Life in Galway

Spring 2015, Issue Twenty   Good News for you to Peruse!

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Free – Take One!
A Word from the Editor

Whew, what a winter! We had our share of snow and cold this year. Are you longing for songbirds, the daffodils and tulips to appear, the budding of trees (usually the first weekend in May), green grass, putting away scarves, heavy overcoats and the like? Spring is here and warmer weather is on the way.

This issue is going to highlight Eva Hoffman who will be experiencing her 101th spring here in Galway. I hope you enjoy her story as much as I enjoyed meeting her and her family at her 100th birthday celebrated at the Galway United Methodist Church.

Photo: a hummingbird resting, taken from the pastor’s study window at the Baptist parsonage.

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All past issues can be found at lifeingalway.wordpress.com
If you would like to help with printing costs, please make out a check to the Bible Baptist Church of Galway, designated for Life in Galway and mail it to PO Box 112, Galway, NY 12074.

If you have an interesting story that ought to be told or any questions about Life in Galway, you may write me at the above address, e-mail me at wrbrandow@yahoo.com, or call me at 518-882-6387.

Enjoy!
Wayne R. Brandow

Eva Hoffman - Still Young at Heart and Celebrating 100 Years!

Who is this fun-loving, hippie bride, clothed in a toilet paper dress? You are not going to believe this. It is Galway’s centenarian, Eva Hoffman, at a family bridal shower a few years ago. Eva turned 100 years old this year on Saturday, February 7th. She was born in the Town of Providence and has lived in Galway most of her life. The only time she was away was for
a few years before she was married. As a teen she lived with her sister in nearby Ballston Spa to work in the knitting mills.

I was invited to her 100th birthday party and got to meet Eva as well as her family and friends. It was a delightful day. Let me tell you a little bit about her.

Eva was born on February 7, 1915. She was the third daughter born to Louie and Edwidge Champange, a young French-Canadian couple. French was spoken in her home on their Mechanic Street farm. When it was time for her two older sisters, Laura and Violet, to go to school, they struggled with their studies because of the language barrier. They determined that their little sister, who came along seven years later, would not have the same problem. They taught her English from the cradle.

One hundred years is quite a span to observe the goings on in Galway. When she was a girl, Eva grew up in a farm house without electricity and with two out-houses. The privy attached to the house was used only in the winter months. The rest of the year, one would have to take a walk to the back yard. Her father farmed with horses.

Back in the olden days, before Sacandaga Road was paved, those who lived north of Route 29 did not have that much contact with the village of Galway because folks would often get stuck in Ludlow Swamp just north of the village. As a girl, she didn’t even know of the Donnans (a family that still runs a large farm south of the village).

Like most children of her day, Eva went to a one-room schoolhouse. The one that she attended was on Barkersville Road. She finished eighth grade in Ballston Spa, living with her sister and graduating when she was 13 years old.

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*Life in Galway* is written by Pastor Wayne Brandow of the Bible Baptist Church of Galway. I’d be delighted to have you visit us on Sunday at 11 AM at 2095 East Street, Galway, NY. *Easter Sunday is April 5th this year!*
It was while she was in Ballston Spa that Eva met Charles Hoffman. He happened to be her friend’s brother. Charles was two years younger than she was. They fell in love and on May 1, 1940, they got married. It wasn’t long before Charles was off to war. He served in the Army during WWII and was stationed in England as a mechanic.

(Photo: Charles and Eva on their wedding day)

Charles was a tinsmith at General Electric. He purchased Eva’s parents’ 88 acre farm on Mechanic Street, and Eva took care of her mother after her father died. They had three daughters: Mary Ann (now Mary Ann Denison), Doris (now Doris Hersey), and Diane (now Diane Tetlak). All three were at the birthday celebration so I got to ask them about their childhood. As Martha and I had three daughters and they are all so different, I was curious to find out how they were different. Here is where finding out about the family became fun.

Boy, were they different (this is according to them). As children and teens, Mary Ann was the red head, Doris was the brunette, and Diane was the blonde. Mary Ann was the girlie girl who liked to dress up to go shopping. This was before there were malls and the Hoffman family shopping was done in downtown Ballston Spa.

(Photo: Easter 1959: Eva, 44; Doris, 11; Mary Ann, 13; and Diane, 8)
Doris hated to go shopping. She was the tomboy of the family. Last but not least, Diane shared her mother’s great love for horses. Eva loved and rode horses since she was a little girl. Diane was the most independent and went with some friends to go to the Woodstock Rock Concert but got caught in traffic so they turned around and went home.

(Photo: Eva with Black Beauty, 1958)

These three sisters were farm girls and they all told me about helping their Dad with getting the hay in. Their childhood in the 1950s and ‘60s was full of memories of neighborhood parties on Mechanic Street. There were picnics, pig roasts, and trap shoots. Local firehouses had square dances that the whole family would go to, and neighbors would mill around and talk, dance and eat. They told me that their Mom and Dad just loved to square dance and polka.

Eva went to work in housekeeping at KAPL (Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory, a branch of General Electric) for 26 years from 1952 to 1978, when she retired. While working she bought a 1963 Chevy Impala, by herself. To do such was unheard of at the time.

Charles and Eva celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1, 1990. Six years later he died at age 79. Eva’s two older sisters, Laura and Violet, both lived to be 98.

(Photo: 50th Wedding Anniversary)

In recent years Eva stays very active. She enjoys her family, Galway Seniors (going on as many bus trips as she can fit into her schedule), gardening, caring for horses, and even driving a car until January of this year.
What is the secret of her longevity? According to Eva, it is eating chocolate with nuts and going outside to walk around daily. Also, she believes in a “spring tonic” of salt pork and dandelion greens cooked up and eaten daily until it is gone. She uses a six-quart pail to gather the greens every year.

Galway Village’s Mayor Hyde

Many have served over the years as the Mayor of Galway; however, for the past 15 years our Mayor has been the Honorable William Hyde. Just what does a mayor do in such a small village as Galway? How did he become mayor in the first place? I have known Mayor Hyde for many years as an acquaintance; however, I didn’t really know much about him. So I looked forward to this interview as an opportunity to get better acquainted. Hopefully, you will get to know this special public servant to the Village of Galway through reading this article. I asked Mayor Hyde if I could call him Bill in the article, and he said that was fine. Let me tell you about Bill’s life.

Bill grew up in Stoughton, MA, which is about 30 miles south of Boston. He was an only child. His father was a very hard worker, leaving school in eighth grade to go to work, and he was quite good at working on things electrical. When WW II broke out, he joined the Navy, served on a destroyer escort and became skilled using sonar. After the war Bill’s Dad had a very good job offer in California, but when they found out that he did not have a high school diploma, he was turned down. Because his own lack of education held him back, Bill’s father prodded his son to get a good education. Bill not only graduated from high school but got a college degree.

Bill majored in marketing and minored in economics at Northeastern University in Boston. He was in ROTC and was enrolled in a co-op program where he would be in school for ten weeks then in business for ten weeks. It would take five years to get his college diploma.

While working in the business cycle of his college studies, Bill met Pam. She was a college student as well. Pam pursued an education track at

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1 The last two paragraphs were taken from a piece written by Darleena Ball.
Boston University. During his junior year, Bill and Pam got married in her hometown of Amsterdam, NY. The wedding was November 29, 1964.

Now married, Bill was given an opportunity to opt out of the ROTC program for his senior year. He went into the business world after graduation.

Bill was in sales. During the early years of married life, because of work, they were continually having to relocate. They were in Atlanta, GA and the places their three children were born: Scott in Massachusetts, Suzanne in Connecticut, and Steven in Ohio.

In 1973 Bill landed a job in sales with Garland Floor Company which brought the Hydes to the Capital District. He had this job until he retired 36 years later at age 66. Working for Garland, Bill sold industrial polymer static resistant flooring to GE, bakeries, manufacturing industries, etc. A lot of the sales came as a result of referrals from satisfied customers.

In 1975, Bill and Pam came to Galway and have been here ever since. As a result, all of their children graduated from Galway High School. Pam stayed home to raise the children, but after they left home she sold real estate and served as a rape crisis counselor. Though Pam did not graduate from Boston College because of marriage, she continued her studies taking courses wherever they were located and over time received a BA in Liberal Arts, which enabled her to counsel women and speak publicly on their behalf. She is truly a caring person. Bill and Pam celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014! 😊

Bill always told his children the importance of the following four things: 1) use common sense 2) have a sense of humor 3) make enough money to
pay your bills 4) have friends. It was this last item that opened the door for Bill to serve as Mayor. Bill’s friend, Phil Salvino, the former mayor, talked Bill into taking his place.

In Galway, the office of Mayor is a two year elected office. The same is true for the two Village trustee offices on the Village Board. Current trustees are Phyllis Ryan and Anne Best. They are assisted by Beth Ruman, the Village Clerk, which is an appointed position. The lawyer retained by the Village is Dave DeVall, who is also the organist for the Methodist Church and a volunteer fireman.

What do the Mayor and the Village Board do? They oversee the Galway Village Police, draft a budget and monitor it quarterly, take care of the Village green, and seek ways to beautify the Village. The Village Board meets the first Tuesday of the month in an upstairs room over John Sutton’s law office on South Street.

One project that Bill was instrumental in bringing to completion is the bandstand in the village green. One year at a meeting with other mayors in Saratoga County, a tax surplus was announced that was to be equally divided among the municipalities. When the time came to distribute the revenue, it was announced that the share each would get was going to be by population. Bill and a couple of other mayors of small villages spoke up and it was divided equally as originally stated. The difference for Galway was a share of $20,000 rather than a few hundred dollars. A portion of that revenue was used for the bandstand. Currently, the big projects on the drawing board for our Village are a new library building on East Street and a new fire company building on West Street. The Village Board is involved in zoning and other issues to make these a reality.

In closing, Bill’s claim to fame is that a country song about Galway included him in its lyrics. A country western radio program, The Sean, Richie & Bethany Show on 107.7 GNA posted a fun song for Galway on the internet on December 27, 2011.

Song for Galway
(Parody of ‘Give It Away,” by George Strait)
Lyrics © 2011 Richie Phillips. All Rights Reserved

t’s the second smallest incorporated village in the state
I’m singing today
about little Galway

City limit signs are on the same stick so they say
There’s a joke I made
For our friends in Galway

Yes up in Galway
The police force there consists of one part timer
and 4 volunteers to fight crime each day
although there is none in Galway

Like a little Norman Rockwell town
where you can walk right to the bank
(the Ballston Spa National bank, member FDIC)
or the former Agway
or Ted’s Market each day

They ain’t got no village tax
sales tax pays their way
so spend your money today
in Saratog-i-ay County

Yes up in Galway old Bill Hyde won by a landslide he’s still Mayor
and in 20 years it still might be that way
up in Galway

they want us to dissolve the village
but the people say no way
we’re here to stay . . . we love Galway.

You can hear it sung at
http://wgna.com/galway-gets-a-theme-song-your-town-thursday-audio/

What Is So Special about Easter?

Sometimes the reason for the season gets lost in all the traditions and customs that get associated with it. What is Easter to you? When you think of Easter, what comes to your mind? Is it the Easter bunny, candy, marshmallow peeps, Easter egg hunt, a new Sunday dress and bonnet, or a sunrise service at church with a breakfast afterwards? This spring-time holiday corresponds with the change that is taking place all around us. The blanket of snow has been thrown off, and it is as if nature around us is awakening from its winter slumber, being vitalized by the sun
and warmer air. Song birds are singing, flowers are budding, and the light of day is advancing. Life, life, abundant life is emerging all around us.

The changes we see at this time of year are but a mirror to a greater life-giving wonder. What is that marvel? It is that Jesus rose from the dead and with His resurrection we become aware of His life-giving power. Nothing in all the trappings of how Easter is presently celebrated compares to the glory of that first Easter Sunday and what was accomplished when Christ rose from the tomb.

What did Jesus accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection? He took the sting out of death. (See 1 Corinthians 15: 54-57). Let me illustrate.

I have a good friend, a pastor, who moved from New Jersey to take a church in Texas. We keep in touch through Facebook. A few years ago he posted the following.

So I’m upstairs in the study & I hear Deb frantically calling me just because she found a scorpion in the pantry. There is just no understanding women. ;-)

He continued,

I caught it & I snipped off the stinger with scissors and let it crawl around on my hand just to show Deb it was no big deal. It didn’t work ;-

A scorpion without a stinger, now that is my kind of scorpion. The Bible says that Christ took the sting out of death. Now that is the kind of death we need not be afraid of!

The Bible says that the wages of sin is death. What Jesus did is that He died in our place, bearing the penalty of sin that we owed that we might be forgiven and set free. All He asks is that we turn from our sin and receive by faith the salvation that God so freely offers through Christ.

God will convince His people of their sinfulness and need (as he did to me 46 years ago) and they will embrace Jesus Christ freely offered to them. If the penalty has been paid for those who believe, the sting of death is gone. As Christ rose from the dead, the day will come when they will pass from this life to the next and will awake to eternal life. This is the Easter message! Life! Life! . . . “The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
Mark your calendars for a special week of fun August 10-14th, 10-11:30, Mon – Fri. We have had a number of themed VBS over the years (Western, Mystery, Travel, Jungle, Pirates, Olympics, etc.) Stop by at our table on the green this Memorial Day and pick up the summer edition of Life in Galway and look through our VBS scrapbooks. Photos above from “Go West with VBS, 2002.” Clockwise: money in haystack, covered wagon race, mining for gold, singing.

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