



The Navigator

The Exchange Club of Greater Newburyport

P.O. Box 31, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at Starboard Galley

March 12, 2020

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

President-Erin Fournier, Secretary-Stuart Deane, Treasurer-Barbara Griffith, President Elect-Jane Collins
Newsletter Editor-Stuart Deane

Guest speaker traces story of daughter's addiction

By Stuart Deane

The March 3 meeting featured a list of new entrée choices, a little pre-meal business and an after-dinner speaker who traced the difficult path from addiction to recovery.

New meals included white truffle mac and cheese, marinated salmon kabobs, crispy chicken legs with fire-roasted tomato and white bean and spinach orzo.

Business included a list of upcoming events (see schedule below), a notice that we will need a new treasurer for the next administrative year, a report from Joe Murphy that flags have been ordered for September's "Field of Honor" and that scholarship funds from our bank savings account have now been invested with Fidelity, a report from Jim Noyes that the Parks Department has essentially waived its new fees for our "Kids' Day in the Park" and the "FOH" and a notice from yours truly that tables had been "sold out" for the May health fair with the Lions Club.

Speaker

Attending the meeting with his wife Fran from Methuen was retired public works department head Phil Lahey, who kept his audience spell-bound with the pitfalls that complicate the road to recovery.

"I'm the father of an addict in long-term recovery," began Phil, now a school bus driver. "I thought to myself, 'Not my kid!' If only I knew then what I know now.



“I got a call from her that she’d stolen money from pizza parlor but had paid the owner so that he wouldn’t turn her in. We had her living with us for seven or eight years, and she stole us blind. Her step-mom, Fran, finally said, ‘We can’t go on. We can’t live this way.’

“I love them both. I gave her a week to get out. I drove her to the hospital, but she wouldn’t stay, so I took her to her mother’s.

“She stole a check from her mother and bought \$100 worth of heroin. After injecting herself, she passed out on the floor of a fast food bathroom. A worker kicked her out onto the street. An ambulance came, and she told them that she had tried to commit suicide, so she was admitted to the hospital for three days, then sent to Baldpate.

“After three days, her head began to clear. She stayed clean for fifteen months. Then she relapsed onto the streets of Lynn. I thought we would lose her. I told her, ‘When you are ready, let us know.’

“Five months later she called. She went into a program. She’s been clean twelve years now.

“If Fran hadn’t made the tough call, my daughter is dead. The moral of the story is that there is hope. With treatment, it’s possible. I’m grateful she didn’t die.

“If anyone is dealing with an addict, call me. Come to our support group. Come to my house. No one should try to deal with this alone. You just don’t make the right calls. You listen to your heart instead of your head. Our biggest goal is outreach so that others don’t have to go through what we did. Call me.”

Schedule

- March 17: Regular Meeting
- March 24: Board of Directors
- April 7: Regular Meeting, speaker TBA
- April 21: Regular Meeting with annual Election of Officers and Board
- May 9: Health Fair with the Lions Club at the Elks Club, 9 a.m. to noon

Ronald A. LaPierre, 84

December 31, 1935 - March 7, 2020



NEWBURYPORT — Ronald A. LaPierre passed away in Newburyport on Saturday, March 7, in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his family.

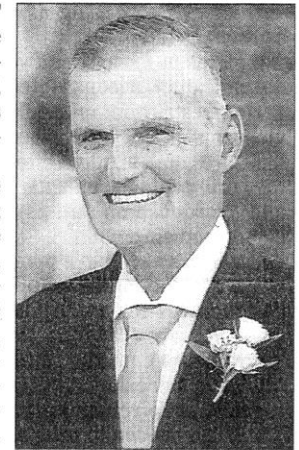
Ron is survived by his wife of 61 years, Anne (Lenane); his four daughters: Joanne Cordón and her husband Luis, Lynn Sullivan and her husband Michael, Terri LaPierre and her partner Basil Magee, and Amy Anwyl and her husband Roderick; grandchildren: Sean and his wife Jennifer Sullivan, Anna Cordón, Ryan Sullivan and his fiancée Sadie Cathcart, Em Cordón, Amy Sullivan; and one great-grandson, Jack Sullivan. He is also survived by his brother William LaPierre and sister Dianne Weeks; sisters-in-law, Frances LaPierre and Mary Duggan; along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his siblings, John, Kenneth, and Mary Lois LaPierre.

Ron was born in Haverhill, Mass., the son of Urbain and Mary (Hardiman) LaPierre. Ron attended St. James School, graduated from Haverhill High and Haverhill Trade School and Peterson’s School of Steam Engineering, and served his country as a member of the U.S. Army.

After Ron and Anne married, they started to raise their family in Newburyport. He felt blessed to be the father of four daughters of whom he was fiercely proud and loved very much.

Ron appreciated the value of a hard day’s work starting as a newspaper boy and caddying at Haverhill Country Club. He worked at the Haverhill Box Board, Haverhill Gas Company, Salem Power plant and at Mass Electric where he retired after 29 years of service. Never content to stay at home, he found joy in his later career as a driver for Abraham’s Bagels, and his final job as a driver for Sarah’s Place Adult Day Health where he could combine his love of people, driving and the added joy of working for his daughter.

Ron believed strongly in



his faith and giving back to his community. He was a former member of the Knights of Columbus in Groveland, a Sunday School teacher, lector and faithful communicant at Immaculate Conception, and a proud and loyal member of the Greater Newburyport Exchange Club. An avid

golfer, he shared his appreciation of the game with many he loved but he was most proud of the fact he won the Caddy Championship at Haverhill Country Club.

As a snowbird, he and Anne enjoyed their winters in Seminole, Fla., where he could bask in the sunshine, mock their northern neighbors and remain free from shoveling their driveway. He enjoyed playing golf, craft brews, winning at the track, and a good cigar.

ARRANGEMENTS: A funeral is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, at Immaculate Conception, Green Street in Newburyport. Calling hours are Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Twomey, LeBlanc, & Conte Funeral Home, 193 High St., Newburyport, MA. Burial will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in Ron’s memory to Sarah’s Place Adult Day Health Center, 180 Water Street, Haverhill, MA 01830, or online at www.Sarahsplace.org.

The family would like to thank Continuum Hospice for the loving and professional care they showed Ron and our family.

For directions or to offer online condolences, please visit www.tlc-funeralhome.com.

