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Westport > Life

## Around Our Towns

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

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### Great Duck Race

Three thousand yellow rubber ducks will race down Westport's Saugatuck River for \$10,000 in prizes in the fifth annual Great Duck Race to support local charities, on Saturday, June 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sponsored by the Westport Sunrise Rotary, the family-oriented event takes place in Parker Harding Plaza, Westport, adjacent to the Saugatuck River. Admission is free and open to the public. In addition to the duck race, there will be children's arts and crafts, games, face painting, magician, bouncy castle, dunk tank, duck decorating contest, music, food and beverages.

First prize is a \$5,000 Visa Gift Card; second prize, a \$1,000 Visa Gift Card; third through tenth prizes, a \$500 Visa Gift Card. Tickets to sponsor a duck are \$20 each and may be purchased at Fairfield County Bank, 20 Compo Road South, Westport; TD Bank, 185 Main Street, Westport, and The Russell Agency, 317 Pequot Avenue, Southport; or from any Westport Sunrise Rotary member. Ticket holders need not be present to win.

"By purchasing a duck for \$20, you help support long-standing local charities," said Steve Violette of Westport, event chair.

At approximately 3 p.m., 3,000 ducks, each with a number corresponding to a ticket, will be launched into the Saugatuck River north of the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen Bridge. The race is on as the current carries the ducks, made of an environmentally sensitive compound, along the river toward the finish line. The first 10 ducks to cross the finish line win prizes.

"While The Great Duck Race is all in fun, the serious business of providing much needed services and donations to worthy charities is its priority," added Violette.

Proceeds from Westport Sunrise Rotary Great Duck Race support local charities such as: Big Brothers/Sisters of Southwestern CT, [Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition](#), Camperships Westport, CLASP, Elder House, Green Village Initiative, Homes with Hope, Isaiah House, ITN Coastal CT LINKS, Meals on Wheels, Mercy Learning Center, Person-to-Person, Project Morry, Project Return, Smart Kids with Learning Disabilities, Susan Fund, Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care, and Weston & Westport Warm-up Funds.

The Great Duck Race sponsors are CastleKeep Investment Advisors; Fairfield County Bank; Westport Downtown Merchants Association; Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.; Gault Energy; A. J. Penna & Son; Green Village Initiative; Honda of Westport; TD Bank; European Wax Center; Southport Racquet Club; Fringe 125 Salon, Westport; Stew Leonard III Children's Charities; Westport Magazine; and Our Town Crier.

For more information, visit [www.GreatDuckRace.org](http://www.GreatDuckRace.org).

## Legacy Project USA

It's your life, and you can learn how to turn it into a living legacy that can be passed down from generation to generation on Saturday, June 8, at the Westport Historical Society.

Suzanne Sheridan and Rozanne Gates of the Westport-based Legacy Project USA will share their expertise on how to tell your life story using readily available technology. "We are all eyewitnesses to history as it unfolds before us," Gates said, "and we can leave it as a legacy. It's a project people can easily do themselves with consumer audio and video recording equipment, according to Gates. She says it works best if the sessions are informal and relaxed and the subject is speaking as if having a conversation with a friend.

"We are all standing on the shoulders of a lot of people," Gates said, and it is important to know who they were and what they did.

In a recent Legacy recording interview, Gates said a woman told her she was raised by "a tough Irish grandmother, and I'm tough, too. That's what I grew up with."

Legacy recordings can not only tell future generations what kinds of experiences and character traits an ancestor had, but also reveal important pieces of health information that otherwise might not be known to descendants.

And once a life story has been recorded, it can be transferred to different formats as technology evolves.

Gates and Sheridan's program will be held from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the Sheffer Gallery at the Westport Historical Society, 25 Avery Place. Suggested donation, \$5, For more information, call (203) 222-1424 or go to [www.westporthistory.org](http://www.westporthistory.org).

## Silver Donkey Luncheon

The Democratic Women of Westport (DWW) will hold their annual luncheon June 4. The highlight of the event will occur as the group presents its coveted Silver Donkey award to Estelle Margolis, a lifelong political activist. This award is given every year to an outstanding Democratic woman.

Among her many activities, Ms. Margolis has been a member of the American Civil Liberties Union for many years. She has been standing on a Peace Vigil on the Ruth Steinkraus Cohen Bridge for eight years to protest U.S. involvement in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Prior to that, she spent years on the steps of the Old Town Hall protesting the Vietnam war. Most recently, she was arrested for demonstrating in favor of Gun control, by bringing a BB gun and ammunition to a Westport RTM meeting in order to illustrate the ease of purchasing guns and ammunition at Walmart. Ms. Margolis will be introduced by former State Representative Julie Belaga and by Dora Stuttman.

Also slated for the popular springtime event will be the introduction of this year's scholarship recipient. Given through the Staples High School Tuition Grants Committee, the annual \$1,500 scholarship this year will go to graduating senior Audrey Reedy, who has chosen Chapman University in California as it offers an unusual interdisciplinary major, Peace Studies, comprised of political thought, anthropology, sociology and conflict resolution courses. Her goal is to finish college and join the Peace Corps to see how her theoretical knowledge can really be applied.

The invitation to the party is extended to everyone, men as well as women, Westporters as well as residents of neighboring towns, and the event usually draws a large and enthusiastic crowd. The gathering will be held at the home of Connie and Stuart Greenfield, 279 Sturges Highway. Wine and cheese will be served at 11:30 a.m., followed by a light luncheon. The presentation of awards will follow.

The program will include election of officers of the DWW Executive Board, which includes the following: Bobbie Herman, president; Ginger Tobey, vice president; Connie Greenfield, secretary; and John Hartwell and Natalie Myers, co-treasurers. Also proposed to serve next year on various committees and/or as members-at-large will be: Janet Aley, Sue Atkinson, Nita Cohen, Patty Doyle, and Dora Stuttman. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Cost for the event is \$20, payable at the door or in advance by sending a check to DWW, 2 Nash Lane, Westport, CT. 06880.

DWW members may also pay yearly dues of \$25 at the event.

### Campers rock the revolution

You probably never thought of the leaders of America's break from England as rock stars, but youth motivational speaker Christina Frei does.

From Aug. 19-23, Ms. Frei will give a five-day camp at the Westport Historical Society based on her book "5 Rockstars of the American Revolution."

And her Fab Five are indeed an all-star lineup — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Ben Franklin and Paul Revere. Each camp day will focus on a different star, the idea being to help the kids untap their inner resources and engage in creative fun while learning a valuable lesson from one of these great Americans.

Take Franklin, for example. Frei says he loved to write and wanted to get good at it, but was just terrible. In fact, she says his own father told him, "You have no talent".

But that didn't deter the future signer of the Declaration of Independence, who also served brilliantly as the rebellious colonies' representative to England and France. Franklin painstakingly studied his favorite authors, Frei says, and eventually "became the best writer of his period ... even Jefferson said that." A lesson in persistence!

So, you say you want a revolution? Contact the Westport Historical Society for more information about Frei's camp, which promises to make America's early leaders both relevant and interesting to today's kids.

Participants will also receive a copy of Ms. Frei's book, "5 Rockstars of the American Revolution. The camp runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and is designed for kids ages 11-14. The cost is \$265 for members, \$290 for non-members. To register, call (203) 222-1424 or go to [www.westporthistory.org](http://www.westporthistory.org).

### 'Ceremonies and Celebrations'

Human Services Director Barbara Butler announced that in response to requests from school staff for assistance in purchasing new clothing for graduating middle and high school students, the 10th year of the "Ceremonies and Celebrations" program will take place.

"Last year, thanks to the generosity of the Westport community and the schools' PTAs, 41 Westport students were able to purchase new special event clothing for their graduations from middle and high school," Butler said. "This year, the number of requests is considerably higher."

The public can help fill the need for this year's graduating students and lift a bit of the expense burden from their families by making a tax deductible donation. Checks should be made payable to "DHS Family Programs" (memo line: Ceremonies) and will be gratefully accepted through June.

A perfect way to remember a special teacher or person in a student's life is a donation in their name to this special fund. Donors are asked to note the teacher's name and the donor's or student's name. A letter of acknowledgement will be sent to the honored teacher.

If donors prefer, gift cards of any amount (American Express, Visa, Master Card, Marshall's, The Gap, Trumbull Mall/Westfield Shopping Center) are most welcome as well, she said.

Kindly mail or bring donations of any amount to the Department of Human Services, Westport Town Hall, Room 200, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT 06880 from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily.

If residents know someone who could benefit from this program, they should contact Patty Haberstroh, Family Program Coordinator at [hsyouth@westportct.gov](mailto:hsyouth@westportct.gov) or (203) 341-1069 in the Westport Department of Human Services. Social work staff there will assure that families in need meet financial and program criteria and are helped.

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