

The DESIGN ISSUE

WESTPORT

weston&wilton

SPRING FASHION!
INTERVIEWS WITH 3 TOP DESIGNERS



THE SWEET SPOT IN
LOCAL REAL ESTATE
A REPORT ON THE MARKET

SUN, WATER, LOVE
INHERITING A
GORGEOUS GARDEN

MARCH/APRIL 2015 | \$5.95

Elements of STYLE

MASTERING COLOR, PATTERNS & INFLUENCES

WESTPORTMAG.COM

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PEOPLE *& Places*

BY DAN HAJDUCKY

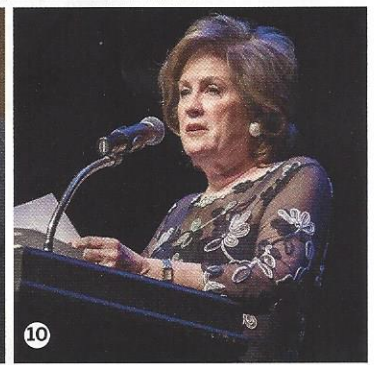
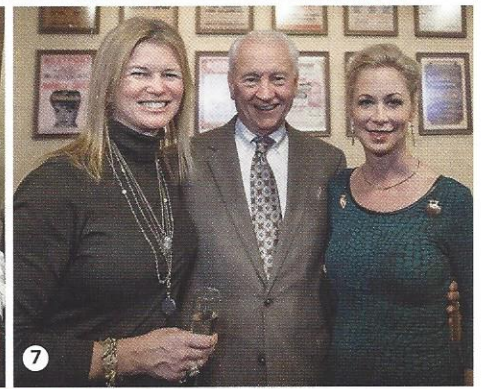
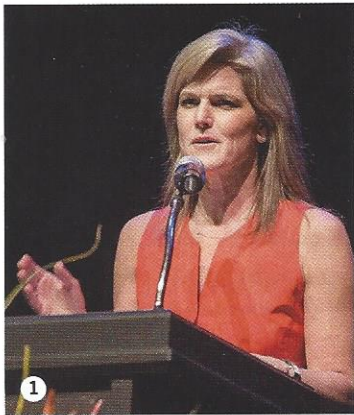
MOFFLY MEDIA • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MELANI LUST

Light a Fire

Moffly Media's seventh annual Light a Fire Awards ceremony was a bona fide success. The heartwarming annual event celebrating our community's nonprofit and philanthropic leaders was held at the Westport Country Playhouse in the Jason Robards Theater, hosted by Kendra Farn of PGaryn Productions. The cocktail reception was catered by Marcia Selden Catering and Event Planning, and fine wines provided by Tarry Lodge. Light a Fire salutes the exceedingly generous who give back to their communities. From philanthropists and volunteers, to organizations helping families, the environment and the community, the Light a Fire Award honorees are individuals who shine as a beacon of selflessness. »



top: Cristin Marandino, DJ Kunjan, Molly Cottingham **middle:** Diane Sembrot, Jonathan Moffly, Medha and Skaria Thomas, Paula Winicur **bottom:** Venera Alexandrova, Amy Vischio, Ali Nichols, Kerri Fice, Megan Couch and George Venizelos



1 Kendra Farn of PGaryn Productions 2 Sarra Yandow, Fran O'Neill, Barbara Brock Zaccagnini, Pete Michalsky 3 Juanita James 4 Sharon Beasley and Debra DeFeo 5 Alexandra Wallace-Currie and Mallick Currie 6 Sampling provided by Marcia Selden Catering 7 Marna Ringel, Terry O'Connor, Trevor Crow 8 Jill Johnson Mann 9 Clare Blasius, Yvette Caran-Fried, Max Joshua Fried 10 Mary Fetchet 11 The 2014 Light a Fire Award honorees »

WALIN & WOLFF

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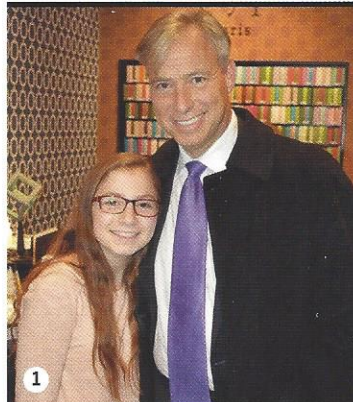


Walín & Wolff's perforated ballets

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New Canaan | Westport | Rye

PEOPLE & Places



1



2



3

1 Emily and Howard Bass
2 Anne Hardy, Mica Diamond
3 Gerard Pampalone, Arlene Carpenter, Eduardo Valadez, Helen Bustamante
4 Melissa Levy, Maxine Bleiweis



4



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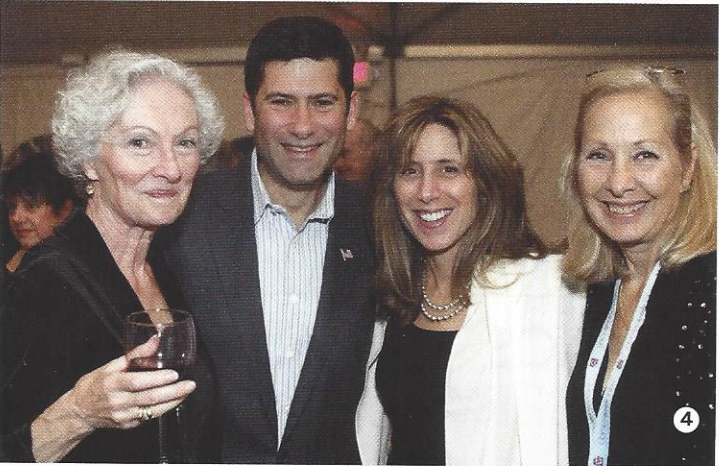
382 Post Road East | Westport, CT 06880
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|| WESTPORT LIBRARY ||

A French Toast

Diptyque, the famed Parisian fragrance company, arrived in Westport in 2013, opening its first store in Connecticut on 47 Main Street. (If you're curious what "Diptyque" means, the Ancient Greek word "díptykhos" refers to "a painting or sculpture composed of two panels or parts.") Along with Stacy Bass and the Westport Library, Diptyque invited locals to toast the holidays and explore the legendary brand's iconic and limited-edition items, with a portion of the proceeds from sales that evening going to the library.

PEOPLE & Places



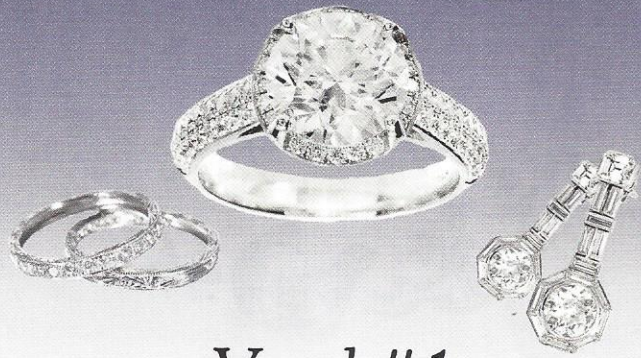
1 Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe, Chan and Leslie Wheeler 2 Doug Watt, Bev Hennemuth 3 Paula Poundstone performing 4 Barbara Butler, Westport Second Selectman Avi Kaner, Liz Kaner, Janis Collins

|| HOMES WITH HOPE ||

Lending a Hand

Homes with Hope hosted its seventh annual Stand Up for Homes with Hope fundraiser at The Westport Country Playhouse. The event starred the signature improvised observational comedy of Paula Poundstone, who delighted the audience with her rapid-fire wit. Homes with Hope is a local, nonprofit, grassroots response to homelessness. With the help of more than 400 volunteers, Homes with Hope's mission is to support the local homeless and those at-risk of homelessness by providing food, safe emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing and the services needed to achieve a more independent and self-sufficient life. »

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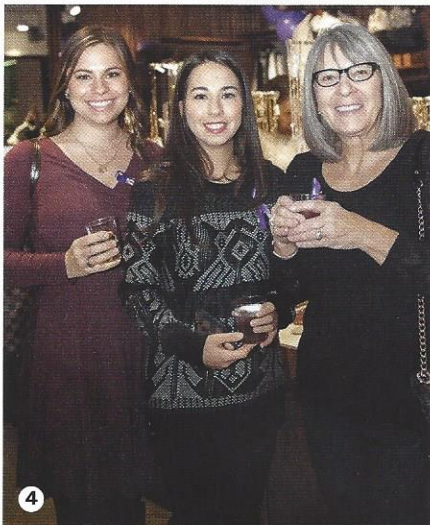
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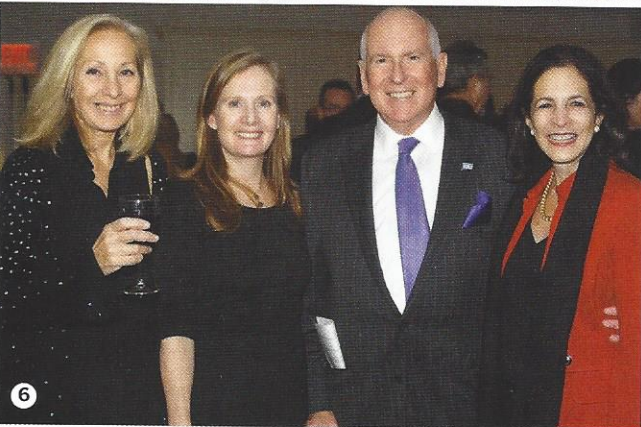
|| LEIOMYOSARCOMA FOUNDATION ||

Shop with Heart

Amanda K. Ruisi is the founder and president of AKR Public Relations, the company that represents Steven Tyler, Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, 495 Productions, and Coty Prestige, among others. Recently, though, Ruisi represented a much different cause: an evening of charitable shopping at South Moon Under to benefit cancer research. Twenty percent of all proceeds from the evening were donated to The National LeioMyoSarcoma Foundation in honor of her mother, the late Lois K. Ruisi. The National LeioMyoSarcoma Foundation is a nonprofit that raises funds and awareness for this rare form of cancer. Guests were treated to holiday sweets, drinks, a complimentary beauty bar from Blow Dry Southport, raffle prizes and good shopping. »

1 Stacy Rosenthal, Amanda K. Ruisi 2 Diane Sorrentino, Fran DeMaria 3 Tynasha Richards, Ashlee Foster 4 Liz Delany, Laura Marano, Sandie Delany 5 Gabriella Mays, Sue Smith 6 Charlene Von Saher, Amanda K. Ruisi, Jessica Stark 7 Marina Crisci, September Sirico, Jocelyn Caban, Ava Donadio and Clarissa Biasuz

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MEGHAN CAPOZZI ROWE



1 Jennifer Sandling, Terri Kim, Sandy Minichetti, Andrea Mitchelson, Inge Maki 2 Stacey Tagen, Bob Colgan, Lorraine Watkins, Joanna Mitchell 3 Gavin Arneith, Lee Walther 4 Fred Stropfel, Carole Schweid, Nancy Diamond, Tom Zingarelli 5 Tim and Marianne Goodell 6 Janis Collins, Eileen Flug, Westport First Selectman Jim Marpe, State Representative Gail Lavielle 7 Suzi Miller, Eileen Flug, Suzanne Tanner, Gary Cosgrave

|| JIB PRODUCTIONS ||

Time to Play

Over 200 of Fairfield County's theater fans gathered on November 15 in Branson Hall at Christ and Holy Trinity Church for the Hats Off to Play With Your Food Fun(d)raising Gala in support of JIB Productions' thirteenth season of Play With Your Food. Chaired by Marianne Goodell, the gala featured entertainment by performers Paul Bogaev, Jim Clark, Kim Maresca, Josh Sienkiewicz, Kim Squires, Jodi Stevens, Susan Terry (of Westport), Nadine Willig, Allan Zeller and Tommy Zingarelli. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres were donated by Tito's Handmade Vodka; more than twenty local restaurants also contributed to the food and refreshments. A silent and live auction added to the festivities, featuring packages of food and entertainment-themed items from many of New York City and Fairfield County's preeminent venues. JIB Productions, Inc., Fairfield County's premier producer of not-for-profit visual and performing arts, was founded in 2003 by Producer Nancy Diamond and Artistic Director Carole Schweid.

Don't Miss This

MARCH/APRIL 2015

BY DAN HAJDUCKY

MAR.

Sun. 1 PUPPY POWER

Dog Loves Books. *The New York Times* best-seller, has been turned into a musical for the Westport Country Playhouse. The book follows a canine bibliophile as he opens his own bookstore. The show plays on March 1 at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$20. 25 Powers Ct. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit westportplayhouse.org.

Thurs. 5 JAZZ CHANTEUSE

Kat Edmonson, the thirty-one-year-old singer-songwriter, was obsessed with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers as a child. Edmonson's cherubic jazz pays tribute to the era she grew up loving. The concert starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$25. 80 East Ridge Road, Ridgefield. Visit ridgefieldplayhouse.org to purchase tickets.

Sat. 7 SMART KIDS

Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities will celebrate its fifteenth anniversary at this year's annual gala, "Helping Kids Rock Their Potential," at the Stamford Marriott from 6:30 to 11 p.m. U.S. Congressman Jim Himes will be the master of ceremonies. 243 Tresser Blvd., Stamford. For more information, visit smarkidswithld.org.

Fri. 13 BAND TOGETHER

The Alzheimer's Association asks local citizens to lend a hand at Band Together 2015, an

evening to support the Alzheimer's Association, Connecticut Chapter, at Fairfield Theatre Company, 6:30 p.m. for the pre-party and 8 p.m. for the concert. Over the last three years, \$60,000 have been raised at this event. 70 Sanford St., Fairfield. Visit alz.org/ct for information.

Sat. 14-Tues. 17 BOOKWORM HEAVEN

The Westport Library, is having its annual March Book Sale from in the McManus Room. Books will include hardcover and trade paperback fiction, mysteries, science fiction and fantasy, as well as children's books. Stop by and support your local library. Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m., Mon., 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Tues. 9 a.m.-noon. 20 Jesup Rd.; westportlibrary.org.

Sun. 15 DANCE

Neighborhood Studios has booked the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company for the Spring Gala at 7 p.m., at Westport Playhouse. Tickets are \$225 for VIP seating (includes pre-performance reception starting at 5 p.m.), \$125 for preferred seating, \$75 general admission, and \$40 for local dance students. 25 Powers Ct. More at westportplayhouse.org.

Fri. 27 GALA

The 2015 Birdhouse Auction Gala will be held at the Rolling Hill Country Club in Wilton, celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Project Return, which has



Going The Distance

Wednesday, March 25

Michael Bolton, the Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter, has sold more than 53 million records around the world, seen eight studio albums rank in the Top Ten and released his autobiography, *The Soul of It All*, in January 2013. After selling out his Ridgefield Playhouse concert in 2014, Bolton returns on March 25 to promote his new album, *Ain't No Mountain High Enough: A Tribute to Hitsville USA*, which features collaborations with Motown legends Smokey Robinson and Valerie Simpson, as well as contemporary artists Kelly Rowland and Leona Lewis. Gold Circle Meet & Greet Tickets are \$151, orchestra tickets are \$126 and the mezzanine and balcony are \$111. 80 East Ridge Rd., Ridgefield. Visit ridgefieldplayhouse.org to purchase tickets.

provided housing and counseling to over 145 girls and women in crisis since the mid-1980s. The gala will be preceded by the **Birdhouse Stroll (March 8)** and the Westport Arts Center's Birdhouse Retrospective (**March 20**). 333

Hurlbutt St., Wilton. For more information on Project Return, go to projectreturnct.org.

Sat. 28 DREAM BIG

A Better Chance of Westport Dream

Event, the annual fundraiser, will be held at Birchwood Country Club. Since 2002 A Better Chance has been giving exemplary minority youth a Staples High School education. The fundraiser includes entertainment and dinner. 25 Kings Highway South; visit abetterchanceofwestport.org for more information.

APR.

Thurs. 2 AUTISM ADVOCACY

Autism Awareness Day, which is also World Autism Awareness Day, will be a Westport/Weston community event to benefit autism research. Main Street will be decked out in blue, and Bobby Qs will host a kick-off on April 1, with music by Clueless. Local retailers, restaurants and businesses will donate \$500 or 10% of April 2 profits to Autism Speaks. Visit facebook.com/groups/autismawarenessinwestport to purchase tickets.

Fri. 17 FEED ME SEYMOUR

Little Shop of Horrors will be playing at the Music Theatre of Connecticut from April 17 through May 10. Shows will be Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are from \$25 to \$50, with an additional \$5 off for students and seniors. 509 Westport Ave., Norwalk. Visit musictheatreofct.com to purchase tickets.

Tues. 21 READ AND DISCUSS

All The Light We Cannot See. Anthony Doerr's

breakout novel is set during World War II, following a blind French girl in Nazi-occupied Paris and a tech-savvy German orphan. The Westport Public Library's bimonthly book chat will center around the novel. From noon-1 p.m. in the Sheffer Reading Room. 20 Jesup Rd. Visit westportlibrary.org for more details.

Fri. 24 GALA

The Tiny Miracles Foundation's 10th Anniversary "Celebration of Miracles" Gala will be more than the usual cocktails, food, dancing and auction event. This year's gala will recognize the generosity that have allowed TTMF to support thousands of babies and families of Fairfield County over the years. Wee Burn Country Club. 410 Hollow Tree Ridge Rd., Darien. Visit ttmf.org for more information.

Sun. 26 CHARITY RUN

The 2015 Minute Man Race, sponsored by the Westport Young Woman's League, will be held at Compo Beach. There is a 10K run (8:40 a.m.), a 5K run/walk (8:30 a.m.), and kids' events, including a 100 yard-dash for ages 3-5, a 1/2 mile run for ages 6-8, and a mile run for ages 9-12 (warm-ups from 8 a.m.-8:15 a.m., runs begin at 8:30 a.m.). The 2014 Minute Man Race raised over \$70,000 towards local charities. Parking is free and available in the adjacent lot, Soundview Dr. To register, visit wyw.com. **WV**