

April 1, 2022



THE VILLAGER





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The cover photo, titled "Spring Rebirth," taken by Michelle Pia, who was the first-place winner in the 2012 Stratford Community Fund Photography Contest, which had the theme of "Springtime in Stratford." This photo was originally published in The Villager in April 2014. 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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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT



Lee Schlafer

MARCH 2022

It has been two years, but with my fingers crossed and hope in my heart, I believe that Oronoque Village is back. The calendar is full, The Villager is fat with ads for a wealth of events and we are emerging from our nests just as the crocuses are beginning to offer us our first glimpse of spring.

I suspect we are all holding our breath, scanning the horizon for any threats to this long-awaited return to activity and sociability. We shall continue to watch that horizon as we must, but this spring and summer have the promise of allowing us to do all those things that are such a vital part of life in this community.

On that note, plans are underway to offer New Resident PowerPoint presentations. Once the budget process is completed, these presentations will be scheduled and residents who have moved to Oronoque Village over the past two years will be invited to attend. This material will also be available on the OV website for all residents to review. There are also tentative plans to develop a video that can be added to the public side of the website that provides potential purchasers with an up close and personal view of life in Oronoque. More about that in future reports as work progresses.

I have what will be some final comments on the OV website and FrontSteps portal. It was four years ago that the FrontSteps portal was first mentioned with the suggestion that it would provide more functionality to residents and replace the resident OV website. It has been my mission to bring resolution and closure to this matter. The objective has consistently been to provide a product to Oronoque residents that serves their needs. This has proven to be a complicated and time-absorbing exercise. With respect to the OV website, the almost final step has been to reinstall an updated Address Book. It has taken much longer than anticipated to "cleanse" the old Address Book and get it into an acceptable condition to be reinstalled. It is now ready.

There is an insert in this issue of The Villager that provides residents with some helpful information. Apart from some small housekeeping details that need attention, the work on that site is completed. In my not-unbiased opinion, OV residents have at their disposal a product that serves their needs. The important job before us is to be certain that we establish a process that will keep the Address Book current. This procedure will be developed and documented with an understanding of where accountability for this task resides.

As for the FrontSteps portal, currently its use is limited

to making reservations and viewing the calendar. There is more functionality available. However, as many of you are aware, the registration process has proven to be very challenging. If management and staff, working with FrontSteps, can develop a means to simplify registration, allowing more residents to be part of the portal, there will be an opportunity to take advantage of the additional functionality it offers. Until that time, the portal will be used for reservations and the calendar and work on that platform is considered finished.

The spring clean-up and shredding day is coming up on May 21. Please pay particular notice to the announcements that will appear in The Villager. As is the usual practice, the dumpsters will be in the rear South Clubhouse parking lot and the shredder truck will be in the North Clubhouse parking lot. I mention this now so everyone has plenty of time to prepare.

During the April OVCA Board meeting, two matters will be brought to the board. The first is the Annual Budget, which the Finance Committee will review and vote on prior to the Board Meeting. That will be followed by a joint meeting of the OVCA and OVTB Boards to review the budget prior to the vote at the April meeting. The second topic is a consideration of Declaration, By-Law and Rule changes proposed by the By Law Committee. These will be distributed to Board members prior to the meeting.

On Jan. 31, I attended a meeting at Oronoque Country Club that was held by Alliance Management for members and supporters of the club. The meeting was conducted by Josh McKim, who is the managing partner of Alliance Management. He introduced several members of his team including the head golf pro, Alex Bardini; Shelley Cacavale, who is the membership director and controller and Dennis Petruzzelli, golf course superintendent who has worked at the course for several years and knows Alliance very well.

Also present were four members of the Chabot group, which will be handling food and beverage service. Much of the meeting dealt with issues and questions important to the golf-playing members; however, the most important takeaway from the meeting was that this is an experienced group with a plan and a very positive can-do attitude. Priorities have been established, among them to have the restaurant functioning between mid-May and June 1.

As many of us have noted, the filled dumpsters in the parking lot are evidence of activity that is underway. We look forward to what the spring and summer bring and wish Alliance every success.

I want to briefly mention that the Town of Stratford, through the Baldwin Center, is conducting a focus group

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 2 will hold its first business meeting of 2022 on April 18 at 6 p.m. at the North Clubhouse. Pizza will be served. BYOB.

The board will open the meeting with introductions and brief presentations. The guest speaker, OVT District President Linda Libertino, will present information on the TD's relationship to the Oronoque Village Condominium (OVCA) Board. She will also discuss the areas the TD manages for the Village and how their decisions are made. All Villagers are welcome to hear this presentation, which will take place 6:30-7 p.m.

District Rep Catherine Hogan will then lead a discussion on the joys, concerns and challenges of District 2 residents. Questions will be welcomed and, if answers are unavailable during the meeting, follow-up steps will be taken to gather and disseminate information.

Please bring your \$15 dues or put a check in our District 2 mailbox at the South Clubhouse.

~

District 10 will meet April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at NCB. Resi-

dents should keep their eyes open for a flyer in the black boxes.

~

District 11 will meet on Wednesday, April 13, at 6 p.m. at NCB. New neighbors will be welcomed and pizza and beverages will be served. Next, summary reports from District officers will be presented and discussion will be devoted to any outstanding Village issues.

The featured guest speaker is Ray Vermette, who has served as president of the OV Tax District and currently is an OVT District director. He will discuss the challenges of changing ownership of the Oronoque Country Club. This follows his excellent article published in the Feb. 15. issue of The Villager.

2022 dues of \$10 per person should be deposited in the District 11 box. If you are planning on attending the meeting, RSVP by Friday, April 8, to Jeannine McCann at jeannine.mccann@snet.net.

To be added to the District 2 email list, contact Tom Fuchs: tofu28469@gmail.com.

OV

about services that seniors would like to see offered by the town. There is a short announcement about this in the March 15 Villager. If you are interested in joining the focus group, please read the announcement for more information.

Finally, I will close by saying that I think all of us have the people of the Ukraine in our thoughts and wish that they soon see an end to this travesty.

Mim Schreck, special liaison with Oronoque Country Club, gave a full report on the activity taking place at the club. Plans for the restaurant are underway and dining for members and Oronoque residents will be upstairs in what is known as the pub area and surrounding rooms. The large dining hall will be used for events. There are plans for a deck to be built and a new access door to be created. The lower level will largely be dedicated to the pro shop. Happily for golfers, the course opened as of March 16.

Under new business, two motions were passed. The first permits nonresident guests to enter the buildings for activities as of May 14. Proof of vaccination is required for everyone over the age of 5. It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that the guest is vaccinated and proof is shown. This motion passed by a vote of 8 in favor and 5 opposed (4,8,10,11,Sec.) and one absent (9).

The second motion allows private parties to be scheduled as of April 4. Proof of vaccination is required for everyone over the age of 5 and it is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that guests are vaccinated and proof is shown. The motion passed unanimously.

Myrna Albino announced plans for a Strategic Planning Committee that will include members of the OVCA and OVT District Boards. A kickoff meeting is planned for late March. The first task of the committee will be to create a Mission and Vision Statement and determine next steps.

A report will be made at the next OVCA meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAKING ONLINE RESERVATIONS FOR CLUBHOUSE USE

By Lee Schlafer

This article is written to assist district representatives, club or organization members and all other residents who are planning to make reservations for club or organization events or private parties. There is a procedure for making online reservations which is as follows:

1. Log into the FrontSteps portal.
2. Go to the Dashboard and click on "My Reservations and Requests."
3. Click on "Calendar."
4. Find the date for the event you are scheduling and

confirm its availability.

5. Return to the Dashboard and click on "Community Communications."

6. Click on "eforms" and find the Activity Schedule Request. Click on "View Form."

7. Complete all fields on the form relevant to your event. When completed, click on "Submit Response."

8. Within 24 to 48 hours, the Business Office will confirm or reject your request. (You will be notified via email that your request has been approved or rejected.)

9. Upon confirmation, the event will be added to the calendar.

MOVIE CLUB SEEKS NEW ORGANIZER

Marcia Klein announced that she is stepping down as the organizer of the Movie Club, after 5 1/2 years of service. Anyone interested in taking the reigns of the Movie Club should give Marcia a call at 203-380-6886.

Movies are shown on the second Friday of each month at NCB at 7 p.m. and the following Wednesday at 2 p.m. at SCB.

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Oronoque Village Library is now only accepting books printed in 2012 to present. Please do not bring older books in to donate. The new fiction section is for books from 2019 to present.

STRATFORD LIBRARY INVITES RESIDENTS TO TAKE A SURVEY

The Stratford Library is in the midst of a strategic planning process to help plan for the future. Patrons are asked to take a few minutes to answer an anonymous online survey. The survey should take no longer than five minutes to complete. To take the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/stratfordlibrary>

For further information about the Stratford Library's strategic planning process, call 203-385-4162.

TAI CHI SPRING CLASSES

The theme for the spring sessions will be healthy liver and gallbladder working together, creating peace and balance. The classes are geared to relieve stress, anxiety and frustration and to promote mindfulness. Classes will be offered at SCB

on Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m.

Our Monday classes are designed for participants of all levels of fitness, beginners to experienced, and those who would like a challenge.

Classes involve standing exercises utilizing different postures, movements and breath work. These movements are the foundation of Traditional Chinese Movements (TCM) and include Qi-Gong and Tai Chi introduction for the new students and instruction to deepen the practice of our more advanced students. All students will be provided the opportunity to learn and explore their own body strength, flexibility, balance and range of motion as well as identify stress and how it impacts aging.

Our Thursday classes will be a combination of guided meditation, Dao-Yin and Tai Chi in a seated position. These classes are appropriate for all levels of fitness including participants who have physical challenges standing. Students will explore the ability to calm their mind while focusing on their breath, posture and mindful movements.

Regular practice of these exercises has been known to improve flexibility, the ability to stand, walk and reduce arthritis.

Cost for a six-week session is \$60. Jonathan Davis will be teaching. To join, call Lucy Clifford, 203-644-7710, or email lm-clifford@yahoo.com.

POKER PLAYERS WANTED



Resident poker players are invited to join the fun Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. in the card room. Games are open to all, new players welcome. Contact Rich Castle at 203-572-0989 with questions.



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OV RESIDENT JERRY ASHTON IS RECRUITING SUPPORT FOR VETERANS WHO ARE OVERWHELMED BY HEALTHCARE DEBT

Story by Carol King

OV resident Jerry Ashton is embarked on a mission to aid U.S. veterans in ongoing battles with the U.S. healthcare system – in particular the debt incurred through the VA Hospital. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Jerry is dedicated to ensuring that all U.S. military personnel are spared from the burden of unaffordable and unpayable healthcare fees once they return to their home soil.

As the founder and CEO of Let's Rethink This, a Public Benefit Corporation dedicated to bringing awareness to social conditions needing to be addressed, Jerry and his team are taking on the U.S. healthcare system and the Veterans Administration to improve healthcare standards for all veterans.

The website for the campaign – to run through Veterans Day and Christmas – is <https://endveteranmedicaldebt.com/>

"It is a misconception that U.S. veterans receive free or even affordable medical care through the Veterans Administration," Jerry explains. "Presently millions of U.S. veterans are experiencing hardships in affording medical costs and/or maintaining proper healthcare."

The goal of Let's Rethink This is to encourage the VA to consider a total forgiveness of all unpaid veteran and active-duty personnel medical debt which — by some estimates — exceeds \$6 billion and growing daily.

"We intend to accomplish this by way of a campaign to help our fellow Americans become aware of this travesty, to be touched by the stories that we unearth, to be educated as to both cause and cure of this affliction and then to act in responsible and powerful ways to bring about programmatic change in the way in which the VA treats unpaid bills," Jerry says. "This is a wrong that needs to be righted."

Locally, Jerry is organizing a series of meetings amongst resident veterans to be held at Oronoque Village. He plans to interact with fellow veterans to bring to their awareness the plight of their comrades. In the larger picture, he is taking his campaign to Washington, D.C.-based entities, including the Office of the Inspector General and the Veterans Health Administration.

"The statistics of under-served veterans are shocking, says Jerry. "More than 500,000 homeless vets seek shelter each night; over 50 percent of returning vets suffer from PTSD; many find that their long-term healthcare needs outlast their Veterans' Affairs healthcare, and...in 2010, some 1.3 million uninsured veterans had out-of-pocket



Jerry Ashton

medical expenses exceed their disposable income!"

Jerry encourages residents to visit the recently launched website (<https://letsrethinkthis.com/>) and view the agency's goals and efforts. An online petition — which urges the VA Hospital System to release all service member debt for forgiveness — can be signed while visiting the site. Additionally, residents can sign up to receive electronic newsletters and notifications regarding the organization's efforts and outcomes.

The organization has a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EndVetMedDebt>) and Twitter Feed (@EndVetMedDebt) to help spread the word about the millions of veterans who are being failed by the current U.S. healthcare system.

Neither Let's Rethink This or the #EndVetMedDebt is a charity. "It is an awareness campaign and not seeking donations. In both cases we are taking steps to educate the public as well as implement policy changes," says Jerry.

"Very few people are aware of the fact that veterans carry that type of a burden," he adds. "Once they become aware of it, the very next thing is...does it make a difference? Do you respond to that? Does it mean anything to you that the people who signed a blank check up to and including the loss of their own lives through service are going to be dis-served when they come home? Is that a way to say 'Thank you for your service?'"

Policy of VA Debt Collections Vs. Private Citizens

Changing policies to better serve veterans is a task that is mired with red tape and fueled by inconsistencies.

"VA Healthcare is a discretionary program, which means it's at their discretion as to whether or not someone qualifies," explains Jerry. "So, there's a provision of healthcare that's dependent on, for example, available ap-

propriations. They might not even have the money or the resources to meet a need – but the real point is not every veteran is automatically entitled to medical care from the VA. They have to meet basic eligibility requirements.”

The policies of the VA to forgive veterans’ debts are contrary to how corporate debts are resolved. “Most people don’t know that hospitals will actually sell the medical debt that hasn’t been paid to them,” says Jerry.

During a meeting with a subcommittee on veterans healthcare in 2017, Jerry was aghast to discover that there was over \$6 billion worth of medical debt on the backs of veterans.

“Now, that debt is not available on the debt market,” he notes. “It sits in the filing cabinets and the data banks of the VA hospital system. It was then that we realized what we needed to do was to catch the attention of the VA – and the best way to do that is with a campaign.”

The VA Hospital System presently holds in its files millions of dollars in unpaid and unpayable medical debt. “Up until this point, there has been no alternative to either collecting on it endlessly or writing it off to sit there as a burden on the minds of our veterans. Or, ‘adjusting’ but not forgiving it,” Jerry notes.

“There is a humane solution that deserves consideration: forgiving it in full,” he adds. “Certain charities acting in the role of a 501(C)(3) are positioned to either accept this debt as a donation or even purchase portfolios from the VA at debt industry fair market value and then abolish it at no tax consequences to the recipient.

“Here’s how it can be done: It will require a simple change in policy,” says Jerry. “There is precedent at the federal level. On July 21, 2020 in a Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Advisory Opinion 20-04, it was possible for the charity RIP Medical Debt to go directly to hospitals and buy medical debt from them rather than through third-party debt buyers. This change has already helped a number of U.S. hospitals to rid their books of unpayable debt in a way not previously possible. Literally millions of dollars are now being sold off freeing hundreds of thousands of Americans and their families from this crippling injustice.

“If this can be done for American civilians, there is no reason why it can’t be done for our service members and veterans,” he concludes. “These people in particular have put their lives on the line for us; it’s our turn to do something to make their lives easier. ‘Thank you for your service’ does not cut it.”

About Jerry Ashton

Jerry has a keen business acumen in the fields of finance, credit collections, marketing and medical debt resolution.

He is a four-plus decade veteran of the credit and col-

lections industry beginning in 1978 – the same year that the Federal Debt Collections Practices Act (FDCPA) came into existence.

During these 40 years in various companies, he and the staff he trained and directed collected literally billions of dollars for their clients. Along the way, a number of those clients included healthcare professionals and practices.

This latter experience proved fruitful when, in 2011, he participated in the Occupy Wall Street Movement in New York City’s Zuccotti Park. What caught his attention was a group of activists raising awareness about the plight of unpayable medical debt. He was familiar with that problem from the collector’s side, but not from the debtor’s.

Inspired by their efforts, he enlisted his friend and fellow industry executive, Craig Antico, to join him in providing technical and advisory support for their work. When that group changed direction and became occupied with other economic causes, the two partnered in creating a 501(c)(3) charity which they named “RIP Medical Debt” in early 2014. On July 25 that year their charity was recognized by the IRS and their work began.

RIP achieved national attention when it was employed by the comedian John Oliver on his “Last Week Tonight Show” to help him abolish \$15 million in medical debt. The charity became an Internet sensation and their work was propelled by the donations that poured in.

Since being founded in 2014, RIP Medical Debt has acquired, and abolished, more than \$2.5 billion of oppressive medical debt, helping over 1.5 million individuals get out from under the burden of crushing medical debt. On average, one dollar donated to RIP forgives \$100 of medical debt, empowering every donor to have an outsized impact. (To learn more, visit <https://ripmedicaldebt.org>)

Fast forward to October 2020. Jerry, having reached the original goal he and Craig Antico set to forgive \$1 billion in medical debt, announced his retirement and plans to remain on RIP’s Board. The debt forgiveness tally at that point was \$2.7 billion in forgiven medical bills for over 1.8 million individuals and families.

Jerry is the co-author of two books: “End Medical Debt” and “The Patient, The Doctor and The Bill Collector: A Medical Debt Survival Guide.”

He served in the Navy from 1955–1959 as a journalist 2nd Class serving variously as a newspaper editor aboard the heavy cruiser USS Bremerton CA-130, at the Barber’s Point Naval Air Station on Oahu, Hawaii, and completing at the Port Hueneme, Calif., Seabee base.

Jerry and his wife, Kate Coburn, previously lived in Manhattan and have been residents at Oronoque Village for approximately a year and a half.

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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 April 15, is April 4 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 April 13 and 27, May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22 and July 6 and 20.

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 levels 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.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

• Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1 p.m. on Thursdays next to the kitchen at SCB. 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@opton line.net or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.



SAVE THE DATE:

Hadassah Card Party Luncheon, May 18, 11:30 a.m., South Clubhouse.

All are welcome!

See the April 15 Villager for more details.

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TOGETHER, WE CAN END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

SAVE THE DATE! ALZHEIMER'S WALK ON SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 25

Alzheimer's isn't stopping ... and neither are we! This year, the Pickleball Club will sponsor a walk to support the Alzheimer's Association. Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, "Walk to End Alzheimer's" is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease. Details on how to participate in the effort will be published in upcoming issues of The Villager.

OV

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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 2: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

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

MONDAY, APRIL 4

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 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, APRIL 5

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

- 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
- 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
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB, C/R
- 4:00 p.m. – OVCA/OVTD Finance Meeting, NCB

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 9: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

- 4:00 p.m. – Art Show Opening Reception, SCB

MONDAY, APRIL 11

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – House & Garden Meeting, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB, B/R
- 4:00 p.m. – Winter Pool Social Group, SCB
- 5:30 p.m. – Tai Chi, 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, APRIL 12

- 9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 11 Meeting, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseekers, SCB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

- 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

- 11:30 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie Club: *Spencer*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – District 11 Meeting, NCB

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

- 10:00 a.m. – Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB, C/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 11:30 a.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, NCB,
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 5:30 p.m. – District 10 Meeting, NCB
-

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

- 9:00 a.m. – AARP Driving Course
- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB

OV SNAPSHOTS



Above, participants in the OV Low-Impact Exercise Group dressed in blue and gold to demonstrate solidarity for Ukraine and to show support for freedom. Thank you to Renee Zinn for contributing this photo.

The OV Archives is now on view in the front card room of the South Clubhouse. Members of the Archives Subcommittee, pictured from left, are Ron Ciecko, Mary von Ziegesar, Sandy Lunt, Tina Vermette and Dee Varholak. (Absent: Judy Waldeyer.) If you have donations for the Archives, please contact Mary von Ziegesar at mvonz@optonline.net.



ARTIST OF THE MONTH: JOE HAYDUCKY

Story by Marcia Hayducky ~ Photo by Carol King

For Joe Hayducky, the artist of the month, life has always been about creativity — whether he is painting a picture, making furniture or decorating his home.

Retirement has given him the opportunity to pursue his interests in a variety of artistic arenas. He draws and paints in several mediums and likes to paint with oils on both canvas and hardboard. Also, he enjoys using watercolors. Recently, he began sketching in oil crayons and likes the results.

Serious painting, however, began while he was recuperating from back surgery. He taught himself to paint by studying the works of the Masters and by watching others paint. He picked up ideas and practiced skills while watching “The Joy of Painting” show on television, which featured Bob Ross.

Joe often creates social situations that center on painting. He gets together with like-minded friends; while each person works on their own creation, they discuss ideas and techniques. Often within the group, paintings are started and completed in one or two sessions.

Joe grew up in Bridgeport and has lived most of his life in Stratford. After graduating from Harding High School without a firm career goal, he studied architectural drafting as well as earned licenses in insurance sales and real estate brokering. He became self-employed in all of these areas.

He later joined the army and attended finance school at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana. Upon his discharge, he



joined the staff of Stop & Shop Supermarkets Company, where he worked for 36 years and held several management positions in Fairfield and New Haven Counties.

Never one to be idle, while employed by Stop & Shop, Joe continued his studies, focusing on business law and business management at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

Joe moved to Oronoque Village in 2007. He enjoys all the people and activities that occur here and is involved in events presented by Weekenders, Funseekers and the Art Guild. **OV**

OV PICKLEBALL IS READY TO GO!

Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo by John Staley

It's time again to think dink! The Pickleball Club will hold its opening meeting on Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at NCB. New and current members are encouraged to attend.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. "There are 4.8 million people playing pickleball— almost double the number from just five years ago, according to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association." The club's current members have been playing throughout winter outdoors, both outside and indoors.

The club has been holding round robin for current members since April 1. The club's official 2022-23 season begins on May 1.

In addition to our play, the OV Pickleball Club offers an active social program to all members with parties and barbecues during the course of the season, and through the end of the year. This year the club is also sponsoring the annual OV Alzheimers Walk on June 25.



The competitive side of our club comes into focus in September with our annual tournament. But, being a fun group, we have a party afterwards to celebrate the day.

Interested in joining us? Please come out to the courts on Saturday, April 23, at noon for a demonstration by the officers. You can also try out your skills

Proper court shoes and athletic attire required. No denim is allowed. For more information, contact Regina Archazki, club president, at rarchazki@hotmail.com or 203-915-0781. **OV**

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, APRIL 21**



**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**

FUNSEEKERS - MARCH 2022

By Marie Orlowe

The Funseekers March 2022 meeting was the first since the closing of the cubhouses due to the pandemic. Everyone was happy to socialize and gather with their friends. The evening was a prelude to St. Patrick's Day.

The last four Funseeker mugs were raffled and won by Cheryl and Al Comen, Sharon DeLuca and Jackie Freeman.

Cheryl Dwyer introduced the featured entertainer, Brian Kelly, who is a multifaceted performer. He is accomplished vocalist who plays piano, trumpet and guitar.

His Irish renditions were "Danny Boy" and "The Wild Rover," which the audience participated by singing along and clapping. "Sweet Caroline" had the folks waving while joining Brian in song. He played both the trumpet and piano to his wife's favorite song, "The Way You Look Tonight." He strummed the guitar while singing John Denver's "Country Roads." His Elvis Presley choice was "Can't Help Falling in Love With You." Brian's finale was the Billy Joel's popular, "Piano Man." It was a casual, relaxing evening.

Following the program, a delectable limoncello cake was served along with beverages.

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RESIDENT ESSAY

DÉJÀ VU

By Elisabeth Breslav

I thought I had finally put the memory of growing up during the Nazi occupation of Holland where it belongs – way in the past. It was not an easy task. More like a long, difficult journey, with numerous road blocks along the way.

Like in 1957, some twelve years after the end of WWII, when I suffered a painful flashback while on the beach at Martha's Vineyard. It was the 4th of July. I was on my honeymoon and my husband and I had joined the crowd to watch the fireworks. Somehow the fire crackers turned into search lights and the shining stars into flaming pieces of aircrafts, spiraling slowly into the sea. And I felt again the horror of knowing that among the debris were the bodies of young men who should not have come to such an early, fiery end.

I pushed my way through the crowd and ran until I came to a beach house where I crawled under the deck. My frantic husband finally found me – numb and shivering.

Or much later still, in the seventies, when my husband and I were traveling through Europe and, while in Vienna, decided to visit one of its famed Ratskellers (beer cellars).

We enjoyed the jolly atmosphere until a group of Austrian uniformed army officers joined the crowd and began to sing "Wie eins Lilie Marlene," a song made popular to soldiers all over the world by Marlene Dietrich. I used to hear that song day after day as Hitler's soldiers goose stepped through our streets. My throat constricted, I could not breathe and my ears filled with thundering heartbeats that sounded like the stomping of feet in heavy leather boots. I barely managed to get up and reach the exit.

But over the years I kept making progress. Although when given a choice I will never opt to watch fireworks or enjoy them, I now no longer need to run away and hide. As for the song, it is rarely heard these days and, in any case, it no longer has the physical/emotional hold on me it once had.

My motto became "Leave the past behind and live in the present." It finally worked – until recently.

Because now another megalomaniac is threatening to literally blow our world apart. Like Adolf Hitler, who sought revenge for the humbling 1918 Treaty of Versailles, Vladimir Putin seeks to restore the old USSR. And let there be no mistake. Ukraine is just the beginning. Add the Baltic republics and northern Poland for a conveniently shorter shipping route between Russia and Germany.

Unlike WWII in 1939, when the European governments had waited until after the Austrian Anschluss and the invasion of Poland to declare war against the Nazi regime, and the U.S. did not join until the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, the international reaction this time has been swift, amazingly coordinated and far-reaching. We are hearing of massive shipments of military equipment to Ukraine, crippling banking and other commercial/industrial sanctions and website closures.

I find myself looking at recent NY Times photos of the fighting in Ukraine. That bombed-out street scene? It could have been taken in Amsterdam, some 80 years ago; I can still smell the acrid smoke. The BBC picture of the young girl staring out of the window? That could have been me in my attic room, scanning the sky over nearby Schiphol Airport, waiting for the promised food drops to alleviate the devastating impact of the infamous 1944-45 Dutch Hunger Winter.

Can you actually stop a madman? Hitler blew himself up in his bunker rather than surrender. Could we count on Putin to consider a similar ending? Or should we perhaps think of a Bin Laden scenario and have the little czar taken out by a SWAT team? It would be a far less costly solution than the announced sanctions with their worldwide economic consequences and associated human suffering.

And it would allow the ever-diminishing number of WWII survivors like me to spend our final years convincing ourselves that the past is behind us.

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CONTESTANTS WANTED FOR MS CT SENIOR PAGEANT

The Ms Connecticut Senior America Club is seeking contestants for its 2022 pageant, to be held May 14 and 15 at the R.D. Scinto Auditorium (3 Corporate Drive, Shelton). Contestants must be at least 60 years of age, citizens of the United States and residents of Connecticut. The woman who is crowned will go on to participate in the Ms Senior America Pageant which will take place in Hershey, Pa. in September 2022.

The Ms Senior America Pageant began in 1979 with the belief that seniors are the foundation of America and our most valuable treasure. Ms Senior America gives honor to women who have reached the "Age of Elegance." It is a search for the gracious lady who best exemplifies the dignity, maturity and inner beauty of all senior Americans. This is not a beauty pageant in the tra-



ditional sense, but one that looks to inner beauty and strength.

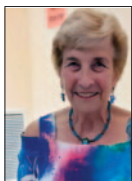
Contestants participate in four areas: interview, evening gown, philosophy of life and talent. Each contestant shares her philosophy of life with the audience so that the judges may develop insight into each contestant's inner beauty. Whether it is music, dance, comedy, drama, poetry, sewing or any other special skill, the contestant's talent should demonstrate the ongoing gifts of today's senior women.

For more information and to request a contestant application contact Debra A. Eccles at 203-435-4286 or Debra.eccles912@gmail.com. For more information, visit www.Senioramerica.org.



RE-JOYCE WITH JOYCE

EDUCATION AT TARGET



Dr. Joyce Saltman

Last week, I was the second person on line at the Target checkout. The store was mostly empty, and our cashier looked around 14-years old, although I know he had to be older than that to have gained employment. He was quite thin, had a nice smile and lots of good advice. The woman in front of me happened to be checking out cat and dog toys from their pet department, and the following conversation ensued:

- Cashier:** Why are you buying dog and cat toys?
- Lady:** I have both as pets in my house.
- Cashier:** But dogs and cats don't get along together.

Lady: Mine get along just fine.

Cashier: That's very odd, since they are so different. Dogs love being around people, love to cuddle and be petted. Cats do not like being around people most of the time, and will only come over to humans for short periods, when it strikes their fancy - and will leave as soon as they get what they want.

Having had both cats and dogs as pets in the past, I must admit that my cats did not fit the mold, and were particularly friendly to people, loving the attention and sitting for long periods on our laps, purring.

However, my personal experience notwithstanding, I was quite struck by the positions expounded upon by this skinny young gentleman. What impressed me most was how closely his descriptions described my relationship with Eddie (my significant other), with me as the dog, of course, and he as the more usual cat.

With very few exceptions, animals--and people--remain true to their basic natures. One cannot blame an animal for following his instincts, nor can I blame a man for being less emotionally connected to those in his surroundings.

Recognizing these very basic differences does not make them more appealing, but can lead to eventual acceptance. I think I may have finally arrived!



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.

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SAC ROARING '20s EVENT – SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD



**Come join us for a Fun-Filled Evening at our Speakeasy
Roaring '20s Event**

MUSIC - 1920S – 1980S BY: DJ'S EARL & JIM CRUTCHFIELD

WHERE: North Clubhouse TIME: 6:00 pm-10 pm COST: \$30.00 - BYOB

INCLUDES: Chicken Marsala, Eggplant Parmesan, Pork Tenderloin, Cavatelli w/Broccoli, Roasted Vegetables, Mashed Potatoes, Garden Salad, Soda, Coffee/Tea & Dessert

(Costumes for Event are Preferred. But are Optional)

To reserve a spot, please fill out form below & return with cash or check made out to SAC & deposit in SAC mailbox at NCB no later than: Tues-April 19th

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed _____

QUESTIONS CALL: STEPHANIE – 203-258-7445 OR MARY ANN – 203-530-9962



Presents Our New Art Show

SPRING FEVER

OPENING RECEPTION Sunday, April 10, 2022 4pm



Spencer is a 2021 historical fiction psychological drama film directed by Pablo Larraín and written by Steven Knight.

The film is about Princess Diana's existential crisis at Christmas because she wants to divorce Prince Charles and leave the British royal family.

Kristen Stewart stars as Princess Diana.

The Movie Club Presents
Spencer
April 8, 7 pm - NCB
April 13, 2 pm - SCB

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





FUNSEEKERS

PRESENTS

Glen Roethel Award-Winning Singer-Songwriter Guitarist

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 7pm SCB • Doors Open At 6:15



Be surprised by the unique sound of vocalist/guitarist, Glen Roethel, as he captures the essence of favorite songs spanning the decades. Glen is a one-of-a-kind artist, gifted vocalist, and wonderful musical acoustic guitarist. He is an award-winning songwriter and a real crowd pleaser! Glen has performed at venues such as Rockefeller Center and the Jacob Javits Center. He delights audiences with soaring vocals, infectious energy and accomplished guitar playing. Among others, hear songs by the Righteous Brothers, Elton John, Eagles, America, Simon & Garfunkel, Billy Joel, Ed Sheeran, Everly Brothers. Don't miss this fabulous performance!



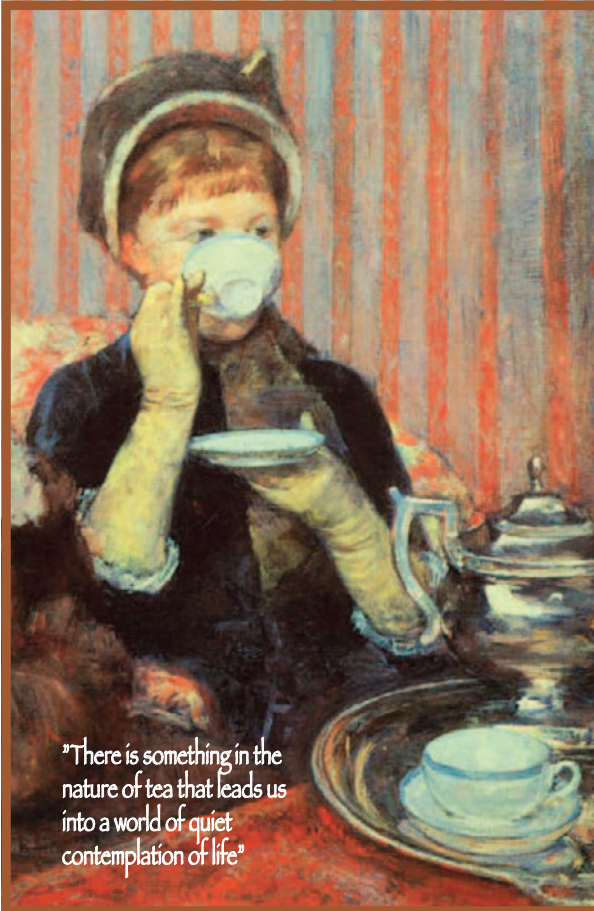
Reservations required and payments will be accepted from March 17th until date of event unless maximum capacity is reached. Open to resident Funseekers' members and one guest per unit. Please put \$4.00 check per person into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB (\$7.00 for guest). Not a 2022 member? - Join for \$15 per person.

Proof of vaccination and one booster required

Questions? Call Lucy Clifford 203-644-7710

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"There is something in the nature of tea that leads us into a world of quiet contemplation of life"

House & Garden Presents

Bigelow Tea 's Betty Johnson



Monday, April 11-2022

1:00 pm - SCB Note-NEW time for event start. 1/2 hour earlier than previous programs!

Members: Free - Guests \$3

Betty Johnson will present an interesting and informative program including the history of tea and how tea is processed. Her vast knowledge and expertise in the "tea" field comes from working with **The Bigelow Tea Company** for almost 25 years and her program should be a wonderful event. So wear your tea party frocks and get ready to raise a pinkie finger as you take a dainty sip!



Coffee, Tea & Treats served following the program

A "Bigelow" door prize for each attendee

Raffle Prizes

Vaccination card required

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



**Together - Under one roof ...
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April 16, 6:30 p.m., at SCB

Come join D.J. Chris Albino for Karaoke and Dancing on Friday, April 16, 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 May 27 and June 24.

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



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

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

The book for May 4 is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Of all the stories that argue and speculate about Shakespeare's life ... here is a novel ... so gorgeously written that it transports you. The author fictionalizes the life of William Shakespeare's family at the time of his son Hamnet's death in 1596 and the writing of the play *Hamlet* around 1600.

How much do we really know about the inspiration for one of the most famous plays ever performed? When Shakespeare sat down to write *Hamlet*, his only son, Hamnet, was some 4 years dead. Hamnet Shakespeare only lived to the age of 11.

Hamnet captivates the difficulties associated with death and grief in a time where the world, outside of the home, was difficult to understand and comprehend.

OV Wine Club: Grape Expectations!

Join us for our first wine-tasting event of the new year, "An Evening in Tuscany." Len Gulino, "The Wine Tutor," will, again, be our guide as we sample wines from this premier wine region of Italy.



When: Friday April, 29th 7-9 pm @ NCB

Cost: \$30/person. Attendance limited to the first 40 respondents
Your check to "OV Wine Club" is your reservation.
No checks before Apr., 2nd please

Questions: Contact Charlie DiGiovanni @ 203-258-8063
Your check to OV Wine Club is your reservation.

The event will include:

- Entrance wine
- Informative Commentary by Len
- Tasting 6 wines (3 red & 3 white)
- Snacks to accompany the wine tasting
- Post wine-tasting treats by Dorothy Tanski



**Deposit checks in Wine Club (Grape Expectations) mailbox at NCB. RSVP no later than April 23.
Proof of Vaccination (including Booster) required.**

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