

September 1, 2021



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Thank you to Monical Dalton for contributing the cover photo, titled "Sunset at the 16th Hole."

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). Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

AUGUST 17, 2021

By Lee Shlafer



This marks the first meeting being held in person while at the same time offering residents the option of phoning in to listen to this session. I'd like to acknowledge Ed and Nan Genga who requested that this change be adopted.

It does seem that we have been talking about and dealing with

the same issues for many, many months, Covid and the country club. These have been and continue to be challenging matters because we have little to no control over either.

As we began the summer, it was very clear that residents were chomping at the bit to attend events, which have been largely sold-out, interact face-to-face in meetings and simply get our mojo back. We are confronting threats to this lifestyle we have resumed and are taking steps to be

careful while trying to continue to provide opportunities for residents to stay active, both indoors and outdoors. There has been a tremendous efforts made by many members of the groups that have put on events to be sure they are done properly. It takes extra work and time to do this and it has been given generously. To all who have contributed, thank you for the enjoyment you are providing. As I believe most residents are aware, at this time there is not a mask mandate, meaning masks are recommended but not required for vaccinated individuals. This is the policy that is being followed and we will adhere to any revisions should they be issued by either the state or the town.

The news on the country club is that there is no news. At this time we are not aware that the club owner, CBIGG, has finalized a sale with a potential purchaser. This does not mean that it could not still happen. We have encountered some stumbling blocks. Demands for revisions to covenants that have been in place for many years, demands for time frames to be met that were not remotely possible. There is a possibility that the course will be closed in September.

Should that occur, what takes place after that is not clear. I believe there is a need for a plan to be developed in the near future to address the different possible scenarios that might arise. I believe a committee, to include legal counsel as advisors working with Fred, should be formed to identify the steps that would need to be taken for these various scenarios with the goal of sharing that information with residents. It is understood that no action, as opposed to a plan, can actually be executed until there is a definitive move by OCC.

This review would also include a thorough understanding of what, if any, options exist to modify the covenants with the country club that I addressed at the OVCA meeting last month. These covenants are very strong legal documents written with the intent of being extremely difficult to change for the protection and well-being of Oronoque Village. I hope that by the time of the Annual Meeting in September, there will be more specific information to share with the community. Having made these comments, I remain hopeful that a buyer will emerge.

The annual audit is being conducted by our audit firm, Nanavaty, Nanavaty and Davenport. They expect to conclude their work by mid-September and their report will follow shortly thereafter.

I am going to steal a bit of the Communications Committee report and talk a little about the subject of surveys. As you will hear shortly, one is about to be released and more are planned. We hope to use the portal to do surveys, but with or without that tool, we anticipate asking more questions and soliciting more feedback on topics believed to be of interest and importance to residents.

For surveys to be really effective, they need responses,



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Please direct all questions regarding The Villager to Editor Carol King. Resident submissions of 500 words or less are welcome and will be considered for publication. Articles will be published as space allows. Submissions pertaining to OVCA-, OVTD- and resident-related matters are given priority. Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.

The Villager is published by the Communications Committee of The Oronoque Village Condominium Association.

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so I am asking now and will ask again, when you get the survey please fill it out and return it. The information will be compiled and shared. It will be interesting and informative and transparent. The data may lead to changes or decisions that will benefit our community. Please participate.

Finally, as mentioned before, district elections will be taking place soon, before the next regular OVCA Board meeting in October. Please give consideration to being a candidate and please take the time to attend your district election meeting and vote. We need residents to be involved for our system of governance to succeed. Please give serious thought to being an involved Villager.

Fred Rodriguez, executive director, provided an explanation of the activity that has been taking place between Oronoque Country Club and Oronoque Village over the last several months. He explained that, in late winter, the club ownership approached OV stating that they planned to close in the spring and asking if OV had an interest in purchasing the club. Our response was "yes" because it was felt that was a way to protect our interests in the land that surrounds us.

OV signed a nondisclosure agreement with OCC and engaged, through the Tax District, a golf consultant. The plan was for the Tax District to make the acquisition which would be tax-free and then either find a company that would run the club or would purchase it from the Tax District. Various potential buyers were found but decided not to pursue a purchase after becoming familiar with the condition of the clubhouse and course.

Despite having signed a letter of intent with OCC, OV received no further communication from the club's ownership. The club continued to operate into the summer and the club's owners continued to be noncommunicative. Recently, buyers came forward who seemed to have a genuine interest, however, upon learning of the restrictive covenants that exist, for the protection of Oronoque Village, between OV and OCC and the difficulty of changing them, they decided not to pursue a purchase. The club ownership is now announcing to its members that the club will close at the end of September unless a buyer comes forward.

At this time we are aware of one potential purchaser who is familiar with the covenants and has an interest in acquiring the club. We remain hopeful, but uncertain, about the outcome of this potential sale. One final note: We have recently learned from legal counsel that should OV have title to OCC at any point, we would be, along with all other parties who have had or do have title to the club, liable for any environmental issues that arise at the club. Such issues are not unusual at golf facilities, therefore we have been strongly advised against having any acquisition interest in the club.

Under new business, the Board dealt with three motions. The Architectural Committee recommended a revision to the standard for windows. The revision involved the issue of windows in bedrooms meeting the requirement for egress, windows needing to be installed by a licensed contractor and the responsibility for painting the window. The motion passed unanimously.

A second issue involving the Architectural Committee was the appeal of the committee's decision to not allow a unit owner's request for a sheet rocked, rather than dropped ceiling in their lower level. The Board voted to deny the appeal by a vote of 4 in favor and 9 opposed to allowing the sheet rocked ceiling.

The third motion brought to the Board was to rescind the motion passed by the Board at the July meeting to allow an election guide with paid advertisements by candidates. The motion passed by a vote of 12 in favor of rescinding and 1 abstention.

On the subject of the guide, it was suggested that the community will be surveyed to determine if they have an interest in having information about the candidates running in a municipal election made available to them in some manner.

The final piece of new business was a discussion of the policy for allowing guests in the clubhouses if they are vaccinated. The Board asked that this issue be referred to the House Standing Committee for a recommendation and be put on the agenda for the October OVCA meeting. **OV**



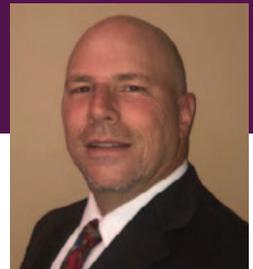
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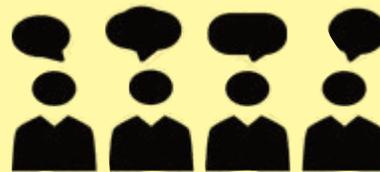
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We want to better understand your wants and needs and to improve overall communications.

Please be on the lookout for a short and anonymous Oronoque Village Resident Survey in your Sept. 15 issue of The Villager.

Your input is very important to us and your participation will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

— *The Communication Committee,*  
*Mary W. von Ziegesar, Chair*

## MEN'S CLUB TO HOLD MEETING TO DISCUSS CASINO TRIP OPTIONS

The future of the Men's Club bus trips to the Connecticut casinos will be the topic of discussion during a meeting at 3 p.m. on Sept. 9 in the NCB Board Room.

Due to post-pandemic staff shortages, the casinos are no longer offering meal tickets or special deals to those who participate in group bus trips. The Men's Club would like to get feedback regarding whether residents are still interested in taking a bus trip to the casinos as well as what they consider to be a reasonable price to pay for the day trip.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833 or Jerry Brown at 203-378-7781.

Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

## INVITATION TO POKER PLAYERS

Looking for a little fun and friendship? New and long-time residents are invited to Gerry's Poker on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6-9 p.m. in the SCB Card Room. Questions? Call Richard Castle at 203-572-0989.

## DISTRICT 4 ELECTION MEETING

District 4 will hold its Fall Neighborhood Gathering and Election meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 22. This will be held in the South Clubhouse at 6 p.m. Attendees will be welcomed by District Rep Bob Krakovich, followed by reports from District Board members. Elections will conclude the

business portion of the meeting.

A guest speaker then will provide a slideshow on the life of "The Greatest Showman," Connecticut's own P.T. Barnum. A meal provided by our SAC reps will top off the evening. Nondistrict Villagers are welcome for a nominal fee. Contact Bob Krakovich 203-752-6105 for more information.

## THESE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELED

- The OV Arts Guild has canceled its annual meeting scheduled for Sept. 9.
- Bingo is canceled for the month of September. Games will resume on Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at SCB.
- The OV Wine Club has canceled its event scheduled for Sept. 24.

## VETERANS MUSEUM SEEKS REGISTRANTS

The Stratford Veterans Museum Committee invites veterans to register at its Boothe Park location on Saturday mornings. "By asking them to register, we get their service information, such as branch of service, time served and where," explains Stratford Councilman Bill O'Brien (9th District). "We also ask for a photo, preferably in uniform, for a 'Wall of Fame' that we are creating."

For information or to arrange a pickup of items, call Bob Mastroni at 203-362-5675.



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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 Sept. 15, 2021, is Sept. 3 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)*

## BOCCE

• 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 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 6:30-8:30 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. For information, please contact Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125. Proof of vaccination required.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible study requires vaccination for indoor meetings, which takes place on the second and fourth Fridays of each month, beginning Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. in the NCB Library. Online bible study is offered on the first and third Fridays of the month, beginning on Sept. 17. Questions? Call Carolyn Charnin at 203-269-9151 or Tina Vermette at 203-375-0291.

## LINE DANCING

• Line dancing classes, taught by Sonya DeBiase, are expected to resume on Wednesdays at NCB in mid-September. 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. Proof of vaccination required.

## MAINTAINING A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

• Healthy Lifestyle Discussion Group meets in the SCB Back Card Room at 10 a.m. on the following Tuesdays: 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.

## TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

• Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1 p.m. on Thursdays next to the kitchen at SCB beginning Sept. 9. Annual dues are \$10. Questions? Call Irene Sanzone at 203-378-2010. Vaccinated members only. Please show proof.

## 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 von Ziegesar at [MvonZ@optonline.net](mailto:MvonZ@optonline.net) or call 203-767-9760.

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## RETURN OF THE PLETMAN CONCERTS FALL SERIES

By Elisabeth Breslav

It'll be (beautiful) music to your ears this fall when Pletman Concerts makes its long-awaited comeback with a season of three outstanding performances. It seemed appropriate to start the series with music that, since ancient times, has celebrated life with all its joys and sorrows.

**Sept. 26, Bivolita, A "Bessarabian" Chamber Klezmer Quartet** : Bivolita (Bee-vo-lee-tsa) draws its repertoire from the early European sources of Jewish instrumental wedding music, but finds contemporary interpretations derived from the diverse musical experiences of its members. Assembled through many years of travel and research, the program includes suites that link nearly forgotten ritual melodies—the dobridens, Mazeltovs, scotchnes, and volichs—with more commonly known American klezmer repertoire and co-territorial Moldavian dance music. The name of the quartet derives from the bison ("bivol" or "bivolita" in Romanian) on the coat of arms of the principality of Moldova.

Christina Crowder, accordion, is the leader of the group. She has been performing and researching Jewish music for over 20 years, beginning in Budapest, Hungary, in 1993, continuing with a Fulbright grant to Romania to document Jewish music in 1999 and, since 2002, with an active research, teaching and performing career in the U.S.

Gretchen Frazier, viola, holds degrees from the Crane School of Music and the Cincinnati Conservatory, where she studied with Sarah Hersh, Masao Kawasaki, Lee Fiser, and the Tokyo String Quartet. She is currently a member of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra and Section Viola in New Haven Symphony.

Brian Slattery, violin and banjo, plays in as many styles as he can muster. In addition to Bivolita, as a member of Dr. Caterwaul's Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptraps, a New Haven-based group, he plays music ranging from Eastern Europe to South America to Africa to the United States, including jazz, spirituals and blues.

Keryn Kleiman is a New York-based violinist specializing in Jewish and Eastern European folk styles. She graduated with a degree in ethnomusicology from Columbia University-Barnard College, where she was the student-leader of the Columbia Klezmer Band. While in college, Keryn was awarded a grant to research Jewish music and its relationship to co-territorial repertoires in Moldova.

**Oct. 17, Piano Recital by Eden Chen:** A Young Scholar Alum of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation and a Jack Kent Cooke Young Artist, Eden holds a bachelor of music degree from The Juilliard School and is pursuing a master of music degree there with support from the Gina Bachauer Grant. Eden's solo performances have taken him to Italy, Austria, Poland, England and China.

He will perform music by Scarlatti, Martin and Rachmaninoff.

**Nov. 21, Chamber Music from Travels Around the World:** Adam Grabois, cello, has a varied career as chamber musician, soloist, teacher and recording artist and is the founder of the record label, Reflex Editions. He was educated at Swarthmore College, is the cellist of the New York Chamber Soloists Kravis Center and has a long association with Kinhaven Music School in Vermont, where he performs and teaches cello and chamber music.

Margarita Nuller, piano, graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory, Russia. Since her arrival in the United States in 1990, she has performed extensively as a soloist and chamber musician in the New York metropolitan area and in New England as well as in Brazil, Russia, Spain, and Portugal.

All concerts start at 3 p.m. at the North Clubhouse. Admission is \$5. Light refreshments will be served after the performance.



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## SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!

### SAC PREPARES FOR SOCK HOP



OV residents, get out your dancing shoes. It's time for SAC's annual Sock Hop on Oct. 23 with Jim and Earl Crutchfield, our fabulous D.J.s, who will entertain us with '50s - '60's arrangements of music to sing and dance to.

### OVAG ANNOUNCEMENTS

The theme for the fall Galerie OV show is "Transitions — From Autumn to Winter and Beyond." This could be a seasonal transition showing autumn colors, birds flying south for the winter, the first snowfall of the season or, in a broader sense, a transition in life. Let your imagination run wild. It's all about being creative with the theme.

Submissions for the show will be collected on Friday, Oct. 1, from 10-11 a.m. at SCB. All mediums and styles will be welcome.

An opening reception is planned for Oct. 10 at 4 p.m.

Questions? Contact Barbara Stewart at [barbsmt@yahoo.com](mailto:barbsmt@yahoo.com) or 203-612-1373.



**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**

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Aqua Zumba, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm (O)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB

- 10:00 a.m. – Water Aerobics, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- 9:00 a.m. – Tennis Club Round Robins, RSF
- 7:00 p.m. – Dance Party, SCB

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5: No events scheduled

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 12:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm

- 2:00 p.m. – Writer’s Group, SCB, C/R
- 3:00 p.m. – Men’s Club Meeting, NCB, Board Room

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**

- 10:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, Library
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*  
NCB

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11**

- 9:00 a.m. – OVTC Member Brunch & Tournament, RSF (C)

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12: No events scheduled**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:30 p.m. – House & Garden Meeting, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC Meeting, NCB Library
- 5:00 p.m. – Tai Chi, NCB, Aud
- 6:00 p.m. – District 2 Meeting, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry’s Poker, SCB
- 6:15 p.m. – Funseekers, SCB

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*  
SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry’s Poker, SCB

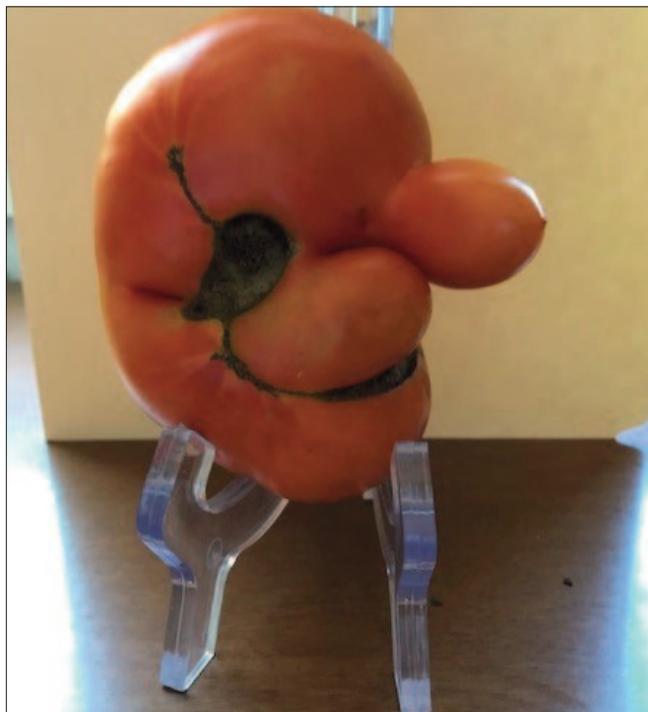
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**MY MOMENT**

Walking stick in hand  
I head into those green mountains.  
Just a few more miles  
I will be where I long to be  
The crisp, cool air tickles my appetite  
I bite into a juicy apple  
Mountain breezes gently slap my cheeks  
Blow my hair into an electric wonderland  
Ahhh, the sun  
It peaks through the trees  
It warms me from the outside in  
This is where I want to be  
This is where I need to be  
This is where my soul floats free  
Strolling in those green mountains

*By Patricia A. Rowe*

**OV SNAPSHOT**



*Thank you to Joe and Marcia Hayducky for submitting this photo of a tomato that was gifted to them via Bob Krakovich’s mini-farm plot.*

# VILLAGE PIONEER: MEET VIVIENNE DEMME

By Tom Fuchs

For years, Vivienne Demm and her dad commuted together by bus into Manhattan from Leisure Village in Lakewood, N.J. After her dad retired, Vivienne found herself continuing this 90-minute bus ride alone as she plied her food science degree as a nutritionist for American Home Foods.

One cold December day, after arising at 5 a.m. to catch the bus, a life-changing event would bring her and her family here to Oronoque Village. On the Jersey Turnpike that fateful morning, an aggressive driver cut off her bus, causing it to swerve and flip onto its side. Miraculously, Vivienne was unhurt and, fortunately, there were no casualties or serious injuries. But “Viv,” as she was known, did lose her shoes!

Undaunted, she retrieved them at the scene, worked another 12-hour day and then went back home to New Jersey. Upon relating her narrow escape to her dad that evening, he quickly proclaimed that the family was moving — her days of commuting by bus were over!

The rural, woody feel of the Village attracted the Demms. Her dad was a history buff and was fascinated by Native-American Indians, like the Quinnipiacs, Pootatucks and Paugussetts. He also really loved the “forest” around the Village.

It was on an overcast and frigid Christmas Day in 1976 when Vivienne and her parents enjoyed a spectacular Christmas present — they moved into their brand-new home in

Oronoque Village. As Viv remembers, sales in the South Village started off slowly, but accelerated quickly with the addition of new models, particularly those with cathedral ceilings like the Peabody and the Whittier. After visiting these models, the family fell in love with a Peabody.

Over the years, the unchanging environment, tranquil setting and privacy enabled the Demms to thoroughly enjoy the Village and access the Stratford train station. During that time, many meals were shared in Lordship at the recently closed Mar-nick’s. The family also enjoyed the convenience of nearby shopping.

Viv, who continued commuting by train for another dozen years, retired early to care for her aging parents. Despite losing them while they were in their late 80s and 90s, Viv has continued to live quietly in Oronoque Village — for 45 years now! She still enjoys the peace and tranquility that the Village has to offer and truly appreciates the beautifully landscaped grounds and maintenance-free lifestyle. **OV**



Longtime OV resident Vivienne Demme (lower right) moved here with her family in 1976.

## DINING IN

### AUNT PAULA’S PLUM TART

Submitted by Jeanette Caron

#### Crust:

3/4 stick of butter  
1/2 cup of sugar  
1 whole egg yolk  
1 tsp baking powder  
1 1/4 cups of flour  
zest of one lemon

Prune or Italian plums are available at the end of August; 2 pounds should be enough for this recipe.

Combine crust ingredients into a stiff dough and press into a prepared fluted tart pan. Cut prune plums in half, remove the pit and score the halves into thirds. Arrange each half with cut side up, starting on the outside rim and working toward the middle in a tight circular fashion. Sprinkle all over with more sugar and cinnamon.

Bake in a pre-heated 350-degree oven for 40 minutes

or until the crust is brown and the plums are cooked. (It helps to cover the tart with aluminum foil for the first half hour of baking.)

#### The Story:

While growing up in a small town, I had a best friend whose parents had emigrated from Germany. One day, her mother served us a delicious homemade plum tart. I remembered it as an adult, but never found a recipe. Many years later I met my husband’s Aunt Paula, who was born in Germany and, at the outbreak of WWII, sent to the United States to live with relatives.

I casually mentioned this dessert made with Italian plums to Aunt Paula (then in her 80s) and wondered if she knew it. “Yes,” she replied, and handed me this recipe, which I cherish to this day. **OV**

*If you have recipe that you would like to share with your neighbors, please email it to Villager Editor Carol King at [cking@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:cking@oronoquevillage.com)*





Top left, volunteers Carole Guglielmino, Pat Buchina, Mary W. von Ziegesar and Nancy and Cal Blagys. Top right, Mim Schreck, left, with Sue Schettini. Above, from left, Gene and Dotty Sullivan and Judy and Tom Torpey. Right, the musical performers.

## OV TENNIS CLUB LOBSTERFEST 'NETS' RAVE REVIEWS

Story by Mary W. von Ziegesar ~ Photos by Peter Feick

“My feet are very blistered, but I love to dance,” was one partyer’s comment Saturday night, July 31, at the end of the OV Tennis Club’s (OVTC) annual summer party, a Lobsterfest.

Ninety-two members and guests joined at the festively decorated North Clubhouse. Capt’n John’s supplied a traditional clambake -- lobster, mussels and clams (or steak or chicken for those preferring land to sea), corn, potatoes and coleslaw. Margaritas welcomed the casual/beach-dressed attendees. Desserts of watermelon, home-baked brownies and an assortment of cookies added some special, sweet treats.

But what many most enjoy this evening was the live music performed by our own Mirror Image of Oronoque Village – Dina Glantz and Bob Ruff, with Jeanne Hartley joining in the vocals!

Not only was there a lot of dancing, but the songs also invited many to sing along with the well-recognized and wonderfully performed tunes. At the request of the performers, and in lieu of charging for their entertainment, a donation has been made to the Stratford Animal Rescue Society in Mirror Image’s name by the OVTC. OV



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## ARTIST OF THE MONTH: BONNIE USINGER

During the month of September, Bonnie Usinger will be the Artist of the Month. Her talents are showcased in the front and rear hallways of the North Clubhouse.

Bonnie has skills in oil and watercolor painting, furniture painting, encaustic painting, jewelry design and decorating unique glass and ceramic containers (both antique and brand new).

"In between raising my three children and working as a registered nurse, I managed to pursue different avenues of arts and crafts," she explains.

"I have always been fascinated with colors, hues, shades and the affect that colors have on our emotions and actions," she says. "I dont remember the exact age when my creativity was stirred but I clearly recall the moment it temporarily ended for a few years ... it happened very shortly after I received my first box of Crayola crayons!"

With 48 crayons at her disposal, young Bonnie was eager to put them to work. "All those beautiful colors," she recalls. "How excited I was to try them out.

"Desiring to please my widowed mother when she came home from work, I thought I would clean up my room for her because she was always very tired when she came home. I had the wonderful idea to draw figures on all the white walls, testing every color in the Crayola box. To better enhance my first artwork, I polished the hardwood floor with olive oil ... lots of olive oil!"

Her mother's reaction fell short of her expectations. "I anxiously awaited her arrival home — expecting her great pleasure and gratitude and maybe a few hugs and kisses. I brought her into my bedroom and all I can recall was her raising her arm up over her head and me saying to her "that didnt hurt me" and, of course, the crying started. That was the one and only time my mother ever laid a hand on me but it ended my budding art career for years."

Her creative juices were re-inspired during her junior year at Stratford High School. "I was put in charge of the decorating for 'Ebb Tide,' our junior prom," she says. "My imagination was again stirred that year. Water, sand, shells, and marsh grass were imported from Short Beach and palm trees were built from scratch. It was a prom still remembered to this day by some fellow classmates."

Her decorating talents have been showcased at community gatherings Her artistic skills range from staging themed events for the Oronoque Village Tennis Club parties as well as assisting with the decorating for the 40th and 50th OV Anniversary Galas.

"I like to make things opulent," she says "It takes me weeks and months of hard labor to bring my ideas for these parties to fruition. My husband, Emil, is my right-hand man. He has built many of the structures used at the parties."



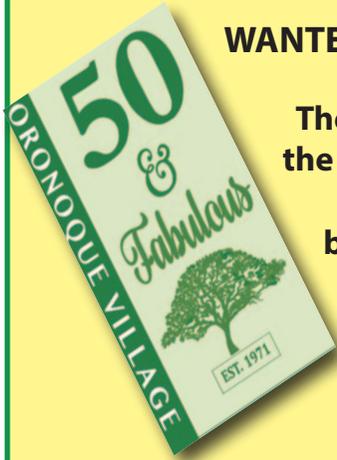
She has worked on quite a few tennis parties to date. "For a 2010 Tennis Party, I dressed Barbie dolls in 1950s outfits and stood them on a 45 RPM record disc, which were then suspended from balloons," she reports. "I also made artificial sundaes and 4-foot ice cream cones to decorate the soda fountain."

In 2011, she created the mood for a "Caribbean Breeze Party." The creative décor included a thatched-roof bar complete with talking parrot, palm trees and tropical signage.

During Oronoque Village's 2011 Ruby Gala Anniversary, Bonnie created centerpieces of white branches with sparkling hanging crystals. In 2012, she created a joyful atmosphere for the OV Tennis Association's Mardi Gras Celebration. "The king and queen of Mardi Gras arrived on a float that was built by Emil and decorated by myself," Bonnie says.

"None of these events would occur without the hard work and support of work of a dedicated team," she adds. "It takes a Village and cooperation of all involved. We have had wonderful teams!"

—Story by Carol King



## WANTED: HELPING HANDS TO ASSIST THE GALA COMMITTEE

The 50th anniversary committee is in need of volunteers to assist with the setup and cleanup of the Sept. 19 gala celebration.

If you are able to pitch in an help the small group of committee members with the setting up of the event at 10 a.m. or cleaning up after the gala concludes, please contact Cheryl Dwyer at 203-375-4961.

## Paradise Green Market

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## BEYOND THE VILLAGE

The Holy Cross Church annual picnic takes place Sunday, Sept. 12, from noon to 6 p.m. at 750 Tahmore Drive in Fairfield. Food offerings (made by parishioners) will include roast pork or lamb dinners, kielbasa and sauerkraut, cabbage and noodles, palacinka (filled crepes), cevapcici (ethnic sausages), stuffed cabbage, cheeseburgers and liver with bacon and onions as well as apple strudel and other baked goods.

Live music will be provided by The Polka Quads. This rain-or-shine event will include children's activities, vendors and a raffle. For info, call 203-372-4595.

Tickets to see Sheryl Crow on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m. at Westport's Levitt Pavilion are now on sale. Sheryl Crow is an American music icon. Her first nine studio albums sold 35 million



copies worldwide; seven of them charted in the Top 10 and five were certified for Multi-Platinum sales. In addition to such Number 1 hits as "All I Wanna Do," "Soak Up the Sun" and "The First Cut Is the Deepest," Crow has lofted 40 singles into the Billboard Hot 100, Adult Top 40, Adult Contemporary, Mainstream

Top 40 and Hot Country Songs charts, with more No. 1 singles in the Triple A listings than any other female artist.

For her current album, "Threads," Crow collaborated with a broad array of her musical heroes, including Stevie Nicks, James Taylor, Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Willie Nelson, Emmylou Harris, Chuck D, Joe Walsh, Kris Kristofferson, and even a duet of her classic song "Redemption Day" with the late legend Johnny Cash.

To enter the event: 1) You must present a printed copy of your vaccine card, vaccine record, or valid negative COVID-19 test. 2) You must present your barcoded e-ticket upon arrival, either printed or on your mobile device. If you are not able to provide appropriate documentation, you will not be allowed to enter.

For information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.levittpavilion.com](https://levittpavilion.com), email [BoxOfficeLevittPavilion@gmail.com](mailto:BoxOfficeLevittPavilion@gmail.com) or call 203-602-4122.

https://levittpavilion.com, email [BoxOfficeLevittPavilion@gmail.com](mailto:BoxOfficeLevittPavilion@gmail.com) or call 203-602-4122.

The Norwalk Seaport Association has owned, restored and maintained Sheffield Island Lighthouse since 1986 and is the official U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Friends group for the Norwalk Islands.

Through mid-September, visitors can board the Seaport Association's 45-foot C.J. Toth Catamaran for a 3-hour excursion that begins with a harbor cruise and ends with a one-hour stop at Sheffield Island.

Upon arriving at Sheffield Island, visitors can tour the lighthouse, observe wildlife in their natural habitat in the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge and hunt for shells along the beach. The lighthouse is open to visitors during the 2021 season subject to COVID protocols. The tower section of the lighthouse is currently closed.

For information, visit <https://www.seaport.org> or call (203) 838-9444.

Musician Chris Coogan will perform at the Weston History and Culture Center's Music at the Barn Outdoor Concert Series on Sunday, Sept. 12, 5:30-7 p.m. Purchase tickets at [www.westonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.westonhistoricalsociety.org) by calling 203-226-1804 or at the door. The Weston History and Culture Center (Weston Historical Society) is located at 104 Weston Road, Parking lot is accessed from High Acre Road.

Coogan has played pop with Phoebe Snow, Donna Summers, Bette Middler and Darlene Love, Broadway with Paul Newman, Jim Naughton and Kelli O'Hara and jazz with Randy Brecker, Sal Salvador and with his own Chris Coogan Quartet. He music directs at churches, synagogues and with local theaters as well as leading the Good News Gospel Choir. He teaches the art of jazz improvisation to many students locally and at the University of Bridgeport.

The New York Times has called him a "masterful performer."

OV

### WANTED: VOLUNTEER MONITORS AND SUBSTITUTES

Resident volunteers work two-hour shifts to help cover SCB Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for Monday and Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday 1-3 p.m. Substitute volunteers are also needed to fill-in when a monitor is unable to make it on a scheduled day.

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

Basic tasks include:

Greeting guests 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 [wkluken@comcast.net](mailto:wkluken@comcast.net) or 203-612-6685.

OV



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**NEXT EVENT IS SEPT. 3**

*Proof of COVID vaccinations is required to attend the events presented by the Social Activities Committee, House & Garden Club, The Movie Club, Funseekers, the Book Club, the Karaoke Club and Saturday Night Dance Party.*

House & Garden Presents



# Stratford History

**Monday, Sept. 13  
1:30 pm - SCB**



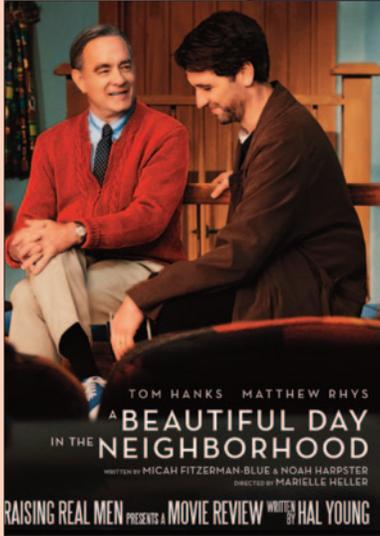
**Members: Free -  
Guests \$2**

David Wright, editor of the The Stratford Historical Society Newsletter will share with us some interesting stories about Stratford's past!

David, current Manager of Information Technology for the Town of Stratford, has been researching Stratford's rich history for many years and will share some of his "finds" about our city in a delightful afternoon of town history followed by tea, coffee, and dessert. Don't miss this informative House & Garden event!



## The Movie Club Presents *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*



**Fri., September 10, at 7 p.m. at NCB**

**Wed., September 15, at 2 p.m. at SCB**

***\$1 admission includes popcorn***

Lloyd Vogel (Matthew Rhys) is an investigative journalist who receives an assignment to profile Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers (Tom Hanks). Lloyd approaches the interview with skepticism, as he finds it hard to believe that anyone can have such a good nature. But Mr. Roger's empathy, kindness and decency soon chips away at Vogel's jaded outlook on life, forcing the reporter to reconcile with his own painful past.



# FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS



## Bobby Morrill

**Tuesday, September 14, 7pm**

**SCB • Doors Open At 6:15**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED AND WILL BE ACCEPTED *STARTING August 24!***

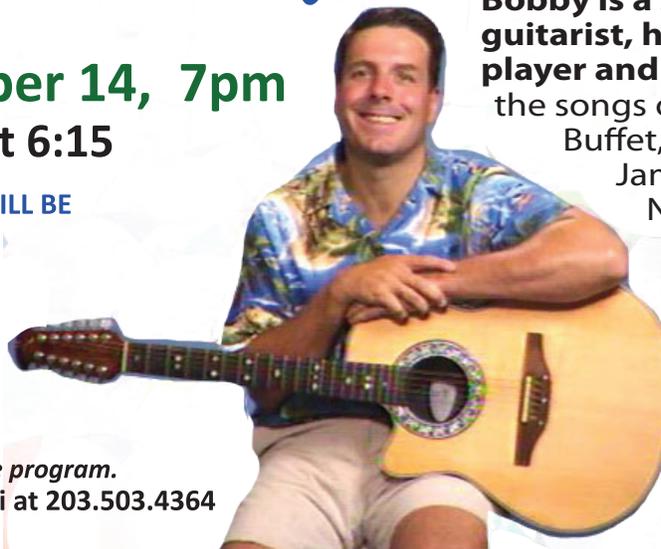
*Please put \$4.00 checks pp into FUNSEEKERS Box NCB*

**RESIDENT MEMBERS ONLY.  
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***BYOB, Snacks, Munchies***

*Coffee, tea, and dessert to follow the program.*

Questions? Call John Fratarcangeli at 203.503.4364



**Bobby is a solo acoustic guitarist, harmonica player and singer** playing the songs of Jimmy Buffet, Cat Stevens,

James Taylor,

Neil Young,

Bob Dylan, the Grateful Dead,

50s, 60s & 70s, and

other artists, as well as

Irish ballad and pub

songs.



**No fees, dues, commitment. Just fun!**

**Join us for our Saturday Night Dance Party on September 4 at SCB from 7-9pm.**

**This monthly dance party is your chance to show off your moves while getting some great exercise! A variety of dance music will be played from the '40s to today.**

**BYOB, food and refreshments!**

*Until further notice, only residents who have been vaccinated for the Covid virus will be admitted.*

## **OV Karaoke Club**



**No fees or dues,  
No commitments, Just fun!**

**Join us for Karaoke on Friday, Sept. 24, in the South Clubhouse Auditorium from 6:30-9pm.**

**Come sing or just listen to your friends and neighbors showing off their talents.**

**A good time is guaranteed for all.**

**This is a monthly event ...**

**BYOB, food, and refreshments!**

*Until further notice, only residents who have been vaccinated for the Covid virus will be admitted.*



**The OV Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m. in the NCB Library to discuss *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson**

***Proof of COVID vaccination is required to attend this meeting***

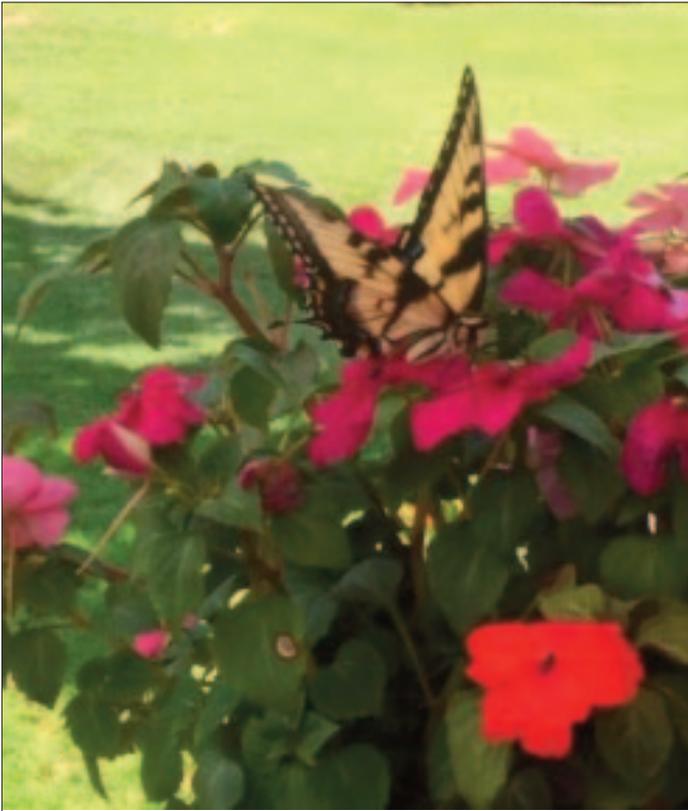
The title of the book for the Oct. 6 meeting is *The Girl With Seven Names* by Heonseo Lee. A sad and beautiful story of a girl who could not even keep her name, yet overcame all with the identity of what it is to be human. The author brought the human consequences of global inaction on North Korea to the world's doorstep ... Against all odds she escaped, survived, and had the courage to speak out.

The book for the November discussion is *American Dirt* by Jeanie Cummins ... A gripping story of a mother and son on Mexico's migrant trail that combines humane intentions with propulsive, action-movie execution.

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

## OV SNAPSHOTS

Thank you to the following photographers for contributing colorful photos taken in the Village. Top left, Richard Steinfeld; top right, Monica Dalton; bottom, left, Joan Pite and bottom right, Roland Wright.



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