Bottom row, from left, Janet Lisak, Sonya DeBiase, SAC Chair Mary Ann Weaver and Celeste Jardim. Top row, Karen Battista, Kathy Flynn, Dee Varholak, Deb Aubin, Stephanie Fians, Dianne Binford, Debbie Lamberti and Linda Eastwood.



Seated: Barbara Zuffa, Anne Chagon and Maryiln Grosner. Standing, Peggy Barrett and Pearl Spodick.



Wendy Steinfeld, Lee Schlafer and Debbie Grosso.



# 50 & Fabulous Gala

## Introduction

Dear Friends,

Our *50th Oronoque Village Gala Celebration* is fast approaching. We are working diligently to provide a lovely evening of friendship, delicious cuisine, and fabulous entertainment. You will be receiving your invitation and response card in your mailbox on July 1st.

A bit of history... For those of you who were not here when we celebrated our 40th Anniversary, here's what occurred. We planned on a one evening event, but due to the amazing interest of the Villagers, many more residents signed up to attend than occupancy could hold. So, we held two exact duplicate events so everyone could celebrate. Both evenings were spectacular!

Back to now... In anticipation of many Villagers again wanting to attend this special half-century celebration, we will be planning for one or two events, depending on the number of reservations. *Gala I* will be on Saturday, September 18th and *Gala II* will be on Sunday, September 19th (if 2nd date is needed).

We welcome reservations from singles, couples, or small groups of no more than 10 people per table. If you are forming your own group, all RSVPs must be included with checks and names in one envelope in order to be processed together. All guests will be assigned to reserved tables of 10. No reservation will be held without accompanying check. Residents only may attend per OVCA.

Because we do not know how many reservations to expect, the first reservations received until occupancy for that night is reached will be assigned to *Gala I* - September 18th; the second set of reservations received will be assigned to *Gala II* - September 19th. Please do not ask for a specific date to attend. (Note: Once capacities are reached, reservations will be closed.) You will be notified which Gala you will attend if there are 2 events scheduled due to demand.

We know you understand how complex planning for this Gala celebration is. Our strict deadlines are necessary so that we can meet our contractual obligations with our caterer and entertainers. Please be assured that *Gala I* and *Gala II* will be duplicate events in every aspect!

Per person cost is \$75.00

Reservation cards with checks must be returned to North Clubhouse mailbox in lobby marked "50th Gala" no later than August 2nd.

Questions: Contact Cheryl Dwyer, Gala Chair, 203-375-4961



*Celebrate Our Milestone At An Elegant Event*



*The Gala  
To Be Held At Oronoque Village  
September 18 & 19, 2021  
Half past four in the afternoon*

—  
*Signature Jubilee Cocktail Upon Entrance*

—  
*Keyboard and Vocalist Elizabeth Ashkins*

—  
*Pasta Stations  
Antipasto Table with Assorted European Meats and Cheeses  
Shrimp Cocktail Display*

—  
*Specialty Salad*

—  
*Choice of:  
Beef Tenderloin with Demiglaze  
Grilled Halibut with Lemon Butter Caper Sauce  
Semi-Boneless Cornish Hen With Herbed Rice & Cognac Sauce  
Vegetarian: Eggplant Rollatini*

—  
*Potato and Vegetable*

—  
*Poached Pear with Raspberry Sauce and Mascarpone  
Tea/Coffee*

—  
*BYOB (Wine Glasses Provided)*

—  
*Cabaret Concert Performed by Frank Mastrone and  
Special Guest Jessie Janet Richards McGarty*

*Frank and Jessie have performed on Broadway, nationally and internationally.  
Frank is coming back to Oronoque following a standing ovation at our 40th Gala Event*

—  
*Semi-Formal Attire (Jackets Required)*





Our Premier Performer

# Introducing Frank Mastrone



*This wonderful Broadway singer & actor will entertain at the Gala*



*Special Guest*  
**Jessie Janet Richards McGarty**  
Jessie performed on Broadway with Frank and has numerous theater credits both nationally and internationally.

Frank Mastrone grew up in Monroe, CT and earned a BFA from Central CT State University. He began singing professionally at JP's Good Time Emporium in Hartford as a "Singing Waiter." (really...)

A few years after moving to NY (and becoming a heck of a waiter) Frank was asked to join the first national tour of CATS, traveling from San Francisco to Boston. Two years later he was the last person hired for the original cast of THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, making his Broadway debut in what would turn out to be the longest running show in Broadway history.

Frank soon took to the road again in the role of Jean Val Jean in Les Miserables, eventually joining the NY Company. Off-Broadway was next with TAPESTRY: The Music of Carol King; but the show was short lived and Frank joined a tour of the pop-opera EVITA, as the Tango singer Augustine Magaldi, performing in sixty one cities in forty-nine weeks! Frank again landed in New York in BIG: The Musical, based on the hit film. Then, JEKYLL & HYDE for a nearly four year run and the chance to understudy and perform the title role dozens of times!

One fascinating experience was touring in the hit show MAMMA MIA from coast to coast for over a year "in a mini-van with his wife and infant triplet daughters!"

Other Broadway performances include SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER, CATS, and then another six year run in PHANTOM.

Frank has performed in London where he made his Royal Albert Hall debut in the concert version of the Benny Annderson/Blorn Ulvaeus (the ABBA guys) musical KRISTINA (live CD available on DECCA). Other concert appearances include SOUTH PACIFIC (Great Performances) and SHOWBOAT at Carnegie Hall, CAMELOT with the NY Philharmonic (Live from Lincoln Center), The Ballroom, Sam's, The Sands Hotel (Atlantic City), and with the Wallingford Symphony Orchestra.



*"From Rodgers and Hammerstein to Dear Evan Hansen, from Sinatra to Adele, Frank just loves making music!"*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MOVIE CLUB SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Movie Club is seeking volunteers to assist with presentations that occur on the second Friday of each month at NCB at 7 p.m. or the following Wednesday at 2 p.m. in the South Clubhouse.

Tasks include making popcorn as well as accepting payments for admission.

For more details, call Marcia Klein at 203-380-6886.

## FUNSEEKERS BOARD VACANCY

Funseekers is seeking someone to fill the secretary position on its board of directors. Responsibilities are as follows: record minutes from monthly board meetings and distribute to members, mail letters to Funseekers in December regarding payment of annual dues and mail letters to new Oronoque residents inviting them to attend Funseekers meetings. If you are interested in applying for this position, please call/text Lucy Clifford, 203-644-7710.

## TAI CHI CLASSES BEGIN NEXT WEEK

The second session of tai chi begins during the week of July 19. The focus of tai chi is on the heart and mind working together to create balance. The classes are geared to relieve stress, anxiety and frustration while promoting mindfulness. There are two classes per week, which take place at NCB.

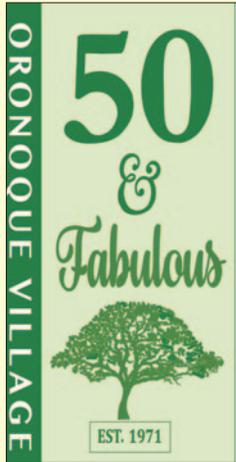
The class on Mondays at 5 p.m. is designed for participants of all levels of fitness, beginners to experienced, and for students who would like a challenge. Sessions involve standing exercises utilizing different postures, movements and breath work.



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**50**  
&  
*Fabulous*  
EST. 1971

### ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

The 50th Anniversary Committee would like to acknowledge those residents who are original owners and purchased here in 1971.

If you are one of these "celebrities," please call Chairperson Cheryl Dwyer at 203-375-4961.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks!

The class on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. will be a combination of guided meditation, dao-yin and tai chi in seated positions. This class is designed for all levels of fitness, including participants who have physical challenges standing.

The cost is \$50 for a six-week schedule. Drop-in cost is \$12 per class. If you are interested in participating, please call/text Lucy Clifford at 203-644-7710.

## BEYOND THE VILLAGE... SHELTON ART LEAGUE SHOW

The Milford Public Library, 57 New Haven Ave., is showcasing the Shelton Art League's Members Art Exhibit through July 30. The exhibition includes hanging artwork, craftwork and small paintings.

The library hours are Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday 2-5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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# COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

## DOGS

By Kees Adema, Compliance Committee Chairman



Last month's article about parking resulted in quite a few reactions from residents, which is what we encourage. Lately, we are receiving at least as many comments and complaints related to our beloved pooches or, rather, the souvenirs they leave behind, hither and yon. So let us look at the issues and dive right in (in a manner of speaking).

The following is an unscientific observation, not backed up with conclusive evidence; it seems to yours truly that the number of canine residents has increased substantially in the past 18 months. Lately, on our daily walks, we continuously encounter dogs we have not seen before. There could be various reasons for this. An influx of new arrivals accompanied by more furry friends than had been kept by those residents they replaced. Also, many longtime residents took in a companion during the recent dearth in social activities due to COVID restrictions.

The increase in canines appears to have coincided with a rather odd phenomenon, the appearance of plastic newspaper bags containing, you guessed it, left next to benches or elsewhere. Do the residents who leave those goodies behind believe that there is a hitherto unsuspected demand for these items from their neighbors? Maybe some expect the Maintenance Department staff members to collect these deposits, but that is not part of their assignment.

Frankly, it shows a level of disrespect for others and it needs to stop immediately! Please be considerate of others, pick up after your dog and dispose of the droppings in a sanitary manner. It is a quality of life as well as a serious health issue as was explained to residents in great detail in a recent eblast.

Of course, we realize that your or my dog is superior to all those commoners. We constantly see examples where a pet is lionized and elevated to near sainthood status. Either way,

however, saint or commoner, the owner should not walk through back yards close to units with an unleashed pet. Not even talking about an invasion of privacy, common area or not. Did I mention letting dogs out unleashed in the evening to avoid the inconvenience of walking?

Next to the offense-causing droppings, bagged or not, another problem has become more prevalent of late: while we humans communicate by email, canines do so by leaving liquid confirmation of their presence to their brethren with peemail. Here, too, common sense should be the rule but often is not. Expandable leashes are often to blame when a dog is able to roam too far from the street, through common areas, into a private area with manicured grass or a lovingly tended flower bed. There is also a safety issue for you and the dog, who can run the other way into a street with oncoming traffic.

Common sense, at all times, should be the name of the game. In the meantime just be forewarned that Schatzie, our female Lhasa Apso-Japanese Chin mix, continues to display questionable behavior when she meets counterparts of the opposite sex she never met before. She has high standards when it comes to hygiene, though, and cannot stand newspaper bags with contents left by residents inconsiderate of others.

OV

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## ACTIVITIES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto: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 Aug. 2, 2021, is July 20 at noon. Deadline information for all upcoming issues of The Villager can be found on the home page of the Oronoque Village website, [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com)*

### BOCCCE

• Bocce is played on Thursdays, weather permitting, at 10 a.m. at NCB.

### CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays July 21, Aug. 4, Aug. 18, Sept. 8 and Sept. 22.

### DOLLCRAFTERS

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

### DROP-IN BRIDGE

• Drop-in Bridge takes place on Mondays from 4-6 p.m. in the NCB Lounge. All levels of bridge players are encouraged to attend; no need to bring a partner. There is no fee to participate. However, you may bring a light bite to eat from 6-7 p.m. when there is time to chat with the other players. For information, please contact Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125

### LINE DANCING

• Line dancing classes, taught by Sonya DeBiase, are offered on Thursdays (through August) at NCB. Beginner classes are at 9:30 a.m. followed by a class for all levels from 10-11 a.m.

### LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS

• Low-impact exercise classes, taught by Renee Zinn, are held at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays at NCB. Bring weights and water.

### MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

• Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group meets in the SCB Back Card Room at 10 a.m. on the following Tuesdays: July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 and Nov. 30. Please bring information and be prepared to participate in discussions.

### QUILTING GROUP

• Village quilters meet at the NCB Card Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

### TENNIS CLUB

• The OV Tennis Club (OVTC) invites all residents to participate in open round robin play on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Questions? Call Eileen Cain at 203-836-4436 or email [OVTennisClub@gmail.com](mailto:OVTennisClub@gmail.com).

### WRITER'S GROUP

• The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy the challenges of writing and of sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to attending workshops twice a month in a respectful, supportive and professional environment with hopes of expanding their writing and publishing horizons. Our members include published authors and hobbyists. Our works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, treatises, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. The group meets on alternate Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Card Room at SCB. For information about joining, contact Mary W. von Ziegesar at [MvonZ@op-tonline.net](mailto:MvonZ@op-tonline.net) or call 203-767-9760.

### WATER AEROBICS

• Residents are invited to attend water aerobics classes at the heated pool at SCB on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. through Sept. 3. \$10 gratuity. Questions? Call Merrilees at 203-378-8753.



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## WANTED: VOLUNTEER MONITORS AND SUBSTITUTES

Volunteers help cover SCB Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This is a great way to help out while working with a wonderful team of resident volunteers.

There are substitute monitors for any time that you cannot make it in on your scheduled day.

Basic tasks include:

Greeting guest and visitors while in the reception

office.

Taking a brief walk through the building to ensure that all is secure.

Monitoring camera displays of the building.

If you would like to help keep our community costs down by volunteering once a week or help out as a substitute monitor when needed, please contact Kathy Lukens at [wklukens@comcast.net](mailto:wklukens@comcast.net) or 203 612-6685. 

## CALENDAR

**Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at [larvers@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:larvers@oronoquevillage.com)**

**For the latest on OV news & events, go to [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com) or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box.**

**RSF= Racquet Sports Facility, (C) = Closed Event**

### THURSDAY, JULY 15

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Aqua Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Quilting Group, NCB, C/R
- 10:00 a.m. – Yoga, NCB
- 11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi, NCB
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Bingo, SCB

### FRIDAY, JULY 16

- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Karaoke, SCB

### SATURDAY, JULY 17

- 9:30 a.m. – OVTC Open Round Robins, RSF
- 4:45 p.m. – Funseekers Event, NCB

### SUNDAY, JULY 18

- 1:00 p.m. – District 2 Meeting, SCB

### MONDAY, JULY 19

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

### TUESDAY, JULY 20

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – OVCA Board Meeting, NCB

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

- 10:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events Discussion, SCB

### THURSDAY, JULY 22

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Yoga, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Aqua Zumba, SCB
- 11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi, NCB
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB

### FRIDAY, JULY 23

- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

## OV SNAPSHOTS



Thank you to our resident gardeners for contributing these colorful photos: far left, Sooz Darlington; top left, Cheryl Comen; top right, Bonnie Usinger; above, Pat Krause.

### SATURDAY, JULY 24

- 9:30 a.m. – OVTC Open Round Robins, RSF

### SUNDAY, JULY 25: No events scheduled

### MONDAY, JULY 26

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB (O
- 4:00 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Tai Chi, NCB

### TUESDAY, JULY 27

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group, SCB

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

- 10:00 a.m. – Drop-in Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB

### THURSDAY, JULY 29

- 9:30 a.m. – Beginner Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing, NCB

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Yoga, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Aqua Zumba, SCB
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, A/C Rm, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB

### FRIDAY, JULY 30

- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

### SATURDAY, JULY 31

- 9:30 a.m. – OVTC Open Round Robins, RSF
- 6:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Member Party, NCB (C)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 1: No events scheduled

### MONDAY, AUGUST 2

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Tai Chi, NCB



*Regina Archazki, Cal and Nancy Blagys, John Staley, Liz Kedan and Carl Stahnke.*



*Steve Gadomski, Liz Kedan, Russ Cingari, Catherine Hogan, Charlie and Carole DiGiovanni and Marge Heffel.*



*Karen Hahn, Steve Sanetti, Dave Prichard, Carole Sanetti, Carol Brieger, Lori Hedman, Mary W. von Ziegesar, Dan Libertino and Dina Glantz.*



*Front row, from left, Bruce Conway, Sharon Geltner, Gery Cuccaro, Carole DeGiovanni, Catherine Hogan and Sherry Bearse. Back row, Eileen Cain, Peter Geltner and Barbara and Peter Clark.*

## PICKLEBALL CLUB'S ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

**Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photos by Gery Cuccarro**

On the evening of Saturday, June 19, nearly 60 members of the OV Pickleball Club celebrated their annual summer barbecue on the grounds of the NCB.

OV Pickleballers are a close-knit group when on the courts. Put them all together at an outdoors summer barbecue with good food and drink, and you achieve as close to a perfect evening as you can get. Bonds of friendships became even closer as the air was filled with laughter and good cheer. The array of photos above gives proof to that achievement.

We have a great team of volunteers putting all this together, led by our president, Regina Archazki. I would like to list all of them, but I'd run out of space and am liable to forget someone! So, all I will say is that many helped and all attendees were more than pleased with the entire evening.

Pickleball players may be competitive on the courts, but we never underestimate the importance of having fun. During the pandemic we had to avoid such events. Now that we've turned a corner, fun is back in season, so pickle on!

If you're interested in joining the OV Pickleball Club, please call Regina at 203-915-0781.



### PICKLEBALL CLUB ROUND ROBIN SCHEDULE

Weather permitting, the Pickleball Club round robin schedule is as follows:

**Intermediate/Advanced Play:** Saturday & Sunday, 9-11 a.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 4-6 p.m.

**Beginner/soft play:** Saturday & Sunday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Member open play:** Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

To register for Pickleball play, visit [www.SignUpGenius.com](http://www.SignUpGenius.com).

For information, contact, Gery at [gerycuccarro@gmail.com](mailto:gerycuccarro@gmail.com), or Regina at [rarchazki@hotmail.com](mailto:rarchazki@hotmail.com).



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## WORKS BY THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### LILI MARLEEN

By Elisabeth Breslav

It's a simple song, of a soldier saying goodbye to his sweetheart before leaving for the front and it became popular during World War II among both Axis and Allied troops. It originally appeared in Germany as a poem in 1915 and was first recorded in 1939 as "Das Mädchen unter der Laterne" (the girl under the street lamp). Later recordings, with Marlene Dietrich, and a motion picture in 1981 used the title "Lili Marleen."

After May, 1940, I heard that song day after day, year after year, as German Occupation troops in their field grey uniforms marched through our Dutch streets, goose-stepping like the puppets in the Nutcrackers Suite, chanting in a precisely cadenced manner a series of patriotic songs. Each performance always included "Lili Marleen" and ended with "Und-Wir-Fahren-Gegen-Engeland" (We are going to sail to England). I remember how my mother would close the windows, and we tried to tune out the singing.

I have a vivid memory of feeling a threat in the air, even though, at first, we were still unaware of the death camps and did not yet know the horror of the mass deportations that were to come. I had not yet lost my best girlfriend who

was Jewish and would be sent to a concentration camp. And I could not possibly have anticipated how much a really empty stomach was going to hurt.

\*\*\*

Years have gone by. My husband and I are on a trip through Austria. It is early fall, beer festival season, and we join the natives in one of the traditional Vienna ratskellers, or beer cellars. The atmosphere is appropriately smoky, noisy and congenial, with everybody toasting everyone else.

Then the door opens. A gust of wind enters and, with it, a group of men in gray military uniforms. They look uncannily familiar, and I feel myself stifling a gasp. The soldiers find a table. They order their pitchers and seem all set to add to the overall merriment. One of them bursts into a song that is very familiar to me and his companions join in, soon followed by most of the local patrons. The last line of the song is "Wie einst Lili Marleen," (like once Lili Marleen), but for me it is "like once when I was a scared child."

My throat constricts, my chest tightens, and the room begins to spin, slowly at first, then faster and faster. I struggle to get up and, as I try to reach the exit, a thudding noise fills my ears. It is my heartbeat and it sounds like the stomping of feet in heavy leather boots, marching to the song.

OV

### NOT SIXTEEN TONS

By Peter Geltner

One of my favorite songs when I was a teenager was "Sixteen Tons," sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford in 1955, which reached number one on the Billboard charts. I sang this song at the first karaoke session in Oronoque Village on May 24, 2018. People were nice and did not ban me from singing again. Actually, very few of the lyrics in the song really apply to me.

Maybe I was made out of mud and muscle and blood, but I do not think that I have a mind that's weak or a back that's strong. I am pretty sure that I have not loaded 16 tons of anything, except perhaps I ate at least 16 Ton on a Buns that are sold at Zigs restaurant located in Woodland Hills in the San Fernando Valley in California.

I have gotten another day older many times, but fortunately have not gotten deeper in debt. It is correct that I was born one mornin', and perhaps the sun didn't shine on me because of the jungle where I lived in Tanganyika. I am pretty sure that it was not drizzlin' rain. I was not raised in the canebrake by an ol' mama lion, but I was often serenaded by hyenas.

I have picked up a shovel many times. I certainly never walked to the mine. Oops, maybe I did walk to a mine on one of my travels years ago on a tour, but I know for sure that I did not load any number nine coal.

Can't no high-toned woman make me walk the line, but I will certainly walk the line for my wife, Sharon, if she wants me too. I do walk the line if I listen to Johnny Cash sing. I walk between lines when I use a pedestrian crossing on a street.

My middle name is not fightin' and trouble. It is Benjamin. The only fighting that I remember is when bullies attacked me in my early school years, and I never got into trouble for it since I did not initiate the confrontations. I certainly do not have one fist of iron and another of steel. I do not owe my soul to a company store, but Amazon has gotten a lot of my money during the pandemic.

The big question is: Why do I like this song if I match very few of its characteristics? I do not have a good answer to that question, but I am usually caught up in the rhythms of songs instead of just the lyrics. That concept causes a lot of us to dance to a tune without much concern about the words that are being sung. Are you ready to dance now?

OV

*Did you know that the OV website has a Classified Ad section?*

*Listings include a request for a travel companion; items for sale include a men's Schwinn bicycle and a sofa.*

*To see what is posted, visit [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com) and scroll down the under the Announcements heading.*

*For information on posting an ad, contact Carol King at 203-377-5313, ext. 3, or [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com)*



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# FROM THE COMMUNITY

Compiled by Bruce Pollock, Communications Committee

If you would like to contribute articles to this section, please contact Bruce at BAP203@yahoo.com or 203-520-3896 or Villager Editor Carol King at 203-377-5313, ext. 3, or cking@oronoquevillage.com

## DIANA

By Robert D. Macaluso

I tossed and turned all night as the howling wind-driven rain and debris slashed at the house. There was no power that morning and we listened to the battery-powered portable radio. News bulletins warned of surging tides and overflowing sewers flooding the roads. Trees and houses were undermined and abandoned buses, trucks and cars surged toward Long Island Sound. Chimneys crumbled and collapsed. Roofs disintegrated and blew away. Everything was thrown into the flow of debris raging through the city. Seawalls collapsed and boats broke free of moorings and either sank, floated out to sea, or drifted inland merging with the flotsam-laden brown waters coursing through the streets. Roads and bridges were not usable and many collapsed and disappeared.

Everyone had predicted that Hurricane Diana would die when she headed out into the icy Atlantic but no one guessed that she would double-back on the second night to complete her destruction. Everyone was fooled and everyone felt her wrath.

When the storm finally swirled-away, I helped my father and neighbors pick up branches, shingles, broken storm shut-

ters, fence pickets and debris that seemed to be everywhere. A somber radio reporter warned to “stay away” from the flooded cemetery where skeletons and coffins were disgorged from the graves. This was something we all wanted to see.

Our Desoto was in a caravan passing outside the heavy iron fence. I could see toppled granite monuments, open graves and floating coffins, bodies and bones in various states of decomposition. Men in rubber suits and gas masks were trying to collect the grisly debris. It was the best thing I had ever seen!

Weeks later the beach roads were cleared and we went to view the damage to our cottage. We found the base of the barbecue pit and a few chunks of the concrete foundation. Not much remained of the houses that had lined the beach. The adjacent amusement park was gone, blown-down and washed out to sea.

The governor said that Diane was the most devastating storm of the century. He claimed eminent domain over the entire area and promised to build Silver Sands Park. He designated a large area for development of condominiums and when we saw the plans we wondered if the vinyl siding could withstand a hurricane or tropical storm. Our concrete block and stucco cottage was no match for it. 

## THE AGE OF THE ALGORITHM

By Bruce Pollock

It occurred to me while I was on hold for almost five hours with Delta Airlines when I'd been promised no more than a two-hour wait by the disembodied voice that kept interrupting the toneless hold music that had been helping me to meditate (sleep), with messages about Delta's commitment to personalized service: we are deep in the age of the algorithm.

(Ultimately, when I got connected to a human voice, he announced he could be of no help within 15 seconds.)

I realized this again in the midst of playing the Funky Potato version of Scrabble on and against my computer. I noticed levels 1-4 refused to use seven-letter words, although they were perfectly comfortable using five- and six-letter words I'd never heard of. As for me, I averaged a seven-letter word approximately every other game. So, I assumed it was because its algorithms refused to permit it. I'm thinking the top level, level 5, must use a seven-letter word I've never heard of every now and then, but I've yet to attempt to play level 5.

Obviously, it's algorithms that determine who and how

many people respond to my hilarious posts on Facebook every day. Why that should be a person I've never met but with whom I have 147 mutual friends and no one else, I can't figure out.

The other day, I asked my in-house algorithm, Alexa, to play some Bob Dylan. She responded. “Your request to hear music by Bob Dylan is being processed. You will be allowed to hear music by Bob Dylan in approximately seven and a half hours.” Although I wasn't able to wait up that long, I don't know why it came as a surprise to me when I was awakened at four in the morning by “Subterranean Home-sick Blues” played over and over again until 5:15.

At the newly renovated housing complex where my family and I spent our vacation, I was frustrated when we were unable to enter the parking garage with the code supplied in the email we'd received the week before. Finally sneaking into the garage behind another car that had the correct code, I found our designated parking spot and continued through the maze of mathematically incoherent hallways to my vacation apartment.

Of course, my key, being connected to my code, wouldn't open the door. After failing to rouse security, if there was any security, we all fell asleep in the hallway, only to be informed via text message eight hours later that my car had

been impounded for improper parking and was being held at an undisclosed location for at least the next 72 hours.

I would have gladly whiled away the time playing Scrabble on my Iphone, but my Iphone wasn't getting any service unless I used the algorithms supplied by my vaca-

tion provider, which were, predictably, locked inside my apartment.

They say we're in the age of too much information. I humbly beg to differ. OV

## RE-JOYCE WITH JOYCE:

### WHAT MAKES A CHILDHOOD?



Dr. Joyce Saltman

Two baby kittens in one giant hand,  
pink satin jacket to be seen up th street  
upon returning  
from the Air Force,  
a baby blue Pontiac convertible,  
x-ray "silvers" on the dresser top -  
These are some of what make up a child-  
hood.

Dr Dentons tied at the toes,  
Don Giovanni before breakfast,  
Ringling Brother - Barnum and Bailey Circus during  
Passover,  
without cotton candy!

Sobbing at Bambi with Teri,  
Hearing "Black Beauty" read by Mom at five, after a  
tonsillectomy,  
red plastic records,  
and Three Musketeers with three sections -  
I can still taste the sweetness.

Summer camp birthdays,  
"Good morning, Dearie" as the witch with a putty nose  
and chin,  
telling jokes after "lights out" till the wee hours,  
reading Peyton Place by passing chapters from one to an  
other,  
catching orange salamanders with white spots,  
getting bunkmates to put on lipstick, (while not doing it  
myself)

Camp memories to last a lifetime.  
And school, at PS 101 -  
winning the Fire Prevention Contest by  
writing the entire essay in rhyme,  
playing scales on the piano for an assembly  
program,  
losing the spelling bee because of "privilege,"  
becoming "blood sisters" with Mady across  
the street,  
seeing her neighbor's arm, with numbers on it,  
and being lost in Coney Island, driven home by a kind  
stranger -  
The innocence of children in a safe world.

And the family-  
with Grandpa grating potatoes while Grandma fried the  
latkes,  
getting a dollar bill when lighting the menorah with all  
my cousins,  
playing "Enjoy Yourself" on the piano for Grandma Taub,  
stealing the afikomen (till George stole it from me),  
making "perfume" by soaking brightly-colored  
crepe paper in Chanel,  
playing Potsy on the sidewalk,  
and singing "John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt" while  
laughing all the way down the street with friends.

Life was good,  
Friends were great,  
And family was magical.  
That was my long-ago childhood. OV

*Please see page 20 for information about  
Dr. Joyce Saltman.*



Rich Patterson,  
U.S. Marine Corps  
Veteran  
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Questions? Call John Fratarcangeli at 203.503.4364

Joyce has been a resident of OV since July of 2018, and has truly loved living here on North Trail. She is a Professor Emerita of Special Education at Southern, where she taught since 1975, and has been giving close to 100 presentations each year since 1973 to unsuspecting folks to introduce them to the therapeutic benefits of laughing - at a variety of subjects, but more importantly, at themselves!

*This new lecture will be on the relative merits of two of our greatest gifts - Sex and Chocolate. At the end of her presentation, we will all get to vote on which would be the winner if only one choice was allowed!*



## **BINGO AT SCB AT 6:30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 19**

**Bingo — presented by the OV Men’s Club — resumes at SCB on the third Thursday of each month (excluding December).**

**Games are open to all and refreshments will be served.**

**The cost is \$2.50 per card.**

**Questions? Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833 or  
Jerry Brown at 203-378-7781.**



**The OV Book Club will meet on Wednesday, August 4, at 7 p.m. in the NCB Board Room  
to discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett**

*The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, the #1 New York Times best-selling author of *Commonwealth*, delivers her most powerful novel to date: a richly moving story that explores the indelible bond between two siblings, the house of their childhood, and a past that will not let them go. *The Dutch House* is the story of a paradise lost, a force that digs deeply into questions of inheritance, love and forgiveness, of how we want to see ourselves and of who we really are.

The two wealthy siblings are exiled from the house they grew up by their step- mother. They are thrown back into the poverty their parents had escaped from and find that all they have to count on is one another. It is this unshakable bond between them that both saves their lives and thwarts their futures.

The book for September will be *Caste* by Elizabeth Wilkerson, which discusses how our lives today are defined by hierarchy of human division.

*For information, email [bahinb@yahoo.com](mailto:bahinb@yahoo.com)*



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## **OV Karaoke Club**

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**Join us for Karaoke on Fridays  
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**Come sing or just listen to your friends and neighbors  
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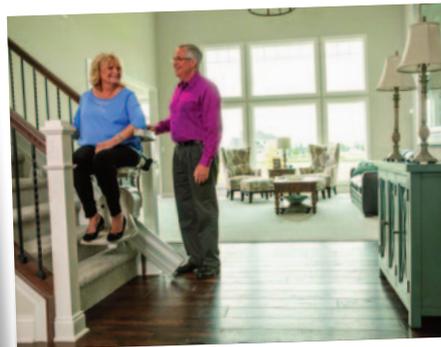
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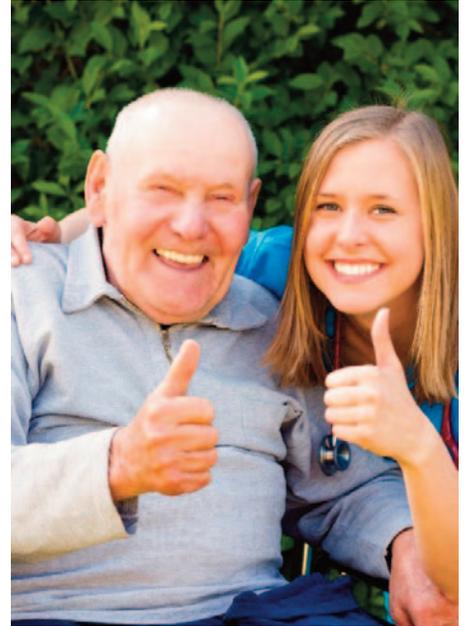
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