

AROUND TOWN

The Hour

Rotary Club to salute emergency rescue team

WESTPORT

Three members of the Westport Police Department, two from the Westport Fire Department and three EMS personnel will be honored by the Westport Rotary Club at its weekly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 24, at the Inn at Longshore.

They were members of a response team who, on Thanksgiving night, revived an unconscious heart-attack victim and transported her to Norwalk Hospital for treatment.

Their effort has earned them the club's annual Public Protection and Safety Award.

First Selectman Gordon Joseloff will present the award to Sgt. Foti Koskinas and Officers Kevin Smith and Marc Heinmiller of the Police Department and Firefighters Neil Perrotti and Jeff Gootman of the Fire Department, as well as Alan Yoder, EMT Scott Luciani and Norwalk Hospital Paramedic Harry Downs of EMS.

Police Chief Al Fiore and Fire Chief Christopher Ackley will provide commentary about the honorees.

The Public Protection and Safety Award was created by the late Irwin Donenfeld during his tenure on the Westport Representative Town Meeting because he believed that the town's police, fire and emergency medical services personnel didn't get adequate credit for their heroic everyday efforts.

Guests are always welcome at Rotary meetings. There is a fee of \$20 per person for lunch.

For more information, contact Rotary Membership Chairman Todd Mauerman at (203) 221-1315, or visit the club's Web site at www.westportrotary.org, or come to a meeting at the Inn at Longshore any Tuesday at noon.

Museum's friends step up to raise \$13,000

NORWALK

Wine and food enthusiasts and supporters of Stepping Stones Museum for Children raised more than \$13,000 for the museum at its recent fourth annual Step Out at Stepping Stones event.

More than 200 people from Fairfield and Westchester counties mixed and mingled among the museum's galleries.

The funds raised will go towards supporting museum exhibits, educational programs and outreach initiatives.

Donna Barco, Alice Catalano and Ramsey Goodrich, were co-chairman of Step Out at Stepping Stones with support from Leslie Arcesi, Mark Campbell, Monique Christensen, Stephen Cooper, Meade Fogel, Scott Hill and Kristen Schadt.

Harborview Wine & Spirits provided more than 40 different wines representing 10 different countries and a wide range of world class



Stepping Stones board member Elizabeth Cahill of New Canaan, John Foster of Wilton, chairman of the museum's board of directors, and Ann Sheffer of Westport.

beers. Appetizers were provided from top Fairfield County restaurants, including Beach Café, Bobby Q's, Blue Lemon, Kazu, Meigas, The

Reef, Tuscan Oven and Whole Foods.

Stepping Stones Museum for Children, a private nonprofit organization, is an award-winning children's museum committed to broadening and enriching the lives of children. Museum exhibits, educational programs and special events complement efforts in schools, childcare centers and homes.

With four main galleries, a toddlers-only gallery and more than 100 hands-on activities, Stepping Stones offers children age 10 and under plenty to explore and discover.

Stepping Stones is located at 303 West Ave. just off exit 14 North and 15 South off I-95. Museum hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. Admission is \$9 and children under 1 are free. To learn more visit steppingstonesmuseum.org or call (203) 899-0606.

Rowayton chosen as setting for new children's book

NORWALK

The book launch of "Our Place Rowayton," in the new series Connecticut "HomeTown" Books for Children, will take place at the Rowayton Library, 33 Highland Ave., at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 28.

The series, written especially for children, depicts the local history of communities and towns in Connecticut.

The husband and wife team of Chris Gorman and Michelle Morfitt were inspired to write the books as a way to teach their children about local history. They began the series focusing on their own community of Rowayton.

The story is told through the eyes of Jack the golden retriever and covers the early history of each locale including the dinosaur era, the Native Americans and the arrival of the English settlers.

"We want people to understand what has come before them. The fact that George Washington marched through this land 230 years ago is amazing. The idea that in the early 1900s 12,000 people a day would come to Bayley Beach in Rowayton, CT, like a Coney Island getaway, is fascinating," said Gorman.

The front cover artwork for each book was created by the local school children. Each locale's schools held art contests where children were asked to draw their favorite subject of natural beauty within their town.

Our Place Books is committing \$1.75 for every book sold to be distributed to locale-specific causes.

Library visitors will meet authors Gorman and Morfitt, and Jack the golden retriever. Copies of the book will be available at the library for purchase. Refreshments will be served.

For the children



Norwalk Education Foundation Executive Director Lauren Rosato, left, receives a check from Tish Gibbs, director of the Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Projects, as a share of the proceeds from the November Family Concert produced by The Hallabaloos, Music for Children's Hall Family plus friends.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

If your agency wants to be highlighted in the Volunteer Corner, please e-mail a paragraph describing your organization, volunteer needs and contact information to vac@hscct.org

Circle of Friends is a volunteer organization, established by Beth Israel Synagogue in Norwalk, that reaches out to children, teenagers and adults with special needs. Every week teenage volunteers (training provided) visit children and teens, and once a month on Sundays throughout the school year. Teachers and therapists lead activities. Once a month on Wednesday evenings volunteers join in to socialize and enjoy music, dance, art, snack and special activities with adults with disabilities. Adult volunteers also participate. Contact Freida Hecht, director at (203) 866-0534 or e-mail circlefriendsct@gmail.com for more information.

Choices For Success in Norwalk, located at Grace Baptist Church, is seeking male and female volunteers as academic mentors for middle-school aged children. The program runs Monday through Thursday. Volunteers must commit to two hours per week. Choices is also looking for a volunteer for one hour per week who can teach beginners yoga, meditation and relaxation techniques. Contact Robyn Hudson, program manager, at (203) 505-3164 (please leave message) or e-mail to rhudson@mfcgc.org

STAR, Inc. is looking for volunteers to help with its fourth Annual STAR Walk, Roll & Stroll, a family walk and celebration May 3 at Sherwood Island State Park. The walk benefits STAR's programs, residences and services for infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities. Volunteers can hand out snacks and water to walkers, be cheerleaders for participants, assist with children's activities, help with set-up, cleanup and registration. For information, contact Megan Johnson at, (203) 846-9581 ext. 339 or mjohnson@starinonline.com.

Junior Achievement of Southwest of Connecticut is in need of volunteers to help with programs for local students in kindergarten to 12th grade. Teaching experience not needed. Volunteers meet with the students once a week for 45 minutes, for five to eight weeks. For information, please contact Arlene Viscomi at (203) 854-1700 or arlene@jaswct.com.

The **YMCA of Norwalk** has several volunteer opportunities: Special events volunteers assist in organization and implementation of special events; philanthropy volunteers encourage individuals, families and the community to give time and money and assist in fundraising; program volunteers work in YMCA programs as leaders; communication volunteers lend skills in photography, drawing, writing or graphic design to implement strategies and maintenance volunteers support the running of the facilities. For information, contact Sharon Lewis at slewis@norwalkymca.org or (203) 866-4425 ext. 305.

The **Rowayton Arts Center**, 145 Rowayton Ave., seeks adult volunteers to cover the gallery from noon to 3 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. on alternating Saturdays to greet visitors, provide information and assist with sales. Also needed are volunteers to help with seasonal housekeeping chores and someone with a pickup truck or van to make occasional dump runs. For more information, call Gale Parsons, the RAC gallery director, at (203)-866-2744.

PAWS (Pet Animal Welfare Society) is a nonprofit organization that rescues dogs and cats and places them in permanent homes. Due to insurance restrictions, PAWS cannot have volunteers under age 18 years work directly with animals. But there are lots of other ways to help; everything from collecting food donations, to hanging fliers or holding a bake sale. All volunteers must stop by the shelter for an orientation, which are held by appointment only. If you would like to schedule an orientation, contact the Volunteer Coordinator Lisa DiDonato at (203) 750-9572 x 120 or e-mail at lisd@pawsct.org. Upon acceptance, training dates will be assigned with the appropriate program coordinator. Most volunteer positions require a minimum commitment of eight hours per month.

The **Human Services Council** needs a volunteer to help with its Access database. Hours and days are flexible. Please call Betty Brink, office manager, (203) 849-1111.

Call the **Voluntary Action Center of Mid-Fairfield** at (203) 849-1111 if you have any questions or would like to come in for an interview. For more information on the center, volunteer opportunities or any of the programs, visit www.communityplanning.org/hscvac.

'Courageous Parenting 101' to start next week

NORWALK

Ginger Katz, founder and president of The Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc. will present a four-session substance abuse prevention and education program, called "Courageous Parenting 101" at West Rocks Middle School in Norwalk, beginning Feb. 25.

The program, which is open to

parents free of charge, will be offered every Wednesday through March 25

Parents will learn fundamentals of substance abuse prevention, communication skills, drug trends in America, how to find out if their child is using drugs, what to do if the child is using drugs, how to access help, how to help young peo-

ple handle stress, and about MTV, MySpace, FaceBook and relevant material.

Anyone who would like to become a facilitator for "Courageous Parenting 101" or who would like to attend the program may call the Courage to Speak Foundation, Inc. at 1-877-431-3295 or e-mail GKcourage@aol.com.

ON THE DEAN'S LIST

Julia Rende of Norwalk, who is a graduate of Norwalk High School, has been named to the fall semester dean's list at Wheaton College.

Philip A. LoPreiato of Norwalk has been named to the College of the Holy Cross dean's list for the fall semester.

Valentina Stefanidis of Norwalk has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Fairfield University.

Three area students have been placed on the fall semester dean's list at Trinity College. They are Catherine Shortliffe of Norwalk and David Caffrey and Mallory Thomas, both of Wilton.

Laura Emily Sweeney of Norwalk has been named to the dean's list at Elon University.

Samantha Goulert of Norwalk has been placed on the fall semester dean's list at Anderson University.

Anthony J. Fortunato of Norwalk was named to the dean's list at Clarkson University.

Two area residents were named to the fall semester dean's list at Lafayette College. They are Madeleine Ensley Gantz of Westport and Susan Christina Grunewald of Wilton.

Several area students were named to the fall semester dean's list at the University of Scranton. They are Michael P. Bybel and Noelle B. Cadotte, both of Norwalk; Alena R. Eckstein of Wilton; Brendan J. Hayes of Darien and Angela R. Ketonis of Stamford.

James Kachadoorian of Wilton was named to the fall semester dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's First Year of Studies.

Juliet R. Stone of Wilton has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Furman University.

Several area residents have been named to the fall semester dean's list at Northeastern University. They are:

Norwalk: Tara C. Conklin
Weston: Joshua R. Smith, Emma Patton
Westport: Ryan M. Malloy, Kristen Laux, Cooper M. Hardin
Wilton: Matthew A. Miller, Tyler A. Shelly, Thomas W. Jenkins.

Several Stamford residents were named to the University of Connecticut dean's list for the fall semester:

Krupali Pragnesh Patel, Mariam Subuhi Alavi, Lilian A. Alvarez, Stamford, Max Alan Amster, Emily Masha Anderson, Wintana Efreem Araya, Diana Patricia Arciniegas, Stamford, Lauren Beth Atkins, Ryan Joseph Barney, Christopher Dennis Barrett, Laura Catherine Battinelli, Mandi Lee Battinelli, Christopher Sean Bellingeri, Brian Ian Berkovitz, Nathaniel Borges do Canto, Cassidy LeAnn Brooks, Kamisha Addie Byas, Lucia Caldari, Giovanna Rocio Carguaitongo, Christina Elise Cartounis, Juan Martin Casanova, Amy Kaman Chan, Jesse Austin Chianelli, Ashley Elaina Claasen, Victoria Dawn Claasen, Jessica Lynn Colello, Mariam Darbandi, Michelle Rose Demilio, Daniel Devlin, Kevin Joseph Docimo, Faina Dookh, Daniel Dougherty, Tara Lee Duffy, Mary Kathryn Dunster, Kendall Ann Erskine, Carolina Yvonne Espejo-Saenz, Sydelle Thamar Exantus, Daniel Patrick Fortin, Brendy Rossibel Franco, Cristina Vittoria Galluzzo, Steven Frank Groccia, Samantha Kaytana, Henry, Carlos A. Irizarry, William Glenn Jaroszynski, Christie Dorine Jean, Emmeline S. Jean, Jeremy Leeming Jelliffe, Sameeha Bashir Jessa,

Joshua Andrew Kanter, Nicole Elizabeth Kavalan, Kim Andrea Kelly, Evan Thomas Kopeck, Elena A. Kozlova, Chelsea Grace Leiper, Julia Evgenyevna Levina, Jeffrey Brian Litt, Noel Abdiel Lopez, Matthew F. Loter, Brian Richard Magda, Stephen John Magyari, Laurence Darryl Manguiniao, Audrey Elizabeth Manning, Katherine Marin, Timothy James McArthur, William Joseph McCarthy, Kyle Matthew Moran, Jessica Alexa Moreno, Michelle J. Morrell, Samantha Ann Mullins, Laura Niquez, Amanda Lee Northcutt, Kevin Billings Ogden, Glenn Ortiz, Stephany Michelle Ospina, Gregory Joseph Palumbo, Kristina Pascenko, Jennifer Grace Pasqua, Taryn Pelli, Logan MacRae Peters, Galina Prpich, Christine Elizabeth Quartararo, Daniel Evan Rakowitz, Melanie Paige Ronner, Stephanie L. Rosado, Torianne Ruth, Rohan Saxena, Nathan Evan Schneider, Alexandra Elise Schulster, Mandi Sue Sejnoha Amanda M. Sempey, Melissa Carine Sempey, Parini Mukesh Shah, Christopher Scott Shapiro, Lev Shustarovich, Amy Jaclyn Sierpina, Yanira Nicole Sigua, Krunal B. Solanki, Daniel Joseph Sottini, Kailey Elizabeth Stockenbojer, Dana Jean Stradinger, Samuel William Super, Emily Tao, Elvis Rafael Valdez, Jonathan S. Weicher, Heather Yoffe, Alan A. Zacarias, Leora Frances Zach, Liza Zenkin, Sana Zuhaad

CommunityNews

Submit community news by e-mail to atnews@thehour.com, by fax to 840-1802 or to AT news, The Hour, 346 Main Ave., Norwalk CT 06851.