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- Donate 10 cans of non-perishable food and receive a free 10-minute turbo tanning session and be entered in our raffle;
- Donate any amount and be entered in our raffle.

Raffle will be held Friday, August 18 at 7:30.
Winner does not have to be present to win.

All Donations Going to Waterbury branch of CT Food Bank



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THE PROSPECT We All Love

By Joseph L. Gomez
In August, Prospect Is A Quiet Place

I bumped into Bill Manthey the other day up at Hotchkiss Field and we got to talking about how quiet it is these days in town. We both remarked that the athletic fields in town were not being used as much as they were during May, June and July. It seems that all the summer leagues are through with their seasons and families are away at the beach or up where it is cool some place.

I can remember another time when baseball was a full-time summer pastime, but the games were less formal and unstructured. The gang would meet in the field behind Jackie Williams' house and we played games during the day and again until it grew too dark to see the ball.

Speaking of the ball, it was usually a relic that the horsehide cover had been torn off, causing the ball to veer wildly from one direction to another. After it had completely been removed, we would purloin a roll of bulldog tape from Dad's tool kit and wrap the ball as tightly as possible. Eventually, the ball would transform into a kind of egg shape, but we found you could throw a better curve with it then.

As I said, games were less than formal affairs, but did have some rules of general conduct to them. The two biggest kids could not be on the same side and then

it was choose sides for the remainder of the teams. Everybody in the family played, including boys, girls and whoever was visiting at the time. If there were not enough participants to have a game, we played "scrub," a game where you batted until you made an out, then you would go out to the field until you came up again.

If there were not enough participants for scrub, we played Hit the Ball. That was a game that after the ball was caught, you would try to either roll the ball or throw it so it would hit the bat on the ground. If you were successful in hitting the bat, then you were up.

When darkness descended over Prospect, then the real fun began. Tag, Ring a Lerrio, and Ghost were some of the games we played then, as well as Piggy, Johnny Jump the Horse, and Kick the Can. Every boy had a jack-knife and we used to play knife at night on the front lawn, and I still have the scars to prove it.

Shooting rats in Charlie Nettleton's barn, smoking corn-cob pipes, walking or hitchhiking to the old swimming hole, and picking berries occupied us at other times. Swinging on grapevines down the lane was great sport, too, and fishing in the "Res" for bullheads got to be exciting at times, especially when some novice hooked the palm of his hand on the barb.

I guess you might be tempted to say that all we did was play

all day, but with a large family and during the war, a huge garden was a must. Dad supplied the seed and we did the rest. Planting, transplanting, weeding, fertilizing, picking off Japanese beetles, and picking vegetables all took up time during the daylight hours. Each boy or girl was assigned specific rows in the garden to take care of and pity the person who failed in his daily assignment.

We never slept inside a house from the day school let out for the summer until it was after Labor Day. We hated to see the old tent come down as it signaled the end of a summer well spent in childhood pursuits. We bathed every time it rained and not very often otherwise. I admit we were a gamy bunch, but we scrubbed when we went swimming (Mom's orders!). On rainy days, we played cards and played the old hand-operated victrola. We played records until the needles wore out and then played them with our fingernails.

I guess, when all is said and done, I feel sorry for the kids of today. With all their advantages, computers, cell phones, and the like, I think the thing they are missing without knowing it, is that element of personal contact that we enjoyed those very many years ago.

If you remember something of your childhood and would like to talk about it, chances are we would like to hear it. Call me at 758-3182, fax me a note to 758-7502 or email me at jgomez04@snet.net [Joseph L. Gomez is a poet, freelance writer, and the author of *Sarah Ann, The Story of a Pioneer Woman*.]

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Prospect Library News

As we enter the dog days of summer, we invite you to stop by the Prospect Library and enjoy the new books, magazines and other additions. Some of the recent books that have been received include Mary Jane Clark's *Lights Out Tonight*, Philip Craig's *Dead in Vineyard*, Jane Green's *Swapping Lives*, Linda Howard's *Cover of Night*, Phillip Margolin's *Proof Positive*, Robert Parker's *Blue Screen*, Luanne Rice's *Sandcastles*, Nora Roberts' *Angels Fall* and Danielle Steele's *Coming Out*.

Summer is also a great time to take advantage of the library museum passes. On the rainy days when you and your children find yourselves housebound, the Prospect Library has passes to the Stepping Stones Museum for Children and the Children's Museum in West Hartford.

Sign-ups for fall programs at the library will be taking place beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 16. Parents are asked to watch the September issue of

The Prospect Pages for a full listing of programs to be offered. Remember that your child has to be at least three years old to participate in the weekly story and craft programs offered.

The Community Room of the Prospect Library will display the work of Naugatuck artist Ann Kelbacha. Her interest in art began as a young child. Her talent and artistic ability were recognized and nurtured by her school teachers. She was introduced to pastel, watercolor and oil painting by a local artist in Union City and she eventually received technical training in art at the Paier School of Art in New Haven. Come see Ann Kelbacha's work at the Prospect Library this month.

A handful of patience is worth more than a bushel of brains.

-- Dutch Proverb

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Hours: Mon. thru Sat. -- 8 am to 6 pm • Sun. -- 8 am to 4 pm