

# NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 2, No 2

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

February 2014

Article by:  
Charlie Farrow

## Valentine's Day

Mom was diagnosed with advanced dementia within months of Dad's death in October, 2000. Moving her to assisted living, I found several dozen scrapbooks she'd kept.

One begins on Valentine's Day, 1992, & ends a year later. The first page is a handmade Valentine to them from my wife, Debby. Red construction paper, white doily, & hand-colored lithograph on one side, a poem on the reverse: **Gentle/ Reminder of/ All that is dear to us; clear as the/Moonstone/ Most easy to see in/ You/ GRAMMY. . .Patient/Abiding/ Partner to/ Angels/ PAPA.**

Most of the photographs are Mom's, taken with an old Brownie that looked like a flat slice of chocolate cake. The arrangement is chronological but haphazard. I spin the book to enjoy the pictures, & find myself going toward the front, rather than the back. Her commentary is terse: "Spring," "Summer Pond," Liz's Birthday Party," "Halloween," "Anne's Home," "Christmas."

Mom loved her family's houses, inside & out—daughter Anne's Victorian in Higganum, daughter Kate's shingle-style in Bethany, our Italianate in Hadlyme, cousin Nancy's antique farmhouse in New Hampshire, & her own 1920's suburban in West Hartford. She photographed them in all seasons, though had an affinity for summer & colors & gardens.

"Did we really look like that?" I think. "Was my hair once greying rather than white?" "Why do most of



**Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road  
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the girls at our daughter Liz's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday party now have families of their own?"

There are many pictures of her husband, Charlie, posing with family & friends, but few of herself. Her mission was to be in the background, doing something for the family that needed to be done. Everywhere they went, Dad pretended to be a statue, the sillier the better, & Mom took the picture. Thus Dad partnered with a lamppost or a clothes' line or a denuded Christmas tree, gazing off into the distance.

My sister Anne is a professional gardener, & pages are devoted to cosmos, dahlias, snapdragons, petunias, marigolds, daisies, & roses she grew with her husband Milton.

Mom was embedded in her West Hartford neighborhood, & there are first day of school or Halloween pictures for all the families with children.

Also making regular appearances are Dad's sisters, Marian & Alice, their husbands, Morris & Bob, & Mom's cousin Janice & her husband in Utica, Mom's birthplace. Retirement for my parents was not foreign travel, but family travel.

There are other things in the scrapbook. Her Anne is a noted writer. At the *Hartford Courant* she produced memorable pieces. These are neatly folded & encased in cellophane. Mom preserved the press releases from Kate's

career as head of development at Quinnipiac. They tell the story of a proud mother.

There are pictures of the home restored by my cousin Nancy in Tamworth, NH. Mom was wary of possessions. She gave back birthday or Christmas presents I gave her. "You spend too much money on me. Split these with your sisters." Why the multiple pictures of Nancy's Jaguar? The photographs are magazine quality. Nan in her wide-board pine kitchen, window tableaux with Shaker boxes & bowls, garden scenes with moon trellises, views out windows toward the Presidential Range, ivy-covered well houses, & Dad sitting with his beloved sister Marian. I break down crying. I haven't spoken to my cousin in decades.

At the end of the scrapbook, Mom culled pictures from her collection. Our daughter Annie is the star. Baby pictures, hair white-blond, as a young child dressed in the frilly, layered, princess look, in line getting her 6<sup>th</sup> grade diploma, looking like Olivia Newton John at NHRHS, & in black & white at the Opera House.

So much has changed. Kate's husband Will died. Anne & Milton divorced. Mom, Dad, & most of their generation are gone. Deb & I no longer pass for early middle age.

The last page is a Marjolein Bastin Valentine's Day card Mom gave Dad in 1993. A large owl leans protectively over a small one. Mom wrote "Charlie" on the big one, "Doris" on the other. "We Belong Together" is the caption. Inside she wrote, "Dearest—We are these two love birds. I cannot tell you how happy I am with you. Our life is complete! Love always, Doris."

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## February 2014

- 2 Lynn Bruse
- 3 Ellie Breinan
- 4 Marguerite Long  
Frances Owens
- 7 Xenia Coulter
- 8 Roy Perkins
- 9 Joan Rajpolt  
Kathleen Azalone
- 10 Charles Diamant
- 11 Al Darrow  
Barbara Michael  
Roger Stube
- 12 Michael Bonito  
Jean Olson
- 13 Bernie Thorpe
- 15 Susan Bilodeau
- 16 Karen Scomeheorn
- 18 Jan Lambert
- 20 Ginnie Peterson
- 21 Martha Tonucci
- 24 Nancy Sanderson
- 25 George Drenga
- 28 Terri Havens
- 29 Alfred Faircloth

## Take The Bus To Lunch

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<sup>pm</sup>. Cost is \$5. Sign up sheet on the trip board at the Center.

### Bus schedule:

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

**LifeLine**

On Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Club meeting a representative from LIFE-LINE will speak about the benefits of the "LIFE-LINE" system, how it works and the cost. Anyone interested in learning about this is invited to come to the senior center that day at 1<sup>pm</sup>.

It is open to the public. Anyone with questions should call the center at 860-873-5034

## Bingo



**Bingo** will be held this month on **Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**Senior Services Coordinator:  
Brad Parker**

Assistant: Susannah Griffin

Café Manager: Peg Ziobron

Program Coordinator &  
Trip Coordinator: Alice Sabo

Bus Driver: Ed Gubbins

Medical Car Driver:  
Mickey Pear

Noises Newsletter Editor:  
Beth W. Schondorf  
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Email; [Seniors@easthaddam.org](mailto:Seniors@easthaddam.org)

**Center Hours**

**8 am - 3 pm weekdays**



Movie for February will be a surprise! Brad's not telling!



## Time to think TAXES...

We know it is still winter, but April 15<sup>th</sup> will sneak up on us! The Senior Center will once again provide state trained tax consultants to assist with both Federal and State tax forms. Please call the Center to sign up for your private consultation.

Appointments can be made for the hours between 9 and 2 for Wednesdays starting February 12<sup>th</sup> and ending Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>.



We will be happy 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](mailto:seniors@easthaddam.org) and you will receive the newsletter via email each month.



## Happy Valentine's Day

The Senior Center will hold a Valentine's Day celebration on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Lunch will be served at noon, entertainment follows, provided by the Nathan Hale Ray High School Jazz Band and members of the Chamber Choir.

The suggested donation for lunch is \$2.00. This is open to the public and people should call the Senior Center [860-873-5034] to make a reservation.

## Come For Lunch And Fun

If you are 60 years old or older, your lunch is waiting for you at the Senior Center Lunch Café.

The menu is published on a monthly basis and is available at many local locations and as an insert in the monthly senior newsletter and on the East Haddam web site. Reservations must be made by noon of the day before you want to come. The meal is valued at about \$8.00 but the suggested donation is \$2.00. What a deal!

Some comments from some of the recent attendees are: "The food and coffee are excellent and the price is right. ", "I enjoy meeting the people and it is my big meal of the day. ", "Some of my favorites are the meat loaf, the turkey dinner and the eye of the round."

A certified dietician prepares the menu, ensuring that the meal meets the dietary needs of the diners. The meals are cooked daily by CW Resources in New Britain and delivered hot to the Senior Center. The menu varies from soup and sandwich to rigatoni & meatballs, lasagna, roast pork, etc. You can check out the menu and come on the days you like.

We are now providing transportation to lunch on Thursdays if you call the center to reserve a ride. It is the mission of the center to increase the numbers of the lunch program. You can call Brad at the center [860-873-5034] to make a reservation and receive a complimentary lunch on your first visit. Everyone loves to eat so come join us!

## Leave the Driving to Ed and Mickey

Do you need a ride to the doctor? Do you need a ride to the E H Food Bank? Do you need a ride to join us for lunch on Thursdays? Would you like to shop at Shop Rite, Wal-Mart, Ocean State Job Lot, and Xpect? If so, call the Senior Center for details(see column 2, page 2). Ed or Mickey will pick you up!

## "Love, Sex & the IRS" ..... It is not what you think!

But it is fun. The Senior Center is sponsoring a bus to the Warner Theatre in Torrington, CT, the venue for a hilarious play about John & Leslie, two out of work musicians rooming together in NYC. To save money, they have been filing joint tax returns as a married couple. However, they are not married.....and the IRS is not amused. \$86.00 per person includes a "Deluxe Coach" bus, the play, and a colossal Sunday Brunch at the Fairview Golf Club. Sunday, March 9. Bus departs from the Senior Center at 10:15 <sup>am</sup> and returns 6:15 <sup>pm</sup>. **Call the Senior Center now.....reservations are needed by February 4<sup>th</sup>!**

## MILE Spring 2014

MILE (Middlesex Institute of Lifelong Education) has completed the calendar for the spring session at Middlesex Community College. The program is for persons 50 & older & is held at the College in Middletown.

The spring schedule includes butterflies to Madam Butterfly, Walt Whitman poetry, a Cuban travelogue, Origins of Freedom of Religion in America, an archeological dig in East Africa, Becoming Who You Are, a talk by President John Adams about his wife Abigail, Quilting, G.Fox in the 50's & others:something for everyone.

Tuition is \$60 per year & entitles you to attend as many programs as you wish. More information & a brochure go to [www.mileonline.org](http://www.mileonline.org) or call 860-343-5863.

Orientation will be held on Thurs, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 in Chapman Hall (with a snow date TBA)



## DOOR PRIZE

We are now having a monthly DOOR PRIZE at the Senior Center. You sign in everytime you come to the center.

The winner of the December door prize was Susan Bilodeau. The prize this month was a \$10.00 gift card to the Grist Mill Market.

## East Haddam to Offer Public Transit Service with 9 Town Transit

East Haddam residents will soon have greater mobility with new access to a regional transit system. Beginning Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, the town of East Haddam will begin a contract with 9 Town Transit to provide general public Dial-A-Ride service throughout the town.

9 Town Transit, operated by the Estuary Transit District, currently provides Dial-A-Ride service throughout Chester, Clinton, Deep River, Essex, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, & Westbrook. Any location within East Haddam & Moodus will now also be included in the new expanded service area.

9 Town Transit will also offer East Haddam residents service to parts of Westchester & Colchester, CT, including Stop & Shop supermarket. In addition, East Haddam residents may travel to the Middletown Stop & Shop supermarket, Middlesex Hospital, Middlesex Community College & the Saybrook Rd area medical offices.

To reserve a trip, customers will call 9 Town Transit at up to two weeks but no less than one day in advance. The fare will be \$3 each way, with seniors age 60 & over eligible to ride at a suggested donation of \$1.50. The hours of service are 6 AM until 6 PM Mon through Fri. The service is open to the general public with no age restrictions. All vehicles are fully accessible with wheelchair lifts & service is available for any trip purpose.

When calling, be ready to provide the address of where you are going along with the date & time of the trip & return trip. If going to work or an appointment, be sure to tell the reservation agent. The agent will give you a half hour pick-up window in which the bus will arrive. Be ready to board the bus at any time during that window.

Although there is no limit to the purpose of the trip, people going to work, school or other regular appointments may set up a subscription. Once booked, a subscription will repeat regularly unless canceled so there is no need to keep calling to book your trip.

Additional information, route maps & schedules are available online at [www.9towntransit.com](http://www.9towntransit.com) or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-554-0551.

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Moodus, CT 06469



## Newport, RI Dinner Train

Step back in time when dining aboard a luxury train was a statement of elegance and privilege. This two hour journey will take you sightseeing along the Narragansett Bay, while you enjoy a full course meal. Come with an appetite, because the Food Network has rated this Dinner Train as one of the Top 3 in the USA. There will even be time for strolling and shopping! \$87.00 per person. RSVP by April 7<sup>th</sup>. **DATE:** Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Bus departs the Center at 8:45<sup>am</sup>; returns 5:30<sup>pm</sup>.

**ALL ABOARD!!**