

NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 2, No 12

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

December 2013



Article by:
Charlie Farrow



**Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road
P.O. Box 623, Moodus, CT 06469**

Christmas Letter, 2013

The first Christmas present I bought was a soup ladle for my mother. Her mother, who lived with us, helped me save my allowance. I went to Aubuchon's for the ladle.

The first Christmas presents I made were doll beds for my two sisters. Currier Hebert & I fashioned them from shoeboxes, shirt cardboards, & contact paper.

More than once I heard Santa & his sleigh on the roof, but we weren't allowed downstairs until Dad had checked to "see if Santa had come." My sisters & I were deeply gratified by the misplaced logs in the fireplace, the partially eaten cookies & milk.

My grandmother once gave me a flashlight, which attached to the bed frame & cured my night terrors. She made crocheted stuffed animals for my sisters, which they called "Toots" & "Inkatink."

I used the Erector set maybe twice. Clothing presents bored me. I received enough mittens to warm every child in the neighborhood.

Getting the tree was an elaborate procedure. Down to the vacant lot strung with bare bulbs. My father studied a dozen before holding the worse one at arm's length. "How much?" "\$3.00." "I'll give you \$2.00. You don't mind if I pick up some

branches from the ground?" In the cellar Dad drilled holes in the tree's trunk & inserted the scavenged branches.

Our parents decorated the tree after we went to bed. In seventh grade I stayed up & helped. Ho. Ho. Ho.

I glued yards & yards of construction paper chains. My mother had about 10 feet left, all faded to pastel colors, when her mind slipped away. My favorite ornament was a red plastic ball that opened to reveal a green felt hat. Today it's probably some tiny German men Ilka Schleuter gave us.

My favorite present was a Columbia bicycle. I'd been riding hand-me-downs. Here was the real thing, a renewable airline ticket. Times were different. I rode all through the towns north of Boston, like Paul Revere.

I biked almost every day to school. It had a huge wire basket & girls asked me to ferry their books. I pedaled the first day in tenth grade after moving to West Hartford, but there wasn't a bike rack.

Gram baked at Christmas. Stollen, snickerdoodles, fruitcake, thumb press cookies with dollops of homemade jam, & sugar cookies squeezed from a gun. All December the house smelled of cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg & clove. I was an expert at licking the icing spoon.

Deb & I used to grow our own Christmas trees. When our daughters decided it was cruel to cut them we

switched to a rosemary tree. Now we have an artificial one that comes apart, fits in a closet, but still holds most of our ornaments.

As a retired English teacher, I have favorite Christmas stories. Truman Capote's, "A Christmas Memory." Charles Dickens', "A Christmas Carole." O. Henry's, "The Gift of the Magi." & Dylan Thomas', "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

Christmas reminds me of how much I owe others. Beyond the usual suspects, one face rises in my mind—that of Marjorie Daltry Rosenbaum, who died at 92 in October. She was my high school English teacher, my professor at Wesleyan, & life-long mentor. Without her, I wouldn't have become a teacher. Her key lesson—make learning fun. Do the hard work while you're in progress toward the goal. Then the end result becomes a reward. She loved Robert Frost's poetry. When we met or talked, which was never often enough for me, she would recite three or four poems from memory, leading me to a deeper understanding of myself. Margorie was a life force who lives in me & hundreds of other students because she loved us unconditionally.

The Holiday that once seemed to take forever to arrive, now comes with increasing rapidity. This will be our 43rd Christmas at Rose Farm. There is nothing we need or want, other than peace for everyone. Our joy is in giving to others—my sisters, Deb's brothers, our children & grandchildren, our friends. It's unimportant whether you believe in the story of Christ's birth & death. But please, absorb & evidence the message—we are here to bring joy, comfort, & happiness to others. Merry Christmas.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 2 Russell Biledeau
- 4 Fay Fort
- 6 Lois Tsolis
Gloria Sikorsky
- 8 Barbara Boluck
- 10 Janie Hofhauer
Lottie Golet
- 12 David Bascom
- 13 Mary Augustini
Joseph Zeleznicky
- 15 Robert Northam
- 17 Yvonne Strang
Gloria Trotochaud
- 18 Rosalie Augusta
Carol Clulow
Walter Dixon
- 19 Georgianna Costa
- 30 Hollie Cummings

Because of the busy holiday schedule we will combine the December and January celebration and movie and it will be held on **Monday, January 27th** at 1:00

The MOVIE will be "Zorro, the Gay Blade". Starring George Hamilton, Lauren Hutton.

Plot: Zorro's twin brother takes over when Zorro is injured.

Window

On Cable TV, they have a weather channel - 24 hours of weather.

We had something like that when I grew up. We called it a window.

*Joke from Jolly Jokes for Older Folks
by Bob Phillips*

Take The Bus To Lunch

Beginning on Thursday January 9th the center will offer bus transportation to lunch at the senior center on Thursdays. Anyone interested in taking advantage of this service will need to make a reservation by calling the center no later than 12:00 noon the day before.

This will be done weekly on a trial basis and will continue if there is enough interest.

Need a Ride? Hop on the bus!



The bus is now going shopping on TUESDAY. Call for reservations by noon Monday.

The Senior Center sponsors a bus to Mohegan Sun Casino on the first Wednesday of each month.

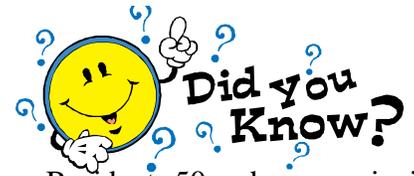
The bus leaves the center at 8:30 and returns about 3^{pm}. Cost is \$5. Sign up sheet on the trip board at the Center.

Bus schedule:

- 1st Tues; Shop-Rite, Glastonbury
East Haddam Food Bank
- 1st Wednesday; Casino
- 2nd Tues; Stop & Shop, Walmart,
Ocean State Job Lot, Saybrook
- 3rd Tues; Shop-Rite, Glastonbury,
East Haddam Food Bank
- 3rd Wed; Red Hat's excursion
- 4th Wed; Cromwell, Walmart, Xpect

The fee schedule will be \$3. for shopping, \$5 for recreational trips.

The medical car fee will remain at \$5. for the present time.



Residents 50 and over are invited to check out the facilities at the East Haddam Senior Center.

The Senior Center exercise room has treadmills, bikes, cardio equipment, and an elliptical trainer.

If you are someone with special needs, there is an application form at the Senior Center & on the town website.



This form will be on file with the Emergency management committee to insure that in a crisis, everyone who has a special situation will be accounted for.

Senior Services Coordinator:

Brad Parker

Clerical/Assitant: Susannah Griffin

Café Manager: Peg Ziobron

Program Coordinator:
Alice Sabo

Trip Coordinator: Alice Sabo

Bus Driver: Ed Gubbins

Medical Car Driver:
Mickey Pear

Noises Newsletter Editor:

Beth W. Schondorf

Photocopy Specialist:

Brad Parker

Newsletter Distrib. Team;

Jennifer Beaumont

Jovita Cozean

Nancy Geysen

Alice Sabo

Telephone; 860 873-5034

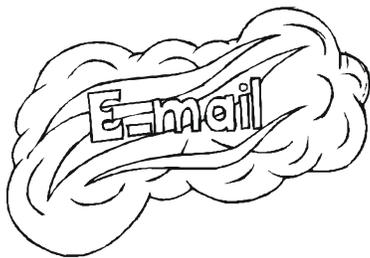
Fax; 860 873-5198

Kitchen; 860 873-5197

Email; Seniors@easthaddam.org

Center Hours

8 am - 3 pm weekdays



We will be glad to email the newsletter to anyone. People who would like an email version of the "NOISES FROM THE CENTER" can email us at seniors@easthaddam.org and you will receive the newsletter via email each month.

Bingo



Bingo will be held this month on **Thursday December 19th**.

You can sign up for lunch and bingo for \$5.00 or just bingo for \$3.00. Please sign up in advance.

Game Day

Game day is back to **winter hours**: 1^{pm} to 3^{pm}.

We have several board games and a poker set.

The billiards room is open when the Center is open.

E H Senior Club

Meetings are held every **2nd Mon** at **1pm**.



Dec 16(this month)

Residents 50 and over are invited to join. The club sponsors the trips, runs fundraisers and hosts the special events at the center. Newcomers and new ideas always welcome.

Phone #'s: Center 860 873-5034,
Suzanne 860 873-9708
Alice 860 873-9217.



Medicare Open Enrollment

The **open enrollment** period for **Medicare** is Oct 15 **thru** Dec 7.

This is the time when you can make changes to your Medicare health plan for the upcoming year.

The center will have counselors available on **Wednesday, Dec 4** from 9:00 to 2:00 to help you make the best choice for coverage to meet your needs.

Please call the center (860 873-5034) to schedule your appointment with a counselor.



The East Haddam Red Hats

The "RED HATS" get together every month for a day trip.

Sometimes they go shopping and to lunch, a museum, or some other place of interest. It is always a day of fun and friendship.

Anyone interested in joining the group should call the Senior Center for information. It is groups like this that make our little community such a nice place to live.

Scooter? Wheelchair?

Do you need a motorized scooter or wheelchair?

Call Brad at the Center - 860 873-5034, to make arrangements



The Senior Center will sponsor a bus to Windham Tech for a holiday lunch on **Thursday, December 12th**.

The bus will leave from the Senior Center at 10:15 a.m.. The cost is \$15.00 for lunch and \$5.00 for the bus. Payment is due in advance and seats are limited. Please sign up at the Center.



Do you like to **knit**? There is now a knitting group that meets at the Center **every Thursday** from 11 to 2. Bring your materials and enjoy the company while you knit. The group can help each other to overcome problems that may arise with different knitting projects

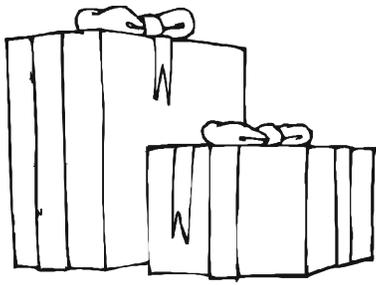


The senior center New Years Eve party will be held at 12:00 noon on December 31st.

The lunch will be a ham dinner with pineapple au jus provided by the senior club and a pot luck of appetizers and desserts will be served.

Entertainment after lunch will be provided by the musical duo "IVORY and GOLD".

The cost of the lunch is \$5.00 per person. People are asked to sign up for the pot luck portion of the lunch and reservations must be made in advance at the center.



DOOR PRIZE

We are now having a monthly DOOR PRIZE at the Senior Center. You sign in everytime you come to the center and at the end of the month one name will be drawn out of a basket and will win a prize.

The October **winner** of the monthly door prize was **Eleanore Miller** . The prize of the month was a \$10.00 gift card to the Wraslin Cats Café .



Senior Day Trip

The Senior Center will sponsor a bus trip to the U C O N N Women's basketball game at Rutgers University on Sunday January 19th. We will have reserved seating for the game which starts at 3 ^{pm}. The bus will leave from the Senior Center at 10:30 ^{am}.

The cost of the trip is \$78.00 per person & includes the bus ride & a ticket to the game. Reservations must be made & payment received before December 30th with checks payable to the East Haddam Senior Club.

Seats are limited & will be given on a first come first served basis. Anyone with questions may call the Senior Center.

There will be a “ Pot Luck “ holiday lunch at the senior center at noon on **Monday, December 9th** .

The Senior Club will provide baked ham. People are asked to bring either an appetizer, a hot dish, salad or a dessert to be shared with others . Students from the middle school chorus will provide entertainment. Everyone is asked to sign up at the Center and to also indicate what they will bring for a “pot-luck” contribution. You are all invited to come and kick off the holiday season and enjoy the company of friends.



Senior Center
15 Great Hillwood Road
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Moodus, CT 06469



ALSO on
New
Year's
Day

