



*HomeHaven's
Spring Picnic
Wednesday, June 15, 2016
5 to 7 pm
Carriage House & Lawn
in
Edgerton Park*

A BIT from BITSIE: Our Sixth Annual Spring Pot Luck Supper for Members and their Friends

It's almost impossible to believe that HomeHaven is having its sixth annual spring picnic! Our first spring gathering was at Bethesda Lutheran Church in 2011. We had an 18-piece swing band and a number of us danced to their marvelous music. The next year we wanted to try to have an outdoor picnic so arranged to be in the New Haven Parks Department's Rose Garden in Hamden — which was magnificent and we couldn't wait to go back there again.

In 2013, because there was no indoor space at the Rose Garden, we set a rain date and unfortunately we got rained out BOTH DAYS!!!! We collaborated later in the summer with the Shoreline Village and held it at the Carousel in Light House Point. In 2014 we were

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A Bit from Bitsie *continued from page 1*

back at the Rose Garden but in a much less accessible place because the Parks Department had created new gardens in our original space near the driveway.

Last year we investigated Edgerton Park in New Haven and found it a perfect place for our picnic. The indoor Carriage House made it possible to hold it rain or shine. We were glad to have a beautiful day. In fact we

had a chance for the first time to photograph all the participants – a picture that you can see on this page!!

We hope to see you all on June 15th – an invitation will arrive in the US mail in a few days with all the instructions about where to enter and park your car and how much of your favorite food to bring.

Recruiting new members is at the top of our priority list this year, and this picnic is a great way to introduce your friends to HomeHaven. Please bring anyone you think might be interested in joining and ... I will see you on the 15th !!

Frances T. "Bitsie" Clark, Executive Director

... AT YOUR SERVICE!

In the past three months, HomeHaven provided members with:

- 59 rides by volunteer drivers
- 45 visits by volunteer visitors
- 7 computer assists by volunteer computer helpers
- 11 referrals to volunteers or vetted providers for household help

Note: Members often call a service provider more than once without informing the office. You can help us keep records by always letting us know each time you use a provider we recommended. ***It's important!!***

Look for monthly reports giving rolling three-month totals.

HomeHaven News

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MEET OUR MEMBERS : A Conversation with Werner and Liz Wolf

by Wayne Meeks and Judith Colton



Liz and Werner Wolf

They met in a physics laboratory in Oxford University. The odds against that meeting—the odds against either of them being in Oxford at all—were formidable, but both had become accustomed to beating odds. Coming of age during World War II, their lives had been shaped by the threat of disaster, repeatedly transformed, as Liz wrote in a memoir for her grandchildren, into “a great adventure with a happy ending.”

The war began for Liz on the island of Malta where her father, a colonel in the British army, was stationed. She had just turned eleven. When the Axis air raids began, schooling was supplemented by lessons from neighbors sheltering together in the basement: embroidery, drawing, Russian, arithmetic—all punctuated by the sound of explosions. As the war intensified, her father was transferred to Cairo. From there, in 1942, when children were evacuated, Liz began a series of perilous voyages with her mother: to Suez, down the Red Sea, along the east coast of Africa, and finally, after a year’s interlude at Cape Town, across a submarine-infested Atlantic to England. Just before they departed for the voyage home, the headmistress remarked that, just possibly, Liz had a “spark” that would merit her preparing for university. She was right.

For Werner’s family in Vienna, war intruded when Hitler’s troops invaded Austria in 1938. Four months later, Werner’s father left on a “business trip” to London and immediately applied for permanent residence. Werner’s mother began the process of obtaining a visa for herself and her children to join him. His father

had insisted that they leave Austria before January 8, 1939: the day the new “Reichstag of Greater Germany” was to begin. They made the deadline by two days. Why was that important? Werner discovered only much later that his father had been Jewish and only when his sister discovered letters their parents had exchanged in those fateful days did he understand the obstacles his mother had overcome.

War’s end found each family reunited and safe, though the enforced migrations had taken a toll on their education. When they applied for university, each had attended seven different schools. Nevertheless, each won a scholarship to an Oxford college. In 1951 both received the BA in physics and began graduate study. Werner received his doctorate in 1954; Liz, the following year—the year after their marriage. Werner’s research focused on magnetism, but had perhaps not prepared him for the different magnetism that drew him and Liz together. Different, but still visibly powerful some sixty years later!

Both did post-doctoral research, first at Oxford, then for a year at Harvard, then back in Oxford for five years, where, as they wryly recall, “Werner got tenure; Liz got two children.” Peter, born in 1959, and Mary Anne, born in 1961, are both software engineers.

Liz and Werner had learned that they could be at home in many lands. So in 1962 Werner, frustrated by scarce research funding in England, wrote to Yale to inquire whether there might be a position. By chance Yale was just considering a complete reorganization of its engineering programs. The following year they moved to New Haven and three years later built their “dream house” on a forested cul-de-sac in Woodbridge. Werner remained at Yale for 39 years, teaching, doing research, and holding many administrative positions in which he helped to rebuild, reorganize, and protect Yale’s engineering and applied science program.

Liz chose to postpone her career while her children were growing up. Then, after a series of part-time positions, she joined the faculty of Southern Connecticut State University, eventually becoming chair of the Physics Department. She retired in 1993 and Werner in 2001, leaving more time for their several serious hobbies including, for Liz, portrait painting; for Werner, photography; for both, an astonishing amount of travel — to a couple of dozen countries besides two trips around the world, so far.

COMPUTER CONNECTION: In Praise of Tablets

by Christa Sammons

Tablet computers are often touted as the latest and greatest, all a person needs in this wired world besides a cellular telephone. We recently interviewed Jane Jervis, past president of HomeHaven, about why she loves her tablet. Here are Jane's three top reasons:

- Because I can carry a great pile of books with me when I travel.
- Because I can read the *New York Times* in bed without making a huge racket with the newspaper.
- Because I can do the *New York Times* crossword puzzles any time, any place I have my tablet.

The tablet computer is defined as a general purpose computer contained in a touch screen panel. They've

been around since 2010 when Apple launched the iconic iPad with characteristic fanfare. As you can tell from Jane's reasons for loving her tablet, one of its principal advantages is portability. The newest iPad weighs less than a pound and can do almost everything a laptop can do.

You can surf the Internet on a tablet, watch videos and movies, listen to the radio, play games. You can send and receive email. You can use Skype, and after you introduce the tablet to your cell phone, you can use it for telephone calls. Because a wide variety of apps can be downloaded to tablets, they're extremely versatile. They all have cameras that reverse to take selfies and also serve as video recorders and photo editors. Tablets can function as readers, freeing you from that weighty pile of books and the need to wield large rattling pages of newsprint. You can even look up the answers to the crossword puzzle, the way my husband does!

Like smart phones, tablets have onscreen keyboards for composing short messages and notes. For writing longer documents, however, one would want to purchase an auxiliary keyboard. There are even "pencils" for drawing on the newer models.

Tablet computers come in various sizes, from mini to large, and are sold by other companies besides Apple, including Samsung, Microsoft, Acer, and Amazon. The average size is around 6 x 9", and they have grown ever thinner and lighter over the years. A late model such as the iPad Air 2 costs around \$400-\$500, depending on how much memory it has, but older models can be had for less. You can also pay a lot more: the largest iPad Pro, with its 9x12" display, costs upward of \$800. Its auxiliary keyboard is listed at \$169, and the "pencil" at \$99. Prices differ widely around the Internet and from brand to brand; surely one can shop for good deals.

For portability, compactness, convenience, and ease of use, the tablet can't be beat.



Happy Birthday to HomeHaven members with a birthday in June

Jim Barnes Pravin Bhatt
Julie Crowder Kathy Denardo
Martha Dobrowolski Steve Feinstein
Beth Gilson Henry Harrison
Jane Jervis Dwight Johnson
Elise Kenney Aimlee Laderman
Adrienne Lewis Barbara McGhie
Curtis Patton Lois Sackrider
Anne Schenck Reva Barez Schwartz
Annelies Sheehan Hal Spitzer
Virginia Wilkinson Israel Zelitch



**If HomeHaven helps you,
help HomeHaven with a bequest.**

Thinking of Selling Your Home?



HomeHaveners gathered at Phoebe Edwards' apartment on May 5 to hear a realistic, if sobering, assessment of the current real estate market in greater New Haven. John Cuzzo, a founding partner of Press/Cuzzo Realtors and a generous sponsor of HomeHaven, brought his 40 years of experience to bear on the prospects of successfully "downsizing" in a difficult market — an oversupply of expensive, large houses; high property taxes; and increasing popularity of rentals. A number of our members who would prefer to move to smaller homes or planned communities have been constrained by the slow market.

John gave a lucid explanation of how the market works, with examples of current activity particularly

in the East Rock/Hamden region. He reported an abnormally high inventory of 57 houses priced above \$500,000, with only six completed sales in the past six months. On the other hand, the lower end of the market has begun to show encouraging signs of improvement. The strengthening of the upper end has to begin with movement at the bottom. He cited 19 "pendings" in the higher range as a positive sign and pointed out that, with interest rates historically low at 4% and home prices well into the current correction phase, opportunity for home buyers is brightening and more buyers should lead to more sales.

John emphasized that buyers in the upper price range want immediate, move-in readiness. Among his pearls of advice for improving chances for a sale: simplify, eliminate what others might see as clutter, and be sure the property is scrupulously clean.



IN MEMORIAM

FRED C. ROBINSON (1930-2016)

Home Haven extends condolences to the family of Fred Robinson, who died on May 5, 2016; he was 85. Fred is survived by his wife Helen, by his children Lisa and Eric, and by four grandchildren.

Fred was the Douglas Tracey Smith Professor Emeritus of English at Yale and winner, in 1998, of the William Clyde DeVane Medal for undergraduate teaching. He had come to Yale in 1972, having previously taught at Stanford and Cornell. A renowned philologist, he wrote a number of major books in the field of Old English Literature and on Beowulf. He was professionally recognized as president of the Medieval Academy of America; winner of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Haskins Medal from the Medieval Academy, the Sir Israel Gollancz Prize from the British Academy; and by an honorary degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he had received his PhD in 1961.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1930, Fred earned his BA in English and Fine Arts at Birmingham Southern College. He was a lover of words and languages — ancient and modern, English and foreign — and an avid walker and hiker. A friend and neighbor, Louis Audette, remembers Fred's great love of Scotch and of his beloved Elizabethan Club ("The Lizzie"). Louis was invited to The Lizzie for tea, and enjoyed Fred's delight in showing off the Shakespearean folios in the archives.



HEALTH MATTERS: Sunny Days

How to Protect Your Skin While You Enjoy the Sunny Days of Summer

by Nissa Simon

Here comes the sun

Sunlight provides your body's main supply of vitamin D. Yet, according to some estimates, more than half of men and women over 50 are vitamin-D deficient. Grim warnings to stay out of the sun and the body's diminishing ability to manufacture vitamin D with the passing years both contribute to the shortfall.

You need only a few minutes of summer sun *sans* sunscreen on your bare arms and legs several times a week to make plentiful amounts of vitamin D that last through the dismal days of winter. If you're going to remain outdoors after that, cover up. Wear lightweight loose clothing made of tightly woven, dark fabric for the best protection. You don't need to invest in outfits made with UPF-rated (ultraviolet-protection-factor) fabric. And don't forget sunscreen.

Your face, hands, and neck are the most sun-exposed areas of your body, so be sure to protect them with sunscreen and wear a wide-brimmed hat. Dab sunscreen on the tips of your ears as well. Look for a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 30 that offers broad-spectrum protection. The difference in protection between SPF 30 and SPF 90 is minimal, so if there's a cost difference, save your money. Some unexpected good news: As well as preventing sunburn and wrinkles, sunscreen can help lighten brown spots and broken capillaries caused by excess sun exposure. Don't forget to wear wraparound sunglasses or a pair that have side shields to prevent damaging ultraviolet rays from gaining access to your eyes.

If you do overdo the sun and get a burn, soak a soft cloth in a bowl of cold milk, wring it out gently and put the cloth on the burned area until it loses its chill. Repeat if necessary.

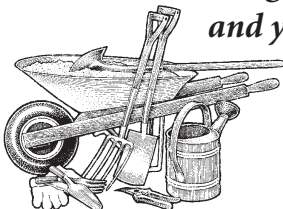


***"Despite the gardener's best intentions,
Nature will improvise."***

— Michael P. Garofalo

***"Gardening is cheaper than therapy
and you get tomatoes."***

— Gardening Saying



***"Gardeners learn
by trowel and error."***

— Author Unknown

I'll drive

Men and women in this country often have more skin damage on the left side of the face than the right. It's just the opposite in countries where driving on the left side of the road is the norm. The culprit is ultraviolet A (UVA) radiation that penetrates a car's side windows. All glass, including car windows, will block the sun's short-wave ultraviolet B (UVB) rays, the ones that trigger production of vitamin D. But only car windshields are treated to block UVA; untreated side and rear windows allow UVA to penetrate. These damaging rays can lead to age spots, wrinkling, and skin cancer. You can block 99 percent of UV light with a clear film applied to car windows. Buy these so-called "car sunshades" from a big-box store or have the film applied professionally (which can be pricey). Some house-window UV-blocking film can also be used for cars. Check with the seller.

And finally: Keep it clean

Consider using mild unscented skin-care products. Deodorant soaps, alcohol-based toners, and products that contain fragrances can leave skin feeling dry and irritated. Oil production in the skin diminishes after 40, so moisturize your skin regularly, preferably right after taking a bath or shower.

Laughter, The Best Tonic

CARDIAC-FRIENDLY HEDGE TRIMMING



HomeHaven Helps Households DeClutter!

Spring Cleaning had real meaning for a number of HomeHaveners last month. Once again we sponsored a Shredding Event in the parking lot behind the office to help members and friends dispose of all those papers that do seem to pile up. Boxes and bags of old receipts, letters, expired insurance policies, even old school papers found their way into a large shredding truck. At \$10 a box, \$5 a bag, we took in a total of \$1200, enough to pay for the truck with a good chunk left over to support HomeHaven activities.



Louis Audette hands over a box of old records – safely disposed of forever.

VILLAGE VERSE: The “Ants” that Come in the Spring, Tra-La

Small ants appear.

They’re in the kitchen sink.
But these have wings!

And then within a wink
They boil abroad—a swarm
that has been spawned,
To organize en masse upon
the counter up beyond.

I capture two because

I need a firm and sure ID.
Can ants have wings? To answer,
I run off to see

An entomologist, who knows
her bugs and plants.

“Bad news,” she says, “These insects
are not ants.”

– Bob Gifford, *East Rock Village*

And the following week, the city of New Haven sponsored a recycling day for electronic equipment. John Hay, Norman Chonacky, and Louis Audette volunteered to pick up obsolete and dead equipment and deliver it to the Celentano School on Prospect Street, while others brought their own. There, in a pouring rain, volunteers and professionals dressed in garbage-bag raincoats, helped unload cars and bale up, shrink-wrap, and load mountains of stuff onto big trucks in lightning time. Norman and Louis filled Louis’ truck nearly to the roof with – among other things — an original Apple desktop computer, a garbage bag full of telephones *with dials*, a box of eight-inch floppy disks and the computer that used them, a magnificent past-generation printer-copier-scanner of a size and weight that is beyond current imagining. It reminded us of how miniaturized electronics have become in a relatively short time.



Louis Audette and Norman Chonacky wonder how many more dead computers they can cram into Louis’ truck.

LINKING UP

*Links to items of interest recommended
by newsletter readers.*

Any retirees from the Foreign Service? One of our readers brought [this interesting description of villages](#) to our attention.

Jane Jervis recommends [Fraying at the Edges](#), recently published in *The New York Times*, a moving account of one woman’s experience with the gradual onset of Alzheimer’s disease.

We welcome your comments about these links and your suggestions for others. Send responses to the editors (p. 2) or the office.

RESPONSIBLE DOWNSIZING: Discovering Ecoworks

by Elaine Piraino-Holevoet

This is not my usual downsizing column. It is, rather, an invitation to discover a nearby place where one person's trash can become another person's treasure.

[Ecoworks](#) is New Haven's "creative reuse center." Open to the public, it sells low-cost art supplies "to support teachers, artists, and others seeking to be more creative and artistic."

Ecoworks operates through the efforts of a dedicated [group of volunteers](#) who are "passionate about the arts and hate waste." Truly believing that "Garbage can be fun," they work to keep useful materials out of the waste stream and make them available to those who can put them to good use.



Ecoworks is the vision of Sherrill Baldwin and Lisa Spetrini, its two founding members. Sherrill has worked in resource and materials management for over 25 years and is currently with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in the Source Reduction and Recycling Group. Lisa, a certified welder and drafter, ran a vintage/punk clothing store, and operated Elm City Handmade, a pop up shop. Currently a designer of custom wood columns, she loves working with recycled materials.

Now to the downsizing part of the column...

Ecoworks relies on a steady stream of donated material to keep its doors open. Much of the material comes from businesses, but the board also appreciates donations of leftovers, scrap, and items no longer needed by the owners. Ecoworks exists in a rather small space, so it does need to vet any donations. Sherrill asks individuals who wish to donate items to send an email to: ecoworksct@gmail.com.

Sherrill has supplied a wish list for items Ecoworks is now actively seeking. It includes: sewing notions, sewing patterns, knitting needles, crochet hooks, yarn or fabric, any art supplies people aren't using any more, board games, decks (or partial decks) of cards, old photographs, posters, maps, and assorted ephemera (good for collage arts), vintage linens, and a sturdy and safe foot stool for young ones to use at the center's bathroom sink. She also mentioned they are

looking for unfinished knitting or crocheting projects — especially assorted granny squares.

Ecoworks is also looking for volunteers to participate in monthly "postcard writing" dates to promote Ecoworks to more teachers, arts organizations and camps and to make innovative samples/products to inspire, as well as scrap activity kits. They also "welcome folks to reach out if they're interested in offering some instruction on knitting, crocheting, sewing or other skill." Anyone interested in volunteering should contact ecoworksct@gmail.com.

Finally, if a unique gift is what you need, the Ecoworks "[ReBoutique](#)" may be the place to start. This upcycled gift shop sells repurposed goods made by Connecticut artists, crafters, and makers. Items for sale include clothing, jewelry, decorative arts, lawn ornaments, and furniture. Objects are accepted on consignment; 30% of the proceeds from each sale benefit Ecoworks. Each visit is a new experience; you never know what treasure(s) you will find at the Ecoworks ReBoutique.

Ecoworks is located at 262 State Street in New Haven, near the corner of Chapel Street, just down the block from the former Horowitz Brothers parking lot. Its regular hours are Thursdays from 1-7 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am-4 pm. It is also open during special events, workshops, and classes listed on the website.

Elaine Piraino-Holevoet is the graphic designer of HomeHaven News and the author of the blog [ontheroadtogreenness](#).

TAKE A MINUTE!

If you've been helped by HomeHaven's referrals to service providers, please call the office or drop us a note and tell us about the experience.

Were you satisfied?

Were there problems?

We'd like to know how things turned out.

203-776-7378



Events: June



Thursday, June 9, 11:00 am

**Guided Tour of the Cushing Center,
Yale Medical School, 333 Cedar Street**

Here's your chance to visit, with expert guidance, the fascinating collections of Harvey Cushing, renowned surgeon, author, and artist of the first half of the 20th century. See everything from pathological specimens complete with the very personal stories of the patients involved, to his rare book collections, to his own artwork. Lunch follows from whichever of the many interesting food carts assembled at the corner of Cedar and York streets you choose. Wheel chair accessible drop-off is at the front of the building. Parking is available on the street, in the air rights garage, or in the garage at 800 Howard Avenue. **Please call the office to register** and for further information.

Wednesday, June 15, 5:00-7:00 pm

**HomeHaven's Annual Picnic
Edgerton Park, New Haven**

See story on page 1.

Saturday, June 25, Arts and Ideas

5:30 pm Mary McBride: the Home Tour;

7:00 pm Cirque Mechanics with NHO

New Haven Green, Free

Bring your picnic supper, a chair, and friends to enjoy the spectacular closing night of the Arts and Ideas Festival under the HomeHaven banner. The **Mary McBride Band** uses live music to enrich lives, inspire and connect people, and engage communities around the world with its fiery blend of country, gospel, blues, and old school rock. **Cirque Mechanics** is a fabulous, dazzling whirl of acrobats and cyclists dangling and twirling from a one-of-a-kind machine called the Gantry Bike, all to the sound of our own New Haven Symphony Orchestra.

AND

Save the Date

Thursday July 7, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thimble Islands Day at Gray Rock Island, rain or shine. Details will be available in the July Newsletter.

HOMEHAVEN OFFICE

☞ **203-776-7378** ☞

hhkateh@gmail.com

ONGOING GROUP MEETINGS

BOOK GROUP

Monday, June 6, 10:00-11:30 am at the home of Jane Jervis, 36 Lincoln Street.

The book to be discussed is *Land of Marvels* by Barry Unsworth. In this immensely intelligent historical novel, set in 1914, Unsworth brings to life the schemes and double dealings of the Western nations grasping for a foothold in Mesopotamia during the dying days of the Ottoman Empire. Please RSVP to Jane at 203-773-3503 or hh.jervis@comcast.com.

PINS AND NEEDLES

Monday, June 13, 3:00 pm at the home of Sheilah Rostow, 438 Whitney Avenue, Apt 10. Please RSVP to Sheilah at 203-562-7760 or sbract@comcast.net. Bring whatever project you are working on and enjoy good company and refreshments. **New members are always welcome.** For more information, please contact Jeanne Drury at 203-281-3227 or Jeannedrury@aol.com.

Monday, June 27, 3:00 pm at the home of Sophie Powell, 100 York Street, Apt.15N. Please call or email her at 203-776-1477 or R_P_Powell@sbcglobal.net to let her know whether you plan to attend.

COOKING IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES: American Southwest

Monday, June 20, 6:30 pm

Sign-up deadline is Friday, June 10. Please respond by then! It is important for planning. RSVP to Celeste Markle at 203-376-1943 or c_markle@yahoo.com. Newcomers are always welcome at these lively explorations of the cuisines of the world.

MEMOIR GROUPS

The memoir groups, which normally meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, are taking a break for the summer; they will resume in September. For more information about getting involved in this engaging and fascinating project, please contact Harriet Bergmann at 203-776-0703 or htb183@gmail.com.