Pierpont Concert Series - Saturday February 22, 2025



North Haven: The North Haven Congregational Church, 28 Church Street, North Haven, CT will feature the award-winning North Haven High School Choral and Jazz Ensembles at a concert to be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase in advance and at the door. Pricing: $15, students with ID $10, children under 12 free. No reserved seating. Handicapped Accessible and ample parking is available. There will be a Meet and Greet Reception following the concert. Call the Church office at (203) 239-5691 for more information or visit the church website at: northhavenucc.org.

Hamden Woman's Club Celebrates Chinese "Year Of The Snake"



Hamden: Eleven members of the HWC International Lunch Bunch gathered together very recently at JaSa Asian Cuisine Restaurant in Hamden to dine over a huge variety of delicious Chinese delicacies. Everyone wore the color RED in celebration of the upcoming Chinese New Year holiday, "The Year of the Snake"! The owners of JaSa were very hospitable and they shared personal knowledge with us about their homeland in China.

The International Lunch Bunch meets the third Tuesday of each month at a different ethnic restaurant to learn more about other cultures and people via their cuisine. It's always a wonderful, delightful and "delicious" experience! We thank Donna Cifaldi, Chairwoman of the International Affairs Committee, for organizing this lovely experience.

Are you thinking about joining a volunteer social group to make a positive and rewarding difference in your life in 2025? If so, please consider joining us - the Hamden Woman's Club, Inc., GFWC, which is open to any woman over eighteen years of age who would like to volunteer in the community, develop new friendships, and have fun at the same time! We are a civic, educational and social organization that was organized in 1950 and joined the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, Inc.(GFWC) on January, 1951. We are proud to be part of the largest volunteer organization in the world, and we continually develop new projects to improve the quality of life within our community.

The HWC also provides many fun social benefits to our members. We have a "revised" Book Club that meets monthly at a local restaurant in addition to our "International Lunch Bunch" and our "Dinner Divas". Everyone loves our choral group, holiday parties & banquets, day trips, Military Whists, Bingo Nights, Arts & Crafts Competitions, and other fun activities!

You do NOT have to live in Hamden to join - and we are very pleased that our membership has grown recently to fifty members! Meetings are held at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June, at the Hamden Senior Center (located in the rear of the Miller Memorial Library).

Our next meeting will be on Wed., February 5, when will hold our annual Arts & Crafts Competition, a very special event in which our talented members display their creative crafts to be viewed, appreciated and judged. As always, this meeting will be followed by a social time with refreshments and delicious desserts.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to attend meetings and we urge anyone interested in learning more about HWC to please contact Sharon Nolan @ Snolan06514@yahoo.com. or 203-248-2538. Also, please look at our Facebook page - Hamden Woman's Club, GFWC, Inc. - for more information, articles and fun photos of our friendly club!

Attention: 18-19 Year Olds

I am a retired New York City high school guidance counselor. With the help of students and adults, I have developed and facilitated a program known as the "Anger Management Power (A.M.P.) Program." I'm the author of the book entitled, *Peace the Other Side of Anger* (2011), based on this program for parents/guardians and professionals helping youngsters handle anger in positive ways.

I'm in the process of revising this book by adding additional chapters on the pandemic, gun violence, and social media -- all of which had not existed or have the impact they have today. Your opinions are valuable and your perceptions meaningful. Three surveys on these subjects have been created and need your input. Your names will NOT be used. The only identifying information will be your gender, age and grade.

Please access these surveys on the link and/or QR Code shown here. They should only take you a few minutes to complete.

Thank you for your participation.

Dave Wolffe, MS, Author
peacefulyouth422@yahoo.com

https://forms.gle/aa4jCEXfdUxvNixm6

Appointments for 2024-25 CT Energy Assistance

The Town of North Haven's Community Services office is now conducting residents' appointments for the CT energy assistance program (CEAP). Energy assistance appointments are available by phone on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 9am-11:15am.

Confirm your eligibility. Eligibility is based on total income of household members. Call (203) 239-2566 to see if you qualify or for explanation about required documents (below).

Gather your required documents (as applicable).

1. Social Security Numbers and dates of birth of all household members
2. Verification of any disability
3. Current active electric bill & gas bill (primary heated source must be in household name).
4. Income verification; If you or anyone in your household is employed, you must provide: A copy or photo of paystubs that show income from the previous 30 days or from 4 consecutive weeks anytime in the last 3 months, or a signed letter from payroll department/employer stating your gross income for the time period.
5. Current monthly Social Security, SSI, Veteran, or Pension benefit verification letter.
6. Department of Labor Unemployment Printout.
7. Child Support Enforcement Letter / SmiOne Printout.
8. Tenant's lease/contract that indicates heat is included in the rent.
9. Budget Sheet (if you receive SNAP, TFA Cash Assistance, CT State Supplement, Refugee Assistance, etc.)
10. If any household member is self-employed (e.g. freelancer, gig worker, entrepreneur, small business owner), they must provide: A completed Self-Employment Worksheet and a copy of their most recently filed IRS Form 1040 (including any attachments).

*Please note: Energy assistance determinations take forty-five (45) business days. For further explanation, to see if you qualify or to schedule your phone appointment, please call Community Services at (203) 239-2566 from 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

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Garden Club Shares 8 Variants Of Seeds To Start In January For A Beautiful Summer Garden



Pictured: Sweet peas, delphiniums, and poppies.

North Haven: It's January, it's super cold out lately, and there's snow on the ground. So the last thing you might be thinking about is your summer garden and what kind of flowers you want to plant. But starting seeds indoors now offers big advantages and give you a big head start, which in turn will give your plants stronger root development and earlier blooms. By starting your seeds indoors you have better germination rates and you have control over temperature and moisture and you will have robust plants ready to transplant as soon as the weather warms and there is no danger of frost. By starting early, this also is a great way to get unique flower varieties not found at your local nursery. While the temps continue to drop, you can grow and nurture your indoor garden in the warmth of your home making sure your flowers will reach maturity at the perfect time ready to be transplanted.

Sweet Peas- are climbers and need an early start to produce abundant blooms, soak the seeds in water overnight to insure easier germination. Plant them 1 inch deep in a rich, well drained soil, keeping the soil moist but not soggy. They thrive in full sun but prefer cooler temperatures. Make sure you give proper support to climb and you will have colorful, perfumed flowers perfect for cutting.

Petunias- Scatter tiny seeds in the top of moist seed starting mix, do not cover them. They need light to germinate and will require at least 6 hours of sunlight a day, They work in beds and containers and come in countess colors.

Geraniums- will take 12-16 weeks from seed to bloom. Plant in warm soil keeping them evenly moist. They love sunshine and can tolerate both full sun or partial shade. Another great benefit is that they are drought tolerant and will flower continuously when deadheaded when needed.

Snapdragons- you will need to start seeds indoors 8-10 weeks before the last frost. Do not cover the seeds (dust like) seeds, they need light to sprout. They prefer cool weather for best flowering, flourish in rich will drained soul and full sun. Make excellent cut flowers and will re bloom in the fall when temperature cool off again.

Coneflowers- are a native perennials that will attract pollinators with their long lasting blooms. Plant seeds 1/4 inch deep in well drained soil. They need 6-8 hours of direct sunlight daily. Coneflowers are drought tolerant, will come back year after year and spread in your garden. The dried seed heads will provide food for the birds in the winter.

Begonias- are shade loving flowers and need an early start indoors. Using a light well draining potting mix, keep temps around 70 degrees and prefer bright, indirect light and consistent moisture. Make sure you don't let them get waterlogged. They will bloom form summer through fall.

Delphiniums- need 10-12 weeks of growth before planting them outdoors. Start seeds in rich, well draining soil and maintain even moisture. They require full sun, make sure they have shelter from strong winds. You will need to support their tall stems with stakes as they grow. Fertilize regularly to insure blooms.

Poppies- will add vibrant color to your garden. Start seeds indoors in biodegradable pots, this will minimize transplant shock. Poppies need well drained soil and full sun, are drought tolerant and will self seed if allowed for years of blooms.

To insure success, here are some more suggestions- use grow lights positioned 2-3 inches above seedlings, provide 14-16 hours of light daily, and rotate trays weekly for even growth. Make sure to maintain consistent warmth 65-75 degrees, use a heat mat for better germination and avoid cold drafts from windows. Make sure to keep soil consistently moist but not water logged, water from bottom to prevent damping off, and last but not least use clear dome covers to maintain humidity.

Some common mistakes- planting seeds too deep- check seed packet and follow directions. Over-watering - make sure to allow soil surface to dry between waterings. Use a small fan to insure proper air circulation and supplement natural light with grow lights. Label your seed trays for proper identification.

By following these easy tips on January sown flowers, you will have months of enjoyment and color in your garden all summer long. Look on our Facebook page for pictures of each flower.

Don't forget to check out The North Haven Garden Club on Facebook for lots of useful and entertaining information and pictures of all our club does in our great town of North Haven! For membership information please email Italia at italia_a@comcast.net.

Article and photos by Cindy Golia

National Garden Clubs Sculpture Contest

The purpose of this contest is to encourage our youth to keep our planet green and to get involved with saving the environment.

• All children in 4th-8th grades are eligible to enter, with a local garden club sponsor.

• Sculptures must consist of recycled, reused, and reduced materials.

• The sculpture is limited to a size that will fit sitting on an 8½"x11" sheet of paper; height should be proportionate.

• A list of materials used, and a brief description of the sculpture should be included on the entry form.

• Entry form may be found on NGC website at www.gardenclub.org

• Entries will include (2) 4"x6" photographs printed on the back of the entry form.

• Chairman should make photos of entries to provide as requested from the NGC website.

• Club entries must be sent to your State Chairman by your state's deadline.

• SCR winners will be sent to NGC by March 1.

• If your state does not participate in this contest, your entry may be sent directly to the SCR Youth Sculpture Chairman.

Scale of Points

• Creative use of materials and self-expression -- 60%

• Description of sculpture and materials used -- 30%

• Craftsmanship and Technique -- 10%

• Total -- 100%

Article by Cindy Golia