

friendsnews

Fall/Winter 2023



Marsha (left) & Diane (right)

Dear Friends and Family,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Co-President with Diane Bosch and to work with Wendy and her caring staff at the WCSA. (It takes two of us to replace Jack Klinge who was president for a total of 16 years!)

Since joining the WCSA fifteen years ago, I have seen an increase in the number of active participants as well as an increase in the wide range of classes, activities, lectures and concerts offered. Something for everyone! It is a happy place to spend time and meet new interesting people...a true home away from home.

The Friends have planned an exciting and entertaining winter and spring season of Friday and Sunday programs and concerts following a successful fall season. Some of the highlights this fall were high tea with Maria Callas, Westport's talented Suzanne Sheridan, and the outstanding Gramercy Brass Orchestra of NY.

Thank you for your continued and future generosity in helping our seniors. Best wishes to you and your family for a happy holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Marsha Darmory
Co-President

Dear Westport Seniors,

I am proud to be representing you as Co-President of the Friends Board of the WCSA with Marsha Darmory. I quickly realized what a special place the Center is when I joined five years ago after retiring from the Westport Public Schools where I had enjoyed a long career as a school nurse.

Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, the US Surgeon General, recently declared that "we have become a lonely nation" and that "we must strengthen our social infrastructure" in a recent op-ed article in the New York Times. Working with Wendy Petty and the staff of the WCSA, the Friends Board hopes to strengthen the social infrastructure of Westport seniors by providing programs and opportunities for social interaction. I hope you will consider supporting our mission with a financial donation using the enclosed envelope or online at the Friends website at www.wscfriends.org.

I look forward to seeing you at the Friends' events at the Center and wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Diane Bosch
Co-President



*Front Row – Judy Hardy; Sue Kane, Secretary; Marsha Darmory, Co-President; Diane Bosch, Co-President; Molly Alger, Treasurer; Betty Lou Cummings
Back Row - Wendy Petty, Ex-Officio; Kristina Stephano; Frances Thomas; Joe Nixon; Janette Kinnally; Jack Klinge; Sara Valentine; Virginia Ferrari
Absent – Karen Klein*



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Letter from Wendy

Dear Friends,

As we head into the holiday season, I continue to be inspired by all the wonderful people I've met at the Westport Center for Senior Activities (WCSA). From participants to volunteers and instructors, Westport is fortunate to have such a fantastic group of people who enjoy serving the senior community as much as the staff at WCSA does.

We are incredibly thankful to the Friends of the Senior Center, who put in endless hours to support me, my team, and the senior community. Past president Jack Klinge, current co-presidents Diane Bosch and Marsha Darmory, and the dedicated past and present Friends' Board have been instrumental in boosting WCSA's programming throughout the year. Many may not know the tremendous amount of time and energy that goes into their fundraising efforts and the programs those funds enable. Behind the scenes, the Friends actively pursue imaginative programs, produce weekend events, and provide Senior Center enhancements for all to enjoy! Thank you, Friends!

The WCSA is a vibrant and active hub for seniors, and participation continues to grow as we encourage lifelong learning and personal connections among participants.

We strive to be a warm and welcoming place for seniors to gather, contribute, and learn. If you are unfamiliar with the Center or have a programming idea, please schedule a visit to meet the team and get a tour.

For further information about the Center's programs and activities, please call (203) 341-5099 or email me at wpetty@westportct.gov.

We wish you and your families health, happiness, and friendship this holiday season.

I appreciate your support!

Wendy Petty, Director
Westport Center for Senior Activities



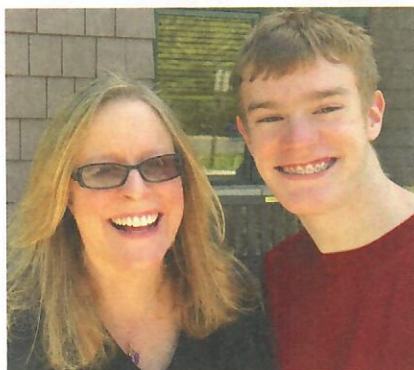
Human Services



WCSA Team

Family Ties

Do you know the individual family ties within the WCSA?



Janette & son, Mikhail

Janette Kinnally volunteers as the newest Board member of the Friends of the WCSA. Her son, Mikhail, can be found volunteering afternoons helping seniors with technology issues on their computers, iPads, and phones.

Janette shares her WCSA experiences:

I grew up in Westport and my family and friends had attended WCSA events in the past. A few years ago, I contacted WCSA because they had a caregiver's support group. I was looking for support and resources because my mom, who moved in with us, had dementia. While a part of the group, I contacted the Center to ask if they had a volunteer opportunity for my son and myself to provide tech support for seniors. I thought this was a great way to give back to the community and spend time with my son helping others. When my mom passed away, the staff and some of the members reached out to me and my family. I have become good friends with some of them and love the WCSA staff. When I found out the Friends Board had a need for website/social media assistance, I applied to become a Board member because I felt I could help in a more significant way. I am honored to be the most recently elected Board member. I look forward to continuing to deepen my connections with many seniors in this amazing community.

Meet you for lunch at the WCSA? You can find Gloria Lau and her son, Chris, serving lunch or helping in the kitchen. Gloria is also busy taking classes and volunteering at many of the Center's events. She states: "Seniors are finding friendships through meaningful relationships. The Center has become a home away from home for many."



Gloria & son, Chris



Jenny & mom, Nobuyo

One of the first smiling faces you see when you enter the front door is that of Jenny Townsend who started as a volunteer delivering meals six years ago and is now a member of the team. You may know her mom, Nobuyo (Nobu) Cho, from Tai Chi, Mindfulness, Sing-Along, and other classes. Nobu moved to Connecticut last year to be close to Jenny and family. "The Center is a big part of my life now. Participating in classes with like-minded people is nice and gives me good energy," states Nobu.

Recent Happenings



Volunteer Appreciation Reception



Gramercy Brass Orchestra of NY



Lobster & Clam Bake



Tea Party Celebrating Maria Callas



National Ice Cream Day Celebration



Heather Hardy with mother, Judy



Suzanne Sheridan



Friendship Through Fitness

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 2 PM

Holiday Concert with Chris Coogan

Sponsored by Westport Rotary Club

For over twenty years, Chris Coogan has been on the musical scene playing straight-ahead jazz, fusion jazz and boogie-woogie. The NY Times has called him a masterful pianist. He and his musical ensemble return to the WCSA for our annual holiday show. So come, listen and sing along to those classic American songs for which Chris is famous. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 1 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 AT 2 PM

The Fairfield Counts

Fairfield County's "The Fairfield Counts" is back to perform for us again. The 17-piece ensemble has a big band sound and plays 1940's swing, pop, classic, dance and jazz from Dorsey, Miller, Ellington and Goodman plus the American Song Book. A light lunch will be served. Doors open at 1 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 2 PM

Annual Super Bowl Tailgate Party

At the popular Friends Super Bowl tailgate party, we will be honoring members of the Staples High School athletic teams and their coaches. The Staples and PAL cheerleaders will be on hand to lead the cheering. We will present our annual "Service to Seniors" award to a deserving Westport citizen. Tailgate foods will be served along with beverages and a Super Bowl cake. Doors open at 1 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.

SUPER BOWL LVIII



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT 2 PM

Jodi Keogan

Our annual pizza party will feature Jodi Keogan who has played from Naples, Florida to Naples, Italy. Her music is elegant and lively, ranging from Johnny Mercer to Puccini and including Cole Porter, American Song Book, light opera, Broadway, and classics. Jodi will be accompanied by pianist and trained singer David Harris. Doors open at 1 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 AT 2 PM

Frank Mastrone's Two Broadway Tenors & A Diva

Frank Mastrone and friends dazzle, delight and duel with a program of Broadway favorites plus a splash of American Songbook and a dash of opera and pop for good measure! Frank has appeared on Broadway in The Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, Cats, Big The Musical, Jekyll and Hyde and Saturday Night Fever in addition to numerous off-Broadway and Carnegie Hall appearances. Light refreshments will be served. Doors open at 1 pm and the show starts at 2 pm.



CHECK FOR ADDITIONAL UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR WEEKLY ONLINE WCSA NEWSLETTER. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE EMAIL LIST, PLEASE CALL THE SENIOR CENTER AT (203) 341-5099. YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER FOR ALL OUR EVENTS. REGISTRATION FOR THE ABOVE EVENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

Donors

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Rhona Lieberson
Ann Lloyd
Eleanor and Richard Lowenstein
Tom Lowrie
Ina Lozyniak
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 Eric Bosch
 Virginia Ferrari
 Finesse Nail and Spa
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 Golden Pizza
 Gold's Delicatessen
 Gray Goose
 Greens Farms Spirit Shop
 Ted Horowitz
 Jr's Deli and Grille
 Julian's
 Karen Kleine
 Patty Kondub
 Longshore Golf Course
 Nylen Gallery - Picture This
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 Rizzuto's
 Romanacci
 Rye Ridge Westport
 Saugatuck Sweets
 Splash Car Wash
 Stop & Shop
 Tutti's Ristorante
 Westfair Fish and Chips

SPOTLIGHT

FRIENDS RECEIVE TWO GENEROUS GRANTS



*Front Row –
 Diane Bosch;
 Marsha Darmory
 Back Row –
 Harry Carey; Wendy Petty;
 Jonathan Steinberg,
 Westport RTM*

*Jack Klinge
 receiving the grant.*

Two major grants designed to support our programs were received recently from Westport Rotary and corporate giant AT&T.

Westport Rotary, which funded our holiday music concert last year, generously gave the Friends another \$3,000 which will be used to showcase Chris Coogan once again this December. The Friends are delighted to name Westport Rotary as the ongoing official sponsor of the annual holiday music concert.

The Friends received a grant of \$10,000 from AT&T, who in the past has given several grants to support our activities including building the performance stage. This most recent grant will be used to purchase iPads for our instructional classes. Director Wendy Petty expects this program to be in operation by January 2024 and to be of practical value for seniors at all skill levels.

Meet our Lunch Crew



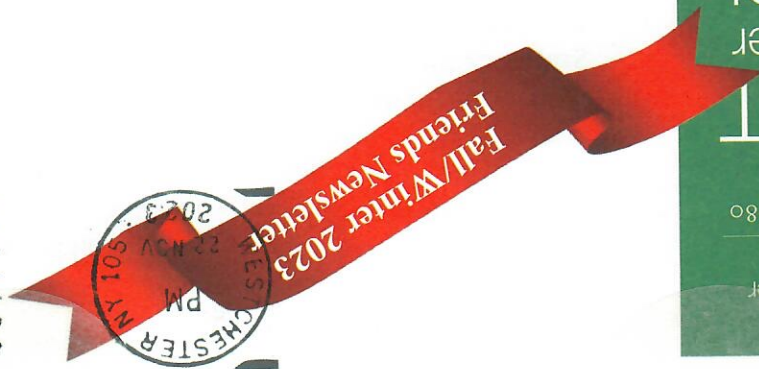
Luis Angel Atamiz San Chaz | Whether you call Luis a chef or a culinary artist, the man who prepares our Senior Center lunches is deeply appreciated by our staff and lunchtime diners. Luis says he enjoys preparing meals for the lunchtime diners at the Senior Center, and that he also appreciates the camaraderie he has with his fellow kitchen staffers and the many Senior Center volunteers. And remember, if you enjoy the way your lunches at the Senior Center are prepared, it's Luis you must thank!

Rick McVay | Rick is proud of the delicious meals his kitchen produces and he enjoys his role as a dishwasher and being part of the team that keeps the kitchen humming. Quick to smile, Rick also says that "the Senior Center is a great place to be!" Rick is retired from his work as a manager and cautions that managing others is not easy. But at the Senior Center, he enjoys bantering with his co-workers and the many volunteers who have come to know Rick and his warm and friendly manner.



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