

Did you know?
AUGUST IS
NATIONAL
LITERACY
MONTH.



☆☆☆
WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP
HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890
227 MAIN ST. EAST HAVEN, CT 06512

September 2013



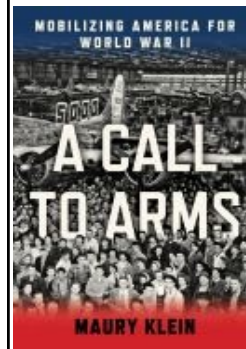
Above: War of 1812
flag flown over Fort
McHenry, September,
1814.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25th
at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo
Community Room.

This month historian and author Maury Klein will talk about his new book, *A Call to Arms*, which is the story of the enormous mobilization effort that created the American arsenal of World War II. Mr. Klein was recently seen on C-span, talking about his latest work. He is the author of 16 books and many publications on subjects that include American history and the American railroad industry. In 2011, he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. Join us for what is certain to be a very informative and interesting talk!



Maury Klein



Left: Front cover of Maury Klein's newest book, *A Call to Arms*. **From the book's description:** *The colossal scale of World War II required a mobilization effort greater than anything attempted in all of the world's history. The United States had to fight a war across two oceans and three continents—and to do so it had to build and equip a military that was all but nonexistent before the war began. Never in the nation's history did it have to create, outfit, transport, and supply huge armies, navies, and air forces on so many distant and disparate fronts. The Axis powers might have fielded better trained soldiers, better weapons, better tanks and aircraft. But they could not match American productivity.*

"Both sobering and inspiring...uncommonly perceptive, enjoyably readable, and authoritative."

—Publishers Weekly



4th Annual **WHEEL-WALK TO WORK** 4th Annual

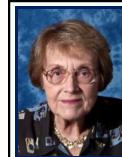
**SHELTON RIVERWALK AND
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14
10 AM - 4 PM**

www.wheelwalktowork.org

A Day Full of Fun, Food and More!

Music, entertainment, arts and crafts, great food, raffle prizes, a farmer's market, Kids Play Patch, Home Depot activity zone, a jobs fair, free health screenings, and more. Wheel-Walk to Work is guaranteed to have something for everyone!

Come to **Veterans Memorial Park** on Canal Street in Shelton on Saturday, **September 14th from 10AM to 4 PM!** This event and services will aid and sustain a level of community-based independence for people with disabilities, the chronically ill, first responders and **veterans**. Proceeds from the event will benefit **MovingWithHOPE, Inc.** a 501(c)3 organization (www.movingwithhope.org), that helps to provide year-round access to independent living skills training, after therapy, routine physical activity, and nutrition education. A fascinating military memorabilia collection will be on display by our own WWII Group members **Dan Garitta** and **Kevin McKernon!**



**Growing Up in a WWII Warzone
At the Hagaman Library**
Saturday, September 28th
2:00 to 4:00 pm—Free

Stratford author Elisabeth H. Breslav will speak about her experiences as a child during the WWII Nazi occupation of Holland. Breslav survived the Hongerwinter (the Hunger Winter) of 1944 to 1945. This Dutch famine was brought about by a German blockade of food and fuel designed to punish the Dutch for their resistance to Nazi Germany. Breslav will read from her chapter in the book entitled *That Mad Game: Growing Up in a Warzone: An Anthology of Essays from Around the Globe*, and will answer your questions and sign her chapter in the book. It will be sold by the library, with **all proceeds benefiting our WWII Veterans Discussion Group!** The program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, call 203-468-3890 to register.

GEM OF THE MONTH: by Benjamin Franklin

"I believe there is one Supreme most perfect being. ... I believe He is pleased and delights in the happiness of those He has created; and since without virtue man can have no happiness in this world, I firmly believe He delights to see me virtuous."

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

What a treat we had! US Army veteran **Captain Jim Morgia**, who received the Silver Star for bravery during the Battle of the Bulge, entertained our group singing songs in both English and Italian. His songs included "The Star Spangled Banner", "O Sole Mio", and "La Vie en Rose". Jim was then joined by our own Vincent Barone and the two made a natural singing duet with great performances of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco", "Moon River" and their grand finale, "The Impossible Dream".

Following the singing performances, **Ted Aub**, of the National League of POW/MIA Families, gave an informative talk, expanding our awareness of POW and MIA veterans. Ted gave us statistics on the number of American POW/MIA veterans from World War I through present-day Afghanistan, and told us some history on POWs in WWII. Did you know Connecticut had a POW camp outside Hartford at Bradley Field during the war? Ted also told us about a Branford resident, Army Air Corps Lieutenant Carl Holstrom, who was a prisoner of war in Germany for two years. Being an artist, Lt. Holstrom drew many moving sketches of scenes that depict life as a POW which have survived and are now in a collection that was seen locally at the Branford library. We are hoping to have that collection on exhibit at the Hagaman. We'll keep you posted!



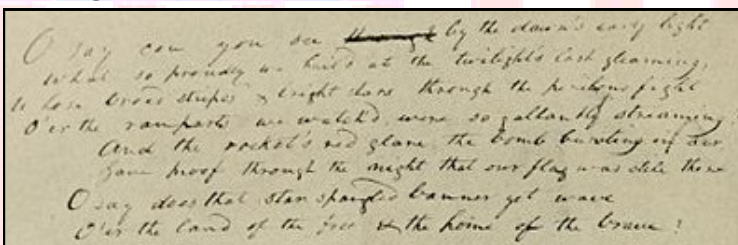
Above Top: Captain Jim Morgia singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" for our group

Above Left: Jim Morgia and Vincent Barone singing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco"

Above Right: Our August speaker, Ted Aub

DID YOU KNOW? During the War of 1812, the "Star-Spangled Banner" was written as a poem on September 3, 1814 by Francis Scott Key after he witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British Royal Navy ships. But the music to our National Anthem was not original. Key gave the poem to his brother-in-law, Judge Joseph H. Nicholson, who saw that the words fit the popular melody "The Anacreontic Song", by English composer John Stafford Smith. This was the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th-century gentlemen's club of amateur musicians in London. Nicholson took the poem to a printer in Baltimore, who anonymously made the first known printing on September 17, 1814.

Source: www.wikipedia.org



Above: Original hand-written lyrics of the first verse of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key, which officially became the U.S. national anthem on March 3rd, 1931.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Nick Bagnoli	9/8
Rose Bernabucci	9/8
Johannes Bendt	9/9
George Muller	9/13
Kate Heermans	9/13
Al Jarmie	9/16
Jo Consolatore	9/23
Anna Palumbo	9/24
Floyd Abbott	9/28

This Just In!

Our own **Rudy Pohlman** had the opportunity to sing at the Log Cabin Restaurant in Mount Holyoke before a large number of people (five busloads!) and received great applause for his rendition of "Ramblin' Rose." Good job Rudy!

A Clarification: In last month's newsletter we reported that Alfred Hagen had found the WWII fighter plane belonging to Patricia Gaffney-Kindig's father, 2LT George P. Gaffney Jr., in Papua New Guinea in 1998. We did not mention that the reason Hagen was able to find the plane and Lt Gaffney's remains was because Patricia had first visited Papua New Guinea in 1995 and told Hagen of how her father's P-47 had been missing there since 1944. **See the attached insert** for details.