



Newtown Lions Club

Newtown, CT
Est. 1949

"We Serve"

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022

Gordon Williams, Editor

Bob Schmidt, Production Design

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LIONS ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH, APRIL, MAY AND JUNE 2022

- March 16** - Lions Board Meeting (Canceled)
- March 20** - Playground Groundbreaking
- March 23** - Lions Dinner Meeting
- April 13** - Lions Dinner Meeting
- April 20** - Lions Board Meeting
- April 23** - Lose the Litter as part of Earth Day
- April 27** - Lions Dinner Meeting
- May 7** - Home Front work day
- May 11** - Lions Dinner Meeting
- May 14** - MD23 State Convention
- May 18** - Lions Board Meeting
- May 21** - Summer Flag Raising
- May 25** - Lions Dinner Meeting
- June TBA** - Lions Year end Awards Dinner
- June 11** - Orchard Hill Spring Cleanup (tentative date)
- June 25** - The 21st Great Pootatuck Duck Race

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Service Is Our Strength – but Our Interests Are Expansive!

I checked my phone messages a few days ago and found one from Lion Gordon Williams. He sounded excited, so I called him back. I found out I was wrong. Gordon wasn't excited. He was *exuberant*. I mean, thrilled to bursting.



Why? After a conversation with Lion Neil Randle, who is feverishly working on a new book, Gordon discovered that not one, not two, not three, not four, but *at least five* members of our club have written a book – and several of us, more than one.

Lion Gordon's discovery delighted me – but it didn't surprise me. We are a club of doers, and our energy extends beyond serving our community.

Yes, we have a stable of writers among us – but we also have car experts who can tell you the make and model of a sixty-year-old sedan simply by spotting the shape of its lit taillights on a dark road.

We have several jazz enthusiasts who can tell you all about Louie Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Ella Fitzgerald – and the name of the trumpet player who made Jackie Gleason's scores of albums extra melancholy (Bobby Hackett). In fact, one of our jazz experts has a looooooong running Sunday radio show! He not only spins the tunes but interviews a remarkable array of music makers.

If it's rock n roll you're looking for, one half of a dynamic singing duo serves among us.

Oh, and if you like your tunes a little more refined, we have you covered. We now have two Lions that have performed in symphony orchestras.

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THIS YEAR'S FABULOUS MUSTANG RAFFLE CAR

The car committee took a giant step this year! They purchased a 2019 Mustang convertible instead of an antique. It is absolutely beautiful! It has all the safety features and bells & whistles that will make all the Lions compete to be the first on the list to take this sporty car to the venues. Now, that's a car I want to drive! Let's do our best to sell all our personal tickets, and take the car out as much as possible.



President's message, Continued from page 1

We have Abraham Lincoln experts and members of our local Historical Society and photographers extraordinaire, some of whom snap striking shots of our town, while others capture images beneath the waves that would make Jacques Cousteau envious (and for the Baby Lions in the bunch saying, "Jacques who?" – look him up).

Like your news with a dash of the paranormal, ufology, conspiracy theory, and all things Weird? We have one half of a podcast team dishing out High Strangeness on a regular basis. We have designers, engineers, home builders, and landscapers who work magic with tough turf.

Then there are the boaters in our group. Oh, and if anything – and I mean, *anything* – in our club needs fixing, we have our very own McGyver in

our ranks.

This message is getting long, so I'll stop, but I'm always jazzed when I reflect on our diverse interests and accomplishments. A group as driven to service as ours has energy to spare and each of us puts it to creative and productive use. I think this is one of the reasons that even during the worst of the COVID crisis, we managed to do more than survive. We continued to DO – and we continue to SERVE.

Onward!

Lion Oscar De Los Santos

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Teacher: "Please give me a sentence that has the words defense, defeat and detail."

Student: When the horse jumps over defense, defeat go first and then detail."

Lion Lincoln Sander: In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report that **Lincoln Sander**, our good Lion, has passed away. He had been sick for a long time with various problems such as Parkinson's and throat cancer among other debilitating illnesses. But he tried so hard to rise above his illnesses and to keep a cheerful demeanor. We will miss his good smile and quick sense of humor. Lincoln was very active in the Newtown Historical Society as well as in the Lions. He served ably as president for a number of years. He also was an excellent fund raiser for the Historical Society. Some of this money came from the connections he made in the antique world.

Although most of his career was in the paper business, he and Jean, his wife, for many years exhibited at antique shows. He became a consultant for Newtown Caldwell Banker on the sale of antique properties. Because of all this knowledge he was selected as executive director of the Antique Dealers Association of America. He served in this capacity from 2007-2016. As a Lion, Lincoln was active in several areas but especially the Duck Race Committee. He enjoyed the conviviality of our dinner meetings and for a number of years came to almost everyone. We will surely miss our good friend.

Doings of the Pride

Peggy and Gary Fillion took a cross country trip recently and covered over 6500 miles. Let him tell it in his own words. "We towed our RV and brought our new dog, Daisy, with us. We visited all five of the "great" parks, Zion, Canyonlands, Arches, Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon. Every day was a new adventure including seeing Kurt Russell pull up in our comp ground driving a big Class A Motorhome! We stayed at one park that had their own drive-in theater and classic cars to sit in!

We found several hidden speakeasies to be entertained in, we also got to ride the Silverton-Durango Railroad and went to parties in Silverton, actually located in the area of an extinct volcano!

Our last big adventure was seeing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado. These are the tallest and largest dunes in the Western

Hemisphere!" It certainly sounds like a great trip.

Kevin Corey has spent quite a few days in the hospital because of his surgery and later complications. He was happy to come home on March 18, and he came to the groundbreaking ceremony sporting a very distinguished beard.

Jerry Cole is recovering from a knee operation. Both knees had been bothering him for a long time. Because of some complications, he will need to have another operation, however, by the time you read this it will be completed.

Katherine Simpson was honored recently by being selected for a Snapshot article in the Newtown Bee. In the article you learn of her many activities and interests as well as about her new bird. Congratulations for being chosen, Katherine. You deserve the honors.

When **Neil Randle** decided to retire four years ago a friend asked him what he was going to do with his free time. He insisted that he should make a list of three things he always wanted to do. And so, he did. They were 1. Give back (so he joined the Lions); 2 Travel the US with Donna which he will do now that the pandemic is waning; 3. Write a book. And so, he decided to do that. His retirement coach insisted he learn by doing—in other words start writing. Because he had always liked the spy novels written by John Le Carre, Len Deighton, Ian Fleming, Dashiell Hammett and others he decided to write a novel about spies. And here is his synopsis of his forthcoming book, "**Spies in their Spare Time.**"

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF NEIL'S BOOK

Steph Collins and Chris Scott have recently started new jobs in the R&D Dept. of the London based Consumer Products Company: Fletcher and Reed. Steph is a highly ambitious, fun-loving extrovert, hailing from South Africa; Chris is an intelligent analytical, laid-back individual that sees work as a filler between social events, playing sports and regular visits to the pub. They meet, quite by accident and slowly become romantically involved, which is discouraged by the company.

Along the way, they meet George Rankin, a gruff Scotsman and brilliant scientist who is mostly interested in winning the F&R Darts League and Barb Strang, a classic corporate manager who

Doings of the Pride Continued

plays everything by the book.

Barb and George recommend Steph and Chris for an accelerated leadership development program, where they meet the F&R Chairman and the two rivals for his job, Philippe LaSalle and Kevin Reed. Philippe and Kevin give Steph and Chris challenging projects to see if they have what it takes. George is happy that the couple will be separated. As time goes on, the plan backfires and Sarah and Chris grow closer together. Little by little they realize that there is more going on at F&R than simply selling soap and that they are being groomed for something very different and far more serious. British Intelligence is preparing for the momentous event of the opening of the Berlin Wall, and they need all the help they can get.

Bill Brett has also penned a novel which carries on the intriguing story of Robert Brady. It is called **The Enemy Within**. Here is his description of the novel.

*“My recently published book is a sequel to **Next Year in Constanta**. It follows the career and personal life of Robert Brady, whose very existence has been compromised by Russian Intelligence Services. Now, with a new identity and cover, he is assigned by M16 to the bureau of Naval Intelligence of the Canadian Maritime Command. As Captain Robert Montrose, he faces the stark reality that his past life and relationships with those he loved and trusted, appears lost forever.*

Daunting challenges face Robert as he leads twin investigations involving Russian infiltration into the operations of Indian Reservation Casinos along the Canadian and United States border and sabotage of top-secret weapon systems aboard ships of the Canadian Navy. The book is available from the website of the publisher, Book Baby, and from Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites.

In 2020, after **Bob Schmidt** published his first book, **“Disaster Mental Health Community Planning”** with his friend Sharon L. Cohen, he never thought that he would write another. However, when he saw how COVID 19 affected the mental health of so many people he got busy on a self-help book that could be used to reduce

stress, anxiety, and depression. The book is titled **“Finding Resiliency.”** According to Bob, there is already a shortage of mental health therapists, so his book contains the counseling techniques and wellness activities he uses in his private practice. His personal stories are intertwined with the philosophies of some of the giants in the counseling field. **Finding Resiliency** will be in print in April and will be available on Amazon.

Jordan D’Amico Plays in Basketball Tournament

Newtown High School Unified Sports held a basketball tournament at NYA yesterday. Other high schools that were There were Bethel, Oxford, Shelton, Watertown and Stratford/Bunnell. All the students that participated, as well as the onlookers, had a great time. After the games were finished they served pizza. Notice Jordan wearing his Newtown lions hat.



THE LEOS AT WORK

On March 15th the Newtown High School Leo Club made sandwiches for the Dorothy Day House. Looks like they made a lot of sandwiches!



Looks like the Leos added new meaning to our motto "We Serve."

LIONS HELP BUILD A WHEELCHAIR RAMP ON FEB 12th



John Poeltl, Ned Simpson, and Steve Bennett

The volunteer group, the Spirit Builders, came out to Newtown again over the weekend. They built an incredible ramp at the home of Jane Cottingham, who is wheelchair bound and has not been able to safely leave the house in months. The work was all done in one day.

New Lions in the Pride



Gary Peters

We welcome **Gary Peters** to the club. Gary and wife, Sandy, have three daughters and one son who lives in that great state of Montana. They also boast of eight grandchildren. Although he lives in Monroe, Gary has been active with the Newtown Congregational Church and with IPRR, Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement.

Gary majored in mechanical engineering in college. His work has been in heating, ventilating and air conditioning on construction sites. In Connecticut in 1974 he started his own business. In the course of owning that company he also fathered six startup companies and eventually sold them.

His most recent work was for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission. He started as a volunteer food truck driver. Then he began working with men who have had substance abuse and tried to help them achieve a better life. But his most demanding job for the Mission was to head up the construction and reconstruction of a 70,000 square foot building. This occupied many months and many hours. With his diverse abilities and interests it can be seen that Gary will obviously be a strong addition to the Lions Club.

New Lions in the Pride



Jenny Strenger

Jenny Strenger will bring additional talent to the Newtown Lions. Jenny was born in the Soviet Union and lived there until she was twenty-five. But life in the Soviet Union was a challenge for people of the Jewish faith as periodically there was a danger of a pogrom. Her father thought it best to leave and they decided to come to America which has proved a good choice for them.

Jenny early on had developed a real ear for music. This has stood her in good faith. In 1979 she read that the New York City Opera company was looking for another violinist, so she decided to audition. She was so pleased to get the job. As the opera was not in session every month she also began to play for the New York City Ballet. One day she met an attractive man named Sandy who also was a gifted violinist. They began a friendship which eventually blossomed into marriage.

When asked what brought her to Newtown she commented that most of her life she had lived in apartments but now she wanted to be close to nature and to have her own house and lawn and garden. She also wanted to be involved in the community in which she lived. So here she is and here we are—a perfect match! We look forward to some wonderful music coming our way!

**REAL NEWSPAPERS' HEADLINES
WHICH MAY GIVE YOU
A CHUCKLE**

“Homicide Victims Rarely Talk to the Police”

**“Barbershop Singers Bring Joy
to the School of the Deaf”**

“Miracle Cure Kills Fifth Patient”

**“Man Accused of Killing Lawyer
Gets New Attorney”**

“Hospitals Resort to Hiring Doctors”

**“Parents Keep Kids Home
to Protest School Closing”**

**“Statistics show that Teen Pregnancy Drops Off
Significantly After Age 25”**

“Diana Was Still Alive Hours Before She Died”

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Five Thoughts for Today

1. I found a \$20 bill in a parking lot and thought to myself, what would Jesus do?
So, I turned it into wine.
2. A quiet man is a thinking man.
A quiet woman is usually mad.
3. My wife asked me why I spoke so softly in the house. I said I was afraid Mark Zuckerberg was listening!
She laughed. I laughed. Alexa laughed. Siri laughed. Google Mini laughed.
4. On my first day of my diet, I have removed all the bad food from the house.
It was delicious.
5. Did you know that fourteen muscles are activated when opening a bottle of wine?
Fitness is my passion.

**If you Ever Feel a Little Bit Stupid,
Read this and You'll Feel Better**

Miss Alabama in the 1994 Miss USA contest

Question: If you could live forever, would you and why?

Answer: “I would not live forever, because we should not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever, then we would live forever, but we cannot live forever, which is why I would not live forever.”

Keppel Enderbery

“Traditionally, most of Australia’s imports come from overseas.”

Mark Fowler, FCC Chairman

“If somebody has a bad heart, they can plug this jack in at night as they go to bed, and it will monitor their heart throughout the night. And the next morning, when they wake up dead, there’ll be a record.”

Mayor Marian Barry, Washington, DC

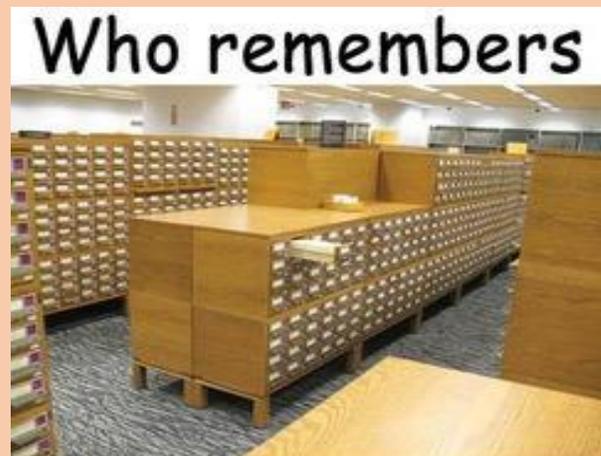
“Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.”

Dan Quayle

“I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix.”

Brooke Shields as a spokesperson for federal anti-smoking campaign

Smoking kills. If you’re killed, you’ve lost a very important part of your life.”



the first search engine?

THE NEW EQUIPMENT ARRIVES!



Look at all that stuff!



Amy Mangold, Parks and Recreation Director, looks over the equipment with Walt Schweikert.



Kevin Corey and Walt Schweikert look over the area where the equipment will go.

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THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY on MARCH 20th



Walt, Paula, and Neil prepare for the ceremony with Walt's family.



Shovels in hand, getting ready to break ground for the new playground equipment that will be wheelchair accessible for children.



Let the dirt fly as the Lions, and special guests First Selectman, Dan Rosenthal and Amy Mangold, all join in on the dig.