

Newsletter – December 2017



President's Corner

Shari Cassutt 860-988-0021 505 670-4982

It's such a busy time of year with cooking, cleaning and visiting, not to mention buying, traveling, and wrapping. No time to waste so I'll get right to the point. Coming up on the club calendar is the beginning of our nominations process for next year's board (didn't we just start with this year's board?) Our first task is to organize a nominating committee that will meet once or twice during the winter. If you would like to spend some pleasant time over coffee helping to keep to our club running we **welcome your participation on the nominating committee**. Please contact Barbara Troy 330.268.8909 or bltroy5@gmail.com to volunteer. Don't be shy. We need your help!

Mark you calendars for **Saturday, January 20th** and our second **Blues Bash/Winter Party**. Much like last year it will feature a buffet dinner, a DJ and dancing. We know some of you don't like to drive on winter nights. If you let me know that you would like to carpool I will do my best to find someone nearby to pick you up. Last year's party was a blast for all who attended with both groups and couples crowding the dance floor. The food was wonderful and it was lovely to visit with old friends and make new ones as we sat around the tables talking. Watch for the official invitations to arrive at the beginning of January.

No matter what holiday you celebrate at this time of year I hope that it is filled with joy and love. Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018!

December Activity Club Highlights

Please scroll down for additional details and to read more about ALL of our activities.

Book Discussion, Daytime – *Alex and Me*
Book Discussion, Evening – *A Separate Peace*
Crafts Group – embossing
Dining Out – Francesca's Wine Bar and Bistro
Discover New England – 37th Annual Mark Twain House Tour
Lunch Bunch – Abigails

Membership

Toni Robinson 860-217-1915

We are 168 members strong, including 34 new members.

A warm welcome to our newest members Alisa LaLiberte, Karen Macbeth, and Susan Nooney.

As a member you are entitled to:

- Join in the many activity groups and events
- A hard copy of the Members Directory and periodic email Quick List updates
- A monthly email Newsletter
- Access to our [Simsbury Newcomers Website](#) which includes our members only membership list and our members only Forum Page
- Join our [Simsbury Newcomers Facebook page](#)

The new 2017-2018 Member Directory is in the mail. If your information needs to be corrected or updated, please let me know at tonirobinson22@gmail.com and it will be corrected for the Quick List.

Please note that the Directory is for the exclusive use of Club members and cannot be used for solicitation.

Happy December Birthdays!

Kevin Brady
Patti Cummings
Donna Del Cioppo
Leslie Fass
Gay Godfrey
Suzanne Harrington
Sheila Hayes
Barbara Mason
Helen Matacin
Susan Nooney
Charlotte Ray
Cindy Schafer
Terry Smith
Genie Wilmarth
Valerie Wozniak

[View the Calendar](#)

Community Events

[Patty Howland](#) 860-470-7771

Email Patty at pahowl@gmail.com if you know of any upcoming Community Events and we will add them to the newsletter.

Simsbury Holiday Market and Village. A fundraiser for the Simsbury Historical Society, the market features unique items like handmade jewelry, clothing and accessories, candles, soaps, arts and crafts and holiday-themed gifts. This year it will be in the old Andy's Market on Hopmeadow Street. Dates are: Nov 24-26, Dec 2-3, Dec 9-10.

McLean Annual Community Craft Show and Sale. Friday, December 1 from 10-4 in the McLean Health Center living room, 75 Great Pond Road. A beautiful selection of handcrafted items will be on sale.

Civic Concerns

[Brynn Brown](#) 860-301-9977

Metacomet VFW Post 1926 is having a **holiday clothing collection** for Rocky Hill Veterans Home. The home is in need of new clothing and new shaving accessories and toiletries for both men and women. Items may be dropped off from **November 11th to December 10th** at the following locations: Main Simsbury fire station, Simsbury Library, Simsbury Police department, CVS pharmacy in Simsbury, ENO Memorial Hall – main floor and Simsbury High School.

ACTIVITIES

Book Discussion – Daytime

[Jane Fox](#) 860-658-0388

Welcome to Daytime Book Discussion Group! This year we will be meeting at **9:30 a.m.** the third Friday of each month. We enjoy lively but informal discussion about our book selections. Don't hesitate to join us! Many copies of our titles are available through the Simsbury Public Library. Check at the front desk for books on hold for the Newcomers' Daytime Book Discussion Group. Don't forget to e-mail the hostess if you plan to attend so she can plan appropriately.

Our next book meeting will be on December 15th at 9:30 a.m. at The Storyteller's Cottage in Simsbury. The book we will be reading for December is **Alex and Me** by Irene Pepperberg. A reminder email will be sent prior to the meeting.

Book Discussion – Evening

[Cheryl Cook](#) 860-408-1577

Join us for some lively discussion with new and old friends. We love to read and you are welcome to join us at any time. New suggestions for the reading list are always welcome. The evening book group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted. To receive monthly updates with meeting dates, reading selections and locations, contact Cheryl Cook at cooks.home@comcast.net or 860-408-1577.

- December 5, 2017: **A Separate Peace** by John Knowles
- January 2, 2018: **The Education of Little Tree** by Forrest Carter and Rennard Strickland
- February 6, 2018: **You Don't Have to Say You Love Me** by Sherman Alexie
- March 6, 2018: **Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI** by David Grann
- April 3, 2018: **My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry** by Fredrik Backman

- May 1, 2018: **American Gods** by Neil Gaiman
- June 5, 2018: **Everybody's Son** by Thirty Umrigar
- July 10, 2018: **Radium Girls** by Kate Moore
- August 7, 2018: **A Piece of the World** by Christina Baker Kline

Bridge – Couples

[Lee Klippel](#) 860-673-7463

Couples Bridge meets on the third Saturday of the month. We meet in couples' homes and begin at 7:30 p.m. We have a variety of bridge levels, so please don't be intimidated. Also, a commitment to one month does not commit you for the whole year. We sign up month to month according to our social schedules.

Bridge – Ladies Daytime

[Jane Fox](#) 860-658-0388

Ladies' daytime bridge meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 1:00 p.m. Join us as a regular or substitute player. All bridge levels are welcome. Players take turns hosting. Email announcements are sent to the group prior to each playing week about sign up and host location/information.

Bridge – Ladies Duplicate

[Elayne Cree](#) 860-651-7071

We meet on the first and third Monday evenings at 7 pm in members' homes. Our group has people of varying levels of play. If you've never played duplicate before, not to worry: it's basically the same game with different scoring than rubber bridge. We'll help guide you through it. A week or so before each game, the hostess sends an email with the names of players who have signed up, asking for more players if needed to complete a table. Questions? Call or email elayne@creaturecomforts.com

Bunko – Daytime

[Arlene Zappile](#) 860-408-9044

Daytime Bunko is a casual way to have some fun in the morning and still have the afternoon free. Bunko is a simple dice game that can be easily learned in minutes. We meet once a month at 9:30 a.m. on the third Wednesday at members' homes. After light refreshments, we enjoy several rounds of play and camaraderie. Join us as a regular or substitute player.

Bunko – Evening

[Randi Stamboulis](#) 860-217-1484

Our evening Bunko group usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. It's an easy game to learn and requires no skill. Come join us! Contact Randi at rlstamboulis@comcast.net if you are interested in joining our group.

Come for Cocktails

[Holly and Shaun Murphy](#) 860-651-6051

We are looking for co-chairs!!

If you enjoy socializing, then we are the group for you! We are a co-ed group that meets a few times a year (3-4) at our members' homes on Saturday evenings. We are not a "couples only group"! All are welcome!! We will schedule the gatherings around the "SNC Events" so as not to conflict. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Please bring your own beverages. Hosts may choose to have a theme for the evening and will provide paper goods and glasses. We look forward to seeing you!

Crafts Group

[Karen Pineau](#) 860-217-1311

The Crafts Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. We decide on a project and take turns hosting. The projects are relatively easy and inexpensive to make. If you think you're not creative you may surprise yourself or you can always bring something else to work on. We're a friendly group who enjoy tea and visiting.

This month on December 5th the group will be learning how to emboss. One of our members will demonstrate with her machine and we'll be able to try the process on card stock.

Contact Karen at kmpineau@comcast.net if you are interested in joining us or want more information.

Dining Out Dinner

[Theresa Awad Roe](#) 860-408-9278

[Beth Payne](#) 860-352-2384

Date: Saturday, December 9th, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm

At: **Francesca's Wine Bar and Bistro**

(Collinsville)

105 Main Street

Canton, CT 06019

860-352-8157

We are limited to 12 – 16 people. Please RSVP by Monday December 4th to Theresa and/or Beth via email.

Discover New England

[Patty Howland](#) 860-470-7771

New England is filled with many scenic, historical and cultural attractions. Join fellow newcomers as we explore our surrounding area. Some ideas include: tours of local landmarks, ethnic food shopping trips, home or garden tour events, art exhibits, daytrips to the CT Shore or the Berkshires. We have compiled a list of "Places to Visit". *If you would like a copy, or have ideas to add, email Patty Howland at pahowl@gmail.com*

December event:

Sunday, December 3 – The 37th Annual Friends of the Mark Twain House & Museum House Tour – 11-3, cost: \$30 in advance, \$35 day of tour

This year the tour will feature Mark Twain's 19-room home at 351 Farmington Avenue in Hartford, the Wadsworth Atheneum's Chick Austin House at 131 Scarborough Street in Hartford, along with 3 other homes in West Hartford. The private homes will be decorated festively and will feature live music and floral arrangements. The Mark Twain House will be decorated for a late 19th century Christmas. We can meet for breakfast prior to the tour and carpool to the various homes. Purchase tickets on your own at marktwainhouse.org or 860-280-3130. Email Patty to let her know if you'd like to eat/tour with the group.

9:00a Breakfast (optional) at **Blue Plate Kitchen**, 345 No Main St (Bishop's Corner in the same lot as Marshall's) West Hartford

- or meet there to carpool at 10:30
- or go on your own

11:00a – 3:00p Holiday House Tour

- Mark Twain House
- Chick Austin House
- 3 other homes

January/February Event:

Tour of The Jackson Laboratory's new genomic medicine facility right here in Farmington, CT. The Jackson Laboratory is a nonprofit world-leading biomedical research institution working to advance mammalian genetics and human genomics research in aging, behavioral disorders, bioinformatics, cancer, complex traits, developmental disorders, diabetes and obesity, eye research, genetics and genomics, immune disorders, infectious diseases, neurodegenerative and neuromuscular diseases, reproductive disorders, resource development and skin disorders. This will be a very exciting and informative tour. Tours are limited to 12 persons. If we have great interest, multiple tours will be offered. Tentative dates are: Jan 25,30. Feb 1,8,20. If interested, email Patty at pahowl@gmail.com with your preferred dates. More details to follow.

Happy Hour Social Club

[Shaun Murphy](#) 860-651-6051

We have tweaked the mission of the Men's Night Out. It has morphed into Happy Hour Social Club (not just for men!). We are now in pursuit of the perfect IPA, or some other craft brew delight, bourbon, vino, good conversation and food. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. (or

earlier for those that can). Each month, Shaun will send a broadcast message to the group with details about that month's event. (This group is open to all). Slainte!

Humans for Humanity

[Brynn Brown](#) 860-301-9977

This is your opportunity to be the change you wish to see in the world. Humans for Humanity works on a variety of projects to help our fellow human beings. This may range from filling backpacks with food for those in need in our community or raising money to build a school halfway around the world. Please contact me with your ideas and we will work together to improve the human condition. We do not meet on a regular basis. Please contact me with your volunteer ideas and I will present them to the group. BrynnBrown@hotmail.com or 860-301-9977

Ladies' Lunch Bunch

[Alayna Clark](#) 860-217-0054
[Toni Robinson](#) 860-217-1915

The Lunch Bunch meets once a month on the 3rd Thursday. *Starting in January, we will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

If you enjoy eating, talking, and laughing then this is the group for you.

Join us for our holiday lunch at **Abigail's on Thursday, December 21 at 11:30 a.m.**

Contact Toni at tonirobinson22@gmail.com if you would like to attend.

Mah Jongg – Day

[Alayna Clark](#) 860-217-0054

The daytime Mah Jongg group meets every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. Players take turns hosting this casual "come if you can" group. An announcement will be sent to the group about who will be hosting each week.

Mah Jongg – Evening

[Holly Murphy](#) 860-651-6051

The evening Mah Jongg group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. We alternate meeting at members' homes and new players are always welcome.

Movie Club

[Holly Murphy](#) 860-651-6051
[Gay Mulligan](#) 860-658-1706

Hello Movie Lovers!

We are a very casual Movie Group. Gay or Holly will forward the Hoyts Newsletter to the group as we receive it, which will give you the opportunity to view showtimes and watch the previews.

Senior Mondays (62 and over) are \$5. all day, with the exception of holidays or holiday eve.

Terrific Tuesdays are \$5. all day, also with the exception of holidays or holiday eve.

If you are interested in going to a particular show, and are looking for company, you may reply to the group. Please give: The movie name, the day, date and time you are planning to go. Anyone interested in going should reply **only** to the person looking for company. Please do **Not** "reply to all" if you are planning to join the person reaching out, and please do **Not** reply to anyone if you are not planning to go to the movies.

If you are a "Classic" movie fan (old movie buff), TCM, along with fathom events, is showing their old movies at select dates and times. Bloomfield, Hartford, and Torrington are soon hosting. The information can be found on the fathom events website. Go to the link: <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/2017-tcm-big-screen-classics>

Needlework

[Karen Goldschmidt](#) 860-461-1451
[Shirley Kucia](#) 860-693-4444

The Needlework Group is a congenial weekly gathering of beginner and experienced needlecrafters. We meet in a member's home or the library every Monday between 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM. Join us for part or all of that time to be inspired, learn from others, or share your knowledge. Members host the group at home or provide refreshments at the library once or possibly twice a year. A weekly email message tells members the location of the next meeting and gives driving directions. Please contact us if you have questions or want to add your name to our email list.

Paddle Tennis

Ladies Paddle Tennis: [Carolyn Brand](#) 860-408-1566 (Monday AM, Thursday AM)

Men's Paddle Tennis: [Dick Clark](#) 860-424-6697 (Saturday AM)

Mixed Doubles Paddle Tennis: [Camilla Thompson](#) 860-658-2038 (Sunday 4:30-6pm)

The new season has begun. Paddle Tennis is similar to tennis, but played outdoors during the colder months on raised courts. In snowy conditions, the courts are heated to melt the wintry mix. We play November through March, using the courts at Simsbury Farms. The Couples group plays on Sunday evenings, the Ladies play on Monday and Thursday mornings, and the Men play on Saturday mornings. The Farms usually offers Paddle lessons. Please check with their office for more information – (860) 658-3836. If you play paddle and would like to be added to the sub list, please contact the activity chairs. Hope to see you on the courts!

Pinochle

[Judy Rabinowitz](#) 860-658-9262

This group meets once a month at a different member's home for an evening of fun and cards. New players are welcome. Don't worry if you don't know how to play, we'll teach you. We generally play on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but call Judy to confirm the location.

PopUps

[Shari Cassutt](#) 505-670-4982

PopUps is the place for activities that don't have a group. It's also a place where you can communicate with other members of the email list about activities that you're doing and would like to invite others to join you. If you're interested in organizing an activity or joining our mailing list please get in touch with me.

Theatre Group

[Patty Howland](#) 860-470-7771

Please feel free to send Patty an email and join the group if you did not do so at signups. Bring a partner/spouse/family member/guest or just come on your own! If we get a good number of people for a show (generally 10) we can try to buy tickets at a discounted price, but if that does not happen, we will just get our own tickets and try to sit near each other. We will plan to meet for dinner before the show if anyone would like, but if you'd rather just meet at the show that is fine too.

Here are some shows we will attend. Send Patty an email if you are interested.

Constellations – Friday, January 26, Theaterworks, 233 Pearl Street, Hartford; Tickets on sale: Dec 11th. Email Patty at pahowl@gmail.com if you are interested.

The Bodyguard – Wednesday, February 21, The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 4 people have ordered tickets

Murder on the Orient Express – Friday, March 16, Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford; Tickets available now: 2 people have ordered tickets. There are some \$25 Super-Saver tickets still available online. Since they are so reasonable right now, buy your own tickets and let Patty know if you'd like to go to dinner before the show.

On Your Feet – Sunday, June 24th, 6:30 The Bushnell, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; Tickets available now. 2 people have ordered tickets.

In the Heights – Friday, July 13 (note date change), Playhouse on Park, 244 Park Road, West Hartford
Tickets available now. Prices are \$35 – \$50. Groups of 10+ get 10% discount; 20+ get 20% discount. Email Patty if you are interested and we can start the process.

Walking Group

[Charlotte Ray](#) 860-651-4611

The Walking Group meets each weekday morning at 9 AM in the Park & Ride lot on the lower level behind CVS. We walk along the East Coast Greenway trail (biking/walking trail) by Iron Horse Boulevard. We continue to walk during the cold weather so long as the walking trail is clear and not icy. You are welcome to join us on any morning that fits your schedule. If you will be walking with us for the first time, please let me know so I can be looking for you. The Walking Group is a great way to get some good exercise while being entertained by enjoyable conversation!

Wellness Group

[Nita Okray](#) 860-906-4262

The Wellness group will be gathering formally four times a year to share ideas on health/wellness topics such as nutrition, meditation, tai chi, laughter yoga, weight management, and basically to explore health topics and to achieve balance at all levels. Also, the group will be sharing ideas on wellness and local events or articles on wellness.

Please let Nita Okray know if you know of local events related to health and wellness or if you would like to be part of the group at nrokray@gmail.com. Please feel free to suggest topics or speakers for an upcoming gathering or if you want to host as well!

So far we have had gatherings on topics of learning meditation and Improv to reduce stress. Please email Nita to let her know you are interested in the group.

Wine & Women

[Cheryl Sojkowski](#) 860-658-2199

[Sarah Nanzig](#) 860-651-9085

Wine & Women is a fun and casual group that meets once a month, at a member's home, usually on the third Thursday night of the month. Everyone brings a bottle of wine or other beverage of choice and an appetizer or dessert to share. It's fun to meet new members and reconnect with friends. We welcome members to join the group at any time during the year. And, of course, you don't have to drink wine to enjoy an evening out with this lively crowd!

We will not be meeting in December and we hope everyone has a wonderful holiday!

SAVE THESE DATES: January 18, February 22, March 15, April 19, May 17, and June 8 (a Friday date for "Wine, Women and Guest"). Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to open their home to our group. We still need a hostess for June.

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