

February 15, 2023



# THE VILLAGER







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Thank you to Sue Schettini for submitting the cover photo, taken on the 3rd hole of the golf course at Black Hawk Country Club (formerly known as Oronoque Country Club).

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](mailto: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 OVTD PRESIDENT

**JANUARY 24, 2023**



Linda Libertino

I wish all Oronoque Village residents a very healthy and happy 2023. In addition, the OV Tax District extends happy new year wishes to Fred Rodriguez, Mark Rhatigan and their staff members. Many thanks to you all for taking such good care of the Village.

Per our Tax District's charter, I have submitted the dates for the next four OVTD meetings in addition to our annual May election meeting. The OVTD meetings will

continue to be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Those dates are April 25, July 25, Oct. 24 and Jan. 23, 2024. The annual TD election will be held on May 23, 2023.

The Roads Committee, chaired by Jonathan Towle, gave a full report on Phase 1 of the road replacement work that occurred in the last quarter of 2022. Seven roads were repaved, along with inclusions addressing drainage, grades and curbing. Funding for this portion of the project will be paid by a combination of revenues collected by the District and the credit line that was secured last year. We will be providing details on the cycles of roads to be completed during the next phase.

Bill Tanski, chairperson of the Security and Safety Committee, gave a detailed report on the progress of the new access control system. The wiring and mechanics are completed in the South Clubhouse. The North Clubhouse is fully wired and awaiting the vendor, Kastle Systems, to complete its portion of the installation.

Testing has begun on the South Clubhouse doors for staff only. Once the staff is satisfied, we will focus on entry to the exercise facility. The plan is to communicate this to residents and allow a one- to two-week period to educate residents and allow time for keycard or FOB pickup; the plan is to go live in early February for this area. We then will review the process and make any necessary adjustments before proceeding to the entries of both buildings.

Mark Rhatigan reported to the Tree Committee that our arborist and grounds team have been working on various tree pruning work orders and will continue this work while favorable weather allows. This spring we are, once again, scheduled for Villagewide horticultural treatments. In April, the pre-foliar oil application will take place for all shrubbery, ornamental trees, arborvitae and rhododendrons.

Tom Aubin, TD vice president and chairperson of Energy Solutions Committee, gave a report on the committee status. The committee has determined that we will be working with CSW Energy as our solar developer. This is the same team that we engaged for a previous program involving the North Clubhouse. Presently, we are working to determine OVTD's eligibility verification regarding qualification for SAM (State, Agriculture or Municipal) as a municipal entity according to the Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solution Program Rules.

UI recommends that OVTD petition Public Utilities Regulatory Authority for a declaratory ruling in which it qualifies for SAM as a municipal entity for the purposes of the statute. The timeline on this, if all goes as planned, will be to make the UI deadline of February 2023; otherwise, it will be June 2023.

The Tax District continues to address sewer main backups as they occur. Since October, we have experienced four water main breaks. Three of the breaks were the Association's responsibility since they were direct units service lines. The other break was an Aquarion-owned utility valve located on Agawam Lane. Aquarion assumed all of the costs associated with that repair.

Under new business, I announced that the following residents will serve on this year's Nominating Committee: Barbara Minoff (chairperson), Jackie Freeman and Nicholas Harding. Tom Aubin made this motion and Bill Tanski seconded it. The motion read: "I move that Barbara Minoff, Jackie Freeman and Nicholas Harding serve as members and Barbara Minoff serve also as the Board of Directors-approved chair of the OVTD Nominating Committee to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in OVTD Ordinance 2022.10." The motion passed unanimously.

Please be assured that your OV Tax District directors operate as a cohesive team and we will continue to work hard for the benefit of the Village.

**VISIT THE OV WEBSITE AT [WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM](http://WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM)**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT: FEBRUARY 7 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**



*Bob Grosso*

**T**o all residents: The following is a summary of the Feb. 7, 2023, Special OVCA Board Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., roll call was taken, all District Representatives and officers were in attendance. I requested and received a motion to adjourn and go into a closed executive session to discuss personnel

and contractual matters related to the position of Executive Director.

Upon reconvening in Public Session there were two motions.

1.) A motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Lee Shlafer to enter into a Separation Agreement with Executive Director, Fred Rodriguez, to memorialize the terms of his separation from Oronoque Village. The terms of the Separation Agreement, for which we have an agreement in principle from Mr. Rodriguez, will provide for Mr. Rodriguez to remain on payroll and benefits through June 30, 2023. Thereafter, Mr. Rodriguez will receive payment per the Separation Agreement for the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. Mr. Rodriguez will work remotely, beginning March 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, and make himself available via email and phone, as needed, and will come to the Office as necessary.

The existing Separation Agreement between Mr. Rodriguez and OVCA will be terminated simultaneously with his entering into this new Separation Agreement.

The motion passed 10 – 4 (D2, D7, D9, D10)

2.) A motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Richard Steinfeld to appoint Mark Rhatigan to the position of Executive Director effective as of the effective date of the new Separation Agreement between Fred Rodriguez and OVCA. Effective immediately, Mr. Rhatigan's compensation will be adjusted as approved by the OVCA Board of Directors. In addition, he will be given an opportunity to earn a discretionary performance bonus based on achieving objectives to be jointly set annually by Mr. Rhatigan and the OVCA Board of Directors.

The motion passed 10 – 4 (D2, D7, D9, D10)

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Once the Separation Agreement is fully executed there will be a follow-up message with additional details of the forthcoming transition.

*Bob Grosso  
OVCA President  
(203) 449.3157  
sfgiants\_24@yahoo.com*



## 'THANK YOU' FROM STERLING HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER

Thank you for opening your hearts at Oronoque Village this December and collecting toys. The joy we share on Christmas morning as we exchange gifts with those we hold near is one of the most cherished times in our lives. And, the ability to ensure our neighbors enjoy that same happiness is equally treasured.

Across our adopt-a-family and pre-holiday toy shop initiatives, Sterling House delivered toys to 180 families, totaling 600 children served. Additionally, this 2022 holiday season, we were grateful to have enough toys to share with partner organizations, including Alliance Preschools, Parents Place, Emerge and the Hispanic Heritage Committee.

Together, we created a magical Christmas for families and children. And it is your commitment that made this year a success. For this, we are ever grateful. Thank you!

Sterling House Community Center Inc is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit, charitable service organization and



From left, Sterling House Resource Connection Director LeAnne Reynolds, OV Maintenance staff members Jhonson Hoyos and Ryan Carroll, and Sterling House Executive Director Amanda Meeson.

no goods or services were provided to you in exchange for this gift. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

—John Chamberlain,  
Sterling House Director of Development

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEM TO START IN APRIL AT SCB

The Access Control System will be incrementally phased-in beginning in April. The first step will be to require a key fob or card to enter the South Clubhouse Exercise Facility (using the outside door) starting in mid-April. Information on how to pickup a key fob or card for entry will be published in an upcoming issue of The Villager.

## BUSINESS/MAINTENANCE OFFICES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY

The Business and Maintenance Offices will be closed on Feb. 20 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

## DONATIONS ARE NEEDED FOR H&G TAG/BAKE SALE ON APRIL 15

The OV House and Garden Club will be holding its annual Tag and Bake sale on April 15. Now that we are all through with the holidays, it is time to get organized. We are looking for donations of household items, framed artwork, small furniture, etc. (Please: no books, CDs or picture frames.)

Our ladies boutique is looking for handbags, scarves, jewelry, perfumes, unused makeup and lotions.

If you have a collection of items that you'd like us to pick up and store until April 15, we will happily comply. Please call Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468 or Irene Keating at 203-377 3980.

Remember, all of the proceeds will go toward a specific project for the beautification of the Village. If every household donates even one gently used item, our sale will be a great success. (Also, we will be needing lots of bakers!)

## MINI FARMS DUES PAYMENTS

Attention mini farmers: if you have an assigned farm, your dues need to be placed in the mailbox at NCB no later than April 15. The dues are \$20. Prompt payment is appreciated.

Those who are not going to renew their plots for 2023 are asked to notify Debbie Grosso at 203-380-2468.

## NOTICE OF TOWN HALL MEETING

On Feb. 21, there will be a Town Hall Meeting to preview the 2023-2024 OVCA budget. The meeting will be held in the North Clubhouse at 5 p.m.

Residents are invited to attend and hear a presentation on the preliminary budget for the next fiscal year.

There will be a question-and-answer period. The budget will be finalized in March and presented to the OVCA Board of Directors in April and to the Unit Owners in May.

## POKER PLAYERS WANTED

The Thursday evening poker game has moved to Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m., at SBC. Castle Poker welcomes new members and veteran players.

For more information, call Rich Castle 203-572-0989.

## ARTS GUILD WINTER EXHIBIT CAN BE VIEWED ON OVTV

A 6-minute video of the 2023 Winter Quarterly Arts Guild Exhibit is on view on OVTV (Channel 591) at 10:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m., daily, through March 31, 2023 .

## SAVE THE DATE: DISTRICT 4 SPRING GATHERING

District 4 will hold its Spring Neighborhood Gathering on Thursday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at SCB.

A Boothe Memorial Park volunteer will provide a video presentation. This event is open to all Village residents and guests.

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## HOW TO USE THE OV ONLINE CALENDAR

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

Hello residents! We've had a lot of positive response to the new calendar launched last month on the OV website ([www.oroquoquevillage.com](http://www.oroquoquevillage.com)). This calendar contains the latest event updates.

The Villager is a terrific source for you, but calendar changes can't be made once the magazine goes to print, which is about two weeks before it gets to your black box. So, we hope this calendar will become your go-to source for event information.

If you need help, please see the instructions below. Or, call the Business Office (203-377-5313) or contact a member of the OV Geek Group, all of whom will do their best to help you navigate to and around our website. (A list of OV Geek Group members appears at the end of this article.)

### How to Use the 2023 Calendar:

1. Log on to the private/resident side of [www.oroquoquevillage.com](http://www.oroquoquevillage.com).
2. On the Home Page's Navigation tab/Menu, click on "Calendar & Events."
3. On the drop down, click again on "Calendar."
4. The Calendar will open and you may scroll down and click on each event to learn the details of the event. To change the calendar format, you may view by "Week" or "Month" or "Schedule." ("Agenda" - as shown in Image 2, at right - will be soon changed to "Schedule.")
5. Need to make a reservation? Scroll to the bottom of the calendar page and see the forms. Click on the form you want and print it. The forms are available here, but must be completed and submitted to the Business Office either as a hard copy or via an email attachment. If you prefer, forms are also available for pickup at the Business Office.
6. Finally, you may save this calendar on your device by scrolling to the bottom of the calendar and clicking on "Google Calendar" and following directions. If you save this as a favorite on your device, you may click on this calendar any time for the latest updates.
7. Need help? Business Office staff members as well as our OV Geek Group volunteers are available to help you register for the website and/or provide assistance in accessing the Address Book/Directory, finding your friends' telephone numbers, looking up events on the Calendar, contacting your representatives, submitting a Service Request form, checking out all of our Clubs and Groups or reviewing relevant documents.



Image 1: Click on "Calendar & Events" and then scroll to "Calendar" to open.

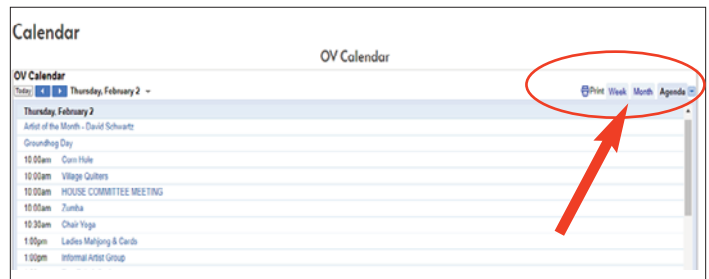


Image 2: You can view the calendar format by "week," "month" or "schedule." ("Agenda" will soon be changed to "schedule.")



Image 3: Need to make a reservation? Scroll to the bottom of the calendar page to access forms for an Activity Request or a Private Party.

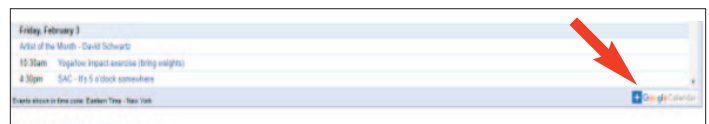


Image 4: You may save this calendar on your device by scrolling to the bottom of the calendar and clicking on "Google Calendar" and following directions.

### OV Geek Group:

- Chris Albino - 203-520-3931
- Regina Archazki - 203-915-0781
- Dianne Binford - 203-240-1718
- Dave Bingham - 203-502-0131
- Linda Bittner - 203-414-8879
- Carolyn Charnin - 616-821-2537
- Petra Dinnan - 203-240-1718
- Tom Fuchs - 203-500-6646
- Bob Sabo - 203-216-4670
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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 March 1, 2023, is Feb. 16, at noon.*

### CORNHOLE

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

### DOLLCRAFTERS

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

### CURRENT EVENTS

- The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

### 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 a.m. 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. Call Sonya DeBiase at 202-377-1515 for information.

### 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.

### 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 first Wednesday 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.

### TABLE TENNIS GROUP

- Table Tennis is played at SCB on Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. For information, contact Dina Glantz: [dinabob7@comcast.net](mailto:dinabob7@comcast.net) / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapidés: [mslapid@gmail.com](mailto:mslapid@gmail.com) / 203-927-8577. Play is scheduled via the TeamReach app.

### 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 Tuesdays 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. Proof of vaccination required.

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## Call-In Program Is Available To Oronoque Residents



If you live alone, you might want to consider signing up for the **Call-In Program**. To participate, you need to call the South Clubhouse (203-377-5435) every morning between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

A Volunteer Monitor on duty will check on you. That's all there is to it!

If you are interested in learning more about this program, please call Kathy Lukens at 203-612-6685.



## ALL-IN-ONE REMOTE CONTROLS ARE NOW IN BOTH CLUBHOUSES

The House Committee has overseen the installation of new all-in-one remote controls in the lounge areas of the North and South Clubhouses.

The remotes are accompanied by easy-to-follow directions that guide users on how to watch the televisions, play DVDs and operate the sound systems.

In the South Clubhouse, the remote /directions are on the table directly in front of the television.

In the North Clubhouse, the remote/directions are in the closet to the right of the television.



*New all-in-one remote controls (with instructions) have been installed in both clubhouses.*

*Left, the remote at NCB is in the closet to the right of the television.*

*Right, at SCB, the remote is on the television directly in front of the TV set.*



## CALENDAR

**Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at [larvers@oronoquevillage.com](mailto:larvers@oronoquevillage.com). For the latest on OV news & events, visit [www.oronoquevillage.com](http://www.oronoquevillage.com) or OVTV (Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box).**

**Bold-faced listings = OVCA / OVTD events**

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 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
- 2:00 p.m. – Movie: *Ticket to Paradise*, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Men's Club General Meeting, NCB

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Club Bingo, SCB

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18:** No events scheduled

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19:** No events scheduled

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

***Presidents' Day, Business & Maintenance Offices Closed***

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – OVCA Town Hall Budget Meeting, NCB

## VILLAGE SNAPSHOT



*The Tea, Talk and Crafts Group meets every Thursday at the South Clubhouse from 1-3 p.m. Everyone brings their own crafts to work on while enjoying refreshments and conversation.*

*Pictured, back row, MaryLee Prussel, Celeste Malin, Eileen Duig, Doritos Plavnicky, Nancy Wetmore, Patricia Meyers, Loretta Sills, Doris Emerick and Kathy Roy.*

*Front row: Patricia Williams, Joanna D'onofrio, Anna May Jerusavage, Irene Sanzone and Annrose Maglione.*

*Thank you to the photographer, John Stadtmueller.*

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. – District 1 Meeting, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

- 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, A/C Rm, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Arts Guild Event, SCB

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

***Business & Maintenance Offices Close at 3 p.m.***

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Karaoke/Dance Party, SCB

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25:** No events scheduled

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26

- 3:00p.m. – OVAG Film Festival, SCB (sold-out)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- **4:00 p.m. – By-Laws Community, NCB, B/R**
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

- 9:00 a.m. – Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Card Game/Brosowsky, SCB

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 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
- 4:00 p.m. – Pool Social Group, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Castle Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB



## STATE 'BOTTLE BILL' EXPANDED TO INCLUDE NEW BEVERAGES

When the clock struck midnight on Jan. 1, 2023 a new statewide bottle bill went into effect. Connecticut-based shoppers are now paying a five-cent deposit on more beverages at retail outlets.

People have paid the deposit on soda and beer bottles and cans for four decades. That has now expanded to containers for hard cider, plant water or plant-infused drinks, juice drinks, teas, coffee and kombucha, as well as sports and energy drinks.

The hope is that people will turn in their bottles to get that deposit back. "We have a waste crisis on our hands in the state of Connecticut," said Sen. Christine Cohen (D-Guilford).

The bill will change again on Jan. 1, 2024, when the deposit will go up to 10 cents. Cohen said it mimics what has happened in other states

"It helps consumer behavior in ensuring that they do bring those bottles and cans back," she said.

The following information is posted on <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP>, the website for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

"With the passage of Public Act 21-58, An Act Concerning Solid Waste Management, Connecticut is undergoing the most significant transformation of its beverage container redemption program – also known as the Bottle Bill – since the program was first implemented in 1980.

"The most significant changes in Public Act 21-58 included 1) an increase in the handling fee paid to retailers and operators of redemption centers; 2) an expansion of the types of beverages covered to include several new item categories – including sports drinks, energy drinks, and juices – beginning on Jan. 1, 2023; and 3) an increase in the deposit amount from \$0.05 to \$0.10 beginning on Jan. 1, 2024.

"On Nov. 29, 2022, Governor Lamont signed into law a provision that allows for a grace period on labeling inventory for beverages that were previously not subject to

the bottle bill, but will be covered beginning on Jan. 1, 2023, allowing inventory that has already been purchased by retailers by Dec. 31, 2022 to be sold even if it is not correctly labeled for deposit. Those unlabeled containers will be able to be redeemed beginning on Jan. 1, 2023.

"The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) would like to take this opportunity to remind consumers, retailers, distributors, and manufacturers what types of beverages and bottles are covered and not covered by the Bottle Bill."

DEEP notes that there has been confusion about whether spirit-based beverages (also known as ready-to-drink beverages or canned cocktails) are covered by the Bottle Bill.

"DEEP has historically interpreted the law that if such beverages are carbonated, they are subject to the Bottle Bill and should be labeled for deposit and be able to be redeemed. The passage of Public Act 21-58 does not change that interpretation. DEEP will note that Public Act 21-58 makes explicit that spirit-based beverages labeled or marketed as hard seltzers are covered, due to the inclusion of 'hard seltzer' in the definition of 'carbonated beverage.'"

Sources: <https://www.wtnh.com/>  
<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP>

What beverages and/or container types will CONTINUE TO NOT BE COVERED by the deposit program as of January 1, 2023?

WINE	LIQUOR	MILK/DAIRY	PLANT-BASED MILKS	MIXERS**	MEAL REPLACEMENT DRINKS
	PAPER CARTONS	POUCHES	MINIATURES***	LARGE CONTAINERS (see "Size limits" below)	

\*\* "Mixers" are products that are not marketed for or intended to be consumed on their own (i.e., soda and orange juice are not mixers because they are marketed for consumption on their own, even though they can also be used as a mixer).

\*\*\* "Miniatures" are beverage containers containing a spirit or liquor that are 50 milliliters or less. While these items are not part of the bottle bill and cannot be redeemed, they are subject to a 5-cent surcharge which is remitted to the municipality in which the container was sold. Size limits:

- Containers that are larger than 2.5 liters containing a non-carbonated beverage such as juice and containers that are larger than 3 liters containing a carbonated beverage such as soda are not eligible for a refund.
- Containers that are less than 150 milliliters of any carbonated or non-carbonated beverage are not eligible for a refund.

What beverages will be required to have a deposit refund as of January 1, 2023?

BEER	SODA	WATER	SPORTS DRINKS*	ENERGY DRINKS	JUICE
HARD SELTZER	HARD CIDER	TEA & COFFEE	KOMBUCHA	PLANT WATER (e.g. Coconut Water)	CARBONATED SPIRIT-BASED BEVERAGES

\* "Sports drinks" are beverages that are in whole or in part used for hydration before, during, and after exercise.

## WORK FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

### WOBBELTJE

By Elisabeth Breslav

It wasn't really a party – more like an afternoon “tea” on the first Sunday of each month, when my father's mother and sisters came to visit. This was many years ago, when I was four or five years old.

Unlike my other grandmother, this Nana did not want my brother, Arie, and me to come too close lest we inadvertently kicked her sore leg. As for the aunts, I barely remember them except for Aunt Cor who was very big and noisy, and who did most of the talking.

Nobody in the room could escape Aunt Cor's rib-cracking hugs and smacking kisses. As for Arie's and my reticence in the encounter, she came prepared with two bribe lollipops hidden at the bottom of her huge handbag and we suffered her affections while searching for our richly earned reward.

There was a special reason for our reluctance to undergo these warm greetings. Aunt Cor's face, like the rest of her, was large, with drooping cheeks the left one of which sported a lump that wiggled when she talked. From the tip of the lump sprouted one solitary stiff black hair which, you guessed it, zapped you at the moment of critical impact.

Arie and I coined the term “wobbeltje” (little wobble) and

each month prayed that the black hair had disappeared. No such luck. If anything, it grew taller and spikier. We begged our mother to excuse us from these visits, but she would not hear of it. “It would be most impolite for you not to attend,” she told us. “And, in any case, you might as well learn that you can't always run away and hide from the less pleasant experiences life has in store for us. That's how strong characters are built and I want you both to develop strong characters.”

Not too many years later, as the Nazis occupied the Netherlands, I had an opportunity to watch her philosophy at work as she somehow managed to hold our family together and refused to give up hope despite unimaginable hardship.

And now, face to face with the physical breakdown of advanced age, I tell myself it's just another wobbeltje. I am still building character.

*Elisabeth Breslav has been a resident of Oronoque Village since 2003. Among other activities, she is one of the founding members of the Oronoque Village Writer's Group and a frequent contributor to The Villager. Her essays have been appearing as Forum pieces on the editorial page of The Connecticut Post and other Hearst newspapers in Connecticut. Her memoir, “Bombs, Blackouts and Sugar Beets,” is scheduled for publication this year.*



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## BEYOND THE VILLAGE

Join the Naugatuck Railroad and Fascia's Chocolates on a Chocolate Decadence Tour. The evening begins at the historic 1881 Thomaston Station with a train ride that stops at the Thomaston Dam on its way to Fascia's Chocolates, where you will make your own chocolate creations. The event features local guest host wineries for the Chocolate Decadence Tour and breweries for the Taste of Litchfield Hills Tour.

One admission ticket, priced at \$74.50, includes light boxed charcuterie, souvenir glass for welcome pour and multiple tastings, Fascia's chocolate samples, your own custom chocolate pieces, as well as a scenic train ride along the Naugatuck River. Excursion is approximately 3.5 hours.

For information, visit <https://rmne.org/chocolate-decadence-tour> or call the Railroad Museum of New England at 860-283-7245.

This time of year, throughout March, is the maple sugar season in Connecticut. Cold nights and warm, sunny days are necessary to provide good sap yields. Local sugar makers and their many loyal customers eagerly await this annual rite of spring. Visit a local sugarhouse or attend a maple sugar festival to see firsthand how maple syrup is produced!

Nearby sugarhouses include Ambler Farm, 257 Hurlbutt Street, Wilton, 203-834-1143; Dudley Farm, 2351 Durham Road, Guilford, 203-457-0770; New Canaan Nature Center, 144 Oenoke Ridge, 203-966-9577 and Stamford Museum & Nature Center, 39 Scofieldtown Road, 203-977-6521.

A statewide "Maple Weekend" will take place March 18-19. For more details, visit <https://www.ctmaple.org/>

Shake off that cabin fever and celebrate the great outdoors in New England with three days of frosty fun at Mystic Seaport Museum during Presidents' Day weekend.

Wintertide takes place Feb. 18-20. Bundle up to meet reindeer and winter working dogs. Check out ice sculpture demonstrations and family activities like "sock skating," games, crafts and kid-friendly live music. Need to warm up? Enjoy a show in the Treworgy Planetarium, grab a hot cocoa from the cafe, or check out the latest blockbuster show before it closes: "Sargent, Whistler, and Venetian Glass: American Artists and the Magic of Murano."

Whether you're chilling on the waterfront or warming up next to a fire, visitors of all ages will find so many ways to make memories at Mystic Seaport Museum during Wintertide.

Most activities are included with general admission and free for members. Tickets purchased online for Wintertide are valid for all three days of the event.

### Wintertide Weekend at the Mystic Seaport Museum's Treworgy Planetarium:

11 a.m. and 2 p.m. "Aurora Borealis: The Northern Lights." Join us for a 30-minute tour of the winter night sky that also explores the Aurora Borealis. We will discuss the science behind what causes this beautiful phenomenon, and the show includes a dazzling display of the Northern Lights on the dome overhead.

12 and 3 p.m. "Polar Night, Arctic Light." This 30-minute show journeys above the Arctic Circle to learn about a time of year when the sun never rises (Polar Night) before discovering constellations as seen by the Inuit Native Americans who call this region their home (Arctic Light).

For information, visit <https://www.mysticseaport.org> or call 860-572-0711.



Exhibits devoted to Black History Month are on view at Yale's Beinecke Library in New Haven.

February is Black History Month. Yale's Beinecke Library is home to scores of items that document and celebrate the cultural, artistic and intellectual achievements of African Americans — including the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection and Langston Hughes Papers. In addition, the online guide "Focus on Black History Month" (<https://be-long.yale.edu/be-involved/engage/february-focus-black-history-month>) highlights groups, events, media and other resources at Yale University and beyond that explore Black history and experiences.

A temporary display on the Beinecke Library mezzanine is on view through March 1. This display showcases a selection of materials about an encounter between Langston Hughes and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., related to a tribute to labor leader A. Philip Randolph in January 1960.

The library is located at 121 Wall St, New Haven. For information, visit <https://beinecke.library.yale.edu/> or call 203-432-2977.

SAC PRESENTS:

# A NIGHT AT THE OSCARs



**Come dressed to impress!  
Stroll the red carpet and  
have your photo taken**

**Test your Oscar trivia knowledge  
with prizes for winners!**

**Sunday, March 12, 2023  
6:00 to 8:00 PM - NCB**

**\$18 PP includes light fare,  
wine and soft drinks**

**RSVP by March 7**

**Make checks payable to SAC and  
drop off this coupon with payment  
in SAC mailbox, NCB Lobby**

**QUESTIONS? CALL IVY TENCER AT 732-995-2840**

Attendee Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS



## Brian Kelly Singer, Pianist, Trumpet Player

Tuesday, March 14, 2022 SCB • Doors Open At 6:15

You gave Brian a "5 stars review" and wanted him back!

Brian is a multi-talented musician who has been performing for the past 16 years across New England. Whether its Sinatra, Motown, R&B, Jimmy Buffet or Ed Sheehan, Brian can perform it all!

**AN ALL NEW SHOW!**

**DON'T MISS THIS WONDERFUL SHOW!**



Advance reservations required. Payment will be accepted from February 16th through March 10th. (No late reservations). Open to resident Funseekers' members and one guest per single resident through February 26th. **Starting on Feb. 27th, member residents may sign up non-resident guests.** Please put \$4.00 check per person (\$7.00 non-resident) into FUNSEEKERS mailbox, NCB. You must be a Funseekers Member to attend. Join for \$15 for the 2023 year. Please include your email address and phone number with your membership dues. **Questions: Call Lynn Collins 203-260-4644**

COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS & DESSERT TO BE SERVED 260-4644

BYOB & MUNCHIES



The Movie Club Presents

*Angry Neighbors*

March 10, 7 p.m., NCB

March 15, 2 p.m., SCB

This is the story of Harry March, a retired writer whose life starts to unravel when a multimillionaire begins building a mansion across from his quiet island home in the Hamptons.

Up until now, Harry has lived peacefully with his talking dog, Hector, a born-again Evangelical and unapologetic capitalist.

Ultimately, Harry concocts an elaborate scheme for revenge that is destined to go hilariously awry.

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



**GOOD TIMES PRESENTS**



# Lancaster Show Trip & the Dutch Country



**INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- ◆ Motorcoach transportation
- ◆ 2 nights lodging in the Lancaster area
- ◆ 4 meals: 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners
- ◆ Admission to the "MOSES" Show at the Sight & Sound® Millennium Theatre®
- ◆ Admission to a show at the MAGIC & WONDER THEATER
- ◆ Visit to charming KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE
- ◆ Admission to THE AMISH EXPERIENCE & JACOB'S CHOICE AT THE F/X THEATRE

and much more

## \$425\*

**3 Days 2 Nights**

\*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

**(Mon - Wed)  
Jun 19 - 21  
2023**



"MOSES" Show at Sight & Sound® Millennium Theatre®

**Departure: Oronque Village, South Clubhouse,  
South Trail, Stratford, CT @ 8 am**

**Day 1:** Board your spacious, restroom and video equipped Motorcoach and set off for Lancaster in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country. Upon arrival, you'll enjoy a show at the MAGIC & WONDER THEATER. Tonight, enjoy Dinner before checking into your hotel for a 2 night stay.

**Day 2:** Today after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will go to THE AMISH EXPERIENCE attraction. The Amish Country Homestead is a reflection of their commitment to accurately and sensitively portray the Old Order Amish as they live and work in today's world. The Homestead is the home of the fictional Amish family of Daniel and Lizzie Fisher, whom you have gotten to know in the Amish Experience Theater's "Jacob's Choice." Inside the Homestead, learn of Amish traditions and practices, plain clothing and life without electricity. The Fisher One-Room School is attached to the house and filled with authentic desks and furnishings from an actual Amish school. You'll learn the tradition of teaching eight grades in one room. From the pantry stocked full of freshly canned vegetables to the family's plain clothes... from propane-powered lamps to air-compressor driven appliances... the Fisher Family Homestead truly provides insights into the complex riddles of a culture so very different from our own. This afternoon, Sight & Sound Theatres invites you to experience the "MOSES" Show. Set adrift as a baby, Moses is an unlikely hero – until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the promise land. Experience one of the Bible's most epic stories as MOSES comes to life with massive sets, special effects, and live animals in this original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres®! Tonight enjoy Dinner and head back to your hotel.

**Day 3:** After enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will head to KITCHEN KETTLE VILLAGE – a charming marketplace of shops and restaurants. Then, you'll depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great shows you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

**ADD PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...**

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\$75 Due Upon Signing. \*Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$75 for single occupancy.



Enjoy the Picturesque Views of Lancaster



The Sight and Sound Theatre is State-of-the-Art



Experience the Amish lifestyle

**FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**

**Mary Ann Weaver @ (203) 530-9962**  
**Drop off check(s) with name & phone # in**  
**the Good Times Mailbox NCB**  
**Motorcoach driver gratuity included in flyer price.**

**RSVPS AND FULL PAYMENTS  
MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 9**

Form ID: 4200-3A0306

WM

Tour#: 2000605





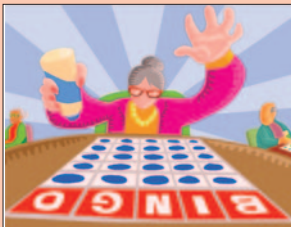
**OV Karaoke Club: No fees or dues \* No commitments \* Just fun!**

**Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on Feb. 24 in SCB at 6:30pm.**

**All you need is your wine and dancing shoes. A good time is guaranteed for all! No need to RSVP...just come on over, grab a seat, and either watch or join the fun by putting in a song or two!**

**Hope to see you all then. Oh... and tell a friend!**

**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.  
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16**



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

**Games 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 March 1 is *Days Without End* by Sebastian Barry. A powerful and unforgettable novel chronicling a young Irish immigrant's army years in the Indian wars and the American Civil War. Moving from the plains of Wyoming to Tennessee, Author's latest work is a masterpiece of atmosphere and language.

An intensely poignant story of two men and the makeshift family they create with a young Sioux girl. *Days Without End* is a fresh and haunting portrait of the most fateful years in American history and is a novel never to be forgotten.

The book for April 5 will be *The Common Good* by Robert Reich. The author makes a powerful case for the expansion of America's moral imagination.

**HADASSAH INVITES ONE AND ALL TO A  
CELEBRATION OF SPRING AT RED LOTUS IN SHELTON**



Haddasah will celebrate the beginning of Spring with a luncheon on March 15th, 12PM, at the Red Lotus Restaurant in the Shelton Square Shopping Center (872 Bridgeport Ave.)

Lunch will begin with soup or salad, then your choice of: chicken or steak teriyaki or crispy shredded beef or chicken & broccoli or General Tso's chicken or sauteed mixed vegetables.

Sides will be pad thai noodles, fried rice and vegetable tempura. Dessert included

The price will be \$27 PP. Please place checks made out to Hadassah in the box at NCB. Make sure to write your luncheon selection in the Memo line.

Please RSVP No Later Than March 10.

????s Carol Tepper 203-375-2101

**GOOD TIMES SOCK HOP**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH – 6:00 - 10 PM NCB**



**MUSIC AND DEDICATIONS PROVIDED BY: "PETER Z"**

**ADMISSION: 20.00 - BYOB & FOOD**

**SNACKS, SODA & DESSERT - INCLUDED**

**50'S, 60'S, 70'S, 80'S COSTUMES OPTIONAL**

**DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLES**

**QUESTIONS CALL: MARY ANN WEAVER – 203-530-9962**



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Include all names with checks payable to **GOOD TIMES**. Drop check(s) & this form in **GOOD TIMES** mailbox at NCB before Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>..





Presents An Illustrated Program About  
**P.T. Barnum**  
His Life & Career

Mrs. Marian O'Keefe, a Barnum expert and museum docent for 25 years, will present an illustrated program about P.T. Barnum's life and multi-faceted career—did you know he was a mayor and a four-term State legislator?! Barnum's many contributions to developing the city of Bridgeport will be discussed as well as the stories of the people he made famous.

Monday, March 13, 2023

1:00 pm SCB

Members free-guests pay \$5

Dessert & Coffee/Tea served after the program



Presents An Uplifting Talk By

**Donna Martire-Miller**

*"Finding a Sense of Meaning in Your Life - Your Character Strengths Can Become Your Legacy"*

The OV Arts Guild is excited to offer this unique presentation by our own Oronoque resident Donna Martire-Miller. If you would sometimes like to be happier in life or are looking for a sense of meaning, look no further. We all yearn to be seen, heard, known. Donna will show us how to discover our character strengths and how to use them to navigate our lives in the best possible way.

Donna uses tenets of positive psychology in creating concrete tools that will increase happiness and well-being.

Presently, Donna is an adjunct professor at the University of Bridgeport where she teaches Wellness, Perspective of Happiness and Human Services related courses.



"Every small change leads to huge rewards and a happier life"

Donna Martire-Miller

Thursday, February 23,  
7pm SCB

Members Free-Guests Pay \$8

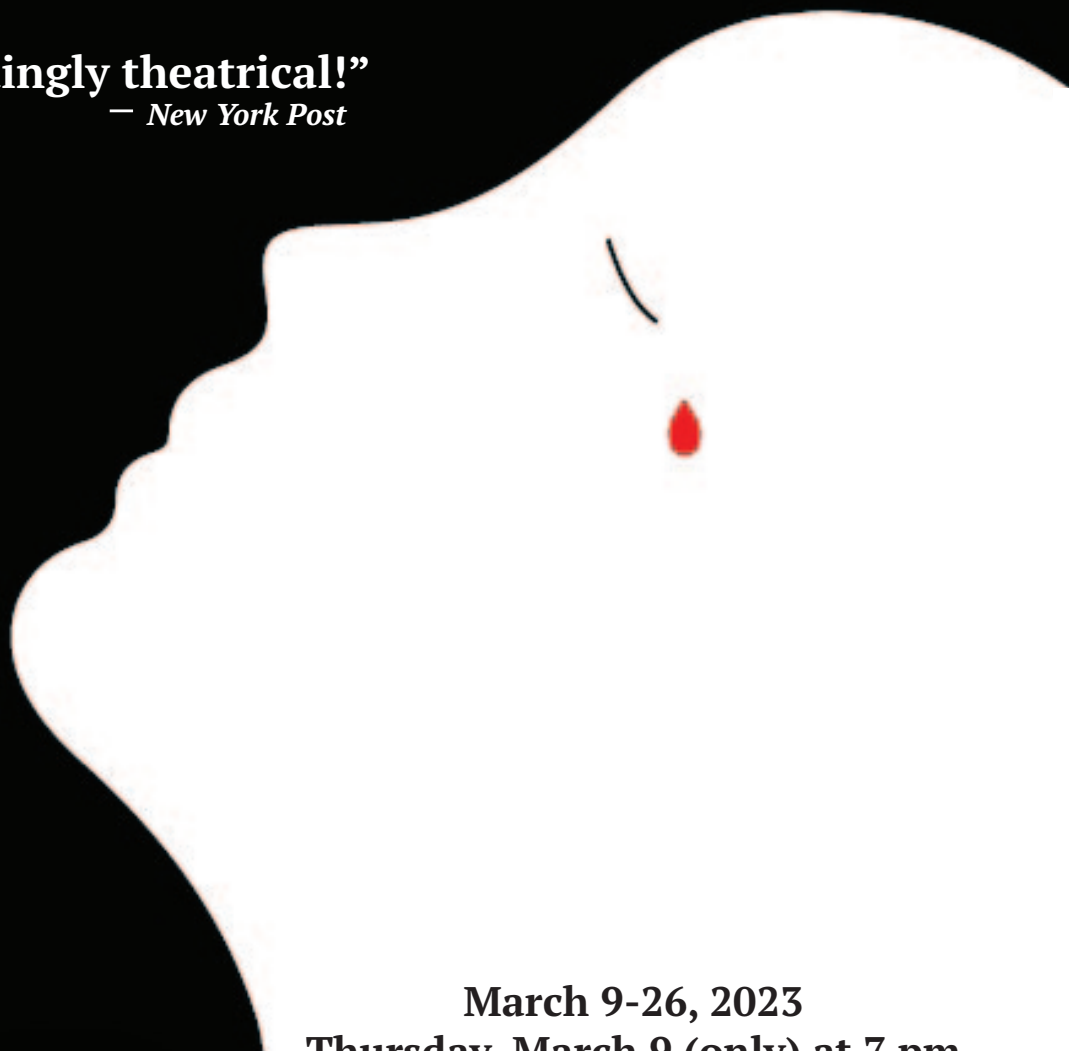
Reception following program

Questions? Call Barbara Stewart 203.612.1373

# John Pielmeier's AGNES OF GOD

FINAL PLAY OF THE SEASON

“Blindingly theatrical!”  
— *New York Post*



March 9-26, 2023

Thursday, March 9 (only) at 7 pm

Fridays & Saturdays at 8 pm

Saturdays at 4 pm • Sundays at 2 pm

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*Directed by Tom Holehan*

Cast: Lucy Babbitt, Céline Montaudy & Priscilla Squiers

Tickets: Adults: \$22 Seniors/Students: \$20

Front Row Seating (limited): \$25

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This February receive a **FREE 30-day in-home trial** and get **\$1,000 OFF** when you purchase or lease a pair of premium hearing instruments.\*

\*Offer is not available for third parties and third-party insurance

## Be Safe. Be Well. Be Home.

The Oronoque community is our sanctuary. It is our home. Our friends are here. Our memories are here.

As the world around us changes and challenges us, Caregiver's Home Solutions can bring you peace of mind.

When illness, injury or age make home life more difficult, our family owned and operated caregiving agency can help keep you safe and independent in your own home. The way it should be. Always.

Proudly owned by an OV resident, our agency has been honored to serve the Oronoque community for over 14 years.

Call us today for a no-obligation in-home assessment. It would be our pleasure to show you how we can help with a care plan that meets your individual needs while maintaining your sense of dignity and independence.

**+ Special discount for OV residents +**

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203-870-9850

