



OUR TOWN SALEM

CONNECTICUT

JUNE 2013

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What's Up at Salem Schools?



Find out on page 13



OUR TOWN SALEM
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The next deadline is
August 1
for the September issue.

Photo of Flower by John Irwin



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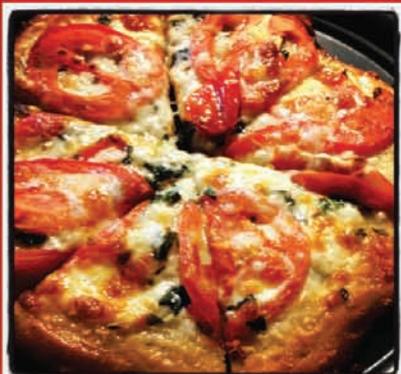
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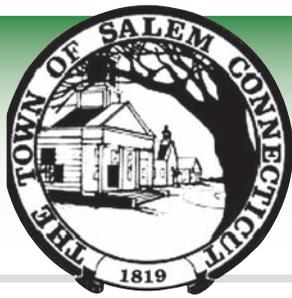
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News and Notes from . . . **OUR TOWN**

Read about what's new in Salem and learn how to become more involved in shaping the town's future



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

Dear Fellow Townspeople,

With the warm days of summer approaching, I hope you and your family have many outdoor activities planned.

Let's review what has been going on in our town.



Farmers Market Thursdays, 4-7

Mark your calendars! The Salem Farmers Market returns June 27th for another fun-filled season. Activities and events are planned for each week. Come and join your fellow townspeople at your very own Connecticut Grown Farmers Market.



Tax Payments on line

At the request of several residents and our Tax Collector we will soon be offering the ability to pay your taxes online. Please log in to salemct.gov for further information and instructions.



School Building Project

The school building project continues to progress on time and within budget. Expect an increase in activity through the summer months. Special thanks to our Building Committee for their dedication and commitment to this important upgrade for the children of our town.



Zemko Property

With the successful referendum and purchase of the Zemko Property at 228 and 230 Hartford Road we have taken the opportunity to unite our Town properties. The Zemko property will provide much needed garage and storage space for Public Works, Emergency Services, Recreation, Library, and the School.

The cleanup of the property is being paid for with the funds from the previous owner which have been placed in escrow.



Community Pavilion

Besides the weekly Farmers Market and other town events, the Community Pavilion can be reserved by organizations or residents for a nominal fee. Please log in to salemct.gov and go to, Forms and Documents to bring up the required paperwork for reserving the Community Pavilion for your event. The Pavilion is open daily from sunrise to sunset. As a town resident you are welcome to visit and enjoy the Pavilion and Community Park.



Emergency Responders

The Town is in need of more Emergency Responders. Our Emergency Service responds to more than 500 calls per year. Please contact Town Hall, Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. or Salem Volunteer Fire Company, if you or someone you know is interested. Training is provided at no cost as well as an annual stipend. For EMT's there is the potential for part-time work with the "on call program" as well as fill in for paid staff.



Trees, Trees, Trees

Several trees were weakened by previous storms, look around your property and properly maintain your trees. Do you have trees that are too close to your house? Is your driveway encroached by overgrown trees and blocking access to Emergency Vehicles?

Be proactive and assess, trim or remove your potential problems before an emergency occurs.



Insurance News

Due to the continued support of our Town employees toward risk management, our insurance carrier has been able to keep rates level and also issue the Town an equity distribution check in the amount of \$5,624. Thank you to all Town employees for continuing to put safety first.

Enjoy your summer. Stay safe. I hope to see you at the Farmers Market.

I am honored to be your First Selectman

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IMPROVING THE ECONOMY ONE BILL AT A TIME

Senator Andrea L. Stillman, 20th District

As part of the senate leadership team responsible for screening and polishing legislation before it advances I'm already favorably impressed by the prospects for certain bills, based upon their content and timeliness.

The first of these would have positive eastern Connecticut implications. Its provisions would increase the maximum allowable gross vehicular weight of certain agricultural vehicles in Connecticut from 80,000 pounds to 100,000 pounds. The intent here is pretty straightforward: if and when trucks carrying milk, other dairy products, or other agricultural commodities can make fewer trips to market, the price for any of those commodities can be kept lower, keeping 'Connecticut grown' farm products competitive on a regional basis.

It is said Connecticut's agriculture industry supports some 27,000 jobs in our state. With that in mind, it makes good sense to make this slight change to keep Connecticut growers and producers in an advantageous competitive position when they get to market.

A second bill would also have a direct impact on southeastern Connecticut and one of the pillars of our local economy. The bill would extend a sales tax exemption for winter storage of boats, yet is anticipated to increase revenue for the state through additional winter storage volume and subsequent winter work to be done on these boats.

As it stands, out-of-state boat owners are reluctant to bring their vessels to Connecticut before November, because that's when the exemption takes effect; beginning the exemption on October first would allow that much more good weather for them to get their boats hauled and stored for the winter, adding to the time they can buy materials and contract for repairs.

Another aspect of this bill would extend the period for which a boat can be berthed in Connecticut without being registered. Here again, the forfeiture of a small amount of registration revenue could yield significant revenue in other, related sales and expenditures, maximizing what is already a keystone of our local economy.

A third bill would help Connecticut manufacturers statewide by increasing the state's manufacturing apprenticeship tax credit. Under current law, the maximum annual credit an employer can take is \$4800 or 50 percent of actual, apprentice wages paid, whichever is less. This initiative would increase that maximum tax credit to \$7500 or 50 percent again, whichever is less. The plan would provide an incentive for manufacturers to hire apprentices who in turn would upgrade the skill level of Connecticut's workforce.

Among the testimony we heard on this bill is the need for this tax credit increase if for no other reason than the steadily increasing wages and employer costs built into training an apprentice. Employers said they need a helping hand as they struggle through a sluggish economy and work to revitalize Connecticut's manufacturing sector.

This bill has already received unanimous votes of support in the legislature's Commerce Committee and in the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, on which I serve. It has been forwarded to the full Senate for its review and consideration.



Andrea L. Stillman represents the 20th Senatorial District, which includes Bozrah, East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem, and Waterford. She is Deputy Majority Leader of the Senate, Senate Chair of the legislature's Education Committee, and serves on the Legislative Management Committee. As a member of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee, Senator Stillman was also appointed co-chair of the General Bonding Subcommittee.

Last month the State House of Representatives passed a resolution providing for a constitutional amendment that would remove certain restrictions on the use of absentee ballots in our elections. As House Chairman of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, it was my responsibility to introduce and defend the resolution on the floor of the House. After two and a half hours of debate, the House adopted the resolution.

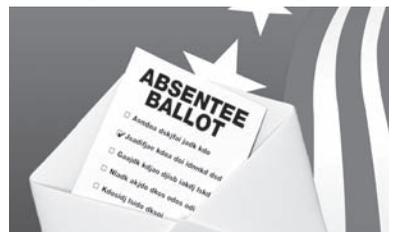
This is the second time this exact amendment has been taken up in the legislature. Under our constitution, a proposed amendment must either be approved in both the House and Senate by a three fourths vote, or by a simple majority vote in two different legislatures before going to all the voters for approval. Because the amendment only passed by simple majorities last year, it must do so again this year before it can be placed on the ballot at the next statewide election in 2014.

Currently, the Connecticut Constitution limits voters' ability to vote by absentee ballot to four specific circumstances: (i) absence from their city or town on Election Day, (ii) sickness, (iii) physical disability, or (iv) the tenets of their religion prohibit secular activity. These represent the only circumstances under which voters may vote by absentee ballot. The only other alternative is to present oneself physically at the polling place on the day of the election.



Ed Jutila represents the 37th Assembly District which is made up of the towns of East Lyme and Salem.

REMOVING RESTRICTIONS



Ed Jutila
State Representative,
37th District

Thirty-two states have already adopted some form of early voting, ranging from "no excuse" absentee ballots to voting by mail, all the way to opening the polling place for voting prior to the day of the election. Passage of this constitutional amendment alone will, in and of itself, result in none of that in Connecticut; however, it would open the door for the next legislature to consider any of these initiatives or other innovative ideas, while not requiring the legislature to do anything in particular. Any changes would have to come about through the legislative process, including public hearings, action by the relevant committees, voting in the House and Senate and approval by the Governor.

There will be plenty of opportunities to discuss and debate the virtues of the constitutional amendment as the November 2014 election approaches. Likewise, if endorsed by the voters, the people will have time to inform their newly elected legislators of their views on various ideas for reform prior to and during the 2015 legislative session. Some may even desire to speak directly to the GAE Committee at public hearings on actual bills at the legislative office building.

I enthusiastically support this constitutional amendment which will give our legislature the ability to consider making some changes that could increase voter turnout and give voters the kind of options that reflect the hectic, sometimes unpredictable 21st century world in which we live and work.

Photo: nkzs | www.sxc.hu



A Welcome to the Newborns of Salem

November 2012

Scott David Faille III
Rose Marie Grisafe
Lily Grace Grisafe
Simeon Honor Ostrander
John Stuart Gadbois III

December 2012

Ashlyn Rose Marcaurele
Hunter Anthony Bianca
Jude James Marcial
Emma Michelle Currie

January 2013

Mason Andrew Labombard

February 2013

Quinn Parker Syman

March 2013

Bode Kekoa Labrie



A Fond Farewell to Our Departed Friends and Family Members

November 2012

Daryl M. Blonder
Thomas B. Lacerte

December 2012

Robert Edward Smith
Deandrea Boyle

January 2013

Jean Ann Schreiner
Eileen Denise Duffy

February 2013

Shirley L. Benoit

MEET SALEM ASSESSOR BARBARA PERRY



By Pam Munro

Our Salem Assessor, Barbara Perry, grew up in the Groton-New London area, and now lives in Waterford. She actually lived here in Salem for ten years as well. During that period Barbara received her Certified Connecticut Municipal Assessor's Association (CCMA) designation in 1982. That was a sign of things to come. Now she is Barbara Perry, CCMA II, S.P.A. The S.P.A. stands for Society of Professional Assessors.

Mrs. Perry worked in sales and later for a revaluation firm as a senior project manager. Next she began a long career as the assessor of the City of New London. Barbara retired from that position in December 2011 and promptly began working in Salem the very next month, January 2012.

Barbara tells us, "I never envisioned myself as an assessor. Growing up I thought I would become an attorney. However, marriage and children came, and the law degree was forgotten. I don't believe anyone grows up dreaming of becoming an assessor although I can't imagine a more satisfying career."

To become an assessor you should have a background in appraising or in an assessor's office. However, you must also complete a number of courses which include the CT General Statutes, real estate appraisal courses of both residential and commercial properties as well as the valuation of personal property and motor vehicles. After successfully completing the required courses you must demonstrate five years of working in an assessor's office or the equivalent. Then you are eligible to sit for the CCMA exams which are in two parts the CCMA I and the CCMA II. An assessor should also possess some managerial skills and enjoy working with the public.

Mrs. Perry feels that an interesting part of her assessor job is compiling the Grand List which is done each year. All properties are updated throughout the year via building permits, land splits, ownership of real estate and the updating of motor vehicles and personal property. Real estate tables are frozen at the time of revaluation to reflect market values at that specific date. A revaluation of real estate is done every five years and is her favorite part of the job, as it is the most challenging.

Mrs. Perry tells *Our Town - Salem* that she is thoroughly enjoying her new position, and she is grateful as well as honored to be a part of this wonderful community.

Contact Mrs. Perry at Salem Town Hall and also through the Town of Salem Assessor web page: http://salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT_Assessor/index.

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ALIVE WITH MUSIC

Here are a few talented Salem people . . .

THE MUSIC BUREAU

The story of Matt Bureau and his love of music

By Martin and Edyta Wolk



You have probably heard of The Music Bureau. Located in Salem, it offers music lessons, instrument sales, repairs, rentals, and three Rock Camps a year. Matt Bureau, the owner, and his staff do many benefit concerts for places like St. Gerard's Center for Life. You might be curious about how the business got up and running.

Matt learned how to play the guitar when he was five years old in East Hartford, CT. His favorite type of music was rock. He was in many bands throughout his childhood and he played in talent shows. As he got older, he started playing at local clubs and bars, as well as wedding and anniversary parties. His first job was waiting tables at a restaurant. He graduated from the University of New Haven in 1997 with a Bachelor's Degree in music industry. His plan was to work at a recording studio. Matt played in many bands. The most famous one was probably Leaf Jumpers. It was a four person rock band. They made two CDs and toured with many national acts.

Matt started to give guitar lessons in Hartford in 2001. The owner of Riccardo's Music Center needed a guitar instructor at his other location in Salem. So he turned to Matt Bureau. Matt agreed to make the move. At first, he only had to teach six students, but before he knew it, he had forty-five students!

In 2003, the Riccardo's Music Center chain was bought by the Music and Arts Center. Later, in 2005, Music and Arts moved to the mall area in

Waterford. Matt was planning to go with them. However, most of his students did not want to go that distance for lessons. He decided to stay in Salem, where a friend of his offered to run the business as Jay's Music Center. Soon after, however, Jay went out of business. "I had a big decision to make," recalls Matt. He decided to start

his own business. He called it The Music Bureau, because his last name is Bureau. On November 1, 2006, The Music Bureau was born.

Today, Matt is happily running his business. He is very grateful for the wonderful staff. "The #1 thing that makes us who we are," says Matt, "is the people who come here daily to work and teach. The instructors and employees are the face of the store and are invaluable to its success." The students are a big part of the business, too. "We are very proud of every student who comes to the store for lessons." Matt works hard to make his business the best it can be. He always researches instrument brands and makes sure they are in good shape before shipping them in. He never pushes customers into buying anything.

Matt is currently in three bands. eXaudio is a three person Christian band. They have given many performances and have three CDs. Sometimes you can see them perform at the Music Bureau. In addition, Matt recently started a country band called Rough Stock, and is in another band called Acoustic Shades, which is more for fun.

Edyta Wolk is 13 years old and in 8th grade at Sacred Heart School. Her hobbies are singing, acting, playing the bass guitar, crafts, and, of course, writing. Martin Wolk is a sophomore at East Lyme High School. His interests include history and culture.



THE SALEM SCHOOL THEATER CLUB

By Ian Aldrich

Under the direction of Ms. Kim Hibert, Ms. Meg Hyman, and parent helpers, the Salem Drama Club has produced spectacular musicals over the years. The Salem School Drama Club has done plays such as Ronald Dahl's Willie Wonka, Annie, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast, and Thoroughly Modern Millie. This year, they are performing Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella. Here are what some participants in the Drama Club have to say; "The thing I like most about drama club is I get to hang out with my friends and do what I like to do best, sing and act!" Lily Rogers(Cinderella), "My favorite part of being the godmother is I get to be sassy, unlike other years" Megan Aldrich(Godmother). Please, support your school by joining us on June 5th and 6th for the play. Tickets are available at the Memorial Day Parade and the Salem Free Public Library. For information, call Pat Aldrich at 860-303-9793. Support your school!!

Ian is a 6th grade student at the Salem School. Among his many interests are cooking, knitting, music and theater.



THE DRUMMER MAN: MEL CORCINO

By Jackie Hemond

Melvin (Mel) Corcino plays the drums. He moved to Connecticut from Puerto Rico. A scientist first employed by Pfizer as a contractor working for Prevalere Life Sciences, he was soon scouting for a band. By answering ads and auditioning, he joined PS32, a Christian band that performs in coffeehouses throughout southern New England. With recommendations from fellow musicians, he now plays in two other bands: *Sunday Gravy*, *Hope Road*, a Bob Marley and the Wailers tribute band, and *Importados Latin Rock Band*. Now a Product Development Scientist at Tower Laboratories, LTD in Centerbrook, Mel squeezes in rehearsals and gigs around his full-time job. He also teaches drumming.

Mel was introduced to music at the age of 10 when he heard a church band playing. The joy in the music convinced him to learn an instrument and join the band. It was a defining moment. He was "hooked". From his first music teacher, *Jose "Pepe" Torres*, a well-known percussionist, Mel learned discipline, commitment, and the drums. With Torres' help, Mel received a chemistry scholarship at the University of Puerto Rico and earned a "spot" on the university's Jazz Ensemble. He calls Torres his hero.

continued on page 8

I must first credit President Bob Ross and Will Spang for creating a usable inventory of all the many treasures housed in the vault of the Salem Historical Society. As a result, it has revitalized my interest in Music Vale Seminary.

SEARCHING FOR *Bluebird*

By David H. Wordell



Today most Salem residents have no idea of the nationwide importance of this music school, which was located here in this small town of Salem, Connecticut. Music Vale reached the peak of its success during the 1840's through the 1860's. Young ladies came

from all over the country to attend the school and many were the daughters of wealthy Southern plantation owners. As a result, the Civil War contributed to the demise of Music Vale.

In order to give you a brief description of the first normal school of music in the United States to confer degrees, which was authorized by The Connecticut State Board of Education, I give you the following:

And so there was begun in Salem, Connecticut, a music school first known in 1835 as "Mr. Whittlesey's School, then "Salem Normal Academy of Music" and finally in 1839, "Music Vale Seminary".

In the Whittlesey genealogy of 1898 it states, "In 1839 Oramel (sometimes spelled Orramel), established and opened the Academy of Music, so well known throughout New England and the South, as Music Vale, the first conservatory of music in New England where instruction was given in notation, thorough bass, harmony and the general laws of composition, counterpoint and fugue. Voice culture and lessons on the organ, harp and guitar were given as well as the pianoforte. At one time the school numbered as high as 80 pupils."

The school's motto was attributed to William Pitt. "If it be that I have done so much, it is because I have done one thing at a time."

In 1914, the youngest of four daughters, Karolyn B. Whittlesey, born of Oramel and his wife Charlotte, who was a famed piano teacher in Topeka, Kansas for over 40 years, wrote in response to an inquiry about Music Vale: "My father's school was known all about the country. He supplied schools with music teachers. To this day I never go anywhere that I do not meet some of the Music Vale girls. My father always said that it was the first purely music school established in the United States. There were other active music schools in the country but with French or other branches of study connected with them."

To show the lasting importance and the legacy of Music Vale, which closed its doors in 1876, the Norwich Bulletin late in the year 1939 featured a lengthy article describing an upcoming event in Salem with many dignitaries "Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Founding of Music Vale Seminary in 1839."

So now next year, 2014, will be the 175th anniversary and I believe Salem should pay homage to this nationally known cultural institution that put our Salem on the map. Now I would be happy to give more details about the people and daily operations of Music Vale and how it all evolved but I must get back to the subject of this article, what was "Bluebird"?

As many of you know, my wife and I have an Antique Carriage and Sleigh Museum located on our Salem farm, "The Olde Ransom Farm". I have read several accounts detailing the first class carriages and coaches that transported these young ladies. Music Vale was located many miles from the nearest train station. By the mid nineteenth century, most long distance

travel in the East was by railroad. A rail line was extended from Worcester, Mass. to Norwich. It was at this station that most of the girls arrived, for a railroad bridge had not been built across the Thames River. New London was the end point for the New Haven Railroad from New York and passengers had to be ferried across the river to a waiting train to take them on to Providence and Boston. So it was normally at Norwich and occasionally at New London that the students may have been met by Music Vale's gaily painted carriages or coaches, one red, the other blue, gaining thus the names of Robin and Bluebird. The young ladies would be met by two six-foot footman and a coachman (driver) to help load their heavy trunks.

A flyer was sent to the parents stating: "Carriages and horses, under the management of safe and experienced drivers, will be constantly kept in readiness at both of the above named stations for the conveyance of pupils, free of charge, to Music Vale."

A great granddaughter of Oramel, Iveagh Hunt Sterry, who witnessed first hand many details of Music Vale and later in life wrote an historical book, "They Found a Way", devoted one chapter to the Seminary. She wrote: "Transportation had to be provided by the Seminary. Oramel ordered special Concord Coaches, hung on the best leather springs and painted a royal blue of luxurious appointments and easy draft. His horses were so perfectly matched that the layman could not distinguish the wheelers from the lead team and few harnesses were ever as clean and pliable as that natural leather gear used at Music Vale. The coachman and footman were all six-footers, descendants of the Colonel Browne slaves. The coaches were one extravagance but the elaborate musicales and operas staged in the great auditorium were still more ambitious and expensive undertakings."

So as an ardent admirer and collector of antique carriages, I have spent many months talking to other museums and curators — searching for Bluebird! I realize I will never find the original, but I will accept a reproduction, redecorated in shades of bluebird blue with the Music Vale Seminary motif, thereby bringing back to life a small part of Music Vale's once proud grandeur!

continued on page 12

MEL CORCINO *continued from page 7*

Mel's other music heroes indicate his favorite genres of music: Jazz, Fusion, Funk, Latin, Pop and Rock.

Dave Weckl (Drummer with Mike Stern): "The first time I heard Dave Weckl was in 1990. He was playing with the "Chick Corea Elektric Band". His playing really inspired me to pursue further studies in the drum set and to develop my skills to a higher level. Up to this day, I still listen and follow Dave's playing."

Horacio «El Negro» Hernandez (Drummer with Michel Camillo): "As a Latino myself, "El Negro" Hernandez is an inspiration to me. His playing and musicality in different styles of music, in particular Latin Music is phe-

nomenal. Watching and listening to him really helps me to stay connected to my roots and strive to influence younger generations in the art of drumming with Latin rhythms."

Rene Gonzalez (Latin Christian Singer): "Rene's music was very influential in my teenage years. When nothing made sense, the message of his music always did. It helped me to push myself to higher levels and find answers to my questions. He is an excellent songwriter and musician. The level of musicianship of his band members is super inspirational. I had the opportunity to open a few concerts in Puerto Rico for him. I

will never forget those experiences."

In 2005, Mel and his family moved to Salem to enroll his daughter Natasha Nicole in Salem's excellent school system. Talented in the arts and singing, she plays percussion in the Salem School beginner band and is in the 4th grade. Meliza Jimenez, Mel's lovely wife, worked as a CPA for the State of Connecticut, but is currently a full-time mom.



For a listing of his upcoming gigs or information about drum lessons, contact Mel at mmcorcino@yaboo.com or visit <http://www.melcorcino.com>



MUSIC IS HIS LIFE: LEW BUCKLEY

By Jackie Hemond

When Lew Buckley lifts a trumpet to his lips, you can see his eagerness to make music. With intense expression and fingers pressing the trumpet's valves, music fills the room. He is just as eager to share music and explain its intricacies, history and technique. Recently, at the Salem Library, after Lew's group, Sounding Brass played, he explained how he makes that sassy, brassy trumpet sound. Lew's explanation was intriguing.

The joy of music has always been there for Lew. His father, who managed a beef ranch in Florida, was a church choir director, then a minister of music. His mother taught piano. However, it was love for the trumpet that he took with him to the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Well, maybe the trumpet was not *all* his life, because at Rochester, Lew met his wife, Karen, a pianist and fellow student.

Lew fulfilled his military service requirement during the Vietnam War by joining the Coast Guard Band. Always self-disciplined, he enjoyed the demands of the military. Lew describes his younger self as something like a geek — he never got in trouble, always did his homework, and got involved. He was an achiever. He started writing music in the 6th grade. He loved conducting his father's church choir. In the Coast Guard Band, he performed as a soloist, was the lead trumpet player, composed music, founded and led a jazz band. When the director of the band retired, Lew replaced him. Only 27, Lew was the second youngest conductor of a senior military service band. The only conductor younger than Lew was Sousa, *the* John Philip Sousa, the American March King.

Lew's conductor appointment came at a unique time for the Coast Guard Band. His predecessor had begun transforming the band from a local band to a national one. Whereas in the 1960s, musicians in the band were often high school graduates, under Lew's leadership, the band members graduated from the best music schools. When Lew retired, over half of the musicians in the band had master's degrees and some had doctorates.

When Lew retired after 35 years with the band, he was the longest serving conductor of the Coast Guard Band and the longest serving conductor of any single American military service band. Other highlights of Lew's career are:

- With the band, he proudly marched behind D-Day Veterans in England on the 50th anniversary of D-Day in 1995
- He conducted before six Presidents, from Gerald Ford through George W. Bush. He also conducted for Walter Cronkite, Gregory Peck, Placido Domingo, Jim Nabors, Roberta Flack, Martha Reeves and many other celebrities
- His band was the first U.S. military band to perform in Soviet Russia. The year was 1989.
- He broadcast more concerts live and recorded on NPR than any other civilian or military band

- He conducted at Carnegie Hall
- His band toured all over the United States, Russia, Canada and England

Lew retired from the Coast Guard Band, but he has not retired from music. He is still involved, still an achiever. He leads and plays in Sounding Brass. He is the conductor of the Metropolitan Wind Symphony in Lexington, Massachusetts, plays in a jazz band, and in a big band in Essex and in the Dick Campo band in the New London area. For seven years, until 2011, he conducted the Manchester (CT) Symphony Orchestra. He also co-owns a music publishing company called Cimarron Music Press, along with his wife Karen Buckley, and Bryan Doughty of Ledyard, both performers in Sounding Brass. Lew and his partners acquired Cimarron in 2004 when the owner passed away, the year Lew retired as conductor of the Coast Guard Band. And did I say Lew is also a Salem Selectman?

Cimarron is the largest publisher of music for the tuba but specializes in the sale of chamber wind music. It sells everything from serious classical music to a tuba/euphonium quartet arrangement of *Beer Barrel Polka* or a brass quintet arrangement of *You're a Grand Old Flag*. The company ships music to customers all over the U.S., although very little within Connecticut, and to more than 25 countries worldwide. Interestingly, Cimarron sells a lot of tuba music to Japan.

Tuba music—*really?* Lew says that, "The tuba is not just an "oom-pah" instrument. In the hands of a talented soloist, the tuba is capable of a degree of technical virtuosity to rival that of *any trumpeter.*" Hmm...*any trumpeter.*... high praise from Lew Buckley. Lew enthusiastically continues, "One of the great tuba soloists of the world, Norwegian Oystein Baadsvik, plays everything from the classics to jazz and funk. A YouTube video of him will knock your socks off — <http://tinyurl.com/yru5e7>. In this performance he plays and sings through his tuba simultaneously, producing two and even three tones at once; and by the time he's done, the audience is rocking!"

Lew summarized how the music publishing industry has drastically changed over the last twenty years. Up until around 1990, a composer would sit down at a piano with manuscript paper and pencil, (there is a LOT of erasing involved in composing!), to laboriously create a masterpiece. Once finished, the composer made a clean copy, ridding it of pesky erasures, and sent it off to a publisher. Today's composer calls up a blank music document on a computer, puts the cursor in the first measure, and, using a MIDI keyboard (think electric piano) attached to the computer, begins creating music. This composition software is a musical cousin to the word processor. Like the word processor, it offers the conveniences of cutting and pasting, onscreen corrections, and moving selected passages around within the piece.

continued on page 12

CHURCH MUSIC:



THE HYMNS OF JEFFERY ROWTHORN

By Jackie Hemond

Songs of worship have been around for two millennia and more. Walking past the open doors of a New England church, one still hears robust chords played by the church organist to accompany a volley of voices lifted in hymns of praise. Traditional hymns can be attributed in part to:

Martin Luther, the 16th century Protestant Reformer, who taught the tenets of faith in song, using texts from the Old Testament, particularly the Psalms. His hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God", is still sung today, even in Roman Catholic churches.

Isaac Watts, often called the "Father of English Hymnody", who used texts from the New Testament. One of his best-known hymns is "Joy to the World".

Charles Wesley, a leader of the Methodist movement within 18th century Anglicanism, who wrote more than 6,000 lyrics, which were more poetic in character. He used images from everyday life in his songs for worship. One of his famous hymns is "Christ the Lord is Risen Today".¹

With each evolution, hymns inspired parishioners and revitalized worship. In the second half of the 20th century, with new cultural awareness brought by the "60s revolution", the time was right for more contemporary hymns, hymns that reflected a renewed sensitivity to cultural diversity, tolerance and modern life.

Enter Jeffery Rowthorn. He grew up in the town of Newport, in the southeastern part of Wales, very close to the English border. Educated

continued on page 11

Susan Silva Nikirk feels as though she has lived three lives. The distinct yet unified aspects of that trinity have seen the slim, graceful woman through experiences as a dancer, a minister, and, most recently, the mother to a daughter adopted from China.

Susan's Salem home is homage to her roots and the unique ways in which they have spread. Photos and paintings of Israel and its Wailing Wall feature prominently in the large, neat space, as do images from her days as a Theatrical Ballroom Dance Champion. There are photos in her office of the summer in 1965 during which she toured with the Discotheque Dancers as the opening act for the Beatles. In the family room, her husband's drum set fills the space with the promise of music.

Susan was raised in the Jewish faith in New York City; her mother came to the United States from Germany in 1937 during Hitler's rise to power with only her parents, sister and ten dollars to the family name. It was not until Susan was grown, and after a divorce, that she became "born again" as a Messianic Jew. As she describes it, "I'm a Jew that believes Yeshua/Jesus is the Messiah."

This 180-degree spiritual turn led the professionally trained dancer to develop a Creative Arts Ministry combining sign language and dance with music of worship. She embarked on her mission in Florida, where she had come to care for her ailing mother and remained after her passing. She met Gerald Nikirk in a church in South Florida while staging large productions as part of that ministry. The couple married and moved to Connecticut to attend Bible College, eventually becoming ordained ministers. Susan's testimony went overseas in 1993, and for more than a decade she continued to minister abroad. Together Susan and Gerald formed Nikirk Ministries' VINE Training & Worship Center, a non-denominational congregation, first in Niantic and then in Colchester. They also produced and hosted *Voice In New England Television Broadcast* for fifteen years, and a short-wave radio program into Asia and China.

A TEST OF FAITH

It was ten years ago that Susan became ill with a mysterious ailment that countless doctors and hundreds of thousands of dollars could not diagnose. She was in a wheelchair within two years. Finally, after leaving the state for even more testing, doctors put a name to her condition. "It wound up being Post-Lyme Autoimmune Disease," Susan says. "Because of everything I went through — I still go through things — it took me a long recuperation through integrative medicine." Susan has conducted several programs on Lyme disease at the Salem Library to educate people about its severity.

While still in the wheelchair, Susan began to envision the day when she could dance again. Her health slowly improved. The day she had been praying for came in 2007 when she danced a Viennese Waltz that she choreographed with a local dance studio owner. The music to which they performed was *Dance With Me* by Paul Wilbur, an internationally known Messianic musician. The lyrics of the music are from *Song of Solomon*, an Old Testament book of the Bible. Susan, with her extensive aerial training, had come far enough in her recuperation to pull off a few lifts as part of the dance.

A series of injuries over the course of Susan's life make her no stranger to pain. She had a



skiing accident as a young woman that prompted doctors to say she would never dance again. However, she did dance. One day in Acapulco while she was headlining a show, she was dropped on the cement stage, fracturing her coccyx. "When you're an athlete, pain doesn't matter," she says. "I'm still that way to a degree, but today my faith pulls me through." Susan's professional Ballroom Dance Partner, David Van Hamilton, moved to Connecticut a few years ago and, after 20 years of not dancing together, they danced again. The two have taught ballroom classes at the Salem Library. Dancing with David again, Susan says, "Was another dream come true."

Dancing out of Darkness

SUSAN NIKIRK

THE MIRACLE STORY

One constant source of pain for Susan was her inability to have a child. The contemplative period she spent in her wheelchair fostered not only

visions of dancing again, but also of bringing her dreams of motherhood to fruition. The Nikirks had planned for seventeen years to adopt a child from China — Susan even had a name for her — but timing and finances always got in the way. It was in 2006, that both Susan and Gerald, who were in different places at the time, received the same message during their remote prayer sessions: it was time to start the adoption process.

There was a sense of urgency to their efforts, which, according to Susan, came from above. They completed the process through a Christian adoption agency in three months; it usually took six. Soon after they filed the paperwork, China changed its adoption laws to the extent that the Nikirks would not have been able to fulfill the requirements had they not been grandfathered in. On May 5, 2008, the couple traveled to China and became parents to Autumn Victoria Jia Chuan Nikirk.

Autumn is now a third grader at Salem School. She is a dancer at Eastern Connecticut Ballet. "You'd think she came out of my womb," Susan says. "She dances. She loves ballet."



DANCING OUT THE DARKNESS

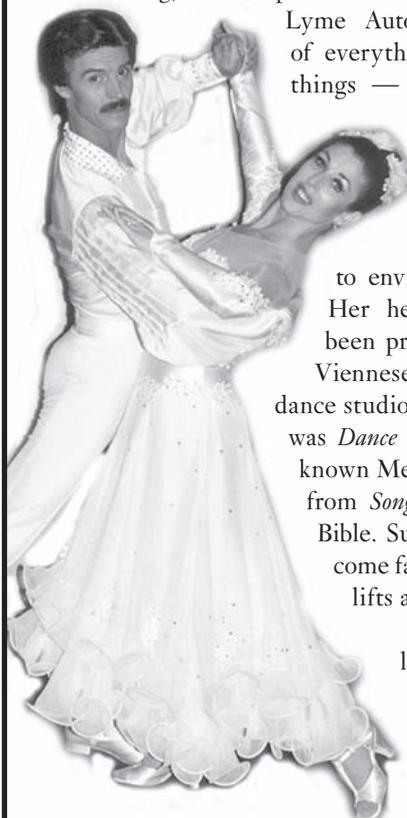
Today Susan continues her ministry and is a Dance Life Coach, guiding dancers and their families through the complex ballroom industry. She is also a championship adjudicator with the National Dance Council of America. She is a writer, and has a column in the largest ballroom newspaper, *Dance Beat*. Susan currently rents studio space at Physiocare at the Salem Four Corners as a wedding dance consultant and ballroom teacher. She has danced full circle from her start as a ballet dancer at age three to the days when, at age 18, she toured with the Beatles. Life in Salem is more peaceful than it was on that plane, where crazy girls would jump on the wings and bang on the windows hoping for a glimpse of "the boys," as Susan still calls them.

Susan's story has been recorded in *Dancing Out Of Darkness*, a film she uses to spread the word about her relationship with Jesus. It has been translated in five different languages. The Salem Library has a copy of the DVD.

"In order to dance, you have to have good music," she says. "You have to feel it from inside. Music is what inspires." Together Susan and Gerald have done many worship ministry conferences, teaching on the origins of music and its influence. Both of them feel music can either be a positive or negative effect in a person's life, believing that is important to screen the music children listen to.

Music and dance is evident in the way Susan carries herself; it is in the flow of her skirt and her wavy hair. It is in her outlook, which has been shaped by pain and prayer. Susan says, "Dancing can bring great joy. "Anyone can learn to dance, it just takes time and practice. What helps a lot is music that inspires."

You can contact Susan through her website: www.susansilvadance.com



Bottom Left: Susan Silva and David Van Hamilton, champion theatrical ballroom dancers and adagio team;

Top Center: Susan began her dance career at age three in ballet;

Right Center: Gerald, Autumn and Susan Nikirk upon the May 5, 2008 adoption that they refer to as "Gotcha Day."

SALEM IS BLUEGRASS COUNTRY

By Anne Rowthorn

PICTURE THIS: a log cabin nestled in the woods with a stone patio entrance and an overhanging porch roof held in place by descending knotted logs. An immense stone fireplace dominates a room full of all manner of instruments — fiddles, guitars, a bass, mandolin, piano, trumpets, a saxophone, banjos, a balalaika (a Russian folk stringed instrument); also music scores and stands; walls adorned with racks of antlers, stuffed animal heads and hunting trophies. The scene has the appearance of pure mountain charm of half a century ago, but it is right here, right now in Salem. This is the home — built by Tom Vernon in 1979 — and the “Pickin’ Parlor,” practice studio of Salem’s famed Eight Mile River Band.

Tom Vernon, the bluegrass band’s lead vocalist, fiddler, mandolin and guitar player, said, “I got into bluegrass in the 1960s. The first time I heard it I fell in love with it. This was music that spoke to me.” He went on to explain that one of the attractions to him was that, “There are no superstars up front and everyone participates instrumentally on an equal basis with vocals being performed in harmony.”

Tom at times had played with Dick Lee of Old Lyme, whose band played country music, often warming up the audience for big-time Bluegrass performers at Ocean Beach Park. In the early 80’s, Dick Lee and Don Urbanik founded what is now known as the Eight Mile River Band. They played for their own personal enjoyment in many venues around our area. Many players came and went and when Dick Lee died in 1995, the group went dormant. Don Urbanik, the only original band member still playing with the band, along with Tom Vernon and Bill Hawthorne around 2003, resurrected it. Tom and Don live in Salem as does vocalist and fiddle player, Rachel Gadbois Crafton. Bill Hawthorne, who plays bass, lives in Hadlyme; Marsh Dubaldo, a guitarist and vocalist, hails from Manchester. Robert (Bink) Cooper, plays the Dobro, a commonly used name for the resonator guitar, and lives in Old Lyme.

Bluegrass is its own distinctive style of country music. It is not electric and typically does not use percussion instruments.

You will never see a synthesizer or electric guitar employed in traditional bluegrass.

Typical bluegrass instruments are prescribed by tradition. Unlike mainstream country, bluegrass is played on acoustic



The Eight Mile River Band: Robert Cooper, Bill Hawthorne, Tom Vernon, Rachel Crafton Gadbois, Marsh Dubaldo, Don Urbanik

stringed instruments, the fiddle, flat top guitar, mandolin, bass, and 5-string banjo. These are the instruments believed to be “correct” by Bill Monroe, known as the “Father of Bluegrass,” who developed the genre in his native Kentucky. Monroe and his eight siblings honed their musical skills on the family farm near Rosine, Kentucky. Monroe’s mother taught him to play the fiddle and he taught himself

the mandolin when he was nine years old. Monroe’s first band was his talented family band. Around 1946 he brought in Lester Flatt, a guitarist and lead vocalist, as well as innovative banjo player Earl Scruggs and together Bill’s band, the Blue Grass Boys, developed the genre. After Lester and Earl left Bill’s band and formed their own Foggy Mountain Boys, they added the Dobro to the mix of instruments.

Bluegrass is distinctive for its sound, in terms of instrumentation, vocals and themes. The harmonies can be dissonant in two, three, or four parts and the themes are narratives of everyday life — involving spiritual themes, love, loss, heartbreak, and the goodness and hardness of life.

Tom talks about how the members of the Eight Mile River Band developed their style. He says the band plays traditional bluegrass music along with other types of music applying their bluegrass interpretation. Their repertoire includes selections from the Big Band era, Pop, Country, and Folk i.e. Jim Croce, Rick Nelson, Bob Dylan, and many other artists, all adapted to the Eight Mile River Band’s unique style.

From its rural roots, bluegrass has become urban and national with regional styles evolving. In 1979, Bill Monroe and his Blue Grass Boys performed for President Jimmy Carter; in 1993, President Clinton bestowed on him the National Medal of the Arts.

continued on page 12

BLUEGRASS TRIVIA

What is the difference between a fiddle and a violin?

None. It is one or the other, depending upon the way the instrument is played and who is playing it. A fiddle is folksy, a violin is fancy. An old musician’s joke is that you can spill your beer on a fiddle. You would not dare drop it on a violin!

What is the origin of the name “bluegrass,” sometimes rendered “blue grass” (2 words)?

“Bluegrass,” originated in Kentucky, the “Bluegrass State,” home of Bill Monroe, founder of bluegrass.

Note: Factual data was obtained from:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluegrass_music
 and <http://www.billmonroe.com/history>.
 Accessed April 29, 2013.

Post Script: On April 27, an authentic looking Concord Coach, although a reproduction, was purchased. After many upcoming winter months of work, hopefully it will be worthy of Oramel's luxurious original Bluebird. In the 2014 Memorial Day Parade, it will make its debut starting out of Pratt Road as it did hundreds of times 175 years ago. May it start a year of celebration for the renowned school and schoolmaster, Oramel Whittlesey.

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David Wordell is a local historian and a founder and first president of the Salem Historical Society

had committed a serious teaching error...he had never done such an assignment himself. So he sat down and wrote a hymn, which his class sang, and which he then kept on file. In 1978, he learned that the hymn had won a competition for which he had never applied! One of Jeffery's students had submitted the hymn Jeffery had written back in 1974! Jeffery also wrote a hymn for his daughter and son-in-law when they married, after they had failed to find a hymn that expressed their feelings. In 2007, Hope Publishing Company published a collection of some of Jeffery's hymns entitled *Singing Songs of Expectation*. Jeffery's most popular hymns, "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace" and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission," can be found in many English-language hymnals. The latter hymn has also been translated into Lakota and Japanese.

Jeffery not only writes hymns, he also collects them as an editor of hymnals. Each hymn he carefully reviews so that the new words he uses to replace outmoded expressions and gender bias, match the meter of the melody. In 1992, Yale University Press published *A New Hymnal for Colleges and Schools*, which Jeffery edited with a musician friend, Dr. Russell Schulz. In 2010 and 2011, Jeffery spent the winter months at St. John's Abbey in Minnesota, gathering hymns for a new collection entitled *Sing of the World Made New: Hymns of Justice, Peace and Christian Responsibility*. This collection of 200 hymns culled from hymnals all over the world will be published early next year by Hope Publishing Company (Protestant) and GIA (Catholic) – the first hymnal to be published jointly by these two leading publishing houses. After two millennia and more, a new generation of hymns is being sung.

¹"Hymn," <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hymns>, Accessed April 27, 2013

BUCKLEY *continued from page 9*

Also like today's word processors, composition software can play music back, and, wonder of all, can actually create new passages by applying compositional techniques to the music, creating new ideas based on the ones entered by the composer. Once finished, the composer electronically sends the file to the music publisher.

Twenty years ago, upon receiving the composer's handwritten score, the publisher would "engrave" the music, a months-long process of typesetting, then, print hundreds of copies in order to sell them to music store dealers. Now a composer sends a music score in digital form. If everything looks right, the publisher can apply a unique "house style", then change the score into PDF files. The piece is added to the website

catalog, sample pages are posted and, in many cases, a sound file is added. The "long months of engraving" are reduced to a few days at most. Instead of printing hundreds of copies, the publisher can upload the PDF files to a cloud storage service. When a customer orders a piece, the shipping department calls up the appropriate PDF file, prints it, and ships it in the same or next day, similar to the way Amazon works. Printing on demand makes expensive inventory outdated.

And so music continues to be at the core of Lew's life. He enjoys writing it, selling it and playing it. If you happen to hear Sounding Brass Quintet play *You're a Grand Old Flag* at the Salem Farmers Market this summer, you will know where the sheet music came from.

BLUEGRASS *continued from page 11*

We are pleased that our town is part of the expansion of bluegrass. Home of the Eight Mile River Band, Salem is Bluegrass Country. It is just something else that makes our town special and wonderful. While Tom, Marsh, Bill, Don, Rachel, and Bink, practice in Tom's "Pickin' Parlor," in his log cabin in the woods, this is a group of consummate artists and they love performing. The band plays all around the region, some several dozen concerts a year. You can learn more by checking their website: www.eightmileriverband.com. Better yet, you can experience them at two free concerts this summer at Salem Farmers Market, July 25 and August 29. Mark your calendars for some fun-filled, toe-tapping entertainment by Salem's own Eight Mile River Band.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Residents share their stories in columns related to various aspects of Salem life

Quietly, but meticulously, work is proceeding on a major renovation project designed to upgrade Salem's elementary and intermediate school buildings. The town's first major school was built in 1940 and from that point on, as the town grew, five additions were built, one in 1956, 1963, 1973, 1988 and 1994. The 1994 addition was rated by school personnel as being in good condition and, therefore, was not in need of any repair, but the remaining five sections had to be upgraded and brought into compliance with current State school codes.

As each section was added, electrical, heating, telephone and safety systems were upgraded and attached to existing systems, all in a little different manner than the previous addition. As time went along, some of the original infrastructure began to fail and the school repair bills started to soar. The situation needed to be addressed, so in 2008 a committee was assembled to look at the possibility of a new school. A year later, the town was shocked to find that the price for a new school had reached \$16,000,000 to \$20,000,000, depending on what might be reimbursed by the state. The project was put on hold to look at other approaches.

Two years later, on May 20, 2010, a new building committee was formed to review the needs of the school. The charge from the Selectmen was to "review the previous building committee's proposal, Board of Education specifications and other options and recommend a less costly alternative for repairs and/or renovation of the Salem School."

The new committee went to work looking at its options. What could be done to pull together the five old buildings and stay within the Selectmen's charge? What quickly became evident was that the school was in dire need of a new heating system, a new roof, windows and exterior doors and upgraded bathrooms, electrical power and general service systems.

An architect was hired to develop preliminary plans and costs, which came in at \$6,200,000. The project was presented to the Selectmen and the Board of Finance, who agreed with the committee's study and results. This amount was approved in a town referendum on August 3, 2011, and the project proceeded.



WHAT'S UP AT SALEM SCHOOLS

By Elbert Burr

Shortly thereafter, a new building committee consisting of myself, Steve Buck, John Bernier, Allyson Geida, Bob Green, Don Bourdeau and Bill Weinschenker was formed to carry out the planned work. The architectural firm, Silver Petrucelli & Associates, was hired to develop formal plans for approval by the State and local officials. The building committee decided that a non-State refundable portion of the school renovation work should be tackled first and proceeded to replace the two old boilers with new high performance boilers. This work was completed during the summer of 2011. During the spring of 2012, final plans for the renovation work were approved by the State and on August 23, the town received the final go-ahead letter. It read, "assuming that Salem fully complies with all statutory and regulatory construction procedures and policies, the State of Connecticut commits itself to reimburse the town of Salem 52.14 percent of eligible final project costs as reported at the end of this project "In the fall of 2012 the final approved plans were put out to bid for a general contractor and Millennium Builders was selected.

The building committee moved ahead quickly, coordinating the scheduling of work with the school superintendent and principals, architect and general contractor to develop a phasing plan and schedule to complete the renovation work by the end of August 2013. The work commenced in October of 2012 and is currently moving along on schedule. The 1940's building is receiving a large portion of the renovation work. This includes major abatement work, new interior walls, ceilings, lighting, electrical power, interior doors with new upgraded security locking systems, exterior doors, new insulated glass windows, ADA code bathrooms, roof, exterior vinyl siding and signage. This phase I portion of the work is scheduled to be completed by the end of June 2013.

The work scheduled for the remaining four sections, which includes all new bathrooms, exterior windows, treated air circulation, electrical, and new roof, is scheduled for substantial completion by late August or early September of 2013.

Thanks to the many school and town service people who have worked in a very cooperative way with the building committee, the architect and the builder, we are moving along to finish the majority of the work by school opening this fall.

Since 2009, the Salem Community Garden has resided in the heart of Salem. Its mission is to offer residents in Salem and surrounding towns a place to grow a garden in a community setting. Perhaps you have glimpsed it while passing down Route 85, or saw its advertisement in Our Town Salem. Perhaps you have not heard of it at all.

The initiative to create a community garden was started by Anne Rowthorn, a long-time Salem resident. She wanted a space to plant an organic garden but lacked the right conditions at her house.

She held a meeting to see where community interest lay and was surprised at the enthusiasm – Salem residents who shared her need or envisioned a community garden in Salem joined hands to embark

on the project. A steering committee was formed and plans quickly fell into place. In spring of 2009, the Salem Community Garden opened its first growing season within months from that first meeting.

The first year was difficult – the plots had to be made; the soil had to be amended and a fence erected. However, the community came to

the rescue, with help – both physical effort and encouragement – from the MOMS Club, the Lion's Club, the Friends of the Salem Library, and many other

THE SALEM COMMUNITY GARDEN: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

By Zoe Yeoh



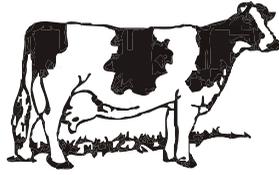
Salem organizations and individuals. (To see a full list of acknowledgements, visit: salemcommunitygarden.wordpress.com/acknowledgements)

As the years progressed, the hard work at the start began to pay off. What could be better than eating your own fresh, organic food? Eleven beds expanded to thirteen, then to eighteen. Common summer vegetables, flowers, and some more exotic plants such as cotton, dipper gourds, giant sunflowers, daikons, and buckwheat were all successfully planted and

harvested. The SCG maintained a wildly successful community raspberry plot, started an annual potluck,

continued on page 21

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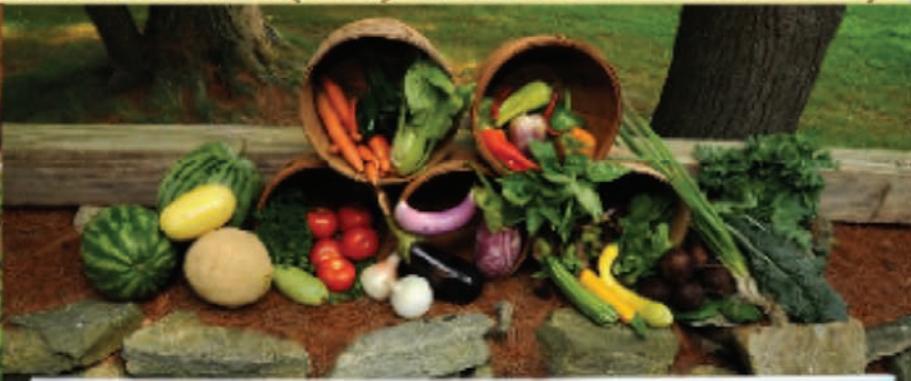
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On April 20, 2013, two days before “Earth Day,” three volunteers from the Salem Land Trust joined me in planting some presumed blight-resistant American Chestnut sprouts at the Zemko Sawmill Preserve on Rattlesnake Ledge Road.

Rich Chyinski dug holes on a ridge in a forest clearing that was logged a few years ago. Maureen Cain, Dr. MaryAnne Smith and I put in a couple of handfuls of moistened potting soil, made a hole for the emerging root, and gently placed the nuts in the 22 holes, covering them with a half inch of soil. Nearby we placed bamboo stakes and marker flags to help us locate, identify, and tend the shoots that emerge in a week or two. Each plant location was mapped, to keep track of the parentage and growth success of each future tree.

The sprouts came from The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) research station. TACF has been working with Chinese/American hybridized and backcrossed trees. The nuts represent the product of five generations of trees, grown over the past 25 years, at a cost of millions of dollars.

Chinese Chestnuts are resistant to the blight that destroyed the giants of the eastern upland forests. The American Chestnut trees once dominated Connecticut’s woodlands, living a life span of over 500 years and growing to as much as 10 feet or more in diameter before the blight hit. These native trees had wonderful characteristics for building of houses and ships, allowing wide planking that was very rot-resistant. Most of our old houses and barns in Salem have chestnut flooring, beams and joists.

Moreover, the nuts they produced, while smaller than commercial Chinese Chestnut varieties, were a major food source for people as well as livestock and

FROM THE LAND:



RESTORING THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT TO SALEM’S FORESTS

By David Bingham

wildlife. More vegetable protein is present in an annual crop of nuts from an acre of chestnut trees than from an acre of corn, without the labor and expense of plowing, planting, fertilizing and chopping corn each year.

All the trees died from the blight, despite a huge effort to save them. Surprisingly, however, the roots of the trees do not always die from the blight. Native American Chestnut trees occasionally will sprout from these age-old roots and a few will grow to the point of flowering, providing a chance to cross-pollinate the native American tree flowers with pollen from resistant foreign chestnut trees.

Nuts from these hybridized and backcrossed trees are grown in “mother orchards.” We have seven such

orchards in Connecticut, one of which is in Salem. When these trees flower, we can pollinate other American native trees to increase the percentage of native genes. Each generation of trees is tested for blight resistance and those, which are most susceptible, are culled out, leaving only the trees with the most blight resistance.

The sprouts that were planted contain a mix of genes that are about 92.5% American Chestnut and 7.5% Chinese. I call them “All American” Chestnuts, reminiscent of the many athletes in America that have mixed heritage and special qualities evident from the combined heritage.

Due to the high percentage of native American Chestnut DNA, the trees grown from these sprouts should be almost indistinguishable in their physical characteristics from the 100% native trees, except that they should show high resistance to the blight fungus that would cause stunting of growth and dieback of the trees.

Our test planting in the Zemko Sawmill Preserve is adjacent to a native American Chestnut tree that has flowered in recent years. I hope that in the future it will flower again and be pollinated by some blight-resistant trees in our planted area. If so, that would add some Salem DNA to the future gene pool in Zemko Preserve.

The study protocol includes the possibility that our trees will not be blight-resistant, in which case these trees will have to be replaced and their parent trees also removed from the program.

However, if the trees planted in Zemko Preserve prove to be blight-resistant, the six “parent trees” at the research station that provided nuts for the Salem Land Trust planting will then be prioritized, along

continued on page 20

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SALEMITES PLACE IN LAND CONSERVATION TRUSTS' PHOTO CONTEST

Local Salem residents Jessica Nemeth, Tom Nemeth, Cheryl Philopena, April Surprenant, and Linda Waters placed in the Lyme, Old Lyme, Salem, Essex and East Haddam Land Conservation Trusts' jointly sponsored amateur photo contest. The purpose of the contest was to focus on the celebrated and scenic countryside in those towns and its diversified wildlife. Entrants ranged from children to senior citizens.

"There were so many wonderful pictures submitted that the judges had a difficult time selecting the winners" said Tony Sullivan, spokesperson for the conservation trusts. The three independent judges were naturalist and author William Burt; author, curator and Yale University art history doctoral candidate Amy Kurtz Lansing, and; photographic illustrator and designer Rudy Wood-Muller.

The contest was made possible by the generous financial support provided by Lorensen Toyota, Oakley/Wing Group at Smith Barney, Evan Griswold at Coldwell Banker, Essex Savings Bank, ChelseaGroton Bank, Ballek Garden Center and Murtha Cullina LLP.

Winning photographs can be viewed at <http://landtrustsphotos.shutterfly.com/> or on the websites of each of the sponsoring conservation trusts.



PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS FROM SALEM:

(clockwise from top left)
 Second Place, Plants: Cheryl Philopena;
 Honorable Mention, Plants: Jessica Nemeth;
 Honorable Mention, Landscapes/Water-scapes: Tom Nemeth;
 Second Place, Landscapes/Water-scapes: April Surprenant;
 Third Place, Wildlife: Cheryl Philopena;
 Honorable Mention, Plants: Linda Waters

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

JOHN G. MITCHELL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AWARD

Mark Roger Bailey, California (Formerly Essex)

LANDSCAPES/WATERSCAPES

First Place:

Skip Broom, Hadlyme

Second Place:

April Surprenant, Salem

Third Place:

Alexandria Hollwedel, Ivoryton

Honorable Mentions:

Gerry Graves, Old Lyme • John Sargent, Quaker Hill
Tom Nemeth, Salem

PLANTS

First Place:

Tony Sullivan, Lyme

Second Place:

Cheryl Philopena, Salem

Third Place:

Skip Broom, Hadlyme

Honorable Mentions:

Marian Morrissette, New London • Linda Waters, Salem
Jessica Nemeth, Salem

WILDLIFE

First Place:

Skip Broom, Hadlyme

Second Place:

Harcourt Davis, Old Lyme

Third Place:

Cheryl Philopena, Salem

Honorable Mentions:

Mark Roger Bailey, Essex • Hank Golet, Old Lyme
Marian Morrissette, New London

CULTURAL/HISTORIC

First Place:

Skip Broom, Hadlyme

Second Place:

Carol Giese, East Lyme

Third Place:

Mark Roger Bailey, California (Formally Essex)

Honorable Mentions:

Donald Quigley, Old Lyme • Jacquelyn Sanders, Old Lyme
Lionel Williams, Essex

YOUTH

First Place:

Emma Pennie, Old Lyme

Second Place:

Meghan Buckley, Haddam

Third Place:

Courtney Briggs, Old Saybrook

Honorable Mentions:

Hanna Potter, Old Lyme • Samantha Barretta, Lyme
Rebecca Johnson, Colchester



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HEALTH MATTERS SUNBURN & SKIN CANCER

By Diane Gilbert

WHAT IS THE HARM IN SUNBURN?

One blistering sunburn in childhood or adolescence can double your chances of developing melanoma, the most serious form of skin cancer. Five or more sunburns at *any* age will give you the same odds.

The two most common *non*melanoma skin cancers, basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma, are directly correlated with sun accumulation over many years. The most common locations for these cancers are the face, ears, hands, etc. Areas which are most exposed to the sun. Melanoma is different. The sun exposure pattern believed to result in melanoma is that of brief, intense exposure, blistering sunburn, rather than years of tanning.

One of the world's fastest-growing types of cancer, melanoma claims a life every hour and although it is often easier to detect in its earlier stages than most cancers, it is also more likely to spread (metastasize) to other parts of the body. Metastasis represents the most significant cause of death from the disease. The 5-year survival rate for localized melanoma is 98%; however, this drops to 15% in cases where cancer has metastasized to distant sites or organs.

LEARN THE ABCDE OF MELANOMA SKIN CANCER DETECTION.

A - Asymmetry

If you draw a line through this mole, the two halves will not match.

B - Border

The borders of an early melanoma tend to be uneven. The edges may be scalloped or notched.

C - Color

Having a variety of colors is another warning signal. A number of different shades of brown, tan or black could appear. A melanoma may also become red, blue or some other color.

D - Diameter

Melanomas usually are larger in diameter than the size of the eraser on your pencil (1/4 inch or 6 mm), but they may sometimes be smaller when first detected.

E - Evolving

Any change — in size, shape, color, elevation, or another trait, or any new symptom such as bleeding, itching or crusting — points to danger.

Seek expert advice from your primary care physician or dermatologist if you have any of these warning signs. Remember early detection is key. Do not procrastinate.

THE LESSON IS SO SIMPLE: DON'T BURN

- Seek the shade, especially between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M.
- Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths.
- Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher every day.
- Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours.
- Cover up with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Keep newborns out of the sun. Sunscreens should be used on babies over the age of six months.
- Examine your skin head-to-toe every month.

We all love the summer sun! We just have to respect its potential to shorten the time we have to enjoy it.

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A Note from the Sandbox (MOSTLY) STRESS-FREE-BEACH TRIPS WITH LITTLE ONES

By Sarah Bernhardtson

This is my fifth summer as a mommy. Before kids, I looked forward to this time of year, knowing it would mean carefree days at the beach, riding the waves on a boogie board, lying in the sand, listening to music and reading mindless magazines for hours. In these past five summers, however, I have learned that while the beach *is* still one of my favorite places, it is a completely different animal with young children in tow.

I will always remember my first trip to the beach as a mom. My firstborn was 8 months old. He was just barely crawling and could not do much more than sit in the hot sand or sit in the wet sand. He screamed when sand covered his hands, cried when sharp shells touched his feet, and was generally hot and cranky the entire time. We lasted less than an hour, and I left in tears, thinking this was just one more thing that would never be the same since having kids.

Now, however, beach trips with the kiddos go much more smoothly. My younger son hit the beach for the first time at just under 2 months old, and we go quite often now that the boys are 2 and almost 5 years old. Here are my tips for fun, successful, (mostly) stress-free beach trips with little ones:

- Apply sunscreen at home...it is so much easier without the sand! You will probably need to reapply at the beach, but why not take advantage of a sand-and-wind-free environment for at least the first layer.
- Bring *many* buckets, shovels, and sand toys. We keep these in the trunk of our car at all times during the warmer months for impromptu beach trips. We like to have extras so the kids can offer to share with other kids who might have forgotten them!
- Buy a big beach umbrella. Older kids can make castles under it in the shade. Newborns and younger babies can enjoy the scenery from the comfort of their infant car seat or on a towel in the safety of the shade.
- Speaking of newborns, check with your pediatrician for his or her specific sunscreen recommendations if your baby is less than 6 months old. The writing on many brands state 6 months old and up. I panicked, thinking I would have to avoid the beach all summer with my May baby, but our pediatrician said that good quality sunscreen, specifically designed for babies, can be used on younger infants. Check with your pediatrician for specific recommendations.
- If your kids are old enough, bring ice cream truck money! The ice cream truck is a huge treat here, as it never comes by our house, so I remind my older son to bring a dollar in case he wants a popsicle.
- Plain tap water from home in a jug is wonderful for rinsing feet before getting in the car if there is no foot rinse at the beach. Sand in the car during the summer months hardly fazes me anymore, but the kids do not enjoy it on their feet on the ride home.
- Even the insulated sippy cups do not keep drinks cold, in my experience, so we pack a reusable water bottle filled with ice for each person. The ice melts into cool water just about the time we are thirsty. There is no need to lug a giant cooler, which, I might add, is NOT fun with kids.
- Bring snacks...a lot of snacks. I do not know why, but my kids get so hungry at the beach!
- Embrace the sand. You will *never* avoid getting it everywhere. Do not bother trying. We went to Fort Myers Beach on a family vacation when my younger son was 9 months old. He crawled *through* the sand and was perpetually covered, from neck to toes, for most of the vacation. He loved every second of it. We called him our little sea turtle, laughed about it, but rinsed him well.
- Baby wipes are useful, and not just for wiping tiny bottoms. We use them to wipe off salty hands before a beach lunch, clean a sippy cup that was accidentally dropped in the sand. They are also useful for wiping off sweaty, sunscreen-and-popsicle covered faces, arms, tummies, necks, legs.

The beach certainly is not the same experience as it was before kids...but we still have a great time when we go!

Here is to a summer filled with sun, fun, and sand!

Sarah Bernhardtson is a Salem resident and mother of two young boys. She writes a weekly column entitled "Wisdom Wednesdays" about parenting and education for the website www.CTWorkingMoms.com.

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WINDOW BOXES, FLOWERS, AND A WONDERFUL FRIEND

By Sue Spang

For many years now, I have been planting the window boxes at the Town Hall. I enjoy it. However, the joy is tinged with a bit of foreboding and doubt: how will the boxes look, will it rain too much, or not enough, will those lime green potato vines take over again and smother the Town Hall?

In the spring, I go to the Salem Herb Farm to visit Anne Duncan who owns the business with her husband Joe. One of the first questions she asks is, "What are you going to put in this year?" I would have visions of beautiful English country baskets overflowing with a plethora of flowers, colorful and lush. Anne will gently and not so gently, guide me to more realistic and practical choices. We will settle on a winning combination and Anne places the order.

On a weekend day in May I head to the Herb Farm. Anne loads me up with plants, she asks if I have fertilizer, (I do not) so she gives me a box. "How about more potting soil, do you need more of that?" "Yes, I guess I do," I reply sheepishly. She places a bag in my car. Then, as if that was not enough help, she loads up her truck with more stuff, hoses, tools, etc., says, "You can't do this by yourself," and follows me to the Town Hall to keep me company and help me with seven very large window boxes. Many times I get a bonus, Joe comes to help too. How lucky can a girl get!

The Salem Herb Farm is a good friend to the town and many of the town's organizations. Anne and Joe are always generous with their knowledge and contributions to the town. We are very lucky to have their business here in Salem. Last year was a difficult year for the herb farm, one of the major storms we had badly damaged some of their hot houses. I hope all of Salem will take care of the Salem Herb Farm just as they take care of us.

Also, thanks to the Recreation Commission for the funds to beautify the Town Hall. However, we have gardens at the ball fields that could use some TLC. We have had master gardeners, volunteers, (Stacey and Casey) and scouts spruce them up in the past, but we really need a consistent presence to keep them looking good. If anyone is interested, maybe a group of friends who would like to help keep the town looking beautiful, please call me at 860-859-3873 X 100.

Thanks again Anne

FROM THE LAND *continued from page 15*

with hundreds of other trees also being studied. Nuts of these trees will then be distributed by the thousands for restoring American Chestnuts throughout the eastern forests of the US from Maine to Georgia.

TACF's restoration program is of enormous importance not only as a special tree for its beauty, shade, lumber, nuts and as a keystone species for healthy forest ecology, but it turns out that this is one of the fastest growing trees in North America. In five years, we hope some of these Salem trees will be over 10 feet tall. The tons of wood that each tree produces represent tons of CO₂, a greenhouse gas that is taken out of the air and stored in wood.

When used for lumber, the wood provides long-lasting building materials while thinning the forest makes room in the forest for more rapid forest growth. Thus, the chestnut restoration program over time can be a significant counter to climate change. However, we are still in the testing and early production stage. It is a privilege for the Salem Land Trust to take part in the program, and we look forward to more plantings in future years.

Every individual has a mission and a path; it is our responsibility as human beings to follow that path. For me, it is horses.

Why Horses...? I see that question in people's eyes all the time. It is a fair question when there is so much suffering in the world. However, can you think of a species of animals that has done



Chaussey (center) grazing with two horses at Mitchell Farm

more for the human race? Would the “West have been won” without the horse? At one time in the not so distant past, they were our only mode of transportation. They were our partners in survival for generations. Today, primarily used for pleasure, they are admired for their spirit, beauty, athleticism and nobility.

When you are of a certain age, as I am, you might feel a little creaky when you get out of bed in the morning. It is the beginning of the slippery slope of aging. At some point, most of us retire from our jobs and concentrate on doing what makes us comfortable and happy. Horses are not afforded this luxury unless their owner is acutely aware, forward thinking and financially secure. Old age for horses is all too often not comfortable and even dangerous.

Mitchell Farm Equine Retirement is a non-profit equine sanctuary founded in Salem in 2004 and fully accredited by The Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries in 2011. Our mission is to provide a safe comfortable alternative to the perils awaiting aged or infirm horses. Advanced age or infirmity causes an end to the useful, athletic lives of these animals; however, they are healthy enough to enjoy a comfortable life for many years to come. Unlike a rescue facility, Mitchell Farm becomes their permanent sanctuary where they are allowed to remember how to *just be a horse again*.

Divorce, an owner's illness, death or loss of job can spell disaster for older horses.

Take the plight of Chaussey. Mitchell Farm recently acquired Chausette, a sweet 29-year-old mare. As a 4 year old, she belonged to a very nice family whose young son loved and helped to train her. He rode and showed her until 1994 when it was clear that he had outgrown her. Wishing the best for her, the family donated her to High Hopes Therapeutic Riding in Old Lyme, CT. where I worked as the Equine Manage. It was part of my job, along with the Program Manager, Kitty

Saltsburg, to evaluate Chaussey for suitability as a therapy horse.

Kitty and I put this little mare through all of our tests. While Kitty was leading her I rode backwards, over her back dead man style, maneuvered 360 degrees in the saddle (called “around the world”), I even pretended to fall off and roll to the ground. We bounced balloons off her and shook plastic bags. She was unflappable, and most suitable for therapeutic riding. I will never forget the expressions on the faces of the women at that barn. They thought we were crazy, but they all admired Chaussey!

Chaussey worked as a therapy horse at High Hopes for 5 years, until it was decided that she should retire to an easier life. She was only 15 years old or middle-aged and still reasonably sound. It was easy to find her a new home as a pleasure horse. Two owners later and now aged 29, High Hopes

WHY HORSES...?

By Dee Doolittle

received a call that Chaussey needed a home. It is an almost impossible task to *safely* place a horse of that age. High Hopes called me to tell me about the plight of my old friend.

A few days later, High Hopes Equine Operations director, Holly Sundmacker and I, drove to Rhode Island to pick up Chaussey and bring her back to Mitchell Farm. When we arrived, both Holly and I had to choke back tears and anger. Poor Chaussey had been horribly neglected. She was dangerously emaciated and standing in mud with badly overgrown hooves. We could not get her on the trailer fast enough.

Fortunately, for Chaussey, High Hopes and Mitchell Farm were there for her just in time. The fact that she is still alive is a testament to her strong spirit. Chaussey is happily recovering at Mitchell Farm with lots of TLC from volunteers. She grazes alongside two other horses also retired by High Hopes.

Chaussey's story has a happy ending, but it is all too typical. Many older horses are starved and suffer painful injuries with no veterinary care. It can happen anywhere. Even in our town, Salem.

So... yes...horses! They say that charity begins at home. My mission begins in my own community with the hope that the kindness we demonstrate will spread well beyond. How blessed I feel to live in Salem, a community where open space and agriculture are cherished and supported making my mission possible.

High Hopes Therapeutic Riding, Inc. has provided funds to cover a portion of Chaussey's expenses. Mitchell Farm is seeking additional contributions to the cost of Chaussey's care. Donations can be made at www.mitchellfarm.org or mailed to Mitchell Farm Chaussey Fund, 300 East Haddam Rd., Salem, CT 06420. Please visit our web site www.mitchellfarm.org for information on volunteering or better yet visit the farm and meet our lucky horses.

and were even invited to be the guest speakers at Salem Historical Society's annual meeting. At the close of their 2012 growing season, after their 4-year tenure behind the Old Library, the members of the SCG were proud of their garden and looking forward to their next growing season.

However, the story does not end there. Late last year, the Salem Community Garden was informed that the town wanted to use their site as a staging ground for Salem School's renovations. They had to move off the site – quickly. They were at first offered a site at the Salem Community Park, the home of the Salem Farmer's Market during the summer. Then, word came that Salem would buy the Zemko property, and the gardeners collectively agreed that this place would be the preferred spot to create their new garden. Just like at the very beginning five years ago, the early months of 2013 were swirls of activity in preparation for the move.

The move has created clear goals that the SCG wants to achieve. Along with their original mission of providing the community with a place to grow an organic garden, this move would allow the community garden to expand in both membership and interest in gardening – now with twenty-one plots, up from the eighteen in their old location. Gardeners especially value the idea of having a community garden at the heart of Salem.

The people of Salem can continue to see interesting activities from the SCG this year: planting experiments, love for organic gardening, and most importantly, more of Salem's tremendous community passion. One thing is clear. The Salem Community Garden is not just a part of Salem's past. It is part of Salem's present and future.

Zoe Yeob is the Salem Community Garden Blog Manager

TO RENT A PLOT:

It costs \$20.00 to rent a plot for an entire season. Each plot is 10 ft. x 10 ft., and cash or checks are accepted. Money will go towards supporting and maintaining the garden.

WRITING FOR THE SALEM COMMUNITY GARDEN BLOG:

We are always looking for people who can help contribute to our blog! We need stories about your personal gardening experiences (whether they be in the community garden or at your home) or planting tips, recipes for fresh vegetables, and articles about sustainable agriculture.

CONTACTING US:

Please contact us through the Community Garden Blog, sailemgarden.wordpress.com.



What is Rapid Bioassessment (RBV)? It is a method of determining what benthic macroinvertebrates (benthic — under rocks in the water, macro-can see with the naked eye, invertebrates — no backbone) are living in our streams. Macroinvertebrates are water insect larvae and other organisms, and are used to evaluate water quality. Some of the macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to degraded water, polluted water or can only live in pristine water, so when we find these, it gives us a good indication of the quality of our water systems. In addition the presence of these macroinvertebrates can be an indicator of good fish habitat.

There are many benefits of the RBV program. The RBV monitoring data done by TRCC students is used by State Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to assess water quality and is included as part of a statewide report to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) every two years. Additionally this information is used by permitting agencies as well as grant reviewers to show what type of assessments is being done, and the results and commitment by the communities to continue monitoring. Salem, Lyme



and East Haddam are all part of the Eightmile River Watershed, which was federally designated as “Wild and Scenic”. This designation is something to be proud of especially since there aren’t many watersheds that are designated with

this honor. We are very fortunate to have TRCC students volunteer and conduct this for all three of the communities in the watershed, not only in fall but in the spring as well. As with any monitoring, maintaining a schedule of sampling events helps us assess trends and address possible concerns.

RAPID BIOASSESSMENT OF THE EIGHTMILE RIVER WATERSHED

By Diba Khan-Bureau

Diba Khan-Bureau is a professor and program coordinator of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Technologies programs at Three Rivers Community College and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut. A resident of Salem for over 20 years, she has been a member of the Salem Inland Wetland Commission for the past 12 years.

In June, the mountain laurel blooms, pink and airy at first, then white, then heavier, until the petals, tinged with brown, yearn for the earth. Some years the blooms last a month, other years, if there’s a strong rain and a high wind, the length of a Sunday drive. Our noble neighbors to the south, the proper Lymes, benefit from the legacies of their Impressionist ancestors — from the heights of Bill Hill or Mount Archer they can view the botanical passion play in all its splendor. And then, after the petals yearn for peace, they retreat to their galleries and embrace the painted blooms of Flying Point and the Lieutenant River. The staccato brushstrokes of Robinson, Irvine, Hassam, and Metcalf sustain them until June returns. They let us visit. We drink their coffee. It is good of them.

We know that Salem is no less beautiful, but few artists ever brought their kit north to celebrate our pastures and lakes. Irvine painted here, in the area of White Birch Road and near Marvel Farm, but he is the exception. Maybe our country is less beautiful. Maybe we’re not the most objective. Maybe we find our beauty elsewhere.

Drive along Route 156 in the third week of June and you will see that the death of the mountain laurel can be as resplendent as its pink birth. The petals, white and glossed by rain, lay scattered across the roadway. The green is full by then, and as the white petals blow up into the air with each passing car, they contrast with the cut grass and the leafy oaks, maples, and young, cultivated elms. They settle as white brushstrokes, impasto on an already dense and green canvas. Visit the Florence Griswold Museum. You will see what I mean.

White and green are our colors, too, of course. The town green has always struck me with its stark clapboard whiteness. The abandoned Paugwonk Baptist Church, stands white and forlorn on Route 354 — a country scold that finally gave up the ghost. And there it was, Snarski’s, across from Hole 19, white and trimmed in black and there long before we were born, before the blue laws, before liquor licenses, before the artists painted, before time began, there was Ray and his wood stove and if he told me one day his name was Methuselah, I would believe him.

“You’re Frank Newman’s boy,” he said to me once, after I’d been gone from town for a long time and just returned. It’s the Mayor’s job to remember faces. It didn’t matter to me that I was thirty-seven — in Salem, in our secret places, at Snarski’s, at the old ballfield concession stand, buying pies in the Grange on Memorial Day,

LAUREL & LOSS

By Joe Newman



Ray Snarski, owner of Snarski’s Liquor Store

you are always someone’s son, a boy, eternal in your own right. Time, it seems, does not touch this town.

Except when it does. The marvel is that the conflagration didn’t happen sooner. Whatever magic the Mayor conjured in that stove, the magic that kept Snarski’s out of time, exempt, as it were, from the laws of the world, temporal or otherwise, finally weakened. There was a spark, and in an instant, everything was tinder.

Too real to be painted, Snarski’s was our own Walker Evans photograph, white and black, the composition always a collision of forms — the clapboard, the faded signs, the jumbled cars tilting at unnatural angles, a roofline that could only be described as abstract expressionism. Let

the country scolds howl — it was one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen.

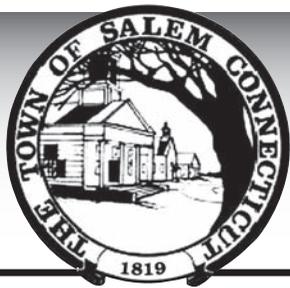
It’s late in the afternoon and I’ve cracked a beer to finish this. Nothing fancy, a Budweiser, been in the fridge hell only knows how long and who knows if it’s even any good. Hell if it matters. It is the last of the last case I bought at Snarski’s.

“Cooler’s broke,” Ray had said. “Beer’s outside in the ice chest.” “Really?” I said, mentally checking off what had to be a respectable list of health and liquor violations. But there they were, ten or so damp blue and red boxes of ice cold beer, just like the sign out front promised. I was laughing to myself when I walked back inside, appreciating the mild absurdity of such a construct as Snarski’s, when I noticed the green and white Paugwonk sign lying on the floor near a shelf of half-drunk bottles of whiskey and rusty forgotten license plates. “Can I buy that sign from you?” I asked. “Buy it?” Ray said. “I’ve got to fix it up for the town and put it back by the firehouse.”

The beer is gone and so is the afternoon. The Lymes can keep their beautiful, white-petal death. I’m pissed. I want our Snarski’s back, I want the Mayor back in his office tending the fire that keeps time at bay. I want Sal Crisanti restored to his fire-police vest, yelling at me for not heeding his directions on Memorial Day. I want to reach out my arms and hold all of it, but it’s slipping past and the old library is empty and the Grange is locked up and the Paugwonk Baptist Church turns a little more to dust everyday and where did it go? Where did this town I love so much go?

I spotted the green and white Paugwonk sign cast against the Baptist cemetery wall a few days after the fire. Laid to rest, as it were. Even history sometimes years for the earth.

Joe Newman is the managing director of Treasure Hill Farm in Salem.



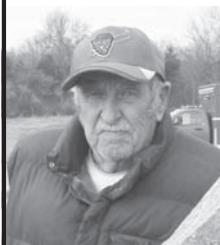
Things to Do . . .

AROUND TOWN

Find out what's happening in Salem this spring

BENEFIT DINNER FOR RAY SNARSKI

By Cheryl Philopena



As you may know a Salem landmark, Snarski's Liquor Store, was destroyed by fire on April 17, 2013. The owner Ray Snarski has lived in Salem most of his life. Ray has quietly done many things that have benefitted our town. A few years ago, Ray took it upon himself to clean and beautify all of the small cemeteries in Salem. Some of these cemeteries had become so overgrown you did not know they were there. Ray generously donated land to the Gardner Lake Fire Company. The donation of land ensures that large events, including some town events, can be held at the firehouse without parking issues. These are only a couple of the many things Ray has done for the good of Salem.

It is Ray's hope to be able to recover from the devastating fire, which destroyed his store. There is much cleanup to do, and demolition of the large building adjoining the area of the store. With that in mind, the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company will sponsor a **Ziti Dinner on Sunday, May 26, from 2 P.M. to 5 P.M.** It will be held at the **Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company at 429 Old Colchester Road.** The cost is **\$15.00 per plate.** All proceeds will go to Ray. If you cannot attend, and would like to make a donation to help Ray, you may make your check payable to:



GLVFC/Snarski Benefit

and send it to:

**Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company
429 Old Colchester Rd.
Salem, CT 06420**

andrewmalone.flickr.com

NEW AMBULANCE AND MEMBERS FOR THE GARDNER LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

By Joe Danao, Deputy Chief, Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company

Success leads to success. On Thursday, December 6, 2012, the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company placed into service a new 2012 PL Custom ambulance. For more than a decade and a half, a white ambulance serviced Salem and now a new, traditionally red-colored ambulance has replaced it. Since Salem has only one ambulance, it is a very special vehicle. "It is the most technologically advanced ambulance available for our requirements and it is completely paid for without using any taxpayers' dollars," said Chief James Savalle of the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company. Since 1956, the Gardner Lake Fire Company has maintained the town's ambulance, responding to calls from Salem and the neighboring towns of Colchester, Montville and Bozrah.



Within days of being placed into service, the new ambulance was already transporting patients. During a 12-hour period on December 8, Salem received six successive calls for its EMTs and ambulance.

Also since December, the Gardner Lake Fire Company received a well-needed influx of volunteers, six of them! Five of the six will focus on medical services, three of whom have already completed their EMT training. The sixth is interested in firefighting but may train to be an EMT later on. Say hello and thanks to the six, Kara, Bernie, LeAnn, Nick, Dave, and Moriah when you see them at a scene, fundraiser or other event. We hope more people will volunteer and train as seriously as they have. I am told they have already changed the firehouse for the better by installing xbox live® in the recreation room.

"One day or another, every citizen in the Town of Salem will be helped or know someone helped by our new ambulance and six new personnel," Chief Savalle said. "We will be there in good times and bad with the very best in skill and equipment and this ambulance and new members are proof of our commitment."

SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY ANNUAL BBQ



The Salem Volunteer Fire Co. on Rt 85 will be holding the **3rd Annual BBQ dinner on August 24th 2013, from 5-7pm.** The past dinners were such a success, due to the support of so many wonderful townspeople, there have been numerous requests for another event. The SVFC is pleased to announce the return of this world-renowned community event.

The only change to the meal will be larger plates to hold all of the food. The menu consists of BBQ chicken and ribs, baked potato, corn on the cob, coleslaw, dinner roll, dessert and beverage. Dine in with friends and neighbors or take home and enjoy. Advance ticket sales only. Ticket prices are as follows, **Adults \$15, Senior citizens \$12 and Children under 12 years old \$8.** Stop by the Salem Fire Co. for tickets or call 860-859-0942. This year you can also purchase tickets online on our web site www.salemfireco.com and we'll hold them at the door. Mark the date on your calendar, August 24th we hope to see you all there. Thank you for your support.

2013/2014 SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE CO. OFFICERS

The Salem Volunteer Fire Company held its elections of officers for the 2013/14 year on May 2, 2013. Chief Eugene R. Maiorano will be starting his 35th year as fire chief. Also elected with their years are:

CHIEF: EUGENE R. MAIORANO, 35 years

DEP. CHIEF: RICHARD MARTIN, 3 years

CAPTAIN: BOB BROWN, 1 year

R-1 CAPTAIN: BRIAN ENNIS, 2 years

SECRETARY: LISA MARTIN, 3 years

ASST. CHIEF: RONALD PRZECH, JR., 2 years

SAFETY OFFICER: CHIP WESTON, 5 years

FIREPOLICE CAPTAIN: BRIAN CINEA, 4 years

TREASURER: MARCELLA MAIORANO, 13 years

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**EUGENE R. MAIORANO
BRIAN WHITLATCH**

**LISA MARTIN
JEFF MARTIN**

**AL WLODARCZYK
CHIP WESTON**

LIEUTENANT'S

**JEFF MARTIN - LADDER / 121 ROBERT POKRINCHACK - ENGINE TANKER / 121
RON OLOSKI - TANKER / 121 JONATHON TAYLOR - FORESTRY / 121 LISA MARTIN - SQUAD / 121
ALEX BALIS - SERVICE / 121 MARK DICKSON - FP / 221**

SURF & TURF DINNER

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company is having its **second annual Surf and Turf Dinner on Saturday, June 22 from 5PM to 7PM.** Tickets are sold only in advance and can be obtained from members of the company or by email at PresidentGLVFD@gmail.com. Dinners are **\$20 adults and \$10 children.** The dinner includes a cup of clam chowder, steak, shrimp, baked potato, corn on the cob, and ice cream. You can eat in, or take out. Last years event sold out and was a great success. Proceeds from the dinner benefit Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company.



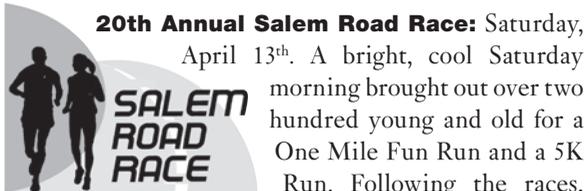
LIONS TALES

By Lion George Ziegler

At our March 28th meeting, past district governor Lion Eric Jacobson inducted three new members as Salem Lions. They are Diane Gilbert, John Gilbert, and Jay Lichtenstein. Congratulations, Diane, John, and Jay. Welcome to Salem Lions.

Salem Lions are pleased to announce their new officers for the coming year. At the April 27th meeting, they elected president Lion Skip Dickson, vice presidents Lions Len Giambra and George Householder, secretary Lion Dan Holle, treasurer Lion Skip Stangeland, and membership chairman Lion Jim Fogarty. These officers will be installed at our June 27th meeting. Congratulations to all the new officers, and a big thanks to all outgoing officers for their work this past year.

Easter Egg Hunt: With good weather on Saturday, March 23rd, a large crowd, and great help from the Shoreline Leo Club, our annual Easter Egg Hunt was a roaring success. A visit by the Easter Bunny, face painting, picture painting and egg decorating contests, and jelly bean races accompanied the highlight of the day, the egg and candy hunt. Prizes were awarded for those who found special eggs, the jelly bean races, and for the pictures and decorated eggs. Many thanks to the Leos and all Lions who made this so successful. See you all again next year on the Saturday before Palm Sunday.



20th Annual Salem Road Race: Saturday, April 13th. A bright, cool Saturday morning brought out over two hundred young and old for a One Mile Fun Run and a 5K Run. Following the races, all runners and families enjoyed a brunch of pancakes, pizza, fruit, and beverages. Forty-two runners from ages 4 to 48 completed the Fun Run. Winners were:

- Boys – 8 year old **Sean Barkasy** (07:06)
- Girls – 11 year old **Rebecca Paggioli** (08:23)

The 5K Run saw 164 runners from ages seven to eighty-three competing for numerous prizes in their age groups. First to cross the finish line were:

- Men – **Ed Jensen** (18:09.8) from Salem
 - Female – **Sybil Shapiro** (18:46.0) from Clinton
- Congratulations, Sybil, for a new women's course record.

- Winners based on age-graded results were:
- Men – **Hal Bennett** (22:12.4)
 - Women – **Mary Sharkey** (23:05.1)

Complete results of both races and pictures are posted on our website, www.salemctroadrace.org. Congratulations to all runners; many thanks to all sponsors and everyone who helped. See you all again next year for a bigger and better 21st Salem Road Race.

As a community service, the Salem Lions will be purchasing and installing two charcoal grills for the area near the Salem Pavilion on Norwich Road. They will be permanently mounted on steel posts next to the Pavilion for all to enjoy; also we are purchasing six new tables for the Center School to replace the old, heavy and damaged ones. The new ones will be light weight folding tables similar to those in the library.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Annual Tag Sale
 Mark the date – **Saturday, June 29.**
 Lots of goodies for everyone. Watch for Posters with further details. Same location: **Corner of Shingle Mill Road and Rte 82.** Look for signs.

Thank You all for supporting our projects and fundraisers; 100% of all donations and all the profits from our fundraisers are returned to our community charitable projects. Salem Lions are proud to be of service to Salem.



RIGHT IN YOUR BACKYARD!

See the fabulous flying white Lipizzans perform the rare *Airs Above the Ground* as seen in Walt Disney's "Miracle of the White Stallions"



HERRMANN'S
LIPIZZAN
STALLIONS
 August 2-4
 Friday 6 p.m.
 Saturday 3 p.m.
 Sunday 3 p.m.



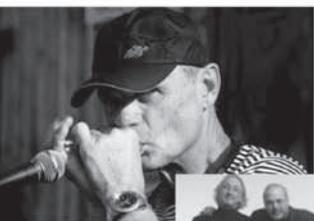
Mitchell Farm Benefit Tag Sale

Saturday June 1st 9 pm- 3 pm
Sunday June 2nd 9 pm- 2 pm

Books, dishes, Knickknacks, lamps, furniture, small appliances, jewelry, clothing, linens, games, toys, paintings, pictures, antiques, collectibles, videos, tools, novelties & horse blankets and equipment.

Barn tours and hands on horse introductions.

2013 MITCHELL FARM MUSIC FESTIVAL September 21st & 22nd



Jonathan Edwards



The Pousette-Dart Band
Aztec Two Step



Poor Old Shine



2012 IBMA Entertainers of the Year
The Gibson Brothers

Information & tickets at www.mitchellfarm.org or call 860-303-8705.
Net proceeds from all events support the retired horses of Mitchell Farm, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization



SALEM SENIORS

By Irene Jarvis

The Salem Seniors held their first meeting of the year in March at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse. We were pleased to have our Resident State Trooper Kevin Seery as our guest speaker. He gave an informative talk about crimes against seniors and what protective measures to take. Our April meeting featured John Bradford who spoke about physical therapy and exercise for seniors. We thank them both for giving us their time.

Our First Selectman Kevin Lyden attends our meetings and lets us know what has happened and what will be happening in our town. Our Senior Liaison officer, Sue Spang, keeps us abreast of any activities, meetings, and help available to Salem Seniors.

Salem Seniors is open to anyone 50 or older. The meetings are held the second Tuesday of the months March through December at 10:30 a.m. at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse. Lunch is served after each meeting.

Every Tuesday from 12:00-4:00 p.m., an informal group meets at the Salem Free Public Library for an afternoon of Wii bowling and card games, usually setback (pitch) and cribbage are played, but any other suggestions would be welcome.

The Town of Salem is growing every day, but still maintains the advantages and closeness of a small town.

Seniors: neovain, flickr.com



SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By Diane Weston and Sue Spang

rec-re-a-tion *n.* Refreshment of one's mind or body after work through activity that amuses or stimulates; play.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

As the summer months approach; it is time to enjoy the outdoor or indoor programs we have for 2013!

Programs have been planned for the summer; hopefully you have checked the Town website or have received an email blast about our programs. (http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT_Recreation/index) This is the best way to find information about Recreation programs and news.

This summer we are offering:

Music Lessons with Chris Hebert, July – August
Performing Arts Summer Program,
July 29 – August 2
10 & Under Tennis • Zentangles

(As of deadline for this issue of "Our Town", other program planning has not been completed.)

HOW IT WORKS AND WHY

The Salem Recreation Commission is committed to bringing programs and activities to the residents of Salem.

We do our best with the limited funds and space that we have. As many of you are aware, Salem does not

have a dedicated building for recreation, so we have to arrange with other town entities, depending on the needs of the program. Most of our programs are held at the school, such as afterschool children's programs and those needing a large space. This means we can only use the school when it is open and the custodial staff is present. If the school closes early or for the whole day due to weather or because of the school programs, the recreation programs will be bumped or canceled. We are fortunate to have a good working relationship with the school, they make the effort to work with us whenever possible, and we very much appreciate their efforts. The Salem Recreation Commission tries very hard to present the town with affordable, varied, and dependable programs to the best of our ability but there are situations that are out of our control. When these situations arise, we make the best effort we can to minimize any inconveniences.

During the budget hearings there were parents wanting more programing opportunities for their children, **WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.** With the combined scheduling proposed at the

continued on page 26



SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY: WHAT HAPPENED IN SALEM?

By Bob Ross

LOOKING FORWARD TO HISTORY

This year our Society is beginning a new initiative to promote life-long passion for history by presenting an annual award to a Salem student at East Lyme High School. The student is selected by the ELHS Social Studies faculty for demonstrating a keen interest in history and who appears likely to continue scholarship in historic studies. A special gift is presented to the student by our Society at the ELHS annual awards ceremony.

The Towne House is again filled with images and artifacts of our unique history, and we have a busy event schedule to share. Mark your calendar for these special programs:

6:00 p.m. August 22

Classic Car Cruise and Ice Cream Festival

7:30 p.m. September 19

"History of the Maegog Farm," with the Gadbois Family

7:30 p.m. October 17

"History of the Avery Farm from the 1800s to Today," with the Avery Family

9:00 a.m. October 26

Salem Apple Festival on the Town Green



SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Car Cruise and Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 22, 2013

Salem Town Green
Route 85, Salem, CT

From 6 p.m. to dusk. (Rain or Shine)

Come enjoy Salem Valley Farm's Ice Cream,
The Eight Mile River Bluegrass Band and
Hot Dogs, Chips and Soda.

We would love to see your car.

Everyone is welcome. No Charge.

For more information, contact: Elizabeth Lane @ 860-859-1125

YOU CAN BE HISTORICAL.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Salem Historical Society, you can obtain information and membership forms from Virginia Vesnaver at virginia@vesnaver.com.

If you are interested in becoming an officer of the society, positions are open. You can obtain information on these openings by contacting Bob Ross at robert.t.ross@comcast.net.

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school, this will help our job of bringing programs to all school ages. We would like to know what your children would be interested in doing. We will do our best to accommodate these interests. In the past, we have offered:

- Film Making • Sewing • Jewelry
- Art; Zentangles • Nature Walks & Identification
- Hip Hop • Cake Decorating

There have been times we have had to cancel after school programs due to lack of interest only to have parents call us after the closing date to say they want to sign their children up. In fairness to our instructors, we have to have deadlines and minimum student requirements. Therefore, please, we ask you to sign your children up within the allotted time so we can have programs that are more successful.

YOUR REC BASKETBALL IS IN DANGER OF BECOMING EXTINCT!!

As of now, we have no one to take the reins of our Salem Rec Basketball League. We have been fortunate over the last few years to have volunteers step up to the plate and take charge and they have all done a great job of keeping the program going. The job consists of scheduling practices, recruiting parent/coaches, organizing signups and other related duties. This would be a great job for a couple of basketball people who love to work with children. If you are interested, please let us know by contacting Sue Spang, 860-859-3873.

TRIPS

Save the date, **August 17!** Are you a baseball fan? We are offering another **New York Yankee vs. the Boston Red Sox** this year! We will travel to Bean Town and watch the game in Fenway! Enjoy not having to drive!

Interested in a trip to Maine for a **Lobster Bake?** **July 20** will be the date for the trip, check the website for details.

WE WANT YOU!!

Do you have an interest in teaching a program? Or do you know of someone that has a special skill? Please contact **Diane** with information at 860-859-3873 X 250 or email at diane.weston@saalemct.gov.

THANKS

We cannot express our gratitude for the instructors and volunteers that help make the programs a success! Your dedication and involvement for the children of Salem help to mold their future. The programs would not take place if not for you! A big thank you to the residents who support the programs, please help us grow stronger!



EAST LYME YOUTH FOOTBALL



Registration for 2013 Season

Dedicated to teaching the youth (ages 6-14) in the communities of East Lyme, Old Lyme, Lyme, Salem, and Bozrah the values of good sportsmanship, self-discipline & teamwork through football

FLAG FOOTBALL 5TH SEASON

East Lyme Youth Football will again be offering Flag Football for players age 6-8. The first four seasons were an overwhelming success. A great introduction to the sport of football!

Registrations will be at our FIELD HOUSE located behind the East Lyme Middle School

Registration will run 9AM to NOON on the following dates:

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Saturday, June 8, 2013

Saturday, June 22, 2013

2013 Registration fees will be \$120 for Tackle Football (additional siblings \$100) and \$50 for Flag Football

Registrations received after June 30th will be assessed a late fee of \$25

If the aforementioned registrations dates are not convenient, go to www.elyfl.info for appropriate forms and information on weight limits.

Please mail a check made payable to **ELYFL** with your athlete's **Birth Certificate, Registration, Medical Release,** and **Code of Conduct** forms to:

**ELYFL
P.O. Box 303
Niantic, CT 06357**

For additional information, please contact **Chip Mundell** via e-mail: chip-mundell@sbcglobal.net or by phone: 860-271-6191



The Vintage Market

Saturday, June 29 **9am ~ 4pm**

An open air market featuring Antiques ~ Vintage ~ Artisans

Face art for the kids Local foods and so much more!

The Salem Community Town Park **89 Norwich Rd. Salem CT**

rain or shine \$3.00 parking fee





CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALEM

By Rev. Tim Dubeau

The Congregational Church of Salem is located on the Salem Town Green, Route 85, about 1½ miles north of Salem Four Corners (the intersection of routes 82 and 85). Call 860-859-1211 or email us at salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net for more information. Visitors are *always* welcome. Check out our website and *CrossLinks* newsletter at www.congregationalchurchsalem.org and follow us on Facebook.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

The Public is welcome to attend any of the following activities

Summer Sunday Worship: May 19 – Sept. 1 — one service at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesdays: **Adult Bible Study**
1st and 3rd Wednesday each month – 7:00 p.m.,
Parsonage (year round)

Monday, May 27 **Memorial Day Pre-Parade Breakfast,**
Christian Community Center - 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Tag, Rummage, Tag & Bake Sale
Saturday, June 1
8:30 a.m. (Rain or Shine) – 2:00 p.m.
At the Christian Community Center

Each spring the Congregational Church of Salem's Tag, Rummage and Bake Sale is a tradition that has people flocking to the church to scoop up bargains. The folks from the Church use this event to clean out their attics, basements and garages. Folks in town are invited to do the same. If you have clothing and household items in clean and usable condition to donate you may come by the Christian Community Center starting on Monday, May 27 – Friday, May 31 (no donations can be received after 6:00 p.m. on Friday). Just follow the signs located in the building to place your items for sorting. Come early and stop by the Bake Sale table for a cup of coffee and a hot cinnamon bun baked on the premises plus fabulous goodies made by our renowned bakers!

Sorry, but we CANNOT accept used computers, printers, or other computer parts, televisions, stoves, refrigerators, dishwashers or items from household renovations. Call 859-1211 if you have questions.

We hope to see you on Saturday June 1, 2013.



SALEM GREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

By Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

The annual meeting of the Salem Green Cemetery Association was held on April 16 at 2:00 p.m. in the Salem Town Hall. All officers retained their current roles on the Association.

From 02/5/2013 to 04/29/13, there have been no interments/inurnments.

In November 2012, the Association officially opened another section for burials. Section IV has two rows, G (14 feet off the roadway) & H (behind row G). These two rows provide an additional 106 full-sized plots. This action was prompted by the scarcity of available plots in Section I after 33 years of purchases. Of the

330 plots in Section I, only 30 or so remain available and some of these are single plots with deeded plots on either side. Those full size plots remaining in Section I can be purchased at \$550/plot. All plots in Section IV are currently being offered at \$700/plot.

A reminder to all plot owners: April 15 was the last day that plastic/artificial flowers were allowed. Christmas & Easter decorations and tattered flags were also removed by April 15. Contact the SGCA Sexton, Rev. Tim Dubeau at 860-859-1925 with questions or if interested in purchasing full sized or smaller cremation plots. Maps of the cemetery sections by

plot, interment/inurnment records by name/plot, plot pricing and contact information are all posted on the information board located near the first row of plots.

The SGCA is developing plans to replace some trees that are failing. The memory garden will be refurbished soon. Because of the high volumes of snow this winter, plowing was difficult. Some areas of the cemetery were damaged as a result. The town crew will repair them shortly.



Vacation Bible School

Kingdom Rock: Where Kids Stand Strong for God

Monday-Thursday, June 24-27

At Kingdom Rock, kids develop rock-solid faith as they discover how to stand strong for God in every part of their lives. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, from the inspiring songs and bible adventures, to energizing games and Sciency-Fun Gizmos™. They will make and dig into yummy snacks, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them to stand strong. In addition, kids will learn to look for evidence that God is still powerful, still loving, and still working in the world around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with Fan Fare Finale — a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what was learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 11:30 for **Fan Fare Finale**. Our program is FREE! Each day we take an offering. This year the offering collected at Kingdom Rock provided funds for sturdy shoes for children in India. Kingdom Rock is for kids from age four to completed 5th grade and will run from 9:00 a.m. to Noon each day. **Pre School class is limited to the first 20 students who sign up. Pre-school students include Potty Trained kids age 4- completed Pre-K. You may register online NOW at www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/SalemCongVBS.**



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Apart from some minor "tweaking" this building is now available for use by the Church and our community. The Christian Community Center features a large commercial kitchen; one large (2,400 sq. ft.) air-conditioned banquet/assembly room, a smaller (625 sq. ft.) air-conditioned meeting room and enough tables (round or rectangular) and chairs to outfit both. All areas of the building are handicapped accessible. Because of limited on-site parking there are convenient drop off points for passengers. Drivers can then park on the Salem Green or in the Church parking lot and then walk a short distance to the building.

It is also available to rent for private functions, including receptions, showers, birthday parties and other family events. Go to our church website to see a copy of our rules and regulations and fee structures for rental of any of our buildings. Any questions? Do not hesitate to call!



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SALEM ATTRACTIONS

By Edyta Wolk

Salem is a great place to live for many different reasons. One of them is the many fun things you can do outdoors. Salem is full of many great nature trails, a state park, and campgrounds. You can hike, relax on the banks of a lake, or do other fun activities. So put down the game controller and let me tell you about a few of them.

If you are looking for places to have fun in the water, Gardner Lake State Park is a great place to go boating, fishing, and swimming. Gardner Lake has an average depth of 14 feet and a surface area of 529 acres. It is named after Captain William Gardner of Kingstown, Rhode Island, who bought the land in 1724. Despite owning the land for only six months, the lake retains his name, probably due to the Captain's influence at the time. In Bozrah, there is also a state park, located on the southeast part of the lake, called Minnie Island State Park. It is less than one acre!

Horse Pond located on the south side of Salem, along Route 85, is a 13.2 acres pond with an average depth of 12 feet. There is a boat launch on the eastern side of the pond. No motor boats are allowed.

If you are looking for a grassy place where you can hike and see many different animals, Salem has the perfect place for you as well. The Walden Preserve, located on Hagen Road, has a grassland preserve, wildflower field, forests, and more. This preserve is great for bird watching, butterflies and observing many different wildlife habitats. It contains many different trails. The trails vary in distance, reaching from half a mile to one and a half miles. It is 400 acres in total. The Preserve bans dogs, except service dogs on the trails.

The entrance to the 464-acre Zemko Wildlife Management Area is on Round Hill Road. It is full of grasslands, forests, a beaver marsh, and a pond. It is open for hunting and fishing.

The list does not end there. Horse stables, including Treasure Hill Farm, Crossfield Farm and Stables, and Marvel Farm are great places to learn horseback riding.

If you are looking for a fun place to spend time with your family, there are four large campgrounds in Salem: Witch Meadow Lake Campground, Salem Farms Campground, the Sna-z Spot Campground and the Indianfield Cooperative Campground. The last two are located on Gardner Lake.

In conclusion, there are many fun attractions in Salem, making it an amazing place to live. You will not regret spending your time in any of these fantastic, family friendly places.

Source:

Wordell, Dave. "Historical Sketches of Salem, CT" located at http://www.salemct.gov/pages/salemct_clerk/Historicalsketchesofsalem.pdf

Photo: www.snazspot.com

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ON:

Camping:

www.witchmeadowcampground.com www.indianfieldcampground.com
www.salemfarmscampground.com www.snazspot.com

Gardner Lake

www.yelp.com/biz/minnie-island-state-park-bozrah
www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2716&Q=444484

Horse Pond

www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2799&q=381196

Horse stables:

www.newhorse.com/page/horseboarding/b.510.g.31879.html?page=all

Things to do:

www.familydaysout.com/kids-things-to-do-usa/salem/ct

Town of Salem:

www.salemct.gov/pages/S02205AF4-02205AF5

Trails:

Walden Preserve

www.flickr.com/photos/tomhensr/sets/72157610754869361
www.courant.com/community/hc-246waytogo0525.artmay25,0,4604916.story

Zemko Pond

www.shorepublishing.com/article/20100801/NWS08/308019888/-1/zip06

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SALEM SCHOOL PTO PLANS FALL GOLF TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

By Michelle Guertin

The Salem School PTO is preparing for its second annual Golf Tournament fundraiser. The 2012 tournament, held at the newly renovated Great Neck Country Club in Waterford, was a huge success! Seventy-four golfers enjoyed a buffet lunch and a gorgeous afternoon of golf, followed by a relaxing evening with drinks on the beautiful patio overlooking the course and a scrumptious dinner at Langley's Restaurant. Tournament awards and raffle prizes were distributed during the meal. Board of Education Chairman Steve Buck, who was unable to golf last year, did stop by to see how the event was going. "I was really impressed," said Buck. "The PTO worked hard to put the event together, and their efforts really paid off. The raffle prizes were fantastic, and everything flowed smoothly. I'm glad they are holding the tournament again in 2013, and I look forward to participating!"

Funds raised at the tournament were used to purchase a memorial playground structure, swings, and fitness equipment, which were installed at Salem School in November. The Salem School PTO hopes that the 2013 tournament will be even better! The tournament will once again be held at the lovely **Great Neck Country Club** on **Thursday, September 26, 2013**. Registration and lunch will take place from **11:00-12:30**, followed by a shotgun start at 12:30. Afterwards, golfers will again gather for dinner, awards, and prizes at Langley's. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to fund educational and school community enrichment activities, such as field trips, assemblies, and family events. Athena Sartori, Salem School PTO President and Chairperson of the Golf Tournament Committee commented, "This is the major fundraiser that the PTO has planned for the 2013-2014 school year. The

committee puts a lot of time and energy into making the tournament a success, and we hope that the event will fund most of the PTO budget for the year."

It is not too early to sign up your foursome for this fun event! Moreover, the Salem School PTO is seeking support from individuals, corporations, and local businesses in the form of sponsorships or merchandise donations. Several tiers of sponsorship are available, and all sponsors and donors will be recognized on the day of the event. Please visit the Salem School PTO Golf Tournament website at **www.salemptogolf.com** for more information. Brochures, golfer registration forms, and sponsorship forms can be downloaded from the website. The Salem School PTO is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization, so donations to the Salem School PTO are tax deductible as allowed under US and State Tax Law.



SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



The Shushing Librarian hopes to see you at the Memorial Day Parade! And please come to the following programs too.

SOME UPCOMING PROGRAMS AT THE SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

PLEASE REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS

Funded by The Friends of Salem Library

BOOK GROUPS

The Salem Library will soon have three book groups. The newest one is a Book Group for Moms (or Dads) with kids. Kids play while the adults discuss. First meeting is **Thursday, May 30 at 10:00 a.m.** Come join us to discuss *The Great Gatsby* by *F. Scott Fitzgerald*.

Other Book Groups – **3rd Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m.** and **Last Thursdays @ 1:00 p.m.**

All Book Groups are drop-in, no need to register.

MAH JONGG CONTINUES UNTIL MAY 31, FRIDAY AT 10:15 A.M.

KINDERMUSIK WITH MISS MOLLY: "On the Ground"

Wednesday, June 26, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.

Ages 18 months to age 7. Limit 15 (with parent)

DROP-IN WATERCOLOR JOURNALING FOR ADULTS & KIDS 10+ WITH JENNIFER WHEELER

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., \$5 per session

Participants should **BRING** their own watercolors, brushes etc **AND** a Watercolor Sketchbook

June 29 - Botanical Beauties - sketch and paint from nature

July 6 - The Sweet Life - sketch and paint candies and sweets

July 13 - Pen and + Watercolor - sketch & paint & write an inspiration

July 29 - Illustrate a favorite poem

August 24 - Show and Tell and Summarize

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FOR ALL AGES.

SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED JULY 1-31

SUMMER SKETCH BOOK CHALLENGE

Tuesdays, July 9, 2013 through August 13, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Ages 9-14.

CONSTRUCTION STORIES AND ACTIVITY

Wednesday, July 10, 2013 @ 2:00 p.m.

Ages 4-6. Limit 15 children.

OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH WINNERS OF THE POETRY CONTEST

Friday, July 12, 2013 @ 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All ages. Singing, poetry, jokes - you can do it!

HEMP BRACELETS

Saturday, July 20, 2013 @ 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

Ages 8 & up. Limit 12.

ANIMAL EMBASSY: "DIGGING INTO NATURE"

Wednesday, July 24, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Ages 4 and up. Limit 25 (with parent)

DINOSAUR STORY TIME & ACTIVITIES

Saturday, August 3, 2013 @ 11:00 A.M.

Ages 4 & up. Limit 15.

ART RECEPTION:

WINNERS OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

Saturday, August 10 @ 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Salem Library invites local artists to display their artwork at the Library. The artwork will be on display until September. The Library cannot accommodate many large works of art, but can display smaller works close to 11" x 8" or 11" x 14" size. Most of these will be displayed on top of bookcases. The artwork should be framed. If the artist would like to sell the work, the price should be listed on the back of the artwork. The Library will accept the artworks beginning on Saturday, August 3 up until the day before the Reception on August 9.

Sandwiches, Snacks and Beverages will be provided.

FABULOUS FOSSILS & RADICAL ROCKS! with Nature's Art, Montville, CT

Saturday, August 17, 2013 @ 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Official Close of the Summer Reading Program

Cake and Refreshments! All ages!

ONGOING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Every Tuesday, Noon-4 p.m. Seniors Play Wii & Cards

Every Thursday @ 10:00 a.m.- 12 Noon Salem Library Knitters - All Welcome

Every Thursday @ 10 a.m. - Noon Free Coffee and Cookies

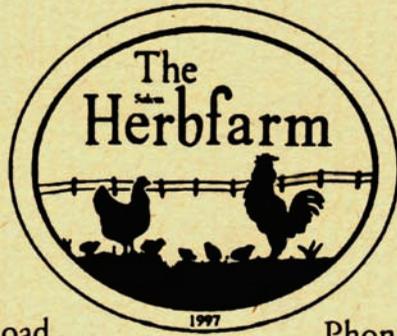
1st Fridays @ 4:30 p.m. Teen Advisory Group

Storytimes – **1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m.** and

Every Friday @ 10:30 a.m.

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Salem, Connecticut 06420

Phone (860) 859-3344
www.salemherbfarm.com



SNA-Z SPOT CAMPGROUND OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, May 19th, 2013 • 10:00am - 3:00pm



Sna-Z Spot Campground located on Gardner Lake, Salem, CT has been family owned since 1954. The campground offers an abundance of outdoor activities. Enjoy picnics, swimming, boating, private boat launch and more. We take pride in offering traditional camping at its best. For generations, families and friends have come to **Sna-Z Spot Campground** to enjoy great times and total relaxation. The perfect place for Salem residents to enjoy swimming, boating and just getting away from it all! Affordable trailer and tent family camping.

Sna-Z Spot Campground

310 Old Colchester Rd. • Salem, CT 06420

For tour or additional info: 860-859-7547

www.snazspot.com

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It's that time of year again...

Farmers' Markets!

Salem Farmers' Market - Thursday 4-7pm
Waterford Farmers' Market - Saturday 9-12pm
June to September

Or you can always find us in your local stores!

Made in Salem, CT
www.florasnaturals.com

Savor scenic Salem!

Now that the snow has melted and the workers have done their Spring litter patrol on our state roads, let's make our town distinctive by its lack of roadside trash!



- ✓ Hold on to your litter until you can throw it away in an appropriate place, and encourage others to do the same.
- ✓ Transform someone's bad choice into a good one by picking up litter. Take responsibility for an area of any size and feel good about it:
 - o Across the street or down the road from your home or business... a route you drive regularly... wherever you or others walk... maybe part of a school bus route.
 - o If you want to volunteer to help clean up specific areas through the state's Adopt a Road program, just call Gale Balavender at 860 859 2174.
- ✓ Grab a couple of disposable gloves and some trash bags. Use a long-handled grabbing tool to keep your back happy!

Litter. It's ugly.
It's not welcome here.
Notice it. Retrieve it.
Get it outta here!

Advertise with us!



OUR TOWN SALEM

CONNECTICUT

2013 Business Ad Order Form

Our Town – Salem (OTS) is published quarterly and produced entirely by volunteers. OTS is distributed free of charge to the residents of Salem and available throughout town as well as online at www.salemct.gov.

Please place my ad in issues of *Our Town – Salem* 2013 as indicated below:

Ad Size*	Black & White		Color	
	per issue	per year	per issue	per year
1/8 V 2-23/32" x 4-5/8" H 4-5/8" x 2-23/32"	○\$ 18.75	○\$ 67.50	○\$ 25.00	○\$ 90.00
1/4 V 4-5/8" x 5-9/16" H 6-17/32" x 4-5/8"	○\$ 37.50	○\$135.00	○\$ 50.00	○\$180.00
1/3 V 3-1/16" x 11-1/4" H 9-3/8" x 3-2/3"	○\$ 45.00	○\$168.75	○\$ 60.00	○\$225.00
2/3 V 6-3/16" x 11-1/4"	○\$ 90.00	○\$337.50	○\$120.00	○\$450.00
1/2 V 4-5/8" x 11-1/4" H 9-3/8" x 5-9/16"	○\$ 75.00	○\$270.00	○\$100.00	○\$360.00
Full IP 9-3/8" x 11-1/4" BP	○\$142.50	○\$513.00	○\$190.00	○\$684.00
	available in color only		○\$250.00	○\$900.00

*V=Vertical; H=Horizontal; IP=Inside Page; BP=Back Page)

Issue: September 2013 December 2013

Status

- New Advertiser; I am e-mailing my ad as indicated
- New Advertiser; I need design assistance (+\$30)
- Existing Advertiser; Same Ad
- Existing Advertiser; New Ad; I am e-mailing my ad
- Existing Advertiser; New Ad; I need design assistance (+\$30)

Advertiser Information

Business Name _____
Contact Name _____
Street Address _____
City/Zip Code _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline
September 2013	August 1, 2013
December 2013	November 1, 2013

Payment must be received by the deadline date to guarantee a place in that issue.

Please e-mail digital format (high-resolution PDF, EPS, TIFF document) to: ourtownsalemct@gmail.com

Please make all checks payable to:
Town of Salem

Please mail form and check to:
Our Town–Salem
270 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06420

Questions? Please contact Jackie Hemond at ourtownsalemct@gmail.com

SALEM TOWN INFORMATION

www.salemct.gov

Salem Town Offices

270 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 859-3873

Office Hours: First Selectman, Town Clerk,
Assessor & Tax Collector

Mon. – Wed.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thurs.: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fri.: Closed for routine business

(elected officials available for urgent matters)

Salem Free Public Library

264 Hartford Road
Phone/Fax: (860) 859-1130

Hours: Mon. – Wed.: Noon to 7:30 p.m.
Thurs.: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Fri.: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sat.: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(June & July: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

Salem School District

200 Hartford Road
Phone: (860) 892-1223 | Fax: (860) 859-2130
www.salemschools.org

Salem School: (860) 859-0267
Special Education Office: (860) 859-3988

Salem Police

(860) 859-3873, ext. 200 or 210

EMERGENCY 911

Salem Transfer Station

189 Rattlesnake Ledge Rd.
(860) 859-2964

Wed., Sat., Sun.: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Permits required – can be obtained by
Salem residents at transfer station only

Animal Control Officer

(860) 917-0567

State Senator 20th District

Andrea Stillman (860) 443-8568
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html

State Representative 37th District

Ed Jutila (860) 739-7730
www.housedems.ct.gov/Jutila

U.S. Senators & Representatives

Richard Blumenthal (860) 258-6940 (*Hartford*)
www.blumenthal.senate.gov

Chris Murphy (860) 549-8463 (*Hartford*)
www.murphy.senate.gov

Joe Courtney (860) 886-0139 (*Norwich*)
courtney.house.gov

Town of Salem Live TV

Salem Board and Commission meetings held at the TOB are broadcast live on Comcast Channel 12 and webcast on www.salemct.org. Webcast hearings are available ON DEMAND at any time on www.salemct.org.

Board of Education Airing on Channel 12

The Salem Board of Education Meetings air on Channel 12 (Educational Access) on the second and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:30 p.m.

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OUR TOWN SALEM

CONNECTICUT

Our Town Salem (OTS) is a magazine published quarterly to enhance the lives of Salem residents through articles that inform, encourage and celebrate the people, activities, businesses and organizations in town. OTS is produced entirely by volunteers and is distributed free of charge thanks to the businesses, organizations and individuals that place their ads! OTS producers feel strongly that:

At its best, OTS features the people of Salem. We need your participation to be successful. We need YOU to:

- Send us a photo and caption, write a story, or give us leads on stories one of our volunteers could write!
- Take out a personal ad to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and other achievements!
- Give us leads for businesses that would like to be featured in and/or advertise in OTS.

Contact Jackie Hemond at ourtownsalemct@gmail.com or 860-859-2621.

The next deadline is **August 1** for the September issue.



Volunteers Needed!

Our Town – Salem is looking for a volunteer to carry out the following function:

Advertising Volunteer

Responsible for securing the advertising that supports the publication of *Our Town – Salem* and for carrying out related book-keeping functions.

Main responsibilities include:

- Building relationships with advertisers by mail, telephone and/or personal visits.
- Maintaining a detailed spreadsheet of all advertisers and revenue.

Please contact **Jackie Hemond**,
ourtownsalemct@gmail.com
to find out more about the position.



OUR TOWN SALEM 2013

CONNECTICUT

All articles submitted for publication must be accompanied by the writer's name, address, and phone number so that the submission can be verified. The chairperson and her/his designee must sign articles submitted by town committees.

Our Town – Salem reserves the right to reject any articles and ads, including those of a political or partisan character; it reserves the right to edit all articles for grammar, clarity, brevity, and taste. All articles will be checked for factual content, and articles containing unattributed statements will not be accepted. *Our Town – Salem* is published quarterly by volunteer residents of the town of Salem. Your participation is welcomed!

Volunteer Staff

Editor
Jackie Hemond

Proofreaders
Annie Bingham
Shirley Diamond
Peter Sielman

Photographer
Bopha Smith
Layout Designer
Agnes T. Miyuki

All-around Helper
Susan George Ivey