

NOISES FROM THE CENTER

Vol. 3, No 11

What's happenin' at the Senior Center

November 2014

Article by Charlie Farrow

Sophia Blaschik—It's All True

I was born April 29, 1922, at home on Lower Neptune Avenue, in a property owned by the twine mill. My parents, Stanley and Anna, were Polish immigrants and didn't speak English. They, along with my seven brothers and sisters, all worked at one point in either the Neptune or Brownell Mill.

My siblings left school at 13 to work. The youngest, I was urged to stay in school and graduated from NHRHS in 1941.

Our family had cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, and a huge garden. Potatoes and sauerkraut were in the cellar, a pig hung in the barn. The grinder for making kielbasa was a kitchen fixture. Mom made chicken soup every Sunday. One of my jobs was to walk the milk cow home from the neighborhood pasture, where the exterminator is now. I didn't want my friends to see me walking the cow, so I'd pay someone a nickel and I'd walk behind.

I worked part-time at 13, doing dishes at the Elk Inn, now the Children's Discovery Center. By 15 I was at Bill's Soda Shop in the center. My mother took every penny I earned until I was 21.

I remember all my teachers, from elementary school to high school and how many of the single women married the eligible bachelors in town. Mr. Fisher was the high school principal. My friends then were Helen Hoffman, Dave Klar, Sidney Krodroza, who was my dance partner, and Helen Wlodarczyk, who lived across the street and was my best friend. In the end I made her funeral plans from a



*Senior Center, 15 Great Hillwood Road
Moodus, CT 06469*

Middlesex Hospital bed where I was recovering from surgery. Joe Biega said it was a first for him. Helen left me her house.

After high school graduation, I was a bookkeeper at Williams Chevrolet, where the Carriage Trade is now. New cars were \$800. In 1942 I worked at the Liberty Mutual Insurance in Hartford, riding with Joe Bower and Morris Sipples. I finished the war years at Sight Light in Deep River, now Tri-Town Plastics. I clerked for a while at Andover Kent in Middletown's Remington Rand building.

This is crazy. I loved to dance and hang out with my girlfriends. I got engaged to a soldier from Deep River. My mother was happy because he was Polish, but I mailed back the ring because I felt he wasn't treating me right. I was married to my first husband, Bill O'Brien, from 1948-1965. We had a son, Tommy. Tommy and his wife Charlene live in East Hampton and are really good to me.

I married Phil Blaschik, Stanley's brother, in 1966. They were builders and had done work on this house. Phil was building a big house out on Millington Green. I wondered about it and he invited me for a tour. My girlfriend told me he was interested in me but was shy about asking. So we went to a Legion dance together and he later asked me to marry him. He died in 1974. I've been a widow for 40 years.



I'd always done people's hair for fun and had gotten lots of compliments. I decided to go to hair dressing school in Hartford in 1964. While I completed my training in East Hampton, the owner said there was a need for a beauty parlor in Moodus. It was a career that made sense with my family life, so I added on to my Leesville Rd. home and opened Sophie's Beauty Salon in 1965. I was closed Sunday, open til 9:30 pm on Thursday. Perms were \$30, but my hands suffered. A wash and set was my favorite. People enjoyed my work, and I didn't want to disappoint them. I closed in 2005. Mary Halish is probably my last living customer.

Some of the highlights of my 92 years are all the line dancing I did, the dancing to Tommy Dorsey, teaching dance in different locations, and my relationship with Tommy and Charlene, who've taken me on lots of cruises.

I used to travel with my girlfriends. In NYC hotels we'd act like big shots. Today we'd never get away with how we behaved. I was very outspoken.

I've recently come through a hip replacement. Tommy and Charlene helped and I did what I was told. The doctor said I'm a poster child for the operation. I told him I'd had 4 major surgeries before. Knock on wood.

Laugh. Don't be afraid of work. Stay active. I crochet and knit for the Senior Center Christmas Fair, read, go to bed early and get up early. Get your work done in the morning and try new recipes.

I like the Senior Center because lunch there breaks up the day and I don't have to cook. Of course, I'm always looking for a chance to help others.



November

- 2 Cynthia DiNino
- 3 Jim Matthews

- 6 Marilyn Currier
- Nora Mularski
- Carolyn Perkins

- 7 Robin Gilmartin
- Jo Golec

- 10 Susan Downs
- 11 Bud Gaudio
- Kathy Dill
- 12 Peg Darrow
- 13 Eleanore Miller

- 15 Jocelyn Prishwalko
- Marjorie Kagan

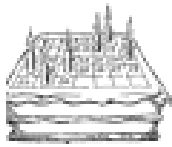
- 17 Christine Johnson
- Walter Golec

- 18 Dot Simone
- 19 Margaret Blake
- 20 Judith Lahey
- 21 Cecilia Golub
- 23 Carol Behilo

- 24 William Guinness
- John Latronica, Sr
- Sally Hungerford

- 25 Thomas Hanlon
- John Pagnani
- Jean Favreau

- 26 Maureen Hartzell
- 29 Emily Varkala



AARP Driver Safety

Fall is here and snow is not far away. What can you do to be more prepared for the roadways this winter? Is there a comprehensive checklist for vehicle maintenance? Are there any "best practices" you should know to be safer on the road? For the answers to these questions and many more, please consider taking an AARP Driver Safety class at the Senior Center on **Thursday November 20th, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm.** Drivers 60 and older completing the course may qualify for a discount on their auto insurance. Please sign up at the Senior Center. The cost for the class is \$15.00 for AARP members and \$20.00 for non-members



Dancing Fever

We are having such a good time that Mimi (Perotti) is teaching two more line dancing classes: **Thursday, November 13, 10:15 am and Monday, November 17, 1:00 pm.** Come on down! If dancing isn't your thing, come on in and watch! Road trip to the Cadillac Ranch is scheduled for Sunday, November 23.



Shopping Schedule

Fee: \$3.00. If desired, the bus will stop at the East Haddam Food Bank.

NOTE: The Center will be closed Tuesday, November 11th so shopping is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th.

Wednesday, November 12:

Glastonbury: ShopRite

Tuesday, November 25:

Cromwell: Walmart, XPECT, Aldi



The winner for October is Rita Fiala: \$10.00 Gift Certificate to the Moodus *Hilltop BBQ Restaurant.*

Summer may be history, but BBQ is yummy year round!

BINGO Alert



Please note: November BINGO is on **Thursday, the 13th** not the 20th. The usual time: 1:00 pm. Call by noon the day before if you would like lunch prior to BINGO.

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Center Hours

8 am - 3 pm weekdays

Birthday Quote for the month:

"You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the cake."

Bob Hope.

This month's birthday party is

Monday, November 24, 1:00 pm.

THANKS,
FRIENDS!

October Donations

Hildie Aitkens: condiments
Linda Barone: yarn
Barbara Boluck: air fresheners
Suzanne Bostelman: books,
coffee, juice, potatoes
Doris Brown: cider, coffee
Jean Burdette: books
Sherrie Crompton: coffee,
sweetner
Skip Dixon: puzzles
Nancy Geysen: coffee
Sam Guy: copy paper
Alice Kostoss: hand knitted hats,
slippers, etc.
Audrey Martin: copy paper, candy
Pat/Jim O'Brien: coffee,
copy paper
Carol/Dick Parker: mums,
quilting materials
Dot Parker: pumpkins, stalks
Louise Pear: coffee
Joanne Rocznik: books, supplies
Alice Sabo: office supplies
Phil Snow: coffee
Carol Thody: puzzles
Louise Vanhaverbeke:
cash donation

Berryhill Farm Stand: pumpkins,
stalks

Jansky Rubbish Removal:
since 1973!

The BellTones are Coming Back!

But, this time, they will teach us how to do what they do: hand chime and sing. Their repertoire includes show tunes, classical hits, and everything in-between. Join us on **Wednesday, November 5, 1:00 pm.**



Relax •
Rejuvenate •
Restore

Massage Therapy with Cora will be on **Wednesday, Nov. 19: 9:30 – 11:30 am & 1:00 – 2:00 pm.** Appointments will be scheduled for 30 minute and 15 minute sessions.

Fees based on sliding scale of \$12 - \$25. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Call to sign up.



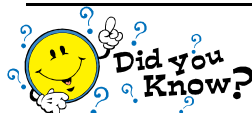
Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment Period for Medicare is October 15 – December 4. During this time period, and only during this time period, those who are currently enrolled in Medicare may make changes to their plans. The Senior Center will have counselors available to help you decide which plan best suits your needs. These sessions will be from **9 am – 2 pm: Wednesday, November 12th; Wednesday, December 3rd.**

You must sign up in advance for your private consultation. This service is provided free of charge.

Lunch at Windham Tech

The Culinary Arts Program at Windham Technical High School in Willimantic has super-fantastic student-chefs who operate the *Uncommon Kitchen*. The Center has made reservations for **Thursday, November 20th.** The menu will be a “turkey dinner with all the fixings”. Sign-up & pay by November 14. Bus departs 10:15 am. Bus: \$5.00. Lunch: \$12.00



That the 1958 Hale-Ray Soccer Team was undefeated and were called “The Mud & Glorv Boys”?

UPcoming EVENTS

Please sign up for all events!

Stop in or call.

BellTones: Wed, Nov 5
Club Meeting: Mon, Nov 10
Medicare Open Enrollment:
Wed, Nov 12
Line Dancing: Thurs, Nov 13
BINGO: Thurs, Nov 13
Fuel Assistance Sign-up:
Mon, Nov 17
Line Dancing: Mon, Nov 17
Pot Luck Dinner: Mon, Nov 17
SNAP Sign-up: Tues, Nov 18
Massage: Wed, Nov 19:
Call for appointment
Thanksgiving Lunch:
Wed, Nov 19. Call us.
AARP Driver Safety:
Thurs, Nov 20
Windham Tech Luncheon:
Thurs, Nov 20
Craft, Tag, Bake Sale:
Sat, Nov 22
Birthday & Movie: Mon, Nov 24
Medicare Open Enrollment:
Wed, Dec 3
Holiday Pot Luck Lunch:
Mon, Dec 8
Special Christmas Lunch:
Wed, Dec 17
BINGO: Thurs, Dec 18
Birthday & Movie: Mon, Dec 29
New Year's Luncheon:
Wed, Dec 31

Fall



There is nothing better than home-cooked food! Join us for our Fall Pot Luck Dinner: **Monday, November 17, 6:00 pm.**

Open to all. Please call to sign-up and to let us know what you will bring.

November Fair

The Senior Center will be sponsoring a Bake, Craft & White Elephant Sale on **Saturday, November 22nd, 9^{am} – 2^{pm}**. We welcome donations for the Bake Sale and good, usable items for the White Elephant Sale (no large items, computers, or appliances). Please bring any items you wish to donate to the Senior Center on Thursday, November 20th and Friday, November 21st. Tables will be available for rent (\$10.00) for crafters who wish to participate. Call to reserve your space.

As part of this event, we will also have a Christmas Tea Cup Auction. If you wish to donate an item for the auction, please drop it off at the Center by Friday, November 14th. Popular auction items are baskets of snacks, theme baskets, handmade goods, bird houses, bird food, jewelry, Christmas décor, and lottery tickets. All ideas are welcome! The auction will begin on Saturday, November 22nd and continue until December 8th; the drawing will be held at our Christmas Party on Monday, December 8th. Questions may be referred to Alice Sabo, Chairwoman, at 860-873-9217. Or, call Susannah at the Senior Center: 860-873-5034.

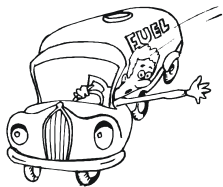


SNAP/ Food Stamps

An Outreach Specialist with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program) will be at the Senior Center on **Tuesday, November 18 at 10:00^{am}**. This program assists individuals and families with financial assistance to purchase food.

If you are interested in information about participating in this program, call the Senior Center for details (documentation that will be needed) and to sign up for an individual consultation. Must be a resident of Connecticut.

Energy Assistance Sign-up



November is not too early to apply for energy assistance. At this time of year, decisions are typically made within a few weeks. If you wait until winter is upon us, the process can take as long as six weeks. The Center is hosting a sign-up day: **Monday, November 17, 9:00 – 12 noon**. Call to set up an appointment and to discuss what documentation will be needed.

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



November 11

November 27 & 28

