

Life Lessons Abound at St. Joseph's Sports Night

By Les St.Pierre
e-Ticker News

CLAREMONT, NH--The 62nd Annual St. Joseph's Sports Night, sponsored by Claremont Elks Lodge #879 and backed with a financial contribution through Mascoma Savings Bank, took place March 28 at the Claremont Senior Center. The yearly event, held now to honor two outstanding student-athletes and two unsung heroes, male and female in each category, had a sellout crowd of 111 to honor the Stevens High School senior sports stars and listen to special guest speaker Scott Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald, the current athletic director at Kearsarge Regional High School in North Sutton and former Stevens High AD (2004-2012), wowed the audience with both memories at the Claremont school and its administrative and coaching personnel along with several life lessons he wanted to pass to the award winners and soon-to-be-graduates.

Before Fitzgerald got to spin his yarns about his tenure at Stevens and his bold opinions aimed to make the student's journey into the world after graduation a more pleasant experience, the students took to the podium, mostly to give thanks to all those who aided them in their successful athletic careers. Elyse Scott, the female student-athlete award winner, gave the listening audience a few hints of what was to come when she, too, spewed forth a few life lessons to be adhered to.

Scott, who excelled in swimming, field hockey, and unified track, orated, "Always smile...Life is too short to be grumpy." She, also, spoke, "Take one step at a time. You will get there eventually."

The senior stalwart, in her speech, which was interrupted in tearful segments once she got to the part of thanking those she loved and admired, included, "I honestly did not care if I won or lost. The score did not matter to me. What was most important is if I was having fun or not." Scott, who's mother and sister are past St. Joseph's Sports Night winners, added a bit of humor to the evening when she relayed the fact her father was instrumental in her sports



Award Winners—L-R—Kelsey Belisle (Unsung Female Student Athlete), Drew Grenier (Top Male Student Athlete), Mitchell Paquette (Unsung Male Student Athlete), Elyse Scott (Top Female Student Athlete). (Bill Binder photos).

career, too, when he told her not to be afraid to throw elbows.

Kelsey Belisle, the first speaker of the evening and the female unsung hero award winner, mentioned how far she has come since she was a four-year-old soccer player. "I have found what it is like to be both a leader and a supporter throughout my time at Stevens," she explained. "My team's success was more important to me than my own personal growth. Their success is my success."


Adding to the evening of life lessons Belisle said, "Being afraid to make mistakes is just

silly. Its what you do with failure and how you respond back that counts. Failure is inevitable and necessary."

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St. Joe's, from B1

Mitchell Paquette, the male unsung hero award winner, who desires to go on to become a soccer coach and study sports management in college, mentioned he, too, began playing the sport at the age of four. "I don't think I have never taken a two-to-three week break from it," Paquette reported, noting the 14-year span of athletic prowess on the field. He went on to say playing the sport got him away from being shy and quiet by getting him to meet new people, and a trip to Italy in the seventh grade was essential in his prolonging his love of the sport. Paquette was named captain of the Stevens High soccer team in his sophomore year.

Drew Grenier, the top male student-athlete at Stevens, admitted he was "not much of a speech kind of guy," but did express his feelings in a speech that counted his days from growing up trying to hit a baseball ("I could not make contact if my life depended on it") to that of eventually starring in baseball, basketball, soccer and track at Stevens. "I'd like to give a shout-out to both my parents for sticking with me all these years, through spectacular wins and devastating defeats," he pointed out.

Following the thank-you speeches from the award winners, toastmaster Tom Hoyt, who has been at that position since 1985, introduced Fitzgerald.

Wearing a black suit and sporting a red tie (Stevens colors) the former Stevens Athletic Director first let his audience know about some of the people and groups who had a vital impact on him during his days in Claremont. The list included such people as Ray Bernard, Paul Silva, Poody Walsh, Paul and Judy Couture, Rick and Patti Deschaine, "Chiefie" Desilets, Rick Plourde and Albie Desrosier, the city's police and fire departments, the Stevens High chain crew of Dick George, Jean-Guy Jacques, Mike Papps, and Les St.Pierre, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The stories and memories flowed with both humorous and serious anecdotes, but then Fitzgerald went into his plethora of life lessons to which the onlooking seniors could take note. "You should not spend one second to try to impress people," Fitzgerald asserted. "It doesn't work. This does nothing (pointing a finger away from him). This does everything (pointing a finger in towards his body). There should be no excuses. Greatness only comes from failure. Surround yourself with high level people, people who will challenge you, who will tell you the truth and who will push you. Their constructive criticism will keep you on your toes."

Quoting a line from Mike Tyson, Fitzgerald told the seniors, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face." He went on to say, "You can stay down and call it a day or you can dust yourself off, get up, and go to Plan B. Plan A just put me on my rear end."

Other life lessons handed down from the Kearsarge Athletic Director included quotes from friends and fellow coaches from places such as the University of Florida and North Carolina State. "If it needs to be done eventually, then it needs to be done immediately," Fitzgerald said.

"Avoid being angry. Anger is the most unproductive emotion we have."

"Don't overestimate the value of your unsolicited opinion."

"Don't get too big to do the little things."

Lastly, Fitzgerald surprised many at their tables when he addressed, not the students, but the parents with yet another of his opinions. "Resist the temptation to have your child stay around the area," he quipped. "Let them find their own path. Let them go find the job they will be happy with. Don't limit them. Allow them to go on that journey. I see many adults today who regret they never got out to see the world. If they come back and it works out, that's

(Continued on page B3)



Guest speaker Scott Fitzgerald



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St. Joe's, from B2

great. But I am always hearing, 'I wish I had done that or I wish I had done that'. I'm not saying you have to, but don't be afraid to."

As always, all four students received a commendation from Governor Chris Sununu, a supply of Tootsie Rolls, a St. Sebastian medal, and a trophy that goes along with their reward. This year's sports night was dedicated to the Rev. Father Stanley Piwowar, the father of the St. Joseph's Sports Night. Father Stan recently passed away at the age of 92.

Springfield Wrestlers Make Local Waves

SPRINGFIELD, VT--Earlier this month, Springfield hosted their annual back-to-back wrestling tournaments and saw record numbers. The Schweitzer Memorial K-8 tournament welcomed over 260 youth wrestlers from all over the tri-state area; special guest Bob Backlund of WWE fame made a surprise appearance and wowed the entire crowd.

The all-girls Precision Valley Classic tournament brought in nearly 50 young ladies in grades K-12 plus a contingent of girls from Norwich University in the Open Division. Everyone was treated to a technique clinic by national champion wrestler Erin Clodgo who went on to do exhibition matches against the girls of Norwich and wrestling coach Sarah Barker from Burr & Burton Academy, as well as a handful of the high school level girls.

Vermont Wrestler was on hand to record the tournament as well as to interview Clodgo with Springfield coaches Floyd Buck and Don Beebe. See the full photo album and watch the interview here: <http://vermontwrestler.com/>.

More than half the complement of 30 youth youngsters in this year's Springfield roster is working through their first year in the sport, showing great promise and improvement. Recent tournaments include Milton, Bristol, and St Albans, VT. Several boys qualified for the Youth New England Championship, and Noah Markwell scored a sweet win at that competition. There are more tournaments ahead before the youth season ends in mid-April, from St. Johnsbury to Essex. Since each tournament costs roughly \$13 per wrestler to participate, fundraising is an enormous part of the work involved in running the wrestling team. Donations are warmly welcome, made out to



"Springfield Wrestling" and mailed to Parks & Rec, 139 Main St, Springfield VT 05156.

Top: Riverside School gym was a busy place for the annual Schweitzer Memorial Tournament (Katie Lacasse photo); bottom: Zandria Ferland battles another lady wrestler at the PVC Girls Championship (Vermont Wrestler photo).



Landlocked Salmon and Lake Trout Fishing Opens

CONCORD, NH--April 1 marked the start of the open-water fishing season on New Hampshire's large lakes managed for landlocked salmon and lake trout, including Big Squam, Sunapee, and the "Big Lake" -- Winnepesaukee. Along with these well-known water bodies, New Hampshire Fish and Game also manages 11 other lakes for landlocked salmon, including Big Dan Hole Pond, First and Second Connecticut Lakes, Conway Lake, Lake Francis, Merrymeeting Lake, Newfound Lake, Ossipee Lake, Little Squam Lake, and Winnisquam Lake. Pleasant Lake in New London is also managed for landlocked salmon, but is classified as a designated trout pond, with a 2018 opening date of April 28.

Inspiration

April Fool's Day

By Priscilla Hull

What is your favorite April Fool Joke? Maybe you don't like the day and the thought of jokes. Some don't, and that's ok. I think my late husband got more enjoyment out of the day than many others. He liked playing jokes and he appreciated jokes played on him. We had fun early in our relationship playing jokes on each other. He always won!

One year I thought I had the perfect joke! He couldn't top this one, I was sure. We worked at a hospital about twenty mile's up the Hudson River from New York City! We had a little apartment a couple, maybe three miles from the hospital. Since he frequently stayed after work to lift weights with the guys, we would often take separate cars to work. This April First we did that. I waited until I was sure that he had started lifting and then I went and got his car and moved it to another parking lot (I think there were five parking lots on the grounds, all a little distance apart. Then I got in my car and drove home. I began to get a little worried when he didn't get home at his usual time, but as many of you know, he was a talker and I figured he was just caught up and forgot the time. He got home, came into the kitchen and was [apparently] quite bothered. I was trying to keep a straight face until he convinced me that his car had been stolen! "Didn't you look in other lots?" "Yes!" "oh."

Since he had walked home we got in my car and I drive him to where I had left his car! It wasn't there! We drove to other lots - no car! By now I was really upset until he burst into laughter. At that point I kicked him out of my car and I followed as he walked to where he had hidden his car!

The best joke was years later! My mother lived a half a block away from us. Everybody loved her! Her birthday is April First! Can you imagine growing up with two older and one younger brother with that birthday? She suffered greatly with it! It might have been her 80th birthday; my sister in Maryland and I decided to play the best joke on her with the help of our families! Her birthday was during Easter vacation. So they drove up to my house on March 31. We had a nice evening together and early the next morning started our joke. I always called Mom in the morning before I went to work, so I called her. We chatted long enough for the rest of the families to walk up the hill and when I thought they'd be about in front of her house, I told her that she might want to look out the front window! Can you just imagine her surprise when she saw seven kids and the others outside her house with balloons and singing Happy Birthday! I think that was the best surprise ever!

What's your favorite joke? Happy April First! Find a good joke for next year!

Psalm 126:2. Then our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with joyful songs.

Priscilla Hull is the Lay Leader of the First United Methodist Church.



Calendar Of Events

Free Beginners Bridge Course Set

CLAREMONT, NH-- - More bridge players are needed.

A free seven-week course introducing people to the card game of bridge will be taught Thursdays at the Claremont Senior Center starting April 12 at 1:00 p.m.

Instructor Alan Grigsby will begin by describing the deck of cards, explain Standard American bidding, and teach effective card playing techniques.

Sessions will run until 3:00 p.m. Attendees can go to the Senior Center's weekly luncheon on Thursdays before the course begins. The course will conclude on May 24.

Registration can be made at the Senior Center.

For further information, call Grigsby at 603-542-2031.

Sign Up for Free Diabetes Education Class

SPRINGFIELD, VT--Learn how you can take steps to reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes. Your diabetes risk increases with age, but the good news is you can help prevent diabetes. The CDC National Diabetes Education Program is a free, year-long, evidence-based program that supports and educates adults who are at high risk. Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you overweight?
- Do you exercise regularly?
- Do you have high blood pressure?
- Do you have a parent, brother, or sister with diabetes?
- Are you over age 40?

Springfield Medical Care Systems is offering a free diabetes education class beginning April 11th at Springfield Health Center, 100 River Street, Springfield, VT, from 5:30

- 6:30 p.m. Please call 802-886-8946 for details or to sign up for this program.

TLC to Kick Off On the Move initiative in April

CLAREMONT, NH--On your mark ... get set ... let's get moving! TLC Family Resource Center invites the entire community to be On the Move now that warmer weather is finally here to stay. It is the perfect time for everyone

— from babies to seniors — to make a commitment to being active.

Studies shows that children need 60 minutes of play every day and adults need 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week to stay healthy. It doesn't matter if it is rainy, sunny, hot, or cold — there's lots of ways to stay active. You can walk around your house or the backyard, play on the playground, swim, run, jog, yoga, tai chi, or marching in place during commercials. Everyone, no matter their age, can be active!

Stop by the On the Move webpage at tlcfamilyrc.org/on-the-move.html to read all

3 Reasons to Train Your Front Line Managers

Fall is just around the corner. Books, pencils, and notebooks are filling the backpacks of children once again. Of course, most employees aren't at that stage of life anymore. How long has it been since your managers have been trained? Did it stick? Is it in the budget this year? Do you need to hire... again? Here are the top 3 reasons why sending your managers "back to school" should be one of your company's top priorities.

1) Not training has a cost.

It's proven that it is far more expensive to hire and/or fire an employee than to train them. Remember what Marcus Buckingham (First, Break All the Rules) says about employees that resign: "People leave managers, not companies." Well-trained managers will help you maintain your workforce and their morale. It costs more to remain on standby as your turnover rate escalates, than to invest in a professional development program for your managers.

2) A happy manager means business.

A recent Gallup poll highlights that only 35% of managers in the U.S. are engaged in their workplace. What does this mean? A disengaged manager means that the workforce under their watch will be less inclined to perform. It will affect key profit factors such as productivity, profit margins, and customer satisfaction. Employees who work for engaged managers are 59% more likely to participate in their work ([Gallup, 4/2/15](http://Gallup.com)). This means high quality performance and workforce stability for your organization.

3) Focusing on purpose can increase profit.

So how do you engage your managers? Franklin Covey always taught to "begin with the end in mind." To grow any company you need a high-performance management team that is organized, accountable, and strategic. Managers need to feel engaged to the company's mission and purpose in order to perform and influence others to perform. Just understanding a company's purpose is not enough; managers and employees need to feel that their efforts are a contributing factor to your mission. Equip your staff with the right tools to take your company to the next level. Think about what your staff needs. Are they lacking motivation? Are you experiencing high turnover? Are your managers communicating effectively, consistently, and appropriately with their teams? Don't hesitate and join the back to school season. It's time to send your managers back to class.



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Bingo in Charlestown

CHARLESTOWN, NH--Bingo is held Wednesdays at the Charlestown Memorial VFW Post 8497 Post Hall, 365 Lovers Lane Road in Charlestown, NH. The regular games start at 6:30 p.m. with Early Birds games commencing at 5:00 p.m. Twelve regular games, six special games, including a winner take all with a \$1,000 kicker if won in 50 numbers or less, and a progressive game from \$800 - \$1,800, plus the final game with a guaranteed prize of \$225 make up the Wednesday evening benefits. It is the VFW Post 8497's primary fundraiser for its various scholarships and sponsorships. Food and drinks are available.

Newport Historical Society Museum Hours

NEWPORT, NH--Interested in local history? Come visit the Newport Historical Society Museum, 20 Central St., Newport, NH. Located in the 1837 Nettleton House, the museum has two floors of annually changing displays to wander through.

Open Sundays (except holiday weekends), from 10AM to 2PM, and by appointment by calling 603-863-1294. The museum is free, heated, air-conditioned, and handicapped accessible.



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MONTHLY FOOT & BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1st WEEK of the month	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC COA, New London 9:45 – 11:15 am Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Plainfield Library 1:00 – 4:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Newport Senior Center 10:45 am – 12:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Newport Rite Aid 11:00 am – 1:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm Mascoma Senior Center, Canaan 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 10:30 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC COA, New London 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
2nd WEEK of the month	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Charlestown Senior Center 11:00 am – 1:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Charlestown Senior Center 10:00 am – 4:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Bourdon Centre, Claremont 10:00 – 11:30 am Grantham Methodist Church 11:15 am – 12:00 pm Sugar River Mills, Claremont 1:00 – 2:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Sugar River Mills, Claremont 12:30 – 2:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC COA, New London 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
3rd WEEK of the month	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lebanon Senior Center 10:00 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Charlestown Elderly Housing 12:30 – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Danbury Community Center 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Newport Senior Center 11:15 am – 12:15 pm FOOT CLINIC Marion Phillips Apts, Claremont 1:00 – 4:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Sutton Baptist Church 9:00 – 11:00 am Goshen Parish Hall 10:45 – 11:45 am Newport Rite Aid 11:00 am – 1:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Claremont Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Bradford Senior Center 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Claremont Senior Center 11:00 am – 12:00 pm Maple Manor Apts, Newport 3:15 – 4:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC CSB Community Center, Claremont 10:30 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC North Ridge, Warner 9:30 – 11:30 am
4th WEEK of the month	FOOT CLINIC Newport Senior Center 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Cornish Town Hall 11:15 am – 12:30 pm Marion Phillips Apts, Claremont 1:00 – 2:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Warner Senior Center 10:30 am – 12:00 pm FOOT CLINIC Newport Senior Center 8:30 am – 3:00 pm	BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC Plainfield-location varies 11:30 am – 1:30 pm FOOT CLINIC Lake Sunapee VNA 9:30 am – 1:30 pm	FOOT CLINIC Warner Pharmacy 9:30 am – 12:00 pm These events take place every month, except on holidays. Foot Clinics are by appointment only and cost \$25. For more information or to verify a date, call 603-526-4077 or visit: www.lakesunapeevna.org

about it. You'll find blog posts on ways to be active for all ages and recipes, links to our On the Move Facebook group where you can share pictures and stories as well as meet ups for group activities, the EveryMove app to track your activity and find people to be active with, places to go to be active around the area, and much more.

Join the fun on Facebook, share on Twitter, and sign up with the EveryMove app. We can't wait to see how you choose to be active every day!

TLC Family Resource Center supports and strengthens all families, children, and youth of Sullivan and Lower Grafton counties with a wide range of free programs, support groups, education, and events.

Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (S.A.F.E.) Offered in Sunapee

Mary Saucier Choate, UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist, will be teaching a S.A.F.E. class on Tuesday, April 17, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sunapee Middle High School, 10 North Rd. in Sunapee, NH.

S.A.F.E. reviews critical food safety and sanitation concepts such as personal hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, and controlling time and temperature. The two-hour workshop uses practical discussion and hands-on demonstrations to help participants apply safe food handling practices in the workplace. S.A.F.E. participants receive a certificate of attendance. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. There is no cost for this workshop. To register, please contact the Grafton County office at 787-6944 or e-mail teresa.locke@unh.edu. To schedule a S.A.F.E. class at your facility, contact Choate at 787-6944 or mary.choate@unh.edu.

Autism Next Topic in Diversity Reading Series

CLAREMONT, NH--Join us for a reading of "The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin (Amazing Scientists)" by Julia Finley Mosca, the next book in the Understanding Diversity and Inclusion through Children's Literature series. The reading will be held on Thursday, April 5, at 3:30 p.m., at

210 Maple Avenue School, Maple Ave. in Claremont. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe! In addition to the illustrated rhyming tale, you'll find a complete biography, fun facts, a colorful timeline of events, and even a note from Temple herself!

Other readings will also be held on Thursday, April 5, at:

- All-4-One Family Space, 169 Main St. in Claremont, at 10:30 a.m.
 - River Valley Community College Charles P. Puksta Library, located at 1 College Pl. in Claremont, at noon
 - TLC Family Resource Center, located at 109 Pleasant St. in Claremont, at 3 p.m.
 - Disnard Elementary School, located at 160 Hanover St. in Claremont, at 4:15 p.m.
 - Fiske Free Library, located at 108 Broad St. in Claremont, at 6 p.m.
- The Understanding Diversity and Inclusion through Children's Literature series is made possible through a collaboration with the Claremont School District and Rural Outright, a program of TLC Family Resource Center. This is the fifth book in the series.
- TLC Family Resource Center supports and strengthens all families, children, and youth of Sullivan and Lower Grafton counties with a wide range of free programs, support groups, education, and events. Visit www.tlcfamilyrc.org for more information. The Rural Outright program serves LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and allies with peer support groups, an educational series, and events throughout the area. For more information, please email ruralNHoutright@gmail.com.

Safety Awareness in the Food Environment (S.A.F.E.) Offered in Charlestown

CHARLESTOWN, NH--Mary Saucier Choate, UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist, will be teaching a S.A.F.E. class on

Wednesday, April 25, from 10:00 am - noon at Peaceful Harvest Homes, 144 Paris Ave. in Charlestown, NH.

S.A.F.E. reviews critical food safety and sanitation concepts such as personal hygiene, preventing cross-contamination, and controlling time and temperature. S.A.F.E. workshops provide food safety training for new employees and refresher information for more experienced staff. The two-hour workshop uses practical discussion and hands-on demonstrations to help participants apply safe food handling practices in the workplace. S.A.F.E. participants receive a certificate of attendance. Pre-registration is required as space is limited. There is no cost for this workshop.

To register, please contact the Grafton County office at 787-6944 or e-mail teresa.locke@unh.edu. For information on scheduling a S.A.F.E. class at your facility, contact Mary at 787-6944 or mary.choate@unh.edu.

Upcoming Events: Newport Schools

Mind in the Making series.

Tuesdays, April 3 - May 29th (April 24th off for school vacation). 4:30-6:30 pm.

Eight-week parent education series led by Darlene Ayotte, Special Education Coordinator, Richards School and Professor Darcy Mitchell from Colby-Sawyer College. Will include food and childcare. Contact Darlene Ayotte at DAyotte@SAU43.org or 603-863-3710

Kinship Care Coffee

Tuesday, April 10 8- 10 AM (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Towle School building, 86 North Main St, Newport

Peer support for relatives and other adults raising a loved one's child

Kinship Care Coffee

Tuesday, May 8 8- 10 AM (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Towle School building, 86 North Main St, Newport

Peer support for relatives and other adults raising a loved one's child

Kinship Care Coffee

Tuesday, June 12 8- 10 AM (every 2nd Tuesday of the month)

Towle School building, 86 North Main St, Newport

Peer support for relatives and other adults raising a loved one's child

“Once Upon a Mattress” at the Newport Opera House

NEWPORT, NH--The Newport Opera House Association is excited to announce their spring musical, “Once Upon a Mattress”. Packed with humor and colorful characters, the show is a fun-filled musical re-telling of the classic story, “The Princess and the Pea.”

Taking on the leading role of Princess Winnifred the Woebegone is Alia Gonzalez, the reigning Newport Winter Carnival Queen. This role was originated on Broadway by a then unknown actress named Carol Burnett, and propelled her to stardom.

Other featured performers will be Amanda Bailey Christensen as Queen Aggravaine; Chris Gardner as Sir Harry; Natalie Vuletich as Lady Larken; Alan “Buzz” Hague as King Sextimus; Christopher Jacobs as Prince Dauntless; Ken Gruenbaum as the Wizard; Nikolai Gruenbaum as the Jester; and Brian Bavacqua as the Minstrel. Ensemble cast members include Kaitlyn Andersen, Luke Bartlett, Hayden Christensen, Gidget Ducharme, Deb Gardner, Jaeda Rochford-Hague, Milton Hastings, Susan Hastings, Aukulina Gruenbaum, Illya Gruenbaum, Panteleimon Gruenbaum, Zoya Gruenbaum, Evalynn LaRose, Jenna Mahue, Bethany Smith, Harper Smith, and Alison Wood.

Performances will be held at the Newport Opera House on April 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m., and on April 15 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are on sale to the public via newportoperahouse.com, or by phone at 603-863-1412.

“Once Upon a Mattress” is presented through special arrangement with R & H Theatricals: www.rnh.com.

Arts Mixer Open Studio

CLAREMONT, NH--Join us for a monthly open studio session at WCCMA. All creative mediums are welcome. We'll have hosts skilled in painting, drawing, crochet, sewing, jewelry, photography, graphic design, and more.

Bring your project and materials (and ideas and questions). Some limited basic supplies and tools may be available for use.

This event is for ages 12 and up (under 16

should have an adult join them). Younger devoted artists may contact us to inquire about attending with adult supervision. Contact us to request one of our limited number of fee waivers.

For more information visit wcc-ma.org. Fee: \$10 for members, \$15 for nonmembers Upcoming date: April 21.

West Claremont Center for Music and the Arts is located at the Union Church Parish Hall, 133 Old Church Rd, Claremont.

Low Cost Rabies Clinic

CLAREMONT, NH--Low cost rabies clinic! On Saturday, April 7, and Saturday, April 28, Sullivan County Humane Society will be holding a rabies clinic for dogs and cats from 9:00 a.m.-noon at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights Road. Shots are \$10/each. No appointment necessary. By law, shots will be good for three years with proof, in the form of a rabies certificate, of previous vaccination, otherwise it is a one-year shot.

Questions? Please call 542-3277.

Program on Benjamin Franklin

CLAREMONT, NH--“Benjamin Franklin: America's First Citizen”, will be performed at The Claremont Opera House on April 6 at 10:00 a.m.

Patrick Garner, 20-plus year Broadway, television, and movie veteran, brings to life the nation's favorite founding father, the man who tamed lightning and conquered crowns, to demonstrate how a life of self-discipline, inquiry, public service and a genuine love of life led to international fame and the gratitude of a nation. This 45-minute performance is recommended for ages 5 and up.

For information on tickets, please call the opera house at 603-542-0064; cost: \$5 for children and adults. Schools should call opera house to reserve spaces.

Croydon Ladies Auxiliary Bingo

CLAREMONT, NH--The Croydon Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring bingo every Thursday. Held at the Claremont Senior Center, 5 Acer Heights off Maple Avenue in Claremont. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Food and drinks available. Open to those 18

and older. Call Sandy at 543-7118 for more information. All paper games.

Overeaters Anonymous Meetings

NEWPORT, NH--OA 12 & 12 meetings held on Sundays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Millie's Place, 45 John Stark Hwy., in Newport.

TLC Program Offerings

CLAREMONT, NH--First and third Friday of every month the Rural Outright Diversity Club for transgender and gender non-conforming people meets from 6 to 8 p.m., at TLC Family Resource Center, 109 Pleasant St., in Claremont. 14 years and older. This is a casual meet and greet with conversation and activities. Come meet other transgender and gender non-conforming folks to share experiences, resources and struggles.

CLAREMONT, NH--Second and fourth Friday of every month the Rural Outright Diversity Club for LGBTQ+ people meets from 6 to 8 p.m., at TLC Family Resource Center, 109 Pleasant St., in Claremont. 14 years and older. This is a casual meet and greet with conversation and activities. Come meet other LGBTQ+ folks to share experiences, resources and struggles. For more information: www.tlcfamilyrc.org/rural-outright-events-calendar.

CLAREMONT, NH--First and third Saturday of every month the Caring Adults Peer Support (CAPS), sponsored by Rural Outright, meets at 10 a.m. at the TLC Family Resource Center, 109 Pleasant St., in Claremont. This is an opportunity for parents, educators and other caring adults to discuss challenges and best practices for supporting LGBTQ children of any age. For more information, contact Neil at neilpierceallen@gmail.com.

Caregiver Support Group

SPRINGFIELD, VT--A Caregiver Support Group (formerly Alzheimer's Support Group) is available to help enhance the lives of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Presented by Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter, the Caregivers Support

Group meets the third Wednesday of every month, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. at Springfield Hospital Library, Level D, Springfield.

SCHS Bingo Fundraiser

CLAREMONT, NH--The Sullivan County Humane Society will be holding Bingo at the Claremont Senior Center at 5 Acer Heights Road in Claremont on Sunday, April 22. Doors open at noon, games begin at 1:00 p.m. Fabulous prizes, including restaurant gift certificates, store gift cards, and so much more. \$5/20 games. There will also be one grand prize game, for \$3 a play. Grand prize is a \$324 gift certificate to Mountain Edge Spa. You can purchase multiple game packs for more chances to win. Snacks will be available. By law, you must be at least 18 years old to attend. Questions? Call 542-3277 for more information.

4-H Hosts "Meet Your Local Legislators Night"

CLAREMONT, NH--4-H hosted a "Meet Your Local Legislators Night" Friday evening, March 30, at the Claremont Savings Bank in the Community Room.

4-H is looking to grow youth into becoming true leaders in the area of Civic Responsibility. "It is our hope that through our 4-H Citizenship Program, young people will become well informed citizens who are actively engaged in the communities and the world," said the program.

Two 4-H extension managers, nine 4-H leaders, and 19 youth joined in the discussion about local government with representatives including John Cloutier, Ray Gagnon, and Brian Sullivan. Discussions focused on topics including driver's education, broadband accessibility throughout NH, the deteriorating road conditions often repaired with a quick fix and not a long term cost effective solution, voting laws for college students, encouraging younger adults to vote, social media and fake news, and the need to address race relations.

On April 25th, many youth from the group will be attending the Citizenship Focus Day at the State House in Concord. This is an event that is open to all youth ages 12 and older. This will be an interactive State House experience, including mock trials, and voting on House Bills. Lunch with local representatives and senators will be served as youth learn how



Pictured above are the Green Dot Spotlight Week winners from left to right, Kathleen O'Brien, Rachel Leblanc, Marianne Dickerman and Gary Dickerman; a special thanks to The Java Cup, Uptown Bakery & Custom Cakes by Tami, LLC, and all the other Green Dot Spots for making this event possible, including Time-Out Americana Grill, Farro Deli, Ink Factory, SAU 6 Office, TLC Family Resource Center, Marion L. Phillips Apartments, Mascoma Bank, Turning Points Network, Changes Thrift Store, Greater Claremont Area Chamber of Commerce, Groups—recover together, Joe's Family Car Care, REMIX, Shining Success, City Manager's Office, Lambert's Auto, Doolittle's Print Serve, Inc., Lake Sunapee Bank—a Division of Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Amplified Arts, Century 21 Highview Realty, Mountainside Tattoo and Piercing, H&R Block, Fiske Free Library and DCYF (Courtesy photo).



4-H hosted a "Meet Your Local Legislators Night" Friday evening, March 30, in Claremont (Courtesy photo).

they can enact change in their community, county and world. Cost is \$15 per person with lunch included (this is during vacation week for

many local schools). For more information, please contact April O'Connell at aro2003@wildcats.unh.edu.

18TH ANNUAL **BIG** AUCTION



Saturday, April 7
10:00 AM to 4:20 PM

Broadcast live



NHS Sponsoring Program on Newport Native's Iditarod Experiences

NEWPORT, NH--Bill Bartlett, Newport native and Towle H.S. graduate, will share his Iditarod experiences with the Newport Historical Society and the general public on Tuesday, April 10, at 6:30-8:00 PM, in the Newport Richards Free Library ballroom.

Bartlett's degree in Animal Science from UNH led to a career in Bovine Podiatry, and a keen interest in sled dogs. In 1980, Newport helped support his trip to Alaska to run the famous Iditarod Dog Sled Race. Since 1980, Bill and Heidi Bartlett have owned and operated Bartlett's Blueberry Farm, on Bradford road. This program is free; the ballroom is handicapped accessible, and light refreshments will be served.

Led Zeppelin Tribute Band to Play at COH

CLAREMONT, NH--Kashmir, the nation's #1 Led Zeppelin tribute show, is the most authentic representation of Led Zeppelin on the modern national touring scene. Each of the four band members assumes their individual role with pinpoint accuracy. Kashmir possesses the live stage show, sound, and likeness to bring audiences and fans back to the days when the mighty Led Zeppelin ruled the musical landscape.

The concert will take place on Saturday, April 21, at 8:00 p.m.

With the playlist of every classic rock station and the most identifiable voice in rock history, Kashmir's show features Page's iconic double-neck guitar, Bonham's drum solo, the stage show of the era, and most importantly, the greatest hits that make up the soundtrack to peoples' lives.

For those who dream and wish to experience a live Led Zeppelin show, dream no more; Kashmir will fit the bill, hitting every stop along the way, leaving you thirsty for more. Kashmir consists of Jean Violet (Robert Plant) - Vocals/Harp, Andy Urban (Jimmy Page) - Guitar/Theremin, Paul Cooper (John Bonham) - Drums, Felix Hanemann (John Paul Jones) - Bass/Keyboard.

Kashmir covers all the hits, including "Black Dog," "Heartbreaker," "Stairway to Heaven," "Kashmir" and just about anything else Led Zeppelin recorded during their incredible but sadly short-lived career. Until Robert Plant decides to reunite with Jimmy Page and John Paul Jones, Kashmir is about as close as any fan is going to get to the real thing.

Tickets can be purchased at www.claremontoperahouse.org, by phone at 603-542-4433 or in person at Claremont Opera House Box office at the city hall complex at 58 Opera House Square. Ticket prices range from \$28.50-\$43.50. Cash bar available from Sweetfire BBQ before the show and at intermission.



Sullivan County Humane Society

RABIES CLINIC

Dogs & Cats welcome!

\$10.00 per shot

April 7 & 28, 2018

9 - Noon

First come, first serve

at the

Claremont Senior Center

5 Acer Heights, Claremont

Shot will be good for 3 years with proof of a previous vaccination. Otherwise it will be a 1 year shot.



**Sponsored by the Springfield Animal Hospital
and the Claremont Senior Center**

Sullivan County Humane Society brings you.....



Sunday, April 22nd

**@ The
Claremont Senior Center**

5 Acer Heights Rd, Claremont NH

Join us for 20 fun games of BINGO for various prizes!

Purchasing a \$5 book gets you play for each of the 20 regular games

And buying multiple books can only multiply your LUCK

Doors will open @ noon & games will begin at 1:00

PRIZES INCLUDE:

Gift Certificates

Small Kitchen Appliances

Jewelry

Small Home Décor Items

AND SO MUCH MORE!



**OUR GRAND PRIZE SPECIAL GAME WILL
BE A:**

**\$324.00 SPA Gift
Certificate to Mountain
Edge Resort and Spa**

**Buy as many \$3 sheets as you'd like to
have plenty of chances to win this
great prize!!!**

**Proceeds will benefit the Sullivan County Humane Society.
Pursuant to NH Gaming Laws, no one under 18 is permitted during the event.**

Remembering Loved Ones...

Life Tributes

Obituaries May Be Found On Our Website

We post obituaries on our website to make them available in "real time," as they are released by funeral homes.

We will continue to publish them here weekly, as well, for your convenience if you wish to print out any of them.

www.etickeernewssofclaremont.com

Theobald Frechette, 99

Theobald "Ted" Frechette, 99, of Claremont, NH, passed away on Friday, March 30, 2018, at the Sullivan County Health Care in Unity.

He was born in St. Ferdinand Halifax, Québec, Canada, on Sept. 25, 1918, the son of Saul Gregoire and Arthemise Athala (Huot) Frechette.

Ted had worked at Joy Manufacturing for over 30 years, and Gilbert Bear Alignment Garage. He was a lifelong member of St. Mary's parish in Claremont, and a member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge for many years.

He enjoyed music and playing his violin.

The surviving family includes his son, Richard Frechette of Hooksett, NH; a granddaughter, Allison Coyne Carroll and great-grandson, Aiden Carroll, of Hinesburg, VT, also many nieces and nephews in Canada.

He was predeceased by his wife, Vina (Martell) Frechette whom he married on July 31, 1946; she passed away on October 16, 2007; a daughter, Karen A. Coyne, and nine siblings.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held at St. Mary Church in Claremont on Friday, April 6th, at 11 AM, with the Very Rev. Father Shawn Therrien VG officiat-

ing. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Sullivan County Health Care, 5 Nursing Home Drive in Unity, NH 03743.

Lena Jewell, 95

Lena Jewell, 95, passed away peacefully in West Brookfield, MA, at Quaboag Rehabilitation and Skilled Care on March 24, 2018. She moved there March 29, 2012.

Lena, A lifelong resident of Claremont, NH, was born in Bradford, NH, on August 7, 1922. She was the daughter of Albert and Odeanna Gaudreau Lena was predeceased by her husband, Richard, in 1976, and son Edward in 2002 She is survived by two daughters, Carol Bourque of Springfield, VT, and Linda Labaire, wife of Neal Labaire of East Brookfield, MA, and granddaughter, Alison of Medford, MA.; three grandsons David Bourque and his wife, Celeste of Claremont, Michael Bourque and his wife, Mary of Wilmot NH, and Edward Jewell, and his wife, Jackie. Of New London. Also,

granddaughters Odeanna Call, and Marissa Hayes of North Carolina, and 10 great grandchildren.

Lena had an infectious laugh, with a great smile. Her energetic personality always focused on the positive, and; there was nothing this spunky lady couldn't do.

She was a waitress at the Pleasant SWEET for many years, a member of Catholic Daughters, a Eucharistic minister and volunteered at the soup kitchens; she belonged to the Red Hat Society and was a member of Curves until the age of 85. She took great pride in caring 25 years for the Adoration Chapel. Her Christian generosity knew no limits. She was the "Hostess With the mostest" when it came to preparing the funeral luncheons at St. Joseph's and St Mary's. Her kind, loving and thoughtful ways will be greatly missed.

A Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph Church was held on Wednesday. Burial followed at St. Mary's cemetery.

Instead of flowers or donations, go have a nice lunch and toast Lena. She will be smiling down at the gesture.

“The true primary-care provider is Mom.”

-Dr. Sam Giveen

Most of the time, a doctor can't help anything until Mom decides something isn't right. She makes the first move and calls the doctor. Dr. Sam attributes any success he and his staff have with kids to that vital first step. Yay, Mom.

DOCTOR **SAM'S**
EYE CARE



(603) 543-2020
9 Dunning St, Claremont
(we're right there by the hospital)

Richard L. Limoges, 75

Richard L. "Dick" Limoges, 75 of Claremont, NH, died peacefully Saturday (March 24, 2018) at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, NH, following a period of failing health.

He was born in Claremont, NH, on March 27, 1942, the son of William and Irene (Lambert) Limoges and had been a lifetime resident. Richard co-owned Limoges Oil & Propane in Claremont, NH, initially with his brother, Donald, and then later with his son, Mark. One of Richard's greatest joys of owning the company was helping out his customers, especially the elderly. Richard loved to get to know his customers and he would never turn down an opportunity to speak with them and hear how things were going and talk about their families. Richard was a former Police Commissioner, as well as a member of the Claremont Zoning Board. Richard was an active member in the community and was a member of many local civic organizations including the Knights of Columbus, Claremont Elks Lodge #879, Claremont Moose Lodge #1201 and the Kiwanis Club. Richard had many passions in life. He enjoyed wood working and the family benefited from his many projects. He was also a gentleman farmer for many years. Richard treasured his children and their spouses.

He had three sons, Michael Limoges and his wife, Christine, Easthampton, MA; Mark Limoges and his wife, Tina, Claremont, NH; Matthew Limoges and his wife, Lori, Springfield, VT; a daughter Andrea Wilson and her husband, Jamie, Claremont, NH; and a step-daughter Fawna Wilson of Claremont, NH.

Richard was Pepere to Tyler Limoges and his wife, Estee, Nicholas Limoges, Kayleigh Young and her husband, Christopher, Calvin Limoges and his wife, Danelle, Ryan Limoges, Natalie Wilson, Meghan Wilson and step grandchildren Raven Thibodeau and Jaden Wilson. They will always cherish the memories they had with their Pepere.

Richard is survived by three brothers, Donald Limoges and his wife, Marina, Claremont, NH; Norman Limoges and his wife, Marie, Spencer, MA; Raymond Limoges and his wife, Mary, Loudon, NH and several nieces and nephews,

He was predeceased by a sister Pauline Veayo and her husband Galen.

Funeral Services were held on Friday (March 30) at the Roy Funeral Home with the Rev. Shawn M. Therrien, pastor of St. Mary's Par-

Social News

Claremont Senior Center, Inc.

By Claire Lessard, Executive Director

Menu for Tuesday - April 3... Soup, baked ham, sweet potatoes, vegetable, dessert.
Thursday - April 5 ... Soup, turkey with gravy over mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert.
Twice a week dinners welcomes members (\$4.00) as well as non-members (\$5.00).

Free 7 week Beginners Bridge Course (on Thursdays April 12 - May 24). Instructor Alan Grigsby (603) 542-2031. Come or call center to register.

AARP Tax Aide every Friday till April 13. Call center for an appointment (603) 543-5998.

The following is sponsored by Lake Sunapee Region VNA & Hospice: Foot Clinics - Wednesday - April 4, 11, 18 (8:30 AM - 4:00 PM). Cost \$25.00. Free blood pressure clinics on April 5 (10:30 AM - 12 noon) and April 19 (11 AM - 12 noon). Call (603) 526-4077.

Next Senior Men's Breakfast will be Monday - April 16, 2018. Doors opens 8:00 AM, breakfast served 8:15 AM, guest speaker 8:45 AM. Menu: Pancakes, sausage or bacon, juice, coffee. Members \$2.00, non-member guests \$3.00. Come to or call center to sign-up!

Chair Yoga class guided by Charleigh Robalard every Monday at 10 AM brings you through an hour of gentle, relaxing yoga. Class uses chairs to accomplish the poses doing just what you can. \$5.00 fee for a very relaxing hour.

Tai Chi Classes coming this Fall. An informational session is scheduled sometime in August.

Adult Coloring open to public on Mondays (1:00-3:00 PM). Members free. Non-members \$1.00.

Knitters on Fridays (12 noon-3:00PM). Bring your lunch. If you are not a member 3 visits allowed then membership is required.

Seniors Bingo for center members 55 years of age and older every Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Come have lunch! Sale of cards stops at 12:50 PM. No cards sold after that time!

Senior Game Night every Tuesday (6:00 - 9:00 PM) for members. Non-members welcome but must sign in. Three visits allowed before membership is required. Hand & Foot card game and Pool are popular, other games available. Attendees should bring a snack to share!

Give someone a great gift for a birthday, anniversary, any celebration or occasion with a \$5.00 gift certificate for a Tuesday or Thursday lunch at the center. Membership certificates also available for \$20.00.

Come see our "Brick Wall." Purchase a "Memorial Brick" for \$100.00 in memory of deceased family members and friends. Bricks in honor of living family members and friends available.

Pool 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Monday to Friday. Exercise sessions - Tuesday & Thursday - 10:00 AM. Ping Pong - Wednesday & Friday - 10:00 AM. Bridge on Thursday - 1:00 PM. Mahjonn on Friday - 1:00 PM. Knitters on Friday (12 Noon - 3:00 PM) bring your lunch. Non-members welcome but must sign in. Three visits allowed before membership is required.

We are still collecting aluminum can tabs!

Rentals available for weddings, hourly, one-day, funeral receptions and our board room has an 8 persons capacity.

Businesses welcome to put a Business Card size ad in our monthly newsletter. Cost is \$200.00 per year (12 inserts).

Membership dues - \$20 per year. Persons 50 years of age or older invited and welcome to become new members or renew your membership!

The Claremont Senior Center...It's "The Place Where You Want To Be!"...Monday - Friday (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM). Call (603) 543-5998. Visit our Web Site (cnhcs.org.)

ish, officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Jack Byrne Center, 1 Medical Center Drive, Lebanon, NH 03756.

You are invited to share a memory of Richard with the family or leave a message of condolence in the family guest book at www.royfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Roy Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

Claremont Fire Dept. Log

Sunday, March 25th

1201 E-3, L-2 responded to High St for a chimney fire

Monday, March 26th

0217 E-3 responded to Winter St to assist the ambulance

1123 E-3, L-2, E-1 responded to Washington St for a Box Alarm

1305 E-3 responded to Red Water Brook Rd for a tree on wires

1441 E-3 responded to Washington St for a Box Alarm

2123 E-3 responded to Main St for a medical call

Tuesday, March 27th

1419 E-3 responded to Broad St for a lift assist

1450 E-3 responded to Sims St for a medical call

Wednesday, March 28th

1355 E-3 responded to Heritage Dr for a well-being check

1528 E-3 responded to Woonsocket Ave for a medical call

1916 E-3 responded to Heritage Dr for a medical call

1932 E-3, L-2 responded to Edge-wood St for a tree on wires

2021 E-3 responded to Hewitt Rd for well-being check

Thursday, March 29th

1113 E-1 responded to Central St for a well-being check

2011 E-3 responded to Pleasant St for an alarm sounding

2103 E-3 responded to Lafayette St for a medical call

2105 L-2 responded to Heritage Dr to assist the ambulance

Friday, March 30th

0615 E-3 responded to Grissom Ln for a medical call

Saturday, March 31st

0009 E-3 responded to Sullivan St for a medical call

0838 E-3 responded to Grissom Ln for a medical call

1146 E-3, L-2, E-1 responded to Main St for a Box Alarm

2057 E-3 responded to Plains Rd for a medical call



The Claremont City Council will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

AGENDA

- 6:30 PM 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 6:32 PM 2. ROLL CALL
- 6:34 PM 3. AGENDA CHANGES
- 6:35 PM 4. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
Minutes of March 14 and, 2018, City Council Meetings
- 6:35 PM 5. MAYOR’S NOTES
- 6:40 PM 6. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT
- 6:55 PM 7. APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES
- 7:00 PM 8. CITIZEN’S FORUM (Comments on Non-agenda Items Limited to 5 Minutes per Speaker (Council Rule 23))
- 9. NEW BUSINESS
 - 7:10 PM A. Schedule Budget Hearing Dates
 - 7:25 PM B. Capital Improvements Plan
- BREAK
- 8:05 PM 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 8:10 PM 11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DIRECTIVES
- 8:25 PM 12. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL
- 8:30 PM 13. ADJOURNMENT

PLEASE NOTE: Claremont City Council’s next scheduled meeting will be on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Easter: Hope and Rebirth

By Bernadette O'Leary

Sunday, Christians around the world celebrated Easter. No, it's not a time for celebrating a bunny that leaves candies, colorful eggs, and other fun surprises for children; although, those are often part of the celebration. It's perfectly fine to have such fun for Easter, and my children and I do so. However, it's important to include the real reason for Easter among the festivities. Everyone knows that the main focus of Easter is the death and resurrection of our Lord, but believe it or not, not everyone fully understands how this is relevant for our daily life throughout the year.

Naturally, it's relevant for the obvious reason: celebrating the life, miracles, death on the cross, and miraculous resurrection of the very man Christianity was created by and based on. But what does that have to do with us today? First of all, it's important to remember and to honor His loving sacrifice that saved us from sin. But what if you're not Christian? Does it still apply to you? Absolutely.

Sacrifice for the sake of others is not only a Christian concept. Neither is hope. The whole story of the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus is all about both. First, His sacrifice came from a love that included suffering unimaginable torture and death for our sake. Just as any loving Shepherd, Jesus accepts the suffering for the sake of His flock. Parents, friends, and other loved ones understand the sacrificing of self for their children or other loved ones; while police and military willingly risk their lives for the general public all the time. There truly is no greater gift than the gift of self-sacrifice for another.

What about hope? How does the Easter story offer hope to both Christian and non-Christian alike? Jesus was God, but He was also man. His suffering and death were quite real, and since He was born into human form, that death should have been permanent. His suffering and death were payment for our sins, so why not end it there, with our salvation? Because there is no real hope in ending there. To say it clearly: dying He freed us from sin and destroyed our eternal death, and to give us hope, He rose, revealing His divine nature. This man rose from the dead, but I hear you asking how that gives us hope. After all, we're neither divine nor able to rise from the dead. The answer is simple: by believing in Him, you have Him with you and on your side in all struggles. If He can rise from the dead, imagine what He can do for you. He already suffered a torturous death for you, but now He wants to do more. He wants to help you get through this life and to give you blessings. He gives you loved ones to help see you through all of life's difficulties along with many other gifts that you can use to overcome any obstacle that comes your way. However, He didn't stop there. He also gives you the gift of Himself, to carry you through struggles, and to grant you the miracles you need. Life within this world can be hard, and seemingly impossible, at times. In fact, there are many things that we simply cannot control on our own. Such turmoil can also be so serious that no one and nothing can help us, not even loved ones or agencies that were designed to help those in need. That is when we are called to have hope in the One who rose from the dead and who now wishes to help us rise from our pain and troubles.

We all need hope. Some only need small blessings. Others' needs require nothing short of a miracle, or a series of miracles. Whether small or large, we have to have hope. As Christians, we're called to turn to Jesus. We're called to ask for His miraculous intercession in our lives and to ask big, because He wants to answer us big. In the end, hope is what keeps us all moving forward. Whether Christian or non-Christian, if there is no hope, why bother trying? Why bother continuing to fight if there's no hope of winning? Hope is what gives us a reason to keep trying... the hope of achieving that for which we strive or gaining that for which we long, even when facing the most impossible odds. So have hope. And when all else fails, when success seems impossible, try asking for your miracle, and ask big.

