

[Like](#)[Tweet](#)[in](#)

# DM | DANBURY MUSEUM



## Hello Friends!

It was a little over a year ago that we began sending out these Museum From Home newsletters. All these months later we are glad to be with you—albeit still virtually—and know that we all very much look forward to the day when we can be together safely at the museum.

What's ahead at the Danbury Museum? A lot. We have that spring-induced spring in our step and plans for Covid-flexible exhibits and programming in the coming months.

We're watching closely the steps being taken by our museum community friends in Connecticut and greater New England, and to that end, we're sharing our re-opening strategy below. As always, watch our social media or check our website for the most current information.

Because of the pandemic, very few of you were able to see the wonderful *The Fair*

*That John Built* exhibit that Elaine Lagarto curated for us last February. So this year, as we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the first agricultural fair (that would grow into John W. Leahy's beloved Great Danbury Fair) we will be showcasing Elaine's exhibit as the centerpiece of a broader exploration of 200 years of Danbury fairs. Throughout the summer, culminating in October, our social media will feature the very popular #DanburyFairFridays again, but this year with a broader scope. We'll be adding more outdoor components as well, in addition to some programming with our friends at the Danbury Library. Museum staff are still working out the logistics of limited, timed entries and one-way exhibit traffic, so stay tuned as we head into May and June.

Our first ever online auction will be coming your way June 1- June 25. All the great baskets, treats, and art you've loved at the Hat City Ball in years past will now be auctioned online for the benefit of the museum. Details to come soon!

To those of you who enjoy puzzles--whether jigsaw or brain teasers--there is a special Easter themed addition to our [JigsawPlanet](#) page, and Patrick has created some fun new puzzles (a challenging cryptogram and a timely Buzzwords) for the month over at [#MuseumFromHome](#).

And finally, we are so pleased to have interesting articles from our regular columnists, John O'Donnell and Dr Thomas MacGregor—thanks to both for their contributions!

We'll see you back here in April!

Brigid Guertin (*Executive Director, City Historian*)

Patrick Wells (*Research Specialist, Social Media Manager*)

Michele Lee Amundsen (*Collections Manager, Newsletter Editor*)



## 2021 Danbury Museum Re-opening Plan

What are we doing at the DMHS to help move forward in the effort to re-open safely?

- We are getting vaccinated! That's right, our staff, our boards, our volunteers are signing up and taking the shot(s).
- We are continuing to wear masks

on  
campus  
both  
indoors  
and  
out  
and  
we  
are  
staying  
socially  
distant,  
hand  
washing  
and  
sanitizing  
over  
and  
over  
again!

- In the interest of protecting the high-risk populations we serve, and the high-risk populations who volunteer for us, the Danbury Museum is continuing to create high quality onsite outdoor programming. In fact, beginning

in  
June,  
we  
have  
several  
more  
fun  
and  
educational  
outdoor  
exhibits  
planned-

-  
both  
on  
our  
Main  
Street  
campus  
and  
at  
locations  
throughout  
the  
downtown  
corridor!

- We  
are  
reimagining  
our  
events  
and  
programs  
to  
serve  
our  
community  
virtually,  
holding  
off  
on  
Huntington  
Hall  
rentals  
until  
we  
can  
reassess  
in  
September,  
and  
postponing  
interior  
historic  
house

tours  
until  
the  
fall.

- Research requests will continue to be answered via email or phone chat.
- The museum is accepting donations of archival items and material related to Danbury history. Just call or email us first and we can pick up if you are local or meet in the driveway at the museum.

If your community group has been meeting at the Danbury Museum we are happy to facilitate an outdoor meeting--you bring the chairs, we'll provide the space, and even masks if you need them!

We will continue to communicate any further impacts to the Danbury Museum as a result of COVID-19. Our interest is to continue serving our community while maintaining the safety and health of our staff, volunteers, and public. We want, just as much as you do, a return to tours and programs inside our historic buildings. As we all work together to implement safety measures and get vaccinated, that seems a closer reality than ever!

In the meantime, as a reminder, the Danbury Museum has several social media platforms and will continue to supply a high volume of content over the next few months. If there are any changes to the museum schedule of re-opening, they will be posted to social media and our museum website.



### **Give the Gift of History. Your Membership Matters!**

**The COVID-19 health crisis has had a strong impact on the Danbury Museum, not unlike other public service organizations. To help us continue doing the work we love--from home and from behind the scenes over the next few months--please consider making a donation.** Your gift, regardless of size, is important to us as we regroup and continue to work toward eventually reopening to the public. A monthly, sustaining membership via PayPal has the most impact and is an easy way to support the museum for as little as the cost of a cup of coffee each month.

**Thank you for helping us to be here as your home for Danbury history in the post-Covid world.**

If you're in a position to make an end of year contribution, [donate here](#).

[Become a member here](#).

---

## Anarchism

By John O'Donnell

During the early twentieth century in the United States there were two groups in the country that had an enormous impact on our society--they were organized crime and anarchism. They both originated in Europe and crossed the Atlantic to our shores with immediate consequences for our national life. Organized crime lasted much longer and has gotten the lion's share of attention, but anarchism, although having a briefer life span, proved to be a thorny problem for us from roughly 1900 to 1930. The United States history courses that I took in high school and college paid scant attention to the anarchist movement. I would like to highlight some of the important events that the anarchists influenced at the turn of the century.

Anarchism is a political philosophy and movement that is skeptical of authority and rejects all involuntary, coercive forms of hierarchy and calls for the abolition of the state. A common image of the anarchists is that of bomb throwing conspirators attempting and frequently succeeding in assassinating European monarchs. One of their first successful assassinations was that of Czar Alexander II, (called the Liberator because he had freed the serfs), in St. Petersburg on March 13, 1881. He was killed by a team of assassins who were members of an anarchistic group known as the People's Will. This assassination was replicated in the United States when President William McKinley was shot and died eight days later. He was killed by Leon Czolgosz, a disgruntled anarchist, on September 6, 1901, while visiting the World's Fair in Buffalo, New York.

The anarchists in the United States were not satisfied with killing President McKinley; they had still broader ambitions to continue disrupting the life of the republic. The most important figure behind this campaign was Luigi Galleani, an Italian anarchist who advocated revolutionary violence, including terror bombing and assassination. He published a periodical *Subversive Chronicle* that advocated violent revolution and a bomb making manual titled *Health is in You!* His followers undertook a campaign of violence in order to make his dream of violent revolution come true. We will look at a couple of these acts with which he attempted to bring this about.

At a large dinner held at the University Club of Chicago on February 12, 1916, an anarchist chef, Jean Cronos, put arsenic into the soup in an attempt to poison the governor of Illinois, Edward F. Dunne, the Archbishop of Chicago, George Mundelein, as well as 100 guests. The attempt did not succeed because the soup

was watered down due to the arrival of unexpected guests. No one died because of the swift action of a doctor, J. B. Murphy, who was a guest at the dinner and prepared an emetic which saved people's lives. Newspapers referred to the mass murder attempt as "the Mundelein poisoned soup plot." The chef escaped, but the police, who initially thought he was a German agent, then identified him as Nestor Dondoglio who was a member of the Galleanist group of anarchists. He evaded capture by authorities, but would write them taunting letters which appeared in American newspapers. He remained on the run for the next 16 years and was never caught. The theory was that he was sheltered by the anarchist network and died in 1932 on a farm in Connecticut.

The anarchists continued their assault on society by turning their attention to 23 Wall Street, the headquarters of the J. P. Morgan Bank. At 12:01 pm on September 16, 1920, a horse-drawn cart was parked across the street from the bank and exploded causing mass devastation. It was packed with 100 pounds of explosives as well as 500 pounds of metal window-sash weights. The blast killed 40 people and injured 143. It was the first major terrorist attack in New York City. Despite a massive police investigation, the incident, like the Mundelein poisoned soup plot, was never solved.

One of the suspects was Mario Buda. He was a follower of Galleani and was thought to be the mastermind behind a series of bombings of high government officials including the Attorney General of the United States, A. Mitchell Palmer. The man carrying the bomb was killed by his own device in a premature explosion and the police explanation was that the bomber had not completely finished reading Galleani's bomb-making manual. Buda was thought to have orchestrated the Wall Street bombing in retaliation for the indictment of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. These men had been part of an anarchist team who robbed a shoe company in Massachusetts during which a pair of guards were shot and killed. They were ultimately tried and convicted for the crime and executed in 1927. The robbery was intended to finance more anarchist plots. Buda quickly left the country after Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested and he returned to Italy before he could be arrested himself. Galleani had been deported back to Italy in 1919. While these men were active in the United States they presented a serious challenge to the United States government, after their return to Italy things settled down. It seems to me that this movement deserves a fresh and more vigorous investigation by modern historians.

**John O'Donnell first became a history devotee while in elementary school. He was raised in Brooklyn and frequently went to Prospect Park which has a Revolutionary War monument. He was hooked!**

---



**Great Danbury State Fair (Retro)**  
*Available in our TeeSpring online shop.*



**Durkin's Diner**  
Classic Long Sleeve Tee

**Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations are all coming up quickly. We have two online shops that have all your Danbury-themed gift items covered-- maybe a Durkin's Diner coffee mug or a Great Danbury Fair pouch? Check them out at [Tee Spring](#) and [TeePublic](#)! The Danbury Museum gets a portion of each sale.**

---

## **Thoughts of Spring, Time, Place, and Plants**

By Thomas MacGregor, Ph.D.  
UConn Advanced Master Gardener

It's time to plan your Danbury garden. At this time of year, gardeners think about the flowers and vegetables that grew well last year and the spectacular plants they have seen in garden catalogues received in the mail. Most importantly, they plan when is

the optimal time to plant.

The month of March brought us Daylight Saving Time (March 14th) and the vernal equinox, the start of the spring season (March 20th). Daylight Saving Time (DST) is designed to optimize the number of hours of sunlight to the number of hours humans are awake. Because humans tend to wake up to the sound of an alarm at a given hour, rather than at the “crack of dawn,” an hour of sunlight while we were asleep seemed wasteful. Therefore, Congress passed the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to advance the clocks one hour in March (to give us humans more light at the end of the day) and, 34 weeks later, to set them back to Eastern Standard Time (EST). The vernal equinox (“equinox” means “equal night”) is the moment in the year when the sun is exactly above the equator and day and night are of equal length. As the earth orbits the sun, the earth is tilted 23.4 degrees from pole-to-pole and spins like a gyroscope. The tilt defines that part of the year when the Northern Hemisphere is inclined toward the sun and warmer weather results. Therefore, two of our basic units of time (day and year) are both related to the motion of the earth and its position towards the sun.

There are two methods of measuring daily time using the sun. The apparent solar day is the amount of time that passes between two high noons, about 24 hours or one spin of the earth on its axis. “Mean solar time” is the time we are accustomed to reading on a clock or our wristwatch. However, time kept by the actual position of the sun in the sky in relation to earth is called “apparent solar time.” There is a slight difference between these two times due to the spinning and tilting of the earth in an elliptical orbit about the sun. A sundial keeps apparent solar time. If you are a plant that requires sunlight to grow and thrive you are more interested in apparent solar time than some Congressionally-dictated mean solar time.

When railroads made rapid east-west travel possible, pocket watches did not correspond to sundials at each stop. This problem was corrected by the introduction of 24 time zones across the earth starting at the prime meridian near Greenwich, England, which was standardized in 1884. Each time zone is approximately 15 degrees wide in longitude, i.e.,  $360 \text{ degrees} / 24 \text{ hours} = 15 \text{ degrees per time zone}$ . One time zone of 15 degrees longitude is quite large. When I travel to Ohio to visit my mother, I am always amazed that sunrises and sunsets are much later there than in Danbury even though we are in the same time zone. The center of our DST time zone is at a longitude of -75 degrees from the prime meridian, so a sundial in Danbury is fairly accurate during the entire day as the longitude here is -73.454079 degrees. A sundial set up at the edge of a time zone (think Ohio or Indiana) can be off by as much as 16 minutes in the early morning or the late afternoon. All sundials north and south on the same longitude with Danbury will be synchronized.

Most gardeners place their sundials near their garden, i.e., in a sunny spot in their yard. Vegetable gardens need a minimum of 8 hours of summer sunlight. Flower gardens need less than 8 hours for shade-tolerant plants (Hosta, pachysandra, ferns,

etc.) and more for sunny plants (roses, daisies, dandelions, etc.). All plants need some sun for photosynthesis and, as any Master Gardener will tell you, “There are no shade vegetables.”

What about latitude? The latitude for Danbury is 41.394966 degrees north of the equator. Latitude determines what you can successfully plant in your garden without resorting to season-extending greenhouses, cold frames, or tunnels. For example, growing oranges is better suited for a Florida garden, whereas, blueberries and strawberries are ideal in a Danbury garden. Since Cleveland and Omaha are on the same latitude as Danbury, any garden plant grown in the Midwest can be grown here. Examples are corn, beans, grapes, apples, peaches, cabbage, and lettuce. Latitude also determines which insects will invade your garden during the summer. The US Department of Agriculture has used latitude and winter weather extremes to set up hardiness zones for growing crops. The hardiness zone for Danbury is currently Zone 6a, but, apparently due to man-made climate change, has changed for the warmer from 5b to nearly 7 during the 40+ years since I moved here. Oranges are grown in hardiness Zone 11 so don't plan on developing an orange orchard for a few years.

**After 33 years at Boehringer Ingelheim, Dr. Tom (UConn '85) retired to his garden and piano.**

---

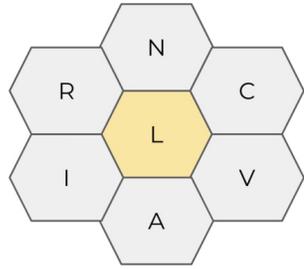
**Follow @DanburyMuseum on  
Twitter**

**Follow @DanburyMuseum on  
Instagram**

**Follow Danbury Museum & Historical Society on Facebook**

## Danbury Museum "Buzzwords"

## How to Play



### Create words using letters from the hive.

- Words must contain at least 4 letters.
- Words must include the center letter.
- Our word list does not include words that are obscure, hyphenated, or proper nouns.
- No cussing either, sorry.
- Letters can be used more than once.

### Score points to increase your rating.

- 4-letter words are worth 1 point each.
- Longer words earn 1 point per letter.
- Each puzzle includes at least one "pangram" which uses every letter. These are worth 7 extra points!



At the Danbury Museum, we've been collecting and archiving items that document our city's past for more than 75 years. Our collection includes several buildings worth of archival materials as well artifacts that tell the tale(s) of our collective past, that inspire and inform the present and that we will be preserving for future scholars, researchers, students and Danburians.

We are currently living through a momentous, somber moment in our collective

history. We need your help to document what is going on in your homes, at your jobs, and in communities across Connecticut. We want to hear your story. We want to know how you and your family are experiencing the current pandemic and “new normal.”

Below are examples of what we’re looking for:

**Writings - letters, notes, emails, postcards, poems**

**Signage - images of window signs, directions, posted community information**

**Photos - of you, your family, your neighborhood, your street, YOUR Danbury!**

**Drawings, paintings, and other forms of art you’re creating and documenting**

**Short videos (limited to 500MB file size) for larger files please email to Patrick Wells, Research Specialist at [p.wells@danbury-ct.gov](mailto:p.wells@danbury-ct.gov).**

**Please stay safe when documenting these historic times. Do not put yourself in danger when capturing photographs or videos.**

**Why is this Important?**

**The Danbury Museum collects material that documents the full range of our lives in Danbury, CT because...you INSPIRE us, you INSPIRE the future. Documenting our community response to COVID-19 is a way to preserve the daily struggles of our stay at home community, our work from home community, our students, our critical care and healthcare workers, our first responders and our essential workers. From every perspective, what you are doing right now matters, to us right now, and to future Danburians.**

**So, when you email Collections Manager, Michele Lee Amundsen at [m.amundsen@danbury-ct.gov](mailto:m.amundsen@danbury-ct.gov) or mail us your submissions to 43 Main Street, Danbury, CT 06810, please include any or all of the following information: What else should we know about this object? Please explain who is in the photo, why you created this piece...basically all the information YOU would want to see to give context to a museum exhibition item or an archival file.**

Please know that:

*By providing my material to the Danbury Museum & Historical Society Authority (DMHSA) I hereby give the DMHSA a royalty-free, non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual, irrevocable, and fully sub-licensable license to copy, digitize, reproduce, edit, translate, create derivative works, distribute, and publicly display and perform certain materials described below. I agree that the DMHSA may add the material to the collection according to the DMHSA Collection Management Policy and to make it available to researchers in a manner consistent with the practices of the DMHSA. I*

*agree that the DMHSA may utilize any medium or media now existing or that will exist in the future to achieve the above-described purposes.*

**Thank YOU for entrusting the Danbury Museum with your memories, your stories, your art, your images. We take this responsibility seriously and will maintain your gift for future generations so they too may understand what it was like to be here, in Danbury, during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

---

**We'll keep in touch, and we hope you will, too. Be well, take care of yourselves, and we'll look forward to meeting here again in April.**



©2021 The Danbury Museum & Historical Society | 43 Main Street,  
Danbury, Connecticut 06810, United States

[Web Version](#)

[Preferences](#)

[Forward](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by  
**GoDaddy Email Marketing**®