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## Annual Meeting

Chamber Hall of Fame Induction

*Please Join Us*

**Thursday, April 6, 2023**

11:30 a.m.

Torrington Country Club, 250 Torrington Road, Goshen

### Keynote Speakers



**Scott Dolch**

*President & CEO,  
CT Restaurant Assoc.*



**Jeff Pugliese**

*Dir. Community Relations,  
Eversource Energy*

### Hall of Fame Inductees



**Carol Crain**

*Primerica  
Financial Services*



**Paul McLaughlin**

*Northwest  
Community Bank*

### Election of Directors

Michael Rooke PhD, *Northwestern CT Community College*  
George Logan, *Aquarion Water Company*  
Stephen Ivain, *Chorus Angelicus*

### Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Alan Colavecchio, *Colavecchio Design*  
Kathleen Katrenya, *Torrington Savings Bank*  
John Seagrave, *Barron Financial Group*  
Richard Whitbeck, *Innovative Health Concepts*

### Lunch Options:

- Chicken Italiano (GF)
- Grilled Sirloin (GF)
- Seafood Stuffed Sole
- Penne Primavera (Vegetarian)

### Thank you to our Sponsors



\$45 NW CT Chamber Members - \$60 Non-Members.  
Please RSVP via email to [info@nwtchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwtchamberofcommerce.org).

# Congratulations !!

**Carol  
Crain**

**&**

**Paul  
McLaughlin**

*From the Desk of Our  
President & CEO*

**JOANN RYAN**



**“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!”**

We are in the midst of challenging times that many have never witnessed. In a nutshell, it is tough! However, when the going gets tough, the tough get going! This is precisely our mantra. Mind you, it is not going out of business, not going negative, nor thinking the same old way. Instead, it is going positive, making changes and thinking creatively to meet challenges aggressively and immediately. Here is what we are suggesting for going places with us!

Are you looking for a job? Thank you to the forty employers and hundreds of potential employees who participated in the March Job Fair. We are grateful to the City of Torrington, NW Regional Workforce Investment Board, Department of Labor, WZBG, Register Citizen and Republican American for supporting this event. There were many employment opportunities with manufacturers, healthcare providers, educators, financial institutions and others. It was time well spent.

We will be attending Connecticut Business Day at the Bushnell on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10am sponsored by CBIA and the Connecticut Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives. This event offers businesses the opportunity to expand horizons by meeting others who are in the same boat. We will be carpooling from the Chamber if you can join us.

Attend the Chamber’s Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am to 1:30pm at Torrington Country Club. We will be honoring Carol Crain from Primavera and Paul McLaughlin of Northwest Community Bank who will be inducted into the Chamber’s Hall of Fame. Keynote speakers are Jeff Pugliese, Director of Community Relations for Connecticut at Eversource Connecticut and Scott Dolch, President & CEO of the Connecticut Restaurant Association. Expecting a packed house of dedicated, enthusiastic, powerful leaders.

Consider volunteering for the Connecticut Credit Union’s Financial Reality Fair at Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This is the perfect way to engage high school students in creating a budget based on their career expectations and developing habits that help them to prepare for the future.

Go to our website: [www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org](http://www.nwctchamberofcommerce.org) for the events and initiatives that prove we are moving in the right direction. Remember that “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”



**Index**

<b>Ads</b>	<b><u>Pages 5-6</u></b>
<b>Ad Pricing</b>	<b><u>Page 19</u></b>
<b>Calendar</b>	<b><u>Page 22</u></b>
<b>Chamber News</b>	<b><u>Pages 14-20</u></b>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	<b><u>Page 18</u></b>
<b>Corporate Partner News</b>	<b><u>Page 4</u></b>
<b>Member in the Spotlight</b>	<b><u>Page 5</u></b>
<b>Member News</b>	<b><u>Pages 5-13</u></b>
<b>New Members</b>	<b><u>Page 7</u></b>
<b>News and Notes</b>	<b><u>Page 21</u></b>
<b>Premier Members</b>	<b><u>Page 7</u></b>
<b>Special News</b>	<b><u>Page 3</u></b>



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Torrington, CT 06790  
p 860.482.6586 • f 860-489-8851

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# Join us in Ireland



Cliffs of Moher



Connolly's Pub, Dublin



Killarney National Park

Get ready for the adventure of a lifetime with the NW CT Chamber of Commerce to Ireland!

Immerse yourself in the mystical and magical land of Ireland, where legends come to life and lush green landscapes await. Discover stunning cliff-side views, majestic castles, and historic mills that transport you back in time. You'll also have the chance to indulge in the rich cultural heritage of Ireland, with exquisite tasting experiences of the world-famous Guinness and acclaimed Jameson Irish whiskey, and the chance to explore the iconic pubs and bars where storytelling is an honored tradition.

Our hands-on adventure offers an authentic and unforgettable experience that will leave you feeling invigorated and inspired. Whether you're a history buff, a nature lover, or a connoisseur of fine spirits, our Irish Spirit experience has something for everyone. Join us and tap into the luck of the Irish as you discover the treasures and masterpieces of this magical land.

Initial details:

**Date: Oct 9, 2023**

7 nights – 9 days, air from Hartford, first-class hotels, many meals, and all tours.

This trip will sell out fast, so get your name on the "I want additional information list"

by calling: 860-482-6586

or email: [Karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

## Corporate Partner NEWS

Hartford HealthCare  
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

### Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Celebrates Certified Registered Nurses

Charlotte Hungerford Hospital leadership celebrated Certified Registered Nurses on Monday, March 20, with awards and a luncheon in their honor. Twenty nursing professionals were recognized for their high level of knowledge and skills in their specialty fields.

Certified nurses are registered nurses who earn additional credentials in specialty areas with a combination of experience, education and examinations. Certified nurses become life-long learners as they are required to complete CEU's to maintain their certifications, which helps them keep pace with constant changes in the healthcare landscape.

John Capobianco, Senior Vice President, Northwest Region, welcomed the certified nurses and provided some history of Certified Nurses Day, which is celebrated annually on March 19. John said, "There are over 200 nursing specialties and sub-specialties.

Annie MacAulay, RN, CEN, was instrumental in organizing the celebration and noted, "It's wonderful to recognize our nurses who have gone the extra mile to gain content expertise in their field of craft. They become resources and role models for all of us."

Sue Kellogg, RN, CNOR, has been a nurse at CHH for 36 years and, on Monday, celebrated the fifth time she has received certification as a Certified Nurse – Operating Room. Each time she has recertified, she has completed 125 CEU's over a five-year period. Sue said, "Certification makes me continue to learn and provides many added resources through the accrediting body."

Carey Hock, RNC-OB, CBS, has been a nurse on OB/GYN for 11 years. She is now a Certified Nurse – Inpatient Obstetrics. "I gained a great deal of knowledge in my specialty," said Carey. "Science is constantly changing, and certification keeps me up to date in my field."

Certified nurses are considered clinical experts who have demonstrated a level of knowledge validated by the credentialing boards. They have committed themselves to engage in continuous educational opportunities, maintaining a level of up-to-date knowledge in their area(s) of expertise."



Erinne Houton, Regional Vice President for Patient Care Services at CHH, handed out awards to the 20 certified nurses and thanked them for their commitment to their work. Here's who was honored: *Tammy Arel, CNOR; David Bendell, NE-BC; Cassandra Berardinelli, CCRN; Tiffany Carr, CEN, CTRN; Katherine Clark, CEN; Tiffany Dickey, SANE-A, CLHP; Luanne Dubois, CNOR; Ann Marie Faucher, CPHQ; Suzanne Fox, WOCN; Erin Guevarez, GERO-BC; Carey Hock, RNC-OB, CBS; Sue Kellogg, CNOR; Cindi MacAulay, CNOR, Annie MacAulay, CEN, Aislinn MacMaster, CCRN; Heidi Norvors, RNC-OB, C-EFM; Molly Porter, CHPN; Virginia Potrepka, CPHQ; Jessie Udeen, WOCN; Lindsey Watkins, CCRN*

**Congratulations to All!**

## Chamber Member **IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



### All That Glitters Makeup Artistry

All That Glitters Makeup Artistry is a boutique makeup and hairstyling studio artist based in Torrington, CT. Specializing in airbrushed makeup, the professionals can create a wow-inducing look for your wedding day. From natural eye makeup to soft mermaid curls, you can be mesmerized by every glamorous detail.

The team at All That Glitters Makeup Artistry is led by skilled stylist Amy Hoerle. With over 17 years of experience as a licensed cosmetologist, Amy has found a way to stay up-to-date with new trends and create a personal and professional look. Amy will be delighted to help you and your wedding party on your big day.

At All That Glitters Makeup Artistry, you can enjoy on-site services for your special event. These makeup services include airbrush makeup application, hairstyling, fake lashes, and more. Once you've picked your desired service, Amy will be thrilled to schedule a trial for you and help you plan your style for your big day.

Please check us out on Wedding Wire, The Knot, Instagram and Facebook!

<https://www.weddingwire.com/biz/all-that-glitters-makeup-artistry-new-hartford/6fb00ebdcf51dda3.html>

<https://www.theknot.com/marketplace/all-that-glitters-makeup-artistry-torrington-ct-2064613>

Facebook and Instagram @allthatglittersmakeupartistry

Where Is Your  
Business Going?  
We'll Help You Get There.



Visit us online, contact a  
Business Banker, or stop  
by a branch to get started.



TorringtonSavings.Bank/Business (860) 496-4495





# WHITING MILLS OPEN STUDIOS WEEKEND

April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> From 11 - 5pm

Artists, Crafters, Specialty Shops & Guest Artists All Under One Roof!



FREE EVENT • FOOD TRUCK • FREE PARKING

100 Whiting St, Winsted CT 860-738-2240 [www.whitingmills.com](http://www.whitingmills.com) [facebook.com/WhitingMillsLLC](https://facebook.com/WhitingMillsLLC)

# COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS WELCOMES ASSOCIATE DENTAL DIRECTOR: DR. VICTORIA MASSEY, D.M.D.



Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC) announces the appointment of Dr. Victoria Massey, D.M.D., as the center's new Associate Dental Director.

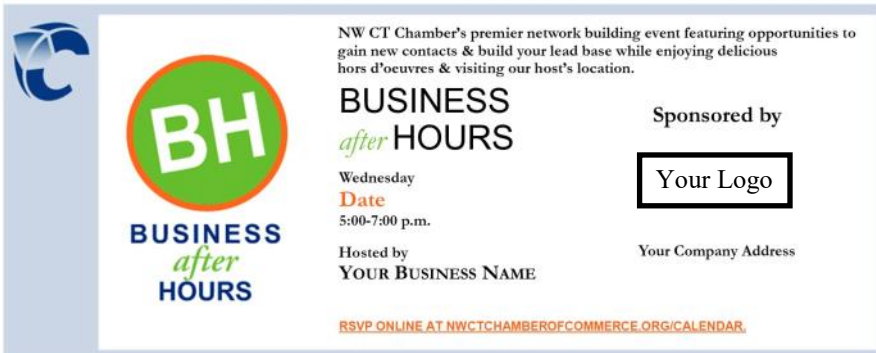
Dr. Massey is accomplished in the practice of General Dentistry. She is an alumna of UConn, graduating from the

University of Connecticut in the dual degree B.S./D.M.D. Program and the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine. In addition, Dr. Massey completed an AEGD Residency at New York University Langone at Holyoke Community Health

Center. The recipient of awards for both teaching and service, she is core dental faculty for UConn Health's Urban Service Track. Her passions include patient advocacy, vulnerable populations, and social determinants of health. Dr. Massey also loves working with children and practicing pediatric dentistry.

"As a practitioner, I enjoy taking care of the vulnerable populations like the ones I grew up with and dedicate myself to offering quality, consistent healthcare," said Dr. Massey. "I make patients comfortable by giving the best of myself, listening to their concerns, and tailoring treatment to what they need, always in keeping with my values as a provider."

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Massey as our new Associate Dental Director," said Joanne Borduas, CEO of CHWC. "She is a very compassionate provider, and a wonderful addition to our dental team who is expanding our range of dental services offered at our Winsted office."



NW CT Chamber's premier network building event featuring opportunities to gain new contacts & build your lead base while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres & visiting our host's location.

**BH**  
BUSINESS after HOURS

Wednesday  
Date  
5:00-7:00 p.m.

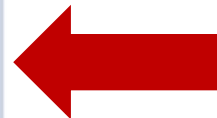
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Sponsored by  
Your Logo

Your Company Address

RSVP ONLINE AT [NWCTCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.ORG/CALENDAR](http://NWCTCHAMBEROFCOMMERCE.ORG/CALENDAR)

## Interested in hosting a Business After Hours?



Your Business and logo could be listed here

Send us an email to schedule a date:  
[info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
Or Call: 860-482-6586.

## Premier MEMBERS

- [Brandywine Living at Litchfield](#)
- [Commercial Sewing, Inc.](#)
- [Cook Funeral Home](#)
- [Eversource Energy](#)
- [Keystone Place at Newbury Brook](#)
- [Seitz, LLC](#)
- [Senior Advocate Services](#)
- [T&M Building Company, Inc. and Torrington Downtown Partners](#)
- [UCE Fine Builders](#)
- [Webster Bank](#)

## Welcome New Members

- Crown Home Improvement, LLC  
[www.crownhomeimprov.com](http://www.crownhomeimprov.com)
- Crumbs by Toast & Co.  
[www.crumbsct.com](http://www.crumbsct.com)
- Law Office of John E. Hudson  
[www.ctlandtitle.com](http://www.ctlandtitle.com)
- Litchfield County Axe House  
[www.litchfieldcountyaxehouse.com](http://www.litchfieldcountyaxehouse.com)
- Michelle Grant Realtor  
[bluesoulgreeneyes@gmail.com](mailto:bluesoulgreeneyes@gmail.com)
- Standard Valuation Services  
[www.standardvaluation.com](http://www.standardvaluation.com)
- Toce Brothers Barnwell House of Tires  
[www.barnwelltire.com](http://www.barnwelltire.com)

## SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR

# How To Hire Great People

by Missy Lafferty

**A NWCC Entrepreneurial Center & CT State Event**

When it comes to hiring the first employee or the 50th, many companies struggle to identify, attract, and hire the people needed to help the business grow. In this seminar, attendees will learn actionable steps for confidently hiring and growing a great team. You'll learn how to tell your company's story to attract job candidates, build a hiring process to select best-fit hires, and set new hires up for success.

This seminar will be taught by Missy Lafferty who has over 15 years of business experience in global media, technology, and financial services companies, serving roles in strategy, ops, and talent acquisition. She has built her career helping industry-leading firms hire in competitive markets and use data to make more informed decisions.



**Tuesday**  
**April 4th**  
**5:30 to 8:30 pm**

REGISTRATION REQUIRED ☀

TO REGISTER, VISIT [www.nwcc.edu/sbs](http://www.nwcc.edu/sbs) ☀

MAX 15 PARTICIPANTS ☀

FREE IN-PERSON EVENT ☀

The Norfolk Hub, 2 Station Place, Norfolk CT

For more information and to register  
[nwcc.edu/sbs](http://nwcc.edu/sbs)

event in partnership with





## JESSICA ELLIOTT TO MANAGE THE MILLERTON BRANCH OF SALISBURY BANK



Jessica Elliott

Salisbury Bank is pleased to announce that Jessica Elliott has accepted the Assistant Vice President, Branch Manager position at the Millerton Branch.

“I am extremely pleased to welcome Jessica to our Retail Branch Management Team,” said Stephen Scott, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer. “Jessica has been with Salisbury Bank since 2014 serving our communities and delivering on our core values. She will be a great addition to lead our Millerton, NY team and deliver excellent service to our clients in that market.”

Jessica started with the Bank as a Customer Associate, and has worked in many Retail Department roles, most recently as an Assistant Branch Manager in the Bank’s Poughkeepsie, NY location.

She started in her new role on February 27th.

*Salisbury Bank is a full-service community bank headquartered in Lakeville, Connecticut and presently operates full service branches in Canaan, Lakeville, Salisbury, and Sharon, Connecticut; Great Barrington, Sheffield, and South Egremont, Massachusetts; as well as Dover Plains, Fishkill, Millerton, New Paltz, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie, and Red Oaks Mill, New York. The Bank has been serving families and businesses for over 175 years and offers a full range of consumer and business banking products and services as well as trust and investment services.*

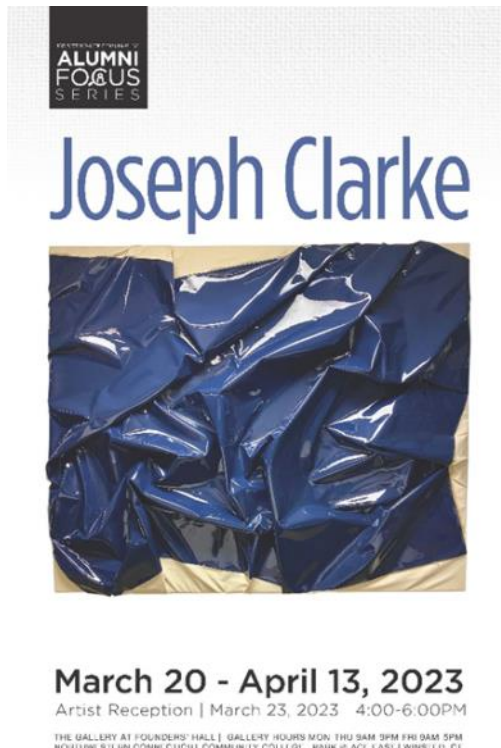
## Northwestern Gallery Hosts Alumnus Joseph Clarke



Northwestern Community College proudly presents artist Joseph Clarke in The Gallery at Founder’s Hall March 20 through April 13, 2023. An opening reception is scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 4 to 6 p.m. Both the gallery and the reception are open to the public.

Clarke is a Connecticut based artist living in Litchfield County. He is a 2015 alumnus of Northwestern and is part of the gallery’s Alumni Focus Series.

Since graduating from the Hartford Art School at the University of Hartford in 2018, Clarke has been producing large, colorful works that he describes as action sculptures. He is the associate director at Furnace Art on Paper Archive located in Falls



ALUMNI FOCUS SERIES

Joseph Clarke

March 20 - April 13, 2023  
Artist Reception | March 23, 2023 4:00-6:00PM

THE GALLERY AT FOUNDERS' HALL | GALLERY HOURS MON-THU 9AM-5PM FRI 9AM-5PM  
100 HILL STREET | NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE | PARK PLACE EAST | WINSTED, CT

Village, CT where he works alongside artist and gallerist Kathleen Kucka. Over the past five years, he has worked with many artists in the tri-state area. “After college, the best thing I could have done was to work with professional artists in their studios,” he says. Clarke’s work has been sold throughout the United States. You can see more of his work on his Instagram page at [jclarke\\_art](https://www.instagram.com/jclarke_art).

The Gallery at Founders Hall is located at 4 Park Place, Winsted. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about the exhibit please contact Gallery Coordinator Deb Kline at [dkline@nwcc.edu](mailto:dkline@nwcc.edu).

## Northwestern Students Partner with Great Falls Brewing for Capstone Project

Northwestern CT Community College has partnered with Great Falls Brewing Company in North Canaan to provide an immersive, career-related project for data science students Trevor Kolbusz and Trevor Rinaldi, and Northwestern data science alumnus and Assistant Project Manager, John Bennett. The project is part of a capstone research course where the students will spend the semester working with Chris Tripler, owner of Great Fall Brewing Company and a former environmental science college professor, on solving a real business challenge. The nature of this project is to analyze large amounts of data to determine the financial impact that the market forces have had on the brewery's bottom line.



Located in the historic refurbished Canaan Union Station railroad depot in North Canaan, Great Falls Brewing Company opened its doors in December 2018. Great Falls offers a variety of beer including classic lagers and ales, as well as popular American style beers such as New England style and West Coast style IPAs. According to Tripler, "Our goal is to listen to, and learn from, the palate of the local drinker, as well as push boundaries of craft beer innovation while keeping up with craft beer market trends."



Professor Crystal Wiggins, faculty advisor for the Data Science program, and Stacey Williams, professor of business, are the faculty team overseeing the capstone project. Professor Wiggins said this capstone research project mimics an internship, "where students learn to interact in a business setting, manage deadlines, produce technical documents, and think critically to find solutions." The students will hold regular meetings with Tripler to provide updates on their progress. At the end of the course, the students will produce a client report with their recommendations and present it to Tripler.

Seated from left to right: John Bennett, Trevor Rinaldi, Trevor Kolbusz, and Chris Tripler

If you have a business challenge and would like to partner with Northwestern to have a team of students and faculty work with you, or you would like more information about the Data Science and Business programs at Northwestern, please contact Crystal Wiggins at [cwiggins@nwcc.edu](mailto:cwiggins@nwcc.edu).

## Northwestern Offers Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft Course

Northwestern Connecticut Community College is offering two opportunities for the *Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft* certificate course through the Office of Workforce Development.

This Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) certificate course is taught by boating professionals sponsored by the Connecticut DEEP Boating Division. Successful completion fulfills the requirements to obtain the Connecticut Safe Boating and Personal Watercraft Certificate, which enables individuals to operate jet skis and recreational vessels up to 65 feet in length. The course fee is \$25 and addi-

tional state fees are applicable. Students must register prior to attending either session.

The first three-night course will be held April 11, 12, and 13, 6 to 9 p.m. in the Draper Conference Center, lower level of the Learning Resource Center, 2 Park Place East, Winsted. The second opportunity to take the certificate course will be held May 2, 3, and 4; same time and location.

To register for either of the sessions, go to [www.nwcc.edu/boating](http://www.nwcc.edu/boating). For more information contact John Fiorello at [jfiorello@nwcc.edu](mailto:jfiorello@nwcc.edu).

## Member NEWS

## The Litchfield Aid Makes 2022/23 Gift of \$85,000 to CJR



From left, Rick Judd, Executive Vice President, Union Savings Bank, and Chair, CJR Board of Directors; Hedy Barton, CJR Director of Development and Public Relations; and Susan Vontell, President of The Litchfield Aid of CJR

The Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) has received a gift of nearly \$85,000 from The Litchfield Aid of CJR, representing proceeds from The Aid's 2022 fundraising event, *Celebrating Gratitude*, as well as monies from its endowment, member contributions and funds raised through The Aid's annual bake sale at the *Cars for Kids* Automobile Show in October. The contribution was presented by Litchfield Aid President Susan Vontell at The Aid's annual meeting.

"As President of The Aid, I am personally very grateful to the members of our organization who worked with me to make our *Celebrating Gratitude* event a successful fundraiser despite the many challenges associated with conducting a benefit during a resurgence of the COVID pandemic," said Ms. Vontell. "We were able to raise nearly \$25,000 between this event and our Car Show Bake Sale," she stated.

"CJR is honored to receive this important contribution from The Aid," said Rick Judd, Chair of CJR's Board of Directors. "This gift will be used to support the expansion of CJR's behavioral and mental health services in Litchfield County, where demand for services has surged over the past two years, both in the community and in local public schools," he stated.

According to CJR President and CEO Daniel Rezende, CJR's behavioral and mental health services are provided through five Wellness Center clinics located in Danbury, Litchfield, New Britain, Torrington and Waterbury and through school-based services being provided in 21 schools in Litchfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties, with further growth anticipated during 2023.

"Grants and contributions help us expand programs to meet these needs; to provide care and treatment not covered by insurance and

for those without it; to eliminate barriers to treatment; and to increase psychiatric services and health equity for the children and families we serve," he said.

Mr. Rezende noted that The Litchfield Aid was one of the earliest supporters of the CJR Wellness Center, and provided critical support to help launch the program in 2015. "The first year of operation we served approximately 150 children and families through our Litchfield and Torrington clinics. This number has grown steadily since that time, but last year's growth was unprecedented," he reported. "We served 860 young people and families in 2022, with those treated ranging in age from 2 to 67 years of age. The support of The Aid has made a huge difference to our ability to provide care for children and families in the community at a time when behavioral and mental health services are urgently needed," he said. Mr. Rezende indicated that the Wellness Center is CJR's fastest growing program, with 70% of the children, youth and families served residing in Litchfield County.

"The Litchfield Aid is delighted to be able to contribute toward a program that is so vital to helping our community's young people and families receive services that are so critical to their health and well-being," stated Ms. Vontell.

In addition to President Susan Vontell of Morris, officers of The Aid include Vice President Paula Rolleston of Litchfield; Recording Secretary Judy Maxwell of Norfolk; Treasurer Kathy VanOrmer of Litchfield; and Assistant Treasurer Tiffany D'Andrea of Litchfield. A voluntary organization, The Litchfield Aid was established in 1911, for the sole purpose of supporting CJR's programs and facilities. Since that time, The Aid has raised approximately \$2.7 million to benefit CJR, and its members have fulfilled an important role as goodwill ambassadors in the community.

Founded in 1904, the Connecticut Junior Republic (CJR) provides residential and community-based care, treatment, family support, education and behavioral and mental health services for young people so they may thrive and become productive and fulfilled members of their homes, schools and communities. The organization's combined programs serve nearly 1,700 boys and girls annually at program sites throughout Connecticut and in a growing number of public schools.

A private charitable organization, the Connecticut Junior Republic is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). CJR is supported by gifts from individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations, and through service contracts funded by the Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division (JBCSSD), the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS), by Connecticut's public schools, and through other income earned for services provided. For more information, please contact Hedy Barton, Director of Development and Public Relations (860) 567-9423, extension 1252; or by email: [hbarton@cjryouth.org](mailto:hbarton@cjryouth.org).

## COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS CENTER APPOINTS MICHELLE JOSE, RN, BSN, AS DIRECTOR OF NURSING



Community Health & Wellness Center (CHWC) welcomes Michelle Jose, RN, BSN, as Director of Nursing. In this role, Jose will provide administrative oversight and assistance to the Chief Operations Officer and Chief Medical Officer in the development, organization, implementation,

and evaluation of health center operations in the Torrington and Winsted locations. She will also be responsible for the daily and strategic administrative oversight and operational accountability of all nursing and ancillary services. This includes personnel oversight, providing on-going quality improvement efforts, ensuring current standards of care and scope of practice are met, and ensuring that the skills and educational needs of the nursing staff and other clinical support staff are met to enhance patient care quality and safety.

Jose brings extensive experience to her position at CHWC. Most recently, she was an Interim Director of Nursing at Waterbury Hospital, has clinical experience as a pediatric nurse, and is an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC). She graduated from Saint Joseph College and earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Michelle was honored as a Nightingale Award recipient in May of 2012.

Jose lives in Northwest CT with her husband and their three children. She has a passion for working with the underserved, having done so in both in the Hartford and Waterbury communities. She brings clinical expertise in Pediatrics to CHWC, where she is actively working on expanding the depth of services provided to children of all ages in the community.

“I am dedicated to providing high-quality care to all of our patients and am very excited about contributing to the depth and growth of services we can make available to residents of rural Northwest Connecticut,” Jose said.

“We are delighted to have Michelle onboard to contribute her broad expertise and passion, along with her vision of growth for our center,” said Joanne Borduas, CEO of CHWC. “She is a welcome addition to our team of professionals.”

## Northwestern to Hold Touch-A-Truck Event



The Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Education student clubs at Northwestern CT Community College will host a *Touch-A-Truck* event on **Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Arts and Science Building parking lot, 209 Holabird Avenue, Winsted. The event is free and open to the public although donations will be accepted, including non-perishable food items to be donated to Northwestern's *Food For Thought* student food pantry, and monetary donations for the Northwestern Student Emergency Fund.

Vehicles available on-site will include fire engines, police cars, ambulances, tractors, quads, and more.

Sponsoring the event are Hartford HealthCare and member hospital Charlotte Hungerford, and Avon Prime Meats.

The Northwestern Student Emergency Fund was established in 2016 with funding support from the Northwestern Community College Foundation and private donations to assist students with unexpected emergency financial needs. To date, the fund has helped more than 225 students with over \$115,000 in grant money assistance. All three sponsors have committed to generous donations to Northwestern's Student Emergency Fund.

The *Food for Thought* food bank was created on campus in 2017 for students with food insecurities. To date, the campus has served more than 375 student requests.

For more information, contact Tracy Smith-Michnowicz at [tsmith-michnowicz@nwcc.edu](mailto:tsmith-michnowicz@nwcc.edu) or Mike Emanuel at 860-738-6389.



**TOUCH-A-TRUCK**

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 22**  
10AM - 2PM

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY AND SEE:**  
 - FIRE ENGINES - TRACTORS  
 - POLICE CARS - QUADS  
 - AMBULANCES - AND MORE!

**LOCATION**  
 Arts & Science Building  
 209 Holabird Ave  
 Winsted, CT 06098

**Hartford HealthCare**

**NCCC**

-Free Admission  
 -Donations of non-perishable food items appreciated  
 -Donations go to Student Emergency Fund

An event run by The Criminal Justice Club and Early Childhood Education Club

Member NEWS



Get Involved. Be a part of the change.

# The Broker Academy

access health CT

**Training Class:**

**June 5-9, 2023**

5 day in-person class. Flexible schedule for the remainder of the Program.

**Minimum requirements to apply:**

- 18 years or older
- High school diploma or GED
- 1-3 recommendation letters
- Community service experience
- Preference will be given to applicants who reside or work in underserved areas

As part of our mission-driven approach to reduce health disparities, Access Health CT seeks to drive change within communities in need by creating a Broker Academy Program - a free training program for candidates to become licensed insurance brokers (producers).

The Program aims to help reduce health disparities and uninsured rates by embedding a network of trusted health coverage experts in Connecticut's traditionally hardest-to-reach communities.

Start a new career while making a difference in your community.

**Program Details:**



**Free Training**

Access Health will cover the cost of training and exam. Training ends October 27, 2023.



**Mentorship Program**

Students will have access to an experienced broker to provide guidance through the mentorship portion of the Program.



**Program Support**

Access Health will provide all resources throughout the Program and continued support after graduation.

To apply or to learn more information, scan to visit the Broker Academy webpage



For questions, email:

[AHCT.BrokerAcademy@ct.gov](mailto:AHCT.BrokerAcademy@ct.gov)

*Chamber* NEWS

# The faces of the next generation of leaders...

## The Young Professionals Organization



A meeting of the Young Professionals Organization was held at Salt 2.0 on March 22nd. They had quite a turnout as it was the first gathering since the pandemic shutdown. We're excited to see the energy and enthusiasm as this group positions itself to take on the challenges of our future.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

OVER  
800  
STUDENTS!



11th Annual Northwest Connecticut

Financial  
**REALITY**  
Fair



brought to you by  
Connecticut's Credit Unions  
Northwest Connecticut  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
Business Working Together

LARGEST  
REALITY FAIR  
IN  
CONNECTICUT!



**Wednesday, April 19, 2023**

7:15 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

@ Lewis S. Mills High School, Burlington

Volunteers needed for a variety of booths as well as financial counselors.  
No experience needed! We will train you the morning of the fair!

Please call JoAnn at 860-482-6586 or email [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org) to volunteer.

# Chamber NEWS



**BUSINESS**  
*with*  
**BREAKFAST**

Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

## BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second “commercial” for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

Tuesday, April 25, 8:00 a.m.

Hosted by

**Merritt Clarke’s Store**

1101 Bantam Rd, Bantam



## Read Aloud Day **POSTPONED** Until February 2024

Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we need to **postpone the Read Aloud Program for this year**. A timeframe conflict has made it difficult for us to complete the coordination of the program in a timely fashion. We look forward to having the program up and running again in February 2024. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused, and we thank you for your ongoing support of our Chamber!



**LEARN**  
*at*  
**LUNCH**

Name of Topic

Presented By: Your Company Name  
and logo

Date and Time

If you have an idea for a Learn at Lunch topic  
or

If you are interested in hosting a Learn at Lunch

Email: [JoAnn@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:JoAnn@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
or [Karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:Karen@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)



# Business with Breakfast

## And Ribbon Cutting at Ebner Camps



More than 30 people attended the Business with Breakfast and Ribbon Cutting ceremony at the new offices of Ebner Camps, 456 Birge Park Road (Rte 4), Harwinton on Tuesday March 28th.

The building is set back from the road with a small pond in front. The upstairs boasts of a large open space for their conference table and desks for their camp counselors. Sky-light windows on the pitched roof add additional natural light. With plenty of parking and surrounded by trees, it's the perfect location for their offices.

Rep. John Piscopo and First Selectman Michael Criss of Harwinton were part of the ribbon cutting ceremony as Kris Ebner –Martin cut the ribbon which adorns her in the pic on the left. Three generations of Ebners are involved with the camps.

Left to Right: Rep. John Piscopo, Kris Ebner-Martin, Buzz Ebner, First Selectman Michael R. Criss, Hugh Martin

# Congratulations Ebner Camps!!!



# 19th Annual Job Fair



The Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce hosted the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Job Fair on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, in the auditorium at Torrington City Hall. The goal for the event was to help job seekers and employers connect. This year's Job Fair featured 40 employers representing a wide range of industries. Companies representing opportunities in manufacturing, finance, transportation, healthcare, insur-

ance, education, and many more were well received by the attendees. The Job Fair was presented in partnership with the Northwest Hills Council of Governments, Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board, the City of Torrington, FM 97.3 WZBG Radio, CT Department of Labor, the Register Citizen, and the Republican American.

## Interested in hosting a Business with Breakfast?





**BUSINESS  
with  
BREAKFAST**

Join us at our morning roundtable discussion

**BUSINESS *with* BREAKFAST**

Enjoy easy networking over a light breakfast. Each attendee will then give a 30-second "commercial" for their business followed by a brief presentation by our host.

**Tuesday, Month Date, 8:00 a.m.**

Hosted by

YOUR LOGO

Your Company Name

Your Address

Your company name, address, and logo could be listed here.



Send us an email to schedule a date: [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)  
Or Call: 860-482-6586.

## Chamber NEWS

### Committee Reports

#### Government Relations Committee

We had a very productive session with our Gov't Relations meeting this month. Although we were not able to provide direct testimony in Hartford, we did have a robust discussion for the H.U.T.( highway usage tax ) and the business pass-through tax among a few other proposals coming out of committee in the General Assembly that our members in the business community are interested in.

Mike Rell continues to be our "boots" on the ground ensuring that we are getting updated and briefed on the current proposals at the Capital in Hartford.

The representatives in attendance were: Michelle Cook (District 65), Jay Case (District 63), Lisa Seminara (District 8), Stephen Harding (District 30), and John Piscopo in person (District 76).

We encourage you to attend our Gov't Relations meeting on Zoom or in person at our corporate offices located at 59 Field St, Suite 120, every 2nd Thursday of the month at 8am.

#### Health Council



### The Northwest Chamber Health Council

Our May Health Council meeting is schedule for [Wednesday 5/17/23 at 8:00 AM.](#) This will be a hybrid meeting at the Chamber office but we will also offer Zoom access as usual. We encouraged you to attend in person if you can.

Our speaker for this meeting will be Aileen Meehan, Community Engagement Officer with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Aileen will speak about the mission of the Foundation and how they strengthen communities across our shared service areas. Please join us as we work together to build a more productive Health Council for Chamber members.

[RSVP at koconnell@geercare.org](mailto:koconnell@geercare.org) or call [860-824-3868](tel:860-824-3868)



## Chamber NEWS

During the Pandemic, our Chamber had offered FREE advertising to help support our members. January 1st, we will reinstate our reduced ad pricing structure to enable us to better serve you.

# PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY WITH THE



## DON'T WAIT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE MEMBER ONLY BENEFITS!

### CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

**Display Advertisements** are available to Chamber members. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Submit ad in JPEG or PNG format to [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).

Cost:

Full page (7 1/2" w x 9 1/2" h) - ~~\$250~~ **\$125**

1/2 page horizontal (7 1/2" w x 4 1/2" h) - ~~\$150~~ **\$75**

1/2 page vertical (3 1/2" w x 9 1/2" h) - ~~\$150~~ **\$75**

1/4 page (3 1/2" w x 4 1/2" h) - ~~\$75~~ **\$50**

Business card (3 1/2" w x 2 1/4" h) - ~~\$50~~ **\$25**

**Member News** and **Member in the Spotlights** may be submitted for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter and will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis. Bites should be approximately 100 words in length. Spotlights should be approximately 250 words in length and may include a logo or photo. Deadline is the 15th of the month. Email information to [info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:info@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).

Cost: Complimentary

### MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

**Display Advertisements** are available to Chamber members in the Annual Business & Membership Directory. Ads should be submitted by the 15th of February. Information and pricing are available by contacting JoAnn Ryan at [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).

### CHAMBER EXCHANGE – MEMBER TO MEMBER E-MAIL BLAST ADS

The Chamber sends e-mail blasts to all members with special offers and advertisements. These e-mails are sent separately from the standard member e-mails and are specially identified as offers from members. Members are able to place one ad per month. Ads can be linked to a website or FaceBook page. The e-mail distribution list exceeds 1,500 individuals. Ads should be submitted in JPEG or PNG format and should be 7" wide x 3-5" high. The fee is \$50 per ad. To schedule your Chamber Exchange ad, contact JoAnn Ryan at 860-482-6586 or [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org)

### MEMBER TO MEMBER

Present a **Member to Member Workshop** to fellow members and highlight the products and services of your business. Utilize the Chamber's conference room, obtain a set of mailing labels, receive a 1/2 page advertisement in the newsletter and an email to the membership promoting the workshop. Contact JoAnn Ryan to schedule at [joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org](mailto:joann@nwctchamberofcommerce.org).

Cost: ~~\$300~~ **\$250**

# Chamber Space Rentals



Conference Room - Conference Style (seats up to 28)



Conference Room - Classroom Setup (seats 20-25)



Library - (Seats up to 6)



Reception Area - (Seats up to 8)

**Member Room Rates:** 8 am – 5 pm, \$35 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$20 per hour thereafter  
 5 pm – 10 pm, \$45 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$35 per hour thereafter

**Non Member Room Rates:** 8 am – 5 pm, \$80 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$55 per hour thereafter  
 5 pm – 10 pm, \$125 for the 1<sup>st</sup> hour, \$100 per hour thereafter

*After hours (5 pm – 10 pm) rates also apply to weekend use.  
 Corporate Partners of the Chamber may utilize the conference rooms at no charge.  
 Premier Members of the Chamber may utilize the conference rooms at half price.*

**Projector, Whiteboard, and Flip Chart are available at no additional charge**

## News and NOTES

### Culture For A Cause Receives 2023 Award of Merit for 'The John Brown Project'

Letter From the Executive Director:

On behalf of the Awards Committee of the Connecticut League of History Organizations, I would like to officially inform you that CLHO has awarded Culture 4 A Cause a 2023 Award of Merit for "The John Brown Project."

The committee loved the project's irreverent and fun approach to these important historical topics, and the way the videos used the history of music to explore social movements in American history that went far beyond Torrington and the life of John Brown. They felt that this project was a wonderful way to reexamine a historical figure, telling an oft-told story in a fresh, fun, and eminently accessible way. They also admired the project's focus on African-American resistance and agency in the storytelling—and the clear impact the project was having in the community.

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations on this achievement. I hope that you and others from Culture 4 A Cause will join us for the awards ceremony and reception, scheduled to take place as part of CLHO's Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, April 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. The meeting and awards ceremony will begin in the Torp Theater in Davidson Hall at 5 p.m., and will be followed by a reception with appetizers and a cash bar in Founders Hall, also located in Davidson. Attendance is free, but we do ask that you RSVP on our website at <https://clho.org/event-5229282>.

We also encourage you to reach out to your legislators to share your achievement, and to invite them to the awards ceremony.

We at the League congratulate you on your award and thank you for your efforts to further a more complete understanding of history in Connecticut. We look forward to honoring you in person on April 18.

Sincerely,

Amrys.

Amrys O. Williams, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO)  
Central Connecticut State University Department of History  
1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT 06050

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**Congratulations Jacque Williams and Culture For a Cause!!!**

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**Spring is in the air !!!**





## *Upcoming* **CHAMBER MEETINGS & EVENTS**

- Apr. 4 - Small Business Council - 8 AM
- Apr. 4 - CT Business Day @ The Bushnell Performing Arts Center, 166 Capitol Ave, Hartford, **10 AM-12 PM**
- Apr. 5 - Wow Advisory Committee - 9 AM
- ~~Apr. 6 - Membership Committee - 8 AM~~ **POSTPONED**
- Apr. 6 - Annual Meeting [Keynote Speakers: Scott Dolch, CT Restaurant Association & Jeff Pugliese, Eversource Energy] & Chamber Hall of Fame Induction, @ The Torrington Country Club, 250 Torrington Rd, Goshen, **11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**
- Apr. 10 - Leads I - 12 PM
- Apr. 12 - Leads II - 12 PM
- Apr. 13 - Government Relations Committee - 8 AM
- Apr. 19 - Financial Reality Fair @ Lewis S. Mills High School, 26 Lyon Rd, Burlington, **7:15 AM - 12:00 PM**
- Apr. 19 - Health Council - 8 AM
- Apr. 20 - Leadership Northwest Session #7 - 8:30 AM
- Apr. 24 - Leads I - 12 PM
- Apr. 26 - Leads II - 12 PM
- Apr. 25 - Business with Breakfast @ Merritt Clarke's Store, 1101 Bantam Rd, Bantam **8-9 AM**
- Apr. 27 - Board of Directors Meeting - 8 AM

### *Save the Date*

- May 4 - Chamber Open House @ NW CT Chamber, 59 Field St, Torrington, 5-7 PM**
- May 17 - Health Council (SPEAKER: Aileen Meehan, Berkshire Taconic Foundation) 8 AM**
- May 23 - Business with Breakfast & Ribbon Cutting @ Northwest Home Care, Torr, 9 AM**
- ~~May 24 - Read Aloud Day~~ **POSTPONED** until February 2024
- June 14 - Great Giveaway Business Showcase @ Torrington Armory, 4-7 PM**
- June 21 - Leadership NW Graduation @ Torrington Country Club, Goshen, 5-8**
- June ?? - Celebration of Success, The Inn at Mt. Pleasant, Torrington 5-7 PM**
- October 6 - WOW! Forum, Warner Theatre, 82 Main Street, Torrington, 7:45 AM - 4:00 PM**

## **Newsletter Submissions:**

Please send us your newsletter submissions by the 15th of the month. Beyond that date, we cannot guarantee that it will be in the following month's edition.

Thank you.