

Did you know?  
May is  
NATIONAL  
HEALTH  
AWARENESS  
MONTH!

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



May 2013

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 29th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

This month we have a real treat! Connecticut author John Cilio will speak to our group about his new book that tells the epic story of Women in WWII. Through a large collection of anecdotal stories and a broad collection of vintage photographs, Mr. Cilio captures the excitement of the time and the immense contributions made by women that changed America forever. We will learn how by day these women worked arduously, then after work they volunteered endless hours to help the overall war effort and service personnel. They ran bond drives, scrap drives, wrapped G.I. packages for Christmas, and so much more. They started with the mission to help their country and their friends and relatives in the war. They ended up proving their competence in thousands of roles previously performed by men only. Women trained diligently without the luxury of apprenticeships, they became excellent machinists, carpenters, meteorologists, radio broadcasters, farm workers, nurses and munitions specialists. Women enlisted in every branch of service available to them and served around the globe bravely and proudly.

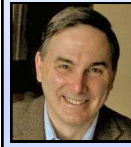
As always, refreshments will be served!

## MAY IS NATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND OBSERVANCES MONTH

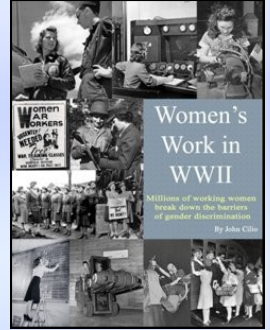
The month of May includes many observances, including that of National Stroke Awareness Month, National Better Sleep Month, National Women's Health Month, and National Old Age Month. Emphasis is on health and fitness, and preventing disease through healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, instead of waiting for disease to occur.

Weather forecast for tonight: Dark. Continued dark overnight, with widely scattered light by morning.

— George Carlin



This month's featured speaker, Author John Cilio is an American Marketing Association International Award winner and has spoken on a wide range of marketing and historical topics in more than 60 countries. Cilio has written many articles about the women of WWII. He has followed their exploits beyond the war years and shared their amazing accomplishments in a number of national publications. John and his wife live in Sherman, Connecticut.



Above:  
The front cover of John Cilio's new book, *Women's Work in WWII*.



Does anyone remember the Kirkham Building in East Haven? It is documented to have been the second location of the East Haven Public Library, the first was in a cloak room in Town Hall.



In an April 22, 1938 article in the East Haven Citizen, historian Donald Chidsey states:

*It was becoming more and more apparent that the library was outgrowing that little corner room on the second floor of the old Town Hall. Where could they go? After some investigation they considered the various locations then available in East Haven, and it was decided on December 2nd, 1911 to rent the Kirkham Building. This humble structure was divided into three rooms; one a shoemaker shop, one occupied by a barber and the third room on the west end being at that time vacant. This commodious room about 12 by 14 feet in size was then to be the home of the East Haven Public Library for the next five years. The library was now truly under way. They leased this entire three-room building for a modest yearly rental and then sub-leased the quarters for the shoemaker and barber thus receiving from this source a small rental income.*

Other reports state that the Kirkham Building may have been located next to Town Hall, or "adjoining the Town Hall." An East Haven Public Library Chronology states: "Rent of the Kirkham Bldg. in rear of drug store."

Please contact Fawn at the Library: (203) 468-3890, with any information you know about the Kirkham Building.

**GEM OF THE MONTH:**

***"The road going the extra mile never has a traffic jam."***

**LAST MONTH'S MEETING:**

Last month, following a film segment about Army veteran Jim Morgia's involvement in the Battle of the Bulge, Sue Perko and Roger Malbuisson talked to us about researching World War II. Sue and Roger provided very interesting and informative discussions.



**Above Left:** Sue Perko talking about researching information on her father (pictured on table to Sue's right), who was killed in WWII. **Above Right:** Roger Malbuisson, talking about researching his father's highly secretive involvement in the US Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) during World War II.

**Songs We'll Sing in May:**

**This Land Is Your Land  
Anchors Aweigh  
White Cliffs of Dover  
You're A Grand Old Flag  
God Bless America**

**VETERANS AWARENESS DAY 2013**

**Veterans Awareness Day is Friday, May 24, 2013 at Quinnipiac University. Our World War II Group will have display tables set up and we love to have veterans who will tell the young students about World War II. Rides can be provided for those that need them.**



We note with sadness the passing of our WWII Group member **Floyd F. Abbott** of New Haven who died peacefully March 26, 2013 at Masonicare in Wallingford. Mr. Abbot was born in

Derby on September 28, 1920 to the late Harold and Minna Lossin Abbott. He served his country with honor during WWII in the Army Air Corp 397th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force, in the B-26 Martin Marauder. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star. After being honorably discharged he began a career as a machinist and later as foreman at the Kerite Company. Floyd was a member of American Legion Post 150 in Hamden.

**Coming to The Hagaman this September!  
Growing Up in a WWII Warzone**

**Saturday, September 28th, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**, 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. The unsuccessful Allied attempt to break through the German lines was depicted in the book and film, *A Bridge Too Far*. Breslav will trace the result by reading from her chapter in *That Mad Game: Growing Up in a Warzone: An Anthology of Essays from Around the Globe*. Breslav will answer 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, please call 203-468-3890 to register. Additional parking for library events is available in the East Haven Town Hall parking lot or in the Old Stone Church parking lot adjacent to the library.

**Veterans Event**

**On Tuesday, May 28th at 2 pm there will be an event honoring veterans at The Village at Mariner's Point, 111 South Shore Drive, East Haven. Public officials will be in attendance. For more information call 203-787-8444.**

**Memorial Day**  
is  
**Monday,**  
**May 27th.**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Liz (Songleader) May 9th  
Harry Maresca May 22nd

