

THE LARK

February 2021

Meadowhill.net



Meet Your Neighbor: Aida Mishriky



One of Meadow Hill's longest-tenured residents, Aida Mishriky has lived at unit 24 since 1986. But her story starts much earlier than that.

Aida was born in Cairo, Egypt, where she lived with her mother, father and older sister. When she was 4 years old, her father died suddenly. Her mother moved the family to Alexandria where she got a job teaching English. Aida attended the Scottish School for Girls from grade 1 all the way through high school, where the basic education was conducted in English, French and Arabic. In her mother's conservative household, Aida did not participate in clubs, sporting programs or social groups. Instead, she enjoyed reading, playing piano, listening to music and swimming in the nearby Mediterranean Sea. She fondly recalls sharing these interests with her best friend Anna, whose similarly conservative family welcomed Aida almost as another daughter.

After the Scottish School, Aida attended the Berlitz School where she acquired a variety of business skills which helped her land her first job at the National Bank of England. There she met Emile, a fellow employee who would one day become her husband. After a year, Aida left the bank for a position at General Motors. During her time there, she and Emile married and had two sons, and after 5 years Aida left GM to stay home and raise the boys. When they reached school age, she accepted a position with the Board of Education as head of the secretarial department for all the foreign schools in Alexandria, where the language skills she had acquired at the Scottish School proved valuable. Aida remained at the Board of Ed until 1971, when she and Emile decided to move the family to the United States so their sons could attend college here.

Originally headed for Seattle, the family stopped in CT to visit friends from Egypt. While here, Aida and Emile decided to "practice" applying for jobs. They must have been good at it, because they each received job offers on day one, Emile with Travelers and Aida with Aetna. They settled in Meriden and stayed with their respective companies until retirement, Emile in 1986 and Aida in 1995. After looking at many condo communities, they fell in love with Meadow Hill, and moved into unit 24 in 1986.

After Emile passed away in 1997, Aida says the kind and loving people of MH helped fill the void. She became very close to a group of women who supported each other and enjoyed traveling together. She also became very active in the social outreach ministries at St James Episcopal Church in Glastonbury, where she loved helping people in need. With both sons still living locally, Aida normally spends lots of time with her 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren, who she describes as the "joy and glory" of her life. Over the years she has traveled through Europe with each of her grandchildren. While observing COVID safety protocols, the family was nonetheless able to celebrate Christmas together by renting a movie theater and enjoy time together masked and socially distanced!

Though she has throttled back on her church involvement Aida is still active. When the pandemic started and masks were scarce, she made a name for herself by sewing and distributing 300 masks. More recently she has created a quilt for each grand and great grandchild made from their favorite t-shirts. Always an art lover but never an artist, at age 85 she found an art teacher who helped her learn to paint, a pursuit she now loves. Her grandchildren are quite impressed with her new painting skills, which highlights one of Aida's guiding principles, learned from a wise uncle: "You are never too old to learn."

Aida continues to love living at Meadow Hill: "The people, the surroundings, everything is lovely. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else." Rest assured, Aida, we wouldn't want you to, either!

Notice to Meadow Hill Owners

Important
Notice!

We have received a report of a garaged car entered and searched presumably for valuables/cash. Other reports of car break-ins have been seen over the last year in town. As a preventive measure, we encourage all vehicle owners to lock their vehicles when left in parking lots or garages and not leave any items of value in view. Garage doors should also be closed overnight. Thank You.

Reminders from the Maintenance Staff

When accumulating snow is expected, please:

- Park in a garage if possible.
- If not parked in a garage, move your car away from the parking areas next to garages before the storm begins.
- Do not park in front of a garage door.
- Do not park in the three spaces in the island by the Clubhouse.
- Remove your entrance mat(s) as they can be drawn into the snow blower and cause damage, or shred your mat. After the storm ends, when plowing and snow blowing are completed, you may replace your entrance mat.

To reduce recycling problems, please:

- Break down cardboard boxes before recycling them.
- Do not put any plastic bags in recycling.

Thanks for your consideration.

Don't
forget!

Dog Owner Reminder

Just a
friendly
reminder...

Word around the complex is that there has been an uptick of dog waste not being cleaned up. Most dog owners are diligent about using the proper perimeter area to walk their dogs and then subsequently cleaning up. But apparently not all are doing this. Also remember that dogs must be leashed at all times on the Meadow Hill complex. Please help keep Meadow Hill a clean and respectful place for all of us. Thank you!

In Case You Were Wondering...

Residents, especially recent arrivals, often ask "What does the 4 foot perimeter really mean, and what am I allowed to do?"

Unlike most condo communities, Meadow Hill allows owners to garden around their own unit, within an area extending 4 feet from the foundation. For multi-unit buildings the areas assigned to each unit are defined in the Rules document.

Within your designated beds, you are allowed to choose and maintain plantings such as annual or perennial flowers and smaller plantings without approval by the Board (at your own expense). However, you may not remove live shrubs or trees, or plant new shrubs or trees without first getting approval from the Board. When in doubt, ask first!

If you wish to have full responsibility for your area, you may submit a Do Not Touch (DNT) request at the beginning of each landscaping season. You will then be responsible for keeping your area in a reasonably presentable condition (weeded, shrubs trimmed, etc.). Note the Do Not Touch option is "all or nothing": you cannot request to maintain certain shrubs yourself and leave others to Meadow Hill. All beds, including those on the DNT list, will continue to be edged and mulched by Meadow Hill.

If you do not submit a DNT request, Meadow Hill will be responsible for weeding, trimming trees and shrubs, spring and fall cleanup, edging and mulching, and removing dead trees, shrubs and plants. A more complete list and timeline will be published in a future issue of the Lark.

If you are not sure what you can or should do, always ask before planting or removing shrubs or trees to avoid penalties. The Grounds Committee has a liaison for each section (Red, Gray, Brown), and as dog owners, they are out and about every day! For further details, refer to Section 21 of the Meadow Hill Rules document, online at meadowhill.net.

So, in case you were wondering, now you know!



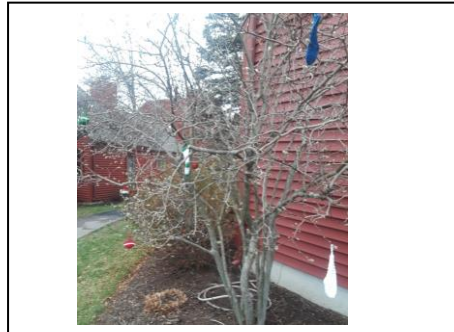
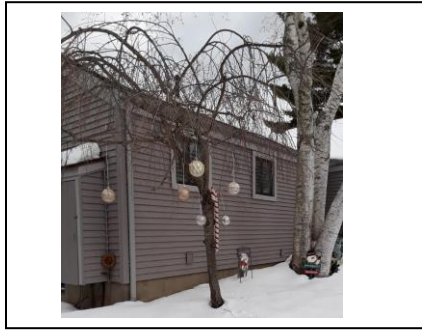
KEY DATES

Feb 1 – Start Black History Month
Feb 2 – Groundhog Day

Feb 15 – Presidents' Day
Feb 17 – Board Meeting

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day

MEADOW HILL HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Don't Procrastinate on Estate Planning



This is not legal advice; it's just common sense. With COVID sequestering us at home right now, perhaps you should think about your estate planning. Some people avoid the whole topic since it is a subject that can feel like a downer and is often filled with family conflict. And just because you wrote a will thirty years ago, doesn't mean that it's up to date. So, have that frank conversation with yourself/spouse and decide if now is the right time. If the task seems too big to you, consider breaking it down into manageable efforts.

First, be sure you are thinking about all items that make up your estate. These

would include personal property, real estate, and money, including investments. Include the estimated value of each item. Then, create a list of possible beneficiaries to whom you may want to leave estate items.

Select an executor of your estate. This should be a trustworthy person who will perform the task in a careful manner. It could be a family member, a close confidant or a professional third party, like your lawyer. Be sure you approach and get agreement from that person before finalizing your will.

Now, determine if you need professional legal assistance or if you feel comfortable taking advantage of online legal tools to construct and execute your will (such as Gentreo.com, NOLO, LegalZoom or TrustAndWill.com.) If you do it on your own, adhere to all state requirements, including witnesses, signatures and who should get copies.

Many people also write a letter of personal wishes to keep with their will, giving instructions on funeral arrangements, distribution of sentimental family heirlooms, etc. Your executor will thank you for being specific on your wishes.

Most legal professionals also suggest use of two other tools. One is a healthcare directive, sometimes called a Living Will, which lets you appoint someone to make medical decisions for you if you are unable, and outlines the care you desire. The other document is a durable Power of Attorney, which lets someone make financial decisions on your behalf if you are incapacitated. It's important to look at the lifetime side of estate planning and think about the vulnerabilities of living older.

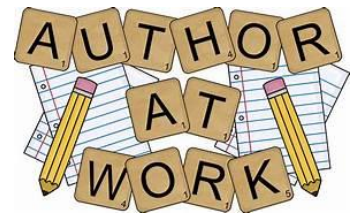
Another useful resource is the AARP guide to estate planning called 'The Other Talk: A Guide to Talking With Your Adult Children About the Rest of Your Life' which contains useful checklists of things to consider and do each step of the way. It's available at the AARP bookstore at:

<https://www.aarp.org/entertainment/books/bookstore/home-family-caregiving/info-2016/the-other-talk.html>

Remember, there is Legal Aid assistance if you cannot afford an attorney. And if you'd prefer to work with an attorney but don't have one, ask your family or friends for a referral. Don't procrastinate and be left with uncertainty about your estate.

Do you love writing?

Are you a frustrated writer? Have you ever wanted to see your name in a byline? Do you have a special interest that you would love to share with others? The Lark committee would like to encourage you to 'have a go at it' and write an article for a future publication. It can be short or medium in length and it will be reviewed by a committee member. You will get the byline you've always wanted. Of course, if you would rather be 'nameless' that is OK too. Anyone who has an interest please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347.



WELLES TURNER MEMORIAL LIBRARY VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMMING

- Genealogy Basics: Using "FamilySearch", Feb 2, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Cut the Cord on Cable TV: Feb 9, 6:00-7:00 pm
- What is the CT Partnership for Long-Term Care? Feb 18, 6:00-7:00 pm
- Cookbook Club ~ Virtual Gathering for Adults 21+ Feb 24, 6:30-7:30 pm

For details and registration information:

<https://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/W/WTML/ekp.cfm?curOrg=WTML&CFID=10188676&CFTOKEN=eef6924367e06a1c-7D615DED-D4AE-528A-535032DA9E39023F>



COMMUNITY CENTER EVENTS



The Riverside Community Center is offering a wide variety of virtual programs throughout the winter months. All programs are virtual via Zoom and require registration by calling the community center at 860-652-7638 or by emailing Diana Patterson at diana.patterson@glastonbury-ct.gov or Nicole Mercer at nicole.mercer@glastonbury-ct.gov.

A sampling of the February offerings includes:









- Watercolor classes: Feb 9 ("Iris") and Feb 23, ("Rain Boots"), 9:30-11:30 am. Kits are \$10 and registration is required one week prior to class.
- Acrylic for Beginners: Feb 16 ("Cherry Blossoms"), 9:30-11:30 am. Kits are \$15 and registration is required one week prior to class.
- Virtual Cooking Presentations: Feb 10, 1:00 pm; Feb 24, 10:00 am; Registration required.
- Valentine Serenade w/ Paul Shlien; Friday, Feb 12, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
- Let's Discuss - How Does Alcohol Affect Safety? Feb 16, 1:00 pm

For complete information about virtual programs and activities, check out The Sharing Tree:

<https://www.glastonbury-ct.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=32543>

Meadow Hill Match Game 2

Match the Meadow Hill Resident's picture in row 1 with their pet picture in row 2 and then to the resident name in row 3 and pet's name in row 4. The correct letter-answers appear on the last page. No Cheating!

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Resident Picture Row 1 |  A. |  B. |  C. |  D. |
| Pet Picture Row 2 |  E. |  F. |  G. |  H. |
| Resident Name Row 3 | Kim I. | Brigitte J. | Jane K. | Mark L. |
| Pet Name Row 4 | Eli M. | Frankie N. | Gordie O. | Oliver P. |

MEADOW HILL RESIDENT NOTES

Clubhouse and Hollister House – Closed until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Clubhouse and Hollister House Rentals - Rentals discontinued until further notice due to the coronavirus.

Lark Submissions Please contact Gene Flynn at 860-212-7347 for more information on submitting articles and notices.

Game Day – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Wednesday of the month from 1-3pm at Hollister House is cancelled until further notice due to coronavirus.

Book Club – Cancelled. Usually held on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:00 at the Clubhouse is cancelled until further notice due to Covid19.

We will be recommending one or two books a month for folks to read based on recommendations from book club members. This month's book is:

- Abide with Me by Elizabeth Strout, 2006, 294 pages.

Bingo – Cancelled.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

IMAGINEERS, LLC
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860-768-3419
Asst: Property Manager: Lauren Figge
860-768-3313

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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TREASURER
Larry Abbott
860-682-2543

VICE PRESIDENT
Toni Dolan
860-918-7069

DIRECTOR
Sandy O'Leary
860-916-0740

SECRETARY
Connie Liscomb
860-659-7819

DIRECTOR
unfilled

To Email Management staff or Board Member click on <https://tinyurl.com/MHillContacts>

BOARD MEETINGS

Monthly Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm.

Meetings will be electronic.

Information on how to connect will be forthcoming from Imagineers.

THE NEXT MEETING
February 17th

1:30 PM

Meeting Will be Electronic

Current and previous meeting minutes can be found at www.meadowhill.net

Hard copy minutes are no longer available at the clubhouse due to the coronavirus.

Match Game Solution: AGJM, BELO, CHIP, DFKN