

NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 2, No 3

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

March 2014

Article by:

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March Memories



Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road
Moodus, CT 06469

My father would be 101 this month. Between 1986 & his death in October 2000, he wrote our daughter Liz dozens of letters, which she gathered for the family as "Letters from Papa."

Papa was an inveterate jokester. "I heard two leaves talking. One said, 'I'm falling for you.' The other, 'When are you leaving?' Why are you turning red? I'm blushing. Take a bough. Let's turn over a new leaf."

Continuing the tree theme. "I like the work of John Greenleaf Whittier & Leaf Erickson. This is beyond belief. It's a relief to know I'll see you soon."

Papa earned his law degree nights at Northeastern, while cutting meat during the day at the local A&P. He believed in education.

"Grammie & I are impressed by your terrific report card, A's in all major subjects. Keep doing your best each day & don't worry about the grades. They will take care of themselves. (Please note that he was not as magnanimous with my report cards.)"

Papa was a terrible artist. That didn't stop him from filling his letters with giraffes, funny bunnies, & banana birds.

"A banana bird walked by my house with bananas instead of ears. When I asked about his ears, he impolitely replied, 'That's for me to know & you to find out.' If you see a banana bird, yell, 'Bob's your uncle!' He will lay a banana-shaped egg in your hand."

He wrote about short-legged peccadillos which walk backward to keep the wind out of their eyes. "They don't care where they're going, just want to know where they've been. They back into streets & get flattened."

Papa loved to recount family

gatherings. "It was great seeing you, your sister, your Momma & Dad at Aunt Anne's place in Haddam. We did have a swell time, didn't we? That little terrier Caesar makes me laugh with his antics. He loves to ride in automobiles & thinks I'm his personal driver."

Nothing escaped his humorous eye. "Our car is being repaired today. The foo-foo ticker doesn't work & the snickerdoodle button has fallen off. Can't drive with those important parts missing. Grammie says the nut behind the wheel is loose. The garage man says the bill will be only \$4,800,642.55."

He reminded Liz of famous family members. "You might travel the world like your Momma's grandmother Frances Carpenter, who recorded her adventures in books. Think of boarding a plane in CT & getting off on a sunny island in the South Seas. If the plane went the wrong way, you'd step off to people in igloos eating walrus blubber."

He used various salutations: "Dear Lisabeth, Dear Princess, Dear Princess Elizabeth, Dear Miss Elizabeth Chapin Farrow of Rose Farm, East Haddam, CT, USA, World, Universe."

Papa was deeply affectionate. "When I visit you, I don't want to leave & find excuses to stay just a little longer. Please build me a small house in the back pasture. Grammie & I would live in it & be near you all the time. Or how about a tent or a wigwam or a burrow or a tree house?"

He encouraged Liz to be herself. "I hope you continue to write about your ideas & observations. Don't worry what others think. Write your own

thoughts, what you see, feel, taste, smell & touch."

Fall was his favorite season. "My mother said, 'Fall makes you wonder what you did with summer's wages.' Growing & harvesting are finished. Winter's coming. When you are grown up, beautiful young lady, remember fall & growing up on the farm."

Papa was self-deprecating. "I don't get many bright ideas these days. That part of my brain has stopped working. Grammie thinks that other parts have also stopped working, but she's too polite to say so."

As years passed, his letters became more philosophical. "We went to a friend's funeral Mass today. He was a wonderful fellow, always doing for others. It is sad to lose a cherished friend. Our lives are held together by those we love. When we suffer loss, the fabric of our lives seems torn beyond repair."

"Odysseus is the perfect hero, clever, brave, strong, destined from the beginning for greatness. I like to remember other heroes, those who quietly overcome great odds, who care for the tired, the hungry, the sick, the poor, & never ask for anything for themselves. The world needs quiet heroes more than ever."

"What an infinite variety the good God provides for us. In spite of all the sadness & sorrow in the world, we are blessed beyond belief in the wonders of nature & the goodness of our lives."

"It's wonderful that you're interested in the church choir. The experience of singing beautiful hymns on special occasions is a special treat."

His last letter is dated just a few months before his death. "I'm sending you a U.S. Olympic pin. If you don't wear it, tuck it somewhere in your room so you'll remember me. Love, always, Papa."



March Birthdays

- 1 Anna Broadus
- 2 John Piontkowski
- 3 Mary Lee Abkemeier
- 4 Maureen Tarbox
- 5 Nadege Viruet
- 8 Elaine Schmittburger
- 9 Meredi Cantrell
- 10 Judi Dawson
- 11 James Czaja
- 15 Jeanne Nacle
- 17 Joe Dawson
- 18 Leighton Phraner
- 19 Patricia Shaw
- 20 Hunna Walenta
- 21 Ann Hinson
Marcia Reifenheiser
- 22 Nancy McHone
- 24 Delphy Irvin
- 27 Shirley Lesick
- 28 Gina Marocco
- 30 Sophie Kalinowski
- 31 Doris Brown

Birthday and a Movie

Is it your birthday this month? If so, come celebrate with us...on us...for free. Our birthday party includes lunch, home-made birthday cake, and a movie.

Birthdays are not meant to be a secret, but, they are meant for surprises. Our surprise every month is the flavor of the cake and the movie selection. This month's birthday party is Monday, March 31st at noon. Please call by Friday, March 28th.



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 and you will receive the newsletter via email each month.



Pancakes are all the better when someone else is doing the cooking! Please join us at the Senior Center on Sunday, March 16th, 8 – 11 am. \$7.00 per person includes scrumptious pancakes, sausage, coffee, & juice. Sponsored by the East Haddam Senior Club. All proceeds will help pay for Senior Center Activities.

Casino Wednesdays

The Senior Center sponsors a bus to Mohegan Sun Casino on the first Wednesday of each month. Cost is \$5. Bus leaves the Center at 8:15 am and returns around 3:00 pm. Please sign up in advance.

Need a Ride?
Hop on the bus!



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

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 is \$3. for shopping, \$5 for recreational trips.
The medical car fee will remain at \$5. for the present time.

Loving Spoonful Snack Bar started on Jan 21st at the First Church Congregational on Town Street and will go **thru March 25, 2014**. We will be providing warm snacks to people that participate in the Food Bank and Fuel Bank programs. The snack bar hours are noon - 6 pm on Tuesdays.

People can eat in or take out. Donations of soups, cookies, crackers, water and monetary donations are all accepted.

Bingo



Bingo will be held this month on **Thursday, March 20th**.

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
- Photocopy Specialist:
Brad Parker
- Newsletter Distrib. Team;**

- Jennifer Beaumont
- Jovita Cozean
- Nancy Geysen
- Alice Sabo
- Loretta O'Mara

- Telephone; 860 873-5034
- Fax; 860 873-5198
- Kitchen; 860 873-5197
- Email; Seniors@easthaddam.org

Center Hours

8 am - 3 pm weekdays



LAST CHANCE for the Bus to Lunch!!

We will offer the Thursday “bus to lunch” at the Senior Center for one more month. To date, we have not had any interest. If there is no interest in the month of March, the bus will be discontinued.

Please give it a try.....the bus is free, the food is good, the cost is only \$2, and the company is delightful!



SNAP/Food Stamps

An Outreach Specialist with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program) will be at the Senior Center on Mon., Mar 10th, 8:30 – 1:00 pm. This program assists with purchase of food items. If you would like information about participating in this program, call the Center for details and to sign up for an individual consultation. Must be a resident of Connecticut.



TAX Time in the USA!

April 15th is a mere 6 weeks away! Come to the Senior Center for federally trained tax consultants to assist you with both the Federal and State tax forms.

Call the Center to sign up for a private consultation. The remaining dates are Wednesdays: March 5th, March 19th and April 2nd.



East Haddam Senior Center Trips

The East Haddam Senior Center has been very busy, planning trips that appeal to those who like to eat, laugh, tour, explore, and learn. If one of our adventures sparks your interest, please call the Senior Center for details. 860-873-5034. All of our trips are open to the public.

•**Love, Sex, and the IRS** If you like plays, you will love this very funny story 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. The IRS is not amused.....but, you will be! Warner Theatre in Torrington, CT. Luncheon Buffet at the Fairview Golf Club. **Sunday, March 9th**

•**Newport, RI Dinner Train** Step back in time when dining aboard a luxury train was a statement of elegance and privilege. A 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 be time for strolling & shopping. **Thursday, April 17th.**

•**West Point Museum and Academy** History never gets old. Start the day at the museum, viewing the weapons, uniforms, & memorabilia of soldiers as well as the personal belongings of Washington, Eisenhower, Patton, Hitler and Napoleon. Luncheon Buffet at Hotel Thayer. End the day with a guided tour of the Cadet Chapel, Trophy Point, Battle Monument & the Plain. **Wed., May 21st**

•**1000 Islands, Alexandria Bay, NY** Enjoy two nights at Riveredge Resort, overlooking the Lawrence Seaway. A boat tour will include the historic and scenic wonders in both the American and Canadian sections of the 1000 Islands. Tours will include Boldt Castle, Thousand Islands Winery, and the Antique Boat Museum. **Monday, June 2nd-4th.**



Nothing Says Spring Like Daffodils!

The Senior Center is once again hosting the *Daffodil Festival*. Please join us for an afternoon of food and fun to celebrate spring and to forget about this brutally cold and snowy winter!

T-Bone, A.K.A. Tom Stankus, will entertain after lunch. He comes with a warning: T-Bone is a pied piper of sorts. His story-telling and his sense of humor will keep you laughing. The music selections from the 1930s through the 1970s will entice you to sing, clap, sway, and dance the time away!

We have invited our neighboring Senior Centers: Colchester, East Hampton and Haddam. **Thursday, April 24th, 12 noon. \$5.00 per person.**

Please call by noon the day before to sign up.



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 January door prize was Caroline Armstrong. The prize was a \$10.00 gift card to the MP Impressions.

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!



East Haddam Offers Public Transit Service with 9 Town Transit

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 Road 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.

Additional information, route maps & schedules are available online at www.9towntransit.com or by calling 9 Town Transit at 860-554-0551.



St. Patrick's Day

Lunch/Entertainment

Join us for lunch on St. Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17th, noon time, at the Senior Center. You do not have to be green or Irish.....just arrive with an appetite. Entertainment will be provided by *The Humble Bees*, five very accomplished and energetic musicians from central Connecticut. Their sound is unique, blending the music of three different ukuleles, a guitar, a mini-bass, and, occasionally, a 100 year old saw! The audience is definitely part of the show.....song sheets are provided to encourage all to sing-a-long.

Please sign up/call by noon, Friday, March 14.

Cost: \$5.00 per person.

Senior Center
15 Great Hillwood Rd
P.O. Box 623
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