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# OUR TOWN SALEM

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MARCH 2014

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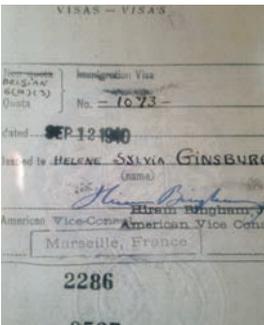
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**The next deadline is May 1 for the June issue.**

**The theme of the June issue is Salem graduates, jobs and avocations**



### Cultural Mosaic:

**Top Row, L to R: Barbara Wolk and family; Dr. K. Mohan Rao and family; Fu-Ning and Annette Fung.**

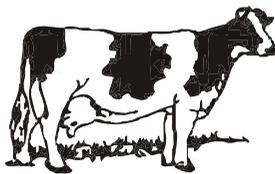
**Second Row, L to R: Bopha Smith and family; Zubair Khan and family; Hernan Salas and family.**

**Third Row, Clockwise from Left: Gerald Munro and parents; Catherine Masud and family; The Look family; Chris Rowthorn and family.**

**Left: Helen Sylvania Ginsburg's Immigration Visa, signed by Hiram Bingham IV.**

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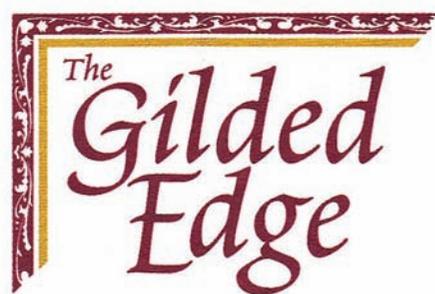


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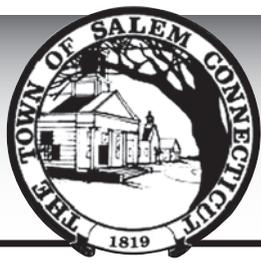
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# A CULTURAL MOSAIC IN SALEM

*Find out about your neighbors*

## AWARD-WINNING FILMMAKER CATHERINE MASUD

*By Anne Rowthorn*

**W**hat does Catherine Masud, a world-class filmmaker with deep Salem roots, have in common with Art Buchwald, James Baldwin, Ernest Hemingway, Gertrude Stein, T. S. Eliot, Mary Cassatt and Josephine Baker? Here is a hint. Like them, Catherine is in the company of American artists and writers who have made their names abroad and whose fame has spread around the globe. Catherine, based in Bangladesh, makes her creative contributions, mainly through feature and documentary films but also through books, teaching and advocacy.

In was a chilly 10 degrees in Salem the morning I had a conversation with Catherine about her life and work, half a world away. Catherine's home is Dhaka, a vibrant tropical, South Asian city of 15 million people and the capital of Bangladesh, one of the most densely populated countries in the world, wedged between India and Burma on the Bay of Bengal. Catherine is here in Salem, staying with her mother, Alfreda Shapere, while she prepares the courses she will soon be teaching at Amherst College.

Catherine spoke of her journey from her days as a student of international development and fine arts at Brown University to film maker in Bangladesh. Her aim was to do a one-year research project in the developing world. She wrote to NGOs in various countries, ending up in Bangladesh in 1986. Among the artists and writers she met was Tareque Masud, a leading Bangladeshi filmmaker who wanted her help with an English translation of one of his films. Not only had Catherine happened upon her future husband, she found her way into becoming a filmmaker in her own right. For the next almost quarter of a century Catherine and Tareque would work together addressing themes of Bangladeshi life — the culture and diversity of its people, its plurality of religious traditions, its folk and musical heritage, and most especially its history of struggle towards becoming an independent nation in 1971. Much of Bangladesh's past was not generally known to this current generation and so Tareque and Catherine's goal, through the medium of film, was to provide a common memory, offering Bangladeshis their history and traditions. Catherine is quoted as saying, "Tareque believed in the power of the moving image to change people's way of thinking and the way they live their lives. . .

. He strongly felt that film should be relevant to the society, as a mirror of the culture and politics and history of that society, but that it should also be art."

Catherine and Tareque have directed and produced many films. Their best-known, *The Clay Bird*, won an International Critics' Award at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. Focusing on a poor Muslim boy sent away by his rigid conservative father, despite the concerns of his mother, to a madrasa — an Islamic religious school — the film is semi-autobiographical. It addresses the impact of religious beliefs on a family during Bangladesh's independence struggles in 1971. It also illustrates Bangladesh's cultural diversity, its rich musical and folk traditions while showcasing the great beauty of the country.



*Top: Catherine with her mother, Alfreda, who lives in Salem; Bottom: Catherine Masud and her husband and partner, Tareque*

Filmed in real locations, all the actors are ordinary people — students, teachers, villagers and street children.

Tragically, life changed suddenly for the Masuds on August 13, 2011. Along with his friend and cameraman, Mishuk Munier, Tareque was killed in a head-on traffic accident while preparing to shoot their new film, *The Paper Flower*. Tareque left not only his wife and professional colleague, Catherine, but also his year old son, Nishaad. According to a feature article last October in *The Daily Star*, the leading Bangladesh English language newspaper, many people thought that following Tareque's death Catherine would leave Bangladesh. Obviously, they did not fully appreciate the strength, passion and tireless determination of Catherine!

Since Tareque's death, Catherine has been busier than ever. Through the Tareque Masud Memorial Trust, which she founded, she has been finishing their joint projects, taking on new ones, and archiving Tareque's works. Three books have been published, *A Journey in Cinema*, *Writing of Cinema*, and *Tareque Masud: Life and Dreams*. All focus on Tareque's oeuvre; the latter, a handsome coffee table book, has as its cover background, springtime oak trees just coming into bud, a photo taken by Tareque at Catherine's mother's Darling Road home. Coming out soon is *Words of Cinema*, a compilation of speeches and interviews of Tareque.

Last spring the first American retrospective of the Masuds' films, entitled, *Tareque Masud: Journey Interrupted*, was organized by New York University. Catherine has also been engaged in several documentary projects, recently completing *Waiting for Justice*, on the struggle of Bangladeshi women to achieve justice through the Family Courts, and *Friends of '71*, about the contribution of international supporters to the cause of Bangladesh's independence struggle. She also was Bangladesh Producer for *Extreme by Design*, a documentary film on a group of Stanford University students as they design and build products to meet the basic needs of the world's poor. This film premiered on PBS this past December. This semester Catherine will be teaching two courses, "Gender and Nation in South Asia Cinema," and "Women Film Makers of South Asia" at Amherst College in Massachusetts. She will also organize a film series there featuring guest speakers from Pakistan and India.

Catherine encourages others, especially children and young people, to utilize film to reveal people's common history in order to inform, educate, delight and to inspire. Recently in her inaugural speech at Film South Asia documentary film festival in Kathmandu, she said, "I share with you Tareque's dream of Total Filmmaking because I want us, filmmakers and film lovers, to continually ask ourselves, or perhaps remind ourselves, for whom are our films being made? Are we fulfilling the potential of this medium to reach out to and inform people?"

**MORE ABOUT  
CATHERINE AND TAREQUE MASUD  
[www.tarequemasud.org](http://www.tarequemasud.org)**

**COME MEET CATHERINE AND SEE HER FILM  
Salem Free Public Library  
March 22 at 1:00 p.m.**

*Anne Rowthorn's most recent book is **The Wisdom of John Muir** (Wilderness Press). She is the only member of her family with a single passport. Her husband, children and grandchildren are U.S. and United Kingdom citizens. Her grandchildren, who live in Thailand, carry U.S., U.K. and Japanese passports.*

# DR. K. MOHAN RAO

By Jackie Hemond

On a bright October morning I scheduled an appointment with Dr. K. Mohan Rao, an anthropologist from India, who was visiting his daughter, Sathyasree Ubba, in Salem. The walkway and front steps of the Ubba house were chalked in red and yellow. Limes and marigold blossoms were strewn about. The family had recently celebrated Dussehra, a major Hindu celebration of the victory of good over evil as told through the story of the Goddess Durga who killed the demon Mahishasur. On this holiday, the Ubba and Rao families make puja, offerings of fresh fruit and flowers to God. They also clean and decorate tools used in their daily work, their computers, books, pens, vehicles, and household items, invoking God's blessing on these tools for success in the coming year.

Diverse myths, symbols and customs characterize the Dussehra holiday depending upon the region of India. All Indians celebrate the triumph of good over evil but some Indians invoke a different myth, that of the god Rama who killed the demon king Ravana after Ravana carried off Rama's wife. Celebrations honoring this myth include parades, street plays and the burning of effigies of Ravana. Still another myth celebrated by Indians during the holiday is that of the five Pandava brothers, who before being exiled, hid their weapons in a tree. Returning from exile, they worshipped the tree who had guarded their weapons and enabled the brothers to defeat evil forces. The people who celebrate this myth exchange gifts of leaves. Everyone in India celebrates Dussehra, but it is celebrated in a fascinating diversity.

In his work as an anthropologist, Dr. Rao celebrates the cultural diversity of his country. He has written four books on his country's diversity, which are used as college textbooks. More than 600 tribes inhabit India, constituting 8% of its population. Tribal lands, mostly in the forests and mountainous regions of central India, comprise more than 15% of India's land mass and contain natural resources including minerals and arable land for tea and coffee. As a Director



Dr. K. Mohan Rao with his wife, Voormila Devi, his daughter, Sathyasree Ubba, and her husband, Rama

of the Tribal Research Institute, Dr. Rao worked on projects funded by the World Bank that illustrate how valuable the tribes are to India. During his career, steps were taken to ensure the tribes' survival while retaining their heritage and values. The intent of Dr. Rao's studies is to integrate the tribes into modern Indian society while preserving their cultural diversity.

The first step in this process is to provide the tribes with quality education. In the 1930's only 3% of India's tribal people had formal education. Today, 50% of these people are educated. Together with education, improvements in hygiene, the introduction of technology, the use of marketing to provide economic independence and the end of land exploitation are intended to raise the tribal standard of living. Unfortunately, with modernization, some tribal traditions change

or are lost. As Dr. Rao observes, "to make an omelet, one must break some eggs."

Still, many of the customs and traditions of the tribes are preserved. On Republic Day, celebrated on January 26, Indians honor the date on which the constitution of India came into being. Tribes from all over the country converge on New Delhi, the capital of India, to celebrate with a spectacular display of tribal dances, customs and food. In addition, museums throughout the country showcase the oral traditions, folklore and mythologies of the diverse tribes.

Dr. Rao obtained his Master's degree from Nagpur University and his Doctorate degree from Osmania University. He met his wife, Voormila Devi, while she was a trainee at the Tribal Research Institute. They raised three children: Sathyasree who lives in Salem with her husband Rama and their two children; a son, who lives in California; and another daughter who lives in India. Dr. Rao and his wife enjoy learning about our culture in their visits to the United States. This was their fifth visit. They live in Hyderabad, which is the capital and largest city of the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

## MEMORIES OF HIRAM BINGHAM IV

Robert Kim Bingham, Sr.

Below is a Holocaust survivor's recent e-mail to the Bingham family expressing gratitude for the visas issued to her family on September 12, 1940 by my father, long-time Salem resident Hiram (Harry) Bingham IV, when he served as U.S. vice consul in Marseille, France during 1937-1941. (My website, at [hirambinghamrescuer.com](http://hirambinghamrescuer.com), also contains other letters of survivors my father helped save in defiance of his superiors' policies.) His humanitarian actions in saving many lives led to the "Constructive Dissent" award granted by the U.S. State Department in 2002 and issuance of the 39-cent U.S. commemorative postage stamp in his image on May 30, 2006.

Salem can be proud of Harry Bingham who resided in Salem 42 years, from 1946 to 1988. Heartfelt emails continue to come in from survivors, to this day.



U.S. Immigration Visa of Helen Sylvia Ginsburg, whose family was granted visas by Hiram Bingham IV during the Holocaust

**SURVIVOR JANE FRIEDMAN:** "I owe my life, literally, to Hiram Bingham IV, who issued US immigration visas to my grandmother, Anna Ginsburg, grandfather, Marcel Ginsburg and to Helene Sylvia Ginsburg, who would become my mother later in her life. She was 18 at the time. The three fled Antwerp, their home, on May 10, 1940, the day Germany invaded and occupied Belgium....The visas would eventually be in Marseille. According to the stamps in my mother's Belgian passport from that period, the three received Immigration Visas from US vice consul Hiram Bingham in Marseille on September 12. After that, they received French exit visas in Perpignan on September 14. Then back in Marseille, they received Portuguese and Spanish transit visas. . . They sailed from Lisbon to New York on October 20, 1940. In New York, Helene Ginsburg eventually met up with Willem Friedman, an occasional date from her earlier days in Antwerp. He was, briefly, a prisoner of war in Belgium and made his own escape from France in June 1940, smuggling himself over the Pyrenees and joining his family in Porto, Portugal where he got a US visa. The two married in 1942. I was born three years later in Manhattan. Thank you Hiram Bingham for your selfless commitment to humanity, resulting not only in my birth but in the continuation of thousands of families who otherwise would not have made it."

Jane Friedman E-mail 11/11/13

# CHRIS ROWTHORN

Interviewed by Eric Hemond

*Editor's note: Chris Rowthorn is the son of Salem residents, Anne and Jeffery Rowthorn. Chris is an American journalist based in Asia. His most recent Lonely Planet Japan guide won a TripAdvisor best travel guide designation for 2013. Check out his blog at [www.insidekyoto.com](http://www.insidekyoto.com).*

**EH:** You were born in the UK, but raised in the US. Do you think this early transcontinental experience contributed to a passion for travel?

**JR:** When I was two years old, my family emigrated from England to New York City. But even before that, my parents were travelers: my English father had spent time in Russia and Persia and my American mother had explored the American West and they met in San Francisco. And, from the earliest days, we traveled as a family. I recall my parents



Left: Chris Rowthorn at Gasaikund Lake in Nepal's Langtang National Park; Right: Chris Rowthorn Arrival at Mulu Airport, an airport in northern Sarawak, Malaysia



taking us to Iceland and The Netherlands when I was still in elementary school. Plus, my father's collection of *National Geographic* magazines goes back well over 60 years. So, it was just always assumed that we would travel.

**EH:** How did you start as a travel writer? Was it something you always envisioned yourself doing, or more something that became the best choice under the circumstances?

**JR:** I always wanted to be a writer of some kind, but I had no clear plan of how to get there. I sort of assumed I'd work odd jobs in the States for a while and then sit down one day and crank out a masterpiece. But, needless to say, that wasn't an entirely realistic plan. So, after a few years of working in the States, I jumped at the chance to stay with a friend in Japan. I taught English in Japan for a while, and then started writing a bit on the side. I showed one article to an editor at *The Japan Times*, an English-language paper there, and he snapped it up. I worked for *The Japan Times* for a while and then *Lonely Planet* recruited me. So, despite the fact that I intended to become a writer, there was a lot of luck and chance involved in both actually becoming one and in the type of writer I became.

**EH:** Of all the places you've been, where is the most fun?

**JR:** That's a great question and a hard one to answer. I'm going to have to list a few: For great food, vibrant culture, superb beaches and intense relaxation, Thailand is an easy first choice. For interesting culture, incredible trekking and great rafting, Nepal is tops. For pockets of mind-blowing beauty and an almost impossibly deep culture, Kyoto is the place to go. For an overall good time, including diving, surfing, bodysurfing, great people and a lot more besides, Australia is number one. If you had to pin me down on one spot that I just consider the most fun on earth, it would either be Bangkok or Kathmandu.

**EH:** You are better traveled than the average person is. Would you say most people are chronically under-traveled? Would you say there are benefits that come from experience in foreign places and cultures?

**JR:** You know the old Buddhist saying: "A wise man knows the whole world without leaving his hut." I agree with that. I don't think travel is by any means an absolute necessity. But, in general, I think it's very useful to travel — it engenders all kinds of personal growth and it forces you to take a hard look at yourself and your own culture in a new way, and that can never be a bad thing. I've lived in a few countries where people believed very strongly in certain myths about themselves and their nations that they could never hold with such conviction if they had traveled widely and with open minds. Also, travel quite literally shakes you out of your rut. You meet people you wouldn't normally meet. You have long times to just sit and think. You might find yourself facing some fears you needed to face and deal with. And, best of all, you might have some truly new and unusual experiences. All this adds up to growth. But getting back to your question about whether or not I think most people are chronically under-traveled, I'm only going to say this: I suspect that the world would be a better place if more people traveled more frequently and with an open

mind. And by travel, I don't mean a week at Disneyland. I mean, going someplace very different from what you're used to. And, if more people tried living for a year or so in another country, the world would be better still. But, let's not forget, travel is a real luxury and, given the world economic and energy situation, it's likely to become even more of a luxury. But that's another conversation.

**EH:** Did you have much trouble learning the Japanese language? Did you learn mostly by taking courses, by self-teaching, or by

simply being exposed to it throughout daily life? What would you recommend to a monolingual person trying to learn a new language?

**JR:** I'm pretty good at languages, mostly because I'm talkative and I'm a decent mimic. So, to be honest, Japanese came fairly easily to me (at least the spoken language). I started studying at a private language school in Japan, then I had a private teacher, and then I studied the writing system for several years on my own. Make no mistake: Japanese is NOT a language you just pick up by hanging around in a bar and chatting to strangers — not unless you're some kind of genius linguist. What would I recommend to a monolingual person who wants to learn a language? Well, first, I'd say that you have to have a clear goal. If you don't, then it's a waste of time and you probably won't make much progress anyway. It takes a lot of time and effort to learn a language well. If you just want to impress your friends by ordering in Cantonese next time you go out for dim sum, then there are better ways to spend your time. But, if you have a clear reason to learn a language, the very best way to learn it is to go live in a place where it is spoken and speak only that language. Start at a good language school, where you study the language systematically, and then speak only that language. Don't go to Tokyo and hang out in expat bars. Go to a village in the Japan Alps where no one speaks English and then speak only Japanese all day long. And always keep in mind, that learning a language is like learning tennis: you don't learn tennis by studying tennis theory — you learn by playing a lot of tennis.

**EH:** Your job must involve a lot of what other people might think of as vacation, i.e., travel and fun activities. Do you think you've hit the jackpot in terms of careers, in terms of being able to feed a family and have a good time doing it? Or, conversely, do you ever feel you're not able to enjoy yourself fully because you're "on the job"? How do you take time off?

**JR:** The best way to get a *Lonely Planet* writer angry is to say something like, "Wow! You've got a great job! You get paid to be on vacation!" (I've been told exactly that on several occasions). We have annual *Lonely Planet* workshops and we authors always wind up complaining about such comments. I mean, just open the average *Lonely Planet* guidebook and look at the sheer number of facts on the page (telephone numbers, admission fees, addresses etc). These don't just land on the page by magic and good intentions. It's damn hard work, both the researching and the writing. That said, I love what I do and I'm truly grateful to Tony and Maureen Wheeler (the founders of *Lonely Planet*) for giving me the chance to do the job. I've met incredible people, seen incredible things, and been incredible places. And I've been forced to learn about countries to a level that I never would have if I had just passed through as a backpacker. But, more than that, I consider myself extremely lucky to be able to do a job that suits my temperament almost perfectly. But in terms of hitting the career jackpot, I think the only guys who can really say that about themselves would be professional surfers or successful creative artists. As for how I take time off, I like to read and watch videos and, believe it or not, I like to travel. I was up in Nepal trekking this past June and it was fantastic.

# ZUBAIR KHAN

By Eric Hemond

Zubair Khan grew up in the crowded city of Karachi, in Pakistan, and came to the United States in 1986, when he was 19. He attended Kingsborough Community College. Despite the fact that he would become a successful businessman, his first few weeks abroad must not have seemed very promising.

However, he quickly found out that he did not have the knowledge or means to fend for himself. Having grown up in a culture where his family provided everything for him, he simply didn't have the experience. He didn't know how to do his laundry or cook. He didn't even know how to make himself a cup of tea. Zubair had come to the US expecting glamor and ever-present parties, but what he found instead was deprivation. Parties? "You can go party, and you can do a lot of things, as long as your stomach is full," says Zubair. For weeks, the staple in Zubair's diet was bread dipped in milk. It wasn't long before homesickness combined with near-starvation overwhelmed him: "I actually cried on the



Zubair Khan and his family

phone like a baby". The upshot was a feeling of gratitude for all the work that had gone into his upbringing.

Zubair did eventually pick himself up. Zubair says he was helped along by values he learned in America. For a time, Zubair worked at a convenience store owned by his uncle, a man who had lost a leg and could walk only with the use of crutches. One day, he asked Zubair to sweep the sidewalk outside of the store. Zubair refused, believing that others would mock him as lower-class. So Zubair's uncle took the broom himself and began to sweep. If Zubair had been embarrassed before, now he was mortified. He took the broom back and began sweeping, keeping his head down to avoid eye-contact with the people on the street. Soon, Zubair realized that not only was no one mocking him, no one even paid the least bit of attention to him. And so, Zubair discovered that, unlike in Pakistan, in the US there were no penalties for doing manual labor. "I learned

*continued on page 9*

## BARBARA WOLK: SALEM RESIDENT FROM ABROAD

By Edyta Wolk

Barbara Wolk is a current resident of Salem, but has spent most of her life in Poland. Growing up in an environment completely different from America, she has experienced many adventures, practiced many different traditions, and tasted a lot of delicious food! Read about the highlights in this interview:

**Describe the town you grew up in:** It was a very small town surrounded by beautiful woods. It was a very pleasant place.

**What were some things that you enjoyed doing there as a kid?** I spent a lot of time running around in the woods with my own and my neighbor's dogs. I liked soccer, swimming, riding my bike, and climbing trees.

**What were your hobbies and interests?** I love music. I used to play the piano. I also loved poetry. I have a very romantic soul. Most importantly, I loved astronomy. I remember spending hours sitting outside and looking at the stars.

**What was one memorable childhood experience that you will never forget?** Once I climbed a very tall tree and I couldn't get back down. My parents had to call a fire truck! Another time was when I ran into a huge wolf on the road. It was very calm, though, and I can still remember its big black eyes.

**Where did you go to college? What were you studying?** I graduated from medical school in the capital of Poland, Warsaw. I got my degree as a pharmacist. Afterwards, I earned my masters degree in pharmacy and went to work at a local pharmacy in Warsaw.

**What were some activities that you enjoyed doing while living in the capital?** I enjoyed going to the theater; I watched many plays. I also attended many different piano recitals. I love paintings so I went to many art galleries.



Christian (front), Edyta, Anna, and Barbara (middle row), Martin and Robert (back row) at Anna's graduation

**Have you lived in any other European countries?**

Yes, Scotland. It was very pretty and there were very friendly people there. My first son was born there. We lived in Glasgow.

**What made you want to move to America?** I moved to America because my husband got a scholarship here.

**How many other languages do you know?** When I was in school, I learned Russian, French, and Latin. English was the last language I learned.

**Did you work when you first came here?** Yes. My husband and I worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

**How long have you lived in America? How many different places have you lived in?** I have lived here for thirteen years. We lived in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and then Connecticut.

**What are some Polish traditions that you and your family still practice?**

We have beautiful traditions for Christmas and Easter. On Christmas Eve, we pray, sing Christmas carols, and have a delicious, home cooked meal. We also exchange gifts that night. The entire celebration starts when the first star rises in the sky. On the table, there is a Christmas candle, an extra plate for anyone who might knock at the door, and a small clump of hay under the tablecloth. For us this is the most beautiful night of the year. We go to church on Christmas Day. We celebrate two days of Christmas. On Easter, we decorate our Easter egg baskets together. We put in our painted eggs and some other food like bread, sausage, spices, etc. . . . And then get them blessed. The next day we have an Easter breakfast with traditional Polish food and then we go to church. On Monday, we celebrate the second day of Easter. In the Polish tradition we call it wet Monday. It means everybody gets wet that day. Even strangers pour water on each other for fun.

**How often do you visit Poland? What do you do there?**

We try to visit every summer. Poland is very rich with history, traditions, beautiful nature, and of course delicious food. In the north is the Baltic Sea, which has beautiful beaches. In the south, there are mountains. We like to go swimming and mountain climbing. We also visit the many beautiful historical monuments, castles, churches, cathedrals, galleries, and museums. And, of course, we always love to eat Polish food. During the school year, we usually get our Polish food from New Britain, Connecticut.

**What is one thing you have learned from your travels?**

I have obtained a lot of knowledge about other cultures. I have been lucky enough to visit many different places and learn about what each different culture has to offer.

*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.*

# HERNAN SALAS

**M**y name is Hernan Salas and I have been a resident of Salem, CT for almost ten years. However, I was born in Chile, South America, a beautiful country, rich in culture and climates. Chile is similar to the United States in the fact that it is home to many different ethnicities. Although I was born in Chile, my family comes from Spain and France. Chile is also partly defined by its drastically varying climates. It is home to the driest desert, Atacama, as well as Punta Arenas, the closest city to Antarctica. You may have noticed that this variation in climates allows Chile to grow and export much of the produce and wines you see today in the supermarkets.

Based on the above you may be wondering why I left such a lovely place. To put it simply, I left because of political reasons. It all began when Chileans elected a leftist coalition of socialists and communists in 1970. At that time, my father owned a very successful transportation company. Unfortunately, this government's mentality was to take from those who were successful. The transportation industry was nationalized and the government seized my father's company. They also took actions to eliminate forcefully those who opposed their philosophy. Knowing that, my father came to the United States seeking political asylum and I, a twelve-year-old boy, went to Spain to live with my grandparents.



*Left: Hernan Salas with his children, Alex, Joseph, and Raquel and his wife, Terri (left to right); Right: Hernan Salas*

I spent four years living in southern Spain in the region of Grenada. In the meantime, in 1973 a military coup took over the government in Chile. After I finished high school in Spain, I returned to Chile and was accepted to the Naval Academy. Seven months before my graduation, the government changed the law regarding the service of the Naval Academy graduates. The obligation was changed from five to fifteen years of service upon graduation. I was not prepared to make such a large commitment at that time and therefore left the Navy before my graduation due to this change.

I then made the decision to join my father and come to the United States. I knew little English but quickly made the effort to become fluent. After spending eight months

learning English as a second language at Long Island University I transferred to Webber University in Florida, graduating in 1986. Before my graduation, I met the wonderful and loving woman that has been my wife for the past twenty-seven years.

After graduation, I went back to Chile for a few months but decided to come back to the United States. After you have a taste of America, you realize it is truly an extraordinary place filled with opportunity. I feel that what makes America special are the personal freedoms of life and liberty that is difficult to find anywhere else in the world.

## ANNETTE FUNG: A FOUNDER OF THE CHINESE SCHOOL

*By Jackie Hemond*

**T**he top of Annette Fung's head just reaches my shoulders, and I am not even 5 foot 2. However, her spirit is a giant. It is easy to envision her as the dynamic force behind the founding and success of the Southeastern Connecticut Chinese School as it now stands, an extremely successful entity located in East Lyme.

Annette and Fu-Ning Fung came to North America from Hong Kong in the early 1970s to study. They had met at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. They moved to Connecticut after Pfizer hired Fu-Ning.

The Southeastern Connecticut Chinese School began in 1979 by a few Chinese parents who came from Taiwan. They wanted their children to learn their native language and heritage. At first, the school was held in a public library and only taught the Chinese language in Mandarin. However, in the late 1980s, when the demand for another Chinese dialect surfaced, Fu-Ning's colleague asked Annette to help. Then Annette joined the informal Chinese school in the library as a language teacher in 1987.

In the 1990s, the demand for a Chinese school exploded when two new world-class casinos employed Chinese dealers and Pfizer recruited more Chinese scientists. As word spread about this unique school, the library became too small. Annette whirled into action. Named the principal, a voluntary position, in 1995, she secured a new home for the school at Connecticut College where classes were held on Sunday mornings. She established a Board of Directors, recruited teachers from the parents and nearby schools and colleges and set up the school's legal and non-profit status by hiring Lee Cole-Chu, then a New London attorney who lived in Salem.



*Top: Southern Connecticut Chinese School Mathletes; Bottom: Fu-Ning and Annette Fung*

The goal of the school was to teach Chinese-American students the Chinese culture and language. At first, the formal Mandarin language spoken in Taiwan was taught, and then Annette chose to teach a more simplified version of Mandarin, spoken on the Chinese mainland. The secondary mission of the school was to promote an awareness and appreciation of the Chinese heritage in the surrounding communities.

Ever a problem-solver, Annette faced the challenges of the new school head-on. The first problem involved the parents. They often dropped their children off at the school and returned to pick them up long after school had ended. Annette kept the parents on campus by opening the Williams School gym, which was located on the premises of the college and a college lounge, so that the parents could play or chat while they waited for the school to end. For problematic kids who were not interested in learning Chinese, she started Chinese chess and competitive Math League classes. When these new classes were successful, Annette expanded the curriculum further. She offered Chinese art, folk dancing, violin, and band classes. She started Mandarin conversation classes to the non-Chinese and invited the parents and the local community to partake in the offerings. She promoted the school by writing articles and with grant money, created an Asian Exhibit at the Children's Museum in Niantic, where she also demonstrated Chinese cooking.

Because of her experience and success, she was asked to serve on the Colchester Learning Foundation. She also served on the Voices for Families, a division of the Greater Norwich Community Leadership Team and became a MathCounts coach

*continued on page 11*



**Left:** Gerald Munro in Rhode Island; **Right:** Gerald Munro in Scotland with parents, John and Margaret Kennedy Munro

**D**ecember 25, 1960. Propellers whirred for fourteen hours on the stormy trip from Scotland.

Nervous laughter followed when a woman spotted the single light as we soared above the black countryside. “Look, someone left a light on.” Too stormy for the commercial airport, there was one stop at the US Air Force Base in Iceland for fuel. I was on my way to America.

Finally, it came after years of saving and planning. Forms, lots of forms, and letters. A clean record from the local police, recommendation from my minister, medical exams, along with my sponsor’s proof of means, to keep me from reliance on the state. Saving every penny, still I needed help for part of the plane fare.

At 26 I’d completed my five year apprenticeship in bricklaying at Dougal’s. The family was proud that both sons had apprenticeships. Five children were costly. Luckily Dad held three jobs. Leaving the British Navy, he went right to the torpedo factory, tended bar and lifted lines for the local bookie; all legal, and trustworthy positions. He had a good reputation that got us apprenticeships.

And so I arrived at Idlewild Airport, now JFK, to piles of clean white snow with a suitcase, some advice and \$72 US. The advice? Join the union as soon as you can. That came, but not until I’d worked various jobs to buy my own tools, while paying for an attic room and one afternoon meal a day. Reflecting now, I realize I arrived on the verge of a building boom, lots of bricks involved. I was fortunate to move from construction into retail and have my own store for fifteen years selling ladies clothing.

My good health served me well. All kinds of soup grew us strong; I still enjoy making a pot the way I watched my mother so often. I’d grown up during the bleak war years of one egg a week, ration coupons for most staples, along with the terrifying watch for telegraph boys delivering sad news to many village mothers.

My small village of Renton at the base of Loch Lomond sent its men to combat again in the second war to end wars. They signed up to block its spread over Great Britain, including our Scotland. My father was serving in China for eight of his British

## America

*Precious land of hope and dreams,  
Land of mountains, lakes and streams,  
With golden sands and grass that’s green,  
This land majestic, yet serene,*

*Welcomes all who come.  
Pure like a summer bride,  
Prairie lands, flat and wide,  
Ocean seas on either side.*

*The Redman, who walks with pride,*

*Welcomed all who came.  
With dreams they came ashore,  
And knocked on Welcome’s door.  
They answered Freedom’s roar,  
This land that offers more  
Welcomes all who come.*

*With nothing but their names,  
No riches, gold or fame,  
Leaving their hunger and their pain,  
This multitude of people came.*

*They were welcomed, all who came.  
From the lands of ice and snow,  
From where the silk and coffee grows,  
From where the rivers swiftly flow,  
From there this mighty nation rose.  
All were welcomed, all who came.*

Gerald D. Munro

the gore of war, it was exciting.

I continue to turn off lights, make soup, write poems as my grandfather did, and keep interest in the British military. America is truly a place to come and work hard for a better life. I love Scotland, but never could have made such a full life there.

Navy years. Four of his brothers/regiments: Munro’s regiment The Black Watch, The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, and cousins in The Gordon Highlanders. Alec Munro (Argylls) captured in 1939, spent six years in a German prison camp. Neil Munro (Argylls) was at Slim River in Malaysia, caught by the Japanese and crucified as a warning to other prisoners. Archie Munro (Argylls) was a Desert Rat, tie bleached white by the African sun. Donald Munro (Royal Army German Occupation Force) returned with Aunt Helga, his German war bride. And I must make mention of mother’s nineteen year old brother, William Kennedy, M.M. who earned his posthumous Military Medal as a runner in the first world war at the Battle of Ypres, *Passchendaele*, France, where Flanders poppies grow.

For us at home there were many nightly trips to the buildityourself aluminium Anderson Shelter when sirens alerted. My job was to race the budgie and cage out of bombs’ way. Our village escaped direct bomb raids, but our school became the refuge for busloads of Clydebank victims. We proudly brought shrapnel to class for show and tell, and shared our home with Norwegian soldiers there for special military training while posing as ill-equipped carpenters. For a boy in Scotland, sheltered from

that there’s nothing wrong with doing your own work,” says Zubair.

That wasn’t the only thing he learned. Despite growing up in Pakistan and being educated in the British school system, Zubair “could speak English, but not fluently”. He was able to expand his vocabulary and train his grammar by reading a lot of newspapers and books. He read several newspapers, taking advantage of his job at a convenience store, but his favorite newspaper was *The New York Times*. He also spoke English at every opportunity, quoting the advice he was given: “If you don’t speak, you will never learn”.

Starting in 1992, Zubair began his entrepreneurial journey, opening a supermarket in Montville and learning as he went along. As he met with success, Zubair expanded accordingly. And expanded again, and again, until, all told, Zubair owned nine stores throughout New England. Zubair believes he achieved success through a combination of industry, good customer service, and a spirit of compromise with other local business owners. However, running a multi-state empire had its price: time. Zubair found that managing his business was cutting into time with his family, so two years ago he downsized. He sold off his convenience stores and supermarkets and opened a Meineke franchise in Colchester. “Another journey,” as he says. Zubair has met with success in this field too, and in a few months he is opening a second franchise. Throughout this change in direction Zubair has continued to operate his side business in real estate and commercial development, which he started in 1994. Certainly no one can dispute Zubair’s status as a self-made man.

Zubair moved from Brooklyn to Meriden, Connecticut in 1990, and to Montville (specifically the village of Oakdale) in 1992. After 13 years in Montville, Zubair and his family moved to Salem, which he describes as “the best decision I made”. Zubair speaks highly of the Montville and Salem communities. Salem is “a great place to raise your family,” Zubair says, especially praising the school district. Furthermore, he notes that the community has been strongly supportive. In the dark

*continued on page 10*

# THE LOOK FAMILY: AN EXAMPLE OF THE CHINESE IMMIGRATION WAVES TO THE UNITED STATES

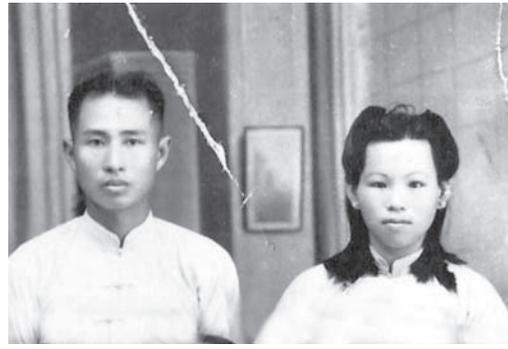
By Anne Look

Every October, my family and I travel to Chicago. We partake in this pilgrimage for the sake of honoring our ancestors, a tradition which my father has decided to pass on to me. The history of my family is complex, as most histories are. However, it is important that I acknowledge all the work and migration my ancestors went through to come to this country and make a new future for themselves. My father believes it is essential that I understand my lineage, and that I grow a natural respect for my ancestors. As it is, his hopes for his only daughter have not been in vain.

This story begins with my great-great-grandfather, who was recruited from a coastal village in China to come to the United States to help build the railroad. He was one of the many coolies who were known in China as “bitter laborers”. He was one of the few men who knew how to read and write Chinese. When his fellow laborers found out about this accomplishment, they began to ask him to write letters for them. It was said that he was born a leader. In his village, he was well-known for his natural take-charge attitude. Eventually, he joined the labor force that was building the Northern Pacific Railroad in Seattle. Once there, he married. Soon after, my great-grandfather (the third of six sons) was born.

My great-grandfather started off his generation in the States. My great-great-grandfather took my great-grandfather back to China when the latter was approximately eighteen years old. My great-great-grandfather was hoping to find a wife for my great-grandfather. After my grandfather was born, my great-great-grandfather and my great-grandfather returned to Seattle. My great-grandfather, however, did not remain in Seattle. Like other Chinese men of his generation, he soon migrated east, following the transcontinental railroad until he reached the Midwest railroad hub of Chicago. Once there, he started a laundry business. He worked tirelessly and continuously for many years. Approximately once every ten years, all the males of that particular generation would return to China either to get married, bring back their son(s) whom they had left behind before, or marry off their daughter(s). My great-grandfather eventually brought back my grandfather to the States, and raised him in Chicago.

My grandfather was the first of the family to be educated in the States. He attended high school in Chicago. Although he wanted to go to college, my grandfather was dragged back to China to get married. The voyage over to China was approximately six weeks, and the fare was expensive. For this reason, they did not travel to China very often. After marrying, the cycle repeated itself. He went back a second time to bring back my uncle (my grandfather’s first son) and my great-uncle (his younger brother). The third time, he was in search of a second wife (the first had died), and also got a wife for his son. Eventually, my father was born. My grandfather and the first son returned to Chicago to work while the women and my father remained in



Top: Anne’s grandparents, Zee’s parents;  
Bottom: Left to right: Zee’s nephew, Zee’s brother’s wife, Zee’s half-sister, Zee’s mother, Anne’s grandmother, and Zee Look, Anne Look’s father

Photo taken in China

the village. At this time, political changes in China with the Communist Party taking over forced many families to evacuate their ancestral villages. The Communists were marching their way down south, where our family village was. In the mid 1950’s, my grandmother, aunt, and father migrated from China to Hong Kong.

My grandmother, aunt, and father came to the States in 1959. The flight took them from Hong Kong to Tokyo. Next, they took another flight from Tokyo to Anchorage, Alaska. Then, they boarded yet another flight from Anchorage to Seattle. And finally, they flew from Seattle to Chicago. The total trip took three days, with each leg having taken seven to eight hours of flight time.

My father was the first member of the family to graduate from college. After college, he was drafted into the army during the final years of the Vietnam War. He served his army duties at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. After being honorably discharged, he returned to Chicago and began working. His work eventually took him from Chicago to New York.

My maternal grandparents went from Southern China to Hong Kong during the Pacific War when the Japanese military forces were occupying China. Like my father, my mother was also the first of her family to graduate from a university. She came to the United States for graduate work in California, and stayed to pursue a professional career. Her work took her from California, and then to New York. Both my parents worked in similar fields, and that is how our family was started.

My family is a living representation of Chinese immigration into America. There were three main waves of Chinese immigration into the States. My great-great-grandfather was part of the first wave. This wave mainly consisted of males looking for job opportunities in America (primarily as laborers). My grandmother, aunt, and father were part of the second wave. This particular wave consisted of families rushing to escape the Communist Party and political turmoil in China. My mother was part of the third wave. This wave consisted of people who were searching to better their education and look for career opportunities. There is also a west-to-east migration pattern in my family, quite different from the

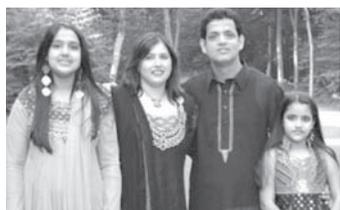
typical European immigration pattern. They have migrated from Seattle to Chicago by following the railroad, representing the west-to-east movement. Other relatives in my great-grandfather’s and grandfather’s generation moved further east to New York City. As a result, today there are three main branches of my family in the United States. There is still a collection of distant cousins in Seattle and around the Pacific Northwest. The largest contingent is still in Chicago and its sprawling suburbs. Finally, there is another rather large collection of distant cousins in New York City and in the Northeast. All in all, my family has become a large portrait of the gradual Chinese integration into America.

Anne Look is a freshman at East Lyme High School. She plays viola and piano in the school orchestra and also volunteers at the Salem Library.

## ZUBAIR KHAN *continued from page 9*

days following 9/11, a rumor began that Zubair was being harassed for his religion and ethnicity (Zubair asserts that this never actually happened). Many members of the community stopped by to support him and recognize his position as a respectable businessman. “I love living here,” says Zubair.

Zubair still keeps in touch with his family and friends back in Pakistan; his most recent visit to Pakistan was last year, when he reminisced with his childhood friends, who all now have families and children of their own. Time has moved on, and the country that once was foreign to him is now his home.



# BOPHA SMITH: ESCAPE FROM CAMBODIA

By Bopha and Vernon Smith

**M**y name is Bopha Smith and I live in Salem, but I was born in Cambodia and my ancestors are from Laos. Like millions of people in that area of Asia, my family was displaced from their homeland by war and the communist struggle for control. My earliest memory is of being carried through the jungle at night. It is still vivid to me. My parents filled in the details of that memory years later. A murderous Marxist political movement called the Khmer Rouge had risen to power in Cambodia and their soldiers took over the small farming village where we lived. That morning, they rounded up everyone to force us to some unknown location. However, hundreds escaped at nightfall and took to the jungle on a 24-hour march to reach the safety of the nearby Thailand border. My father carried my older brother and me in a straw basket on his back. I was three and Soria was seven. My mother carried my little sister. They had no shoes and faced many dangers in the lawless jungle, from wild animals to Thai and Khmer soldiers. When we reached a habitable area, we stayed there for a couple of years.

My father built a thatched house on stilts, found odd jobs in the small rural town of Ban Noan and my baby brother was born. He was named Phorn Thai because he was born in Thailand. After a time, the local people realized we had immigrated illegally and the officials asked us to go to the refugee camp, which had been set up. There were many refugee camps along the border.

We stayed in a camp for a couple of years and I have many pleasant memories. We lived in a very long building with a corrugated tin roof. The inside was divided into smaller spaces to accommodate the many families. We were all lined up like thick books on a shelf. Oblivious to what was really going on, I ran around with friends playing with what we could find on the dusty ground like soda caps and plastic bags. There were organizations and Christian missionary groups who helped to create a sense of community, offer some food assistance and medical care. I attended a one-room school for the children where I remember getting my hand slapped with a wooden ruler by the lady teacher for not passing the "clean nail" inspection. There were classes offered to adults where my mom learned hair cutting and sewing skills. Once in a while, we would get to see a "white person," which was the highlight of our day. I even remember attending a circus performance with friends, when the fire act engulfed the place in flames. I remember solemn adults and Buddhist monks and we could hear bombing occasionally in the distance, but my years there were happy.

In 1979, President Carter agreed to double the number of Southeast Asian refugees who were allowed to immigrate to America. Other countries like Canada, France, and Australia had also agreed to accept refugees. My family was initially assigned



Top: Bopha Smith, Refugee Camp Photo, age 5; Bottom: Bopha with her family at the refugee camp



to go to Argentina, but someone advised us to wait for the American option. We received sponsorship from members of a Christian church in Southern California. In 1980, an American woman with a Cambodian background picked us up at the airport and helped us fill out paperwork and find an apartment. She showed us the markets where we could find Asian food and graciously helped us to assimilate as best she could. Naturally, we were overwhelmed by America. My parents were simple rice farmers with limited education, no knowledge of western culture and no experience with the English language. Finding ourselves situated in the sprawling, crowded, busy coastal city of Long Beach was very difficult. As a family, we managed the best we could, moving often to another apartment in a safer,

gang-free neighborhood. As I grew, I found an increasing interest in art and God. Those two things gave me comfort and helped me to cope.

Years later in Los Angeles, Vernon and I met. We gave up our "young and foolish lifestyle" and made the personal commitment to follow Christ. We were baptized together in the Pacific near the Santa Monica Pier, married that same week, and began our small family. We moved to Connecticut seven years later in 2007.

What I love about America is the individual freedom to attempt whatever you want to achieve in life. I also appreciate the people's involvement in our government. Yes, it is exasperating at times to hear the parties and individuals debating about issues, but it gives "we the people" time to think ideas through before making rash decisions. It is a good process. I meet and hear of so many who are also concerned with preserving liberties like the freedom to speak out, to arm ourselves for our own protection, to worship God and educate our children as we see fit. However, I am concerned that far too many of us are distracted by "comfort and entertainment" and are letting freedoms slip away. I also value the wonderful sense of security and peace in America that we Laotian-Cambodians never had. This should never be taken for granted.

The Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, killed as many as 3 million of my native countrymen between 1975-1979; at least half of those died by execution and the rest by torture, starvation, and disease. In their service to a vision of a utopian agrarian society, Pol Pot and his followers destroyed our culture and annihilated 25% of the Cambodian population. "The Killing Fields", a 1984 film with Sam Waterston and John Malkovich can give you a sense of the tragic destruction that Cambodia experienced.

I thank God for letting me become an American and letting me have a family in this beautiful, free, and safe country. In Salem, we enjoy a rich, simple, country lifestyle with our three young children. America is a blessed land.

## ANNETTE FUNG *continued from page 8*



The Southern Connecticut Chinese School Matletes

at Salem School, St. Joseph's School in Norwich, and the Williams School in New London.

The school quickly became a center of the community. Annette organized talent shows, New Year's parties, and summer camps. She organized team sports and an annual Children's Day outing at the Roger Williams Zoo. Student performances were held in the surrounding communities. A Cultural Diversity Scholarship was awarded to seniors in high school who demonstrated leadership in broadening cultural understanding.

In 2001, when Annette retired as the principal, the

school had more than one hundred students from the age of five to eighty years. Today the school boasts an attendance of over 300 students and 40 staff members. Annette remained as a Board Member until 2008 and a teacher until 2011, when the school moved into its new location at the East Lyme High School. Annette has many fond memories of the school and she takes pride in its students. Many of the children she oversaw at the school graduated and are still graduating from elite universities such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Stanford....It is a legacy to remember.



Local Voices are . . .

# HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

## HOW MR. WHITTLESEY'S SCHOOL BROUGHT FAME AND CULTURE TO OUR TOWN

By Dave Wordell



L to R: Music Vale Seminary Quick Step by Orramel Whittlesey, 1855; Music Vale Seminary, 1857; Music Vale Seminary rebuilt, 1868

Quick Step (left): Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Music Division; Music Vale Seminary (right): Connecticut Historical Society

The subject of this article is Salem's nationally known music school and its founder, Orramel Whittlesey. You may notice I have spelled his first name with double r's. Today, it is normally spelled with one. During Orramel's lifetime, he both wrote and signed his first name with the double r's.

As I have previously written, Orramel's parents, the Reverend John Whittlesey and his wife, Sally, moved from the Old Saybrook/Westbrook CT. area after purchasing a small farm of 34 acres in Salem on May 24, 1815. It was located on the Hartford Road and today is located just south of the Salem School. The Cape-style house at that time was over one hundred years old. Reverend John and Sally brought with them the Lady Fenwick Harpsichord, which he had inherited from his grandfather. This instrument was one of the first to be brought to America. Sally became very accomplished playing it in their Salem home where their three young sons, Orramel, John and Henry first heard the sounds of music. The Reverend John, a Methodist minister, established an ivory cutting factory on the Salem farm to supplement his meager income. The three boys worked six days a week from sun-up to sundown cutting the ivory for piano keys. This experience, gave the boys an added appreciation for the new instrument called a pianoforte.

After pleading for their stingy father to buy them a pianoforte, the Reverend finally purchased one of poor quality and the boys began taking lessons in New London, making the round trip by horse and wagon before the daylight hours and their work schedule.

At age 25, Orramel married Charlotte Maconda Morgan who had grown up in the Morgan homestead at the end of Morgan Road, which was right across the road from Orramel's home. In the fall of 1826, soon after the birth of their first daughter Eliza, they began a journey to Buffalo, New York, traveling there via the newly opened Erie Canal. A problem ensued while making preparations. The three brothers could not decide on who should keep the pianoforte so they decided to take it apart and make a duplicate. This was the beginning of them making several pianofortes with each one being better than the previous.

When Orramel reached Buffalo with his newly improved version, people in the frontier town wanted one too, so, Henry joined him there and together they opened a pianoforte factory, which became very successful. They were able to produce one pianoforte every week. Meanwhile, John who had remained in Salem, began making them too. Orramel's second child, Sarah, was born in 1831 and because Eliza, Orramel's firstborn, was to begin school and the schools were far superior in the East, it was decided to bring her back to live with her grandparents. Sarah was upset about being separated from her older sister and soon persuaded her parents to return home permanently after seven years of living on the frontier. It was Christmas time when they all returned for good, left their factory in capable hands, and were paid a royalty. Back in Salem, they built a factory which was located where the Salem Fire Company is today.

*continued on page 13*

Orramel was by now a very accomplished pianist and gave public performances. His reputation grew and he started giving lessons. On one stormy winter night in 1835 a coach stopped at the Whittlesey door, the house still stands on the Music Vale Seminary property and was then known as "Happy Home." Two young ladies got out and ordered their driver to bring their trunks. They announced, "We have come to study with you and you can't turn us away on a night like this".

Thus, was the beginning in the small, farming town of Salem, Connecticut, of the first Normal School of Music in the United States. It was totally and solely devoted to the teaching of music. It was known first in 1835 as "Mr. Whittlesey's School", then as "Salem Normal Academy of Music" and finally in 1839 as "Music Vale Seminary".

Orramel and Charlotte raised four daughters, Eliza, Sarah, Jenetta and Karolyn, who were musically inclined and helped teach and administer at the school. The first Music Vale, built around 1839, was a large, ell-shaped, three story building containing 22 practice rooms and private dormitory rooms for 30 boarders. A tower was added in 1849 and in 1859, a large grand concert hall. Elaborate musicals and operas were performed every Friday, free for the Salem residents and again on Saturday evenings to paying customers.

Professor Whittlesey was authorized by the Connecticut State Board of Education to give a normal degree to students who had passed a two day examination (started in 1839), before a board of examiners. At that time Music Vale was the only music school authorized to confer degrees in the United States and it maintained its unique position for many years. The average number of degree graduates each year was twenty.

In the Whittlesey genealogy of 1898 it states "In 1839, 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 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, thirty being the average number of boarders."

It was strict, one woman wrote home. You have no idea the true meaning of that word. "Monday morning the untiring gong wakes me at 5:00 a.m. sharp, to duty and action, we dare not to delay. After breakfast, our day consists of: Four hours for Piano practice and instruction, two hours for Guitar, one for Theory, one for rehearsal and one for Thorough-bass. Think of that ye idlers of time! And yet we have time for recreation. Each young lady is required to dust her piano and see that her room is in order. The hour of retiring is ten o'clock precisely - no exceptions."

In August of 1856, a reporter wrote, "Its usual number of pupils is about forty. A recent graduation consisted of a class of twenty to whom the examining board awarded diplomas. They remain at the seminary one year. The expense of a musical education at this institution is \$250.00. Students may enter the seminary at any time and there are no vacations with an annual examination in August or September."

Another reporter in 1855 upon entering the Grand Concert Hall for a production wrote: "When we were ushered into the reception hall filled with such a splendid array of beauty, grace and loveliness we could scarcely imagine that it was all



*The Music Vale Seminary in 1840*

real, but our minds reverted to the stories in the Arabian Nights Tales and we were half inclined to believe the whole a dream. The hall in which the opera, plays and music were given was for that time quite splendid. Arranged under the direction of a New York artist, there was nothing like it in Norwich or New London. The stage, dressing room, the scenic effects, the curtains — one with the Arch of Titus, a distant view of the Tiber and the usual turrets and towers; another, a highly colored likeness of Music Vale itself, the frescoes on the walls and ceiling and the little gallery in the rear were all quite impressive for the small town of Salem."

Orramel's youngest daughter, Karolyn wrote, "There was one thing which was used by all the visitors at Music Vale and that was an old harpsichord which Lady Fenwick brought with her to Saybrook. It stood in the hall

of Music Vale for many years and was treasured by the family as having been played by many famous fingers."

By the 1850's there was edited by the young ladies a school paper called "The Gleaner of the Vale." There were poems, fairy tales and fantastic accounts of the school's activities, glowing with youthful enthusiasm and ardor. It was written that these young ladies are not only proficient in music but they are noted also for their literacy accomplishments.

The breaking out of the Civil War made a great difference with the attendance at the school, especially since many pupils came from the South. Orramel remained very patriotic for the Union Forces. Across the country road in front of Music Vale, hung a huge Union Flag which floated in the breezes, and the near-by hills echoed every Northern victory. As a result, reverses of attendance came to the school. His wife, Charlotte died in 1865 and three years later, during a production in the Grand Hall, while lighting of flash powder to replicate a lightning storm, the powder flash accidentally got out of control and on January 21, 1868, most of Music Vale burned to the ground. There was enough time to save the Whittlesey pianos used for practice as well as the harpsichord. Plans were quickly drawn up for a new and larger, two story building, 150 feet long containing 100 rooms and an even more elaborate concert hall. In the middle was a tower supporting a flagpole holding a harp weathervane on top. This building was erected before the end of 1868. It was the first rural building to have indoor plumbing and "toilet rooms". The toilets actually flushed and brought large numbers of curious people to see for themselves.

Due to the declining enrollments, the newly found splendor of Music Vale was to be short lived, for in 1873, Professor Whittlesey was forced to close the school. Tragically, in early 1876, Orramel's third daughter, Jenetta, died at the age of 40. Sadly, Orramel never recovered from his grief and he died on September 9, 1876.

Following his death, two of his daughters, Sarah and Karolyn re-opened the school and kept it going for two or three years. It finally closed by 1879 and now there were just memories. Memories of their trips to and from the train stations in those elegant Concord Coaches named Bluebird and Robin with footmen to assist them and their trunks. This institution alone produced over 680 young women who became music teachers across this country. Karolyn became a well-known teacher of the piano and harp in Topeka, Kansas. She traveled widely and said she would meet Music Vale girls in every town she visited.

*continued on page 14*



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**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](http://www.salemct.gov).

Please place my ad in issues of **Our Town — Salem** 2014 as indicated below:

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			per issue	per year	per issue	per year
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1/3	V	3-1/16" x 11-1/4"	○ \$ 52	○ \$188	○ \$ 69	○ \$249
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## SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

By David H. Wordell, President

I would like to thank the Gadbois and Avery families for their excellent Powerpoint visual presentations, which took place last fall at the Town House Museum. The programs were about these two very important and successful farm operations, which covered generations. The public responded with an attendance of 90 at each program which were recorded for future generations to see and know what farm life was like in Salem.

I would also like to thank Bill Schultz and Bob Neddo for their untiring work in organizing our Museum's vault and artifacts. Their training session at Mystic Seaport will bring a new look to our Museum this coming spring.

2014 is the year we have been waiting for in order to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of Music Vale Seminary, which I have written three articles about, spreading the word of its national importance.

As a result, The Salem Historical Society will begin the celebration at this year's Memorial Day Parade by introducing "Bluebird", the luxurious Concord Coach that Orramel Whittlesey transported his students to and from the train stations. Our school band will march behind and play Orramel's music. From May through October, including the summer months, we will have programs dealing with Music Vale Seminary and the Whittlesey family. To be announced later.

Barbara James, chairperson of our Youth Outreach committee, will be teaching our fifth graders about Music Vale this spring. I hope that as you read this, the Salem Historical Society will become the proud owner of the Rev. John Whittlesey House and we will seek your help in acquiring much needed restoration funds to establish the Music Vale Seminary Museum.



Reverend John Whittlesey House

The Board of Directors extends a huge thank you to Roberta Bowdler who acted as our real estate agent in this purchase, spending many tireless hours in helping achieve this goal.

## MR. WHITTELEY' SCHOOL continued from page 13

The thirty-year-old building, long vacant, met its final demise on March 16, 1897 when another fire burned away any remaining view of this once prestigious school.

Almost 100 years after its founding, in 1934 the State of Connecticut wrote a booklet titled "Music Vale Seminary" to preserve its history and one paragraph read as follows: "The founding of Music Vale Seminary a hundred years ago in the little town of Salem, was an individual pioneer effort and as such deserves consideration in Connecticut musical development. There is a glow of romance in its story and it is high time to awaken an interest in its origin and progress and to recall the facts and legends which in the rush of modern life have been well-nigh forgotten, for it was the first music school in Connecticut, if not in the United States."

Again written in the 1930's: "Today only the great cellar hole, overgrown with brush, remains. Now that the new highway (Rt. 85) makes travel easy, motorists with license plates from South of the Mason-Dixon Line often stop in Salem and search for that cellar hole. Sometimes delicate old ladies walk slowly through the long grasses, over the moss-grown steps and stand a long time beside the lilac bushes — listening and listening for the sounds of music from their past.

This year, 2014, is the 175th anniversary of the founding of Music Vale Seminary and the Salem Historical Society is planning to hold all its programs this year dealing with Music Vale Seminary and the Whittlesey Family. Hope to see you there.

### Bibliography:

Shoner, Sarah Augusta. *Karolyn Bradford Whittlesey, 1843-1928*.r (1962)  
Johnson, Frances Hall. *Music Vale Seminary 1835-1876*, New Haven, CT: Yale University, CT. Tercentenary Commission, 1934

David H. Wordell is a local historian as well as a founder and President of the Salem Historical Society, Inc.

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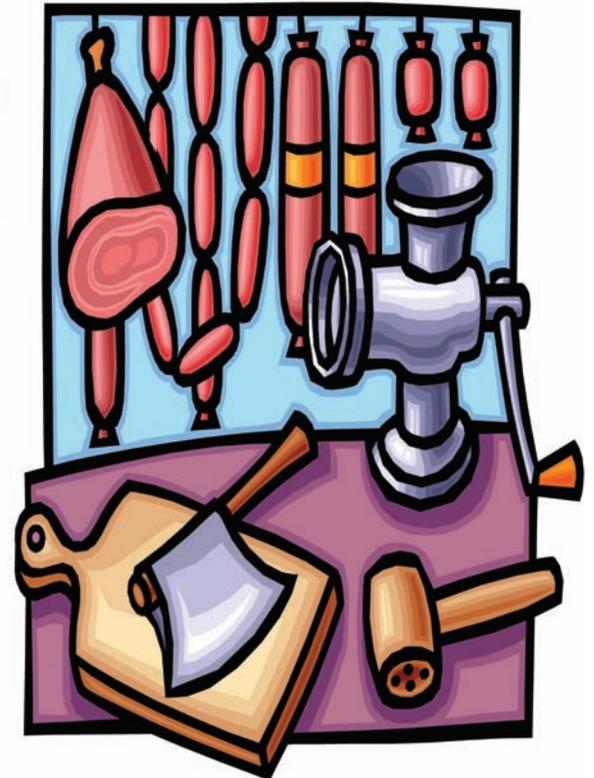


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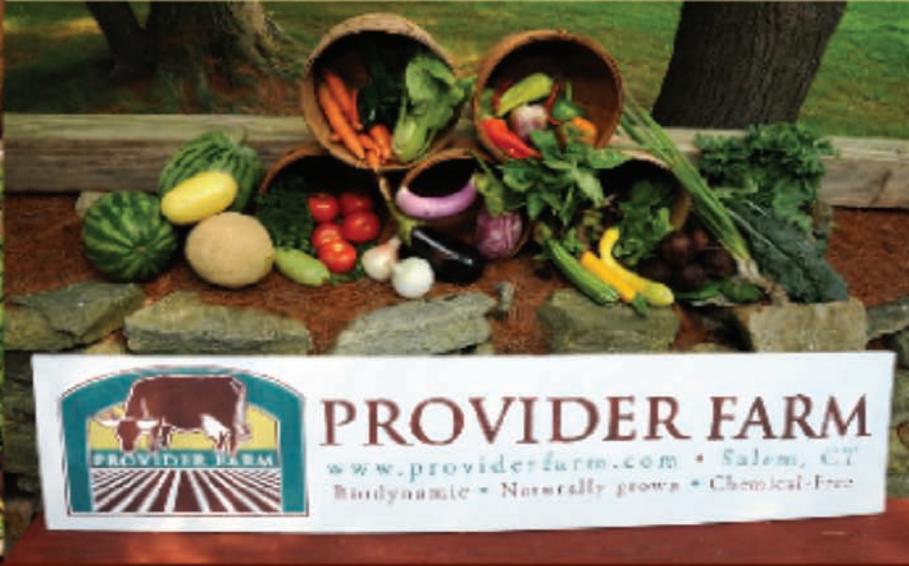
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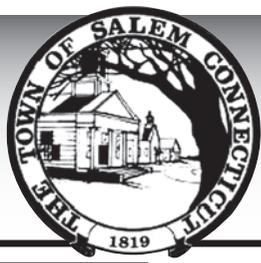
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News and Notes from . . .

# OUR TOWN AND STATE

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,*

I wish all of you a safe and joyful New Year.

Our town is now 195 years old. In those 195 years, our town has faced several challenges as well as many good times. These all combined make Salem into what it has become today. Let us review what has been going on in our Town:

### Post Office



The unexpected closing of our Contract Post Office came as a surprise to all of us. I have had several meetings and discussions with Congressman Courtney's office and the United States Post Office Contract Unit. They have assured us the United States Postal Service will have another contract post office in Salem. The process requires the USPS to solicit applications from interested businesses, a review process, and then the USPS will choose the most appropriate business for the next contract post office. The entire procedure will take a few months. Our goal is to have the post office placed in a professional business environment that will not only serve our postal needs but also create a synergistic effect for the chosen business.

### Economic Development



Good things are happening with our Economic Development Commission. The Board of Selectmen has appointed three new members to our EDC. The re-energized Commission has several plans to reach out to current businesses as well as encourage new business to make Salem their home. A special thanks to Chairman Frank Sroka for his fine leadership of our EDC as well as his many, many years as a leader in our community.

Our region of Southeastern Connecticut has recently achieved the Federal Designation of an Economic Development District. This will enable additional research funding as well as grant opportunities for municipalities in Southeastern Connecticut.



### Buy Local

With the many fine business in our town, consider buying local when possible. Buying local supports our businesses, this in turn supports our community.



### UCONN program of Landscape Architecture

As we continue to look for ways to make our municipal properties more attractive for our townspeople, we have invited the University of Connecticut – Program of Landscaping Architecture for ideas and suggestions. The study will focus on non-regulatory measures to enhance our objectives such as landscaping, benches, fencing, etc. I look forward to sharing the study when completed with appropriate Boards and Commissions and our fellow townspeople.



### Open Meetings/Open Government

All regular and special meetings in town have a Public Comment portion on the agenda. I encourage all townspeople to attend meetings, speak during public comment, and follow what is going on in our town. All meeting date and times are posted by the Town Clerk and listed online at [Salemct.gov](http://Salemct.gov).

In closing, I again wish you all a happy and safe 2014. Thank you to all our dedicated volunteers who give so much of their time and talent to make Salem a better place in which to live.

I am honored to be your First Selectman.

Kevin Lyden

Post Office: neftali77 | 123RF; Economic Development: patpitchaya | FreeDigitalPhotos.net

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECONSTITUTES EDC

*Frank Sroka, EDC Chairman*

At its January 2014 meeting, the Board of Selectmen took positive action to reconstitute the Economic Development Commission (EDC) by appointing three new members: two regular and one alternate. This action brings the total membership to six (five regular, one alternate), leaving one vacancy for a second alternate member. The Salem charter authorizes seven members for EDC: five regular and two alternates.

The new members are Wendy Mikolinski, owner of Salem Health Mart pharmacy; Andy Lightner, an engineer at Electric Boat, and Ken Bondi, a local commercial real estate broker and agent. They join current members Ada Vaill, a biochemist and proprietor of Flora's Naturals in Salem; Jenifer Lee, EDC Secretary and co-owner of Browning and Lee Hardware in Colchester, and Frank Sroka, currently EDC chair and retired from Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company.

The EDC has two main goals for Salem: (1) to actively support and encourage businesses already in town, and (2) to seek other businesses who might be interested in locating in Salem, and whose presence would enhance the town and provide local employment opportunities and strengthen the business tax base. Examples of some activities currently being undertaken by EDC, with the support of the Board of Selectmen, include:

- Completion of an updated brochure highlighting Salem's main characteristics and assets that would appeal to businesses considering a location here;
- Completion of a local business survey and database that will provide valuable business-related information to EDC and the Selectmen which will, in turn, provide better focus and efficiency to future economic development initiatives;

*continued on page 20*

## PAY YOUR TAXES ON-LINE

*Cheryl Philopena, Tax Collector*

*Necia Stevens, Assistant Tax Collector*

Pay your taxes from the comfort of your warm house. In the last year or so, we have had many requests from town residents to pay their taxes on-line. Now, you can pay by check on-line. Soon, you will be able to pay by credit card. The process is simple and quick. You must use the Town of Salem's website, which is [www.salemct.gov](http://www.salemct.gov). First, you must be on the Home page and have a check ready, as you will need the routing and account number from the bottom of the check. At the bottom of the Home page, on the left side, you will see "pay taxes on line." Click on it and follow the directions. If you click on "tax information" at the bottom right of the Home page, you will see what you paid in taxes during the past calendar year. Your tax information from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 will be up on this site. This will be useful to you when you file your federal and state taxes. If you have any questions, please call us in the tax office at 860-859-3873, Ext 150 or 160.



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**From the Desk of  
Senator Andrea L. Stillman, 20th District**

Over the past few years, we in state government have fixed our gaze on Connecticut's economy. Our top priorities have been growing small businesses, cutting unnecessary red tape and creating jobs for our residents.

While we still have work to do, we have made a great start on the road to economic recovery. Much of this has been due to our fierce advocacy for small businesses and manufacturers, the real drivers of our economy. In 2011, the legislature created the Small Business Express Program to offer loans and matching grants to local businesses so they could expand and create jobs. The program has been highly popular and extremely successful for businesses across the state.

As we continue our efforts to catalyze our economy at the local and state level, we must extend our gaze beyond our state's borders and even the borders of the U.S. The ability of Connecticut's businesses to expand depends on our capacity for exporting the best products and technologies we produce.

Last year we created a law (Public Act 13-56) that encourages the exportation of state products and services through the state's Small Business Express Program. The 2013 law establishes a preference in the Small Business Express application process for businesses that are attempting to enter foreign markets, in addition to businesses in the fields of precision manufacturing, business services, sustainable technology, bioscience and information technology.

Connecticut is already a top exporter, ranked tenth among all states in per capita exports. The total value of exports in Connecticut in 2012 was almost \$16 billion, and in the first half of 2013, Connecticut's exports rose to a record volume: \$8.5 billion.

As other states work to market their businesses abroad and create new jobs in their communities, Connecticut must keep up with the pack, and I hope, race ahead of it. According to the International Trade Administration, the state's key merchandise categories include transportation equipment, computer and electronic products, and electrical equipment.

With our businesses emerging as leaders in foreign markets, Connecticut must continue to offer an environment conducive to business expansion and job creation. We must advocate for programs like Small Business Express that embrace local business' strengths, and work to eliminate unnecessary regulations and red tape that hinder expansion.

As we look to grow export industries in our state, it is essential that we give businesses the support they need to be competitors on a regional, national and international stage. By giving them an incentive to export, we show them the state will actively support them in their business ventures. With this support, we can continue to make Connecticut a leader in these globe-spanning industries.

### EDC *continued from page 19*

- Work with the First Selectmen and other interested persons on targeted projects to enhance the visual appeal of commercial and business areas in Salem, and to highlight and publicize available business locations for occupancy that are currently vacant;
- Support local Salem businesses and help them to market themselves in different ways; provide contact information for business loans and microloans;
- Research and obtain resources that may be available to us from outside agencies such as the Southeastern CT Council of Governments, Southeastern CT Enterprise Region, and the State of CT to enhance and support our own local Economic Development activities.

Finally, the EDC will continue to work closely with the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Finance, as well as other boards and commissions in Salem, to advance an appropriate and energetic Economic Development strategy and related activities to support mutually agreeable goals for the Town of Salem.

The meetings of EDC are open to the public and are scheduled for the third Monday of the month, except when that day is a state or federal holiday (the meeting is then on the fourth Monday). There is also no meeting in August. Meetings are held in Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Consult the town's web site for further details and additional information.



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# TALK OF THE TOWN

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

## THREE ARTISTS TO DISPLAY AT SALEM TOWN CENTER PLAZA



Close-up of tropical leaf with water droplets by Vernon Smith

framed sepia photography of exotic Southern California botanicals including tropicals, palms, bamboo, and succulents.

This welcome transformation is a result of cooperation from the Salem Economic Development Commission's Ken Bondi, First Selectman Kevin Lyden, the Town Center Plaza owner Dennis Bok, and the artists. All this is an effort to make the storefronts attractive to townspeople, tenants, and customers.

The displays are expected to be in place by early March. Stop by, shop, and enjoy this beautiful artwork by Salem's own.

The works of three local artists will soon grace the shabby papered windows of the vacant storefronts at the Salem Town Center Plaza, at the roundabout. Holly Allgood will paint window murals. Bopha Smith will show her watercolor paintings of florals and local landscapes. Vernon Smith will display his oversize,

## LINDY ERIKSON WINS!



Lindy Erikson

Association. But wait, the contest is not over yet!

Lindy will receive a prize of \$100 at a luncheon on March 27 in Cromwell where all of the winning posters will be on display. After lunch, the statewide winner will be announced. Good luck Lindy!

The annual statewide competition is promoted by elementary school teachers and is sponsored by The Connecticut Fire Marshals' Association, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Connecticut Fire Chiefs' Association, State Board of Education and the Connecticut FAIR Plan, which represents the insurance industry. The winners from each county will be exhibited in locations throughout Connecticut, including the State Capitol.

Each year approximately 30,000 4th and 5th grade students from over 130 communities participate in the Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Contest. The purpose of the contest is to promote child and adult awareness of fire prevention responsibilities. This year's theme is "Fire Prevention: Everyone/Everyday" with an emphasis on kitchen fires.

When Lindy Erikson, a fifth grader at Salem School, submitted her poster for the fire prevention contest, she won the first level to represent Salem School at the county level. However, she didn't know that she was a winner until her poster won the New London title for the fifth grade level, and she was notified by Connie Herman for the Fire

There isn't a dad in America who didn't squirm in his seat at minute 3:03 of Idina Menzel's already-legendary performance of "Let it Go," the signature anthem of Disney's 2013 Oscar-contender, *Frozen*. The character Elsa, until then an anxiety-plagued agoraphobic cursed with a dangerous power she can't control, finally yanks down her tightly-tucked French braid into a warrior-queen fishtail and shimmies toward the audience belting HERE I stand, IN the light of day-ay, with more lateral hip-swing than Jessica Rabbit.

It's been about a month since our second screening of the movie, and my internal monologue as the scene unfolded is still pretty fresh in my mind. At first it was, hey, that's a pleasant piano intro. The animators really killed the mountain visuals. Going a bit dark, here, but okay, Elsa's had a rough day. She never asked for magic freezy hands. And there goes the Blue Glove of Metaphor, tossed to the breeze. A little more up-tempo now, you stomp your feet, girl, nice work. I hope my kids develop that kind of confidence. Maybe a little less defiance, but be yourself, good stuff. Do you know how much that cloak probably cost? Not sure that shoulder bounce was necessary, but okay. Cool staircase. Now that's an ice castle! Who's your architect, Frank Gehry? Whoa, whoa, slow down. Slow down, piano guy. What's going on here? Where did those smoky eyes come from? We get it, you've got a storm raging on—does she look taller? Down goes the hair and, holy bananas, what is that groove shake and WHO APPROVED THAT DRESS. I am watching this with my daughters! I mean, sure, Ariel was hot back in the day, but I was single, it

## LET IT GO

By Joe Newman

was harmless, but this, this is another level. I feel dirty and ashamed and now my Milk Duds are all gone.

The girls, our daughters, are loving it. Abby, all of eight years old and the eldest, looks ready to steal my credit card and go running for Justice. I help myself to her popcorn. Not gonna happen, kid. Not on my watch. You can let it go some other day.

A close reading of the lyrics leaves me wondering whether songwriters Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez were conflicted about the kind of song they were hoping to write. In a New York Daily News interview, the duo compares "Let it Go" to their work on another Idina Menzel landmark, "Defying Gravity," from the musical, *Wicked*. That song, evidenced by its title, is constructed around the ideal of ascendancy. Everyone deserves a shot to fly. It's uplifting, almost spiritual, with vague warnings about pride and selfishness.

"Let it Go" is different. It's not about fulfilling potential or rising to some fairy-tale challenge. The song is a straightforward narrative description of a young girl entering womanhood deciding who she is, is good enough. There's no prince, no kiss, nothing but age, experience, and exasperation to hasten the change. It's what I, as a dad, fear the most. That it's simply going to happen, without any specific cause or moment. One day she'll be my little girl and then, one day, she won't.

And I'm afraid of what lies on the other side of that change, both for myself and for her. I hope my reasons say more about Abby's maturity than my immaturity, but right now, we can relate to one another. She likes Legos, I like Legos. She likes fried chicken strips, so do I. We finish each other's sandwiches. It works. We can laugh and roll our eyes at one another, and in the evening, I know I'll be the one who tucks her into bed. Nothing in this world can get to her without going through me first. It's a closed system, and one I understand.

Of course, once the growing-up does happen, I want her to develop the power to build whatever castles she may need. That's what *Frozen* is also telling us, that the world can be a frigid place. I might be an anachronistic mid-century lunkhead with occasional laugh-track views of fatherhood, but even I hope for the day when she honestly doesn't need me anymore. I just don't want her to turn away (from me) and slam the door.

Don't get me wrong, even at eight, Abby can still sometimes be an ice queen. Especially when it comes to her little sister. There was a moment a few weeks ago when I caught Abby punching Hannah in the shoulder. Maybe she had a reason, maybe she didn't. But we don't hit, so up to her bedroom she went. Elsa's existential no wrong, no right, no rules for me doesn't fly in this household.

After a few minutes, I went up to her room to check on her — usually when she's punished, there's some loud declaration of injustice, followed by a vicious game of dolls where the dad is occasionally maimed, not too

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# FROM THE LAND: SALEM – AN OASIS FOR AVIAN VISITORS

By David Bingham

Salem's preserved lands are a Mecca for foreign visitors that fly in every year. Forests and farms, marshes and meadows, ponds and puddles - all provide a variety of entertainment, habitat and food choices for a parade of feathered visitors that come from afar at all times of the year.

Our winter birds are mostly from Canada. White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos are among the commonest winter birds at our feeders and in brushy areas. Like the more secretive and uncommon Fox Sparrows, they may nest in northern New England, but most spend their summers in southern Canada.



Bobolink

The cheerful tinkling call of the Tree Sparrow is more likely heard in small flocks around the edges of pastures and forests, but they occasionally visit feeders. They are attracted into backyards especially during snowstorms, looking for small seeds like millet. Their summer grounds extend to the far north in Canada, but they are regular winter visitors to Salem.

Depending on food from pines and spruce trees in the north country, there are some years when Salem hosts significant invasions of birds from the far north, including Redpolls, Evening Grosbeaks, Crossbills, and Pine Siskins. This year numbers have been scarce, because food supplies in the boreal forest have been good.

One potential visitor is from the Arctic Circle. Snowy Owls have been seen many times in Connecticut this winter, apparently due to an excellent reproductive success last summer. The young birds are kicked out of their winter hunting grounds if they are too numerous. While no reports have been made in Salem, they were seen in Old Lyme and along the Connecticut River in Haddam. This was a year to look for them around the edges of our marshes, a large white owl hunting in daytime, and perching on a fence post or snag out in the open.



Snowy Owl

Spring brings foreign migrants from the south, including all of the countries of Central and South America, either passing through or stopping to nest in Connecticut. Connecticut's coastline regularly boasts shorebirds from as far as Antarctica, and storms at times will blow them inland where they can be seen in puddles or ponds in Salem.

As many as 40 species of Warblers and Vireos, mostly arriving from the Southern Hemisphere, can be seen in our region during spring migration. Bobolinks, handsome Blackbirds with yellow and white suit-coats, come all the way from the Pampas of Argentina and do their bubbling mating flights in our meadows in May, around Mother's Day.

Many of these Neotropical bird species have become quite rare, due to loss of habitat, pollution and inadequate food or shelter en route to, or at, their destinations. Salem provides a critical oasis of lush and diverse vegetation that harbors berries, seeds and insect populations essential to bird recovery from the long migration and to the reproductive survival of their offspring.

Each species of bird needs its special niche of food and shelter requirements to be available. Unfortunately, land development has unwittingly devastated many populations of birds, especially those that require specialized habitats or large forest blocks away from developed areas. Salem continues to have significant areas available. However, much of this land is at risk from further development, and so are the birds.

When migrating birds arrive in Connecticut in spring, many have lost up to 50% of their body weight en route. They have sometimes flown thousands of miles non-stop. Not only may they arrive to find their usual patch of forest or meadow turned into lawn and non-native vegetation, but also climate change has put them at risk.



Pine Siskin

In recent years, birds have faced more severe weather patterns, including early warming, with premature flowering and insect hatches that no longer match

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Most people think of their homes as a refuge, a place where you and your family are protected from harm, a safe haven. I have also thought that way as well . . . until recently. As a member of the Connecticut Nurses Association, I serve on their Government Relations Committee. One of the duties of this committee is to advocate for increased public awareness related to environmental health issues. I was introduced to the short film entitled 'Contaminated Without Consent'. I never thought the environment we are advocating for, would be my bedroom.

The film talks about a study of a familiar household element, dust. Dust from 70 homes across the country including homes in New England was studied to analyze the chemicals that may be found in homes because of normal use of household products. The results were disturbing.

Products that we consider benign such as curtains, clothing, our mattress and even children's toys contain toxic chemicals that make their way into the dust that we inhale and are exposed to on a daily basis.

Phthalates, used to soften plastics and vinyl, are found in children's toys and plastic food containers.

While banned in some states from children's sippy cups and baby bottles, Bisphenol A or BPA remains an ingredient in many products, including the lining of metal cans for food, plastic containers, wallpaper, shower curtains as well as receipts on thermal paper; the ones we pick up at grocery stores, gas stations and ATMs.

Fire retardant and stain resistant chemicals are found in curtain and furniture



**HEALTH MATTERS  
HIDDEN TOXIC CHEMICALS  
IN YOUR HOME**

By Diane Gilbert

fabric, rugs, carpeting and clothing, as well as computer screens, television sets, and your bedroom mattress.

Absorbed through the skin, digested in our food and water, and inhaled in the air we breathe, the chemicals in our dust are showing up in our bodies. Blood, hair and urine samples taken from the families in these homes all showed the presence of these substances. The most alarming fact was that some of the highest levels were found in children under the age of four. That is not surprising when you consider where children spend a good majority of their time; they live on the floor, they crawl on rugs, and they are constantly putting

their hands to their mouth. Young children are more biologically vulnerable to permanent damage from chemical exposure due to their immature neurologic and immune systems and rapid growth changes.

## What do we know about the long-term effects of exposure to these substances?

We know that all of these substances are endocrine disrupting chemicals. What that means is this:

Human health depends on a well-functioning endocrine system to regulate the release of certain hormones that are essential for functions such as metabolism, growth and development, sleep and mood. Endocrine disruptors like the ones listed above can change the function of these hormone systems, thus increasing the risk of diabetes, childhood obesity, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases, migraine headaches, reproductive disorders, and behavioral problems. Another

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# ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES SEMINAR COURSE

## CREDIT COURSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND TO ALL AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

By Diba Khan-Bureau

Once again, Three Rivers Community College has opened to the public an *Environmental Issues Seminars* class being offered through the college's Environmental Engineering Technology program. The class meets once a week, and will be taught entirely by guest lecturers, speaking on a wide range of locally relevant environmental topics.

Members of the community are invited to attend any session(s) that interests them. No advance reservations are necessary. The class meets Wednesday evenings from 6 - 7:45pm at Three Rivers Community College, Room C101. The classes began at the start of February, but there are still many classes available. For additional information, please contact Program Coordinator Diba Khan-Bureau at 860-215-9443, or by e-mail [dkhan-bureau@trcc.comnet.edu](mailto:dkhan-bureau@trcc.comnet.edu).

The *Environmental Issues Seminars* class is part of the Environmental Health and Safety certificate and the Environmental Engineering Technology AS programs at Three Rivers, and can be taken for credit through the program. However, once program coordinator Diba Khan-Bureau got to work on securing speakers for the class, she knew she had put together an extremely knowledgeable cadre of local environmental experts. "I felt it was important to open it up to the public to attend whatever sessions might be of interest," said Diba recently. "Everyone needs to know something about the environment that they live in. Now more than ever we need to get our students and the public interested and educated in our natural resources, environmental policy, regulation and social equity."

## DONATION REQUEST FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The East Lyme Scholarship Association, Inc. annually awards scholarships to deserving East Lyme High School students. The Association is seeking monetary donations to continue to assist graduates with the cost of college tuition. The Scholarship Association has a 501(c)(3) status; therefore all donations are tax deductible. Donations of any amount are gratefully accepted. New donors contributing \$300 or more are entitled to name the scholarship, and may provide reasonable criteria to be used by the Association in awarding that scholarship.

Last year, the Association awarded scholarships totaling \$80,500 to 57 students in the class of 2013. This would not have been possible without the generosity of many donors in the community.

If you would like to help to continue this tradition on an annual basis or with a one-time contribution, donations may be mailed to **East Lyme Scholarship Association, P.O. Box 190, Niantic, CT 06357**. Further information may be obtained by calling **RoseAnn Hardy at 860-739-6946 ext. 2551** or **Lori Singer at 860-739-6946 ext. 2546**.

## FROM THE LAND continued from page 22



Fox Sparrow

historic patterns that the birds require, or even a late spring freeze, weather that can kill off food supplies at critical times.

The wide diversity of habitats and the limited development in Salem allows more leeway for birds to adapt to these changes in climate. As Connecticut continues to be developed, Salem becomes an ever more important oasis, an essential refueling and nesting area for tens of thousands of individual birds and hundreds of species.

Good stewardship of the land by the people of Salem has been carried out by organizations that protect open space, wetlands and farmland, by a sensitive public administration and its regulatory commissions, and most of all by private land use decisions.

Maximizing native species diversity, minimizing plantings of non-native species, and good land stewardship and protection by an educated public will insure that these fragile visitors will continue to find a welcome stay whenever they visit Salem.

Every yard can contribute to, or can detract from, the wellbeing of these threatened birds. Spring is the time for planning your yard. Birds enrich all of us, by their beauty, their inspiring feats of survival, and their uplifting melodies. However, it is up to each of us to help them thrive and feel at home in Salem, starting in our own back yard, and by choosing wise community leaders.

*David Bingham, a Salem native, has dedicated his life to preservation of the Town's rural character and natural resources. He has served on numerous boards and committees and is the founder and former president of the Salem Land Trust. He authored "From the Land" in Our Town - Salem for over 15 years.*

## SPRING 2014 Environmental Issues Seminars

Classes run from 6-7:45 pm and will be held in room C101 on the Three Rivers Campus. Students taking classes for credit should arrive by 5:30 PM; noncredit students by 6 PM.

<p>For more info, contact Diba Khan-Bureau at 860-215-9443 or <a href="mailto:dkhan-bureau@trcc.comnet.edu">dkhan-bureau@trcc.comnet.edu</a></p>		<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>MARCH</b></p> <p>Dr. Hedley Freake, Professor Nutritional Sciences UConn - Food, Health and the Environment</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>John Turenne, Sustainable Food Systems; Sustaining Ourselves and the Environment- 1 Step at a Time</p>	<p><b>SPRING BREAK</b></p>
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p>Anthony Irving, Chair of the Eightmile Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee and Past President of the Lyme Land Trust - Lessons from the Eightmile Wild and Scenic River Designation</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Dr. Michael Dietz - Uconn Extension office Program Director NEMO - The Jordan Cove Project: Stormwater and Low Impact Design</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Bob Crelin, Author, Dark Skies Activist, and Amateur Astronomer will present on Dark Skies and the many ways artificial light impacts society and our natural world. He will also have a book signing for his book "There Once Was a Sky Full of Stars"</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Hank Gruner, Herpetologist and Vice President of Programs, the Connecticut Science Center will present on the timber rattlesnake in New England and using novel datasets to look at the historical distribution of species.</p>	
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Michael Beauchene, CT. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection - Rapid Bioassessment, Benthic Macro Invertebrates Survey and Management</p>	<p><b>MAY</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Dr. Charles Yarrish from UConn Stamford. - Sustainable aquaculture by integrating seaweeds in polyculture systems for bioremediation and diversification in Long Island Sound.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>David Stokes, CT. Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Waste Management - Hazardous Waste Management and Enforcement</p>	

## LET IT GO continued from page 21

badly, in a horrible pink Barbie car crash. But not this time. It was quiet, and I was concerned.

Abby was sitting on her beanbag, head under a green blanket, crying softly. She didn't seem angry or frustrated by the inequity of the household penal system, just very sad. I sat down next to her and asked her what was wrong. "I don't know why I do it," she said, looking at her hands. "I don't understand. It just happens and I can't control it. I don't mean to be angry, then I just am. I'm a horrible child."

It was the last line that killed me. I put my arm around her and told her that, while we don't hit, she was the furthest thing from horrid. You're wonderful, I told her, explaining that it was a kid's job to make mistakes, and as far as I was concerned, I thought she was perfect. Maybe that isn't the right thing to say to a son or daughter from a parenting standpoint, but I wanted to remind her how unconditionally we love her.

A few days later, we were driving to school while listening to "Let it Go", cranked to eleven, as we had every day for the last month. They've known all the lyrics for a while, but that morning's rendition was, for whatever reason, particularly spirited. As they approached the penultimate stanza, Abby's voice grew louder, until she belted out:

let it go, let it go  
that perfect girl is gone  
HERE I stand  
IN the light of day  
let the storm rage ON  
the cold never bothered me anyway

Just then, I happened to glance back in the rearview mirror and found Abby staring right at me, in some kind of delayed, Elsa-induced defiance. She knew she was singing the illusion of the future perfect, telling me that someday, maybe sooner than later, my perfect girl really would be gone.

That's when I understood, with cold certainty. The let-it-go isn't meant for them. It's meant for us.

*Salem native Joe Newman is the Managing Director of Treasure Hill Farm and Executive Director of the Lyme Art Association*



## Note from the Sandbox SURVIVING AIR TRAVEL WITH LITTLE ONES

By Sarah Bernhardtson

**W**ith our family scattered around the country, my boys (ages two and five), have already spent more time on planes in their short little lives than I did in my first 25 years of life. Through trial and error, we have discovered a few tips that make the arduous task of shuffling kids, luggage, and diaper bags through airports and across the country. Thinking of planning a trip with little ones in tow? Read on!

If you are planning to pack a car seat for your young child, consider using it in flight. Booster seats are generally not FAA approved for air travel, but most car seats are—the label on the seat will tell you if it is or not. Seats can easily be damaged when checked as luggage, and your child will be safer and be able to sleep more comfortably in his or her seat.

Babies under 24 months can fly in your lap free on domestic flights. The rule is one lap-infant per adult, and you should be prepared to provide proof-of-age with a birth certificate or passport for your baby.

Consider trading in your traditional diaper bag for a backpack. You will want your hands free to get through security and board the plane.

Instead of packing your baby or young child a change of clothes in your carry-on bag, pack a pair of pajamas. This way, if your checked baggage is lost, he or she will be all set for bedtime until you can resolve your lost luggage the next day.

If your toddler is potty-trained, talk up the “fun, tiny potty” on the airplane before your trip. The small restroom with a very loud flusher really caught my then three-year-old son off guard, and led to a very tearful experience!

If your destination is much warmer or colder than home, be sure to dress in layers. We once flew to Florida in March, and had cranky, too warm kids in jeans and rugby shirts for a two and a half hour drive after the plane landed. No fun!

Plan for take-off and landing. The pressure change can be very painful for little ears. If you are nursing or bottle-feeding, prepare to do so then. If not, be sure to have a sippy cup, gum, or lollipops ready to pull out to help.

Pack plenty of special snacks and quiet toys. I take the kids to the grocery store the day before a trip and let them pick out two small treats to keep in their own backpacks for the flight. Toys that have worked really well in-flight include Wikki Stix (wax covered, moldable strings), small magnet doodle boards, books, travel-sized paint with water books, and sticker books.

If you are bringing along an iPod or portable DVD player, buy some kid-sized headphones. They are inexpensive, and really make it easier to hear the movies over the loud noise of the plane’s engine.

Don’t let the fear of traveling with young children keep you from doing it. Chances are high they will love the adventure, and you will make some great family memories. Perhaps the best piece of advice I ever received about flying with babies was this, from a fellow traveler while my 6 month old was having a hard time mid-flight: “Look at it this way: babies cry. If you do everything you can and you cannot stop the noise, you will likely never see your fellow passengers again! So relax!” Happy travels!

*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](http://www.CTWorkingMoms.com).*

## HEALTH MATTERS *continued from page 22*

study reported just this week in The Clinical Advisor suggests a strong link between pesticide exposure and Alzheimer disease.

Chronic diseases, especially ones related to the endocrine system, are increasing globally. So is our exposure to these synthetic chemicals. Now there is evidence that the two statistics are linked together.

Most Americans believe the government is protecting them from toxic substances, that chemicals are tested before they go into lipstick or food packaging. However, the truth is completely the opposite; chemicals enter the market with little or no scrutiny. More than 80,000 chemicals are permitted for use in the United States and most have never been fully tested for toxicity to humans.

### So what is being done to limit our exposure to these substances?

We are seeing action at different levels.

On the global front a study last year by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) calls for more research to understand fully the associations between endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) which are found in many household and industrial products and their links to specific diseases and disorders. Green chemistry is being embraced in the scientific world. Scientists are finding ways to design materials that society depends upon, without harming the environment.

In the United Kingdom, 1100 different chemicals have been banned from cosmetics. Some 1500 companies followed suit by joining the Compact for Safe Cosmetics, taking a voluntary pledge of safety and transparency in regards to the content of their products. In the absence of any real government regulation, the Compact has played an important role in shifting companies toward safer cosmetics and giving consumers information they need to find healthier products for their families.

Nationally, for the first time in 26 years, Congress is considering updates to the country’s regulation of toxic chemicals. Under the current law, chemical companies do not have to do tests to prove a chemical safe before it is used. The burden of proof has been left to the Environmental Protection Agency to determine when a chemical is unsafe. Unfortunately, the current proposal does not go far enough to protect public health and is not likely to move forward anytime soon.

On the state level, California officially removed a decades-old requirement that flame-retardants be included in the filling of upholstered furniture. Many states have taken action by limiting BPA in baby products.

Here in Connecticut, within the General Assembly, the Children’s Committee will raise a bill this year mandating the Department of Public Health to identify chemicals of concern to children in consumer products and recommend ways to reduce such exposure. Connecticut has

been a leader in passing landmark laws to ban BPA in certain recyclable containers, baby bottles and infant formula containers and is still the only state to ban it from receipt paper. With over 80,000 chemicals in commerce, this new proposal is a step in the right direction!

As a community, we can:

- Join with those fighting for public health safety, contact your legislators
- Help generate a local ban on products with BPA and phthalates by urging large retailers like Walmart, Walgreens and CVS to shift to safer alternatives
- Insist that schools have and comply with a toxic free policy
- Work to ban pesticide applications in communities, especially near vulnerable people
- Contact cosmetic makers to make sure they stop putting untested chemicals in their products
- Ask state and federal legislators what they are doing to stop public health risks from chemical exposure
- Ask candidates running for office in your area what they will do to protect you from toxic chemicals
- Check out the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT on facebook or at [safehealthyct.org](http://safehealthyct.org) and learn more!

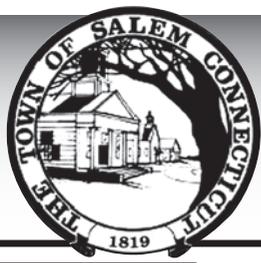
On a personal level, take these actions to limit your family’s exposure to some of the most prevalent endocrine disrupting chemicals:

- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter
- Say no to receipts, non-stick pans, stain and water resistant coatings on furniture and carpeting
- Avoid plastics marked PC and do not warm food in plastic in the microwave.
- Avoid products that list ‘fragrance’ as an ingredient
- Invest in a good water filter
- Limit canned foods
- Eat fewer animal products
- Eat iodized salt
- Buy organic produce
- Limit the use of pesticides on your property

With the advent of President Barack Obama’s controversial health care reform, the urgency for addressing toxic chemicals may come to the forefront. Among core components of the Affordable Care Act are measures to promote prevention of disease. In the past, health care systems were paid to repair damage. Going forward, they will be paid to keep people healthy.

To learn more about toxic chemicals visit: <http://safecosmetics.org>; <http://www.ewg.org>; View the film ‘Contaminated Without Consent’ on <http://youtube.com>, google dirtydozenchemicals.

*Diane Gilbert lives in Salem and has been practicing nursing for over thirty years. You can reach her at [gilbertbcc@yaboo.com](mailto:gilbertbcc@yaboo.com).*



Things to Do . . .

# AROUND TOWN

Find out what's happening in Salem



## SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY UPCOMING EVENTS

*Funding for our programs provided by The Friends of Salem Library from membership dues and donations. Please become a Friend today!*

**Dr. Seuss Party – Saturday, March 1, 2-3 p.m.** Fun, games and food RSVP

**Mah Jongg – Mondays @ 12:30 p.m.**, If coming for the first time, please call the library. Beginners welcome!

**Seniors** meet to Wii bowl and play card games **every Tuesday, 12-4 p.m.**

**T'ai Chi – Thursdays** every Thursday in March, March 6, 13, 20, 27 \$5 per person, per session, 7:00 p.m. Adults & Teens with Carol Irwin. RSVP

**Teen Advisory Group – Friday, March 7 at 3:30 p.m.** & **every 1st Friday** of every month

**Classical Music Appreciation** with Susan James from Christ Church School of the Arts, Norwich. **Series begins Saturday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. to Noon**, (5 sessions March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5) \$10 for the series per person. For Teens and Adults. RSVP

**Concert in the Stacks: Music of the Irish-Americans.** Rick Spencer and the Irish duo "Ask Your Father". **Saturday, March 8 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Plant an Herb and Pansy Pot to take home with Anne Duncan**, Salem Herbfarm. Cost \$10. **Saturday, March 15 @ 1 p.m.** RSVP

**It's Pi Day!** Fun activities provided by Donna Blackman. Ice cream provided by Ben & Jerry's & little pi(es) – **Saturday, March 15, 1-3 p.m.**

**Catherine Masud, international filmmaker** presents one of her films on **Saturday, March 22 @ 1:00 p.m.** RSVP. Catherine is an American-born filmmaker, residing in Bangladesh since 1995. She has collaborated with her husband & filmmaking partner **Tareque Masud** to make numerous shorts, documentaries and features, many of which have been nationally/internationally awarded and shown around the world. Since Tareque's untimely death in August 2011, Catherine has devoted herself to the archiving and preservation of his work, and the completion of their unfinished oeuvre. Please read a more detailed article in this issue.

**Make Fairy Gardens** with Sharon Geer on **Saturday, May 3 @ 2:00 p.m.** RSVP

**Spring Book Sale, Crafts and Indoor & Outdoor Plants** – paperbacks, cookbooks, Kids books, Puzzles & Games. **Thursday, May 15, 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m.**; **Friday, May 16 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**; **Saturday, May 17 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

**Friends of Salem Library** – Last meeting of the fiscal year. **May 21, 7:00 p.m.** Everyone welcome!

Salem Library has **4 BOOK GROUPS** which meet every month!

New members always welcome!

Please look to see what we are reading on our website located at [salemct.gov](http://salemct.gov)

**3rd Tuesday Nights @ 7:15 p.m.**

**Mostly Graphic Novels** for kids around age 12 – **last Mondays, 5-6 p.m.**

Fun conversations & pizza!

**Moms Book Club** – **last Thursdays at 10 a.m.**

Bring the kids, we have a babysitter

**Books in the Afternoon** – **last Thursdays at 1 p.m.**



## SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

By Diane Weston

I think by now everyone is counting the days to warmer weather!

Due to safety concerns, two of our main pieces of equipment, the "fire truck" and the seesaw at the Round Hill Road playground must be removed. The expense of replacement equipment is a request for this coming years' budget. The Recreation Commission hopes to have new equipment this summer pending the inclusion and approval of the requested funds.

We have had successful before and after school programs. The ongoing **Art & Drawing** classes with Holly Alligood have shown the artistic ability of the Salem students! It is wonderful to see the progress and the different levels of drawing that are accomplished. The **Film Production Workshop** with Brian Fleming is proving to show the students that there are different aspects to making a short film. From writing to filming, the students are learning what it takes to produce a film.

Plans are in the works for upcoming programs and motor coach trips. The summer months are starting to take shape. There will be **Music Lessons** with Chris Hebert.

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## THE HARRIS BROOK TRAIL

By Sue Spang,  
Chairman of the Salem Path Committee

For those of you who are not familiar with our multipurpose trail, we hope that you will soon become familiar with it, especially with the weather getting warmer. The trail starts at the Music Vale Road parking lot and continues to Round Hill Road with a spur for the school. The start of the trail has a finished packed stone surface. The remainder of the trail is a dirt path that meanders through some of the most scenic woods in Salem.

For those of you who use the trail regularly, we hope that you are enjoying some of the enhancements in the last couple of years. We have been fortunate to have scouts do projects for their Eagle Scout badges on the trail. Their work complements the trail, and provides great places to rest and enjoy nature. Pratik Ubba put in a bench, marked the trail, did some clearing and put down non-slip paint on the bridge. Justin Annello for his Eagle Scout project installed a picnic table by the river, put up signs along the route, and applied non-slip paint to the boardwalk. The trail committee is grateful for the hard work the scouts did on the trail.

We are also in the process of clearing out much of the invasive species that have overtaken the property on the corner of Music Vale Road and Hartford Road. Some of you may remember when the area was farmed and had corn growing on it. We are working to reclaim the area from the bittersweet and thorns and make a park area that will enhance our municipal center of town.

The trail committee has been working hard on getting permits from various regulatory agencies so we can build walking bridges over Harris Brook. It has been a lengthy process but we see light at the end of the tunnel. We just received a Flood Management Certificate/Permit from the DEEP and are now in the process of getting an Army Corps of Engineers permit. This will allow us to commit to having the whole trail be multipurpose and very accessible to a wide variety of abilities.

If you have not been to the Harris Brook Trail yet, go and enjoy. There are maps available at the town hall.



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## THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SALEM

By Rev. Tim Dubeau

The Congregational Church of Salem is located on the Salem Green, Route 85, about 1½ miles north of the roundabout at the intersection of routes 82 and 85. Call 860-859-1211 or e-mail us at [salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Visitors are always welcome. Check out our website at [www.congregationalchurchsaalem.org](http://www.congregationalchurchsaalem.org) or follow us on Facebook.

### WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

All are welcome to attend any of the following activities

Our typical schedule through May 2014 is as follows:

**Worship services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Adult Sunday School and Bible Zone for children and youth – 9:45 a.m.**



**2nd Sundays, each month: "The Destination"** – for those looking for an alternative to a "traditional" Sunday morning service. Join us at 5:00 p.m. in the *Christian Community Center* for light fare of soup/bread then at 5:45 p.m. for an hour mixed with contemporary Christian music and a Biblically centered message. Our worship format is appropriate for people of all ages but especially geared to those desiring a less traditional style of worship. Child-care is available.

**February 25 – 7:00 p.m.: Connecticut Partnership for Long Term Care** in the *Christian Community Center*. If you are considering your options for long-term care, a representative from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management will present an overview of this important topic. Options will be discussed concerning how Connecticut residents can meet their long-term care needs while protecting their assets. The State partners with a variety of insurance providers, the names of which will be made available along with cost comparisons for the competing policies. All companies working through the CT Partnership program are required to meet several standards guaranteed by the State. If interested in attending, please call 860-859-1211 or send an e-mail confirmation including your name and telephone # to the *Congregational Church of Salem* at [salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net](mailto:salemcongregate@sbcglobal.net). This seminar is strictly to explain the State's program and NOT a solicitation for your business on behalf of any of the partnering Insurance companies.

**March 28-30:** Interested in hearing about a Christian ministry to orphans and widows located in Bangalore India? Mark your calendars to reserve all or part of this weekend. We will host the Indian director of **Helping Hands India** beginning with a "meet and greet" pizza feast on Friday evening, a theme meal centered on south central Indian cuisine on Saturday evening, and two messages on Sunday morning with a Q&A session between services. Please access our church website for more information as the date approaches.



**April 20, 5:45 a.m.:** Join us in our parking lot for an **Easter Sunrise service** and then at our *Christian Community Center* for breakfast immediately following. A traditional Easter service is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting House.

**May 23 – 7:00 p.m.:** As part of their New England tour, *Piercing Word* is coming to our *Christian Community Center*. You will not want to miss this opportunity to come together for an evening of music, worship, snacks and most importantly to hear this amazing group of players act out one or more complete books of the Bible. Join friends from three other area churches and communities (*Faith Community Church*, Marlborough; *Abundant Life Church*, Colchester; *Christian Life Chapel*, Colchester) to be a part of this very special evening.



**\*Monday, June 23 to Thursday, June 26** (these dates depend on last day of school in Salem): *The Congregational Church of Salem* invites children to **Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind**. At **Weird Animals**, kids will learn about some of God's most creative creations! They'll participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and dig into yummy treats, experience cool Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them they are one of a kind, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. In addition, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with *The Tail End* — 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 each day. Kids at **Weird Animals** VBS will join an international mission effort to share God's love by providing water for schoolchildren in India. **Weird Animals** VBS is for kids from Age 4 to completed 5th grade and will run from **9:00 a.m. to noon** each day. There is no fee for those children in attendance. However, to support the mission to India we will daily provide an opportunity for the children to bring an offering. For more information, call 860-859-1211 or check out our website for online registration beginning the end of April.



## SALEM SENIORS

By Irene Jarvis

The November meeting of the Salem Seniors was held at the Salem School where we were greeted by Superintendent Joseph Onofrio. We were honored to have Jeffrey McNamara, Judge of Probate, as our featured speaker. The members appreciated all of his information and his patience with the many questions from the floor. We thank our First Selectman, Kevin Lyden, for keeping us informed as to what is happening in our town and what the future holds. After the meeting a turkey lunch was served to us by the school. Due to inclement weather, the Christmas Party at *Papa Z's* was postponed until April.

The Salem Seniors is open to everyone over 50 and meets the second Tuesday of the month March through December at 10:30 a.m. at the Salem Volunteer Firehouse, unless otherwise designated. Lunch is served following the meeting.

Every Tuesday afternoon from 12:00-4:00, an informal group meets at the Salem Free Public Library to bowl WII and play card games. WII bowling provides some friendly competition, we also play Setback, Cribbage and a newly introduced game called Golf. Refreshments are also served.



## GARDNER LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

By Chief James Savalle

The success of Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc is determined by our membership, and our member's dedication. 2013 was an especially successful year for our company; our Recruitment and Retention Committee, Board of Directors and Company Officers all participated in securing the State Fire Chief's Association Grant, which allowed us to canvas the community and promote membership.

On behalf of our entire membership and the community, I congratulate David Cannamella, Bernard Ferrara, Mariah Gildart, Steve Joseph, Jackie Joseph, Tim Joseph, Kara Sinko, Leanne and Nicholas Tripp for their certification as Emergency Medical Technicians. Each of these individuals participated in 210 hours of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes, plus Emergency Room time and ride time with a medic service.

For our veteran EMT's, our EMS in-service training provides a medical refresher and educates them about new advances in Emergency Medical Services. Both companies tested refresher EMS personnel in December, and each member successfully passed.

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company has provided thirty-seven years of EMT service to the residents of Salem, beginning in 1976. Our dedicated Volunteers unselfishly commit their time to help those in need twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred sixty-five days a year, in all weather conditions. Our volunteers could not be successful without the support of their families.

Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company, Inc welcomes our new Firefighters of 2013; Certified in Firefighter II Steve Joseph, Leanne Tripp & Nicholas Tripp; Certified in Firefighter I Tim Joseph.

We offer our congratulations to our Deputy Chief, Joseph Danao, who was chosen by the Governor for the Statewide OEMS / DPH Task Force.

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## FRIENDS OF SALEM LIBRARY

*By Gloria Fogarty, Secretary*

**A**s our budget year draws to a close on May 2014, we all look forward to the newest incarnation of an event that will serve to strengthen our relationship with the Salem community — the Annual Spring Book Sale. This year, the Sale will be on three consecutive days in mid-May (see more details in our adjacent ad). Elizabeth Lane, the originator and coordinator for this event, will be adding new attractions. In addition to the usual paperback books for adults and children (so useful for vacation reading), she will be offering indoor & outdoor plants - coupled with gardening books, special craft items, cook books, and children's puzzles & games. Anyone wishing to donate items or to help with tasks before/during/after the Sale should call the **Library** at 860-859-1130 or contact **Elizabeth** directly at 860-859-1125. Strong backs are needed to carry and arrange items, "number-crunchers" are good during sales, and managers are needed to maintain good organization and artistic individuals can enhance the setting to show the merchandise in its more favorable light. Most of all, we value the customers who help us generate the funds necessary to provide the services we hope to offer.

On Wednesday evening, May 21, we hold our annual business meeting at the Library. All members are invited to attend and share their ideas concerning budget management, program selections, and staff activities. We also elect new officers to serve the organization for the coming year. New candidates are welcome, for we value their ideas, energy and dedication. Come join us, find new "Friends", and experience the satisfaction of doing something that makes a difference for your community.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Annual Spring Book Sale  
May 15, 16, & 17, 2014**

New & expanded version will now offer indoor and outdoor plants, special craft items, and children's puzzles & games.



**Annual Meeting of Friends of the Salem Library - May 21, 7PM**

Salem Library Agenda includes approval of the yearly budget, identifies possible expenditures for programs, supplies and activities, elects officers to serve for the following year, reviews success of previous year items, and plans staff appreciation events.



### SALEM RECREATION *continued from page 25*

This is a very successful program, be sure to sign up early. The **Performing Arts Program** for ages 6 to 12 will be held from **July 14-18, from 9am to 2:30pm**. The location will be announced for these programs. More programs will be added.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The **annual Boston Red Sox at New York Yankees** baseball game will be on **June 28th, 7:00pm** game time. Details will be announced at a later date.

#### WHO LIKES TO GET OUT OF SALEM FOR A DAY?

There are several bus trips that are planned for 2014! More trips will be added as during the year.

- March 15: Boston Flower & Garden Show w/Quincy Market**
- May 10 and December 6: New York City**
- July: Lobster Bake** (date to be announced)
- October 12: Stormville Flea Market**
- November 29: Old Deerfield Christmas Crafts Sampler**

For more information on programs and trips, please go to [http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT\\_Recreation/programs](http://www.salemct.gov/Pages/SalemCT_Recreation/programs).

Contact Diane Weston at 860-859-3873, x252 or e-mail [Diane.Weston@salemct.gov](mailto:Diane.Weston@salemct.gov).

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**Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10AM - 6PM**

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 10AM - 4PM**

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For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact the Library at 860-859-1130 or Elizabeth Lane at 860-859-1125.



## LIONS TALES

By Lion George Ziegler

**CONGRATULATIONS** - Salem Lions is proud to select Leeland Cole-Chu as its 2013 Humanitarian of the Year. Lee is widely known for his many humanitarian activities in Southeastern Connecticut, and throughout the New England region. He has been involved in civic activities in Salem and neighboring communities for over 20 years, serving in a variety of leadership roles on various boards and commissions that often focused on services to enhance the quality of life for residents. Lee received his award on January 18 from Past International Director Scott Storms at Lions District 23-C Fifth Anniversary Dinner to Honor Special Humanitarians.

Salem Lions held a Memorial Service at our January 23 for Lion Bo Kachorowsky who recently passed. Lion Bo was a member of Salem Lions for 13 years, a great worker at all our events, and is fondly remembered for volunteering his giant blue tarp at our yard sales and his many feet of ropes used at our Easter egg hunts. We will all miss him. Salem Lions expresses their deepest condolences to the family of Lion Bo Kachorowsky.

Lion District 23-C Governor Steve Novic joined us at our January 23 dinner meeting for an evening of fun and inspiration. Lion Steve addressed us with a summary of his experiences at the Lions Clubs International annual meeting in Germany, his goals and ideas for the coming year, and presented a 10 years' service pin to Lion Gordon Gillaspie and to Lion Arn Weiss the 100% president award. Lion Steve then inducted our newest Salem Lion, Ed Chmielewski who was sponsored by Lion Elby Burr. Congratulations Ed, as our newest Salem Lion.

Thanks to Lions Jim Krodel and Dan Holle, Super Bowl Roses arrived right on time again this year. We were successful in selling 100 dozen beautiful cut roses in a variety of mixed colors. Thank you to all who purchased them. All proceeds are used to fund our local charitable projects. Mark your calendar for the 2015 Super Bowl. All Lions will be taking orders. Watch for more information.

### Calling All Runners — 21th Annual Salem Road Race — Saturday, April 12th

Warm up your running shoes and join in for a morning of fun. Two races are planned — a 1 Mile Kids Fun Run for the young folks, and the 5K Race open to all runners. For more information and registration forms, visit our website, [www.salemctroadrace.org](http://www.salemctroadrace.org). Free shirts (red with gold trim) to all preregistrations received by March 26. Prizes, food and drinks follow after the completion of the 5K Race.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Hey Kids — Warm up your egg decorating and drawing skills — Our annual Easter Egg Hunt, co-sponsored with Salem Recreation, is scheduled for Saturday, April 12th in the early afternoon. In addition to the Easter Egg Hunt, we will have an Easter Bunny, face painting and jelly bean races. Prizes will be awarded for best picture coloring, best decorated eggs, and jelly bean race winners. Competitions are for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders, and for 3rd and 4th graders.

**We Serve** the mission of Lions Clubs International (the largest service association in the world — 46,000 clubs with 1.35 million members) is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. Visit [www.lionsmagazine.org](http://www.lionsmagazine.org). Interested in becoming a Salem Lion? We are looking for interested men and women both young and not so young. Contact our membership chairperson (Lion Jim Fogarty at 859-0108) or any other Lion.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

#### To All High School Seniors From Salem

At our June meeting, Salem Lions will be awarding Scholarships to two graduating high school/home school seniors from Salem. Application forms will be available in April at your guidance counselors' offices, or from **Lion George Householder (860-859-3582)**. Recipients and their parents will be guests at our June 26 dinner meeting.

#### Calling All Bargain Hunters — Our Annual Tag Sale

Join us at the corner of Rte. 82 and Shingle Mill Road on Saturday, June 28. Something for Everyone. Donated items are welcome. Contact **Lion George Ziegler** at 859-0609 or **Lion Norm Rabe** at 859-0165 for information. Everyone is welcome; tell your friends and neighbors. This is our major fundraiser to support our scholarship awards and numerous community projects.

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.



## SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

By Chief Eugene R. Maiorano

### Ice and Cold Water Rescue Training

The Salem And Gardner Lake Fire Companies participated in a ice and cold water rescue training held at Witch Meadow Camp Ground on Thursday January 30th. The members trained on ropes, ice sleds and communications, while retrieving victims from the ice and cold water. This training emphasized the safety of members working and communicating together to reach and retrieve their victims.



## SALEM GREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

By Rev. Tim Dubeau, Sexton

For the period 10/31/2013 – 01/21/2014 there has been one interment:

Jason Ryan Girard 01/21/2014 Section I Row B Plot 52

Fifteen (15) full sized plots remain available in Section I. Some are single plots with deeded plots on either side. These full sized plots can be purchased for \$550/plot. The 101 full sized plots available in our newly established Section IV are priced at \$700 each.

*A reminder to all plot owners:* Artificial flowers and containers are permitted thru April 15, 2014. In February, you should return to remove all Christmas decorations. The sexton is permitted by the Salem Green Cemetery Association to remove any holiday decorations remaining beyond 30 days after any given holiday.

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 still developing plans for tree replacement. Also, the SGCA is considering planting a groundcover in the memory garden. Finally, the SGCA has requested that the Town level the unsightly soil storage area in order to create a more visibly pleasing soil storage area surrounded by a live barrier of deer resistant shrubs.

### A Fond Farewell to Our Departed Friends and Family Members

#### September

Betty Nelson  
Nancy Rosen  
Nancy Greenman

#### October

Elizabeth Nelson  
Juana Moy

#### November

Margaret Jensen  
John Franco

#### December

Rose Smith

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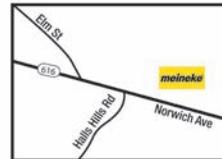


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- Electrical System Diagnosis/Repair
- Engine Diagnostics/Performance
- Engine Repair
- Exhaust (Custom)
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# SALEM TOWN INFORMATION

[www.salemct.gov](http://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](http://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](http://www.senatedems.ct.gov/Stillman.html)

## State Representative 37th District

Ed Jutila (860) 739-7730  
[www.house Dems.ct.gov/Jutila](http://www.house Dems.ct.gov/Jutila)

## U.S. Senators & Representatives

Richard Blumenthal (860) 258-6940 (Hartford)  
[www.blumenthal.senate.gov](http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov)

Chris Murphy (860) 549-8463 (Hartford)  
[www.murphy.senate.gov](http://www.murphy.senate.gov)

Joe Courtney (860) 886-0139 (Norwich)  
[courtney.house.gov](http://courtney.house.gov)

## Town of Salem Live TV

Salem Board and Commission meetings held at  
the TOB are broadcast live on Comcast Chan-  
nel 12 and webcast on [www.salemct.org](http://www.salemct.org). Webcast  
hearings are available ON DEMAND at any time  
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## Board of Education Airing on Channel 12

The Salem Board of Education Meetings air on  
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*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](mailto:ourtownsalemct@gmail.com)  
or 860-859-1130.



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. Your participation is welcomed!

### Volunteer Staff

<b>Editor</b> Jackie Hemond	<b>Proofreaders</b> Annie Bingham Shirley Diamond Peter Sielman	<b>Photographer</b> Bopha Smith
<b>All-around Helper</b> Susan George Ivey		<b>Layout Designer</b> Agnes T. Miyuki



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