Chamber Education Foundation, 10 Years Later

Over the past 10 years, you’ve heard mention of the Chamber’s Education Foundation. Our President & CEO, JoAnn Ryan, often refers to the Foundation in her news articles and while speaking at events. If you were asked to explain what the Foundation is, would you be able to? Let’s take a few moments and we’ll fill you in.

First, with the nitty-gritty: The Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation, Inc. was officially incorporated in December 2006 and received its IRS 501(c) (3) designation in August 2007. It was organized exclusively for educational purposes and is responsible for conducting and promoting educational opportunities for the residents, businesses and other entities throughout Northwest Connecticut. Pretty impressive, right?

We’ve spent the last 10 years conducting a wide variety of programs through the Foundation and we have big plans for 2017 and beyond.

Remember the bears? And the trains? You could see them throughout Northwest Connecticut, and they were so very beautiful! The Chamber’s Education Foundation was a partner in A Bear Affair, Bearbelieve It Or Not and All Aboard Litchfield County. The pieces of art were either purchased by sponsors or auctioned off and can still be found being well fed & oiled by their new owners.

Do you recall Skee’s Diner? While the grand plans for a very unique Welcome & Information Center did not come to fruition, we are pleased to know that piece of Torrington history is in the caring hands of the Torrington Historic Preservation Trust. There are also hundreds of wonderful cook books that were produced as a fundraiser for the project.

Through the Foundation, the Chamber presented the Young Entrepreneurs Academy for three years teaching 37 middle & high school students to start actual businesses.

The Chamber’s Read Aloud Program, which has been in existence for over 25 years, has books purchased for elementary school classrooms throughout Northwest Connecticut through a grant received by the Education Foundation.

Leadership Northwest group projects have raised over $64,500 that has been donated to area non-profit organizations. The Foundation was instrumental in instituting the bi-annual Survey of Businesses in partnership with CBI/CT and has presented career fairs and a Technology Day to high school students.

Continued on page 12.

Remembering Former Chamber President David Battistoni

David E. Battistoni, who served as President of Northwest Connecticut’s Chamber of Commerce from 1997 to 2002, passed away on Monday, June 19, 2017.

Dave was a proud Marine, having served during the Vietnam War. He was the Assessor and Town Manager of Winsted for 15 years and Town Manager of Windsor, VT prior to joining the Chamber.

Under Dave’s leadership, the Chamber formed an affiliation with the Salisbury Chamber of Commerce. The Northwest CT Chamber celebrated its 100th Anniversary during his tenure with an unforgettable gala at Thunder Ridge Farm in Litchfield. While Chamber President, David also served as president of the Connecticut Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives and was a member of the Torrington -Winsted Rotary, the board of LARC and the board of the Warner Theatre.

Following Chamber life, he became Town Manager in Barre, MA and retired in 2012. Dave is survived by his wife, Attorney Maureen Donahue, daughter Lois, sons Paul and Daniel, sisters Ann and Marie, step-daughters Sarah and Meghan, grandchildren Brandon, Abigail, Jake, Dylan and Caleb, as well as other family, many life-long friends, Marine buddies and his faithful golden retriever, Marni.

The Chamber family is grateful for Dave’s service to our organization and will fondly remember him.
WOW! What a June it was! Take a look on page three of this newsletter to see all the was accomplished at the Chamber during that last month. I must say, it was jammed-packed with excellent business opportunities for our members.

While the summer months do quiet down, we are certainly not stopping our work and there are some exciting new member benefits for you to take advantage of. Check out page five to learn what we’ve got planned. We all have to stay sharp and continue to hone our business skills. Take the time to make some of our programs and events over the next couple of months. You’ll be glad you did!

Recently, there have been some changes in the Chamber’s staffing. We bid farewell to our Student Success interns from Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Sara Balsewicz, Lisselot Rodriguez and Jared Tuers were with us over the past few months assisting in the office and at events. We thank them for their service and wish them well. Thank you to the College for offering this valuable service to businesses.

We are happy to have Julissa Martinez, a student at Eastern Connecticut State University, as an intern in the office through the end of July. Julissa first came to us as a high school freshman through a program run by the Torrington Area Youth Service Bureau. She will be helping at the office, attending events, reaching out to members to build our member discount program and participating in the Working Cities Challenge planning. That’s a full plate, but she’s more than capable!

In addition, the Chamber has hired a new Membership Director! Philip E. Worley, past president of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, has joined us part time to recruit new members and build relationships with businesses who may not be aware of all the Chamber has to offer.

Finally, the Chamber was recently awarded the contract to run the One-Stop Operations for the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board. Effective July 1st, Pamela LaRosa joined our staff as Director of One-Stop Workforce Operations. In this position, Pam will work with the organizations and agencies that provide a full range of assistance to job seekers. She will be covering all of western Connecticut in her role. Watch for more information on the One-Stop Workforce Operations in future columns.

On a separate note, you may have seen on Facebook that I have officially begun my campaign to go “Over the Edge” of Torrington Towers in September. I have set a fundraising goal of $2,000 to benefit three outstanding organizations, Prime Time House, NW CT Arts Council & our NW CT Chamber Education Foundation. I humbly ask that you consider making a donation towards this goal. Any amount would be greatly appreciated…and don’t forget to come and see me go “Over the Edge”!

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

ARBONNE INTERNATIONAL
Health & Wellness
Cindy Bensley
1116 Bullet Hill Road • Southbury
917-817-3329 • http://cindybensley.arbonne.com

HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH
Church
Pastor Martin Shott
1440 Litchfield Turnpike • New Hartford
860-482-6388

LIME ROCK PARK
Recreational Activities
Roxanne Beltz
47 Lime Rock Road • Lakeville
860-435-5000 • limerock.com

MANOR HOUSE INN
Accommodations
Kristen & Adam Perelman
69 Maple Avenue • Norfolk
201-218-1763 • manorhouse-norfolk.com

POOCH PALACE RESORT
Dog Grooming & Boarding
Charlene Martel
332 Norfolk Road • East Canaan
860-453-4133 • poochpalace.com

SERVPRO OF SOUTHBURY/TORRINGTON
Emergency Cleanup & Restoration
Greg Geaski
232 Amity Road • Woodbridge
203-267-6262
Leadership Northwest

The Class of 2017 graduated on June 21st at a dinner ceremony held at The Tavern Off the Green in Litchfield. The evening’s master of ceremonies was co-chair of Leadership Northwest Cindy Donaldson, Red Barn Consulting. The keynote speaker was Leadership Northwest graduate, Lance Leifert, CEO of Conquest. Lance talked about his experience in Leadership Northwest and how it shaped his career.

Michael Sweeney, Torrington Savings Bank, was selected by his classmates to give the commencement address. Michael thanked his employer and other employers who send their staff to the program and talked about how much he learned about himself throughout the year. Michael also had each member of this year’s class give a few words about what they learned about themselves.

Every year, the Leadership class is split up into teams to complete a group project that involves aspects of Leadership and that will be sustainable for years to come. This year’s class had 3 teams and they each presented the outcomes from their projects at graduation.

Team 1’s project was Pals for PALS and the team members were Michele Alicky, Pelletier Mechanical Services; Carolyn Conboy, Litchfield Bancorp; Kevin Kijanka, Arconic Power & Propulsion; and Regina Melaragno, Torrington Savings Bank. The group worked with the students in Torrington’s PAL program to develop a “Good Deeds Journal” where the students chronicled good deeds they performed. At the end of one month, the students were invited to a party to celebrate their good deeds and were given a reward card featuring free items from local businesses.

Team 2’s project was a Volunteer Placement Fair and the team members were Lauren Brignolo, Collinsville Savings Society; Shalyn Sheldon, McCall Center for Behavioral Health; Michael Sweeney, Torrington Savings Bank; Stacey Tibbals, Northwest Community Bank; and Sawyer Thornton, Sharon Health Care Center. The Volunteer Placement Fair took place at Torrington High School on April 20th. Local non-profits exhibited at the fair and students from Torrington, Oliver Wolcott Tech and Gilbert attended the event and were able to sign up that day to volunteer at the different agencies.

Team’s 3 project was the Mad River Market Membership Drive & Info Session and the team members were Chirag Burman, BD; Alicia DeLibro Landy, Arconic Power & Propulsion; Nadia Karouta, CT Mutual Holding Company; and Jane Williams, Northwestern CT Community College. With the announcement of the potential sale of the IGA in Winsted to a healthcare conglomerate, the need for a grocery store in Winsted is urgent. A group has been formed, called the Mad River Market, whose intent is to create a Food Co-op, a unique type of grocery store business model with all “members” being “owners”. In order to establish a Food Co-op, a membership drive was needed to gain initial members to provide the startup capital. The Leadership team was in charge of creating the marketing and membership drive aspects for the Food Co-op through a partnership with Northwestern CT Community College. The group held a kick off membership drive/info session to gain interest.

After the group presentations, the class was awarded stars and a certificate of completion. Recruitment for next year’s Leadership class will begin in July. If you’re interested in sending an employee to the Leadership class of 2018, please contact Lauren@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

Manufacturers’ Coalition

Submitted by Lance Boynton, Chair of the Manufacturers’ Coalition

The June Manufacturers’ Coalition meeting was held at Becton Dickinson (BD) in Canaan. Advancing the world of health, BD is a world leader in the medical device arena.

Matt Koehler, Plant Manager provided a brief history of the organization and the role that innovation, automation, and continuous improvement have been leveraged to establish the Canaan facility as the world leader in syringe manufacturing. Matt detailed to the group how BD’s employees enable and drive the excellence and quality necessary to manufacture a staggering 1.8 billion syringes a year.
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING
AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT’S CHAMBER

Continued from Page 3

Manufacturers’ Coalition

Continued

The Coalition members were given a tour of this state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and were able to visualize the process from molding through sterilization and finally to packaging. This level of access allows for the sharing of best practices and the borrowing of ideas that can benefit all of our member organizations.

Business After Hours

It was a perfect night on June 22nd for the Business After Hours under the tent at Torrington Savings Bank in Burlington. The Chamber was pleased to hold one of our signature network building events in our affiliate Chamber’s town. Torrington Savings Bank President & CEO, John Janco, welcomed everyone and recognized the many members of their board of directors in attendance. John also acknowledged his staff and their contributions to the Bank’s success.

Our next Business After Hours will be hosted by Hocon Hearth House, 2407 Winsted Road in Torrington on July 13th.

Young Professionals Organization

On June 23rd, nine members of the YPO group participated in the United Way’s Day of Caring. The group assembled at Camp Workcoeman in New Hartford to do various projects to get the camp ready for the summer. The volunteers were Christine Bascetta, Torrington Savings Bank; Tracey Chadwick, Prime Time House; Ariel Halsted, Webster Bank; Amanda Heath, Collinsville Savings Society; Tiffany Hussey, Litchfield Bancorp; Cara Kores, Torrington Savings Bank; Vince Laliberte, Pursue the Clues; Thalyia Newman, Prime Time House; and Heidi Putnam, Webster Bank. Thank you to the volunteers for donating their time to help Camp Workcoeman.

Membership Committee

The Chamber’s Membership Committee has been out visiting members and delivering copies of the 2017 Membership Directory. Keep an eye out for these dedicated volunteers!

The Chamber is happy to welcome Vince Laliberte of Pursue the Clues and Associate Member Rhonda Detlefsen to the Membership Committee!

There’s more of “What’s Been Happening” at the Chamber on page 9.
NEW & COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER

WOW! Forum Announces First Keynote Speaker

The 2017 WOW! Forum will be held on October 6th at The Warner Theatre’s Carole & Ray Neag Performing Arts Center. The theme of this year’s event is “The Beauty of Business” and one of our keynote speakers is celebrity makeup artist, Tim Quinn.

After training in Milan alongside world-renowned makeup artist Pat McGrath, Tim Quinn joined the Giorgio Armani Beauty team with the launch of the brand in September 2001. His myriad of experience as an artist includes work in TV, print and film.

Tim began his illustrious career in the beauty industry when he first began modeling at the age of 19. After numerous photo shoots and magazine layouts, Tim discovered that his true calling was behind the camera designing his own individual style and not in front of it featuring someone else’s designs.

Tim’s words of wisdom have graced the pages of Vogue, Harper’s Bazaar, W, Elle, Glamour, More, InStyle, Cosmopolitan, The New York Times, The Huffington Post, among others. Tim has been featured as one of the “25 Beauty Stars” in W magazine and won a Genius Award in Elle magazine as a Genius Makeup Artist. He was also awarded the title of “Beauty Tsar” at Hollywood Magazine's Hollywood Style Awards. He has worked backstage in New York, Milan, Rome, Paris, Hong Kong and Beijing as well as at several award shows including the Academy Awards and the Golden Globes. Tim has traveled internationally hosting special events, training and promoting the beauty line. Additionally, Tim has been featured numerous times on television programs such as the Today Show, Extra and E! News.

Tim has worked with a number of celebrities including: Brooke Shields, Debra Messing, Dr. Jill Biden, Gwen Stefani, Kerry Washington, Olivia Munn and Victoria Beckham.

Additionally, Tim is actively involved in Massachusetts General Hospital’s the one hundred which is an awareness and fundraising initiative that celebrates hope in the cancer community, as well as sits on the Advisory Board of the Farrah Fawcett Foundation for Cancer Research.
Plans are underway!

UNITED WAY OF NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT
2017 CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Joyce Muse
Photo Arts Printing Company

Carla Dubois
People’s United Bank

SAVE THESE DATES:
Celebrity Waiter Campaign Kickoff – September 7, 2017
Northwest Corner Kickoff – September 14, 2017
Campaign Celebration – November 14, 2017

These events would not be possible without our sponsors. THANK YOU!
COMING UP AT THE CHAMBER  Continued from Page 5

Over The Edge Northwest Connecticut

Our fearless leader, JoAnn Ryan, is going Over the Edge on September 16th and she needs your help! Please consider donating to her goal of $2,000. Any donation, large or small, will help three wonderful organizations that do so much for the region. This new and exciting initiative is the first of its kind in NW CT and will benefit the Chamber’s Education Foundation, the Northwest CT Arts Council and Prime Time House. JoAnn, along with other edgers, will be repelling down 14 stories of the Torrington Towers on Saturday, September 16th. To donate towards JoAnn’s goal, or to sign up to rappel, visit https://otecwe.com/nwconnecticut/.

Member Discount Program

We are redeveloping the Member Discount Program. We are building our list of special discounts provided by companies in the area. Help drive customers to your business...consider offering a special deal that will get people in the door! Suggestions...if you're a landscaper, offer a 10% discount off the first month’s service. A retail store may offer $5 off a purchase of $50 or more. The possibilities are endless. Once the update is complete, we will be launching the new Member Discount Program to our members and their employees. You'll see a new membership card to be distributed to all employees and updated discount offerings on our website. If you're interested in getting your company in on the excitement, call the Chamber today at 860-482-6586.
Member in the Spotlight

Branagan Communications Consultants
Makes Businesses “Famous”

Barbara Branagan-Mitchell founded Branagan Communications Consultants LLC (BCC), her public relations, publicity placement, marketing communications agency in Katonah, NY in 1993 and moved to New Milford in 2004. “PR,” she explained, “often offers 10x’s more ‘awareness building’ impact than display advertising and ‘third party endorsement’ of a company and its products and services. Something advertising cannot offer.”

Barbara specializes in writing and placing press releases, news briefs, captioned photos, event listings and PSA-public service announcements with newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations, and community news websites statewide. As a sole proprietor, she works closely with each client to ensure that their ‘marketing message’ is being directed effectively to their target audiences and markets. Utilizing skills she honed for the past two+ decades as a public relations professional in large international public relations/advertising/marketing agencies in Manhattan and her own agency, Barbara offers a sophisticated, respected capability to all projects for all clients.

As a writer and editor, Barbara presents professionally-polished, timely and newsworthy press releases, etc. to targeted newspapers, broadcast stations, and online community news websites including Patch.com, HamletHub.com, DailyVoice.com, Americantowns.com, etc.

Throughout her career, Barbara has continually received accolades from clients and media editor and reporters alike. Many editors have commented, “When you send me a press release, I know it is well-written, of interest to my audience, relevant in a timely manner, and often I simply place the press release word-for-word into the paper.”

One area business that reaped notable benefits from Barbara’s skillful professionalism is Samantha Gale Designs in New Hartford. In March 2017, Barbara placed a large press release/article of this distinctive design store in the “Register Citizen” followed three weeks later with a large article in the “Republican-American”. In early June, Barbara also secured an ‘amazing’ story in the nationally-respected “Hartford Courant”.

On June 26, Barbara placed a significant story about home energy efficiency audits being conducted by the recently merged BantamWesson fuel companies. That same date, she placed a news brief in the business section of the “Republican-American” about her being named the Waterbury Regional Chamber’s Ambassador of the Year.

In 2017, Barbara Branagan-Mitchell is celebrating 24 years of entrepreneurial success helping companies and organizations build public awareness of their products and services by writing and placing publicity materials with media outlets statewide. She also writes and edits content for websites, newsletters, and marketing materials.

Barbara offers free consultations to discuss how PR could potentially increase ambitions of a company to ‘build broad awareness’ of their product or service. To schedule a no-obligation conversation, please contact Barbara at 860-210-0149, or email barbara@branagancommunications.com.

To learn more, visit www.branagancommunications.com.

Want to be our next Member in the Spotlight?

Member in the Spotlight is a free member benefit and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Contact Anita Rosa at the Chamber to schedule your spotlight article at 860-482-6586 or email anita@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.
WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING AT NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT’S CHAMBER

Continued from Page 4

The Great Giveaway Business Showcase
A new Chamber initiative, The Great Giveaway Business Showcase, was held on June 1st at Chatterley’s Banquet Facility in Torrington. Over 40 exhibitors participated in the event that was attended by over 400 people. The event featured free food and a cash bar and each exhibitor had a door prize to give away.

Celebration of Success
The Celebration of Success awards for Business Leader, Community Leader and Quality of Life were presented on Thursday, June 29th, at Chatterley’s Banquet Facility. Chamber Board Member Timothy Waldron served as Master of Ceremony for the evening. The award ceremony began with a welcome from Chairman of the Board Steve Zarrella and Paul Patch, Past Chairman of the Board and Treasurer performed the National Anthem.

The 2017 Business Leader award was presented to Timothy and Susan Cook of Cook Funeral Home. Family friends Father Jeffrey Romans and Father Stephen Sledesky introduced the Cooks. “This Is Our Moment, This Is Our Time” by Kenny Chesney, ‘their song’, was played as they accepted their award that recognized their many contributions to the region.

Gregory Oneglia introduced the 2017 Community Leader honoree, Kenneth W. Merz. In addition to his involvement in a wide variety of community organizations, Mr. Merz was responsible for bringing KidsPlay Children’s Museum to Torrington.

Maria Coutant Skinner, Executive Director of McCall Center for Behavioral Health, accepted the Quality of Life Award on behalf of the agency. Introduced by Tami Jo Lind, who shared her inspiring journey of recovery, McCall has made a tremendous impact on the community and individuals it serves.

We would like to thank our premier sponsor, Litchfield Bancorp, along with O&G Industries, Inc. and the Chamber Insurance Trust for sponsoring this year’s awards.

Learn at Lunch
The Chamber kicked-off its most recent addition to our member benefits package on June 28th with our first Learn at Lunch program. Lance Leifert of Conquest presented “A New Era in Digital Marketing” to a group of members while they enjoyed a light lunch in the Chamber’s conference room. Our next Learn at Lunch, “Small Business Energy Advantage Program” is scheduled for July 26th and will be presented by Bantam Wesson.
Who insures you may not matter... until it does.

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SHOUT OUTS

Litchfield Bancorp & Northwest Community Bank
Connecticut Mutual Holding Company

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Darling, a retired Marine and author of 24 Hours Inside the President’s Bunker: 9/11/01 The White House, spoke on Thursday, May 18, 2017 to a group of local bankers, business people and elected officials at the 7th Annual Connecticut Mutual Holding Company Business Breakfast held at Chatterley’s Banquet Facility in Torrington.

Lt. Col. Darling, or as he preferred to be called, Bob, entertained the audience by telling many unknown stories of the events that took place during those first tragic hours on September 11, 2001 from his point of view from the President’s Emergency Operations Center (the Bunker) that morning. Throughout the event, Bob had the audience experience many emotions as they listened to his stories.

After the keynote speaker, a name was drawn to choose a United Way agency to receive a monetary donation from the Banks within The Connecticut Mutual Holding Company: Litchfield Bancorp, Northwest Community Bank and Collinsville Savings Society.

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) and members of its Board of Governors paid special thanks to its staff at their annual Employee Service Recognition Dinner held recently at Fairview Farm Country Club. This year, the hospital recognized a total of 143 employees celebrating milestone anniversaries, including one with 45 years of service, three with 40 years, five with 35, ten with 30, ten with 25, 27 with 15 years, 24 with 10 years and 56 with 5 years of service.

Highlights of the evening included the hospital’s Senior Staff honoring Aldo Tartaglino who received a standing ovation for his 45 years of service, along with fellow coworkers Debra Colucci, Susan Janco, and Diane Miller for their 40 years of service. In addition, three generations of one family were also celebrated who all currently work at CHH, mother Kelly Marchetti, daughter Lynn Marshal, and granddaughter Sara Marshal (pictured above).

“This is a wonderful opportunity for us to formally thank our employees for their loyal service. Whether they are celebrating five or 45 years at Charlotte Hungerford, it is evident that we are all proud of their accomplishments,” says Brian Mattiello, Vice President, Organizational Development.

O&G Industries, Inc.

O&G Industries, Connecticut’s largest privately-held construction company, was awarded a 2017 Green Circle Sustainability award for Innovation by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. The award was presented at the Connecticut Business Summit held at the Connecticut Convention Center on June 8th.

The award was presented for an O&G project at their quarry in New Milford, Connecticut which involved construction of a new hibernaculum for bats that inhabit the area. Built at least a decade ahead of its need, the new habitat is a 40-foot-long tunnel in the limestone, six feet high and seven feet wide that runs to an underground chamber 17 feet wide, 10 feet deep and 15 feet high.

Jenny Dickson who is Supervising Biologist in DEEP’s Wildlife Division, says O&G has been doing a lot to protect the quarry’s bat population. “It’s a tremendous help for us and our conservation efforts for species that are declining as fast as our bats are to have a partner like O&G step up and help,” she says. The new hibernaculum will exist in perpetuity – a fact that delights Dickson.
Along with the Torrington Historical Society, the Foundation is presenting the third annual Torrington House Tour on September 23rd. 18 Torrington homes have been featured on the tour over the years.

Partners...we like working with them. Partners bring strength and energy to programs. So, when approached to work with the NW CT Arts Council on a new, exciting fundraiser, the Education Foundation decided to go Over The Edge of Torrington Towers on September 16th. Along with the Arts Council and Prime Time House, we are recruiting people to become “edgers” and rappel the 14 stories of Torrington Towers. Edgers are challenged to raise a minimum of $1,000 in order to rappel.

When the Canaan Chamber of Commerce merged into the Northwest CT Chamber three years ago, the Pat Pallone Scholarship Fund was taken over by the Foundation. Martha Pallone chairs the committee that awards scholarships to graduates of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. In the last three years, over $15,000 in scholarships have been awarded.

These are all exciting, interesting and creative programs. We’ve raised some funds and have been able to contribute towards the tuition of individuals participating in a variety of educational programs. Now it’s time to take the next step.

We will be formally establishing the Northwest Connecticut Chamber Education Foundation Scholarship Committee and are in need of volunteers. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in serving on the Scholarship Committee, please contact JoAnn Ryan at the Chamber. She can be reached at 860-482-6586 or via email at joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org.

When you hear of the Foundation, remember all of its activities and share them with those you know. The next 10 years are sure to be as filled with exciting educational opportunities for the residents of our region through the Foundation. The possibilities are endless and the opportunities are amazing!
Member News

Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Road to Recovery Leads to NCCC for Student of the Year and Commencement Speaker

Jeremy Marchand modestly refers to his last two successful years at Northwestern Connecticut Community College as “a pathway that has led to many new opportunities.” But the story of how he got to NCCC involves a very long, rough road back.

After graduating from high school more than 15 years ago with a competitive swimming record including two all-American titles, three all-state titles, and several state and league records, the talented Marchand was prepared to attend college at the University of Rhode Island and continue his swimming career and his studies. But a severe car accident and traumatic brain injury with residual complications prematurely cut short his studies, his competitive swimming career, and almost his life.

Resolve and determination, along with abundant family support, sustained him through a lengthy 15 year recovery, which included numerous set-backs. Throughout this time, he still made several attempts to return to college, never letting go of his goal of continuing his education.

In the spring of 2015, with recovery finally behind him, Marchand returned to NCCC on the Fresh Start Program, which allows students who have been away from the college for two or more years and have a low grade point average the opportunity to return to college and be successful. Marchand received an ‘A’ on his entrance exam, tentatively took two courses that first spring and then kept going, fully confident he could continue and succeed.

Marchand, 35, graduated in May with an Associate in Science degree. During the past year he served as vice-president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the honor society for two year institutions. He also served as president of the History Association, and president and treasurer of the NCCC Journalism Club, as well as serving as an active member with a local Toastmaster’s Club. He has been awarded several scholarships including the prestigious PTK Bronze Scholar award for the All USA Team, finishing in the top 150 out of 1,700 applicants nationwide. He has also been voted Student of The Year by NCCC faculty and staff and delivered the 2017 student commencement speech at NCCC’s Commencement ceremonies on May 25.

Salisbury Bank

Salisbury Bank is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennifer Peterson to Lending Compliance Specialist and Assistant Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Officer. As Assistant CRA Officer, she will continue in her role to provide critical support to the CRA Officer and will assume responsibility for various aspects of the CRA requirements.

“Jenn is an excellent employee who exhibits our core values daily. We are proud to have her as part of our team,” said Amy Raymond, Senior Vice President, Retail Lending and Commercial Operations Manager, CRA Officer.

Jenn has been with the Bank since 2013 working diligently behind the scenes to assist with all aspects of lending, particularly with compliance related issues and reporting requirements.

Cadco Ltd.

Cadco Ltd. of Winsted recently announced the promotion of Samuel Grano de Oro to Vice President of Operations. Cadco is a manufacturer, importer and marketer of commercial food service appliances. Samuel has been with the company for 18 years and was most recently director of operations and manufacturing manager.

Northwest Hills Dealerships

Kevin Sullivan, President of Sullivan Honda and Northwest Hills Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram and a partner in Northwest Hills Chevrolet Buick GMC Cadillac and O’Neill’s Chevrolet Buick in Avon was recently elected to the board of directors of Northwest Community Bank. Kevin is also a member of Sullivan Insurance Agency.

A graduate of Providence College, Kevin joined the family business in 1991 as a sales representative. In addition to multiple automotive industry groups, he is a member of the Chamber’s board of directors and the board of the United Way of Northwest Connecticut. Kevin is a member of the Torrington-Winsted Rotary Club, member and past president of the Canton Lions Club and has served as a director on the Canton Chamber of Commerce board. Kevin and his wife Ginger reside in Canton with their children Lacey & Jack.

More Member News on Page 19
QUALITY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

CHH BLOOD DRAWING SERVICES
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.................(860) 496-6620
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6658

CHH CARDIAC REHABILITATION SERVICES
780 Litchfield Street, Torrington.................(860) 496-9512
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6660

CHH CENTER FOR CANCER CARE
200 Kennedy Drive, Torrington...............(860) 489-6718

CHH EMERGENCY SERVICES
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.................(860) 496-6650
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6650

CHH LIONS LOW VISION CENTER
1151 East Main Street, Torrington..............(860) 496-0046

CHH MAMMOGRAPHY SERVICES
220 Kennedy Drive, Torrington...............(860) 496-0826
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6665

CHH MEDICAL WALK-IN
1598 East Main Street, Torrington...............(860) 489-8444

CHH PRIMARY CARE
220 Kennedy Drive, Torrington...............(860) 496-6884
76 Watertown Road, Thomaston.................(860) 880-8091

CHH RADIOLOGY / X-RAY SERVICES
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington.................(860) 496-6550
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6664

CHH REHABILITATION & SPORTS MEDICINE
538 Litchfield Street, Torrington.................(860) 496-6875
1151 East Main Street, Torrington...............(860) 496-0046

CHH SLEEP CENTER
115 Spencer Street, Winsted......................(860) 738-6620

CHH WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE
7 Felicity Lane, Torrington....................(860) 489-0418

MRI / ADVANCED MEDICAL IMAGING
540 Litchfield Street, Torrington...............(860) 489-7314

Looking in Litchfield or Upper New Haven County?

• BETHLEHEM: For Sale. 20 acres, no zoning. $180,000.

• DOWNTOWN WATERBURY: For Sale. Three-law office building remaining near three courthouses. Includes two apartments, free parking. $166,000.

• WINSTED: For Sale. 670 acs., can fit 2M SF for data storage, industry or resort housing for Highland Lake. Gateway to Berkshires - on Rt 8, at four-way ramp. Lender wants offer!

• NAUGATUCK INDUSTRIAL PARK: 18,000 sf on 5 acres, subdivides easily. Asking $1.1M.

• NAUGATUCK INDUSTRIAL PARK: 28,000 sf w/hi-bay warehouse. 11,000 sf available immediately with 15,000 sf of tenant who can sign lease and stay. $1.5M, nice clean building.

• NAUGATUCK CENTER: For Sale or Lease. Dentist office in Medical Building on golf course, ideal for pediatric practice.

• NAUGATUCK: For Lease. Commercial space in old school near Rt 8 geared to health care.

• NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT (ROUTE 8): For Sale. Approved transfer station with 2 huge high-bay facilities & 7 fenced acs. with railroad siding.

• MERIDEN (CHESHIRE LINE): 54 acs. in beautiful residential/agricultural neighborhood with French country ranch home. Ideal for health/elder care, social club, recording studio, or farm.

• Four “ground up” gas/convenience store/ truck stop sites; call for details.

And many more - we are constantly awarded new listings! Call or visit our website.

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Chamber Travel Program

Explore Cuba by Cruise Ship
November 9-17, 2017

Experience enchanting Cuba and explore the diversity of its natural and cultural riches like never before and a cruise that circumvents the island.

On this amazing cruise and land program, you will have the outstanding opportunity to delve into the history, culture and rhythmic pulse of Havana, including an overnight stay to enjoy the nightlife too. Discover the magic and mystique of this island nation as you visit the lesser known ports of Santiago de Cuba, Cienfuegos, and exotic Punta Frances. Your cruise to Cuba includes visits to UNESCO world heritage sites, world-famous beaches, colonial towns, historic attractions, lively cities and so much more!

Stroll down cobblestone streets, dance the night away to invigorating live salsa, take-in the impressive art and architecture, savor the flavorful Cuban cuisine, sample a rum-infused Mojito or Daiquiri in one of Ernest Hemmingway’s preferred watering holes, try a world-famous Cuban cigar, and get to know the welcoming Cuban people at every turn. Here’s your chance to experience the authentic Cuba!

Explore Cuba by Cruise Ship begin at $3,149 (inside)/$3,299 (outside) on board the MS Crystal. Visit www.centralholidayswest.com/booking and enter Booking Code B002199.

A note from Celestyal Cruises: Celestyal Cruises is in complete compliance with the Presidential policy directive announced on June 16, 2017. Celestyal Cruises is very pleased to share that the company’s Cuba cruise program is in full compliance with the June 2017 Trump administration changes regarding U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba. Our U.S. passengers traveling with Celestyal Cruises to Cuba can travel with peace of mind, knowing that they are participating in a culturally immersive itinerary including shore excursions as well as interactive and educationally enriching on board activities, all in compliance with the OFAC (Office of Foreign Assets Control) requirements. This is included as part of the Celestyal All Inclusive Experience in the P2P group cruise package rate. For added convenience, travelers can embark in either Montego Bay Jamaica or in Havana, Cuba. Additionally, and in contrast to most choices available to American citizens when traveling to Cuba, Celestyal Cruises provides P2P program certification attesting to the participation of U.S. citizens in the approved People-to-People group program. The certification process is managed by a U.S. representative stationed permanently onboard the Celestyal Crystal employed by the U.S. sponsoring corporation of the P2P program as required by OFAC.

The Irish Spirit
October 7-15, 2017

Get ready to bask in the luck of the Irish on your Irish Spirit adventure with Central Holidays. Here awaits a land of legends and mystical folklore, lush green landscapes and spectacular cliff-side views, stone-clad castles and historic mills, cultural treasures and medieval masterpieces, plus so much more!

On this hands-on adventure, you will also have the opportunity to tap into the heritage of other kinds of “Irish Spirits” with exquisite tasting experiences from world famous Guinness to the distillery of acclaimed Jameson Irish whiskey, to Ireland’s historic pubs and bars where you can delve into the rich Irish custom of storytelling as you hear enchanting tales of days gone by.

Savor traditional Irish recipes and vivacious music that bring the country’s culture and its ancestors to life as you get to know the Spirit of Ireland every step of the way. The Irish Spirit begins at $2,949 per person. Visit www.centralholidayswest.com/booking and enter Booking Code B002181.

Portugal Hidden Treasures
November 2-10, 2018

Nestled along the Iberian Peninsula's Atlantic Coast, Portugal beckons with its sea-faring past, charming old towns, quaint coastal villages, and distinctive diversity.

Here you will experience exquisite churches carved in "lace" to its endless olive groves, flowering almond trees, and sweet Port wines. Remnants of former civilizations are abundant from foreigners who conquered and were conquered here including Romans, Moors and Jews. Together, their influences inter-mix with attributes of countries linked by Portuguese exploration across the globe.

From the country’s diverse landscapes, coastal splendors, old world towns and vibrant cities to its delectable gastronomy, gracious people, and time-honored history, Portugal will indulge all of your senses.

An optional excursion to Obidos, Batalha, Fatima and Nazare as well as an optional trip extension to Santiago De Compostela are available.

Community Representatives Report

Burlington - Janet Schwartz

- The Burlington Historical Society will open the Center School House on George Washington Turnpike for free tours on July 30th and August 27th from 1-4 PM. For details, visit burlington-history.org.
- Burlington Land Trust will host the inaugural Tunxis Trail Ultramarathon on August 23rd. The 32-mile course will take runners past some of the most stunning natural landmarks in all of southern New England - The Great Wall, Mile of Ledges, Tory's Den, Johnnycake Mountain, Perry's Lookout, Devil's Kitchen, and much more. Organizers are calling the Tunxis Ultra "the most technical ultra in Connecticut!" Runners will also have the option of an 18-mile Fun Run. For more information go to tunxisultra.wordpress.com. To register go to www.burlingtonlandtrust.org.
- Tavern Day at Elton Tavern will be held on September 17th from 11 AM to 4 PM. Join the Historical Society for a celebration of colonial life. More details are available at burlington-history.org.

Canaan/N. Canaan - Wendy Eichman

- The Sunset Music Series continues on Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM at the Canaan VFW Couch Pipa. Enjoy live music, car cruise, prizes, food & drink at this free, family event.
- The Canaan Farmers' Market is at Stadium System, 297 Ashley Falls Road every Wednesday from 4-6 PM. For every $5 spent at the market, receive a ticket for a prize drawing. Drawings conducted weekly. The Grand Prize, a $100 gift certificate to Stadium System, will be drawn September 20th.
- Lost Art Workshops presents “Make a Wooden Toy” at the Canaan Farmers’ Market on July 12th. This is a free event and is sponsored by the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau. Please call 860-824-4300 to sign up for the 4 PM or 5 PM time slot. Great for children ages 8 and up who are accompanied by an adult.
- The Canaan Railroad Days will take place July 5th through July 16th. Visit canaanrailroaddays.com for a complete schedule of events.
- Troop 22 Boy Scouts Car Wash will be held on July 8th at Stadium System from 9 AM to 12 noon. $5 per car.
- Musical Sunday Sunset Concerts at The Doughboy, Route 44 and Granite Avenue in Canaan will be held every Sunday in July from 6-7 PM. Presented by The Cranford Club, the event is free. Bring a picnic.
- The North Canaan History Center, 115 Main Street, will hold a Fairy Garden Expo on July 22nd from 1-4 PM. Drop your fairy garden for display beginning at 10 AM. For info, contact Lynn Martin at 860-824-0124.

Cornwall - Dianne Heiny

- A Rummage Sale will take place July 15th (9 AM to 2 PM), 16th (11 AM to 2 PM) and 17th (9 AM to Noon).
- The Cornwall Library will host the following events: Bird Bingo, a children’s program, from 10 AM to Noon on July 15th; Children’s Author Talk on July 22nd at 12 noon; Scott Zuckerman Artists’ Reception on July 22nd from 5-7 PM (exhibit will be shown July 18-August 26th and will feature wildlife oil paintings); and, a children’s arts and crafts program on July 29th at 11 AM.
- Local Farm will host a Pot Luck Picnic and Bat Count on July 15th from 6:30-9 PM and the Women’s Drumming Circle on July 22nd from 7-9 PM.
- The Cornwall Historical Society will hold a Family Day on July 22nd from 10 AM to 2 PM and a Gallery Walk at 5 PM.
- A BYO Picnic will take place on July 22nd at Hammond Beach.
- The Trinity Retreat Center will hold a picnic on July 29th from 12 noon to 4 PM.
- The Toll House Gallery in West Cornwall will continue to showcase the work of Donald Bracken in addition to the newly added collection of Lennart Swede Ahrstrom and Scott Zuckerman. They are on display M-F 9-5 and Saturdays 10-4.
- In celebration of The Wish House’s 20th anniversary, the Souterrain Gallery on Sharon Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall will present “Mighty Minis 2017”, an exhibit curated by Suzan Shutan, from July 15th through Labor Day, Thursday-Sunday 11 AM to 5 PM. The exhibit features the work of 30 artists. A reception and pollock BBQ will be held July 15th from 3-6 PM. For information, call 860-672-2969.
- Visit cornwallct.org for additional activities.

Falls Village - Wendy Eichman

- David M. Hunt Library will hold a Tag Sale at the Center on Main, 103 Main Street, Falls Village on July 9th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For information, call 860-824-7424.

Harwinton - Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh

- Harwinton Congregational Church "Art in Bloom III” Garden Tour, Luncheon and Fine Art & Flower Show, July 8th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Harwinton Congregational Church. The tour includes four Harwinton gardens. Admission $25 in advance (including luncheon), $30 day of. Call 860-485-1318 for more information.
Community Representatives Report

Harwinton - Carol Kearns & Harry Schuh (cont’d.)

♦ Harwinton Recreation Pre-School Summer "Camp" for boys and girls 3 - 5 years old. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from July 11th - August 3rd 9:00 AM - Noon. $35/week. Call 860-485-0626 or email recreation@harwinton.us for more information.
♦ Free Outdoor Movie Nights at the Harwinton Sports Complex: July 13th 8:45 PM - "Beauty and the Beast"; July 27th 8:30 PM - "Finding Dory"; August 10th 8:15 PM - Moana "Catch Me If You Can".
♦ Harwinton Public Library will present the following programs. Please call 860-485-9113 to register.
  • "Shake, Rattle, and Roll" on July 5th at 6:30 PM. Design an earthquake-proof building with an educator from the CT Science Center. Recommended for students grades 5 - 7.
  • "Lego Brick Challenge" on July 12th at 6:30 PM. Challenge your creativity by designing a Lego Structure with an educator from the Children's Museum. Recommended for ages 5 - 10.
  • "Spaghetti Cake Family Band" on July 26th at 6:30 PM. An original rock band for the whole family! No registration is required.
♦ Harwinton Lions Club 14th Annual "Concert for Sight" on July 15th at the Harwinton Fairgrounds. Gate opens at 2:00 PM - show begins at 5:30 PM. Music by Chicago Tribute Band "Beginnings" and "Savage Brothers Band." Tickets $25 in advance, $30 at the gate - available through the Warner Theatre box office 860-489-7180.
♦ Harwinton Lions Club 4th Annual "Cars for Sight" on July 30th from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the Harwinton Town Hall Sports Complex. Free admission - $10 to enter a vehicle.
♦ Harwinton Historical Society Annual Ice Cream Social on August 6th from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on the grounds of the Harwinton Consolidated School. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the music of troubadour Tom Hooker Hanford.

Torrington - Lynn Gelormino

♦ Main Street Marketplace returns to Main Street in Torrington on July 6th and will be held each Thursday through August 3rd. Main Street will be closed off to fill it with the best vendors around. Shop, eat and be merry. Fun for all ages. For information, email info@mainstreetmarketplace.org or call 860-410-MSMP (6767).
♦ Pop Up Water Street, a throwback to the Thursday Night Sidewalk Sales (when you didn’t have to worry about putting a quarter in the meter), will run Thursdays from July 6th to August 3rd. The merchants of Water Street in downtown Torrington will sell their wares on the sidewalks of Water Street. For information, call 860-482-8477.
♦ The Summer Concert Series, sponsored by Torrington Park and Recreation, will be held Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at Coe Park. For information, call 860-489-2274.

Winsted/Winchester - Fran Delaney

♦ The Farmers' Market is held on Fridays at East End Park 3-6 PM through September 22nd. See www.foms.org for updates and watch Friends of Main Street weekly newsletter.
♦ Whiting Mill continues its 3rd Sunday craft and artisan events at 100 Whiting Street. Visit whitingmills.com for more information.
♦ The annual Laurel Festival was held the weekend of June 7th with the Laurel Parade held on June 11th. At the crowning ceremony, Laurel Queen Grace Valukis and Laurel King Dylan Thompson were recognized along with runner ups Anthuty Pham and Zachary Lafreniere.
♦ Friends of Main Street summer concerts will commence on July 6th, with a special event at Soldier's Monument park and concert by the Zolla Boys. Weekly concerts and events will be held at East End Park through August 23rd.
♦ See www.foms.org for more information.

Salisbury - Adam Higgins

♦ The Housatonic Youth Service Bureau will hold its 20th Annual Charity Golf Tournament on Monday, August 21st at Torrington Country Club. The tournament is a scramble format with registration & BBQ lunch starting at 11:00 a.m. $150 per person includes full BBQ lunch, cart, beverages on the course, one hour open bar, hors d’oeuvres & award ceremony.

If your community isn’t listed and you would be interested in becoming involved, please call the Chamber at 860-482-6586 to find out more about our Membership Committee and its Community Representatives.
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Renewing Members

The following Chamber members renewed their memberships during the period of May 24 through June 26. Thank you for your continued commitment to Northwest Connecticut’s Chamber of Commerce. Companies listed in bold indicate a Corporate Partner.

- Apple Cinemas Barkhamsted 9
- B&L Commercial Cleaning
- Backstage Torrington, LLC
- Berkshire Environmental Services & Technology, LLC
- Bicron Electronics Company
- C.A. Lindell & Son
- Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC
- The Clouther Agency, LLC
- Da Capo of Litchfield, Inc.
- Alan J. Eckstrand, LLC
- Elevator Service Company, Inc.
- Freund’s Farm Market & Bakery, LLC
- Future Foundations Child Care Center
- Ghi Sign Service
- Greenwoods Counseling Referrals
- H.B. Guildford & Co., Inc.
- H-O Products Corporation
- Hickory Stick Bookshop
- Hoffman Honda
- Hoffman Nissan
- Hoffman Toyota
- Infinity Hall
- M. LaHart & Company Ltd.
- Mike’s On The Spot! LLC
- Prindle Insurance Agency
- Rogers Law firm, LLC
- Vibra-Conn, Inc.
- Wolcott Hall Nursing Center
- Women’s Enterprise Initiative

Member News

Red Barn Consulting

Cindy Donaldson, President & CEO of Red Barn Consulting LLC, a marketing, operations, and sales consulting firm in New Hartford is proud to announce the launch a new division at Red Barn Consulting, the Small Business Unit or SBU which will be headed up by Brand Ambassador, Amy Jock.

“Small businesses have unique challenges and needs, SBU was designed to help companies who are struggling to get to the next level of growth and are searching for affordable and easily implemented strategies to achieve their business goals,” says Donaldson. “As a small business owner, I’ve been in their shoes and understand their struggles. I’m excited to work with Amy and to share what I’ve learned and to help others grow.”

SBU will be launching a series of workshops and webinars led by Donaldson and Jock, in the fall of 2017 beginning with operations and business planning and strategies, followed by strategic sales planning and marketing including how to market your business on a budget. “Small businesses are the backbone of our communities, and we feel very passionate about paying it forward and sharing our knowledge,” says Jock.

For more information about Red Barn Consulting’s Small Business Unit or to schedule a free consultation, please contact Amy Jock at amy@redbarnconsultingllc.com or 860-503-8094. Red Barn Consulting is a full service strategic business consulting firm offering operations, marketing and sales consulting with niche markets in insurance, financial services and health care. To learn more about Red Barn, please visit www.redbarnconsultingllc.com
Chamber Calendar of Events

All events listed below will be held at the Chamber offices at 333 Kennedy Drive, Torrington unless otherwise noted.

July 2017
13th - Government Relations Committee Meeting, 8 AM
      Business After Hours at Hocon Hearth House, 2407 Winsted Road, Torrington, 5-7 PM
19th - Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM
24th - Technology Council Meeting, 8 AM
25th - Business With Breakfast at Northwestern Connecticut Community College Entrepreneurial Center, Park Place East (The Goulet House), Winsted, 8 AM
26th - Learn at Lunch “Small Business Energy Advantage Program” sponsored by Bantam Wesson, 12 Noon

August 2017
1st - Health Council Meeting at Geer Village, 99 South Canaan Road, Canaan, 8 AM
2nd - WOW! Forum Advisory Committee Meeting, 8 AM
3rd - Membership Committee Meeting, 8 AM
7th - Restaurant in the Spotlight at Infinity Hall Bistro, 20 Greenwoods Road West, Norfolk, 5:30-6:30 PM
9th - Business After Hours at Stadium System and The Canaan Farmers’ Market, 297 Ashley Falls Road, Canaan, 5-7 PM
10th - Government Relations Committee Meeting, 8 AM
16th - Insurance Committee Meeting, 8 AM
22nd - Business With Breakfast, location TBD, 8 AM
29th - Learn at Lunch “One-to-One Marketing and Product Brokering” presented by On Fire Digital Marketing, 12 Noon.

Save The Date
September 16th - Over The Edge
September 23rd - Torrington House Tour
October 6th - WOW! Forum

RSVP to the Chamber on-line at nwctchamberofcommerce.org or call 860-482-6586.