

The Graham Gazette

Volume 4 Issue 5

May 2010

The Story of the Symbolic Poppy

By: The American Legion North-Eastern Post 459
Thank you Carol Ann Hatch for submitting the link.

A bloody battle was fought during World War I in a region called Flanders. The area in France was completely devastated. In the spring of 1919 the poppies still bloomed among the ruins and where the men had fallen in battle. The memory that the soldiers brought home was that of the poppies blooming in the field of blood. The poppy became a symbol of sacrifice of lives during the war and represented the hope that none had died in vain.

At the National Convention of the American Legion in Cleveland on September 27-29, 1920, it was resolved to adopt the poppy as the American Legion's Memorial Flower. The American Legion was the first national organization to adopt the poppy.

In October 1921 at the Organizing Convention of the American Auxiliary, the poppy was adopted as their Memorial flower. At that time the Auxiliary pledged 100% of the profits from the distribution to servicemen and their families. The poppy was used for the Auxiliary's Memorial Flower. The American Legion was the first national organization to adopt the poppy.



The first poppies, made of silk, were made by French war widows and orphans. When costs became too expensive, the Auxiliary had to find another way of getting them. The first American-made poppies were made by veterans in Minnesota hospitals and were made of crepe paper. Today all poppies are made in poppy shops, maintained and administered by the Auxiliary volunteers. The shops are organized in co-operation with the VA medical Centers and other veteran facilities. The workers receive pay for each poppy they make. Our poppy programs are used to help educate the public. It is also used in schools. There is a poppy contest for different age groups and awards are

given. Some may choose to celebrate Poppy Days in November in conjunction with Veteran's Day.

More than 25,000,000 poppies are made by the veterans and distributed by the American Legion Auxiliary each year. The weekend prior to Memorial weekend has become known as Poppy Days.

The Facebook Effect

By: Cristina Chaplin

Facebook is something that we are all familiar with. A social networking site that allows people from all corners of the world to connect and reconnect with each other. Old high school friends, people you moved away from, right down to acquaintances at work. In the wake of Facebook and its popularity it has gained, it is sometimes easy to forget that at the end of the day, it really all is just a game. Many feel that they will only "friend" a person they are actually friends with and wish to communicate with. Others are quick to friend even an acquaintance they may have only known for a day or two. Some like to friend people they haven't seen or spoken to in years just to check in and see how life is treating them, while others do it to see how high they can get the "friends list numbers". In today's day and age, being so connected to everyone around you is the "norm", and when you un-friend someone or get un-friended yourself, it's hard not to take it personally or feel offended. Again, it's just a game, something fun, to play online after the day is over and you are home relaxing on the couch.



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Ester's Pasta

Ingredients

½ carton of Grape or Cherry Tomatoes
1-2 cups diced Carrots
Minced garlic
Lg. can diced Tomatoes
½ cup Sour Cream
Pasta of your choice



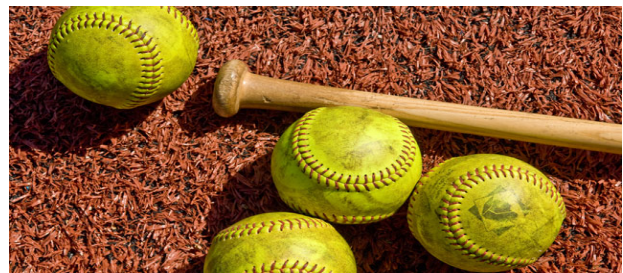
Directions

1. Bake ½ carton of grape or cherry tomatoes in an oiled pan with a shake of salt and pepper, at about 300 for approximately half an hour.
2. Meanwhile, dice about one or two cups carrots into pea sized chunks.
3. Combine with as much minced garlic as you can stand, a diced onion if you like, a bay leaf or two, salt and pepper to taste.

4. Cook the carrots, garlic, onion, bay, salt and pepper on medium heat in olive oil until they're slightly browned and then add the cooked cherry or grape tomatoes. Be sure to scrape the oil/tomato goop from the pan, into the other ingredients because that has plenty of flavor.
5. Now add a large can of chopped or crushed tomatoes and cook all ingredients together for about 30 or 45 minutes, stirring intermittently so the bottom doesn't burn.
6. Add about a half cup of sour cream 10 minutes before it's done, if you like a creamier sauce. When the sauce is nearly cooked, heat water and cook your favorite wheat pasta, over which you'll add the sauce. .

This is an awesome sauce for when the fridge is nearly empty and you're wondering what to make for lunches next week.

Graham Softball!



Upcoming June games:

June 3- 6:00pm GBS/J&S @ Buker

June 9- 6:00pm Ballz/GBS @ UMA

June 16- 7:20pm GBS/ Hamlin's @ Mt. Vernon

June 24- 6:00pm Red Robin/ GBS @ Mt. Vernon

June 30- 7:20pm Molina's/GBS @ Mt. Vernon

JUNE BIRTHDAYS...

Clarissa Belanger, Tia Dixon, Wayne Peters,
Marisa Pickowicz, Timothy Poulin, Linda Quigley

May Anniversaries...

1 year:

Blair Fenning
Michael Couture

2 years:

Larry Albee
Gary Levine

4 years:

Jorgine Collins

New Employees...

Welcome Patrick Bouchard, Armand Cookson II,
and Gudrun Schneider.



Last month in the Gazette there was a short blurb on Chief James Craig. It was noted he was the Portland Fire Chief, but infact he is the Portland **Police** Chief.

Peer Recognition

Misty Rice would like to recognize **Sabrina Doe, Jen Raymond, Denis Wood,** and **Harry Graham** for all the positive emails, and Denis, thank you for your feedback and directions.

Brianne Lovewell would like to recognize **Jessica Piela** for “helping me navigate the families, files and everyday life at Graham. Thanks!”

Chuck Cayford would like to recognize the **CIS team and all office personnel** for all the support that everyone has given me over the last several weeks. This has made my transition to my new position much easier. Thank you again for your continuous support!

Kudos to **Mary Parks** who received positive feedback from a parent, regarding the services her son receives from GBS!

Harry Graham would like to recognize **Rich Davis** for setting up the phone and “stuff” in the Portland office, and **Mary Parks** for picking up the training coordination and receiving many compliments.

Harry Graham and **Sabrina Doe** would also like to recognize **Joe Pietri**, stating that “Joe just does his job”. Great work!

Carol Graham would like to recognize **Tim Poulin** and **Kevin Giles** for doing such a great job packing the moving truck, delivering and moving everything into the Portland office. Thanks for the great job!!

What’s going on around here?



Save the Date! Summer BBQ date is August 1 with a rain date of August 8. Last year the GBS company BBQ was so successful and we are so excited to begin the planning process for the one this year. GBS will again provide the main course (Hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken, and veggie burgers). Again we are asking that all who attend bring a side dish or a desert to share and a non-alcoholic beverage. Once invitations are complete, you will all find one in your staff mailbox with an RSVP date. Hope to see you there!

Summer Special Olympics Games!

By: Kaley Boucher

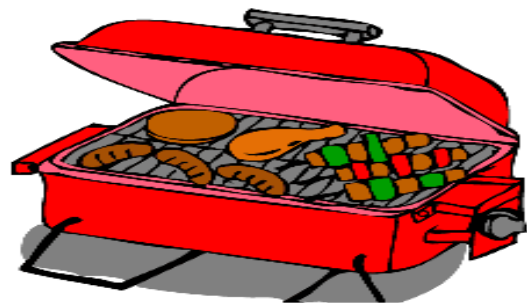


On May 12, 2010, 7 Special Olympic athletes and 7 staff attended the Area Games at Hall-Dale High School. This gathering was to qualify them for the Summer Games in Orono on June 11, 12, and 13th. The Special Olympic athletes all worked hard and are very excited to attend the Summer Games in June. GBS will be having a bowling team for the first year ever. Staff and clients bowl together as a team to go for the Gold! I would like to wish GBS “good luck”.

We also have raffle tickets available to help support the clients to attend the Special Olympics and help reduce the cost for them to go. Each ticket costs \$1.00 and \$0.90 of each dollar goes to the client’s fund. Tickets are available at the reception desk. The prizes are listed below and the drawing will be held on June 14th.

- 1st- Whale Watch in Bar Harbor (\$250.00 value)
- 2nd- China/Flatware for 8 (\$150.00 value)
- 3rd- Bicycle (\$100.00 value)
- 4th- Quillow (Amish Pillow/Quilt) (\$75.00 value)
- 5th- Maine Maple products (\$50.00 value)

Please support our athletes as they work hard every year!



Next Client Activity Night- June 29th. 5:00-7:00pm. The Activity will be Pictionary!

Now taking orders for GBS T-Shirts and Sweatshirts! Several color choices available. Order forms were put in all staff mailboxes Mid-May. Deadline to order is July 1, 2010. If you need another form, see Kathy or Wendy at the reception desk. Ordering directions are on your order forms.



The Facebook Effect

(Continued from Cover)

For Rent: Beautiful remodeled 2 bedroom home. Full basement that could be turned into a 3rd bedroom. 1 car garage, small yard and large deck in back. New roof, siding, new kitchen and bath. 390 Cony Road, Augusta. \$750/mo plus utilities. Pictures and tours available. See or leave a note for Terry Brock if interested.

Free: Scientific Calculator. Works well, comes with case. Was left in Cristina's office, see her if interested.



Pamper yourself with the New Limited-edition Mary Kay Pedicure Set and prepare your feet for summer weather. Schedule your foot spa appointment with Michelle

Boucher before you start wearing your sandals. Special gift for hostesses.

RIDDLE

Almost everyone sees me without noticing me. For what is beyond is what he or she seeks. What am I?

Answer at www.gbsmaine.com



There have been articles recently on www.cnn.com linking Facebook to the ever climbing divorce rate, publishing headlines like "Facebook ruins marriages". With the ability to be so connected and have access to so much more information than even 5 years ago, do we really need it? Couples have reported that it is quite common to be in the same room together, each on their respective computer and not say a word to each other all night because they are so engrossed in what they are doing, but instead of talking, they use Facebook's instant messenger tool. Really?? Is it getting that bad that we can't physically speak to someone sitting 5 feet from us?

Facebook, in most work places, has been blocked from employee computers, making it mandatory to resist the temptation to get online to check out everyone's status and see what's going on. Though it may be banned at work, it still seems to rear its ugly head at the work place for those of us who are Facebook "friends" outside of work. If someone chooses to un-friend someone they feel they don't speak to for whatever reason, it can cause workplace tension. As fun as Facebook may be, and we will all continue to participate, myself included, remind yourself, at the end of the day, it is all just a game.

Submissions

The Graham Gazette is employee content driven! Submit an article and have it featured here. Please submit your article or any other submissions to Cristina Chaplin's mailbox. We can't guarantee that the submission will be used, but we'll do our best to include as much as we can. You may also email Cristina at cristinachaplin@gbsmaine.com

Next Deadline: June 15, 2010

Opting Out

The gazette is distributed across Maine and the USA. If for any reason you do not wish for your name to appear in the Gazette in the feature, please see Cristina, Human Resources Assistant for an opt out form.

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