

WHAT'S UP

The following is a listing of upcoming events in Redding and Georgetown. Items should be submitted to *The Pilot* by the Friday before the issue in which they are to appear. E-mail submissions to: pilot@theReddingPilot.com.

Friday, Nov. 7

Redding Garden Club's annual Fall Holiday Luncheon & Boutique, at the Redding Country Club, 109 Lonetown Road. Heather Netherwood, floral designer of Heatherwoods in Redding and Earth Garden in Wilton, will present five unique holiday floral designs. Event begins with coffee and tea at 10:15. Lunch will be served after the presentation at 11. Cost for the luncheon is \$29. The reservation deadline is Oct. 29. For information and reservations, call 938-2417.

Lyrics Coffeehouse Series, 7:30 p.m. at the Redding Community Center. Pete Nelson, a singer and songwriter, will perform. Call the recreation office at 938-2551 for more information.

Saturday, Nov. 8

Astronomy program, 6:30 to 8 p.m. at New Pond Farm Observatory on Marchant Road. All ages are welcome. Call New Pond Farm at 938-2117 for reservations. Participants are advised to dress warmly. Cost for members is \$4 per person with a \$16 maximum per family, and \$6 per person, \$24 maximum per family for non-members.

Film series at Mark Twain Library, 4 p.m. A Place in the Sun will be shown. Herb Appleman, a Reddingite and noted playwright, will introduce the film with a talk. He will moderate discussion at the end. There is no charge. A light supper follows the discussion. Make reservations by calling 938-2545.

Sunday, Nov. 9

Walking Tour of Georgetown's Main Street, 1 to 2:30 p.m. Local historian Brent Colley will lead the Norwalk River Watershed Association-sponsored tour. The tour will start at the Georgetown Bible Church on Route 107. Wear walking shoes. For directions or information, call Jere Ross at 938-2650.

Open house at Umpawaug Schoolhouse, 1 to 4. Sponsored by the Redding Historical Society. The schoolhouse is located on Umpawaug Road, a quarter mile south of the West Redding Firehouse and across from New Pond Farm.

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Talk on Twain's Redding home, 7 p.m. at the Mark Twain Library. Kevin Mac Donnell, the country's foremost authority on Mark Twain, will speak on Mark Twain's home, Stormfield. Admission is free. Visit marktwainlibrary.org for more information.

Thursday, Nov. 13

Neighbors & Newcomers open house, 3:30 to 5 at the Mark Twain Library. The club will provide a few snacks and a craft or two for the children. Call Jennifer Carello at 938-8388 for more information.

On New York Giants

Cavanaugh will discuss his new book Nov. 17

For those who spend their Sunday afternoons glued to their TV sets watching the Giants and the Jets, the Mark Twain Library is hosting a special program on Monday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. Jack Cavanaugh will talk about his new book, *Giants Among Men: How Robustelli, Huff, Gifford, and the Giants Made New York a Football Town and Changed the NFL*.

Mr. Cavanaugh, a Stamford native and a Wilton resident, was a reporter for UPI, Reuters, and The New York Times for more than 25 years. He has also reported for ABC and CBS News, and written articles for Sports Illustrated and Golf and Tennis magazines. He is currently the author of a column that is published twice a month in the Stamford Advocate.

Mr. Cavanaugh has taught writing at four colleges in Connecticut. This is his third book. A review of his book was in last Sunday's New York Times Book Review.

The Mark Twain Library Program Committee is orga-



Jack Cavanaugh

nizing what it says will be "a lively and informative discussion on football in the 50s and 60s. Make your reservation by calling the Mark Twain Library at 938-2545 or signing up at the library's front desk."



Shiffee Losacco of Redding is the new president of the Ridgefield Chorale now in rehearsal with music director Daniela Sikora, also of Redding, for a Nov. 15 concert, "Encore! 10 Years of Ridgefield Pops." —Fran Sikorski photo



Ridgefield Chorale music director Daniela Sikora, left, rehearses with Redding singers for a Nov. 15 concert. Shown are Christine Turner, Carol Roberts, Richard Mullins, Buzz Merritt, and Shiffee Losacco, seated, the new Chorale president.

New Chorale director is from Redding

by Fran Sikorski

One of the first things Shiffee Losacco did when she and her family moved to Redding from San Francisco five years ago was to join the Ridgefield Chorale. Her reasons were simple — she liked to sing and she wanted to meet people in her new environment.

Now Ms. Losacco is the Chorale's president. Besides being an active singing member, Ms. Losacco served as vice president of the board of directors for four years.

The Chorale, which is now rehearsing for its Nov. 15 concert, "Encore! 10 Years of Ridgefield Pops," was established in Ridgefield in 1976 by Ernestine Holmes as a small group presenting works from the classical repertoire. Ms. Holmes was an organist and member of the NBC staff in New York City. The organization was an

offshoot of Messiah sing-alongs. When Ms. Holmes retired in 1998, the Chorale board of directors invited Daniela Sikora, also of Redding, to become music director. Ms. Sikora, a coloratura soprano and retired opera singer with numerous awards, was then Ms. Holmes's assistant director.

"During the last 10 years, Daniela Sikora changed the focus of the group to a contemporary repertoire, a unique niche as a pops singing group, and under her baton, the Chorale is now an integral part of Ridgefield's thriving arts scene, having evolved into a body of more than 80 singers, seven from Redding, 52 from Ridgefield, and 33 members from surrounding towns, including New York state," said Ms. Losacco.

Peg Sheahan of Redding, an attorney-at-law, serves on the audit committee and is chair of the bylaws committee. The Chorale is supported by contribu-

tions, grants and proceeds from concerts.

"Music director Daniela Sikora also offers voice coaching and extra practice sessions for specific voice arts and has helped the Chorale to improve sound, blend and repertoire range. In choosing material for performances, she looks for a balanced program with faithfulness to the concert theme. This fall she is offering vocal production and a basic music course to Chorale members. She has also taught music appreciation workshops on opera and conducting at the Ridgefield Academy," Ms. Losacco said.

The Chorale performs two major concerts plus a holiday event each year, in addition to Chorale members singing at a variety of community venues. "We have performed with the Ridgefield Youth Orchestra, and are also available in small ensembles for private events," Ms. Losacco said.

"Not only do members give of their time and talent at community events throughout the year, they volunteer at other organizations, including Meals-on-Wheel, the Rotary Club, Ridgefield: A Better Chance, Big Sister Mentoring, Ridgefield Volunteer Fire Department, Visiting Nurse Association, American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, and at the Keeler," she added.

The Nov. 15 concert at the East Ridge Middle School in Ridgefield is dedicated to the Chorale's greatest hits, and marks director Sikora's 10th anniversary with the Chorale. A spring 2009 concert will feature hits from Broadway shows.

Tickets for "Encore! 10 Years of Ridgefield Pops" are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors, and available at the door, said the new Chorale president, who is enjoying living in Redding with her husband, Paul, and two children, Rachel, 12, and Isaac, 9.

At a local home

Interlude celebrates its 30th anniversary

Carole Hart of Redding hosted an exclusive celebration of Interlude's 30th anniversary in her home on Oct. 3. Ms. Hart is an Interlude board member, whose son suffers from a serious mental illness. He is a client of the agency's Recovery Program.

"Interlude has brought comfort, care and support to my whole family. My son has been given a home away from home while he learns how to live independently, foster friendships and manage the brutal illness that he struggles with daily," said Ms. Hart in a press release.

Interlude Inc., a nonprofit agency serving men and women with mental illness and substance use disorders, offers individually tailored services to help the mentally ill learn to live independently in the community. Interlude was launched in 1978 by the late Celine Karraker, a former Redding resident.

Ms. Karraker created Interlude after years of struggling to find caring support for her own daughter Nell, who suffered from schizophrenia. Ms. Karraker had a vision for a non-institutional, family-like program for people



Interlude, founded by former Reddingite Celine Karraker, celebrated its 30th anniversary at an event in Redding on Oct. 3. From left is Interlude board member Robert Reiss, Rachel Bond Torpey, director of human resources and program development, and Karin Krupinsky, director of operations.

with mental illness. Interlude began with one group home for 10 residents and a minimal staff. Today, Interlude serves 41 clients in the Danbury and New Milford area with three residential programs.

Ms. Karraker loved spending time with Interlude's clients and would often take them out for nature walks, for lunch or dinner, or simply sit and talk with them. She also sponsored art and music

lessons for several clients.

"Celine was truly not only a pioneer in the mental health field but a caring person who saw every individual as a valuable and talented member of society," said Interlude's Kathleen Deschenes, executive director.

Carole Hart is also a member of NAMI (the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill). She helps run a free family support group for those who have relatives,

partners or friends with mental illness. The 12-week course helps caregivers understand and support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well-being, and is taught by a team of trained NAMI family member volunteers.

Interlude's 30th year event celebrated and recognized its most generous supporters. At the event, Ms. Deschenes spoke about the lasting impact Interlude's services have in the lives of people with mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

"Interlude strives to bring excellent services to people in our community with mental illness so that they can learn to manage their illnesses and have hope for independent and fulfilling lives," she said.

"As a family," said Ms. Hart, "we were unable to provide the kind of environment and the care that my son really needs, and Interlude gave us a place to turn to — giving us all hope and space to care for the rest of our family at home as well."

For more information on Interlude, call 203-797-1210 or go to its Web site at www.interludeinc.org. To donate to Interlude, send your check to Interlude Inc., 60 West St., Danbury, CT 06810.

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Name: TURKEY RIDGE; Width: 34p8.12; Depth: 4 in; Color: Black; Ad Number: 0000000746711315