

Message from the President:

In keeping with my usual routine, I tuned into the Friday night PBS NewsHour for January 12, 2018, where I heard a young man's report on the "In My Humble Opinion" segment of the program.



His name is Akhil Sharma, and he is an immigrant from India to the United States.

He said that as he was growing up he did not feel he belonged in this country. When people would ask if he felt more like an Indian or an American, he would answer the opposite of what the questioner was, just to be argumentative. If an American had been the questioner, he would answer "Indian." If the questioner was Indian, he would answer "American." As the years passed, one day he said to himself, "I need to change my attitude. I am too selfish."

The next day, he got into the elevator and pressed the down button on his way to work. The elevator stopped at a lower floor and a woman stepped in. "How are you doing?" he asked.

"Not well," she replied.

"Why not?" he asked.

"I had to put my 13 year old son in the hospital last night. He has paranoid schizophrenia, and he thinks the I.R.S. is after him. I am on my way to visit him."

"Oh dear," Akhil replied. "Would you like me to go with you to the hospital?" He hoped that she would say "no."

"Yes," she said, and, surprisingly, Akhil felt enormous relief. He said that space opened up around him. He discovered that generosity made him feel safe and accepted. All he had to do was to offer patience and help and that made all the difference.

That is what happens at HomeHaven, when members of the Visitors Committee go to see members who

need them. It also happens when HH members volunteer in the community at large. As we grow older and our long-time friends fall by the wayside, either from moving away or dying, this is what we can do to regain that feeling of safety and acceptance by others. Friendship is the most important ingredient of remaining healthy and happy at any age, but especially as we grow older.

Margaret "Peggy" Atherton

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Click on the logos to go to the websites.

HomeHaven Helps

by Jane Jervis

JECOLIAH

Jecoliah (*not her real name!*) retired in 2006 from a long career of teaching, learning from, and caring for graduate and undergraduate students. Retirement provided more time for travel, but she missed the close interaction with people. Happily, East Rock Village was just getting started, and she and her husband became involved at the outset, though they lived just outside East Rock. As ERV grew and became HomeHaven, Jecoliah accepted leadership of one of the newly formed Villages. She had never made time to volunteer before.

Jecoliah loves being a Village leader. She is an enthusiastic recruiter, and she sets a very high standard for her colleagues in the Leadership Council in her contact with and care for her villagers. With her co-leader and their core team, she steers the membership in social activities and mutual caring. Through them, she has discovered new opportunities to continue teaching and, especially, learning.

Members of her Village care for her as she cares for them. And she has needed that care. She's had two major surgeries in the last two and a half years, and both she and her husband were spoiled beyond belief by the immense generosity of fellow villagers. They delivered delicious food, they lent toilet seats and wheelchairs, they brought plants and flowers—and themselves! And homebound members, who have become dear friends, telephoned to check on her as she has checked on them. Ultimately, it's the caring, and the extraordinary friendships—new and old, casual and intimate—that fill Jecoliah's life with rewards beyond reckoning.

If you would like to be interviewed for this feature, please contact Jane at hjervis@gmail.com.

HomeHaven News

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Memo from the Household Services Committee: IT'S STILL WINTER!

by Wayne Meeks

Chair, Household Services Committee

As we find ourselves in the middle of another harsh winter, the Household Services Committee would like to remind you that we are here to help you remain comfortable and safe in your homes. We have vetted service providers and referred service providers that can help you meet whatever challenges this winter decides to bring us.

Do you have someone to clear your walks and drives of snow?

Did you notice one of your gutters clogged and water overflowing?

And how about those handrails for your entrance? With ice on those steps, you need a secure hand-hold.

For any of these services, call the HH office for a referral. And please let us know about good or bad experiences you have had with service providers.

... AT YOUR SERVICE!

In the past three months, HomeHaven provided members with:

- 33 rides by volunteer drivers
- 19 visits by volunteer visitors
- 6 computer assists by volunteer computer helpers
- 28 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.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: A Conversation with Hanna Hyland

by Patty Langdon

Hamden Villager
Hanna Hyland, as her instructor at St. Martin's School of Art in London once said to her, is a born carver. Growing up on a farm in northern Germany, Hanna always liked to paint and draw between chores. Her mother fostered her artistic talent, nurtured by German fairy tales and mythology and occasional private lessons. At the age of 22, Hanna escaped to England, leaving behind memories of war, including the sight of Hamburg burning, about 50 miles away, and the many refugees who became part of the family during those years. She met a handsome Irish doctor and married him without a thought for the then-current atmosphere in the UK, with Flat for Rent signs saying "No Irish or Blacks." When her husband started making a decent salary, he suggested that she quit her administrative work, follow her artistic yearnings, and apply to art school. And, there, at St. Martin's, she discovered carving.



She loved it. "Taking down instead of building up," as she puts it. In 1967 she and her husband emigrated to the States and she continued her studies. She took night classes at the Paier College of Art, studio sessions with Roger van Damme and, later, two semesters at the Lyme Academy. She spent two years learning egg tempera painting at the Hartford Art School and

began working on large dolls in the late '80s. One day she happened to carve a figure that needed to be costumed and her new career was born. She soon was exhibiting at the International Toy Fair in New York. As a result, Tiffany Windows of Boston commissioned four fairy tale scenes for their Valentine windows, on display for some eight weeks.

One day Hanna received what she thought was a crank call: Columbia Pictures on the line! They wanted to commission an authentic Queen Anne doll for an upcoming motion picture, *The Patriot*, starring Mel Gibson. The film was nominated for three Academy Awards and the doll is prominently on display throughout the movie, as the young star had fallen in love with it. Hanna got a call while in Germany from the prop director desperately asking that she repair the doll's dress, burnt in a fire.

Hanna became involved in the world of carved miniatures in 2002 and joined the International Guild of Miniature Artisans (IGMA), becoming a Fellow in 2005. An artisan must submit five works to a panel of nine judges and most take several tries over a period of years; Hanna got it in one. She later became a judge herself and has recently returned from exhibiting in an IGMA show in Kansas City. She also specializes in Hitty dolls, based on a 1940s book, *Hitty, Her First 100 Years*. The dolls are about six inches tall, while many of her miniatures are 1/12 scale. Her proudest achievement might be her commission to create 12 fairy tale scenes for a new museum in Maysville, KY, the Kentucky Gateway Miniature Museum.



A Hitty Doll



Hansel and Gretel and the Wicked Witch

It's hard to describe the delicate features that Hanna manages to carve from the various woods she has chosen and the grace and beauty of each piece. A look at her website, <https://kahl-hyland.weebly.com>, will show you some of her work, or google her professional name, Hanna Kahl-Hyland, for other websites. And she would be delighted to show you some of her dolls if you give her a call in advance. Wait until you see her Maypole dancers!

COMPUTER CONNECTION

Booting Up and Beyond: Another Vocabulary Lesson

by Christa Sammons

When you turn on your computer, it *boots up*. This odd expression, a shortening of bootstrapping, goes back to those tabs on the back of some boots that help you pull them on. To pull oneself up by the bootstraps is to help oneself by one's own efforts. This is what your computer does when you turn it on. It loads successive programs that command other programs to load until it's automatically all "booted up" and ready to go.

Booting up is the process by which the computer loads its *operating system*, or OS, the basic software that allows the computer to do everything else it does. For MacIntosh devices, that software is called OS X or MacOS with various colorful names added to distinguish different versions. For PCs, it's the various iterations of Windows, the newest being Windows 10.

Once booted up, you can access the various *apps* or programs the computer comes with or you have added—your word-processing program, for instance, or applications like Mail, Calendar, Google, or Skype. The operating system also allows you to access the Internet via a *web browser*, a program that finds and presents internet sites for you. Common browsers right now are Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Safari, the latter for MacIntosh

devices. Microsoft Edge is the default browser that comes with Windows 10. (More on browsers next month.)

The places you visit on the Internet are called *websites*, locations that maintain one or more pages of information that your browser interprets so you can read them. Each website has a unique *URL* or Uniform Resource Locator, a kind of web address. You can see the URL for sites you visit in the address bar at the top of the computer screen. Typically, the URL is a series of letters, numbers, and punctuation marks preceded by http or https, letters that stand for hypertext transfer protocol and hypertext transfer protocol secure, basically the way your computer communicates with the website you're visiting. In the secure version, the data is encrypted and sent along routes that can't easily be intercepted.

An all-important sort of website is the *search engine*. Google has become so prevalent here that its name is now a verb: we "google" a topic or phrase to find relevant websites. Other search engines are Yahoo and Bing, the latter being Microsoft's effort to unseat Google.

Remember to visit the HomeHaven *website* to find out about events, get the latest HH news, and look up contact information for other members. [If you need help getting on the website, please call the office and someone from the Information Technology committee will be contacted to help you.] <http://www.homehavenvillages.org>

(Previous articles about computer terminology appeared in the June 2014 and February 2017 newsletters, available in the Documents section of the HomeHaven website.)

Christa Sammons is a member of HomeHaven's Information Technology (IT) Task Force. Suggestions for subjects are welcome and may be sent to Christa at christa.sammons@gmail.com.

Village Verse A New Year

A new year for me is sort of sad.
While others sing and seem so glad,
I think about my life on earth
And all that's happened since my birth.

At eighty-five, a year goes fast.
Recent thoughts, no longer last,
While days of old stay very clear —
Scenes that bring me bits of cheer.

Another year is passing by.
How much longer will I be I?
I'd like to slow it down a bit,
Enjoy this life before I quit.

— Bob Gifford, *Doctor of Doggerel*
East Rock Village

Create your enduring legacy
with a bequest to Home Haven.

NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGES:

Downtown by Phoebe Edwards

Twenty people attended the annual Downtown Village Holiday Party at the apartment of Sam Chauncey on January 5th. It was a bitterly cold evening, and those who attended enjoyed getting together for lively conversation with friends.

East Rock by Jane Jervis

Nineteen members of East Rock Village gathered for lunch at the home of Mary and Jim Barnes on Sunday, December 3. Lentil soup, chili, and cookies were on the menu as old and new members forged new friendships and renewed old ones.



Hamden by Patty Langdon

Hamden Village has inaugurated a Second-Tuesday coffee hour at the local and legendary Best Video on Whitney Avenue. People come and go as they please--no need to sign up or reserve. There are generally about 15 to 20 people, who often find shared interests with other members. They begin a conversation, may exchange business cards, become friends, and arrange to see each other again. Brand-new members meet fellow villagers. Lively discussions abound. It's an easy and very pleasant way to stay in touch.

Westville by Cecilia Berner

Westville Village held a party for its members to meet Lauri Lowell at the home of Harvey and Susan Feinberg.



LAUGHTER: The Best Medicine CURVE BALL?

Tom was at the hospital visiting his best friend, Larry, who was dying. Tom asked, "If there is baseball in heaven will you come back and tell me?"

Larry nodded yes, just as he passed away.

That night while Tom was sleeping, he heard Larry's voice in a dream: "Tom..."

"Larry! What is it?" asked Tom.

"I have good news and bad news from heaven," Larry reported.

"What's the good news?" Tom asked eagerly.

"There is baseball in heaven after all," said Larry, "but the bad news is you're scheduled to pitch on Tuesday."



Happy Birthday to HomeHaven members with a birthday in February

Pat Allen Marge Andrews
Joan Binder Shula Chernoff
Joseph Crowley Eric Denardo
Mike Eisner Kate Hay
Jeanne Kerr Ruth Koizim
Peggy Lawler Jane Lederer
Alex Ostfeld Charles Perrow
Susanne Roberts Ellen Ryerson
Lorraine Siggins Nira Silverman
Kerry Snyder Peter Wells
Hannah Winer



Downsizing?

Thank you to everyone who donated winter coats to the Jordan's Furniture Coat Drive in December.

As you continue your downsizing efforts remember that when you donate goods to [Helping Hands](#) and specify HomeHaven as the community partner, a portion of the proceeds will benefit HomeHaven. Pick-up can be arranged by calling 203-782-4800. More info is available [here](#).



LINKING UP

*Links to items of interest recommended
by newsletter readers. We welcome your comments
about these links and your suggestions for others.*

[An article on the value of nurturing connections](#) with others by David DeSteno, a professor of psychology at Northeastern University, author of the forthcoming book "Emotional Success: The Power of Gratitude, Compassion, and Pride."

Some think the greatest risk in aging at home is falling. But apparently it's dementia. [This article from Science Times](#) describes an advance directive specifically to plan for medical care in the event of dementia.

Introducing New Members

*HomeHaven is delighted to welcome the
following members who joined us last month.*

Jo Shepherd ~ Hamden
(Welcome back Jo!)

Maija Jansson & Paul Bushkovitch ~ Hamden

Loretta Lipka ~ Amity
Pat & Rick Allen ~ Amity



Volunteer Voices in the Community: Louis Audette

Interview by **Kaye Maggart**: Part of a series about HomeHaven members who volunteer in the wider community for organizations that would welcome additional help.



Louis Audette coaching model-makers Tache' Rose and Wesley Agyen-ky from New Haven Academy

KM When did you start working with students at New Haven Academy? What were they like?

LA It began last year as part of the community outreach effort by Peggy Atherton, President of HomeHaven. She brought about 10 of us members together with students at New Haven Academy to discuss possible community service projects. (See November 2017 newsletter, available in the Documents section of the HomeHaven website; call Kate if help is needed.) The school is a magnet high school and attracts students from many surrounding towns, so the six students I worked with were of varied ages and background.

KM How did you decide to make models?

LA Sort of by accident. I had offered a seminar at my house to show students its renewable energy features, but as the kids were walking around, they saw my workshop with models of ships on the table and helicopters hanging from the ceiling. They said they wanted to learn how to make models themselves.

KM What did you do to follow up?

LA Well, it took some doing. The students were very eager, but they really didn't have any model-building experience at all. What we needed were some kind of simple models. I remembered that I had several Dover crafts books that featured paper models of miniature colonial buildings based on Mystic Seaport. The idea would be to cut them out,

glue them carefully together, and display them at school afterwards.

KM How did you organize the project?

LA We were able to get a donation of basic tools and cutting pads from Hull's Art Supply. Then the school counselor, Ramona Knox, who was helping to coordinate the projects, said we could use her activities room and store the supplies there.

KM What were your impressions as you worked with the students?

LA They were enthusiastic, but very tentative at first about using their hands, so the careful cutting and assembly took a lot of time. Plus, the school has tight scheduling, and the kids needed to leave on buses for homes in other towns. The time available for model building was very limited. We're hoping for a better routine this year.

KM How can interested Home Haven members find out more about working at a school?

LA The best way is to call or email Peggy Atherton. She can help you contact the school principal or advise you on how to reach the volunteer coordinator at New Haven Public Schools.

KM What would you say to others about volunteering with students?

LA It takes perseverance, but the benefits are really worth it for me. It's a bit like coaching. You have to be encouraging and not too judgmental. The kids soon become your friends, and you get to watch them share techniques with each other and become more skilled. Just learning to use popsicle sticks to dab glue on tiny paper house walls, for instance, takes practice and a light touch! I really enjoyed seeing them excited and engaged in a project I feel so passionate about.



Right: Finished paper models of historic Mystic Seaport buildings

NEW BEADING GROUP!

Make a necklace out of glass, acrylic, stone and wooden beads, all supplies provided, with veteran beader Vivian Lowell and helper Roberta Friedman. Friday, March 9, at 10:30 am at the home of ERVillage member Kerry Snyder. Registration required, limited to 10 participants. Please call the Office to sign up.

Opening the Holocaust Drawer

Daphne Geismar, daughter of HomeHaven member Mirjam Geismar, is creating a book about her extended Jewish family's experiences in Nazi-occupied Netherlands during World War II. Entitled *Invisible Years: Opening the Holocaust Drawer*, the book is based on letters, diary entries, photographs, and recollections of family members, all interwoven with historical details. For more information, see this link: invisibleyears.com

In a conversation with Shula Chernoff in the April 2016 *HomeHaven Newsletter*, Mirjam Geismar shared her own recollections of those years in hiding, with family members having to split up, move from place to place, sleep in church attics or under kitchen floors. This issue is available on the HomeHaven website. Ask Kate if you need help finding it.

MORE NEWS FROM OUR VILLAGES:

East Rock by Jane Jervis

With accusations of "witch hunts" emanating from the White House, a dozen members of East Rock Village (including a few guests from other villages) gathered on January 12th at the home of Christa and Jeffrey Sammons for the first of four seminars on the history of witchcraft, led by Jane Jervis, using *The Enemy Within* by John Demos, as the text. Our number includes two former actresses in *The Crucible*, the Arthur Miller play about Salem (and Senator Joseph McCarthy).

ONGOING GROUP MEETINGS

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group was the first activity established by East Rock Village even before it officially opened for business. After nine years, it has stopped meeting due to lack of participation. We hope that it may reconstitute itself after some time if there is sufficient demand.

COOKING IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES:

Haitian

Monday, February 19, 6:30 pm

Sign up deadline is **Friday, February 9.**

Newcomers are always welcome—it's a great way to get to know other HomeHavers. Since it is essential to have an accurate count of attendees in the early days of planning, please be sure to **RSVP** to Celeste Markle by the deadline at c_markle@yahoo.com. If you don't use email, call her at 203-397-0492 or call the office. Please also call Celeste for any further information.

MEMOIR WRITING GROUPS

The groups meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month for an hour and a half. For more information or if you wish to attend a meeting to see how it works, please contact Harriet Bergmann at 203-776-0703 or hfb183@gmail.com

PINS AND NEEDLES

MONDAY, February 26, 3:00 pm, at the home of Mary Barnes, 54 Lincoln Street. Please call or email Mary at 203-745-3930 or jim.marybarnes@gmail.com by **Friday, February 23**, to let her know whether or not you plan to attend. The group now meets on the fourth Monday of every month. Bring whatever project you are working on and enjoy good company and refreshments. New members are always welcome. For more information, call Jeanne Drury at 203-281-3227 or JeanneDrury@aol.com.

HELP WANTED!

HomeHaven needs a volunteer **Web Editor** to keep our website up-to-date, lively, interesting, and beautiful. Flexible hours! Work from home! Friendly colleagues! You need not be a geek! Rewards: eternal gratitude and a place in heaven! Please call the office for more information.

Events: February

Monday, February 12, 7:00 pm

Special Event: *The Vietnam War at 50*

Yale Art Gallery Auditorium

In *The Vietnam War at 50*, speaking with a six-piece band and four Broadway performers to back him up, John Monsky, Yale B.A. 1981, tells the story of the Vietnam War. Through the prism of soldiers' cigarette lighters—where they engraved their dreams and their demons—Monsky delivers a dramatic TED-like talk heightened with pictures, film, and live music from the 1960s. The Whiffenpoofs also take the stage, stealing a moment that few can forget.

This production comes to the Yale Art Gallery from the New York Historical Society and will appear next at Carnegie Hall in New York. The performance will be followed by a reception where the Broadway performers (their credits include *Spider Man*, *Spongebob Squarepants*, *Cats*, *School of Rock*) and the director and producers will be available to talk with visitors about their careers and discuss the genesis and development of the live performance.

Free tickets will be available at the Gallery starting at 6:00 pm on the 12th.

Friday, February 23, 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Guided tour of the exhibition, *The Courier*:

***Tales from the Great War*, by Co-Curators**

Mary Christ, Collections Manager, and

Jason Bischoff-Wurstle, Director of Photo Archives

New Haven Museum, 114 Whitney Avenue

Lunch at the Museum to follow

Featuring original artwork by award-winning comic-book illustrator Nadir Balan, *The Courier* is based on the dramatic diary of New Haven's Lt. Philip English—his eye-witness account of the adventures, horrors, and pathos of the front lines. Balan's dynamic, oversized drawings drop the viewer right into the action. Also on display are selected photos and annotations from a scrapbook English put together after returning to New Haven in 1919, offering glimpses of New Haven's 102nd Regiment as the war progressed.

\$15.00 charge includes lunch and entrance fee to the Museum. Sign-up by Monday, February 19, is essential. Please call or email Kate at the office to register.

HOMEHAVEN OFFICE

☎ 203-776-7378 ☎

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 **MUSIC by Special Delivery:**

If you would like to receive calendars for Yale School of Music concerts, contact HomeHaven member Helen Robinson at helenrobinson32@yahoo.com. Helen has generously offered to deliver the calendars by hand or by US mail to HH members who are interested.

Sunday, February 25, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

Film *Alive Inside*

Best Video, 1842 Whitney Ave., Hamden

A beautiful documentary on the power of music to reach the hearts and minds of people suffering from dementia; a moderated discussion will follow. Please call the Office to register.

Monday, February 26, 2:00 -3:30pm

Tax Talk by Attorney Ingi-Mai Loorand, of Neubert, Pepe & Monteith

“What are the implications of the new Tax Law and what do we need to do about it?”

Mitchell Library, 37 Harrison St., New Haven

Please call the Office to register.

PLEASE RSVP!

There's always a reason for this request: space or tickets may be limited; transportation or food service may be needed; and keeping track of members' interests helps us plan future events. So please sign up when we ask you to. And please know that the Activities Committee is always open to your comments and suggestions!



“I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon.”

- Author unknown