

The Litchfield Community Center

A Publication for Friends of the Litchfield Community Center

November 2014

Your Litchfield Community Center.....



A place for living, learning and creating community.

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***Thank you for your service and commitment
to our organization!***

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE

It has been another great year at the Litchfield Community Center because of you. The people who participate in our programs and activities, clubs and businesses who hold meetings and seminars in our rooms, and the families who celebrate weddings, anniversaries and birthdays in the center.

And a special thank you to the individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations whose generous financial support makes this all possible.

In April we bid farewell to retiring board members, **Laurel Galloway** and **Tom McDermott** who both served on the board for six years. Laurel was chair of the Board Affairs Committee and organized ongoing Mah Jongg tournaments. Tom was Board President and chair of the long range planning committee. Under Tom's leadership LCC celebrated its 10th Anniversary and completed a successful campaign to build the new Community Room. We are grateful for their dedication to The Community Center and pleased they both continue to be involved as active volunteers.

We welcome new board members:

- **Ed Drapp** lives in Middlebury and is Superintendent of Schools for Region 6 covering the towns of Warren, Morris and Goshen
- **Ron Leal** lives in Litchfield and is a real estate broker for Fahey Associates. As a volunteer Ron chaired the 2013 SummerFest and as a board member chaired SummerFest 2014.

Of course what keeps us going is our small but dedicated staff led by Executive Director Berta Andrulis Mette: with Dan Gagne - Assistant Program and Activities Coordinator, Cheryl Mendez - Administrative Assistant, Rob Andrulis - Building and Property Maintenance, Mary Marino - Office Assistant, and Kalina Lapenta - Student Staff.

★ Our Wish List... ★

**Your support to purchase these specific items
makes a difference!**

Electronic White Board/Projector Equipment
Playground equipment
Mah Jongg Sets
80 Cup Coffee Maker
Kitchen Service Ware & Supplies
Wine Glasses
Fuel Cards for Center's Van Trips



***"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about
progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions
must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of
others, for their sakes and for our own."***

Cesar Chevez



Youth Volunteers are THE BEST!!



**At The Litchfield Community Center
October 2014 – May 2015**

As the Litchfield Hills Farm-Fresh Market moves indoors to our winter home we are reflecting on what a wonderful partnership this has been with the Litchfield Community Center. When, eight years ago, our customers and vendors asked that we find a way to have the market year round, the challenge was to find the right place to hold it. We were delighted when the Community Center welcomed us since we felt, and still do, it's the perfect venue. The farmers' market is about community and supporting local endeavors which matches the Community Center goals and mission. The market draws people to the Center who perhaps haven't been there before. And the Center brings folks to the market from their other programs. It's a win/win!

Kay Carroll, Market Master

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Community Center welcomes and needs you to share your time, talent and energy to help with mailings, chaperoning youth and teen events, special events, etc. Contact us to learn more.

Thank you!

OUR MISSION

As a private, not for profit organization, the mission of the *Litchfield Community Center* is to provide a comfortable environment that encourages creative, intellectual and recreational pursuits to reflect the interests and needs of the community.

Our Core Values

- We value honesty, integrity, respect and service to others.
- We provide creative, intellectual, recreational and innovative activities for all ages.
- We promote family harmony and enrichment, diversity, open-mindedness and open-heartedness.
- We listen and respond to the needs of the community.
- We are committed to maintain and responsibly manage the facility, property and resources of the organization being mindful of the environment.
- We acknowledge and value the efforts, contributions and dedication of our staff and volunteers.
- We collaborate with individuals and organizations that share our common vision and authentic intentions for the good of all.



Day after SummerFest 2014! Board members and Family join the "Clam Bake Bucket Cleaning Brigade"

"Your team supports the true concept of The Center; a gathering place where good things happen every day. Thank you for your continuing hard work and dedication."

Cathy M.

Annual Giving August 15, 2013 ~ August, 14 2014

Thank you for your continuing support!

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*We gratefully acknowledge those
donors who wish to remain anonymous*



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CONNECTICUT

*Include charities in your estate planning
and make a difference in the lives that follow.*



I have been giving music lectures at the Litchfield Community Center for the past 15 years. What a pleasure working with this organization! There has always been an understanding of the great need to offer events involving classical music. It has been well documented that during the past decades there has been a dramatic decline in concert-going audiences. These audiences are aging and younger generations are not showing a similar interest in music. I have decided to make a bequest in my will for the establishment of a scholarship for various aspects of musical study for the Litchfield Community Center. It may serve only a small public, but every little bit helps. What would a world be like without Bach, Beethoven and company? I hope you will join me in supporting the Community Center when you are making bequests. It will be for the good of future generations and the community, for years to come.

Jeffrey Engel, Musicologist

Women's Forum 100 years and Going Strong!

The Women's Forum of Litchfield meets once a month October through May at the LCC. Every month's meeting consists of program followed by tea and coffee for our members and guests. Last year was our 100th Anniversary and our programs included Paul Winter and Elizabeth Gilbert among others and we attracted larger audiences than we were used to hosting. The Community Center staff went out of their way to see that everything ran smoothly and pitched in to help every possible way. We look forward to 100 more successful years and the continuance of a strong partnership with the Litchfield Community Center.

Kathy Thompson , President

Author Elizabeth Gilbert & local admirers at May 2014 Women's Forum



Who brings Community to The Center?

Amy Rosser Piano School
Art Group with Nan Swoyer
ARC Blood Drive
ASAP! After School Workshops
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Litchfield Hills Audubon Society
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Litchfield Historical Society

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Litchfield Middle School
Litchfield Montessori School
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Litchfield Public Schools PTO
Litchfield Soccer Club
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Litchfield High School STPC
Litchfield Girl Scout Troop #40113
Litchfield Writer's Guild
Little Britches Therapeutic Riding Program
Little Guild of St. Francis
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Raw Food Institute
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Sparkle Dance School
Susan B. Anthony Project
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Teacher-Student Tutoring
The Student Compass
Topsmead History Bytes
Transition Litchfield
Women's Forum of Litchfield
Visiting Nurse Association of Litchfield
WeightWatchers
Westleigh Condominium Association
White Memorial Conservation Center
...And You!!



"Litchfield Community Center not only provides a variety of activities for our children, they are there in time of need. As a caterer I have used this venue for beautiful weddings, funerals, fundraisers (even for our own family in the Philippines), and celebrations of the season. It is a place for the community to gather and support each other through contact and caring. The Staff's heart and spirit overflow when you walk into The Center. We are lucky to have and be a part of The Community Center!"

Patty Laure



The Litchfield Community Center
A Community Non-profit Organization Here to Serve You!
Est. 2000

“Why in the world did you move to Litchfield?”

By John R. Post



Here I was living in West Chester PA, wondering if this was the place to spend the next ‘X’ number of years. My 2 adult children had just relocated to Connecticut, so I began to imagine moving there as well. I was about to travel to the eastern end of Long Island to do some camping, and decided to extend the trip to include a visit to Litchfield as a means of ‘checking out the place’. I found a campsite on Bantam Lake run by White Memorial (Point Folly), so I made reservations to spend 2 nights here.

Picture me wandering around Town introducing myself to people I met. I toured the Museum at White Memorial, visited with staff at Town Hall, and happened to notice the sign outside of the Community Center, so I ventured in. There I was warmly met by Berta Andrulis Mette, the Director of the Center. My conversation with Berta was one of the first I had with a local resident, and it proved to be one of the most significant. You’ve heard of the power of 1st impressions, well this interaction with Berta definitely qualifies. She showed real interest in me and my story. Knowing her much better now, I recognize this is who she is, but at the time, it made a significant influence on how I was viewing Litchfield. She introduced me to the wide array of programs the Center provided, and the spectrum of the community that used them. She also mentioned the Community Garden, talked about the enjoyment the space provided those who gardened there, and gave me directions so I could check it out. As a gardener, I was very interested, so ventured out to find it. Overall, I left this visit feeling pretty good about the welcoming nature of this little town.

My visit with Berta, combined with several other positive attributes of the area (i.e. the historic buildings in town, White Memorial, the many opportunities for outdoor activities, the quiet small town nature of the area, White Flower Farm, access to social and cultural events) led me to announce to my family I was going to pick up and relocate from Pennsylvania and move to Litchfield. I felt good about it. The only issue was that I didn’t really know anyone here. How long would it take for me to build a community of friends? I didn’t know, but was willing to give this adventure a try.

Here’s where the Community Center comes in. Upon arriving in Litchfield, I contacted Berta and let her know that I had moved into town, and if there was a space at the Community Garden, I’d love to be able to garden there. Sure enough, there was an available space, so I was invited in. Berta also let me know there was another couple who also had just been assigned a plot, and who also happened to live at Westleigh where I was renting. About 2 weeks later, I met Nancy Rogers and Mike Delay at the Garden, and was promptly invited to join their table at a Pot Luck dinner at the Center that Saturday night. Talk about good fortune! I’d guess 125 people were there, and I ended up meeting around 25 of them. So, to that question of how long was it going to take to build a community of friends? Well the answer started to appear pretty quickly. I was well on my way to feeling that Litchfield was where I belonged.

Looking back over the past 2 years, it was clear to me how instrumental the Community Center was to my decision to move here. While most baby boomers move south when that time arrives, I decided to go in the opposite direction, and couldn’t be happier. The Community Center has become a ‘hub’ of sorts for local activities I participate in, and has served to be a place where I connect with an emerging set of new friends, and where I meet new ones. All because of the warm and welcoming nature of The Litchfield Community Center.

The experience described above has led me to ponder a question: Does Litchfield really know and appreciate how special the Community Center is? The answer – to me - is clear!