

Shutesbury Geezette

The newsletter of the Shutesbury Council on Aging

Summer 2019

David Dann 1943 - 2019

David was born in Worcester, MA in 1943. His parents had grown up in Europe: his father in Germany and his mother in Italy. They met and married in Genoa, Italy where his father had gone to further his education. They emigrated to the U.S. in the late 1930's.

David grew up in RI, where his sister still lives. He graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College and went out to San Francisco and spent time with his brother and family. He was a good uncle to his nieces and nephews. While in CA, he helped start the childcare center at San Francisco State University.

Returning to the East Coast in the early 1970s, he came to UMass Amherst and received his M.Ed. He worked in early childhood education and other community-support organizations, including several Head Start programs. In 1981 he became Executive Director

of North End Union, a settlement house in the North End of Boston that had been established in the 1890s to provide services to the Italian immigrant population. It was during that time that he and Sandy Olken met at a Halloween party of a mutual friend. Sandy lived in Cambridge, conveniently located across the Charles River from North End. They married in 1983 and when their son Eli was born in 1984, they began thinking of leaving the Boston area. They had both lived in the Pioneer Valley and liked it, so they began to look for a house. Shutesbury was the only place they looked. Attracted by the good school, they bought the first (and only) one they looked at and moved to town in 1985. Jonah (1986) and Elena (1988) joined the family in the little house near the fire station.

David worked with The Hampshire Community Action Commission program, Child Care Focus. He was also active in Shutesbury town

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government serving on various committees including two terms on the Select Board. He loved town government and decided to make a career change, serving as Town Administrator first in the town of Ashfield and then in Shutesbury.

After his retirement David joined the C.O.A. and helped bring both the Medical Ride Program and the Foot Clinic to town. He also helped, along with many other volunteers, establish *Village Neighbors*, an aging-in-place organization serving the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Wendell and New Salem for which he received a community service award in 2018 from the Amherst Chamber of Commerce.

David was good about taking care of himself. He and Sandy exercised regularly, walking along Pelham Hill Road and going to the gym in the winter. On summer afternoons they would take beach chairs to Lake Wyola to swim and read. He took naps, worked in his garden, made jewelry from shells and sea glass. He loved to travel.

He was organized. He scheduled med. rides and foot clinic appointments, sent out agendas and led meetings. He didn't get flustered and was consistently

gentle and supportive. He loved his family. He lived his life as a loving husband, father, grandfather, community leader and friend. He died the way he lived, at Town Hall, getting ready for a meeting. We miss you David, and can't quite yet believe you aren't still with us.

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Foot Care By Nurses

The Foot Clinic is now held on the **third Wednesday of each month** from 9 am to 12 noon. Half-hour appointments include nail trim and massage. A donation of up to \$35.00 is appreciated. Call **259-3796** for more information and to schedule an appointment. Transportation is available through the Med-Ride program and home visits can be arranged if needed.

Med-Ride Program

The Shutesbury COA offers rides for medical and dental appointments for those over 55 who do not have transportation. This program is paid for by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The area covered is Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties, as well as Orange and Athol. Call the COA at **259-3796** and leave a message. Two weeks notice is appreciated.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

If illness or injury temporarily impairs mobility, borrowing a walker, cane, commode, or other device can make a significant difference in safety and quality of life as you recover!

The Shutesbury Fire Department is our nearest source of such equipment - but member Mark Foster cautions that because the station lacks storage space, *the supply in its loan closet is very limited.* It has a walker, a rollator (the kind of walker with wheels and a folding seat), and “a few crutches.” Call the station’s business number, **259-1211**, and leave a message if no answer.

For urgent needs, notes Foster, your best option is **the TRIAD Program of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.** It loans and delivers medical equipment such as canes, walkers, rollators, wheelchairs, commodes, and hospital beds as part of its mission to protect the safety and welfare of county residents age 60 and up. Call **413-774-4726** between 7am and 3pm weekdays.

Shutesbury seniors may use the Loan Closet at **the Amherst Senior Center** in the Bangs Community Center in downtown Amherst. Its durable medical equipment can be borrowed for up to a year, and

includes walkers, wheelchairs, rollators, transfer chairs, commodes, tub transfer benches, and shower chairs. The center won’t deliver, but if you can’t drive down to get it yourself, you can send someone to pick it up as your representative. Call the Amherst Senior Center’s front desk at **413-259-3060** between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays.

Also in Amherst, **Stavros Center for Independent Living** loans durable medical equipment for a specified period of time. Items generally in stock include power wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, bath chairs, grab bars, and Hoyer lifts (slings to help get patients in and out of beds). Call (800) 804-1899 V/TTD between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays, or email info@stavros.org.

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Yoga

The Library offers a free gentle yoga class every Wednesday at 9 am at Town Hall. Library yoga is supported by the Friends of the M.N. Spear Memorial Library, the Shutesbury Council on Aging, and the Shutesbury Cultural Council.

Kayaks

The Library has a kayak loan program. Shutesbury residents can use their library card to borrow a kayak to use on Lake Wyola. The kayaks are stored at William Elliott Town Park near the boat ramp on Randall Road. Visit the Library to learn more.

Monthly Community Potluck Lunch

Held the first Tuesday of the month from 12-1pm in the Senior Lounge. The next lunch will be July 2. In August it will be on the 6th.

Council on Aging

Linda Avis Scott and Joann Bernhard, Co-Chairs

Melissa Makepeace-O'Neil

Susan Millinger, Secretary

David Wheeler

Janis Gray

Susan Gomberg

Monthly meetings are the 2nd
Wednesday of the month

5:30pm at Town Hall

Contact: **Phone 256-3796**

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