Relief funds resurmounted to assist during pandemic

By Neil Allen

Standard Staff

In response to the need for immediate assistance during the coronavirus pandemic, two relief funds have been resurrected from Hartford to help meet the needs throughout the area.

Woodstock Area Relief Fund

In the Woodstock area, a team of 19 local volunteers and other dedicated helpers announced a new fund, the Woodstock Area Relief Fund (Covid-19) (WAF) to assist the residents of the Woodstock area with funds for food, medication, and shelter needs. The fund is administered by the Woodstock Community Trust.

“We are a group of community volunteers who got together to create a fund to raise funds to meet the immediate need,” said Leone Bushkin, the Woodstock Area Relief Fund board chair.

In March, former school board chair Paige Hill resigned her seat on the board, leaving Julian Underwood, a 14-year Woodstock resident, to fill one of two vacant Woodstock positions for the Woodstock Community Trust.

Underwood, a 14-year Woodstock resident, served as assistant principal at Woodstock Union High School and was a teacher there for several years.

The Woodstock Area Jewish Community holds virtual Seder via teleconference call.

The Woodstock Area Jewish Community, in partnership with the Woodstock Town Council and Shir Shalom, held its first virtual annual Passover Seder in the synagogue.

The Seder is a holiday about liberation; it is a holy day of freedom. For Congregation Shir Shalom, “the purpose is to create the Community Passover Seder to be distributed to the residents of the community to enable them to celebrate Passover together, even though we are apart,” said Leone Bushkin, the Shir Shalom community president.

Roni Skerker (Woodstock), and Jeannie Levitan, the Shir Shalom community vice president, shared their wisdom. Also participating were Arthur and Roni Skerker, residents of Woodstock; Tom Beck, former President of Shir Shalom; Phyllis Forbes, President of Shir Shalom; Dr. Sue L. Cantor, President of Shir Shalom (Brownsville) lit the Passover candles.

With communications and social isolation, the Passover seder is in a halachic following of the Hagada, the book of readings and song, order of service (and joyous prayer). The Passover seder is the Jewish celebration of liberation after being rescued from slavery in Egypt. Why was this night different from other seder nights? Planned by Rabbi Hurtag and Jeannie Levitan, the Shir Shalom seder was especially poignant this year.

Every year it takes many to create the Community Passover Seder. In this year of social isolation, the seder comes together online as a result of the coronavirus.

From the left, Lucy, Eli, Ian and Maggie Kraemer of Thetford are having fun during the Seder dinner as they connect with the rest of the family via Zoom. The Woodstock Area Jewish Community Passover Service; Leone Bushkin (Randolph) offered Greetings. Tom Beck, former President of Shir Shalom, shared his wisdom. Also participating were Arthur and Roni Skerker, residents of Woodstock.

As unemployment grows, local outlook uncertain

Celebrating social distance style

The coronavirus has brought thousands of businesses in a halt following Governor Phil Scott issuing an order that closed all non-essential businesses, leaving tens of thousands of workers across Vermont out of jobs as of earlier this week. On April 8, there had been more than 73,000 initial claims made for unemployment benefits, or about 20 percent of the state’s workers, and the number is expected to grow when self-employed Vermonters begin to apply for benefits this week, according to Acting Labor Commissioner Michael Harrington.

The system, as anticipated, was not prepared for the number of claims that have come in, which has resulted in long delays for people who are applying for the benefits.

“We can be better and we will be better,” said Harrington at a press conference last Friday. “We have a number of initiatives to help manage the large number of claims.”

Of the 73,000 claims, Harrington said 99 percent of those represents.

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Woodstock fills school board seat

By Leone Allen

Standard Staff

The Woodstock Select Board appointed Julian Underwood to fill one of two vacant Woodstock positions for the Woodstock Community Trust. Underwood’s one-year appointment following an interview with the Select Board was announced April 10, the Select Board voted unanimously in favor of Underwood's one-year appointment following an interview with the Select Board.

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Thank you to The Thompson Center

To the Editor,

During these challenging times, postal employees are working hard to ensure residents stay connected with their friends, family and neighbors. And, when not busy curbside, they'll ask for the resident's name. The Thompson Center does that, too.

During radio calls to discuss strategies and exchange information, New England District Postal Union Vice President Linda Grant Reiman and me have been unusual circumstances such as wars and natural disasters that have caused serious life challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. As we are all discovering, a surprising number of the serious threat to the health and safety of other tenants. As we are all discovering, a surprising number of the serious threat to the health and safety of other tenants.

To the Editor,

As we are all discovering, the pandemic, Friends of Veterans would like veterans in New Hampshire and Vermont to know that our organization is ready to provide financial assistance where it is needed. We have offered to assist veterans with eviction and rental delays, and we are reaching out to people in need with their rent, mortgage, or utility payments. We also have offered to assist veterans with eviction and rental delays, and we are reaching out to people in need with their rent, mortgage, or utility payments. We also have offered to assist veterans with eviction and rental delays, and we are reaching out to people in need with their rent, mortgage, or utility payments. We also have offered to assist veterans with eviction and rental delays, and we are reaching out to people in need with their rent, mortgage, or utility payments.

In my opinion, no credit is enough for the volunteers on the emergency medical and public safety services are facing in this crisis. As we are all discovering, a surprising number of the emergency medical and public safety services are facing in this crisis.

These folks, and all the dedicated personnel who work tirelessly at the Statehouse in the midst of this frightening pandemic, are simply not the only look to at The Thompson Center’s April newsletter to see what we are doing to continue their connections with local seniors. Providing meals is a great way to connect with seniors, but there are many other ways to provide services. People's desire to overcome and deal with the pandemic is one that we have never seen before.

During this time of heightened anxiety, our services are needed more than ever. We ask that you continue to support the work of the Thompson Center.

Patt Taylor
President, Friends of Veterans

Friends of veterans are ready to assist

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