

Haddam Killingworth News

AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER COVERING HADDAM, HIGGANUM, HADDAM NECK AND KILLINGWORTH

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July 2, 2020

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Free weekly

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

Touchless Pickup and Kids Summer Reading at Brainerd Library: begins July 1

By Tom Piezzo, Director, Brainerd Memorial Library

While renovations continue inside and out at the library, we are pleased to announce touchless pickup will begin Wednesday, July 1. Please call 860-345-2204 or email library@brainerdlibrary.org beginning 7/1 with your requests for up to 10 items per card. Item availability will vary.

We will offer a pick-up day and time after we fill your order, so please tell us the best way to get back to you, and include your library card number. Note that the book drop at the library front door only will re-open Monday, June 29th.

The Children's Summer Reading Program will take place remotely this year, but activity packets will

also be available for touchless pickup beginning July 1st. Just stop by the main entrance and grab your kit. This year's theme is "Imagine Your Story." The packets will contain instructions, reading logs, book-marks, and six weeks of prizes to be distributed each week as earned by participating children. Visit www.brainerdlibrary.org for details.

Summer Programs scheduled at Killingworth Library

By Laurie West Prichard, Director, Killingworth Library Association

All of our summer programs will be held outside on the library's grounds. We will be observing social distancing and attendees will be required to wear masks. Multiple sessions are being held for each activity to allow for increased participation. We have created events especially for our middle schoolers – please look for the (MS) beside events! Pre-registration for all events is required, visit our website to register: killingworthlibrary.org Please note that the library building is closed to the public and restrooms will not be available.

Kickoff Event/Week 1

Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest – All ages! Grab some chalk from the library's stash and create a masterpiece to start off our Summer Family Programming at the Killingworth Library. Each family or patron gets their own sidewalk square to decorate. Photos will be posted to the Library Facebook page and the one that receives the most likes will receive a prize. There will also be 2 random prize drawings. Winners will be announced Saturday, July 18 (the value of any prize will not exceed \$10). Three sessions to choose from, with squares assigned by order of registrations:

Session 1: Monday, July 6, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Session 2: Wednesday, July 8, 10:30 a.m. – noon
Session 3: Saturday, July 11, 10:30 a.m. – noon

Note: Portions of the library's parking lot will be closed during the event to ensure participant safety; please look for signs.

Summer Science Takes Flight with Our Paper Airplane Contest (MS) – Our Summer Science program spreads its wings as we kick things off with a paper airplane building contest. Learn how to make different kinds of gliders and experiment to find out which paper airplane designs fly the farthest. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Session 1: Tuesday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m. or
Session 2: Thursday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Week 2

Hop Into Frog Week! – Hop on down to the library for a special frog themed week of outdoor story time. Join us for froggy songs, crafts, and stories. Real tadpoles will be attending as well! Appropriate for ages 3 – 7

Session 1: Wednesday, July 15 at 10:30 a.m. or
Session 2: Saturday, July 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Science Sounds Off with Build your own phone speakers (MS) – Turn up the volume with our Summer Science program as we learn to make our own portable phone speakers. Join us as we experiment with designs and learn about acoustics. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Session 1: Tuesday, July 14 at 10:30 a.m. or
Session 2: Thursday, July 16 at 10:30 a.m.

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Free Outdoor Concerts on Fridays this month

By Robyne Brennan, Director of Recreation, HK Recreation Department

Fridays at the Higganum Green or Parmelee Farm in Killingworth, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Free Outdoor Summer Concerts! Bring a blanket or a chair to enjoy an evening of live entertainment at our local town green. Fun for the whole family! In the event of rain, shows will be cancelled. Call the HK Recreation Hotline at 860-345-8334 in case of inclement weather or visit www.hkrec.com.

We ask that patrons adhere to the following COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe so that we can offer a free evening of music:

Families must practice social distancing with other families.

Please set up your chairs or blanket at least 15 feet apart from other parties.

Patrons must wear a mask if they are walking around.

Please do not attend if you feel ill or have been around others that have shown any symptoms in the last 14 days.

Friday, July 10, at Higganum Green: Big Deal Rock
Big Deal Rock is a group of accomplished musicians

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Celebrating Centenarians at The Saybrook at Haddam

By Jennifer Armenia, *The Saybrook at Haddam*

The average life expectancy in America is 78.87 years and roughly one out of six thousand people reach their 100th birthday. Reaching 100 years of age is something of a phenomenon, yet The Saybrook at Haddam has FOUR centenarian residents.

Betty Arnold is 104. She was born on 12/30/1915 and lived in Wethersfield for most of her life. Betty worked as a school secretary for 17 years then worked for the Wethersfield Historical Society. Eventually, she took on the character of Goody Pilgrim and went to schools where she taught children about colonial days. She also was a tour guide at the Ancient Burial Grounds and did walking tours of Old Wethersfield. She continued this volunteer work until she was 90.

Susie Perkins Jarrell was born on October 10, 1916. She is 103 years young. During the Great Depression, Susie helped the family's finances by babysitting and teaching piano lessons. She attended college on scholarship; and, as part of the teaching program, was supposed to spend a year abroad in Berlin, Germany. That was in 1938. After just 3 months in Germany, with WWII looming, Susie returned home without being able to complete her teaching degree. Susie took a position teaching American children in Ecuador where she met her future husband, Oscar. After mar-

rying, they traveled to many places around the world. They eventually settled in Needham, MA, where they raised their four children. They purchased a home on Nantucket where they summered for many years before moving there permanently in 1977. Susie became the Music Director in the Unitarian Church and was also the first teacher at the newly formed Nantucket Community Music Center. Susie's secrets to a long life: music, men, and Manhattans!

Marge Platt turned 102 on June 20. She was born and grew up in Cranston, RI. She was a dancer and also taught tap and ballet. Marge married Lloyd Platt with whom she had two daughters. She and Lloyd ran a square dance club. Lloyd was the caller and Marge taught round dancing. She always loved flowers and was an active gardener. Marge was also active in the Greenwich Presbyterian church. She delivered Meals on Wheels and drove people to doctor appointments until she was 90.

Eleanor Asci turned 100 on April 24. Born a farmer's daughter on the family's 50 acre tobacco farm in South Glastonbury, she later married Bill Asci, had two sons, and lived in Cromwell. She and Bill loved traveling and went on cruises all over the world. Eleanor worked in Dietary at Pilgrim Manor in Cromwell. She loved flower and vegetable gardening and only

stopped planting her vegetable garden last year at age 99. She loved the outdoors and square dancing. Eleanor's tips for longevity are: work hard, keep out of trouble, and mind your own business!

These women and others like them, have lived through incredible historical events. To name some, and by all means this is not a complete list:

Wars & conflicts: World War I (Betty & Susie), World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Cuban Missile Crisis, Grenada, The Persian Gulf War, 9/11
 Social, Economic & Health Concerns: The Spanish Flu (Betty, Susie, & Marge), Women's Right to Vote (Betty, Susie, & Marge), The Great Depression, Prohibition, 1st Woman Supreme Court Justice, First African American President, COVID-19
 Technological and scientific discoveries: the radio, antibiotics, television, the airplane, the automobile, the personal computer, rockets, the submarine, nuclear energy, and the internet.

To those blessed with good health like Betty, Susie, Marge, and Eleanor, longevity is a gift. To look back on your life and see all the history you've experienced is amazing. We are grateful to know these ladies and hope everyone has the opportunity to meet and learn from such incredible people.

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Introducing new Prevention Educator/Clinician

By Kathy Brown

Megan Humphrey became the new Prevention Educator/Clinician for Youth & Family Services of Haddam Killingworth on June 17. "I didn't know when I found the job posting during quarantine that it was the perfect position for me," said Megan. "As I learned more about the position, I could not stop getting excited about it."

She wasn't the only one who was excited. Laurie Ruderfer, Executive Director of HKYFS said, "I have worked for a good number of years and in that time conducted a good number of interviews. I can count on one hand the people I have met who are as enthusiastic as Megan was. She was and is brimming with ideas, is eager to learn, give and continue the work that Lindsey did with us to create a place and space where youth grow and thrive with the support of family and community."

Megan described herself as a "country girl and military brat" who has lived all over the US, but has resided in Connecticut longer than other state, including some time in Killingworth. "I love the small country towns with warm neighbors and a huge sense of connectedness among the community." At some point she hopes to own her own farm within the Haddam Killingworth community.



Megan Humphrey. Photo courtesy of Humphrey.

Megan's educational background includes an undergraduate degree in Human Services with a concentration in Therapeutic Recreation from Middlesex Community College and Cambridge College, as well as a graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, and two graduate certificates in Gerontology and Marriage & Family Therapy in Schools, "which focuses on connecting the educational world and the clinical world together as we are all part of numerous systems on a daily basis that can influence us," she explained. She also has training in Gottman Method Couple's Therapy and Cognitive Processing Therapy for PTSD. Megan has worked in special education in school systems, as well as vocational training, and group homes, along with experience at a VA hospital.

"The position intrigued me because I love running events, and helping prevent issues before they arise," said Megan. "Marriage and Family Therapy is my passion, as it is my belief that we are not alone in our struggles." Megan is looking forward to continuing groups in the schools once the school year begins, as well as work in the community, such as food/toy/school supply drives, family dinners, Run-A-Muck, the annual Pumpkin Run, and more. Megan says, "I have a long list of ideas and cannot

wait to try out different ideas in the community!"



She said that she will be introducing herself to local business owners over the next several weeks, so if you see her out in the community, say hi. "I believe everyone is an important part of the community and I look forward to knowing you all eventually," said Megan. She is looking forward to starting some new groups as she learns about the needs of the community.

This summer, HKYFS is hosting a family adventure program called SOA2R to HKYFS where you can participate by sending pictures to HKYFS via Facebook or email of the family doing a "Spontaneous Outdoor Activity 2 Remember." For every picture of a different activity, your family is entered to win a \$25 gift card to a community business. HKYFS will also be hosting monthly family dinners, and community movie nights, so watch for announcements!

As the Prevention Educator, much of Megan's work is spent on prevention topics such as alcohol, drugs, mental health, suicide, and teen pregnancy. She will also hold clinical sessions at the office for individuals, couples, and families. Do you need help co-parenting with an ex-partner? Megan can help! If it looks like the community needs it, she can start groups on parenting, grief, or other subjects. "If you are struggling or just have questions, feel free to reach out to me for assistance in anything," said Megan. "I am here to help the community in any way possible and if I do not know the answer, I will connect you with someone who does!"

"Megan will be a wonderful addition to our team," said Laurie, "and I look forward to watching her hit the ground running."

If you would like to contact Megan, her phone at HKYFS is 860-345-7498 Ext. 4 and her email is PreventionCoordinator@hkyfs.org.

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Finding the Sun! Not just the Burn!


Eventually, we will have a few of those wonderful Sunny Days all in a row! So, let's get prepared, As not all sunscreens are equally effective. SPF, is the measure of how well the sunscreen guards against ultraviolet B (UVB) rays, which is the chief cause of sunburn and contributor to skin cancer. It is important to choose a product with broad spectrum coverage that also provides protection against UVA rays as well. UVA rays are longer waves and they are able to reach the middle layer of the skin contributing to sagging, wrinkling skin, as well as skin cancer.

Sunscreens are for everyone 6 months and older, unless you have a skin allergy to the product. Everyone has different level of melanin pigment in their bodies, and it is for that reason everyone needs to use sunscreen. The intensity of UVB rays varies throughout the days, and location in relation to direction of the sun, and for this reason all sunscreens must be reapplied every 2 hours while in the sun, and more if swimming. It is important to remember to apply sunscreen to lips, as 70% of people fail to do this. The legs are the site for most common melanoma in women, as it is easy to forget the back of knees, and the back is the overall most common site to develop melanoma, and basal cell carcinoma.

The FDA does not have time to review manufacturer data, which raises the importance of the Consumer Report list- this year, 60 products were tested, and 23 tested less than half of their labeled SPF number. In absent of the list, you should think about using a SPF of 50, so that even if the manufacturer overstates the concentration, you will probably have enough for sufficient coverage.

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Factors Parents Should Consider When
Determining Whether to Move Out of State with a Minor Child

By Attorney Makana A. Ellis

When a parent wants to move and relocate out of state with his or her minor child and the other parent does not consent to the move, the Connecticut family court judge considers what is in the best interests of the minor child. The relocating parent bears the burden of showing the court relocating out of state with the minor child is for a legitimate purpose and is in the child's best interests. The court will consider these factors to determine what is in the minor child's best interests for relocation:

1. Each parent's reasons for seeking or opposing the relocation;
2. The quality of the relationships between the child and each parent;
3. The impact of the relocation on the quantity and the quality of the child's future contact with the nonrelocating parent;
4. The extent to which the relocating parent's and the child's life may be improved economically, emotionally and educationally by the relocation; and
5. The likelihood of preserving the relationship between the nonrelocating parent and the child through visitation arrangements.

If you are considering moving out of state with your minor child, or oppose a move out of state by a custodial parent, please contact Dzialo, Pickett & Allen, P.C. for a consultation.

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RSD #17 Board of Education Summary of May Meetings

By Jennifer Favalora, RSD #17 Board of Education

Cougar Pride:

The Superintendent and the Board recognized HKHS Senior Lauren Miller and Junior Matt Jennings for their work as student representatives to the Board of Education. Both Lauren and Matt are exemplary student athlete leaders with notable involvement and success at HK. A special note of gratitude went to Lauren for her role as a representative for these last two years. Additionally, the 2020 CT Association of Schools recognized HKMS 8th graders, Natalie Houlton and Ivy McNeil with Scholar Leader Awards for distinguishing themselves in scholarship and leadership in the school and in their community.

RSD 17 2020/21 Budget:

Budget Approved – After three months of work which included two Budget Presentations, eight Budget Workshops, four Joint Meetings with HK Town Leadership, a Community Input Session and a two week Community Input Open Email, the Board of Education

voted to adopt a 2020/21 Annual Gross Budget of \$41,887,638.40. This Gross Budget is a \$461,275.12 reduction from the 2019/20 Gross Budget.

District School Calendar 2020-21 With the approval of the 2020/21 budget, the Board voted to reduce the number of student school days from 182 to 180. Updates were made to the calendar, including changing the first day of school for students to August 27th; replacing six early release days into full school days, and turning two school days into full Professional Development Days for teachers. The updated calendar can be found on our RSD17.org website under “Calendar”.

Covid-19 Effects on RSD17:

HKHS Class of 2020 – On June 15th, HK Seniors and their immediate families have been invited to the High School campus at an assigned time to be celebrated by their teachers and staff and receive their diplomas. With updated social distancing directives from the State anticipated, School Adminis-

tration and Class Officers have rescheduled Prom to August and have plans to gather as a class for a Graduation Celebration on August 14th.

Fall Planning- RSD17 will be receiving \$45,000 in CARES Act Funding with some of those funds immediately earmarked for the purchase of safety equipment, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for the fall. Summer School guidelines from the state were released and gave an indicator of measures to consider for re-opening in the Fall. Superintendent Hageman expects Fall guidelines for re-opening to be released by the Governor by mid-June.

Capital Improvements:

Technology Purchases – In order to enhance student learning using technology and in anticipation that some degree of remote learning is likely in the fall, the BoE voted to use unspent 2019/20 funds due to Covid-19, to add 1,074 computers to the current inventory to equip all students with a school computer for use both at school and at home. This increase in District

laptops will allow teachers to hold a greater number of “live” scheduled classes remotely, mirroring in-school scheduling to enhance the learning experience. Daily instruction, whether inside classrooms or through remote learning, depends on technology as a tool for success at every level and this investment will equalize accessibility for all RSD17 students. Additionally, the Board approved purchasing a new website platform and accounting/ HR system using 2019/20 unspent funds. These purchases were moved to help reduce the overall 20/21 Gross budget.

HKHS Field House- The State granted approval to begin work and the bleachers have been removed from the field house in preparation for the floor removal and abatement. Despite starting later than the original start date, the architect believes that there should be no problem finishing the project on time.

On our Website:

The 2020/21 Adopted Board of Education Budget is posted on RSD17.org under “Budget Information.”

HADDAM FAITH / COMMUNITY

St. Peter Church services update: We’re Going Back ... Why Don’t You, Too?

The past few months have been difficult for many of us ... job disruptions ... food insecurities ... loss of face-to-face contact with friends and family. It’s been tough!

As we begin to climb out of our personal pandemic caves, we at St. Peter Church, in Higganum, invite you back to engage in faith and worship with us... whether you’ve been away for a few months...a few years...or decades.

We are opening for public celebration once again beginning July 4th & 5th!

We are committed to opening safely – please review our required safety precautions at www.stpeterhigganum.com or www.facebook.com/stpeterhigganum.

Join us in church: Saturdays, at 5:00 pm or Sundays, at 8:30 am and 11:00 am;

Join us online: Mass will continue to be available to you online, just at a new time. The Sunday mass at 11:00 am will be livestreamed. Please go to the web or Facebook links above for specifics.

Join us for daily mass in the church at 8:00 am

(M,T,W,F) and 9:00 am (Sat); join us as we pray the rosary at 8:00 pm each evening via Zoom.

Call us at 860-345-8018 and let us know if you have concerns or needs that we can help with. Our door is always open to you.

Father Joe, Father Marty and members of the Parish family

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Rhonda Marie (Berry) Gardner

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Rhonda Marie (Berry) Gardner, 57, of Higganum, passed away on Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at Middlesex Hospital, having lost her thirteen year courageous battle with cancer. Born June 1, 1962 in Manchester, she was the daughter of Donald and Janet (Porter) Berry.

Rhonda was a graduate of Haddam-Killingworth High School. She was a dedicated and treasured employee of the Middlesex Hospital Emergency Department for eighteen years. She loved her job and her hospital family so very much.

Besides her parents, Rhonda is survived by her son, Richard "Nick" Gardner and her daughter, Ashley Eliza Gardner. She also leaves her nephews, Jack Berry, Danny Berry; her sister-in-law, Theresa Berry, and her cousins.

Rhonda was predeceased by her brother, Robert Berry and her sister, Roxanne Berry. They will be waiting for her at the Heavenly Gate.

Due to the pandemic, a celebration of Rhonda's life will be held at a future date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rhonda's memory may be made to a fund set up for her children at Rhonda's Children c/o Liberty Bank, P. O. Box 37, Haddam, CT 06438. To share memories or send condolences, please visit www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Friday, July 3

Opening day of Higganum Farmers Market!

3:30-6:30 p.m., Haddam Elementary School. Numerous vendors. Runs through October.

Friday, July 10

HK Recreation Department Free Outdoor Concert, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Higganum Green. Band: Big Deal Rock. Music for the whole family!



CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

Killingworth Library Programs

Continued from page H1

Week 3

Awesome Moss – Join us as we create beautiful and soothing moss gardens using recycled materials. We will read a story, sing some songs, and make something wonderful to take home with us. Appropriate for ages 3 – 7.

Session 1: Wednesday, July 22 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Saturday, July 25 at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Science Balloon Race Car Derby (MS) – Summer Science has the need for speed! Join us as we create our own balloon-powered race cars and pit them against each other in our Balloon Race Car Derby. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Session 1: Tuesday, July 21 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Thursday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Week 4

Family Drum Circle – The Killingworth Library marches to the beat of its own drum, and now you can too! Come join us as we learn some basic

drum rhythms and, of course, sing some songs and read a story. Appropriate for ages 3 – 7.

Session 1: Wednesday, July 29 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Saturday, August 1 at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Science Keeps It Clean: Natural filters (MS) – Join our Summer Science program as we learn how ponds, streams, and rivers naturally keep themselves clean and experiment with materials to demonstrate these natural filtration processes. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Session 1: Tuesday, July 28 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Thursday, July 30 at 10:30 a.m.

Week 5

Alien Invasion – Whether you're from outer space or right here in Killingworth you won't want to miss this alien-themed story time. Join us as we read a space-themed story, sing some space songs and build our own aliens and flying saucers. Appropriate for ages 3 – 7.

Session 1: Wednesday, August 5 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Saturday, August 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Science Creates an Ecosystem with a Sealed Terrarium (MS) – Learn about how ecosystems are formed and maintained and build your own at a small-scale terrarium to take home. Appropriate for ages 8+.

Session 1: Tuesday, August 4 at 10:30 a.m. or

Session 2: Thursday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m.

Week 6

Dragon Storytime – Join us at the library as we conclude our summer family programming by creating our own dragons. Come read some dragon storybooks and adopt a dragon of your own! Each child will stuff their very own dragon, similar to build a

bear (limit 5 children per session, with preference given to those who have attended prior sessions). Appropriate for ages 3 – 10.

Session 1: Monday, August 10, at 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: Wednesday, August 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: Saturday, August 15 at 10:30 a.m.

Summer Science is for the Birds – Make your own Birdfeeder (MS) – Join us in our final week of Summer Science as we create bird feeders from scratch. We will learn about backyard birds and their behavior as well as make a tasty treat to bring to the birds that live in our own backyards.

Session 1: Tuesday, August 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Session 2: Thursday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Haddam Killingworth News

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Reckoning with the mirror: why have certain American institutions turned their backs on black life

By Meghan Peterson, Ph.D.

Black lives matter. Human life is precious and sacred. These are inalienable and bedrock truths. Yet, the very institutions and political agents decrying racism in the United States today have failed to make “black lives matter” more than a convenient slogan. As a white millennial, I want to know: why are the loudest voices within American political life at this time the ones which precisely have suppressed and oppressed our black brethren and citizens?

Academia/Higher Education

Why have American academic institutions – particularly higher education circles – at the forefront of cheering on recent protests and riots – not delivered on their purported missions to equip students with knowledge of other races, ethnicities, religions, creeds, and viewpoints? Why have they not done more to bear fruit in terms of eradicating racist philosophies in the United States?

In particular, with the advent of Black studies, Africana studies, and African-American studies (they vary by specific name across colleges and universities), why have these programs not trained decades’ worth of citizens to value black experience and black life? Since 1968, when San Francisco State University established the country’s first Black studies department, other colleges and universities have followed suit, creating their own courses of study designed to “empower students with a knowledge base that will afford them an in-depth understanding of an African and African American centered perspective.” Or, in the words of the University of Connecticut’s Africana Studies Institute, “the primary mission... is to enlighten and inform... about the history, culture, contributions and experiences of people of African descent in the United States and abroad.”

Dozens upon dozens of colleges and universities offer programs, departments, or institutes tailored to teaching students about black histories, views, and lives. On the East Coast, there is the Department of Africana Studies at University of Albany; Boston

University’s African Studies Center; Harvard University’s Committee on African Studies; Yale’s Council on African Studies; and UConn’s Africana Studies Institute – to name just a few. On the West Coast, one can study at University of California, Berkeley’s Center for African Studies or head to the L.A. campus for its African Studies program – again, just a sampling of what is available. Alternatively, one can study at University of Georgia’s African Studies Program, Indiana University’s African Studies Program or University of Texas at Austin’s Center for African and African-American Studies. Meanwhile, Stanford University, University of Virginia, Washington University, Wayne State University all offer black studies or African or African-American studies programs.

It is 2020. Academia has had fifty years to impart the conceptual and practical tools for American students to be on the forefront of justice and equality for all people. Where is the fruit of this labor?

Political Leadership

Next, I want to pose the question to American politicians, particularly those hailing from the Democratic Party, as they have been the most strident on the issue of George Floyd’s death at the hands of a white police officer: why have you have not done more for the black community?

According to latest census estimates available analyzed by the Brookings Institute, there are over 1,260 black-majority cities in the United States, urban areas in which black residents constitute the majority of the population, with New York and Chicago topping the list of cities with the largest black populations. But even when discussing non-majority black cities, about 36% of black Americans live in cities, 15% live in small metro areas, and 39% live in suburbs. So let us take a brief look at the political leadership in some cities.

Of the 50 U.S. major cities, 35 are run by Democrats, 13 by Republicans, and 2 by Independents who were elected with state Democrat support. Minneapolis, MN, ground zero for the George Floyd death and protests, has had a Democratic Farmer Labor (a merger

of the state Democratic party and the Leftist Minnesota Farmer-Labor party), mayor in power since 1974, with a brief intermission of an Independent mayor from 1976-77. Republicans have not held the seat since 1973 when Richard Erdall served for one day. Why have Democrats in Minneapolis not fostered a climate of equity, justice, safety, and life for all of its residents there? They have had over four decades to do so.

Or take a look at Seattle, WA. In the self-declared city of CHOP (formerly known as CHAZ, but rioters/protestors do not want to break away from the despicable United States!), Democrats have held the mayoral seat since 1970. Why have Democrats in Seattle not fostered a climate of equity, justice, safety, and life for all of its residents there? They have had fifty years to do so.

How about closer to home? Hartford, Conn. As is the case with many cities in America, Hartford has seen the Democratic Party dominate the mayoral position as well as the city council. Antonina Uccello was Hartford’s first female mayor and Hartford’s last Republican mayor at the end of the 1960s. The very party shouting for racial justice and “black lives matter” have ruled with minimal (if any) political opposition for up to a half-century in many of America’s urban centers. Why is crime rampant? Why are blacks not being afforded opportunities there? Why are conditions such that black lives do not seem to matter in these areas?

Black Life

Finally, why is the Democratic Party the party of Planned Parenthood and the ill-coined mantra, “pro-choice”? I ask this question for two central reasons: 1) the founder of Planned Parenthood, Margaret Sanger, was a known eugenicist who artfully “adopted the mainstream eugenics language of the day;” 2) About 78% of Planned Parenthood clinics are in minority communities. While blacks constitute about 13% of the American population, black babies comprise 37% of abortions in the United States. Moreover, black babies are “three times more likely to be killed from an abortion than white babies.”

The Democratic Party’s alliance with Planned Parenthood appears at odds with the Democrats’ pledge to ensure black lives matter.

As we confront racism head-on, the institutions and political criers vowing racial justice should look in the mirror. Perhaps they’d see their blemishes and failed promises to support black experiences, livelihoods and yes, life itself.

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“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31). “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men...” (Romans 1:18). “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:18-19). “Those who believe in the Son [of God] have eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him” (John 3:36).

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19). For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23). “Repent and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15). “That you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13).

Pray Like This: “Dear God, I believe Jesus died on the cross to pay for my sins, and that He arose alive again on the third day. I repent of my sins and ask Your forgiveness. I accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord, and I believe my sins are forgiven. Thank You God in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

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In defense of Washington and Jefferson: the foolhardiness of destroying their statues (Part 1)

By Philip R. Devlin

Context matters. When re-examining American history in light of today's very legitimate concerns about racial equity, a closer examination of the relevant facts is necessary to obtain a more truthful and accurate view of our slave-holding Founding Fathers such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

Let's start with the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4th 1776. It is instructive to examine the original version of the Declaration first presented by Thomas Jefferson (its author) to the Continental Congress on June 28, 1776. The gathered delegates in Philadelphia debated that first draft for two days before finally agreeing upon the final draft that became the Declaration that we know.

When I was teaching American literature to juniors in high school, the anthology which I used contained a full draft of the original Declaration and also showed the final draft as well. This was an eye-opening experience for the students, as the original draft by Jefferson to their surprise contained powerful anti-slavery language—as strongly anti-slavery as I have ever seen. Here are some excerpts from the last few paragraphs in the original draft to prove the point:

"He [meaning King George III] has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere, or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian [my italics and to be said with biting sarcasm] king of Great Britain."

Shortly after this statement in the original draft of the Declaration, Jefferson references the fact that the 13 colonies under the rule of the English king were not allowed to take any action to abolish slavery (or anything else for that matter) without the king's permission—something he refused to grant to colonies that attempted to do so while under colonial rule, saying that the king was "suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce [determining to keep open a market where MEN should be bought and sold]: and that this assemblage of horrors might ... not die, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which he had deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtrud-

ed them: thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another."

The italics in the previous paragraph are mine, designed to call the reader's attention to the very powerful anti-slavery language used by Thomas Jefferson in the original draft. Both paragraphs quoted here—as well as other more implied anti-slavery language in the original Declaration—were deleted from the final version of the Declaration of Independence, largely because of passionate objections voiced by delegates of two southern colonies—South Carolina and Georgia.

Jefferson was not happy about these deletions; however, recognizing the need for the colonies to be united in their coming war with England, he did not pack up in a "my way or the highway" huff and go back to Monticello; instead, he decided that once independence had been secured, the country could and should re-visit the issue of slavery. This is what I call pragmatic idealism: Get what you can at this political moment and then work for change in the future. Let's not forget that the still often quoted sentence by

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE H1

Outdoor Concerts

Continued from page H1

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Friday, July 24, at Higganum Green: Dynamite Rhythm

Dynamite Rhythm has been providing Southern New England with an authentic Rock & Roll Dance Party since 2016. This tight-knit quintet strives to bring new life to the classic sounds of your favorite 45's! Carefully selecting songs spanning 50 years of jukebox gold, Dynamite Rhythm's 4 vocalists all sing harmony on top of a solid rhythm section. Add a

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Friday, July 31, at Parmelee Farm: Rotary

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Op ed

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those calling for racial equity —“All Men are created equal”—was allowed to remain in the document.

Opposing the institution of slavery was a consistent theme throughout Jefferson’s entire life, not just at the time he wrote the Declaration. This view should be regarded as extraordinary in a time when slave labor was the norm throughout most of the world. As a Virginia representative in the House of Burgesses, he had drafted a law to prohibit Virginia from importing slaves. It failed to pass. Later, in 1784, he proposed a law to prohibit slavery in the Northwest Territory. That failed by one vote but was later revived by George Washington and passed early in his administration; furthermore, Jefferson advocated for Virginians to cultivate crops such as wheat, rice, and grapes which, unlike tobacco, were not so heavily dependent upon manual labor.

As President, Jefferson asked Congress in 1806 to pass a law to make the importation of slaves from foreign countries a crime and to “withdraw the citizens of the United States from all further participation in those violations of human rights ... which the morality, the reputation, and the best interests of our country have long been eager to proscribe.” Congress did just that. On March 2, 1807, Thomas Jefferson signed that law. That law and the Louisiana Purchase are considered by many to be the two most significant achievements of the Jeffersonian presidency. (One more step taken on the road to ending slavery.)

It should be noted that the state of Virginia—as well as most other Southern states—had a long history of imposing severe penalties upon owners who wanted to free their slaves. These legal restrictions began as early as 1692: “No Negro or mulatto slave shall be set free, unless the emancipator pays for his transportation out of the country within six months.”

Over time, these state laws restricting manumission became even more burdensome and punishing; an 1806 law passed in Virginia required slave owners to support economically any slave that they freed. This law made it impossible for Jefferson in his later years to free his slaves in his will, as the 3rd President barely scraped by economically, often living on the charity of others at Monticello until his death in 1826 and unwilling to sell off any of his slaves for fear of breaking up families. Context matters.

A brief liberalization of manumission laws in Virginia in 1782 allowed George Washington, a much wealthier man, to free his slaves upon his death in 1799. The more liberal manumission provisions were repealed in the 1806 Virginia law that Jefferson was subject to.

To those who wish to trash Jefferson these days, would you also trash some of the most vocal leaders of the Abolitionist Movement in the years and months before and during the Civil War or are they your heroes? Would you pull down statues of people

like Frederick Douglass, John Quincy Adams (called the “Hell Hound of Abolition”) Lincoln, Daniel Webster and other Abolitionist leaders? I suggest you re-examine their speeches and writing and note that among those they most often quote in lobbying for abolition is one Thomas Jefferson.

Daniel Webster in 1845:

“Towards the close of his life, Mr. Jefferson made a renewed and final declaration of his opinion by writing thus to a friend: ‘My sentiments on the subject of the slavery of Negroes have long since been in possession of the public, and time has only served to give them stronger root. The love of justice and the love of country plead equally the cause of these people; and it is a moral reproach to us that they should have pleaded it so long in vain and should have produced not a single effort—nay, I fear, not much serious willingness to relieve them and ourselves from our present condition of moral and political reprobation.’”

John Quincy Adams:

“The inconsistency of the institution of domestic slavery with the principles of the Declaration of Independence was seen and lamented by all the southern patriots of the Revolution; by no one with deeper and more unalterable conviction than by the author of the Declaration himself. No charge of insincerity or hypocrisy can be fairly laid to their charge. Never from their lips was heard one syllable of attempt to justify the institution of slavery. They universally considered it as a reproach fastened upon them by the unnatural step-mother country and they saw that before the principles of the Declaration of Independence, slavery, in common with every other mode of oppression, was destined sooner or later to be banished from the earth. Such was the undoubting conviction of Jefferson to his dying day. In the Memoir of His Life, written at the age of seventy-seven, he gave to his countrymen the solemn and emphatic warning that the day was not distant when they must hear and adopt the general emancipation of their slaves.”

Abraham Lincoln, who issued the emancipation Proclamation in 1862, constantly quoted Thomas Jefferson’s words in the Declaration of Independence in

justification for freeing the slaves. In refuting the Kansas-Nebraska Act, Lincoln referenced Jefferson “who was, is, and perhaps will continue to be, the most distinguished politician of our history.”

So to those of you who want to pull down a statue of Jefferson, spray graffiti on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington D.C., or dynamite Mt. Rushmore, I suggest you re-examine the life and words of Thomas Jefferson more carefully and deepen your understanding of the historical context in which the man acted. Jefferson inherited slaves upon the death of his father, Peter Jefferson, when the future President was only 14 years old. He grew up in a time where slave labor was the norm all over the world. It is truly extraordinary that a man in this context would pen those important words: “All men are created equal” that are still cited today as an ideal for those who seek racial equity.

Though his powerful anti-slavery language in the original Declaration of Independence was rejected, Jefferson, ever the pragmatic idealist, continued to work toward the ideal of abolition incrementally. To those of you who say, “Yeah, but he didn’t free his slaves,” I would ask you to examine the laws of Virginia that since 1692 imposed huge penalties—both financial and criminal—upon people who freed their slaves. As Jefferson had written in 1814, “The laws do not permit us to turn them loose.”

No presidential pensions existed when Jefferson was alive. It is common knowledge that he was nearly poverty-stricken in the later years of his life, approximately \$100,000 in debt—an astronomical sum in 1826! For all intents and purposes, there was no legal way for him to free his slaves in his will. Yet in the year before he died, he wrote the following in a letter to a “Miss Wright” in August of 1825:

“At the age of eighty-two, with one foot in the grave and the other uplifted to follow it, I do not permit myself to take part in any new enterprises, even for bettering the condition of man, no even in the great one which is the subject of your letter and which has been through life that of my greatest anxieties. The march of events has not been such as to render its completion practicable with the limits of time allotted

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF BUILDING/DEMOLITION PERMIT APPLICATION

The Town of Haddam Land Use Department has received an application to demolish the following structure which has been determined to be a historically significant building in the Town of Haddam.

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HADDAM LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the Town of Haddam. A Tax levy of 31.69 mils on the dollar was laid on the 2019 Grand List. The first installment will become due July 1, 2020. If payment is not received on or before August 3, 2020 they are subject to an interest rate .25% per month or any fraction of a month from the due date until September 30, 2020. After September 30, 2020 the interest rate will resume at the statutory 1.5% per month or any fraction of a month from the due date. A minimum interest charge of \$2.00 will apply to all delinquent taxes. Please visit our website Haddam.org or call for important details for safe payments. Payments will be received through the included return envelope at the Tax Office located in the Town Office Building located at 30 Field Park Drive Haddam, CT 06438. The Haddam Tax Office hours are: Monday and Wednesday 8:00AM to 2PM; Wednesday 8:30 -2PM; Thursday 8:30AM to 2PM; Friday 8:30AM to Noon. Senior hours are Monday and Wednesday 8AM - 10AM. Call 860-345-8531 X 207 with questions.

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Vine control

Volunteers needed to help make masks for RSD #17

By Editorial Staff

At the end of May, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published guidelines for schools to reopen. Among the guidelines are that desks should be spaced 6 feet apart, all desks should face the same direction (vs. face to face), and students should not share any items (such as pencils, calculators, or books). Since then, states have come out with guidelines for the reopening of school, and Connecticut has not released theirs yet, however, it is likely that masks may be required at least some of the time.

Amy Perry, of Killingworth, has been making fabric face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic that are adjustable and washable, so she reached out to Killingworth First Selectman, Cathy Iino, and another

Selectman, then reached out to Holly Hageman, the Superintendent of Schools for Haddam Killingworth with an idea.

Together they formulated a plan to provide masks for all students and staff of our school district. Amy said she would spearhead the project and coordinate the volunteers. Sharon Timek, also of Killingworth, volunteered to help. Sharon and Amy will put together tote bags which will include blue and gold fabric (school colors) and supplies to make 50 masks (elastic, metal nose guard, thread, and of course, instructions). They are looking for 20-40 volunteers with sewing machines to take a tote bag and sew 50 face masks then return them to Amy. Amy is estimating that it will take 10-15 hours to sew 50 masks from start to finish.

To provide masks for students, staff, and bus drivers, they will need at least 2,400 masks.

"If we get started now, I am hoping by August 15, we will have at least 2,000 so we can arrange for students to pick them up and be ready to get on the bus the first day of school," said Amy. "I feel if we all do a little, we will get it done!"

Holly Hageman said, "I am very grateful to Amy and the team of volunteers who will apply their skills to make beautiful masks for students and staff so that everyone has at least one for school if state guidelines or mandates indicate that they need to be worn."

If you are willing to help in this effort, please call Amy at 860-398-0215 or email her at Yourpersonal-seamstress@gmail.com.

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Op ed

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to me; and I leave its accomplishment as the work of another generation. And I am cheered when I see that on which it is devolved, taking it up with so much good will and such minds engaged in its encouragement. The abolition of the evil is not impossible; it ought never therefore to be despaired of. Every plan should be adopted, every experiment tried, which may do something towards the ultimate object."

Less than a year later on July 4th

1826, in an incredible historical coincidence, Thomas Jefferson died of natural causes on the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Declaration of Independence! John Adams, his friend and fellow Founding Father, died later that same day. John Quincy Adams, his son, rabid abolitionist, and President at the time, had this to say about the incredible coincidence of both of their deaths on the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Declaration: Their deaths are "visible and palpable remarks of Divine Favor."

(Note: Part 2 will deal with George Washington.)

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Hundreds attend protest on June 20

By Austin Mirmina

More than 300 protesters gathered at the Higganum Town Green on Saturday, June 20, joining the swelling number of Connecticut towns that have held protests to speak out against racial injustice.

The event marked a watershed moment for Higganum, which is a predominantly white section of Haddam-Killingworth, as it tries to confront a troubling history with racism.

Residents voiced their deep-seated anxieties about the town's connection to racism. In the early 20th century, the Ku Klux Klan used to hold meetings in Higganum, according to a 2009 newsletter from the Haddam Historical Society. And this past school year, two HK students had racial slurs written anonymously in their virtual yearbooks.

The mother of those two students, Maura Wallin, told protesters to be vigilant about speaking out against bigotry. She spoke pointedly to adults, saying they are responsible for setting a good example for younger residents.

"Now is the time to get on the right side of history and change things for generations to come," Wallin said

People of all ages, from young children to older adults, wore masks and spread out across the Higganum Green to follow social distancing rules. Most of the protesters donned black shirts and held signs saying, "Black Lives Matter," "Love kills hate! End racism," and "Color is not a crime."

HK resident Cary Chadwick, 38, brought her two children, ages five and seven, to the protest. She said her family has been paying attention to the news and having honest conversations about why people of color are treated differently.

Chadwick also said she has been using this moment of social justice to help her children recognize the importance of standing up for people who are



"There's a lot of stuff we don't know," Gray said. "But we'll learn together."

Valedictorian Arjun Badami speaks to the crowd. Photos by Austin Mirmina.



Valedictorian Arjun Badami speaks to the crowd. Photos by Austin Mirmina.

being mistreated. "I'm trying to teach them to advocate when they see someone who is being mistreated to be the one that steps in and says it's not O.K.," Chadwick said.

Seven individuals addressed the crowd from inside the gazebo, which transformed into a makeshift stage. Arjun Badami, who was the valedictorian for Haddam Killingworth High School's Class of 2020, said one of society's biggest issues was allowing racism to become normalized.

"We must all be actively anti-racist," Badami said. Fredrica Gray, who is a former executive director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, said she expressed skepticism about speaking at the protest.

Clarke expressed her frustration with being treated and perceived differently because she is black and doesn't conform to what she called the European standard of beauty. She described a time when a white woman asked to pet her hair while waiting in line at the grocery store. "Stop looking at us because we're different. And start looking at us because we're human," Clarke said.

Elijah Manning, 38, who currently lives in Norwalk, said he has been attending protests and speaking to people in predominantly white areas around Connecticut. The reason, he said, is to spread the message to people who can't relate to the struggle of being a black person in white America.

In addition to speaking at protests, Manning said he is currently working with the Norwalk school board to restructure the curriculum so it makes students more aware of the injustices faced by black people.

"The narrative has changed. You have moved the goalposts," Manning said. Some elected officials, including First Selectman Bob McGarry and State Representative Christine Palm, also attended the protest.

Palm said she is thrilled that the issue of racial inequality is being broken wide open. She called the protest a "really important moment for [Higganum], because it's full of people who care deeply about social justice."

For HK resident Rebecca Mainetti, 26, the protest was a chance for HK to begin repairing its relationship with people of color and also to make it more inclusive.

"I'm really glad we were able to have a Black Lives Matter rally in the same town [as a KKK rally] so many years later," Mainetti said. "It feels like it stuck in the right direction."

Congratulations to Our 2020 HK High School and HK Middle School Graduates



Congratulations Toby!
So proud of you.
Gram

Congratulations Saige!
Good Luck at UCONN!!
Love,
Mom and Jim



Congratulations Saige!
We are so proud of you.
Love Grammy, TT,
Bree and Kins

