


Did you know?
**NOVEMBER IS
 NATIONAL
 NOVEL
 WRITING
 MONTH.**



☆☆☆

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

November 2013



Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR MEETING TAKES PLACE
 A WEEK EARLIER THAN NORMAL,
 DUE TO THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.**

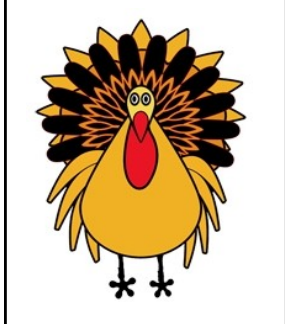
This month, Steve Doherty, great-nephew of our own WWII veteran Gordon Stevens, will give a scrapbook presentation of fascinating local items and memorabilia that he recently found in his grandmother's house. The collection includes rationing booklets and *New Haven Register* articles, cartoons, ads, photos, and charts. Steve's grandmother made the scrapbook and added to it regularly throughout the war, so it is truly a time capsule for re-visiting local daily life year by year during World War II. It is sure to bring about lively discussions as we reminisce! A real treat is in store for all of us!

Of course, pre-Thanksgiving refreshments will be served, including pumpkin pie and apple cider! *Yum!*

***Mother Nature's Wardrobe*
 by Faux Poe**

Ah yes! Its time to slip into
 an Autumn frock
 For Time, the master ordered
 the clock
 To change the color from
 forest green
 Yellow, orange and scarlet
 must be seen
 We sat and watched as red and
 orange do sneak,
 Up the side of each mountain
 to its peak.
 But as the passing of time
 runs down
 Our forest so scarlet now
 changes to brown
 But we will not worry
 for as we know
 White as an ermine
 will come the snow

**HAPPY
 THANKSGIVING**





**SONGS WE'LL SING
 IN NOVEMBER**

Straighten Up & Fly Right
 Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy
 Yankee Doodle Dandy
 Home on the Range
 God Bless America

**SODERMAN BOWL BRINGS HIGH TURNOUT;
 RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS FOR WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

Long-time high school football rivals West Haven High and Notre Dame High of West Haven teamed up to raise funds for the Wounded Warrior Project in the Soderman Bowl on Friday, October 11th at West Haven High School. The annual

game is played in the name of WWII Medal of Honor recipient and West Haven resident Pfc. William Soderman. West Haven High won the trophy this year, defeating Notre Dame of West Haven by a final score of 38 to 29.



Above: A check for \$11,200 raised by West Haven Football Alumni is presented to the Wounded Warrior Project, which helps rehabilitate wounded service members as they recover and transition back to civilian life. Seated is a veteran from the West Haven V.A. Hospital.

Above, 2nd from left: The Soderman Bowl Trophy. Above, 2nd from Right: Members of West Haven High School Football Alumni pose with Army Ranger Sean Pesce (seated, center of picture) of West Haven, who was wounded in Afghanistan. Our own WWII Group member **Kevin McKernon**, who played football at West Haven High in 1979, is standing in the far back center. Kevin's nephew, **Captain Matthew McKernon**, (above, far right), a 2003 graduate of Notre Dame High School, is a U.S. Army Ranger currently serving in Afghanistan with the 1st Cavalry Division in command of the D company Desperados.

GEM OF THE MONTH:

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn. — Benjamin Franklin

DAILY LIFE IN EARLY WORLD WAR II NEW HAVEN

From the Scrapbook of Steve Doherty's Grandmother:
New Haven Register Photo from March 28, 1942

New Haven Throngs Jam Counters For Cuts Before Ration Deadline



Caption Text: Part of the sharp-eyed crowd that jammed the Growers' Outlet at 732 Chapel Street yesterday afternoon (March 27, 1942) is seen above as the meat seekers gather around the counter to eye with fascinated gaze the butcher's display of tasty meat products. Scenes like this were repeated all through the city as the housewives swarmed into large markets and small neighborhood stores in a frantic search for a succulent steak before the official start of meat rationing.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING:



Above: Military vehicle restorer and U.S. Navy veteran Anthony Fernando giving his presentation to our WWII Group.

Below: Mr. Fernando chats with WWII Group members after the meeting.



60

Congratulations to WWII Group members Josephine and Liberato Consolatore on their 60th wedding anniversary!

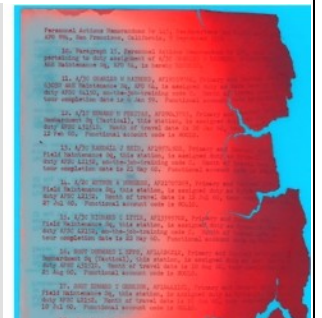
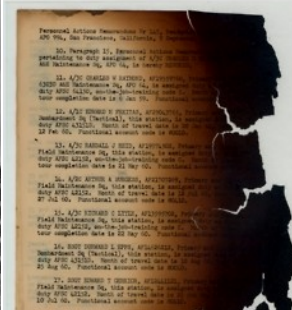
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY

Gail Eisenhower 11/9

We note with sadness the passing of WWII Group member **Lou Mingione** on November 3rd. Lou was instrumental in the rebuilding of the Foxon Park WWII Honor Roll, which lists the names of Foxon residents who served in WWII.

ONCE-LOST MILITARY RECORDS FROM 1973 ST. LOUIS FIRE NOW BEING RESTORED THANKS TO MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Forty years ago, on July 12, 1973, an enormous fire erupted at the National Personnel Records Center in suburban St. Louis. (**below left**) Burning uncontrollably for almost 24 hours, it destroyed some 16- to 18-million military personnel records. Today a team of about 30 people continues to put the pieces back together. They use the latest restoration techniques so technicians can gleam details from charred and water-damaged documents. With the use of computer software they can manipulate a digital image of a burned document to accentuate subtle differences in tones and make the burned area readable. (**below**)



Above: Original (left), and computer-enhanced (right) image of the same document, showing more readable text.