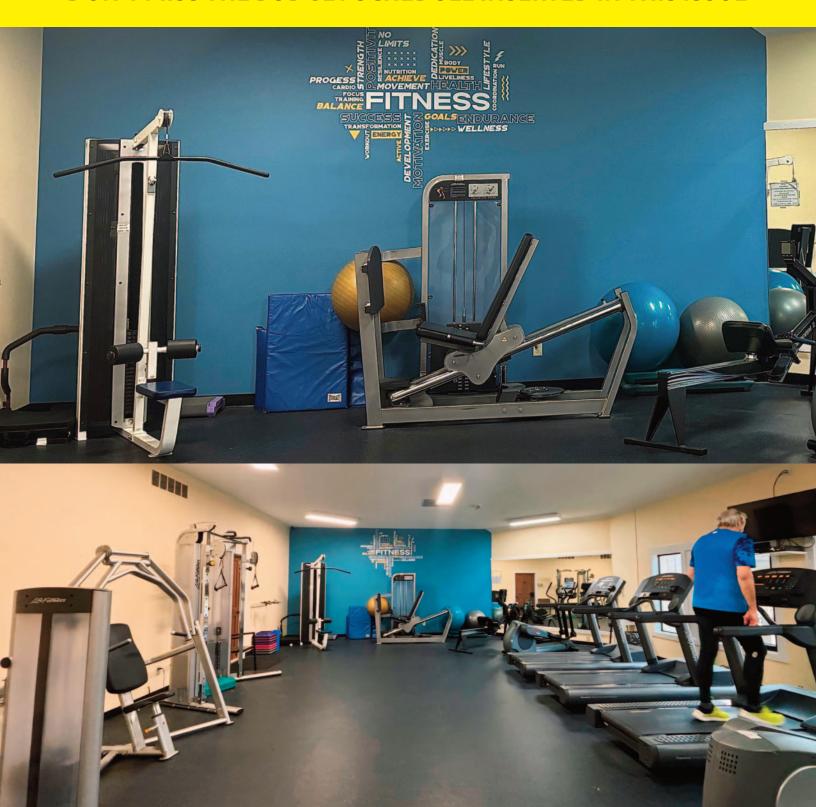


DON'T MISS THE BUDGET SCHEDULE INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE





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Thank you to Kathy Stevens for providing the cover photos of the exercise facility in the South Clubhouse. The room recently was upgraded with repairs, painting and the addition of a decorative accent wall.



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Oronoque Village Condominium Association President's Message

MARCH 16, 2024

appy spring, everyone! We are all looking forward to warmer weather and longer days. Yes, after a few years of essentially no snow this year we had a few and one that was

challenging leaving nearly nine inches. The storm was handled exceptionally well by our Maintenance staff, while working with some new drivers and a truck breakdown. Thank you!

The Clubhouse Tax Appeal Phase I: As reported in my February message, the Town of Stratford attorney requested an inspection of the Oronoque property. The inspection was conducted on Feb. 22, 2024. The inspection team included the Town's Attorney and Assessor as well as representatives from their appraisal firm. The OV team included Mark Rhatigan, Diane Roche, Ray Vermette and Bob Grosso. The Town's interrogatories were prepared and submitted on March 1, 2024, prior to the March 2, 2024, due date.

Tax Appeal Financial Summary: With some input from Cohen and Wolf, a best estimate was made of the costs to be expected through Board of Assessment and Appeals (BAA) submission on Feb. 14, 2024, up to pretrial.

- At the June 20, 2023, OVCA Board meeting a motion was made by Myrna Mills Albino and seconded by Dick Steinfeld to authorize the Executive Director to proceed with the effort to appeal the clubhouse property taxes with the Town of Stratford. Oversight of costs associated with this appeal will be the responsibility of the OVCA Treasurer and Finance Committee and monthly updates will be provided to the Board by the Treasurer, Executive Director or the OVCA President. Cost in this fiscal year will be \$15,000. Costs in future years will be approved as part of the annual budget cycle. The motion passed 13 1.
- \$17,339 has been spent through BAA submission on February 14, 2024.
- Legal pretrial preparations are in process.
 Next steps....
- We recently were informed that April 18 has been set as the pretrial date. This is a critical milestone that will determine if a settlement can be reached by both parties, avoiding a trial and the costs and protracted schedule that would result.
- Later tonight, Ray Vermette, who has been invaluable

to this effort by providing a wealth of historical knowledge and a willingness to research town land records, will provide a forward-looking perspective of the pre-trial process and possible outcomes and future steps that may need to be taken.

By-Laws: The By-Laws Committee is targeting March 31 as the deadline for its completion of revisions to the By-Law articles.

The proposed revisions will be submitted to the OVCA officers for their review in early April. Depending on what revisions are needed because of that review, the committee hopes to submit the pro-posed revisions to our attorneys by mid-April.

Following the legal review of the revisions, and after any revisions are made as requested by our attorneys, the committee will finalize the red-lined and clean versions of the By-Laws as well as the Summary of Substantive Changes that is being prepared for each article.

While an exact date cannot be identified at this point, it is anticipated that all materials will be made available to the Board two weeks in advance of the first meeting to begin the board review of the proposed By-Law revisions.

Strategic Planning Initiative: A formal presentation was made to the Unit Owners on Feb. 6, 2023. The next step is to develop a plan of execution.

I want to thank Myrna and her initial team members for bringing this forward, Mark for his guidance and leadership and everyone on all the Strategic Planning teams for their participation in creating a plan to help guide us into the future. There were about 60 residents working on this Strategic Plan and we are very appreciative of your time and input.

As a result of several suggestions (recommendations) that involved our Village's infrastructure and appearance, and after consulting with the OVCA and OVTD Boards about next steps, OVCA is creating an ad hoc committee to help us move forward. We are calling this the Public Works Ad Hoc Committee. We are looking for a group of residents with relevant knowledge and hands-on experience in infrastructure and public works issues. We know we have a very talented community here. We are calling for those of you interested in this effort to formally respond by delivering to Mark a brief bio about your background and your interest.

The primary responsibility of this new committee is twofold: 1) to advise and assist the OVCA/OVTD/ED in developing and administering an ongoing program to pre-

WELCOME TO OV'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES MANAGER KATHY STEVENS

Welcome to Kathy Stevens, who joins the OV staff in the newly created position of Social Activities Manager. Reporting directly to the Executive Director Mark Rhatigan, Kathy plays a pivotal role in enhancing the community's social life by coordinating and managing a variety of events, overseeing communications and collaborating with different committees and clubs within the association.

She also oversees the Master Calendar, working with clubs within the community to schedule events, ensuring a diverse and engaging calendar of activities, as well as handles the postings on OVTV Channel 591.

"I have analyzed our current structure and, if there was ever a need for this position to be implemented, that need is now," states Mark. "Our community is quickly changing, the needs and demands of owners have been increasing exponentially and management is adapting to those changes."

Before joining the OV staff, Kathy was the restaurant manager at Tashua Knolls Golf Club and Banquet in Trumbull, where she handled event coordination and execution



and sales while managing server staff members.

She oversaw large-scale indoor and outdoor events, ranging from weddings to banquets to fundraisers and reunions, with guests lists that capped at 300 attendees.

A native of Seymour, Kathy now lives in Hamden with her husband, Alex, and her 8-month-old son, Alex Jr.

She is enjoying the opportunities provided at Oronoque Village." I definitely like working with the residents and the OV staff," she states.

serve and enhance our physical assets and infrastructure, particularly with respect to the maintenance of OV improvements — buildings, grounds and other facilities. And, 2) to provide advice and assistance to the OVCA and OVTD Boards in developing the long-range plans we need to ensure the future physical and economic well-being of Oronoque Village.

Please contact Mark or me if you have any questions and any interest in participating in this new committee.

2024/2025 Budget: Mark and his team are preparing a proposed budget for initial review by the Finance Committee prior to presenting a recommendation to the OVCA Board. The major challenges include developing a roof replacement program like the Program Maintenance program, our property liability insurance premium, balancing payroll requirements considering job market labor shortages and offset with contractual outsourcing services to meet the needs of the Village, annual contractual increase

of our cable and Internet services. Mark will be discussing more details shortly in his Executive Director's report, including a detailed schedule.

Meeting with Mayor Laura Hoydick: I have been in contact with the Mayor's office to conduct our annual meeting, probably in May, with Town Hall officials after the Town budget has been approved. Stay tuned for updates and details.

Buyer's Fee Implementation Update: There are a few units currently in the pipeline that will be closing in the next few weeks.

Motion Approved: A motion was made by Ken Colman, seconded by Lee Shlafer, to permit up to an additional \$25,000 in legal spending over the next three months to support the property tax lawsuit versus the Town of Stratford. The motion passed unanimously.

Go, UConn Men and Women's Basketball Teams!







TOGETHER, WE CAN END ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.



SAVE THE DATE: OV'S ALZHEIMER'S WALK IS SET FOR JUNE 10

Alzheimer's is more than just memory loss — it is a progressive and fatal disease. Currently, more than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and 11 million provide unpaid care for them. Locally, the disease continues to devastate our families, finances and future. Alzheimer's disease kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

In Connecticut alone, there are:

» 80,000 people living with Alzheimer's, with that num-

ber expected to grow to 91,000 by 2025.

» Nearly double that number of people caring for them.

On June 10, the Pickleball Club will sponsor the OV Alzheimers Walk, marking the 10th anniversary of this fundraiser.

Please join our OV community Alzheimer's fundraiser event this year! We look forward to your support. Look for more details in the next Villager.

UPCOMING DISTRICT MEETINGS

District 7 will hold a spring meeting on April 17 at NCB at 6 p.m. Dinner will be served. More details to follow as the date nears.

District 9 will hold a spring meeting on May 15 at 5:30 p.m. at NCB. There will be a slide show presentation on herbs by Rosalie Bares, followed by a light dinner and dessert. Details and costs will be sent to residents in mid-April.

District 11 will hold a meeting on Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at NCB. Please see page 12 for more details.

PICKLEBALL DEMOS SCHEDULED

Want to learn the game of pickleball? Demos are scheduled for April 25 at 6 p.m. or April 27 at noon.

Whether you are a seasoned player or new to the sport, these demos —organized by the OV Pickleball Club — are open to all res-

Pickleball Club — are open to all re idents.

No RSVP needed. More info about programs for beginner-level players is coming your way soon.

For information on the Pickleball Club, please contact Maddy Lapides at 203-927-8577 or mslapid@gmail.com or Bill Tanski at 609-876-3520 or cwdtans@gmail.com.

BRAVO SEEKS BACKSTAGE HELPERS

Casting for the upcoming Bravo shows, scheduled for Sept. 28 and 29, is now closed. However, anyone interested in assisting with backstage assignments is welcome.

Please contact Donna M. Miller at 203-520-5796 or email at Donna@happilyeveractions.com for more information.

ELISABETH BRESLAV TO SPEAK AT SEVERAL AREA LIBRARIES

Oronoque Village resident Elisabeth Breslav, who recently published her memoir, titled "Five Years Under Nazi Occupation — A World War II Memoir of Resilience and Survival in The Netherlands," has commitments to speak at several area libraries.

She will discuss the gripping story of her life from ages 12 to 17 during the 1940-1945 Nazi occupation on the following dates.

April 6 at 2 p.m. at the Milford Library.

On April 27, she will be among 10 to 15 authors who speak at the Hagaman Memorial Library in East Haven in a program that begins at 11 a.m.

Please see page 16 for an article on Elisabeth's March 15 presentation at Oronoque Village.

ANNOUNCEMENTS continue on page 12

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE REMINDER TO RESIDENTS

S pring is almost here. Soon, our Village will become a beautiful palette of tree blossoms and floral colors. This time of year, Application for Change requests increase. Below are the basic steps to apply for an architectural change to your unit.

1. Prepare and submit an Architectural Change Request form to the Business Office at the North Clubhouse. (Forms can be picked up from the Business Office or downloaded from the OV website, www.oronoquevillage.com, under the Documents and Forms tab.) A mandatory \$50 deposit must accompany the submitted application.

To ensure a smooth transition, the application must include a detailed explanation of the request, as well as the manufacturer's data sheet, sketch or drawing with dimensions, photo(s), where appropriate, and the contractor's name and insurance information.

Requests for replacement windows, doors, etc., are typically acted on during an Architectural Committee (AC) meeting. The AC will make an on-site visit to the unit to

review the impact of exterior changes – such as decks or added window(s), etc. – on the surroundings.

2. If the application is approved by the AC, the Business Office will provide an approval letter, a policy of renovation, an OV building permit (which does not replace the permits required by the Town of Stratford) and a "Notice of Completion" form. The package will be sent to the resident via the U.S. Postal Service.

After the work is complete, the "Notice of Completion" form should be returned the Business Office. From there, the OVCA Maintenance Department will inspect that the work was completed properly. Once the work passes inspection, the \$50 deposit will be sent back to the resident. If the work does not pass inspection, the resident will be responsible for any corrections needed for reinspection until all work meets the requirements.

Please note: The AC meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Applications must be submitted to the Business Office for review by the AC no later than noon on the Friday before the meeting is scheduled.







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ARTIST OF THE MONTH: JOE MACKENNA









Photos take by April Artist of the Month Joe Mackenna: Top left, "Wagon at Silk Road Oasis in Turkey." Top right, "Catskill Chairs." Bottom left, "Crescent Island Boat House." Bottom right, "Feluccas on the Nile River."

During the month of April, visitors to the North Clubhouse can admire the photography exhibits of Artist of the Month Joe Mackenna.

Joe and his wife, Kathy, joined the Oronoque Village experience four-and-a-half years ago. Joe attended the Albright Art School of the University of Buffalo and started his creative career with the advertising agency BBDO as an art director in Buffalo, N.Y.

He then joined, Marsteller Inc., the premier business-to-business advertising agency at the time. He became the co-creative director of the Pittsburgh, Pa., office working on various accounts from beer to banking.

In the early '80s, Joe transferred to New York after his agency became a subsidiary of Young & Rubicam. In New York, his accounts included aerospace, automobiles and ar-

chitectural products. Eventually, he became the managing director of the agency's Special Markets Business-to-Business Unit.

In the '90s, Joe created advertising for several high-tech accounts at Clarion Communications, a unit of D'Arcy, Masius, Benton & Bowles (now Publicis).

In 2001, Joe started his own creative consulting practice providing a range of communication and marketing services including websites, advertising, annual reports and various forms of publications for hospitality, electrical devices as well as high-tech accounts.

As photographer, Joe is a picture-taker versus a picture-maker. Joe and Kathy have been lucky enough to have done some traveling and Joe enjoys taking pictures so he can share their travels and what they have seen.

PICKLEBALL CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

PICKLEBALL CLUB KICKS OFF ANOTHER FUN SEASON ON APRIL 30

By Maddy Lapides

We're pickled pink to be launching the 2024 OV Pickleball Club (OVPC) season and can't wait to see you on the courts. As a kick-off, all current and prospective members are invited to attend the club's opening meeting on Tuesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. at the NCB auditorium.

Information on free clinics, support play for beginner-level players and a season-opening social hour with refreshments await you.

The season's official opening day is May 1 and the annual membership fee of \$40, due by May 15, can be dropped off in the OVPC mailbox in the NCB. Membership forms are available at the entrance to the courts and will be available at the opening meeting as well.

Pickleball at Oronoque is growing, not only in membership, which has almost doubled over the past two years, but last year two new courts were added which brings the total number of courts to five.

This year we anticipate even more action on the courts and want to continue to grow membership by welcoming new residents to join as well as existing residents who have expressed interest in the club. The benefits of membership



Pickleball Club members gathered on the OV courts on New Year's Day 2024. Club members play all year, weather permitting.

are numerous and include dedicated court time, access to paddles and balls, the opportunity to meet new friends and experience a sense of community. Plus, the club is known for its great social events! Join us in 2024 for another fun season.

For more information, contact Maddy Lapides, director of membership, at 203-927-8577 or mslapid@gmail.com or Bill Tanski, club president, at 609-876-3520 or cwdtans@gmail.com.

PICKLEBALL PRO TO SPEAK AT OVPC SEASON KICK-OFF MEETING



Angelo Rosetti

By Maddy Lapides

Angelo A. Rossetti, a local pickle-ball certified coach, award-winning tennis and pickleball player and National Champion and world record holder, will speak at the OV Pickleball Club's (OVPC) opening season meeting on April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at NCB.

Angelo founded Rossetti Brothers Pickleball and is the Pickleball and

Mental Skills Master Professional for Shoreline Pickleball in Milford.

He is the author of "Tennacity: The Tenacious Mindset On & Off the Court."

During the club's opening meeting, Angelo will talk about an opportunity for OVPC members to take advantage of this season right here on our courts, where members can register for a three-session clinic targeted to a specific level of play, to learn the game and enhance skills. More information about this great opportunity and the per person fee will be discussed at the meeting.

Angelo also will discuss opportunities for members to take on-site skill enhancement lessons. Sessions for beginner level and for more advanced players will be discussed.

Community Gardens Announcement:

There will be a meeting for all OV Community Gardeners on Monday, April 22, at 6:30 p.m. at SCB.

Danny from Wells Hollow Farm in Shelton will be the guest speaker. Bring your questions and concerns. Refreshments will be served.

ACTIVITIES

EDITOR'S NOTE: To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent <u>via email</u>, 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 2 at noon.

CORNHOLE

• Cornhole is played on Thursdays, 10 a.m., 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, 6:00-8:00 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.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible Study welcomes all resident women. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Card 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 Dance classes are held on Wednesdays at the NCB weekly. Beginner classes start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all levels at 10 a.m. There is no charge. Call Sonya DeBiase at 203-377-1515 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.

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 while the pools are closed. 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.

RACQUET SPORTS

• OV's Racquet Sports Facility is comprised of three tennis courts and five pickleball courts. Both sports have clubs that offer court play times as well as social memberships for off-court gatherings. For information on joining, contact Peter Feick for tennis at 203-856-0246 or Bill Tanski for pickleball at 609-876-3520.

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 / 203-231-4753 or Maddy Lapides: 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 sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to twice-monthly workshops held on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m. in the SCB Card Room. Members include published authors and hobbyists. Works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, humorous tales, heartwrenching histories. Contact Mary von Ziegesar at MvonZ@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760 with questions.

FOR THE LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS,

VISIT THE ORONOQUE VILLAGE WEBSITE AT WWW.ORONOQUEVILLAGE.COM

PLETMAN PRESENTS CLASSICAL GUITARIST JOHN LEHMANN-HAUPT

By Amy Plapp and Tom Ward

No better way to continue enjoying the delights of April in Oronoque Village than to attend the Pletman Concert Series performance of classical guitarist John Lehmann-Haupt on Sunday, April 21, at 3 p.m. in the North Clubhouse.

We're grateful to Oronoque resident Al Gafa, also a professional guitarist, for bringing John to our attention. Both John and Al performed at Windows on the World (atop the World Trade Center) and got to know one another at that venue.

John has been playing since he was 5 years old. Known equally for his arrangements of popular and traditional songs and for his classical interpretations, he has performed throughout the Northeast and in the homes of such prominent New Yorkers as Tom Brokaw and Madeleine Albright.

John's 2002 CD "Songs of the Guitar" was hailed by The Audiophile Voice as "a tantalizing musical mix

... He makes the guitar sing." "Songs of the Guitar II," released in 2017, has drawn praise for his "creativity and impeccable

sensitivity to the character of a wide range of genres" (Amazon review). John's arrangement of "Ashokan Farewell," the theme from Ken Burns's "Civil War" television series, has been published by Mel Bay, and he is currently preparing a Mel Bay book, "Airs and Ballads for Classic Guitar," soon to be published.



John Lehmann-Haupt

John was a staff instructor at New York's American Institute of Guitar from 1982 until its 2008 closing, and he continues to teach privately. He has written extensively on music for The New York Times, Acoustic Guitar, Family Life and several other magazines, and has prepared notes for releases including Deutsche Grammophon's boxed set "The Segovia Collection." Since 2006, John has served on the Board of Directors of the New York City Classical Guitar Society.

The concert will be followed by a reception and a chance to meet our performer. Our final spring concert will be held on May 19 and will feature

pianist Anyi Cai. Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend.

SUTTON PLACE JAZZ TRIO RETURNS TO ORONOQUE ON MAY 17



Al Gafa

The OV Arts Guild (OVAG) is thrilled to bring back the Sutton Place Trio, which performed to a sold-out audience in Oronoque Village last spring. This group, which includes Oronoque resident and jazz guitarist Al Gafa, has a New York sensibility reminiscent of the combos that filled the nightlife, clubs and hotels of the Manhattan

skyline. Performances include jazz and original music influenced by well-known artists such as Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, George Gershwin, Nat "King"Cole, Duke Ellington and Antonio Carols Jobim.

Al Gafa, a virtuoso guitarist, has performed with Dizzy Gillespie, Sammy Davis. Jr. Sarah Vaughan and Johnny Hartman. He was musical director for the legendary jazz vocalist Carmen McRae. He performed at the Playboy Club in the late '60s and has participated in studio work with everyone from The Monkees to Paul Simon. He can be heard on the sound-track of the film "The Bridges of Madison County" and he recorded "Legion Beach: The Al Gafa Quinteto" on the jazz label Pablo Records. Al continues to make occasional appearances in Manhattan at Birdland Theatre and as a guest artist the Zinc Bar Guitar Masters Series and he does recording sessions each month.

With elegance, style and grace, international performing

artist Alex Leonard, pianist and vocalist, has been featured in venues from Manhattan to Las Vegas, Europe and Japan. He has performed on stages such as Lincoln Center's Rose Hall, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Joe's Pub, Below 54, Algonquin Hotel, Pierre Hotel, the Smith Center and Off-Broadway. His recent projects include the presentation of "L-O-V-E" A Celebration of Nat King Cole". In an album critique Jazz Review comments, "Alex Leonard is one of the finest jazz pianists performing today".

Jay Leonhart has been named the Outstanding Bassist in the Recording Industry three times and is always mentioned when the discussion turns to the outstanding. Jay has toured worldwide for more than 40 years. He has been privileged to play with the likes of Judy Garland, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Buddy Rich, Peggy Lee, Mel Torme, Sting, James Taylor, Luciano Pavarotti and many more. Over the years, Jay has been writing and singing his own very individualistic songs about his life as a bass player.

This event will be held in the North Clubhouse with cabaret-style seating, BYOB and snacks. OVAG will provide soft drinks, coffee, tea and desserts.

Reservations are required. Registration forms will be published in the April 15 and May 1 Villagers. Members of the Arts Guild attend at no charge, guests pay \$10 at the door. This event is open seating and the doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The event begins at 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

DISTRICT 11 SPRING BREAK MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Miami Beach has restricted spring break activities this year, but District 11 residents will gather for a Spring Break Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10, at NCB.

After District 11 Representative Len Nachbar welcomes attendees and District Officers present brief reports, Len will conduct a mind-control experiment. Can your mind be remotely controlled?

The guest speaker will be the Beardsley Zoo's Tracy Benham, who will tell us about the history of the Beardsley Zoo, what makes it unique, upcoming events that adults would want to attend and/or would want to take children to experience.

Also, she'll exhibit and discuss artifacts from the zoo. The Beardsley Zoo, based in Bridgeport, is Connecticut's only zoo and is a mere 15-minute drive from Oronoque Village.

We'll enjoy a light meal of pizza, beverages, pastries and animal crackers. Since this will be a Spring Break Meeting, you can bring adult beverages if you'd like.

The cost to attend the meeting for District 11 res-

idents is \$8 per person if 2024 District 11 dues of \$10 per person have been paid. Please place your check, with the names of those attending, in the District 11 mailbox by Friday, April 5. If you want to attend the April 10 Spring Break meeting and haven't paid your 2024 dues, kindly include a separate dues check with your meeting payment.

or Len at Lennac29@gmail.com if you have any

questions.

Let's celebrate OV spring.



NEW CRAFTS CLUB MEETS MONTHLY AT SCB

rafts If You Are Not An Artist," Oronoque Village's newest club, meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, from 2-4 p.m., in the Ars & Crafts Room of the South Clubhouse.

The monthly classes are led by OV resident Barbara Dierolf, a portrait and fiber artist. "These sessions are intended for people who feel they are not artistically skilled but still want to dabble," says Barbara. "We will look into different creative projects, such as zentangle, which is an easy-to-learn, relaxing, and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing repetitive shapes."

On April 27, the class will focus on silk scarf painting

with Sharpie pens. "Those who want to attend the class should bring alcohol-ink markers in bright colors and a bottle of rubbing alcohol," says Barbara. "Scarves will be provided. There will be a materials fee of \$8 per scarf."

Residents who would like to sign up for a class should call or text Barbara at 203-218-8946. Reservations are required so that there will be ample materials for all attendees.

Barbara also would like to hear from residents who have artistic hobbies, such as jewelry-making or weaving, who are interested in sharing their pastimes with a class.



WEBSIGHT INSIGHTS

Update on our OVTV – Channel 591: We've met several times to discuss our overhaul of the TV station and we have had a Zoom meeting with our representative at Smart Communities, which services the channel. Kathy Stevens, OV's social activities manager, has taken a tutorial on the operations of the station to help us with this update and we are hopeful to be back live again soon. Thank you for your patience! As always, any input would be appreciated. We will be adding links to our website as well as the full videos to the TV station, so stay tuned.

Attention Clubs and Associations: Are you looking for a club or an OV group? A contact for a club or group? Visit

oronoquevillage.com's private side, click on the navigation tab: ORGANIZATIONS. We recently sent out an email to all club heads asking if they are interested in having a video of activities and events. Please contact Mary W. von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760 or Len Nachbar at 732-547-3322 if you are interested. This is an opportunity to promote a club's mission, share activities and events and to attract new members.

We are still looking for volunteers to learn how to use the video equipment. Also, we are considering hiring someone to help with the taping and editing, so if you know someone who may be interested, please call Mary.

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ASK ABOUT OUR REFERRAL PROGRAM







CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Kathy Stevens at kstevens@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com.

Bold-faced listings = OVCA/OVTD events / C=Closed event

MONDAY, APRIL 1

- 10:00 a.m. House & Garden Board Meeting, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 11:00 a.m. Communications Committee, NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Arts Guild Meeting, NCB (C)
- 4:00 p.m. Racquet Sports Facility Committee, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. SAC Meeting, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Arts Guild Installation, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Writer's Group, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. Art Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 3:30 p.m. OVCA Finance Meeting, NCB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. –Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 10:30 a.m. Hadassah Board Mtg, NCB (C)
- 4:00 p.m. Pool Social Group, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. Book Club, NCB Library

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

- 10:00 a.m. Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. House Committee, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga, SCB

- 10:30 a.m. Village Quilters, NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 3:30 p.m. OVTD Finance Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Table Tennis, SCB

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 5:00 p.m. 5 O'clock Somewhere

SATURDAY, APRIL 6: No events scheduled

SUNDAY, APRIL 7: No events scheduled

MONDAY, APRIL 8

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Mahjong, SCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. House & Garden meeting, SCB
- 3:30 p.m. Bylaws Committee, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. Maintenance Committee, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. BRAVO, SCB

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

- 9:00 a.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 9:30 a.m. Architectural Committee, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. OVCA Agenda Meeting, NCB
- 2:00 p.m. Art Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 3:00 p.m. OVTD/OVCA Finance Committees & Boards, NCB Library
- 4:00 p.m. Tennis Club Board Mtg, NCB (C)
- 6:15 p.m. Funseekers event, SCB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 9:30 a.m. Line Dancing, beginners, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. –Line Dancing, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm (C)
- 12:00 p.m. Hadassah Seder, NCB
- 4:00 p.m. District 9 Board Meeting

Oronoque Village Condominium Association Oronoque Village Tax District

Budget Schedule 2024

April			
Tuesday 4/2	CA Finance Meeting – 3:30 pm NCB Board Room		
Thursday 4/4	TD Finance Meeting – 3:30 pm NCB Board Room		
Tuesday 4/9	CA/TD Finance Committees & Boards Budget Presentation 3:00 pm NCB Library		
Tuesday 4/16	OVCA Board Meeting – Budget Consideration Vote 7:00pm		
Tuesday 4/23	OVTD Board Meeting Budget Overview 7:00pm		
	May		
Monday 5/1	CA/TD Notices and Supplements in Villager		
Tuesday 5/14	General Meeting of Owners Budget – 6:00pm		
Thursday 5/16	Budget Meeting Rejection Vote Owners – 1:00pm – 6pm		
Tuesday 5/21	OVCA Board Meeting Confirm Budget Vote 7:00 pm		
Tuesday 5/28	OVTD Annual Meeting, Taxpayers Vote on Budget, Mill Rate, Officers and Directors – 7:00pm		

THE STRATFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM IS IN NEED OF VOLUNTEER TUTORS, MENTORS & CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Please attend an informational session on April 24 at 4 p.m. at the North Clubhouse presented by Stratford Volunteer Corps.



During the session, Heather Borges (the Acting Superintendent of Stratford Public Schools), Dr. David Chess & Mike Suntag (a former educator and co-owner of Breakthrough Education Strategies LLC) will describe how OV residents can make a difference in children's lives by volunteering in public school classrooms.

Stratford Public Schools have dramatically changed over time, and teachers/students are in need of support

- Over 71% of Stratford school population identify as minority
- 47% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 26% are chronically absent

Learn How You Can Help! Please attend the session on April 24 at 4 p.m. at NCB

- 5:00 p.m. Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. Castle Poker, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. District 11 Meeting, NCB

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

- 10:00 a.m. Cornhole, SCB
- 10:00 a.m. Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 1:00 p.m. Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 3:00 p.m. Golf Tournament Committee, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Table Tennis, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. District 10 Meeting, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. District 1 meeting, SCB

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

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

- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 6:00 p.m. Friday Night Billiards, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. Movie: Fool's Paradise, NCB

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

• 4:00 p.m. – Private Party, SCB (C)

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

• 4:00 p.m. – Art Show reception, SCB

MONDAY, APRIL 15

- 10:30 a.m. Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. Bridge, NCB (C)
- 3:00 p.m. OVCA Finance Committee, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. District 5 Meeting, SCB

ELISABETH BRESLAV'S MEMOIR READING

Story by Mary W. von Ziegesar ~ Photo by Arline Walton

t is not often that during an Oronoque Village event, the room is silent. It is rare when there are about 135 people attending. It was the case during the afternoon of Friday, March 15, when Elisabeth Breslav read from her recently published book: "Five Years Under Nazi Occupation: A World War II Memoir of Resilience and Survival in the Netherlands."

The book details her life from 12-17 years old during the 1940-1945 Nazi occupation. Kees Adema also spoke. Ironically, Kees is also Dutch, also an author, and he was a child during those "hunger years." As providence would have it, Elisabeth and Kees are backyard neighbors here in Oronoque Village.

Elisabeth read excerpts from her memoir. which included an experience with two young and hungry friends who snuck into a wheatfield to steal grain for their families. Elisabeth was caught and chased by an armed soldier and his vicious dog. She climbed over a fence and into a field where the dog dared not go and where a horse wanted her grain, but she managed to run away. She lost her voice for two days, but provided bread for her family for three days. Another story relates how flashbacks were triggered during a Fourth of July visit to Martha's Vineyard. The fireworks she saw were planes, crashing.

When asked how she was able to be positive and look forward after the experiences of being hungry, cold, scared, exposed to the atrocities of war, she replied that the memories are always with her, but she raised her children so they wouldn't bear her experiences; she raised them to meet lots of different people and to be open-minded and accepting of differences in cultures and experiences.

As Elisabeth told me, "My book is really a cry to humanity to speak up in any way at our command against dictators anywhere who threaten children all over the world and only if



From left, Writer's Group Coordinator Mary von Ziegesar, Author Elisabeth Breslav and OVAG President Barbara Stewart.

we actively do so is there hope."

Kees' presentation poignantly reminded us of the relevance of Elisabeth's story today. He noted that Anne Frank was two years younger than Elisabeth was in 1940. He also reminded us of how history has a way of repeating itself and "we are at a crossroads once again." He concluded with the hope that the ancient Greek philosopher is right, "light does eventually prevail."

The event was co-sponsored by the OV Arts Guild (OVAG) and the Writer's Group. Elisabeth's book is available for purchase on Amazon.com and she is donating her proceeds from the sale of the book to the International Red Cross.

FIRST 'SPEAKER SERIES' EVENT MEETS WITH SUCCESS

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

Just over 80 people attended the first event presented by the Speaker's Series, a recently formed OV club, held on Friday, March 8, in the South Clubhouse. A well-received presentation was made by the Institute for Leaning in Retirement (ILR), an Orange-based nonprofit, community group of adults who share a love of learning by offering a variety of academic programs on the arts, literature, music, current events, history, science, movies and more.

The hope is for the Speaker's Series to sponsor similar programs featuring residents and nonresidents who have expertise and experience in areas of possible interest.

ILR Board members Holly Chepow, Doug Fenichel and Ann Griffin welcomed OV residents and offered information about membership in ILR: annual dues are \$45, which allows attendance at the courses, called "study groups," for a nominal fee. Doug Fenichel, ILR's chair of communications, offered detailed information about the organization's operations after which two brief presentations were made.

The first presentation was by Lewis House, Ph.D., who refers to himself as "Lucky Lew," a Vietnam vet and a retired professor emeritus of Southern Connecticut University. He spent 40 years as a professor, with 25 years as history department chair.

The second presentation was by Hedda Kopf, a retired Quinnipiac University literature and gender studies professor (32 years), who discussed how she enjoys rereading books and discovering new meaning during the rereading. She names several books she particularly enjoys and references in her study groups: "Hammit," "This Is Happiness," "Trust' and "Translantic."

Information was provided by the ILR as were tasty treats and drinks. Wine was donated by the Speaker's Series organizers. For information, visit www.ilralbertus.org or ask one of our residents about their membership and teaching experiences with ILR: Chris Orrell, Wendy Swain, Steve Brieger.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the Speaker's Series, contact Chris Orrell at 781-879-4723 or Mary W. von Ziegesar at 203-767-9760.



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HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT N2N: THE NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR CLUB?

We are neighbors offering a helping hand to fellow residents who would like assistance with daily tasks and/or would benefit from increased social interaction with fellow Villagers.

Would you like a friendly visit just to chat or hang out? Could you benefit from a helping hand in finding services? Would you like a sounding board in solving problems?

Could you use help with light shopping and other errands?

Call or text us at 203-479-0107, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m, or leave a message.

MARCH FUNSEEKERS RECAP

By Marie Orlowe

Joey Vincent was the featured entertainer at last month's Funseekers' meeting. Joey appeared on stage wearing a green jacket to begin his medley of Irish songs. His Irish jig music was played on the clarinet. He performed "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" and treated us to the very well-known song, "Danny Boy."

When he played doo-wop, he wore a red "Jersey Boys" jacket. He sang "Tears on My Pillow," "Sixteen Candles" and "You Belong to Me." He appeared in Willy Nelson-style attire to sing "On the Road Again." He did a piece from Garth Brooks and Hank Williams, Jr., as well as included some

George M. Cohan melodies: "Give My Regards to Broadway," "You're a Grand Old Flag," "Harrigan" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy." The audience was very receptive to his efforts. He told us he is glad to be a tenor.

During the event, Cheryl Dwyer recited a poem and we all toasted with shot of Bailey's Irish Cream.

Mary Kelleher (taking the position vacated by Anne Gallo) has reserved seats for a performance of "The Play Goes Where Everything Goes Wrong" on April 26, 7:30 p.m, at Center Stage Theatre in Shelton. The cost is \$31 per ticket. She also has booked the Meatloaf Tribute at Downtown Cabaret, May 25, 4 p.m., at a cost of \$58 per ticket. Contact Mary at 203-496-1399 with questions.

Socializing and dessert followed the meeting. It was a care-free, fun-filled evening.

BEYOND THE VILLAGE



The Connecticut Symphonic Winds invites you to a concert on April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in Fairfield with guest conductor Johan DeMeij. The program will feature DeMeij's compositions for symphonic winds.

A world-renowned composer and conductor, DeMeij's award-winning compositions, symphonic transcriptions and film score arrangements has garnered him international acclaim and have become permanent fixtures in the repertoire of renowned ensembles throughout the world.

This concert, which takes place at Fairfield Woods Middle School, will include his works, 'Loch Ness," "Spring, Suite to the Soundtrack of Henry V" and "Symphony No. 4 Sinfonie der Lieder for Mezzo-Soprano, Choir and Wind Orchestra" as well as other compositions.

Individual tickets for this event are \$20 and can be purchased by visiting the website http://www.ctsymphonicwinds.org

For special location requests, general and handicap information and group sales, please call (203) 386-1625.

Rick Daskam will present an oil painting demonstration, sponsored by the Shelton Art League, at 1 p.m. on April 15 at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St. The league's general meeting starts at 11:45 a.m. Guests are always welcome. Rick, a classically trained artist, studied at the Paier College of Art in Bridgeport. He focuses on plein-air painting, painting landscapes and farms in the local area. He has participated in juried art exhibitions and museum shows and many of his works have garnered numerous awards. Visit http://www.sheltonartleague.org for more details.

The Kweskin Theater in Stamford presents performances of "The Sound of Music" through April 20. Satur-

day and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m., evening performances are at 7:30 p.m.

This Rodger and Hammerstein classic has been an audience favorite for many years. Set in Austria on the eve of the Anschluss in 1938, the musical tells the story of Maria, who takes a job as governess to a large family while she decides whether to become a nun. She falls in love with the children and, eventually, their widowed father, Captain von Trapp. Many songs from the musical have become standards, such as "Edelweiss", "My Favorite Things", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain", "Do-Re-Mi", and the title song, "The Sound of Music".

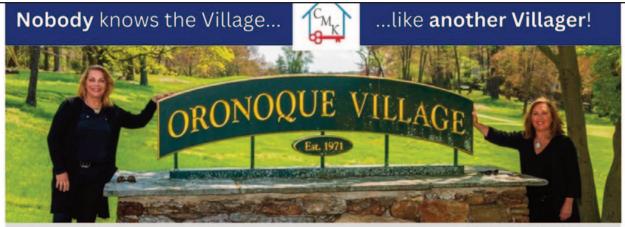
For tickets, call the box office at 203-461-6358 or email info@curtaincallinc.com. The theater is located at 1349 Newfield Ave.

The Westport Country Playhouse presents "Elizabeth Taylor and the Shadow of Her Smile" on April 21.

Actor, singer, storyteller, award-winning documentary filmmaker and four-time Broadway veteran Ann Talman joined Actors' Equity with co-star Elizabeth Taylor in 1981 when she landed the plum role in "The Little Foxes" playing Taylor's daughter on Broadway. The show traveled the world for 18 months with stops in Ft. Lauderdale, Washington, D.C. (The Kennedy Center), New Orleans, Los Angeles' Ahmanson Theatre as well as London's West End. Their loving friendship lasted for the rest of Taylor's life.

Ann's cabaret show, "Elizabeth Taylor and The Shadow of Her Smile," received critical and audience acclaim when it debuted at 54 Below in March 2022 and again when it enjoyed a two-night encore engagement the following September.

The April 21 performance takes place at Lucille Lortel White Barn Center on the Westport Playhouse campus at 25 Powers Court. For information, visit www.westportplay house.org or call 203-227-4177.



Mary Kelleher

Mary.Kelleher@cbrealty.com 203.496.1399

Christine Mahoney

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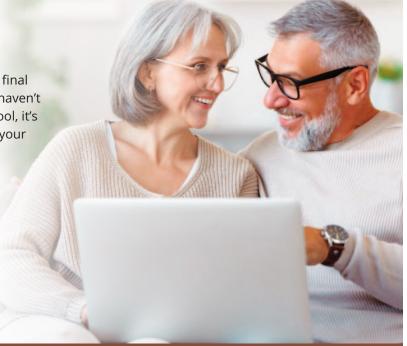
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Wipes for cleaning just about everything in the home from toilet bowls to baby bottoms are blocking pumps at Connecticut's wastewater pump stations. Even though some of these wipes are marketed as flushable or biodegradable, they don't break down fast enough to make it through the wastewater treatment process.

When a pump gets clogged, sewage can back up into homes and overflow into our rivers and Long Island Sound. Repairing or replacing them can be a considerable expense for your community, too.

Please flush ONLY toilet paper and human waste.





Mounds of wipes removed from a clogged pump at the Willow Brook Pump Station, New Britain.



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AMOUNT

PAYABLE TO GUYS AND DOLLS

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

JOIN US AVINE E MENINGERY DERBY



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

The book for April 3 is "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng.

The book for May 1 is is "The Doctors Blackwell" by Janice P Nimura, a finalist for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Biography. Elizabeth Blackwell believed from an early age that she was destined for a mission beyond the scope of "ordinary" womanhood. Though the world, at first, recoiled at the notion of a woman studying medicine, her intelligence and intensity ultimately won her the acceptance of the male medical establishment. In 1849, she became the first woman in America to receive an M.D. She was soon joined in her iconic achievement by her younger sister, Emily, who, actually, was the more brilliant physician. Exploring the sisters' allies, enemies and enduring partnership, the author presents a story of trial and triumph. This researched new biography celebrates two complicated pioneers who exploded the limits of possibility for women in medicine.



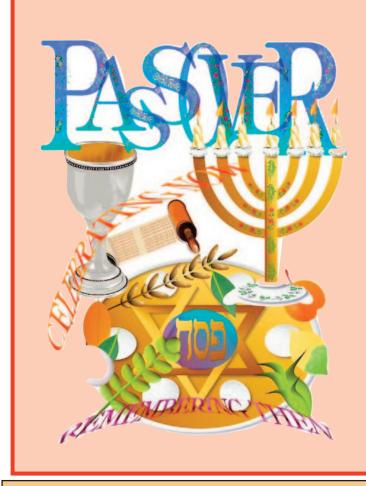




OV Karaoke Club: No fees or dues * No commitments * Just fun!

Please join us for our next Karaoke/Dance Party on April 26 at 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!



All Villagers are invited to attend Hadassah's modern Passover seder.

Learn about the meaning of Passover: it is a holiday celebrating freedom, justice and peace for all.

When: Wed., April 10

Time & Place: 12 p.m. at NCB

Admission: A Passover Dish Plus \$3

RSVPs by April 5 Are Required.

Arlene: 203-870-9561

Lillian: 203-380-8387

Singing Sensation Jose Paulo Will Perform For Weekenders at 6 p.m. on May 18 at NCB

A fabulous evening is planned. Jose Paulo's voice will mesmerize you and his personality will charm you. He is very versatile and he has studied in various certified music schools. He is able to sing all styles of music in English, Portuguese, Italian and French. Jose, who resides in Newington, is a native of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He started performing at the age of 12, singing "Ave Maria" at local weddings.

Jose released his first CD in 2008, toured two weeks in Japan, sang for Pope Paul II, and has performed at many different venues such as Foxwoods, The United Nations and in concerts with Sergio Franchi and Guitar under the Stars.



To attend, put checks with any table arrangements in the Weekenders box at NCB by May 8. The price of \$30 includes dinner: eggplant parm, chicken cutlet Italiano, cavatelli with broccoli, salad, rolls/butter, coffee/tea,/soda and dessert.

Questions? Call Carol at 203-375-2101.







HOUSE & GARDEN



Reserved

TAG SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024 9-2 SCB

RESERVE A TABLE -\$20 Per Table

(OV Residents only)



If you don't have enough items to reserve a table, consider donating your goods to House & Garden tag sale area by the stage. Items can be dropped off at the SCB stage on April 26 after 3. Silver, pottery, artwork, china, crystal, (boutique accessories, (jewerly, purses, scarves, perfumes,) housewares, small appliances, small furniture, lamps, etc. -NO computers, odds and ends glassware, no chipped or dirty items-especially uncleaned or soiled small appliances, no books, CD's, DVD's or videos.



BAKE SALE



Donations of baked goods are needed. Please drop off on April 26 after 3 or April 27 before 9. Contact Irene Keating 203.377.3980

Doors open at 7:30 A.M. on April 27, 2024 TO SET UP!
All unsold items must be taken with you at end of sale!

ET!

Fill Out This Form and deposit in House & Garden mailbox BEFORE April 22nd - 2024.

Table Reservations:			
Merrilees	Leemhuis		
203.378	8753		

Please Make Out Check To House & Garden Club

Name:_____

Questions?
Debbie Grosso
203.380.2468

How many tables?:_____Amount of Check Enclosed:_____

Your Participation Helps Beautify The Village!

The Movie Club Presents "Fool's Paradise"

Friday, April 12, 7 p.m. at NCB Wednesday, April 17, at 2 p.m. at SCB \$1 admission includes popcorn "Fool's Paradise" is a 2023 American satirical comedy film written and directed by Charlie Day in his directorial debut.



The film stars Charlie Day, Ken Jeong, Kate Beckinsale, Adrien Brody, Jason Sudeikis, Edie Falco, Jason Bateman, Common, Ray Liotta, and John Malkovich.

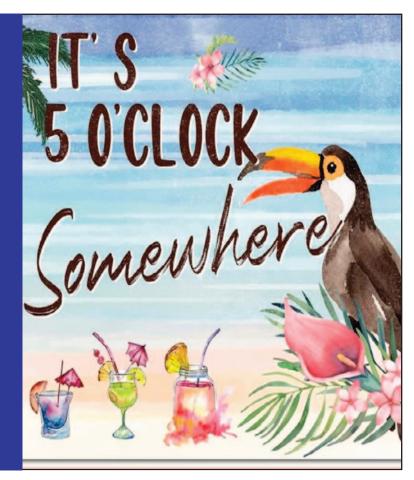
The film tells the story of a down-on-hisluck publicist, who gets his lucky break when he discovers a mute man, recently released from a mental health facility, who looks just like a method actor that refuses to leave his trailer.

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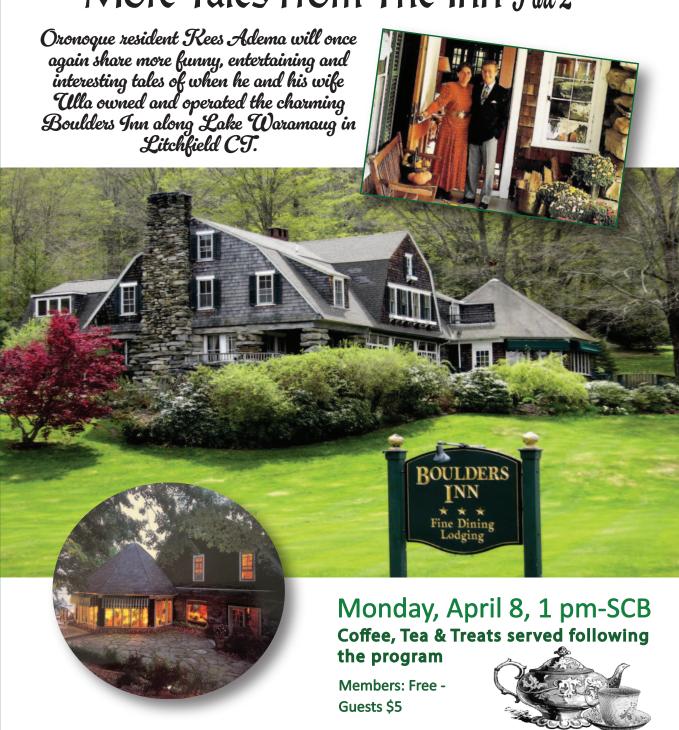
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We hope to see you on April 5





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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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