

DM | DANBURY MUSEUM



Last of the summer blooms in the Danbury Museum garden.

Hello Friends!

As the days get a little shorter and the evenings get a little cooler--and after a busy summer!--we're glad to be welcoming autumn.

This October we have a full slate of programming and activities scheduled. As always, the best place to see what's on deck at the Danbury Museum is to check our [Upcoming Events](#) page.

We're pleased to play host for Richter Arts concerts for the season

as the Richter House begins its rehabbing. The performers are all listed on our [website](#) and the concerts are **Sundays, October 1, 8, 15, & 22**, at 3pm and they last approximately an hour.

On **Saturday, October 7**, the Danbury Garden Club is having its annual autumn Harvest Market plant sale. The sale is open to all and will be held from 10-12.

Also on **October 7** we're happy to host the Danbury Ancient Order of Hibernians for a roundtable discussion on the 4th Ward and the Irish in Danbury as part of Family History Month. The roundtable, led by Bill Devlin and Phil Gallagher, is from 1-3.

The following **Saturday, October 14**, there will be a guided walking tour of the 4th Ward with Phil Gallagher and Bill Devlin, please gather at the museum for a 1pm start.

From **October 4-14** we are hosting the *Silent Witness* exhibit via The Center for Education and Empowerment. The exhibit will be available Wednesday through Saturday from 12-4.

On **Tuesday, October 24, at 6 pm**, The Center for Education and Empowerment will be doing a program for teens on healthy relationships. All are welcome and there is no charge or pre-registration.

We're excited to welcome Danbury author Rebecca Dimyan to give an author talk on **Saturday, October 28**, from 1-2:30. Rebecca will be reading from her new book, *Waiting for Beirut* and discussing her writing process. And the book will be available for sale and signing.

And it's never too early to put the annual Danbury Museum Gala on your calendar. On **Friday, February 2, 2024** we are BACK-- "Back in Black (Tie)" at the Amber Room and we're all very excited to be back together and celebrating. Full details and menu

to come soon!

In very good news we have both Tom MacGregor and John O'Donnell writing for us this month! Tom gives us a most interesting look into "splitters" and "lumpers" (and invites interested parties to consider participating in the UConn Extension Master Gardener program) and John writes about one of the Los Alamos wunderkinds, John von Neumann. We're very glad to have both of their contributions this month.

And finally, your newsletter editor has a contribution this month as well, a small essay on fortuitous research finds and Dr. Felipe Grisafi Buzaid.

Thank you all for joining us this month, and we'll look forward to seeing you here again in about a month.

Brigid Guertin

Patrick Wells

Michele Lee Amundsen

SILENT WITNESS EXHIBIT

In 1990, the Silent Witness Initiative began to support an end to domestic violence through community-based exhibits. It started with a small group of volunteers in one state and grew into an international presence, with projects in all 50 states and 23 countries.

The Silent Witness Exhibit through The Center for Empowerment and Education honors the lives of domestic violence homicide victims through family support, community connections, and advocacy for change.

Because we need to remember their stories.

We need to remember their names.

This exhibit shares real stories of individuals across our service area who have died due to acts of domestic violence, including: Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, and Sherman. All stories have been shared with permission from the families. If you are a loved one of someone who has died due to acts of domestic violence from our service area and would like to add their story to our exhibit, please contact us at thecenter@thecenterct.org

These stories may be difficult to read. If you or someone you know wants to speak to a counselor, our confidential and no-cost services are available 24/7 in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.

24/7 Domestic Violence Hotline: 203-731-5206

In collaboration with the Danbury Museum & Historical Society

THE CENTER FOR EMPOWERMENT AND EDUCATION PRESENTS

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS



FREE ENTRY

Danbury Museum
43 MAIN ST, DANBURY, CT

PARENT PROGRAM AVAILABLE AT SAME TIME IN SEPARATE ROOM

OCTOBER 24 6 PM

For more information, please contact Cristina at cristina@thecenterct.org

We are pleased to be partnering with The Center For Education and Empowerment for some important programs this fall and next spring.

The Bridgeport Post
20 Dec 1964, Sun - Page 97

Mr. and Mrs. Enlle Buzaid will have as their Christmas house guests Mrs. Buzaid's mother and sister, Mrs. Samuel Grisafi, from Binghamton, N. Y., and Mrs. Francis Barra, Astoria, L. I.

Known professionally as Dr. Felipe Buzaid, Mrs. Buzaid now conducts her School of Music in their new home, 199 Deerhill avenue, formerly Dr. Richard Hubbard's residence. Dr. Buzaid's Children's Sunday Afternoon Musicales have been suspended until after the holidays. She and Mr. Buzaid perform throughout the country in piano and organ classical concerts, the only team of its kind on the circuit.

Marian Anderson is at her home, Marianna Farm, Danbury for a few days after completing the first of her farewell world concert tour. Her itinerary included California, the southern states and Canada. She and her husband, O. H. Fisher, will spend the holidays with her native Anderson family in Philadelphia just as she has done the past 25 years. Miss Anderson will resume her tour after the first of the year.



It's Natural, of Course

Born to Rhythm, This Baby's Not Hep to Rattles

Daddy's Famous
In Music Line,
Mother, Too

It seemed natural that Emile G. Buzaid, Jr., born last Monday at City Hospital's Maternity Building, was not hep to the discordant sounds of a baby's rattler.

For he is the son of a musically famous daddy and a mother whose musical talent won her a doctor's degree at the noted Julliard School of Music in New York City.

The father, Emile G. Buzaid, who once wrote background movie for Warner Brothers, was described by his admiring wife as one of the "foremost organists, pianists and conductors in the world."

Mrs. Buzaid, the former Felipe Grisafi of Binghamton, accompanied by her husband, returned to Binghamton last May 10 to have her baby.

"I guess we got here a little early," said Mr. Buzaid. "We had been expecting him for some time."

The child, only three days old when his picture was taken with his parents, hardly aroused himself from a nap for the photograph. Rattling noises from a toy did not seem to impress him.

Mrs. Buzaid was graduated from Binghamton Central High School and State Teachers Col-



THE BUZOID FAMILY
No Jarring Sounds, Please

—Sunday Press Photo.

lege at Springfield, Mo., before she matriculated at Julliard. She earned a doctor's degree in music by working out a

Discordant Toy
Fails to Impress
Young Offspring

method of teaching music to deaf mutes.

Her husband, who has appeared on radio and television shows, also has been featured with band leader Xavier Cugat. Two years ago, he completed a tour of South America.

He and his wife came to Binghamton from Las Vegas, Nev., where he had been performing. The couple will live in Danbury, Conn., and will open a music studio. He also will perform in New York City.

Mrs. Buzaid once operated a music studio in Binghamton. In May, 1952, a man dropped in, said he was an organist but the instrument was on the blink. Could she help him?

She fixed up the musical troubles of Emile G. Buzaid, who had been passing through town. It was a chance meeting that resulted in romance and marriage.

Young Emile, who will be a week old tomorrow, undoubtedly, considering the background of his parents, will be a critical audience for playful friends and relatives who have a tendency to produce cacophonous noises on untuned baby toys.

Fortuitous Finds

by Michele Lee Amundsen
Collections Manager

Museum staff and archivists are, at their very core, storytellers. We are entrusted with artifacts and ephemera and the stories and narratives of the people who came before us; it is our charge to not only preserve, but to remember and share.

Days where I get to spend part of it researching--a person, an object, an event--are increasingly rare, but they are always welcome. There's the subject of the actual research, and then there are the many adjacent interesting and distracting stories.

While browsing historic newspapers for coverage of an event that Marian Anderson had participated in, I found a mention of Dr. Felipe Buzaid above a short article about Ms Anderson. This led to a most enjoyable tangent, discovering small but fascinating glimpses into the extraordinary life of Dr. Felipe Grisafi Buzaid.

The Buzaid family has been active in Danbury for decades and

they have been supportive of the museum's efforts to explore and showcase the stories of musical legends Marian Anderson and Charles Ives as well, so the item caught my attention and what fun it was to discover more about this this accomplished woman and musician who called Danbury home.

Articles from the Bridgeport *Post* and the Binghamton *Press and Sun-Bulletin* (the Bridgeport *Post* is digitized and available by subscription and it published a great deal of Danbury news, making it an excellent resource) wrote of Dr. Buzaid's impressive credentials, graduating from Juilliard and earning her doctorate by devising a method of teaching the piano to deaf students, a curriculum she donated to New York state for its use. Dr. Buzaid also ran the Buzaid School of Music, and was integral to the cultural life of our community. One article from 1961 noted, "The Buzaid's are well-known in Danbury as teachers and entertainers. They have performed together as a piano and organ duo in several concerts in Danbury."

In a large write-up from 1968, Dr. Buzaid's role as an early member of the Danbury Cultural Commission is lauded—and the article goes on to mention her striking good looks and her sense of style and fashion, too(!). She shared commissioner duties (hand-picked by then-Mayor Gino Arconti) with the likes of Marian Anderson and Danbury's well-known and beloved dance instructor, Ona Mae Hancock (an accomplished performer in her own right). It's inspiring to read of Dr. Buzaid's accomplishments and it is very clear what a beloved member she was of not only the Danbury community, but the greater musical community of our region.

We utilize important museum resources every day for various projects, but getting to go on a small research bender for fun is one of the very fulfilling parts of our work, and we always learn the most interesting things.

All of these documents will be put into a subject file within our museum holdings and be available to researchers. Do you have information about female members of your family? October is Family History Month and we'd welcome stories and information, especially about women as they are traditionally under-represented in our collection.



Splitters and Lumpers

by Thomas MacGregor

In my initial microbiology course in college, my professor stated that many biologists fall into two camps, either “splitters” or “lumpers.” As an example, “splitters” are those scientists in the news who describe the current flu and COVID variants in very specific terms. On the other hand, “lumpers” are those scientists who develop vaccines against these groups of viruses. What propelled me to reminisce about “splitters” and “lumpers” is that the Master Gardener class of 2023, described in the January newsletter, are going through their final hands-on diagnostic exams this month. Over 40 students from the Danbury area are given plants and/or bugs to identify and must determine any pathological disease the plant may have or the bug may produce. These students will put splitting and lumping into action.

“What’s wrong with my plant or tree?” A common request, like this question, for in-office diagnosis by a mentor-supervised Master Gardener intern this summer is now awaiting solution on an exam involving many plants and bug samples. Since this year was very rainy and humid, the “lumper” diagnosis might be some bacterial or fungal disease. In contrast, last year’s drought produced many nutritional stress problems. The newly-minted plant pathologists also need to be “splitters” to figure out exactly the cause of the disease so that a proper remedy can be recommended.

Examination of the roots (common problem area in rainy years), the leaves (for color, insect holes, bumps, curling, brown or black spots), the flowers or fruits (for poor or immature production), and the stems and branches (for die-back at the top or bottom of the plant or tree) is used to diagnose the problem. Some problems require magnification, such as, detection of small, black fungal bodies, while others can be readily observed, e.g., when the problem insect is found rolled up in the curling leaf and is still chewing away. Remedies should suggest the least toxic solution possible to mitigate the specific problem. While these often involve an organic-based pesticide or fungicide, sometimes a good plant pruning will let nature solve the problem on its own.

The father of “splitting” and “lumping” is the Swedish botanist and physician, Dr. Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778). Linnaeus organized the plant and animal kingdoms into related families (lumps) with descending genealogical trees (splits) using a simple binomial system of taxonomy. He gave individual plants and animals Latin names for genus and species for stability and to avoid linguistic fluctuations among multiple languages used throughout the 18th-century world. These Latin names described the particular plant or animal within a group, called a family. For plants, Linnaeus designated 24 classes based on their reproductive organs; stamens and pistils were very easily observed. For animals, Linnaeus described six groups of which humans belong to the mammalian group. Insect and microorganism groups are extremely large.

A taxonomy example is the popular chrysanthemum found in New England autumn, ornamental gardens. The original wild version has been known since the 15th century BC. With flowers being smaller, always yellow, and resembling daisies, Linnaeus placed them in the daisy family, Asteraceae. Chrysanthemums consist of many flowers that make up a composite flowerhead, a trait also observed in daisies and asters. The chrysanthemum varieties popular in New England today, colloquially called “mums,” are a hybrid cultivar of the original and are grown to produce multiple colors and very large composite flowerheads.

Mums (*Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*) have been prized by gardeners for years, not just for their beauty, but also because they repel insects. In fact, some incenses use resins found in mums as insect repellants. These natural insect repellants in mums are of the chemical class called pyrethrins and attack the nervous systems of all insects. So, mums are great in landscapes but beware of pulverizing the flowerheads to use as an organic insect repellant because of toxicity to pollinators. However, the

flowerheads are less toxic to fish and humans than synthetic pesticides.

With the advent of DNA analyses and electron microscopy, more plant and animal varieties have been discovered, but the lumping and splitting method developed by Linnaeus has remained true, albeit with more groups having been added. The classification method has been stretched to extremes due to a lack of descriptive Latin names; therefore, many hybrid (and amusing) names have been added to the botany dictionary.

Do you want to try your hand at splitting and lumping?

Applications for the 2024 Master Gardener class are available at <https://mastergardener.uconn.edu>. The UConn Extension Master Gardener Program begins every January. Students enrolled in this program receive training in botany, plant pathology, soils, entomology, pesticide safety, integrated pest management (IPM), woody ornamentals, herbaceous ornamentals, vegetables, tree and small fruits, turf grass, invasive plants, weeds, water quality, environmental factors affecting plant growth, and diagnostic techniques for the home gardener.

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



In this 1952 photo, J. Robert Oppenheimer, right, and John von Neumann display what they called the new electronic "brain," the fastest computing machine made to that point

The Manhattan Project Wunderkind

By John O'Donnell

This summer I was fortunate to be able to see *Oppenheimer*. This movie exceeded my expectations and grabbed my attention for a lengthy period. But the movie did not seem overlong. It is the story of the physicist, J. Robert Openheimer, who was the director of the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico, during World War Two. This stupendous project resulted in the design of an atomic bomb which was used against two Japanese cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and was a major factor in the end of Japanese resistance. Oppenheimer had the difficult task of harnessing the talents of a group of extraordinary scientists to accomplish this task. It was a major managerial undertaking to keep the team together and on task while dealing with very

powerful personalities and egos. Oppenheimer has deservedly received a great deal of credit for accomplishing the challenging task and is sometimes referred to as the father of the atomic bomb. But the movie also deals with the lives of some of the other people who were indispensable in doing this. Curiously it left out a very significant man who contributed to the Manhattan Project. I think his life as a surrogate son of the father of the atomic bomb deserves our attention.

After seeing the movie, I read a book review of *The Maniac*. It is a novel by Benjamin Labatut about two important scientists. One of them is John von Neumann (1903-1957) who also worked on the Manhattan Project. He was arguably the leading mathematician of the twentieth century, a physicist, computer scientist, engineer, and polymath. A polymath, sometimes referred to as a Renaissance man, is a person whose expertise spans a significant number of different subject areas. Von Neumann certainly is a perfect example of a polymath.

Von Neumann was born in Budapest, Hungary, on December 28, 1903, into a wealthy, acculturated family in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was a child prodigy. When he was six years old, he could divide two eight digit numbers in his head and converse in Ancient Greek. He was tutored in English, French, German, and Italian and showed a great interest in and aptitude for languages. By the age of eight he was familiar with differential and integral calculus. He also was (unusual for a scientist) fascinated by history and this subject remained interesting to him to the end of his life.

As befitted the prodigy that he was, von Neumann received a superb education. He was awarded a doctorate in Mathematics (with minors in experimental physics and chemistry) simultaneously with a chemical engineering degree. His multifarious talents brought an invitation to Princeton University as

a visiting lecturer in mathematical physics in October 1929. In 1933, he accepted a life tenure professorship at the Institute for Advanced Studies which was close to Princeton University. This was an elite, independent center for theoretical research and intellectual inquiry. It served as the academic home of internationally prominent scholars. He and Albert Einstein became members in the same year, while Oppenheimer joined it in 1947. Von Neumann was the youngest professor in the School of Mathematics where he was frequently mistaken for a graduate student. Fellow mathematicians and physicists marveled at the speed with which he could analyze and solve complex problems. "Most mathematicians prove what they can, von Neumann proves what he wants" was a popular saying among mathematicians of his day.

But mathematics did not take up his interest entirely. He continued to explore his passion for ancient history. A professor of Byzantine history at Princeton once said that von Neumann had a greater expertise in Byzantine history than he did. He had eidetic memory which is the power of absolute recall (which he shared with the great English historian Lord Macaulay). He knew by heart much of the material in Edward Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*. One colleague related that while driving south to a meeting of the American Mathematical Society he was able to describe even the minutest details of the battles of the Civil War that occurred in the places that they drove by.

As Director of the Manhattan Project, J. Robert Oppenheimer made the inevitable decision to add von Neumann to his team working on the atomic bomb. He was part of a team problem solving key steps in nuclear physics in thermonuclear reactions. He developed the mathematical models behind the explosive lenses used in the implosion type nuclear weapons.

Von Neumann's contributions to the Manhattan Project were

invaluable. But his postwar career was even more monumental. The surrogate son in many ways surpassed his surrogate father's achievements. Oppenheimer became embroiled in the controversy over his support for leftist causes before the war and his security clearance was revoked in 1954 and this severely curtailed his career. Von Neumann, unlike many of his colleagues, gave Oppenheimer a very positive evaluation for his time as Director of the Manhattan Project.

The postwar second act of von Neumann's career was even more remarkable than the one that preceded it. He was the chair for several critical Defense Department committees including the Strategic Missile Evaluation Committee and the ICBM Scientific Advisory Committee as well as a member of the Atomic Energy Committee. He also contributed to the development of the digital computer and his work on self-replication anticipated the discovery of the structure of DNA. He was considered the nation's foremost expert on nuclear weaponry and the leading defense scientist at the Pentagon. In 1999 he was named the Financial Times Person of the Century as a representative of the century's characteristic ideal that the power of the mind could shape the physical world with the application of his intellectual brilliance.

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!



Richter Arts
Autumn Concert Series
@ the Danbury Museum

Join us for FREE musical performances on Sundays from 3 - 4 pm on our 43 Main Street campus.

October 1, 8, 15, & 22

Performance details at DanburyMuseum.org



You still have time to catch one of the fun Sunday events that we are hosting for our friends at Richter Arts!



2024 Danbury Museum Gala

Back in  Black (Tie)!

February 2, 2024
The Amber Room Colonnade

The easiest way to support the mission of the Danbury Museum is to join us as a Sustaining Member. A Sustaining Membership is

an unrestricted monthly gift that you can pay in a convenient, ongoing way. Each month, we will charge your credit or debit card the amount you specify. Your Sustaining Membership will automatically continue unless you choose to cancel or change it. Sustainers--for the price of latte or cappuccino--are crucial to providing an ongoing base of community support that we can rely on. [Join us today!](#)

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