



Newtown Lions Club

"We Serve"

Newtown,
CT
Est. 1949

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR SPRING



April 12 - Lions regular meeting
 April 19 - Lions board meeting
 April 22 - Lose the Litter Day and Earth Day
 April 26 – Lions regular meeting
 May 6 - Progressive Dinner
 May 10 - Lions regular meeting
 May 13 or May 27 - Home Front
 May 17 - Lions board meeting
 May 24 - Lions regular meeting
 June 3 – Great Pootatuck Duck Race
 June 10 - Orchard Hill Clean Up
 June 11 - End of the year dinner

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Spring means outdoors and for Lions it means Lose the Litter on April 22nd, Home Front on either May 13th or May 27th and Orchard Hill Cleanup on June 10th. All three of these projects need lots of volunteers and non-Lions are welcome. So, here is your chance to join with a buddy, neighbor or friend to do some good and introduce them to Lions activities and maybe encourage new membership. There will be more information on these activities at our meetings.

Speaking of meetings we will be joining with all the Leos for our regular meeting at Newtown High School on May 10th. This is the annual recognition dinner where we will hand out our award to the Leos. It is always a high point of my year to hear of the accomplishments of our young people and, hopefully, it will be for you as well.

David Merrill will be our guest speaker at our April 12th meeting and will be signing his book. Mr. Merrill has donated all the proceeds from the sale of this book to the club. With the talented help from Rhonda and Shame Cullens our club published his book, "David K. Merrill, a Lifetime Painting". This book is available on Amazon and Barnes and Nobles websites. Order your copy before the meeting if you want to have it signed. Additionally, the Newtown Library will be hosting a David Merrill show beginning April 1st, where a copy of the book will be available as well. He will also be hosting a book signing at the library May 7th. The

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hardbound copy is available online.

The Duck Race is scheduled for June 3rd. We are expecting a big turnout as we return to our normal activities after covid.

Our Progressive Dinner is scheduled for May 6th. Please contact Peter McNulty or Gordon Williams if you want to join us. This is always a fun event, meeting with your fellow Lions in small social groups.

Gary Fillion tells me that he will be doing a review of our new Mustang at the May 24th meeting. This is important information to have about the car when you take it out.

Thank you for being a Lion!

Andrew

Our Great New Car! by Chair Dave Landau



This year's car committee has been hard at work behind the scenes since last December. A beautiful **2020 Metallic Blue Mustang** was located in New Jersey. It is equipped with 310HP, with 350 ft-lbs of torque from a Turbo-charged 2.3 liter ecoboost engine and a 10 speed automatic transmission.

It has since found its way to Newtown, where it has been buffed, polished, updated, serviced and ready to sell tickets. It is a true team effort, whose members of the committee have come together to schedule venues, proof and print 20K tickets, sort mailing lists, register the car, apply with the NPD for a permit, set up credit card processing and update the website.

The car will be at our May 24th dinner meeting for all to view and a short demo will be given on what you need to know when you take it out to sell tickets. Also, this year we have streamlined the process to order tickets from the club's web site, <https://newtownlions.org>, and we will be asking all club members to share this on their social media. This year's drawing is on Oct. 21st at Edmund Town Hall.

Please make sure to sign up at least twice to take the car out to sell tickets, and for any new members, a seasoned member will always be available to go with you.

WIN THIS CAR!



LAUGHING IN COURT

These are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down by court reporters.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one who lives with you? WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were they any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.



January 11th Induction Ceremonies



President Andrew with inductees Arnie Berman and Gary Peters.



Gordon sponsored Gary Peters



Arnie with his sponsor Bruce

January 25 Induction



Jennifer Collins shares her story.



And now, Jennifer is officially a Newtown Lion.



Andrew and Dick pose with Franny Hannigan of Charter Cable Studios who spoke at the January 25 meeting.

Old Eyeglasses - New Users

Lions volunteers sorted and packaged an estimated 5,000 eyeglasses collected for shipment to a Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center where trained volunteers sort, clean and determine the prescription strengths of the glasses for eventual distribution for reuse on international optical missions.

Joe Young graciously stores the collected glasses at his Church Hill office building pending shipment. The February 7, 2023 photos below show Lynn Young guiding the efforts of Lions Frank Gardner, Jan Bennett, Steve Bennett, Dick Kovacs and Kevin Corey.



All boxed up and ready to ship!

NHS LEOS CORNER

Below is a photo from Chris Gardner's presentation to the Leos January 11, 2023 where he shared his experiences with the main street flagpole over the years. Chris was a Leo at Newtown High School and he received the Leos Trull award. He is the "Keeper of the Flagpole" on Main Street and coordinates the Lions spring and fall changing of the summer flag. The Newtown Lions Club donates a new summer flag each spring. A "retired" summer flag, 20 ft by 30 ft was presented by Chris to Leo Hayden Bobowick, as winner of a Newtown trivia quiz.



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**ON MARCH 1st LEO CLUB MEMBERS
MAKE SANDWICHES FOR
DOROTHY DAY HOUSE.**



DOINGS OF THE PRIDE

Skip Sims has recovered nicely from about a three week bout of the flu which laid him low. . . . Gordon Mounts has spent a number of days at the Norwalk Hospital. In addition to his Parkinson's disease he also has had covid and a serious case of pneumonia. Currently he is doing a little better and is recovering at River Glenn in Southbury. We wish him well. . . Things have improved for Neil Randle. The surgery on his foot was successful and it has healed . He can walk a short distance, however, if he sits in one position for more than fifteen minutes his leg begins to swell and he is uncomfortable. His novel, Spies in Their Spare Time, is selling well and he is plotting another set in South Africa. He looks forward to giving a talk at the Norwalk Library and also hopes to be able to attend a Lions meeting in the near future. . . Ray Keegan also had some surgery but recovered quickly and he and Lynn spent eight sun filled days in Cabal San Lucas, Mexico which is on the Baja peninsula. What made it especially nice was that he was joined by his brother and family. . .

Peter and Jane McNulty enjoyed their trip to Sicily. Jane wanted to visit her elderly great aunt who was still alive there. They stayed in an area that had spectacular views of the ocean as well as of Mt. Etna, still an active volcano. They also visited Palermo and had a good walking tour there. Pete summarized their eight days by saying, "It was really a great trip !" . . . And our President Andrew has been soaking up the sun in Key Largo, Florida. His son and his son's daughter came for a visit. He has done some fishing and a little boating. At home there now, he is friendly with the neighbors. He has rented the same good place for eleven years and currently goes down for two months! The lucky bum! . . .

If we were to give a Lions awards for most traveled Lion it could easily go to Walt Schweikert who has visited many places for his business and for pleasure, especially national parks. On the other hand, it could easily go to Gary Filian who with Peggy, recently wandered

their way south, cruising to Puerto Rico, the British Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, and Tortola. They had sunny skies most days and interesting places to visit. On Tortola they walked among huge boulders which were unique. Unfortunately, the last few days were not so good. They were supposed to end their trip in Bermuda but for reasons not fully explained they could not go there and so spent their last three days on the boat. A bad way to end a good trip, for sure. . . . Bob and Josie Schmidt also spent some time in Florida visiting a friend in Vero Beach. The weather was 85 to 88 degrees all week. They really did not want to return to Connecticut.

JEOPARDY FOR SENIORS

Send Gordon the answers The person who gets the most answers will receive a free drink at the next Lions meeting. But you can't look up any answers, you just have to remember them.

1. When the Beatles first came to America, in February 1964, we all watched them on the _____ Show.
2. The story you are about to see is true. Only the names have been changed to _____
3. What takes a licking but keeps on ticking?

4. Some Americans protested the Vietnam War by burning their _____
5. We can remember the first satellite placed into orbit. The Russians did it. It was called _____
6. Remember LSMFT? What did it stand for?

7. Who knows what secrets lie in the hearts of men? Only the _____ knows,
8. Hey kids! What time is it? _____
9. Red Skelton's hobo character was named _____ .
10. One of the big fads of the 50s and 60s was a large plastic ring that was twirled around our waist. It was called the _____ .
11. Get your kicks, on _____
12. After the Twist and the Mashed Potato, we danced under a stick that was lowered as low as you could go in a dance called the _____ .

HORSE

by Geraldine Brooks

Book review by Gordon and Betty Mounts

Horse is a beautifully written novel. It takes place 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. And 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 peer for sixteen years, and his offspring win more than any other horses. His blood line continues to the present day. His real skeleton has been restored and if you visit Lexington 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. Geraldine Brooks has won the Pulitzer Prize for past work. Her meticulous research and attention to detail shine through her writing.



I went to the grocery store and they now have a parking spot for Fat guys that like to grill. That's so considerate.

Doug Lord, Library Director spoke at our January 11th meeting.

You might expect the director of the Newtown Library to be soft spoken and serious, but not Doug Lord. Doug explained all of the programs that our library offers in a lively and humorous way.



Doug Lord, Gordon, and Andrew

LIONS ATTEND THE WORK CAMP BREAKFAST

On March 11, the annual Work Camp Breakfast was held at the Newtown Congregational Church. The Lions were there to support the program and enjoy a nice breakfast.



From left to right: Kevin Corey, Gordon Williams, Doug Body, and Ed Miklaszewski.



The other end of the table with Bruce Walczak and his wife, Holly.



MODEL TRAIN SHOW A New Lions Project

The Club is sponsoring a Model Train Show this fall as a fun project for the club and community. A Model Train Show like ours will feature several area club modelers exhibiting their layouts. We also plan to hold historic lectures and Videos on the area railroads in Connecticut and the Northeast Region from the Danbury Railroad Museum, Naugatuck Railroad, and New York, New Haven and Harford to Steamtown USA. There will be a Vendor Sales section with many Model Railroad DIY and Historic Books and Supplies available. Additionally, we are planning children's displays and games which will allow hands on of model railroad train layouts courtesy of our own Lion Model Railroader Paul Arneth. We are planning to host two food trucks and hope to make this a true community event with fun for the whole family.

The show is currently planned to be held on a Saturday at the Community Center in the Fall on one day of four possible weekends in late October to early November. Our own Lion Matt Ariniello has stepped up and offered us an arrangement at the community center which is perfect. The exact date depends on several planning logistics and will be coming out shortly. Stay tuned for more news!

Below are photos of model railroads that were displayed at the Big E in January which are good examples of what the new committee plans to display.

