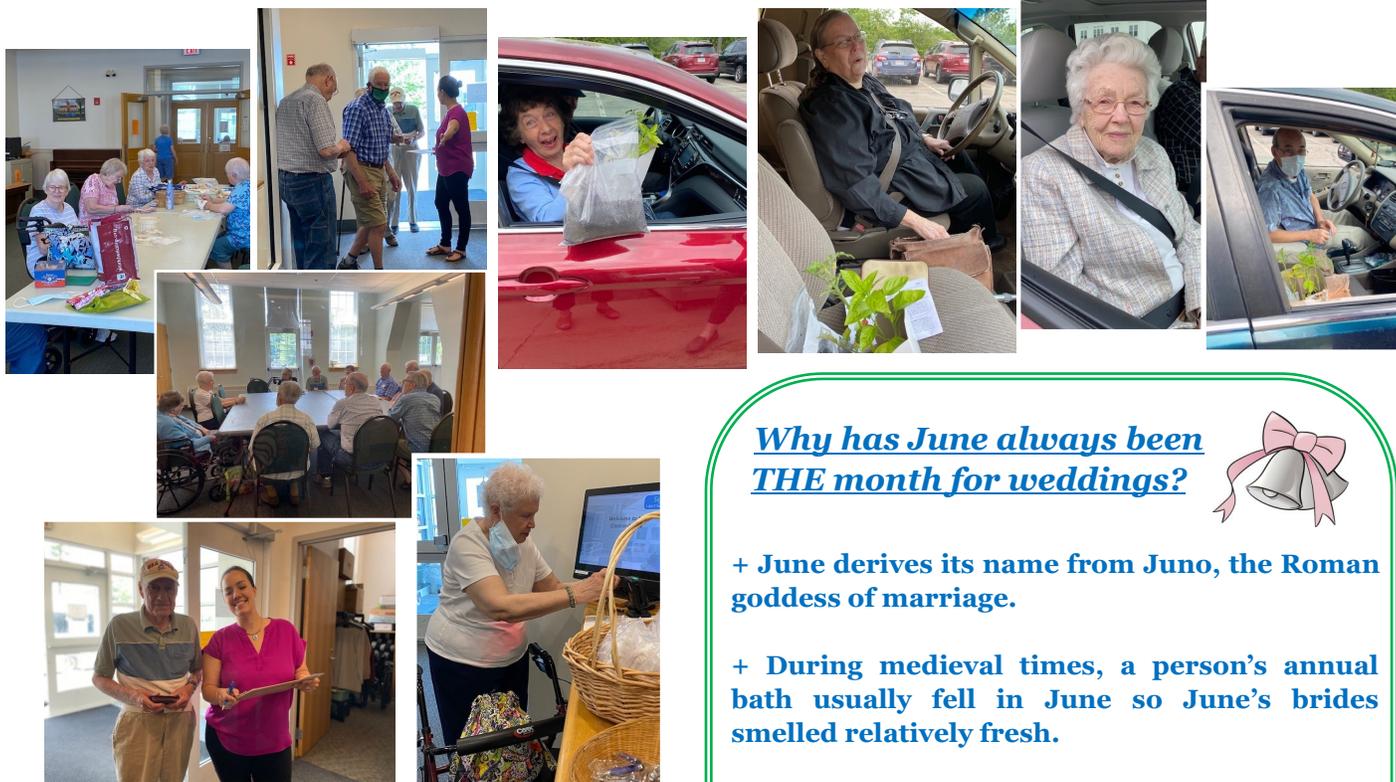


Concord Council on Aging
HIGH SPIRITS
Mid-Month Notes from Your COA

June 2021

Volume 2 No. 6

We're Back! Our doors opened for limited programming on June 7th. Show your CDC vaccination card to pop in unmasked and unvaccinated participants need an appointment to discuss their safety in the building. Earlier we gave away tomato and basil plants and for all you fathers—we have a drive-thru giveaway on June 21st! Call us to sign up: 978-318-3020.



Why has June always been THE month for weddings?



+ June derives its name from Juno, the Roman goddess of marriage.

+ During medieval times, a person's annual bath usually fell in June so June's brides smelled relatively fresh.

+ Others chose June to time conception so births didn't interfere with the harvest .

+ Ancient tradition promoted it would be unlucky to marry in May because in Roman times the Feast of the Dead and the Festival of the Goddess of Chastity occurred in May.

+ The reason in today's economy may be more practical. If a person marries in June, he/she is considered a married person for the whole financial year: July 1 to June 30. As a married person was thought to have greater obligations than a single person, the rate of income tax collected was lower.

 **Book Corner**

The Beauty of Living Twice, this new book by actress *Sharon Stone* is a personal account of how the actress had to rebuild her life after a devastating stroke. Hailed as “a book for the wounded,” it is a candid and inspiring call to activism that proves it is never too late.

Your Top 6 Things to Know About Juneteenth

6. The executive order in Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, effective Jan. 1, 1863, meant immediate freedom for slaves throughout the nation. But the country was in the middle of the Civil War so enforcement was slow & inconsistent.

5. Though much of the language in the Emancipation Proclamation suggests otherwise, Lincoln's primary objective was not to ameliorate the lives of those in bondage but rather to preserve the Union.

4. The Civil War ended in April 1865. In June Gen. Gordon Granger traveled to the last holdout of slavery, Galveston, TX. Granger announced on **June 19, 1865**: "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

3. The slaves still in servitude who finally got the news in were jubilant to hear of their freedom on "Juneteenth." Felix Haywood, a former slave gave this testimony:

"The end of the war, it come jus' like that—like you snap your fingers....Hallelujah broke out.... Soldiers, all of a sudden, was everywhere—comin' in bunches, crossin', walkin' and ridin'. Everyone was a-singin.' We was all walkin' on golden clouds....Everybody went wild...We was free. Just like that we was free."

2. Freedom did not come at the "snap of a finger" for everyone in Texas. Some people who should have been freed continued to work through the harvest season because their masters withheld this announcement.

1. In 1980 "Emancipation Day in Texas" became a legal state holiday in recognition of Juneteenth. In 2020, Massachusetts joined 47 other states in making Juneteenth a state holiday. All Town of Concord Offices will be closed on June 19th.

(Juneteenth is a portmanteau of *June* and *nineteenth*)

If you wish to unsubscribe, please email Laurie at laustin@concordma.gov or call 978 318 3020.

June is PRIDE Month

June is PRIDE month, when our LGBTQ+ community and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies) gather to celebrate, educate, advocate, and continue to agitate for full equality with all human rights for EVERYONE!

To celebrate PRIDE month, the COA is offering a special program on Zoom "**Pronouns in Modern Times.**" Using "they and them" in the singular go against what you learned in school with regards to correct grammar, but recently you may have seen or heard folks identify themselves using the pronouns they and them instead of he and him, or she and her. And terms like non-binary and gender fluid have made it into mainstream media. Maybe you are wondering what it all means or would like to learn how gender pronouns can create a more inclusive gender-affirming community. Join us on **Monday, June 28th at 1:00 PM.** The talk will be led by Julie Nowak, LGBTQ Initiative Coordinator at BayPath Elder Services. Call the COA at **978-318-3020** to sign up & get your Zoom invitation.



Comedy Corner

Finally, my winter fat is gone.
Now I have **spring rolls.**

