



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

October 10, 2019

www.exchangeclubofgreaternewburyport.org

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

Young speaker impresses club with lively activism

By Stuart Deane

The October 1 meeting (“What a great meeting,” noted President Erin Fournier.) featured our youngest guest speaker ever – 10-year-old Ava Valianti (right) of Newbury and a full table of 16 socializing diners.

Ava, a fifth-grader at Newbury Elementary School, was inspired by a visit to the school by the Methuen-based Clean River Project to clear trash from the Merrimack River. She uses her nature photographs for greeting cards and matted pieces of art to raise funds for the effort. To date she has raised approximately \$1,200, with half going to Clean River and half to replenish her supplies.

“I’m passionate about the environment,” commented the animated young lady, accompanied by her mother Carol. “Thank you for having me here. I really like helping people. My friends and I would love to help with your community service.”

She was immediately enlisted to help with our upcoming October 17 Salvation Army community dinner and presented with a check for \$100 for her environmental efforts, to which she expressed a wide-eyed “thank you.”

In other earlier business, the Board of Directors approved the exploration of a joint spring health fair with the Lions Club, a \$250 sponsorship for the Merrimack Valley Exchange Clubs’ Oktoberfest fundraiser for the Michael B. Christensen Family and Community Support Center (our regional child abuse prevention



center), \$250 for the Horizon Club’s Wednesday evening socials for developmentally delayed adults at the Elks Club (“They absolutely love the time,” said member Jane Collins. “They have a lot of fun. They’re so happy to see each other.”), \$300 for “Wreaths Across America” to decorate veterans’ graves over the holidays and \$200 for Thanksgiving turkeys for the Salvation Army.

Schedule

- Oct. 15: Regular Meeting
- Oct. 17: Salvation Army community dinner at 5 p.m., with main prep from 1 to 2:30, side prep from 2:30 to 4:30 and serving and clean-up from 4:30 to 6:30.
- Oct. 22: Board of Directors
- Nov. 5: Regular Meeting
- Nov. 11: Byfield Veterans’ Breakfast, with the club lining the walkway/entrance with American flags

Finally, the club expresses our deepest condolences to member Jane Collins for the loss of her father, Fred Palen, 92, of Ipswich.

Fred M. Palen, 92

October 29, 1926 - September 30, 2019



IPSWICH — Fred M. Palen, 92, husband of Mary J. (Pojasek) Palen, died Monday afternoon, September 30, 2019, in the Kaplan Family Hospice House in Danvers, Massachusetts, surrounded by his family. Born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on October 29, 1926, he was the son of the late Joseph P. and Sophie M. (Wiecezak) Palen.



Mr. Palen was a graduate of the former Haverhill Trade School in 1945. After his graduation he entered the Army and was a veteran of World War II, he was honorably discharged in 1947. Mr. Palen was employed at the Ford Plant in Somerville, Massachusetts, for nine years. Later he worked at Jordan Marsh in Peabody, Massachusetts, when it first opened at that location for 31 years. He was truly loved and respected by many employees at Jordan Marsh because of his ability to fix anything. Fred was a family man and avid boater, spending summers boating off Crane Beach swimming, fishing and clamming. Two years after his retirement in 1989, Mr. and Mrs. Palen began spending their winters in Florida for the next 10 years. He was a longtime member of the Sacred Heart Polish Catholic Church in Ipswich, and was very active at many church functions. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Carrolton Council # 498 in Ipswich for many years.

In his retirement Mr. Palen's hobby was woodworking, he made furniture for his children and toys for his grandchildren. He was the person who was willing to drop anything he was doing to help his neighbors. He was a perfectionist with everything he did. He was kind and compassionate to all especially to his grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Palen were married at the Sacred Heart Polish Catholic Church on September 17, 1950, they recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary.

Mr. Palen is survived by, in

addition to his wife Mary of Ipswich, their four children: Jane Collins of Amesbury, Jeffrey Palen of Ipswich, Susan Collins and her husband Stephen of Westfield, Sally Palen and her significant other James Malfitano of Newburyport. He is also survived by his five grandchildren: Sarah Collins, Patrick Collins, Maxwell Collins, Travis Collins and his wife Lauren, Danielle Bessen and her husband Jeffrey. Also survived by his two sisters: Katherine O'Connor of Peabody, Frances Welsch of Haverhill; as well as many nieces and nephews. Mr. Palen was predeceased by four brothers and seven sisters.

The family would like to express their deepest appreciation to the staff at The Kaplan Family Hospice Center and Care Dimensions.

ARRANGEMENTS: A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, October 5, 2019, at 10 a.m., at Our Lady of Hope Catholic Church, 54 Linebrook Road, Ipswich. Burial will follow with military honors in the Cowles Memorial Cemetery, 29 Town Farm Road, Ipswich. Visiting hours will be Friday, October 4, 2019, from 5 to 8 p.m., in the Morris Funeral Home, 45 North Main Street, Ipswich, relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Mr. Palen's name to: the Kaplan Family Hospice House, 78 Liberty Street, Danvers, MA 01923. For directions or to send a condolence to the Palen family please go to MorrisFH.com.



Exchange Royalty. On a recent summer visit to the Samoset Resort in Rockland, Maine, Past President Kieran Joyce (2002, 2007), right, met with Past-Presidents Jim Byrne (2001, 2006), Cindy Lewis (1992) and Newton Blakesley (1993) for a trip down memory lane.



Storage "Bin." Club supplies rest in our new storage area at Dugan Supply on Graf Road.

