

*Let me introduce you to . . .
By Liz Rowe*

The person I've chosen to do my next column about is someone I've known for a long time. She has been part of the Ridgebury "family" for as long as I can remember and was Deacon when my husband Chris and I were married 23 years ago. Her name is **Elizabeth Sganga**. I've had the pleasure of getting to know her a little better through this interview. Her husband of 44 years is Vincent ("Vinnie") Sganga.

Elizabeth was born in Brooklyn on August 21, 1942 and was raised in Elmont, Long Island. She is the oldest of three children and has two brothers. At 16 years old, she and Vince connected through a friend of his whom she met at a Methodist camp one summer. He lived in Queens, so they weren't far from each other which allowed them to see each other and date during high school. After graduating, she attended Hofstra University, graduating with elementary education as her major and math as her minor. Elizabeth and Vince married and lived in Freeport, Long Island. She taught and he commuted into the city and worked for a bank. After a couple of years, they decided to move out of Long Island. Her family had friends living in Ridgefield whom they would visit on a regular basis. She loved what the town had to offer - Main Street, the sense of community and all the trees! It was also close to a rail line so Vince could commute into the city. The town was going through a lot of development in 1967 and they found the perfect house in which to raise a family. Elizabeth stayed home with their two sons, Matthew and Andrew.

Since joining Ridgebury Congregational Church in 1969, Elizabeth has been involved in all aspects of the church. She remembers when the church used to have Art Fairs and Craft Fairs as fundraisers, and they also used to have dances (with live music) in the old "barn" in Shields Hall. She has been Deacon and Moderator and was also on the Search Committee when looking for a minister. She is now the Advocate for the Minister on Pastoral Relations and sits on several committees. In addition, she also volunteers as a Sunday school teacher for the 5th through 8th graders.

During the years, she worked part time for a calligraphy studio in town as an office assistant and has been substituting in the Ridgefield School system. Andrew and Matthew both live in Ridgefield with their families and Elizabeth and Vince get to spend time with them on a regular basis. They have 3 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.

In 1995, when her mom's health began to fail, Elizabeth's parents moved in with them. They put an addition on their house for them to live in and were able to care for her mom. She passed away in 1999, and her father still lives with them but requires constant care. They have a full time health aid, Nawaal, caring for him and they are grateful that they found the right person to respond to his needs.

Currently, Elizabeth enjoys attending the bible study classes on Tuesday afternoons and is impressed on how knowledgeable Reverend Heckt is of the historic nature of the bible readings. In some of her spare time, she also enjoys golfing and is a member of the Ridgefield Women's Club.

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11:30a Congregational Meeting	28 5p Pastoral Relations	29	30 7:30p Choir Practice	31 7:15p AA Meets	1	2 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group Groundhog Day [USA]
3 10a Service with Communion Quinquagesima Sunday [Christian]	4 7p Deacons Meet	5 6:30p Mission and Social Justice Committee Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday [USA]	6 7:30p Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday [Christian]	7 7:15p AA Meets	8	9 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
10	11 7p Trustee Meeting	12 Lincoln's Birthday [USA]	13 7:30p Choir Practice	14 7:15p AA Meets Valentine's Day [USA]	15	16 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
17	18 7p Council Meeting President's Day [USA]	19	20 7:30p Choir Practice	21 7:15p AA Meets	22 Washington's Birthday [USA]	23 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group
24 10a Heyel Baptism	25 5p Pastoral Relations 7:30p Communication Meeting	26	27 7:30p Choir Practice	28 7:15p AA Meets	29	1 5p Saturday Church Service 6:30p Adult Discussion Group



WOW!! We had a great Congregational Meeting on January 27th. Over 50% of our membership came to discuss our financial position and 2008 activities. The highlights are: 2008 Operating Budget was amended and passed; the Nominating Committee process was reviewed; Rev. Heckt's lectures at the Ridgefield Historical Society were announced; our participation in the celebration of Ridgefield's 300th Anniversary were described; and a potential new activity was proposed, a Women's Investment Club, which, in honor of Michael Prange, is open to men, too.

In the category of very special news, because of a wonderful anonymous donation, the Trustees will begin to investigate what will be required to refurbish the Meetinghouse.

Let me close with a special thanks to Vince Sganga and the Trustees for all their work on the budget; Betty and Chris Miller for setting up the meeting buffet, and to the Council members for supplying the delicious lunch. If you're interested in any or all of the above, please contact me.

Alice Kenny Lucas, Moderator



Our Christmas Fair for Missions was a very satisfactory success this year. The monies sent through our treasurer were over \$1,610.00. However, this is a giving fair, so that money sent to the various charities wasn't even half the giving! Think of the "Angel Tree Gifts" brought to the fair for the Women's Center. Also think of the boxes of groceries and the Christmas dinner with gifts for that family for the Interfaith Aids Ministry. Then, too, remember the Church World Services table purchases. These were all taken away by the various groups to be distributed by those organizations. It all adds up to a generous congregation remembering others at Christmas time.

The church table with foods and the White Elephant table was the only one that made money for our church. This includes the lovely cards made by Jean Stouter! They made \$206. Karen and Jim Edwards deftly managed these two tables and Naomi Emmons helped set up. So many people helped by bringing food and articles to be sold. Sue Blaisdell and her friend Ann McCarthy manned the kitchen. They were helped by Liz Sganga and members of the Sunday school class: Maggie O'Keefe, Sean Rowe, Connor Rowe, and Bryan Welton.

Matt Orr kept his usual seat at the Heifer International Project table and did a fine job. Jesse Glick came from Church World Services and brought his whole spread. Drew Cochrane was host for CWS table. He also picked up the Christmas tree from my house and set it up a couple of days before the fair. He came again on Saturday and helped with the set-up.

Linda Cochrane was in charge of the 10,000 Villages table assisted by Jean Early both Saturday and Sunday. Linda drove three times to West Hartford to arrange for pickup up and return the unsold merchandise.

Interfaith Aids was represented by Mike Green who handed out information about his organization and toted away two boxes of groceries for the aids "store". Barbara Kapp hosted for the church at this table. Tara Kenny delivered the Christmas Dinner and gifts for a family of four on the 17th of December.

The Women's Center of Greater Danbury sent a list of 25 names for the Angel Tree. The angels for the tree were made and distributed by Josette Williams. Alex Massa was here and she took the load of gifts to the center for us.

The Maya Works table as well as the "Green Team" table was set up by Sally Miller. Pam Steeves helped her at the Maya Works table. Joy Manger was host of the Green Team table, which was new for the Missions Fair.

Linda Hayworth was in charge of the Children's table and directed the making of the candy canes made of red and white beads.

Thanks to Bill Lucas for the picture and article in the Ridgefield Press. Thanks also go out to John Heckt and Liz Sganga who updated the outdoor sign and set it up.

Betty Miller and Vince Sganga counted, deposited and dispensed of the money!

Thanks to all!!!

Ridgefield Historical Society

presents

**Worlds of Wonder, Days of Judgment:
the Churches of Colonial Ridgefield**

How and when were Ridgefield's oldest churches established? What did the people who worshipped in them believe? What was their place in Ridgefield's life?

These questions and others will be considered in a discussion series led by the Rev. John Heeckt, Minister of the Ridgebury Congregational Church. Mr. Heeckt has studied the history of American religion at Yale and Harvard Universities.

- **Date:** Tuesdays, March 4 and March 11
- **Time:** 7:00 p.m.
- **Cost:** No charge
- **Place:** Scott House
4 Sunset Lane

SEATING LIMITED. To reserve a place: Call 438-5821

Ridgefield Historical Society
4 Sunset Lane
Ridgefield, CT 06877



Thanks to all for pledging your support to Ridgebury Church. We have 35 pledging units committing \$56,759 for 2008. 20 pledges were an increase over 2007, 9 pledges remained the same. There were 4 new pledges and 2 pledges were reduced from 2007. Look for quarterly updates to be published in the Cornerstone.

For the Committee,
Chris Miller



Ridgebury Congregational Church, UCC
605 Ridgebury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877



FEBRUARY

- 2 Bryn Welton
- 5 Sarah Lakatos
- 8 Amanda Grose
- 9 Payton Shevlin
- 26 James Shonk

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THE CORNERSTONE

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



CELEBRATE EASTER WITH FLOWERS

Lilies and hyacinths are symbols of the new life in Easter's promise each spring. Ridgebury Congregational Church is unique in its tradition of celebrating Easter with flowers dedicated by individuals to honor new life, past lives, events and good wishes for others. If you wish to join in this tradition by ordering flowers to be placed in the chancel for Easter Sunday, please fill out the information below and return it in the offering collection (with a check payable to Ridgebury Congregational Church), or put it in the "Flowers" mailbox located in Shields Hall.

Please order Easter flowers **before** Sunday, March 9th.

I wish to contribute flowers for Easter Sunday Services at Ridgebury Congregational Church. Please print in the Sunday program that the flowers honor

Name/Event: _____

Number and type of flower:

Hyacinths _____ @ \$10.00

Lily _____ @ \$10.00

Please send me a gift acknowledgment card at the address below:

Name: _____

Address: _____