



Newtown Lions Club

"We Serve"

Newtown,
CT
Est. 1949

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

Gordon Williams, Editor

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



In my last note I spoke of the money we raised together and how we should celebrate our successful efforts. And we should. But there is another side of our efforts we should never forget, and that is the people we help. In my duties as acting Secretary of the club (the job is open and looking for a volunteer), I get to open the mail. We get thank you letters from many of the charities we support, and I want to share one with you.

This note was from Women In Newtown (WIN) and is signed by Cyndy DaSilva and Mandy Monaw . Our donation helped them feed 80 families this Thanksgiving. Every dollar we raise ultimately goes to benefit individuals.

Thank You for being a Lion,

Lion Andrew Iorio

As we move into 2023, here's a poem I'd like to share by Ian Frazier.

Dear friends, we're shelving '22
Freedom's reboot ; if just a sample;
In Zelensky's grand example;
Democracy got off the mat
(Turns out it wasn't quite that flat)
Add a mild return to reason,
Reinforced by this the season
Rich in prompts to love our fellows
Leave the coda to the cellos-
Measures deep and rich in tone
Sing that we are not alone.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 11 - Lions regular meeting at
Newtown Country Club

Jan. 18 - Lions board meeting

Jan 25 - Lions regular meeting at
Newtown Country
Club

Feb. 3-4 Lions state convention

Meet the New Members of our Club

STEVE STOLFI



Steve Stolfi has longed to do more volunteering in Newtown, but his career has kept him very busy, especially as he has had for much of twenty-two years an hour and half commute to and from NYC. The company he works for is Corsearch, which offers help to industries developing their logos and protecting their images from infringement.

He is currently the president of the trade division and works with a number of Fortune 500 companies such as Pepsi.

His wife, Kristin and daughters Jessica and Caroline love Newtown and enjoy their life here. Steve, as we've said, hasn't had until recently a lot of spare time but he has enjoyed playing recreation baseball and plays on separate teams for about seventeen years.

Steve's friendly personality and business sense will be a real asset for the Lions. He was inducted into the club at the Holiday Party on December 11th.

Steve's Induction Ceremony



President Andrew, Walt Schweikert, Steve, and his wife Kristin.



Steve's wife Kristen places the Lions Club pin on his lapel.



Steve, Kristen, Helen, and Paul

Meet the New Members of our Club

JENNIFER COLLINS



Jennifer Collins moved around a lot as a child due to her father's job. However, she now enjoys Connecticut and her home in Ridgefield.

Perhaps her first major experience in our state was at Fairfield University where she also met her husband, John. Later she obtained a law degree from Catholic University, and she now practices law in Ridgefield.

She and John have two children, Gillian who is a junior in college and Alexander who is at Ridgefield High School. She has always done a lot of legal as well as volunteer work for community groups like Lion Heart. She has especially worked in the disability area, and that is what first attracted her to the Lions Club because of our bringing handicapped playground equipment to Dickinson Park.

Her achievements as a lawyer as well as her pleasant personality made many people think she would make an ideal probate judge and they were very disappointed when she didn't win the seat. But perhaps the town's loss is our gain, as we know Jennifer will give her best effort to the Lions Club.

ARNIE BERMAN



Arnie Berman spent much of his childhood mulling the mathematical improbability of Santa Claus. When he was in college, he operated one of the first two hot dog carts ever to grace the streets of Providence, RI – and got to know all the bus drivers and exotic dancers that Providence had to offer.

In the evenings, he worked for the *Providence Journal* – interrupting the dinners of unsuspecting Rhode Islanders to peddle subscriptions to the newspaper. These experiences led to a multi-decade career on Wall Street - as an institutional broker and as the first ever "technology stock strategist." In the last decade, he's been involved in startups in investment management, biopharmaceuticals, and freight logistics.

In September, he took a position with BWG Strategy - a networking group that hosts over 2000 forums a year with executives in a wide range of industries. As the firm's "Macro-Sector Industry Strategist," he's responsible for moderating forums in "old economy" sectors including industrials, transportation, energy, and real estate.

Arnie and his first wife raised two daughters together in Westport and Fairfield – both of whom now live in Providence. Neither eats hot dogs nor subscribes to the newspaper

Arnie Berman continued

Arnie divorced in 2008 and met Nancy Goldman on a blind date in 2010. On April 15, 2012 (the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic), Nancy agreed to marry him - a decision which she only occasionally regrets. Nancy and Arnie lived in Fairfield and more recently in White Plains, NY. In September 2021, they decided that Newtown was the town for them.

Arnie's extracurricular interests include wine, women, song, kayaking, hiking, and trying new things that are very likely to make him look foolish. He also loves a good argument (except with Nancy).



Paula Hopewell with Maggie Worwell

**FROM THE HOLIDAY PARTY ON
DECEMBER 11th**



Jordan and Donna D'Allessandro



Andrew with Jane McNulty and Jean Swanhall wife of late Lion, Carl Swanhall



The Car Committee presents a \$60,000 to the club at the Holiday party

**LIONS & LEOS RING THE
SALVATION ARMY BELL
At Stop n Shop on December 17th**



Jennifer Collins



Kevin Corey



**Jon and Lydia Christensen Anita Erat,
Bridget McCleary, and Isabell Khazadin**



**Evan Chaudhary (Leo) with Paul Arneth,
and Jon Christensen**



**Leo members with Gordon Williams left to
right are Ava Mitchell, Hailey Freylikhman,
Deirdre Smith, and Katelyn Sullivan**



Leo members with Bruce Walczak are Oliva Doersch (Left) and Lily Ammerman



Leo member accompanying Ray and Lynn Keegan is Colin Edwards.



Leo member Cole Brown, with Jill Gonski (Leo Advisor) keep Paul Krueger on his toes (Note Cole's feet).



Bob and Josie Schmidt were singing instead of ringing.

THE SIGN SAYS

On a Shoe Repair Store in Vancouver

We will heel you.
We will save your sole
We will even dye for you.

On a Septic Tank Truck

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

On an Optometrist's Office

If you don't see what you are looking for, you've come to the right place

On a Plumber's Truck

We repair what your husband fixed

On Another Plumber's Truck

Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber.

At a Car Dealership

The best way to get back on your feet is to miss a car payment.

In the Front Yard of a Funeral Home

Drive carefully. We can wait.

In a Chicago Radiator Shop

Best place in town to take a leak.

On a Maternity Room door

Push! Push! Push!

DOINGS OF THE PRIDE

Things have gotten better for **Neil Randle**. His novel has now sold 80 copies which means that \$20 has gone to charity. Health wife, Neal is doing better. The surgery on his foot was successful and it has healed. Unfortunately, the recovery time for this operation is quite extensive. Neil can't sit in one position too long or walk with crutches for long stretches of time. He also awakens during the night with pain. However, he has seen improvement and hopes to be able to come to our meetings in the new year. . . . **Gordon Mounts** has been struggling with his Parkinson's disease. Although his mind is still sharp, it has become difficult to walk so when he goes out of the house, he is usually in a wheelchair. We wish both of them well. . . . **Bob and Josie Schmidt** just spent a very happy Thanksgiving celebrating their 55th anniversary with their son in California. He really wined and dined them, taking them to an elegant restaurant, to see the play "Ghosts" and to see Chris Rock's comedy show at the Dolby Theater (Where they hold the Oscars and where Chris got slapped by Will Smith). The Schmidts really had some good laughs at Chris' antics. . . . **Gary Tannenbaum** recently was quite sick with Covid having a fever which reached 104 degrees. Recovering, he enjoyed a houseful of relatives on Thanksgiving. He and Helen also recently had a pleasurable trip to Italy. It was unique for them in two ways, one being that it was a food tour and the other that it was with a group which they had never done before. They enjoyed much delicious organic food in Piedmont and later in Florence. He especially liked the feeling of traveling without any responsibilities. . . . Our well-respected Lion eye doctor has said after twenty-two years practicing in Newtown, it is time to relax. **Dr. Joe Young** has sold his practice, so his last full-time day will be at the end of this year. He may help out part time for a few months in order to help the new doctor. Joe looks forward to expanding his work with Kevin's Community Center as well as working with Lions on eye issues and diabetes. He also envisions bringing his skills

once again to Honduras, or perhaps to a Native American reservation out west. . . . **Mike Savinelli** and his wife, Diane, her mother (Pat Denlinger), and sisters had an extended family cruise to Alaska. They did the inside passage route and experienced such wonders of nature as glaciers, waterfalls, bears, whales, and mountains. They even had the experience of being pulled by a team of sled dogs. He found it amazing how powerful the dogs were. He is still doing quite a bit of traveling for his job and is currently in Europe.

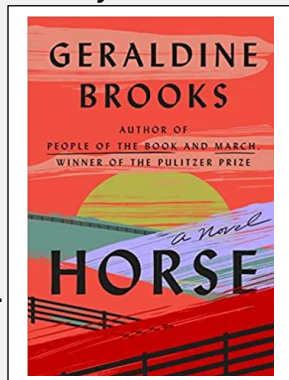
Horse by Geraldine Brooks

A book review by Gordon and Betty Mounts

Horse is a well written novel. It is a juxtaposition from the present day to the 1850s and beyond. In the present day we meet Jess, a young Australian woman who is a skeleton specialist working at the Smithsonian. Then we find ourselves in 1850 Kentucky, and meet Jarrett, a young black man who dearly loves a horse named Darley.

Horse racing is all the rage in the 1850's and Kentucky is the center of this mania. When Darley wins his first race he is sold to a new owner who renames him Lexington. Lexington (this is a part of the story that is true) then wins six races, all filled with excitement and intrigue, before he goes to stud.

As a stud he has no equal, and for sixteen years his progeny wins more races than any other horses. His blood line continues to the present day. His real skeleton has been restored and if you visit Lexington Kentucky today, you will see it on display at the Horse Racing Museum. Many adventures follow. There are real people of the past and present in the book as well as many fictional ones. There are racist themes, a mystery painting, and the clash of greed over horse racing. As a past Pulitzer Prize winner, it is not surprising that **Horse** demonstrates Brooks meticulous research and attention to detail.



Leo Club Spreading Holiday Joy

The Leos made holiday cards for senior citizens and also prepared for a toy drive.



We wish Jill Gonski and all the Leo Club members a very Happy Holiday!

AND THAT'S HOW THE FIGHT STARTED

One year I decided to buy my mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift. The next year I didn't buy her a gift. When she asked me why, I replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year." . . . **And that's how the fight started!**

My wife and I were sitting at a table at our high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man swigging his drink as he sat alone at a nearby table. I asked her, "Do you know him?" "Yes, she sighed, "He's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear he hasn't been sober since." "My **God!** I said, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" . . . **And that's how the fight started!**

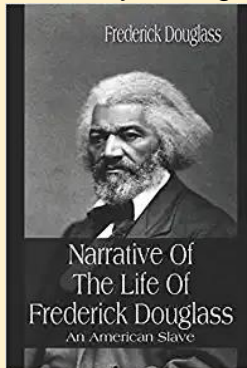
My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said, "I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 150 in about 3 seconds." So, I bought her a bathroom scale. . . **And that's how the fight started!**

My wife was standing nude, looking in the bedroom mirror. She was not happy with what she saw and said to me, "I feel horrible; I look old, fat, and ugly. I really need you to pay me a compliment. . . And so, I said, "Well, one thing hasn't changed. You've got excellent eyesight!" **And that's how the fight started.**

Saturday morning, I got up earl, quietly dressed, made my breakfast, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked the boat up to the van and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. So, I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day. Then I went back into the house, undressed, and sipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible." My loving wife of five years replied, "And can you believe my stupid husband is fishing in that?" . . . **And that's how the fight started!**

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave.

A book review by George Arfaras



Frederick Douglass was born about 1818. "Slaves know as little of their ages as horses know of theirs." wrote Douglass. His mother was Harriet Bailey. But he changed his name to Frederick Douglass to prevent his true identity from kidnappers that would take him back for the reward.

At the age of seven, (estimated) he was moved to Baltimore where he was greeted by his new mistress. She was a kind woman who initiated Douglass's formal education by teaching him to read. When her husband found out he ordered her to stop at once as: "Learning will spoil the best nigger in the world. He would at once become unmanageable, and of no value to his master....it would make him discontent and unhappy." Douglass overheard this harangue reviled the secret of the white slave power. He credited both the kindness of his mistress and intransigent opposition of his master for inspiration to learn to read. He did this by befriending white boys in his neighborhood. These boys were poor, and he bribed them with bread that was plentiful at his master's house.

Living as a slave was far from the life in Baltimore. He experienced a number of slave owners and drivers that abused him and the other slaves such as whippings. In many cases, daily. Douglass was sent to a slave buster that had a reputation for "taming" slaves. He was a farmer and a hard worker but a very viscous man and a sneak. He would beat Douglass for the slightest infraction with a whip. This was a daily occurrence leaving his back with bleeding

welts the thickness of his small finger.

At one point Frederick Douglass had had enough. The "slave breaker" was on him but before he could get full control the Douglas fought back. It came to an end when Douglass had him by the throat and said if he so much as laid a hand on him he would kill him. The fact that a slave would lay a hand on a white man was grounds for lynching during that time. Douglass waited but no lynching party ever appeared. He reasoned that had the altercation had been mentioned the reputation of the farmer being a breaker of slaves would hurt him badly.

Eventually Fredrick Douglass makes his escape, and he notes that his method of escape was not to be told otherwise and alert would be made for greater caution by the slavers. He honored people that ran the Underground Railroad but criticized their notoriety causing more alertness on the part of the slavers. As a free man he evolved into a great orator, speaking of the sins of slavery. As an escaped slave, he had a great respect for the constitution and the United States if only slavery was abolished.

Had I written his biography, I would have titled the book "A Great American Hero." I strongly recommend this book to everyone. It can be purchased from Amazon for less than \$10.

**We would like to wish all the
Lions and their families
Happy Holidays!**

Gordon & Bob

