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Siberian Irises in full bloom in the museum gardens!

Hello Friends!

It's June and the museum gardens are filled with colorful (and fragrant!) peonies, roses, and irises. If you haven't, stop by and visit; the gardens really are a peaceful oasis on Main Street. And we'd be remiss if we failed to thank the hard working members of the Danbury Garden Club Civic Committee for all the hours they spend.

We hope you were able to join us for a few of this spring's wonderful performances with our friends from [Richter Arts Association](#) and the [Danbury Music Centre](#), but if not, we have many more musical opportunities coming this summer. On June 15th, the [Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus](#) will perform under the tent from 2pm to 3pm. This performance is FREE and open to all. Please plan to bring your own lawn chairs or blankets. We have many more musical performances planned for this summer, so stay tuned.

There are still a few open spaces in our FREE Cursive Camps this summer. Please visit [our website](#)--all the forms are available there--and register your child/children for one of the three sessions.

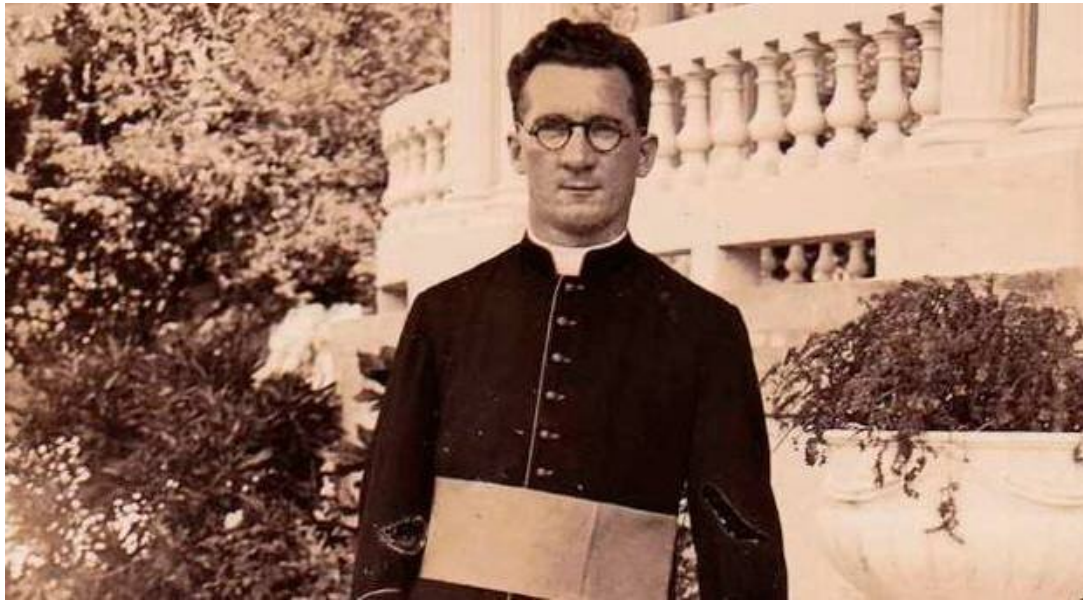
Our *Art of Quilting* exhibit is OPEN! We hope you'll all plan to see the beautiful quilts and hard work of our amazing intern Dr. Lillian Sellati, PhD, and exhibit designer Meaghan Gorman. This exhibit will change twice over the course of the next few months, so you'll want to visit this first collection and be sure to look for the beautiful log cabin pattern quilt we have on loan from our friends at the [Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury](#). If you visit their new exhibit, "Stitching the Revolution: Quilts as Agents of Change," you'll see a Danbury-made crazy quilt from our collection in their installation!

June is the month of D-Day commemorations, of course, and this month John O'Donnell writes about the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Rome and the incredible story and work of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty. We're always grateful to have John sharing his work and research with us.

And finally, we're honored to be chosen to participate--in partnership with the Danbury Lions Club--in the historic annual

Mayor's Cup fundraiser on Wednesday, June 26! We hope you'll want to join in this local tradition that began in 1981! [All the sponsorship options are available on our website as well as at the bottom of this newsletter.](#)

Keep well and cool and we'll see you in July!



Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty

The Irish Schindler

by John O'Donnell

June 4, 2024, will mark the eightieth anniversary of the Liberation of Rome by the United States Fifth Army. The liberation of Rome was very noteworthy for a multitude of reasons: the capture of an Axis capital, the advance of the Italian Campaign and the retreat of the Germans to name a few. But it also marked a critical day in the life of Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty. He has been compared to and lived in the shadow of Oskar Schindler, who was a German industrialist and member of the Nazi Party. Schindler was able to save the lives of 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust by employing them in

his factories during World War Two. He was the subject of a 1982 novel *Schindler's Ark* by the Australian writer Thomas Keneally and a movie version of the novel by Stephen Spielberg titled *Schindler's List*. Monsignor O'Flaherty's story is somewhat different. He was a Vatican diplomat who created a rescue net that saved the lives of 6,500 Jews, prisoners-of-war, refugees and partisans. His efforts to save these people's lives became known to the Germans and he became involved in a personal duel with Herbert Kappler, the head of the SS and of the Gestapo in Rome who had vowed to kidnap, torture, and execute O'Flaherty because of his great success in rescuing people right under the noses of the Germans.

Hugh O'Flaherty was born on February 28, 1888, in Lisrobin, County Cork. His family soon moved to Killarney. The family lived on a golf course where his father worked as a steward. Hugh took up golf at an early age and was extremely talented at it. He had a scratch handicap and was an amateur champion. He continued to play the game for most of his life.

In 1918, Hugh O'Flaherty enrolled in Mungret College to prepare himself for a missionary priesthood. While he was attending college the Irish Civil War was raging. He was posted to Rome in 1922 to finish his studies. He was ordained to the priesthood on December 20, 1925. He stayed on in Rome and became a Vatican diplomat. This would prove to be a tremendous boon to him during World War Two when he undertook his rescue efforts. Prior to the war he served as a diplomat in Egypt, Haiti, Santo Domingo, and Czechoslovakia. In 1934, he was appointed a papal chamberlain with the title of Monsignor. He began to create a network of assistants who would prove invaluable to him in his wartime undertakings. He also spoke fluent Italian which made his life and career in Rome much easier. His entry into Roman society was also

helped by his golf skills. He played with social luminaries such as Mussolini's son-in-law, Count Ciano (Foreign Minister under Mussolini) as well as the former King of Spain, Alphonso.

Hugh O'Flaherty was a very experienced and invaluable diplomat in the Vatican when World War Two started on September 1, 1939. In the early years of the war, he toured prisoner-of-war camps in Italy, trying to find out about these camps and locate prisoners who had been reported as missing in action. If he found them alive, he tried to reassure their families through the Vatican Radio. We can already see the compassion and charisma that O'Flaherty exuded and also his devotion to his priestly motto: "God has no country." But I don't think anyone could have foreseen the elaborate plans that he came up with as Italy fell into chaos in 1943 with the removal of Mussolini from power by King Victor Emmanuel III. Thousands of Allied prisoners-of-war were released or escaped but when Germany occupied Italy, they were in danger of recapture. Some of them remembered visits by O'Flaherty and went to Rome and asked him for help. O'Flaherty sprang into action and came up with a plan not only to help prisoners-of-war but also Jewish refugees, partisans, and other escapees. No one could ever accuse O'Flaherty of thinking on a small scale.

O'Flaherty came up with the idea of using his existing network of contacts. He and his allies were able to conceal 4,000 escapees in apartments, farms, and convents. They were able to surreptitiously obtain food, lodgings, and false identification papers for these people. The Monsignor became known as the leader of the Rome Escape Line. O'Flaherty worked ironically at the College Teutonico (the German College), one of the Pontifical Colleges of Rome and coordinated his plans from

his room at the college. It was located beside the local SS headquarters. The Monsignor's great success in rescuing and harboring these people of course attracted the attention of the SS and the Gestapo in Rome. They began investigating the organization and found out that the leader was a priest who wore various disguises when he went out outside the Vatican. O'Flaherty became known as the Vatican Pimpernel (after the Scarlet Pimpernel character in a novel about the French Revolution who likewise evades capture mainly through subterfuge and disguises).

More intensive efforts to capture O'Flaherty were undertaken by Obersturmbannführer Herbert Kappler who was a formidable opponent. Kappler was in charge of the Ardeatine Massacre of 335 Italians in reprisal for an attack that had been carried out by Italian partisans in March of 1943. Among the executed were several of the members of O'Flaherty's organization. Kappler was a ruthless. He was briefed about the activities of the Rome Escape Line and ordered a white line painted on the pavement at the opening of St. Peter's Square which marked the border between Vatican City and Italy and stated that the priest would be killed if he crossed it. One of Kappler's assistants, Pietro Koch, vowed to torture O'Flaherty and then to execute him if he were ever captured.

Fortunately for O'Flaherty, Kappler and Koch were unable to carry out their threat of killing him. With the liberation of Rome on June 4, 1944, the danger was greatly lessened. But O'Flaherty did not curtail his efforts in helping people. He demanded that German prisoners be treated properly as well. He flew to South Africa to meet with Italian prisoners-of-war and to Jerusalem to visit Jewish refugees. The survival of the Jewish community in Rome can be largely attributed to O'Flaherty's tireless efforts on their behalf. And O'Flaherty did

not neglect his nemesis, Herbert Kappler. He had been sentenced to life imprisonment for war crimes. Kappler's only visitor month after month was none other than Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty. They discussed literature, art and religion. In 1959 Kappler converted to Catholicism and was baptized by the Monsignor.

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!



Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial in Killarney, County Kerry.



The Mayor's Cup

Golf Tournament

In Partnership with the Lions Club of Danbury & the Danbury Museum

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the 2024 Mayor's Cup, I'd like to thank you for considering making a donation to our tournament.

The Mayor's Cup at Richter Park holds a distinguished status as Connecticut's premier charity golf event and I look forward to my first tournament as Mayor of the City of Danbury. Upholding our enduring commitment to supporting community initiatives, we proudly continue the City's partnership with the Lions Club of Danbury, while also extending our support to an additional beneficiary this year: The Danbury Museum & Historical Society.

Your generous donation will bolster two institutions that are integral to the fabric of our community. The Lions Club of Danbury is renowned for its unwavering dedication to service, spanning vision care, scholarships for local students, and aid for the less fortunate and the Danbury Museum & Historical Society enriches the lives of our residents by offering a profound insight into our city's history, with educational programs, historical exhibitions, and vibrant local events. Together, these organizations make significant contributions to the betterment of our city and its inhabitants.

To facilitate your donation, we have established a 501(c)(3) entity named the **CT Education Foundation**. Contributions made to this foundation are tax-deductible, and they facilitate the seamless allocation of funds to support the educational endeavors championed by each of our esteemed beneficiaries.

We express our deepest appreciation to the individuals and businesses that choose to participate in the Mayor's Cup each year. In the preceding year, the event generated over \$95,000 in support of our community, and this year, we aspire to surpass that milestone with your invaluable support.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Roberto L. Alves
Mayor
City of Danbury

Address
Mayor's Cup
c/o Mayor's Office
155 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury, CT 06810

Email
mayorscup@danbury-ct.gov

Phone
(203) 797-4511

Benefitting

The Lions Club of Danbury
Robert Young, President

&

The Danbury Museum &
Historical Society

Edward R. Siergiej, President,
Friends of the Danbury
Museum

Hosted By

CT Education Foundation

A Tradition Since 1981

2024 Mayor's Cup Sponsorship Commitment

■ Diamond Sponsor.....	\$5,000
■ Platinum Sponsor.....	\$3,500
■ Dinner Sponsor.....	\$3,500
■ Hat Sponsor.....	\$3,000
■ Shirt Sponsor.....	\$3,000
■ Gold Sponsor.....	\$2,500
■ Golf Cart Sponsor.....	\$2,500
■ Golf Ball Sponsor.....	\$2,000
■ Mayor's Special.....	\$1,500
■ Reception & Cocktail Sponsor....	\$1,500
■ Beverage Cart Sponsor.....	\$1,000
■ Registration Sponsor.....	\$750
■ Contest Sponsor.....	\$500
■ Pin Flag Sponsor.....	\$250
■ Tee Sign.....	\$150

Company Name.....

Contact Name.....

Address.....

.....

Email.....

*Please make checks payable to the
CT Education Foundation, Inc.*

Please return this form to the
Tournament Coordinator Jason Nova at:

Mayor's Cup
155 Deer Hill Ave
Danbury, CT 06810

Phone: 203.797.4511

Email: mayorscup@danbury-ct.gov



Hosted By

CT Education Foundation

CT Education Foundation, Inc. is a new non-profit created by Mayor Roberto Alves to support educational initiatives throughout our community. This foundation aims to ensure all students have the tools to succeed.

Beneficiaries

Lions Club of Danbury

The Lions Club of Danbury is a local organization serving the Danbury community. The Lions provide free eye screenings for all school children in Danbury up to the age of thirteen. The Lions host local blood drives, participate in health fairs, run a scholarship program for high school seniors, host monthly low vision meetings at the Danbury Senior Center, and run a CRIS (CT Radio Information System) station in Danbury for blind and print challenged individuals.

Danbury Museum & Historical Society

The Danbury Museum and Historical Society (43 Main St.) operates to acquire, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the heritage of the Greater Danbury area for purposes of education, information, and research.



THE 2024 MAYOR'S CUP

Golf Tournament

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 26, 2024

RICHTER PARK GOLF COURSE
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT



In partnership with the
Lions Club of Danbury and the Danbury
Museum & Historical Society

EVENT TIMES

9:30AM Registration & light breakfast.
Driving range available.

11:00AM Shotgun start & lunch served
on the turn.

Complimentary snacks, beverages &
cigars on the course.

Cocktails, Dinner & Awards Ceremony
immediately following play.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR GOLFERS

All golf sponsorships include lunch,
dinner, cocktails, cigars, and gift bag
for each golfer.

Diamond • \$5,000

- 2 Foursomes
- Clubhouse Banner
- Welcome Oversized Tee Sign
- 5 Tee Signs & 2 Pin Flags
- Tournament Sponsor Recognition

Platinum • \$3,500

- Foursome
- 3 Tee Signs & 1 Pin Flags
- Tournament Sponsor Recognition

Gold • \$2,500

- Foursome
- 2 Tee Signs

Mayor's Special • \$1,500

- Foursome

SPONSORSHIPS FOR NON-GOLFERS

Dinner Sponsor • \$3,500

- Prominent banner with company logo
- Tabletop signage with company logo
- 4 Tee Signs & Pin Flag
- Tournament Sponsor Recognition

Shirt Sponsor • \$3,000

- EXCLUSIVE**
- Company logo on golfer & volunteer shirts
 - 3 Tee Signs
 - Tournament Sponsor Recognition

Reception • \$1,500

- Prominent banner with company logo
- Bar-top signage with company logo
- Custom beverage cups w/company logo
- Oversized Tee Sign

Hat • \$3,000

- EXCLUSIVE**
- Company logo on all golfer & volunteer hats
 - 3 Tee Signs
 - Tournament Sponsor Recognition

Contest Tee Sign • \$500

- Company logo displayed at major contest hole

Golf Cart • \$2,500

- Company logo on all golf carts
- 2 Tee Signs

Golf Ball Sponsor • \$2,000

- EXCLUSIVE**
- Company logo on all tournament golfballs
 - 1 Tee Sign

Beverage Cart • \$1,000

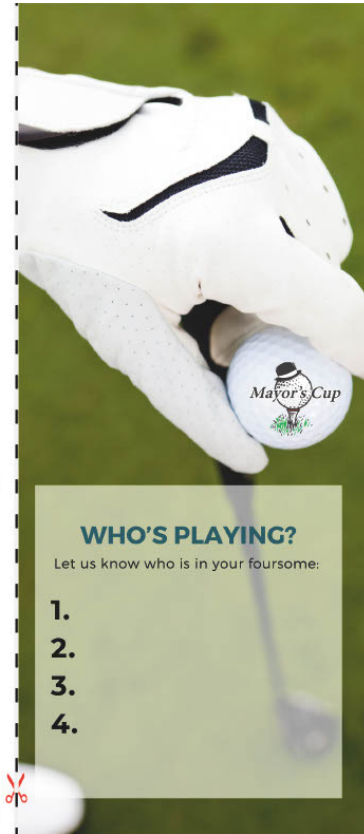
- Company logo displayed on beverage cart
- Oversized Tee Sign at Beverage Cooler

Registration • \$750

- Prominent banner with company logo
- Oversized Tee Sign at Beverage Cooler

Tee Sign • \$150 Pin Flag • \$250

- Company name displayed on Tee Sign
- Company name displayed on Pin Flag



WHO'S PLAYING?

Let us know who is in your foursome:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



Cursive Camp!

The Danbury Museum's Cursive Camp returns this summer and is FREE!

The ability to read and write in cursive is an important skill set—whether for reading old family letters or simply mastering the mechanics—and our weeklong camp is the perfect place to start!

Session I: July 8-12 Session II: July 15-19 Session III: July 22-26

DanburyMuseum.org

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MUSEUM

203.743.5200

We are excited about our 2024 Cursive Camp and know that you and your child will be, too! Cursive Camp is one FREE week of camp thanks to a Youth Services Prevention Initiative Grant secured by Representative Farley Santos, Speaker Matt Ritter, and Majority Leader Jason Rojas.

There are three, one-week sessions (each with the same curriculum) and you must register your child for one of the sessions. Please note you cannot register your child for more than one session. Session I is July 8-12, Session II is July 15-19, and Session III is July 22-26. Grade 3-8 is the recommended age group for camp.

Forms and full details are available on our website's [Cursive Camp](#) page.

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