

March 1, 2022



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50th
Anniversary

*Saturday & Sunday
May 14th and 15th*

Half-past four in the afternoon

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Thank you to Arline Walton for submitting the cover of this issue on behalf of the 50th Anniversary Gala Committee. The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. Villager editorial submissions should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISTRICT 2 IS SEEKING EMAIL ADDRESSES

The District 2 Board is updating its contact list and requests that District 2 residents provide their email addresses to Diane Binford, SAC representative, via email at ddbinford@gmail.com. Board members will cross-check the current list with the email addresses received in an effort to reach as many residents as possible with its communications.

Plans are in the works for "Lane Meetups" to get underway in the spring.

DISTRICT 4 AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MUSEUM PRESENTATION

On Wednesday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at SCB, District 4 will hold its Spring Neighborhood Gathering. District Rep Bob Krakovich will welcome attendees, followed by summary reports from Board members.

The featured guest speaker will be from Stratford's newly opened Ruby and Calvin Fletcher African American History Museum; the speaker will provide an interesting discussion and display memorabilia of African Americans related to the early history of Connecticut and the Town of Stratford.

Following the talk, pizza, salad, beverages and dessert will be served. All Villagers are welcome to attend. The cost for District 4 residents is \$5 per person (if dues are current), \$10 per person for all other attendees. Place payments, with names, in the District 4 mailbox by Sunday, March 27. Questions? Call Bob Krakovich 203-752-6105.

FUNSEEKERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Treasurer Position: Funseekers is recruiting candidates for the treasurer's position. Responsibilities include: control budget (income, expenses and committed expenses); update membership listings; make deposits/write checks for income and expense; provide monthly financial statements at Board meetings and events; provide info to door helpers for entry to events and work with Board members in fulfilling the requirements of this position.

If you have interest, please call Lucy Clifford at 203-644-7710 or email lmclifford@yahoo.com.

Dues Collection/Meetings: We are now collecting dues for 2022. All residents are invited to join or rejoin Funseekers and enjoy monthly socializing, entertainment, dessert, coffee/tea and soft drinks. You must be a member to attend the events (with the exception of no more than one nonresident guest per household). Annual dues cost

\$15 per resident. Additionally, a \$4 per person payment (which goes towards entertainment and refreshments) is collected at each regular event; nonresident guests pay \$7.

Kindly drop off your membership dues (made out to Funseekers Club) in the Funseekers mailbox located in the lobby of the North Clubhouse. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address with your check.

Reservations are required for each event. The first event for 2022 is Tuesday, March 8. (Please see the flyer-ad on page 21 for full details).

MINI FARMS DUES PAYMENTS ARE REQUESTED BY APRIL 1

It is time to collect Mini Farms dues for 2022. If you were assigned a garden previously, the dues are \$18 (if paid by April 1). After April 1, dues are \$20.

Please make checks payable to "OV Mini Farm" and include your plot number. Place checks in the outside drop-box at NCB.

Call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468 if you have questions or have a plot that you no longer want.

FREE, AT-HOME COVID TESTS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

There are online resources that allow residential households to order up to four individual rapid antigen tests at no cost. To order, visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits> or covidtests.gov and fill out the online form. The kits will be delivered to you.

SHELTON ART LEAGUE EXHIBIT

The Shelton Art League is holding a Members' Art Exhibit, March 2-31, showcasing hanging artwork, craft work and small paintings March 2-31 at the Milford Public Library, 57 New Haven Ave. OV residents Cheryl Comen and Barbara Stewart are among the participating artists.

Library hours are Monday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m., Friday 1-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The Shelton Art League, a diverse group of artists, meets monthly at 11:45 a.m. in the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St., Shelton. A general meeting is followed by a well-known artist's demonstration in a specific medium.



Dear Friends,

Our long awaited *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 should have received your invitation in your OVCA mailbox on February 28th. Detailed information with the reservation form is in the March 1st and March 15th editions of *The Villager*.

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, May 14th and Gala II will be on Sunday, May 15th (if 2nd date is needed).

We welcome reservations from singles, couples, or small groups of no more than 10 people. 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. No reservation will be held without accompanying check. Residents only may attend with the exception of a single resident who wishes to include one non-resident guest.

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 - May 14th, the second set of reservations received will be assigned to Gala II - May 15th. Please do not ask for a specific date to attend. (Note: Once capacities are reached, reservations will be closed.) Proof of COVID vaccination and booster must be shown in Business Office starting March 3rd but no later than April 14 . **Reservations will be open starting on Thursday, March 3rd.**

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 \$79.50, check made out to OVCA.

Reservation forms with checks must be returned to North Clubhouse mailbox in lobby marked "50th Gala" no later than April 5, 2022.

Questions: Contact Cheryl Dwyer, Gala Chair, 203-375-4961, cheryl.dwyer@sbcglobal.net



Celebrate Our Milestone At An Elegant Event

Please Note: *If you have had 2 vaccinations but not the booster, you may present a negative test result (written report from an official testing site) taken within 24 hours of the Gala. It must be presented at the door for admittance (no exceptions).*



*The Gala
To Be held At Oronoque Village
May 14 & 15, 2022
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
Marinated Vegetables
Sliced Rustic Baguettes & Assorted Crackers*

—
Specialty Salad
—

Buffet Dinner Served by Staff

*Carved to Order Filet Mignon
Lemon Tarragon Chicken Breast with Braised Mushrooms
Apricot Glazed Salmon Filet
Eggplant Rollatini
Risotto with Peas & Onions
Baked Stuffed Three Cheese Potatoes
Seasonal Roasted Vegetables*

—
*Homemade Specialty Dessert
Tea / Coffee*
—

BYOB (Wine Glasses Provided)

*Cabaret Concert Performed by Frank Mastrone,
Special Guest Jessie Janet Richards McGarty with Frank Spitznagel on piano
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 Spitznagel on piano

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 Anderson/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!"



50 & Fabulous Gala

Reservation Form

Reservations Open on March 3, 2022

You may sign up as an individual, couple or small table group up to 10 people.
All guests will be assigned to reserved tables of 10.

All checks for groups *MUST* be included at the time of the reservation.

Reservations will be honored in the order they are received.
You will receive notification of which Gala you will attend.

Checks should be made out to OVC. Per person cost is **\$79.50**.

Please return reservation form with check(s) in a sealed envelope to the North Clubhouse mailbox marked GALA.

Name of Each Guest	Email	Phone Number (Required)
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		
7. _____		
8. _____		
9. _____		
10. _____		





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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. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on March 15, is March 2 at noon.*

CORNHOLE

Cornhole is played on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at SCB.

CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays Feb. 2 and 16, March 2, 16 and 30.

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 welcomes all resident women. Proof of vaccination is not required, but nonvaccinated ladies must wear masks. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Board Room from 10:30 to noon (excluding July and August.) Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

LINE DANCING

• Line dancing classes are held on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all lev-

els at 10 a.m. No masking is required for anyone who has received the booster or third shot. All others must wear masks.

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 is required. Those without proof of booster shots must wear masks.

PING PONG GROUP

• Players of all levels are invited to join this group on the second floor of the South Clubhouse Fridays at 9 a.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m. For information, email Wayne Cotter at wcotter999@gmail.com. Proof of vaccination required.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

• Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the second Monday of each month. Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

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.

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 or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.



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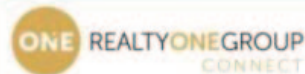
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CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at larvers@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & 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

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

- 8:30 a.m. – Communications Meeting, B/R, NCB
- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB, C/R
- 10:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
-

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC's It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

SATURDAY, MARCH 5: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

- 3:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Film Festival, SCB (Sold Out)
-

MONDAY, MARCH 7

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:30 p.m. – House & Garden Club Meeting, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC Committee Mtg, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

- 9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee Mtg, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers SCB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB

Yesterday I saw a guy spill
all his Scrabble letters on
the road.

I asked him,
"What's the word
on the street?"

How does a rabbi
make his coffee?

Hebrews it.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer’s Group, SCB, C/R

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, B/R
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie: *King Richard*, NCB

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

- 6:00 p.m. – Weekenders event, NCB

SUNDAY, MARCH 13: No events scheduled

MONDAY, MARCH 14

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB, B/R
- 4:00 p.m. – Winter Pool Social Group, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Jewelry Making Class, SCB, A/C Rm

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

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

OV SNAPSHOTS



Thank you to our contributing photographers for capturing these seasonal images of our community:

Above, left: Richard Steinfeld

Below, left: Lori Hedman (snowman built by Jeanne Hartley)

Below, right: Sue Schettini



ARTIST OF THE MONTH: SANFORD (SANDY) LUNT

The artist of the month for March is Sanford Lunt. His is a unique story about painting, not on a house or walls, but putting a brush to canvas. He always wanted to try his luck but never had the time or opportunity until he moved to Oronoque. He, along with five of his friends, joined an art class in oils at the Baldwin Center in 1997. His first painting, a portrait in black and white, is being shown in this quarterly art exhibit for the wonderful Art Guild that has evolved from the Artist of the Month program.

He was among the organizers who started the Artist of the Month program in 2006 and a member of the inaugural committee that set up the exhibit and recruited artists to display works of art at NCB resulting in 39 consecutive months of new artists; a fine example of the talent that we have in the Village.

Sandy has displayed his art in several exhibits and had his paintings selected for a prestigious calendar published by Pomeraug Woods Senior Juried Art Show featuring Connecticut-based artists who are over the age of 82.

Formerly of Westport, Sandy has been an active resident of Oronoque Village for 28 years. He is a past president of the OV Tax District and was an alternate representative for District 6 for 11 years. He has been president of the Men's Club for 19 years, oversees the monthly Bingo games, started the Flu Clinic that has run for 22 consecutive years (until the pandemic hit) with the Stratford Health Department, organized the bimonthly bus trips to Mohegan Sun and, with Jerry Brown, initiated the Friday night and Wednesday matinee movies. He was the Men's Club "Man of the Year" in 2002, the second person to receive this honor.

Additionally, he has been a member of the Bulls & the Bears since 2008 and is currently its president, was president of Funseekers from 2002-2004, an original member of the Village Voices and has written articles and biographies for The Villager over the past years and is now a member of the 50th Anniversary Celebration Ad Hoc Committee.

Sandy also has been active in the Town of Stratford, serving as a member of the Board of Education Communi-



cations and Public Relations Committee since 2007.

He has been a mentor at Nichols Elementary School since 2007, was a lecturer in the AARP Safe Driving Course, received the "Friend of Education" Award from the Board of Education in 2011, was a member of the Stratford Emergency Response Program and was treasurer of Quest, a nonprofit educational organization for Stratford taxpayers (2002-2009).

Sandy says he truly enjoys living in the Village, has made a myriad of friends and has participated and enjoyed the many activities that the Village has to offer. "It is a terrific place to live," he says. OV

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BEYOND THE VILLAGE: CELEBRATE STRATFORD EVENTS

The Town of Stratford announces the 2022 Celebrate Stratford series, which will include traditional events as well as revitalized and expanded festivities. The Stratford Birding Festival, a once-popular event, is returning, and the treasured Summer Concert Series will also resume, now with opening acts featuring Stratford's local talent.

Organizers are excited to announce the following lineup, which takes place throughout the year, subject to state and local guidelines:

- **The Shakespeare Market:** The first and third Sundays of every month
- **Restaurant Week:** April 24 - April 30
- **Main Street Festival:** June 4
- **Summer Concerts:** Tues/ Thurs, June 21 - Aug. 30
- **Fireworks:** June 30 (rain date July 5)
- **Blues on the Beach:** July 23
- **Latin Music Festival:** Sept. 18 (rain date Sept. 25)
- **Stratford Birding Festival:** Sept. 24
- **The Great Pumpkin Festival:** Oct. 15
- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** Dec. 1
- **Holiday Menorah Lighting:** Dec. 19

"I am pleased to see the enhancements to some of the Celebrate Stratford festivals as we continue with the pop-



ular traditions in many of our events," said Stratford Mayor Laura R. Hoydick. "The revitalization of the Birding Festival and adding Stratford-based talent to the summer concerts adds new life to the lineup. It showcases our natura, as well as our human, resources and keeps the events very Stratford-centric."

For information on all events, visit www.CelebrateStratford.com.



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WORK BY THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

AND HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR STEAK?

By Elisabeth Breslav

After living almost a year as a "gouvernante" with a family in Paris, I decided my French was good enough to set out on my own. I found a job as an English translator with a French company and a one-room, rather primitive, studio apartment in Montparnasse on the Left Bank.

Lunch breaks during the fifties were still sacrosanct in Paris. You did not brown-bag it at your desk. You went out for a meal in one of the numerous eating places in the area. On my first day on the job, I chose a small, cozy-looking bistro where a young and very handsome waiter ushered me to a small table-for-one in a corner near the window.

With a smile he handed me a menu, which presented me with a long list of unfamiliar culinary terms. I wasn't going to look like a dumb tourist asking for explanations. With complete self-confidence I ordered un bifteck.

"And how would mademoiselle like to have her steak prepared?" Of course, I should have, but somehow didn't, expect the question and in my mind went down the list of French terms for serving steak as far as I vaguely remembered them. One seemed clearer and therefore safer to use correctly than the rest, so I informed the waiter in what I thought was proper French that I would like a pan-fried steak.

For a split second his eyes seemed to widen and the corners of his mouth to broaden his professional smile. Then he bowed and said "Tres bien, mademoiselle." He left and returned with my steak a short while later. It was per-

fect, and I felt very pleased with myself.

Back at the office, a French colleague wanted to know how I had made out ordering a meal. "Did you get what you had asked for?" she asked.

"No problem," I answered. "But I decided to play it safe and ordered a simple 'bifteck au poil.'"

"YOU ORDERED WHAT?" she gasped.

"The French version of a good old pan-fried steak. You know – un bifteck au poil. Why? What's wrong with it?"

"A frying pan is une poêle in French. You should have ordered un bifteck a la poêle."

"Poêle / poil they sound the same to me. What's the difference?"

"Quite a bit, I'm afraid" she informed me. "You see, un poil is a human body hair in our language."

"So what exactly does au poil mean?"

"It's an expression primarily used in soldiers' barracks and male locker rooms to exhort the men to take everything off and hit the showers," she said while trying hard not to laugh. It would

appear that you ordered a stark-naked steak."

Why couldn't that darned waiter have set me straight instead of letting me make a fool of myself," I fumed.

"My dear, you are in France now. No Frenchman would embarrass a lovely young lady by pointing out that she made a mistake. But you can be sure they had a good laugh about it in the kitchen after you left."

In all the years I lived in Paris I never ordered another pan-fried steak. I ate in many restaurants, but I never went back to that cozy little bistro.



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FEATURE

RE-JOYCE WITH JOYCE



Dr. Joyce
Saltman

A YOUNG COMEDIAN

I just read a cute tale about a boy whose grace before meals included a request for Mom to get them ice cream, which was considered sacrilege by a lady at a nearby table.

That story brought me back to my own childhood for an odd reason: When I was a kid, I used to say my prayers every night and often tell G-d the latest jokes I had heard! When my sister, in disbelief, asked if I actually was telling some off-color jokes to G-d, I told her I thought He was so busy all day that He appreciated a little laughter at night!

To this day, I believe I had done the right thing, and that G-d must have appreciated my efforts so much that He has provided me with a lifetime of laughs, the desire and skills to pass them on to my fellow humans and, on some level, the ability to use "Laughter: Rx for Survival" to be able to

donate over a million dollars to my favorite charities.

My co-conspirators live in every corner of the world, and my very closest friends all share that love of laughter and positive thinking. I have been blessed many times over with a loving family, both here and in the next world, and the most amazing friends anyone could dream of having — all in this one lifetime.

By telling all those good jokes to G-d when I was a kid, apparently, I was paying it forward, and the jokes and all the smiles and good feelings that accompany a good laugh have constantly surrounded me for 77 years - and still counting!

OV

Dr. Joyce Saltman, Southern Connecticut State University professor emeritus of special education, is a 2015 recipient of the Doug Fletcher Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for the Applied and Therapeutic Humor (AATH). She holds four graduate degrees in the fields of special education and counseling.

RESIDENT POETRY

By Patricia Rowe

New England's Frost

Oh deliberate winter
Chapped cheeks, cracked lips
Coats buttoned to the neck
Wrapped in the warmth of cashmere scarfs
What tormented joys Mother Nature brings
Branches coated in brilliant crystals
 dive to the ground
Making icy music as they hit their target
Hear the sturdy chirps of brave birds
 who refused to fly south
Breathe
Soft snowflakes drift around you
Inhale deep enough till you feel
a sudden sting of winters cold
This is New England's Frost.

Inner Skin

That intimate part of us we never see yet feel
It directs every emotion we own with crystal clear insight
Forces the hairs on our neck to stand at attention
Comforts us during our darkest hours
Elates us when we are flooded with emotion
It is our moral compass
What makes us tick
Our very soul
This "inner skin" courses through us like a perfect storm
Eternally tuned into our feelings it adapts in an instant
Fortunate are those who are aware of it
Blessed are those who have learned through trial and error
To tap into the epicenter of their "inner skin"



**The OV Arts Guild's winter show,
"The Eyes Have It,"
is on view at Galerie OV at SCB.**

They're Back! Karaoke & Dance Party Will Now Be Combined!



**Together - Under one roof
at the same place, at the same time!**

March 25, 6:30 p.m., at SCB



Come join D.J. Chris Albino for Karaoke and Dancing on Friday, March 25, at 6:30 p.m. at SCB. Hear and dance to your favorite songs Both Karaoke and Dance Party are being combined into one show each month, so this is your chance to get up and get moving again! Never a charge or dues to pay.

Events will be held on Fridays ... Upcoming dates are April 29, May 27 and June 24.

Proof of vaccination is required to attend. BYOB, food and snacks..

House & Garden Presents

Stratford History

Monday, March 7-2022
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!



Vaccination card required



BUTTONS: Works of Art In Miniature

Wednesday, March 16,
4 pm SCB Lounge/TV Area

Anita Cody invites you to "come and experience the world of buttons from the humble to the fancy, rare and valuable, each one like a tiny work of art".

In her power point presentation, Anita will share her passion for button collecting and she will also have a display of buttons from her own extensive collection. Anita is past president of the Connecticut State Button Society and member of the National Button Society. She is an Oronoque resident and serves on the Board of Directors of the Arts Guild.

This event is open to all residents. Arts Guild Members attend free of charge, Guests pay \$8 at the door. Annual membership in the Arts Guild is \$15. It's not too late to join!



Appetizers will be served after the program

Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

Looking to provide his daughters, Venus (Saniyya Sidney) and Serena (Demi Singleton), with the opportunity to harness their talents and become professional tennis players, Richard Williams (Will Smith) tunnel visions on helping them improve, and with his limited resources, takes it upon himself to train them both.

After realizing he is looking out for himself, Richard begins to learn to put his daughter's priorities over his own and let them choose their own path, as they grow to become the champions he knows they are destined to be.

The Movie Club Presents King Richard

March 11- 7 pm - NCB

March 16, 2 pm - SCB

**\$1 admission includes popcorn -
proof of vaccine required**



WEEKENDERS' ST. PADDY'S DAY CELEBRATION - MARCH 12 AT NCB AT 6 PM

This humorous, high-energy show will you have clapping and singing along in no time, engaging you from the start to finish

Dr. Joe Utterback, a featured jazz artist, will showcase his piano-playing talent, accompanied by the gifted voice of Michael Jovovich. They will perform Irish ballads & American standards.

Dinner includes delicious corned beef sandwiches on rye, coleslaw, potato chips, soda, coffee and dessert.

The price for this event is \$25 per person.

To ensure a seat for what will be a fabulous evening, please deposit your checks — made out to "Weekenders" (with any special seating arrangements attached) — in our box at NCB by March 3.

Those who are unvaccinated must wear masks.

Questions? Call Carol at 203-375-2101.



FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS

Brian Kelly: Singer, Pianist, Trumpet Player
Tuesday, March 8, 2022 SCB • Doors Open At 6:15



Brian is a multi-talented musician who has been performing for the past 15 years across New England. Whether its Bach, Sinatra, Motown, R&B, Jimmy Buffet or Ed Sheehan, Brian can perform it all!
Don't miss this wonderful show!

Reservations required and payments will be accepted from February 16th until date of event unless maximum capacity is reached. Please put \$4.00 per person into FUNSEEKERS box in NCB lobby.

Not a member for 2022? Join or rejoin for \$15 per person. Drop your dues check off in the Funseekers mailbox (Please include your name, phone number and email address).

Only OV resident members and one non-resident guest may attend-guests are \$7.00 pp

Vaccination cards must be shown at the door for entrance
Questions? Call Lucy Clifford 203-644-7710

COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED

BYOB AND MUNCHIES!

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, MARCH 17**



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

**Note new start time:
Games now begin at 7 p.m.**

The cost is \$2.50 per card.

**Questions?
Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833**



**The OV Book Club meets on the
first Wednesday of each month
at 7 p.m. in the NCB Library.**

The book for the March 2 meeting is *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano .

The book for April 6 will be *Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennet about twin sisters, inseparable as children, who ultimately choose to live in two very different worlds, one black and one white.

Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

The assigned book for May 4 is *Chances Are* by Richard Russo.

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**Note: You must have a Facebook account to
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