



Newtown Lions Club

"We Serve"

Newtown,
CT
Est. 1949

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

Gordon Williams, Editor

Bob Schmidt, Production Design

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you had a good summer, and are energized for an active fall. I am excited to kick off a new Lions year and hope you are looking forward to it as well.

Our first challenge was very low funding for our administrative account, with only enough cash to pay for a single dinner meeting. This was eased significantly by the payments most members made to bring their accounts current. Also, a major shout out to Ryan Storms for his generous donation to our club.

Second as a result of the poll taken concerning meetings, by a two to one vote, we will have two meetings a month starting September 14th at the Newtown Country Club. We have a challenge because the Country Club will be closed for January and February so, we will be moving to a different location. Yet to be determined. Meal cost will be \$30 and missed meeting fee is \$8. These will be billed at the end of each month.

*** Important** If you have not paid your account current, please do so as soon as possible.

You will be pleased to know that Social Committee is organizing several events, so mark your calendars and is finalizing details for the events labeled tentative.

- Pizza Party after Mustang Raffle at My Place on Oct 22nd
- Holiday Dinner December 11th
- Valentines Dinner (tentative) February 8th



president's message continued

Please note that there are no other meetings in December and February. And there will be only one meeting in November on the 9th.

Also, at the September 28th meeting we will have our group picture taken, please plan on being there. Chane and Rhonda Cullens will be the photographers. If you remember they helped put together a "Tour of Newtown". Both the book and video. They are also collaborating with Lion Ed Miklaszewski on a new book of images by noted artist David Merrill. Contact Ed if you want to be involved in this fun project. We are also planning a TV production around David Merrill.

Be sure to wear your Lions Club Pin to the meetings or you may get a Tail-twister fine.

Our biggest fund raiser is underway and needs all of our support, the Mustang Car Raffle is into the final stretch, where we usually sell the most tickets, so if you haven't taken the car out, please sign up. It's always fun.

Vision screening is scheduled to begin this October with training in September, dates to be announced, all six elementary schools and St. Rose will be included.

Were you aware that last year, we, you and I, aided over 12000 individuals? Through the efforts of everyone in this club we can accomplish amazing things. We will continue to accomplish amazing things with your help.

Thank you for being a Lion,

Andrew

FALL EVENTS & MEETINGS

Sept. 14-- Lions Dinner Meeting at NCC
Sept. 21-- Lions Board Meeting
Sept. 28-- Lions Dinner Meeting
Oct. 8—Orchard Hill Clean Up
Oct. 12—Lions Dinner Meeting
Oct. 19—Lions Board Meeting
Oct. 22—Mustang Raffle and Pizza Party
Oct. 26—Lions Dinner Meeting
Nov. 9—Lions Dinner Meeting
Nov. 16—Lions Board Meeting
Dec 11 – Holiday Party

RAISING THE SUMMER FLAG ON MAIN STREET AND CHURCH HILL ROAD

Question: How many Lions does it take to
raise the summer flag?

Answer in photo below: 15, That's 14 plus
the camera person.



NEWTOWN'S LANDMARK

INSTALLING THE FLAGS ON THE POLES



PLAYGROUND RIBBON CUTTING JUNE 4th



Walt and Gary proudly stand by the plaque



Josie and Bob Schmidt, (aka Solid Gold Times Two) provided live music for the festivities

THE NEW EQUIPMENT



continued



Left to right: Walt Schweikert, Mitch Bolinsky, Amy Mangold, Dan Rosenthal and Tony Hwang



Walt and Leah



Testing out the new playground equipment with everyone

**JUNE 5th LIONS DINNER
AT NEWTOWN COUNTRY CLUB**



Jennie and Sandy gave us a breathtaking performance at the End of the Year Lions Club Dinner.



SIMON AND GARFUNKEL (aka Ryan and Bob) sing America at the End of the Year Meeting.

KEVIN COREY AND KATHERINE SIMPSON RING THE BELL FOR THE SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS IN JULY FUNDRAISER.



Katherine Simpson with Debbie White, Service Extension Coordinator of the Salvation Army's Southern New England Division ring the bell along with Former Lion Glenn Nanavaty, the Salvation Army Newtown/Bethel president.

They raised over \$1,000 that day.

DOINGS OF THE PRIDE

Bill Brett's novel, *The Enemy Within*, has been published and enjoyed by its readers. It is a suspense novel featuring Robert Brady who with a new identity leads investigations into Russia's infiltration in Indian Reservation Casinos in Canada and the U.S. and its sabotage of top-secret weapon systems aboard ships of the Canadian navy. You can find the book from the website of the publisher, Book Baby, and from Amazon and Barnes and Noble websites.

While Paul Kruger was selling Duck Race tickets at the General Store this year a father and his bespectacled young son stopped to buy tickets. Upon completing his purchase, the father and son walked toward a picnic table a few feet away where the boy's mother was seated. Then the man came back to Paul stating that the reason his son wore glasses was because of this year's pediatric eye screening program. The man was extremely thankful for that and praised the club for all we do for the community. Hearing this made Paul's day! . . . Paul's wife, Helen has been struggling with a recent hip replacement. In total she has had five orthopedic surgeries. We hope this autumn will find her recuperating nicely.

Skip Sims is very proud of his grandson, Justin, a junior at Newtown High School who has turned into an excellent rower. He competed with other young people in a large event in Sarasota, Florida and did quite well. On the second day he placed second in his group. . . Skip has just recovered from his second bout with Covid. He had a slight fever, a running nose, and a sore throat for a few days, but it wasn't too severe. . . . The Arfaras family has also been stricken. Because both George and Irene have been vaccinated and boosted, it was not too severe. He did some coughing, but he felt the most significant aspect of his case was his lack of energy and stamina..

Neil Randle has also had health issues. For some time, he has had a residual foot injury from falling down stairs years ago and active sports. He has tried to ignore the injury but recently the pain has increased so he decided to go under the knife. The surgery took three hours, and he is now bionic with metal in his foot. He is doing much better these days but still hobbling around using a walking frame. Before the surgery he did have the pleasure of visiting his native England, He and Donna enjoyed spending time with his brother and sister whom he hadn't seen in five years. They also spent one week in Scotland enjoying the wonderful scenery in the Highlands.

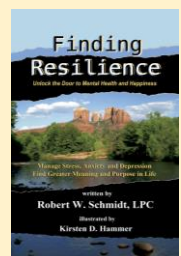
Unfortunately, Jason and Ella Hsu were not so lucky in having a European adventure as Neil. They had been looking forward to a European river cruise, but it was cancelled due to inadequate water in the rivers. They hope it will be offered again next year.

Some sad news is that our good Lion, Gary Frey, is relocating to Florida. His house is for sale and due to the very active real estate market it undoubtedly will be under deposit soon. We will really miss him!

FINDING RESILIENCE: Open the Door to Mental Health and Happiness

by Robert W. Schmidt, LPC

A Book Review by George Arfaras



The Lion's lovable Bob Schmidt (ok, that's questionable) has written his second book. He may have written more but all I can account for is one before this one.

Bob starts out with what the book is about and the subjects he plans to discuss. I guess this was necessary as I was anxious to get into the thick of it. When I did, I could hear Bob speaking. I even answered him back a couple of times. He mentions some of the subjects he covers in the book to me but as I recently mentioned to him, seeing it in writing establishes credibility.

It might appear as a self-help book and it is, but it is also one of awareness. As Bob "speaks" it occurs to me that he is making references to me or at least seems to be. I am sure if anyone else reads this book they more than likely come to a similar conclusion. But all is not lost; a step-by-step process is explained and suddenly you are whole again.

Included are several personal experiences to make a point. And if they are negative, the correction follows. It is a fast read, enjoyable, and a pleasure of worthwhile instruction.

We have all experienced and are experiencing the variety of what life has to offer, good, bad, and catastrophic. Digesting and practicing the information contained will be nothing less than beneficial.

You can find Bob's book on Amazon.com. It's only \$14.95 but worth much, much, more!

Movie Review of *WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING*

By Gary Frey

“Where the Crawdads Sing” tells the story of Kya, who was forced into social isolation from the age of six after her whole family, one by one, left her. The final member to leave was her abusive father. Surviving almost entirely by herself, aided only by the occasional kindness of strangers and the steadfast kindness of black neighbor and his wife, she learns to hunt and cook in order to survive.

“Where the Crawdads Sing” is a tale of immense loneliness. Kya is ostracized and shunned by most of the nearby towns. Known as the ‘marsh girl’ she is different to her neighbors, having a deep affinity with nature. It is the gulls she turns to in times of tremendous sorrow and grief. Kya is highly intelligent and to move the plot forward needs to read. Tate, a local boy for a while becomes her tutor, before he too leaves her.

Kya uses her knowledge of nature to understand relationships and clings to the false hope that all mothers eventually come back. She also attempts to understand her ill-fated relationship with village heartthrob Chase through comparisons to nature. Eventually accused and acquitted of the murder of Chase, who ‘fell’ to his death through an open Fire Tower trap door we feel that Kya can finally find some peace in her life. A good murder mystery wouldn’t be satisfactory without a few twists and turns and that isn’t quite the end of the story of “Where the Crawdads Sing.”

The movie holds true to the book that is written by Delia Owens. It spares us the horror of growing up alone in the marshes of North Carolina somewhat and in the book, you gain a better clarity on the surprising ending. I highly recommend both the movie and the book.

OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023

President	Andre Iorio
First Vice President	Ed Miklaszewski
Second Vice President	Bruce Walczak
Secretary	Katherine Simpson
Communications Officer	Peter McNulty
Administration Treasurer	Bruce Hoag
Project Treasurer	Barbara Manville
Director Second Year	Gary
Fillion	
Director First Year	Matt Arinello
Tail Twister	Bob

OUR CURRENT LIONS MAGAZINE

We hope you are reading the current Lions magazine with our exuberant new president, Brian Sheehan, on the cover. One particular article caught our attention. It is called “New Frontier First Ever Artificial Vision System Is in Human Trials” and because the Lions are so dedicated internationally to sight it is important to read. You will find it more interesting. In addition to all the science information, there is a good story of a Lion volunteer involved.

Actual signs in front of churches

Harwinton Baptist Church

“The Fact that There’s a Highway to Hell and Only a Stairway to Heaven Says A lot about Anticipated Traffic Numbers”

Bethany Lutheran Church

“God didn’t Create Anything Without a Purpose but Mosquitos Come Close.”

First Covenant Church

“Don’t give up! Moses Was Once a Basket Case!”

More Church signs

Messiah United Methodist Church

“Come Hear Our Pastor, He’s Not very Good but he’s Quick!”

Christian Church of Panama City

“God Shows No Favoritism, but Our Sign Guy Does. Go Cubs!”

Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church

“Lent is Coming. Get Your Ash in Church”

Saint Catherine of Sienna School

“Noah Was a Brave Man to Sail in a Wooden Boat with Two Termites”

ENTERTAINMENT AT 2022 DUCK RACE ON JUNE 25TH



Jess and the G's



K C Dreams



Miss Tamra and the Lathrop School of Dance



Ashurst Academy of Irish Dance



← Kevin
Corey, Mike
Savinelli,
and Mike
Porco load
the
payloader

Walt →
Schweikert
and Jason
D'Amico
inspect the
ducks
collected
from the river





Paul Arneith and Fred Stakel at the Corner ticket booth



Walt and Frank take a break on that hot day



Everwonder Children's Museum



Making Spin Art Paintings



Some kids forgot to take their paintings home.



HUMOR

THE WORD UP

This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two letter word and that word is UP. It is listed in the dictionary as an adverb, preposition, noun, and adjective. When we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write Up a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite and think Up excuses. To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: a drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP but when the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for a while, things dry UP. One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP for now as my time is UP!

Oh . . . one more thing. What is the first thing you do in the morning and the last thing you do at night?
. U P!

LEOS CORNER



Congratulations to Leo member, Cate Fisher!
She was the Newtown High School valedictorian
for 2022. We wish her luck at Colby

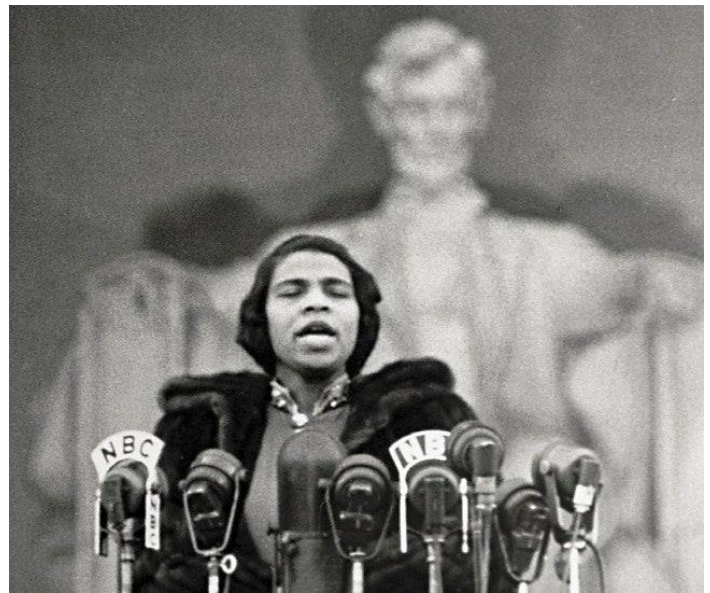


Lion Jenny Strenger and Sandy performed at the
Disney Music Concert at the Congregational
Church on April 30th.

WORLD FAMOUS SINGER, MARIAN ANDERSON

At our March meeting, Westconn professors, Sam Hyman and Paul Sinas along with Lion George Coleman, gave a presentation on the famous American contralto, Marian Anderson. Ms. Anderson performed a wide range of music, from opera to spirituals. Because she was a Danbury resident, they are raising money to put her name on the new Visual and Performing Arts building on the Westconn campus.

If you would like to donate to this fund, go to: www.wcsu.edu/mariananderson



Best known for her concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, singer and civil rights pioneer Marian Anderson made history with her groundbreaking achievements. She was the first African American singer to perform at the White House and also the first African American to sing with New York's Metropolitan Opera.