



News from Livingston County, NY

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May is Older Americans Month

Geneseo, NY, May 20, 2020 — Around the nation, older adults make their marks every day as volunteers, employees, employers, parents, grandparents, mentors, and advocates. They offer their time, talents, and experience to the benefit of our communities.

For 57 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) has been a special time to recognize these contributions. Led by the [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) each May, OAM also provides resources to help older Americans stay healthy and independent, and materials to help communities support and celebrate their citizens.

The theme for this year's OAM, *Make Your Mark*, highlights older adults' unique and lasting contributions to their communities—everything from sharing a story with grandchildren to leaving a legacy of community action.

Each year, in recognition of OAM, the New York State Office for the Aging works with area agencies on aging across the state to honor exceptional individuals who, through their actions, demonstrate the spirit of civic engagement and selflessness. This year's honorees from Livingston County are **David W. Parish** and **Paul Maginn**. Their biographies are attached.

Need OAM resources or want to learn more? Visit the official website, acl.gov/oam, and follow ACL on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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Congratulations Livingston County 2020 NYSOFA Older New Yorker Day Honorees

Paul's volunteer journey with Catholic Charities of Livingston County began in 2014 as a volunteer driver for the Faith in Action program. Paul has fulfilled many roles as a volunteer for CCLC to date. He has been a Board of Directors member since 2016, co-coordinated the last two years of CCLC's gala fundraiser, and is the Faith in Action's volunteer Transportation Coordinator since 2016.

The mission of Faith in Action is to provide direct one-on-one assistance through volunteer support services to the elderly and/or those living with disabilities, within a network of community support. Paul commits two mornings per week, year-round, to coordinating transportation so that older adults and people with disabilities can get to medical appointments and perform essential errands such as shopping, banking, and picking up prescriptions. He matches up volunteer drivers with those who need rides.

Paul has built an amazing relationship with clients and volunteers alike. He speaks at both St. Matthew's and St. Mary's churches to recruit volunteers for the Faith in Action program. Paul is a great example of a true volunteer of his time and services, always willing to give 110% to others.

Paul graduated from SUNY Potsdam Crane School of Music and went on to teach music for 32 years, 22 years at Webster Central Schools and 10 years at Gates Chili Schools. He was the Director of the Webster High School Marching Band for 15 years and traveled to Florida for the Citrus/Disney World Parades and three times to Phoenix, Arizona for the Fiesta Bowl Parades. Paul impacted many lives as he gave private lessons for forty years. He was President of the Monroe County School Music Association from 2008-2010. Paul has resided in Livingston County for 20 years. He has been married to his wife Lynn for 22 years and they have 3 grown children and 2 grandchildren. In addition to his many volunteer roles at Catholic Charities of Livingston County, Sent by Ravens Food Pantry, Foodlink, and his church, Paul loves to watch sports with his family.

Paul says, "I volunteer because I want to give back for all the blessings that I have received over the years. It is very rewarding and humbling to help people in need. It has been an eye opener for me to see so many people that need our help through Livingston County. It is wonderful being a part of such a hardworking and dedicated staff at Catholic Charities. The attitude and love that shines forth from all our volunteers inspires me to be there for others."

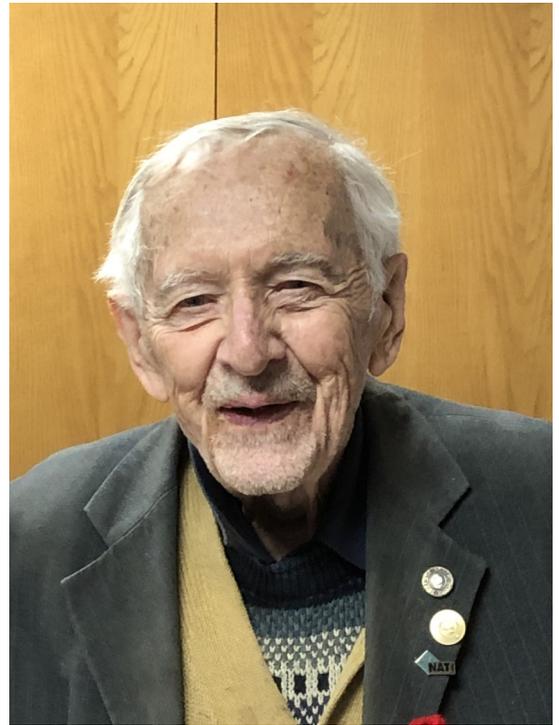


Paul Maginn

David W. Parish is a native of Niagara Falls, New York. He graduated from Buffalo State Teachers College in 1954. He served in the Army as a Communications Specialist for 2 years, mostly at Fort Polk, LA.

Returning to Niagara Falls to teach Grades 4-6, David earned 2 Master's Degrees and was working for a Doctorate in Education when he met his future wife, Ava. They were married on the weekend when the world mourned the death of President Kennedy. Their son was born in 1965.

With Ava's support, David earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at SUNY Geneseo, as he wished to obtain an academic position. Achieving this goal in 1967, he was appointed as an academic librarian, and then Department Head at Milne Library. David published 6 reference books through Libraries Unlimited. Ava contracted breast cancer in 1983; she fought bravely through treatment, but ultimately passed away in 1986. As David's mother lived alone in Niagara Falls, he brought her to live with him in Geneseo. Knowing she needed social contact, David introduced her to the Geneseo Young at Heart Club, and at 55 years of age, he himself became a member. His mother eventually passed away, and David ended up being elected President of the club for 6 terms. Retiring in 1991 as a widower, David felt called to make a difference in many ways with the help of friends and associates throughout Livingston County.



David W. Parish

David was part of the group that originally advocated for an Office for the Aging in the County, saw it transition to a County agency, and has served on its Advisory Committee since 2007.

David has a reverence for history, and has served as the Geneseo Village and Town Historian since 1983. His 7th local history book, "I Am Geneseo", is almost ready for print. He has given one hundred-plus historic talks and lectures. He served as president of the County Historical Society for 8 years; during that time, he helped collect stories from members of many long-time resident families.

In 1995 the Livingston County Sheriff called senior citizens together from 17 towns and TRIAD was formed. In the third year, David was elected President and held the office for 23 years. Many initiatives to educate residents, enhance safety, and support law enforcement were implemented under his leadership.

For 15 years, David served as an active member of the Red Cross Board and, for 25 years, served as volunteer fundraising kettle coordinator for the Salvation Army. He has made significant contributions to the Geneseo United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, County Masonic Association, Environmental Management Council, Temple Hill Cemetery Board, and Jail Ministry Committee. He makes visits to residents of the Skilled Nursing Home, and is a past President of the Geneseo Rotary and a Paul Harris Fellow. David was recognized by the Town of Geneseo as Senior of the Year for his many contributions to its quality of life.

Advice for volunteering:

The American social culture has evolved. Technology and non-profit groups have made definite changes in volunteerism. My "advice" is to stay sensitive in outlook to both individual and group needs. Fill a need. The human touch is still most important. Don't worry about recognition. "Serve!"