



# The Lisbon Quarterly

A Newsletter for Lisbon Residents



## Local Health Director to Retire

By Thomas Sparkman, First Selectman

Doctor Albert G. Gosselin, M.D., Health Director for the Town of Lisbon as well as Griswold and Voluntown, has announced that he will be retiring effective July 1, 2010. First and foremost, let me say on behalf of the residents of the Town of Lisbon, as well as every resident in the region, "THANK YOU." Thank you for your years of dedicated service, your years dedicated to improving the health and safety to all of us, assuring conditions that allow us to be healthy, promoting physical and mental health, preventing disease, injury and disability. To be honest, part of that is contained in the mission statement of the State of Connecticut Department of Health, but let there be no mistake, Doctor Albert G. Gosselin, for the past 52 years has in fact done just that!

In March of 1990, the Town of Lisbon entered into an Agreement with the Town of Griswold to form a joint and unified Department of Health. From then until the announcement of his retirement, Doctor Gosselin has been a faithful, dedicated and compassionate advocate for the health and welfare of the residents of the Town of Lisbon as well as the region he so faithfully served. What is not so readily known, is that for many years, approximately 32 years prior to that, Doctor Gosselin was already advocating for the health and welfare of all of us, as well as operating a family medical practice that has touched the life in some way or form of almost everybody in the region.

Doctor Gosselin graduated from Tufts University School of Medicine in 1953 and then completed his

residencies in Anesthesiology at the Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1955.

To sit and talk with Doctor Gosselin is an opportunity to hear and learn about the medical profession at a time when each and every patient was known by their first name and treated with the care and compassion of a person who truly cared about his patients, and yes, Doctor Gosselin did make "house calls." In addition, the conversation would include his love for history, not only local, but nationally and internationally. His love of history no doubt was the driving force to serve on the Slater Library and Fanning Annex Library Board and the Lisbon Historical Society. His public service did not stop there however; Doctor Gosselin also served as a member of the Town of Lisbon Board of Selectmen from November 1993 until November 2001.

As we go forward in the days and months to come we will have to address the issue of who will best serve the Town of Lisbon and region regarding public health. I have no doubt however, no matter what we do "the bar has already been set high!"

Doctor Gosselin, once again on behalf of the residents of the Town of Lisbon, your friends and the residents of the Griswold and Voluntown, enjoy your retirement and thank you for your years of public service and sharing with us your knowledge of the rich and varied history of our community and region.

### Lisbon Senior Celebrates Its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Leonora Szruba, Chair., Commission on Aging

The Lisbon Senior Center, A Resource and Activity Center, will be celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a formal luncheon on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Invited guests include Gov. M. Jodi Rell, State Senator Edith Prague, State Representative Steve Mikutel, members of the original Building Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

The meal will feature a choice of prime rib or stuffed shrimp and will be followed by a short speaking program and entertainment. There will be a drawing for several door prizes, and mementos of the occasion will be distributed.

The Anniversary Planning Committee consists of Senior Center Director Judy Jencks, Commission on Aging Chair Leonora Szruba, Shooting Stars President Dorothy Coggins, Rita Bernier, Dot Murray and Gloria Lafferty. The event is being co-sponsored by the Shooting Stars and the Commission on Aging, as well as area businesses and supporters of the Senior Center.

Since seating is limited, it is necessary to sign up prior to the celebration by stopping in at the Center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. The cost for the luncheon is \$12.

### Newly Appointed Town Historian Introduces Herself

I would like to introduce myself to the town of Lisbon. I am Marcia Shafer and I have been interested in genealogy for 25 years working on my parental side seeking information about my

family members who came from Denmark and Scotland. We have traced our family members from Old Saybrook CT to New York, Pennsylvania, and over to Wisconsin.

When my husband and I moved to Lisbon nine years ago we purchased a house on North Burnham Highway and proceeded to restore the 200+ year old home. We will still be working on it for many years as our ideas to keep it as historically accurate as possible take much time and energy.

We also have been doing landscaping of clearing the land of debris, brush and dead trees. We have put in a vegetable garden, flower gardens, and fruit trees. We are working to restore the rock walls around the property keeping in mind what it would have been 200 years ago.

My husband and I are members of the Lisbon Historical Society and actively participate in working to restore the John Bishop House. We both do cans and bottles to earn restoration money for the house. We cut wood for the cooking classes, work at the adult cooking classes for the public, participate in the Fall Festival events and other opportunities to present to the public a piece of history when Lisbon was first incorporated in 1786.

I have been working on some newspaper history of Lisbon. Should you visit the Bishop House please ask to see newspaper articles discussing Newent and Lisbon history from before Lisbon became independent from Norwich. These articles are about property, slaves, deaths, and estate settlements. Some are about modes of transportation, taxes, keeping animals contained, and lost and found items. I hope to obtain more newspaper articles via the internet regarding Newent and Lisbon. I also hope to get more information about the founding fathers of Lisbon. I would like to obtain more information about the topography of

Lisbon-rivers, streams, and ponds. I hope to get more information about the transportation systems of Lisbon.

I would like to have any pictures or documented stories that the citizens of Lisbon might have of old properties, the past residents of Lisbon, and historic features of yesteryear. I will return the original photos or stories to you and make copies for preservation of our Lisbon history.

You can reach me through the Lisbon Historical Society or town hall or come to the Bishop house when it is open for the summer on Saturdays. Thank you.

Marcia Schaefer, Town Historian

### Lisbon Historical Society Quarterly Notes

by Kim Sperry

The Lisbon Historical Society is saddened to report the passing of another old friend. The Blissville Brook Stone Arch Bridge was swept away during the historic March 2010 flood. Society member Sharon Gabiga has included one of Lisbon's most famous cultural icons in her Last Green Valley walking weekend talks for many years. She reports that the bridge, circa 1795, is the oldest known freestanding stone arch bridge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest stagecoach road in America. The stage road was a mail link between Norwich and Providence running across Bundy Hill Road to what is now River Road. The bridge was 10 feet across at the base and 6 feet at its highest point underneath. It was constructed with fieldstones, but since this type of stone was not found in the immediate area, the stones were probably imported. It was engineered to never collapse upon itself, as no one stone was more important than another, if one slipped the others tightened up. Mrs. Gabiga can attest to that fact as she and Richie Hermann surveyed the underside of bridge many times and observed that some stones projected like daggers. The washing away of the embankments is probably what did the bridge in. Mrs. Gabiga also

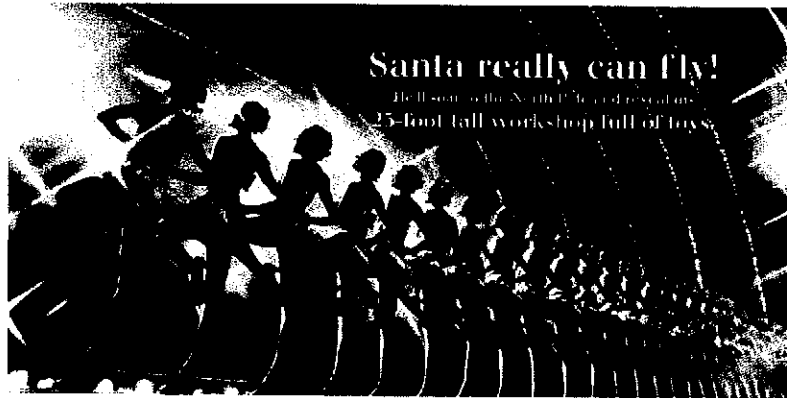
notes that the stone arch bridge should not be confused with a keystone bridge, because it did not have one. The Blissville Brook Bridge was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 2, 1997.

The town of Lisbon has five properties within its borders that are on the National Register of Historic Places, only one is a town owned asset, the Anshei Israel Synagogue. The Historical Society hopes to make it two with a positive determination for the John Bishop House. The application process is lengthy and challenging but we are hopeful that we can achieve the goal. National listing would be honorific recognition of the significance of the building to the history of Lisbon and a complement to its current listing on the Connecticut Register of Historic Places. Additionally, national listing may offer an advantage in fund raising and grant writing, as preservation and restoration activities are ongoing. The Historical Society believes that inclusion on the National Register is an important and worthwhile endeavor that will enhance the status the Bishop House, the Scenic By-Way and the town of Lisbon by adding to our inventory of acknowledged historic properties. Grant writers who would like to volunteer to help with this project are encouraged to call Kim Sperry at 860-376-1598.

In other news, the Society has submitted a grant application to the Last Green Valley seeking matching funds to replace the John Bishop House roof with period appropriate cedar shingles. We look forward to starting that project before fall. Donations are welcome and can be sent to the Lisbon Historical Society, 1 Newent Rd. Lisbon, attn: JBH Roof Fund.

As always, we like to acknowledge all of our can and bottle contributors. Your donations fund programs, keep the lights on and fires lit. Thank you.

**START THE HOLIDAYS RIGHT....  
ENJOY SHOPPING AND A SHOW IN NYC !!!**



**RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL CHRISTMAS SHOW  
AND NYC BUS TRIP**

**(Sponsored by the Lisbon Recreation Committee)**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2010 4pm**

**Seats are in the Orchestra Section, Rows M-R**

**Get your Tickets Early, First Come, First Served!!!**

**This trip has SOLD OUT the last three years.**

**Tickets are \$ 75.00/per person**

**(Tickets available to Lisbon Residents only through 9/31/2010)**

**Motor Coach will leave Lisbon Meadows Park at 9am and arrive in the city at around 11am.  
This will give you 5 hours to explore the city's shopping and eateries on your own  
prior to the show. The motor coach will leave 30 minutes after the end of the  
performance for the return trip to Lisbon Meadows Park.**

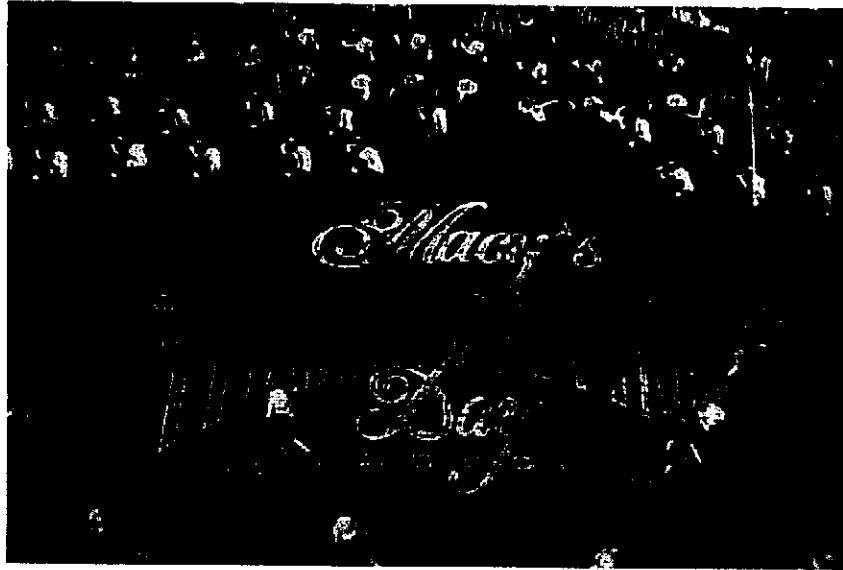
**Make Checks Payable to LISBON RECREATION**

**Please enclose the names and addresses of persons attending (required) and  
Contact number along with your check made out to Lisbon Rec. and mail to:**

**LISBON RECREATION COMMITTEE  
c/o LISBON TOWN HALL  
RE: Radio City Bus Trip 2010  
1 NEWENT ROAD – LISBON, CT 06351**

**Call: 860-822-1676 or Email [JimSynott@Comcast.net](mailto:JimSynott@Comcast.net) with questions**

**START A NEW TRADITION....**  
**THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE BUS TRIP !!!**  
(Sponsored by the Lisbon Recreation Committee)



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2010**

**Take the Whole Family!!!!**

**Get your Tickets Early, First Come, First Served!!!**

**Tickets are \$ 30.00/per person**

**(Tickets available to Lisbon Residents only through 9/31/2010)**

**The Motor Coach will leave Lisbon Meadows Park at 4:30am (promptly) and arrive in the city at around 7am. We will view the parade near Central Park where it begins at 9 A.M. The motor coach will leave 30 minutes after the end of the parade so we can be back in Lisbon in Time for Thanksgiving dinner (approximately 2-3 pm)**

**Make Checks Payable to LISBON RECREATION.**

**Please enclose the names and addresses of persons attending (required) and Contact number along with your check made out to Lisbon Rec. and mail to:**

LISBON RECREATION COMMITTEE  
c/o LISBON TOWN HALL  
RE: MACY'S Parade Bus Trip 2010  
1 NEWENT ROAD – LISBON, CT 06351

**Call: 860-822-1676 or Email [JimSynott@Comcast.net](mailto:JimSynott@Comcast.net) with questions**

The Lisbon Historical Society meets the second Friday of the month in the town hall, new members are always welcome. Please visit our webpage [www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html](http://www.99main.com/~chill/Historic.html) or just type in "historic Lisbon Connecticut" for information and updates.

### Planning and Zoning Commission Quarterly Notes

by Kim Sperry

The town's revenue base continues to expand with the ongoing development at both, The Crossing at Lisbon and Lisbon Landing retail centers. The commission is pleased to report that during our March meeting, we approved a special permit application submitted by the Howely Bread Group LLC for a new Panera Bread Bakery Café. The newest addition to Lisbon Landing will be located in a portion of the former Old Navy Space. Design plans include an outdoor dining patio on the north side of the building, the first permitted al fresco dining in town. The commission's regulations committee is also taking a proactive approach to accommodate dining establishments located outside of the "big box" developments by writing regulations we hope to have approved in time to take advantage of the outdoor dining season. Work across the street at The Crossing at Lisbon continues on the challenging Aldi's and Lowe's sites.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has an alternate position vacancy that must be filled in accordance with Town Ordinance by a member of the town's Democratic Party. The commission is made up of volunteers, whose duties include weighing the merits of a land use application, establishing zoning regulations, holding public hearings as required, preparing a plan of conservation and development every ten years, and establishing subdivision regulations, among others. Commissioners should be prepared to

attend regular meetings the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, special meetings as required, and public hearings. While challenging, the work in service to our community is rewarding. **The town supports continuing education by funding seminars and conferences, copies of zoning and subdivision regulations are distributed to all members and the town's professional planner is always available. A copy of *What's Legally Required* written by Michael Zizka, our town counsel, details powers and duties of the commission, procedural and scheduling matters, conducting public hearings, decision making and conflict of interest issues. The book is available at the town hall for on-site review.**

The commission encourages any interested Democrat to submit a letter of interest to the Planning and Zoning Commission, 1 Newent Road, Lisbon, Connecticut.

### Lisbon Rec 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade All Star Basketball Team

By Coach Ken Washburn

This year the Lisbon Recreational Youth Basketball Program was once again invited to participate in the Franklin Rec Basketball Tournament held in March. The team was made up of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders who had participated in the Lisbon's youth recreation basketball program.

The players that were selected to play

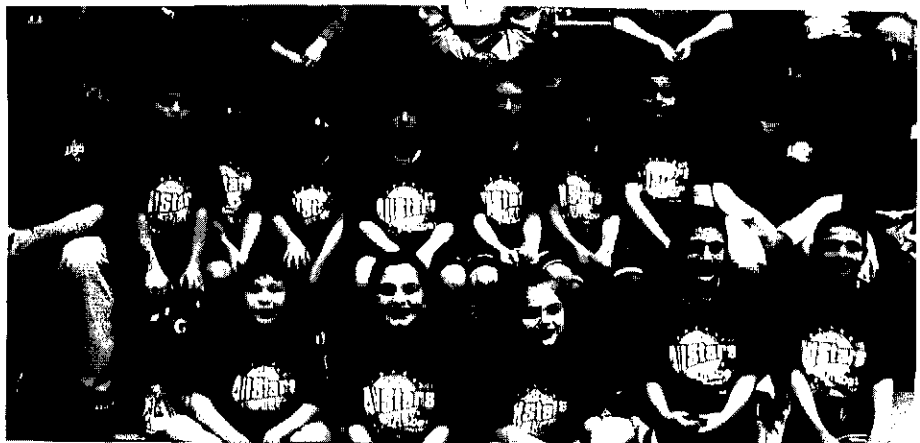
in the tournament had only eighteen practices in four weeks. Their hard work, dedication and understanding of the game, allowed them to compete in a very competitive single elimination tournament which included teams from Franklin, Canterbury and Griswold.

Lisbon first played Canterbury winning in overtime then Griswold which they won as well. Lisbon lost to the host team Franklin. In the semi-finals Lisbon beat Canterbury then lost to Franklin. Through four hard quarters our Lisbon players played their hearts out. Their enthusiasm, hustle, and team work allowed them to play very well and exceeded the expectations of everyone.

The Lisbon Rec 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade All Star Basketball Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Tournament. Nick Diroma was awarded the "Hustle Award". The "Most Valuable Player" was awarded to Shea McManaway.

I would like to thank the coaches, players, and especially the parents for allowing their children to participate in youth basketball. Thank you.

Pictured below: Ass't. Coach Kieth Jacobik, Spencer Holschlag, Nic Sylvestri, Ethan Love, Troy Mauer, Alex Jacobik, Nic DiRoma, Will Krauss, Ass't. Coaches Kerri Krapf and Armando Malavenda. Bottom row: Nic Brodeuer, Katie Kelly, Dani Krapf, Sam Potts, Shea McManaway.



Town of Lisbon Newsletter  
Town Hall 1 Newent Road  
Lisbon, Connecticut 06351

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LISBON RESIDENT  
RURAL BOX HOLDER  
LISBON, CT 06351

## Got Books.....

By Kim Lang, LCS

Keep those books, videos, and CD's coming. The Got Books Bin has been filled once and has earned the school funds to purchase books. Thank you to all who have helped to fill the bin.

Can we fill it a second time? It would be great to be able to purchase more books! We only have until **October** to place items in the bin.

## REVALUATION

By Susan Rainville, Assessor

The Town of Lisbon will be undergoing a revaluation for the Grand List year 2011. This time instead of hiring an outside company the Assessor's office will be doing the field work and hiring the same company that was used in 2001 & 2006, Real Estate Management to do the sales analyst and set values. Any questions or concerns will gladly be addressed by this office. by calling 860-376-5115 between the hours of 9 A.M. and 3 P.M. Monday thru Thursday, 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Friday or 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. on Wednesday nights or e-mailing [srainville@lisbonct.com](mailto:srainville@lisbonct.com).

If you have the time please feel free to stop in the office to get your concerns addressed. By the Assessor's office doing the road and office work the savings to the Taxpayer will over \$100,000.

**\* DATA MAILERS WILL BE SENT TO ALL RESIDENCES. THOSE EITHER NOT RETURNED OR RETURNED WITH DATA NOT THE SAME AS OUR CURRENT RECORDS WILL REQUIRE A FIELD INSPECTION.\***