

SUE  
PITIGER



Community Service Since 1907  
February/March 2015

**GALA ! GALA ! GALA !**

## Gala President's Message

On Friday, March 20, at 6 PM, you'll arrive at Tracy Hall and witness a wonder of beautiful decorations, fabulous bites, a fine wine and beer bar, and loads of fun prizes to bid, bid, bid on. It's the 2015 Spring Gala and it will be the best yet!

Here's a chance to doll up, gals. Why, we even had a couple of guys one year in tuxedos! Now, this can be ball gowns, or this can be blue jeans, too, but we encourage you to break out of winter and mud season and too much cold to embrace a rockin' good time with a fun group of people. Most importantly, we encourage you to support the club in honoring two people who mean so much to the fabric of life in our town.

Dan Fraser and Marty James are this year's Norwich Citizens of the Year. Who's surprised? We all know what Dan has accomplished in raising close to a quarter of a million dollars for The Haven through his 19 Days of Norwich, 1% for the Haven campaign. But perhaps even more important, Dan raised community in Norwich, a priceless commodity in life. He managed to bring everyone into the mix, and made our life here that much more pleasant, warm, and respectful. Marty, in her way, has done just the same over the years. I don't think Marty's ever run a splashy campaign. But she's conducted her life in the service of others, always aware of others' needs and

## GALA 2015 SIDEBAR TIMELINE NIGHT OF

This might help you plan your  
Spring Gala evening . . .

**6:00 PM** Doors open.  
Check in, get your bid numbers,  
enjoy your complimentary drink from  
Maple Street Catering and  
fabulous food from The Barefoot  
Gourmet.

Silent Auction opens!

**7:30 PM** Live Auction  
starts! Take a seat and get ready  
to bid!

**8:15 PM** Last chance  
to bid on the Silent Auction!  
Dessert and coffee is served.

Citizens of the Year Award  
Presentation to Dan Fraser and  
Marty James.

## Gala President's Message . . .

leaving her comfort zone to lend a hand. She leads by doing, always being first to say yes to community needs. She's been a driving force in the Norwich Christmas Pageant, and I know has helped her church in innumerable efforts to bring care and relief to neighbors.

The Gala gives you a chance to stand up and cheer these good winners on, as well as support those who received fine nominations, too. The Gala also gives you a chance to support the Women's Club, which does so much for the town and each other. Community is the Club, and Norwich is everything the Club works for.

Come bid on some of the great prizes we have! That's what brings in the bucks, gals, and that's what it's your job to do! Look for another article in this issue that will tell you more about the auctions.

Your E-Vite is coming! You can make your reservation online or send a check to the Norwich Women's Club. All the instructions will be listed repeatedly on the listserv, and we'll be telling you how to take part in the auction even before the event.

Join us on March 20 – you'll have a ball!



## GALA 2015 SIDEBAR TIMELINE NIGHT OF

8:45 PM Checkout available in the small conference room near the entrance to Tracy Hall.

9:30 Cash bar closes.

## Coffee & Conversation

Monday March 2nd  
10:00 - 11:00am  
NORWICH INN

## SPRING GALA - HOW'D WE GET HERE?

It's all gala, all the time, here in Norwich! Of course many are unaware of this, but there's a crew of gals knocking themselves out to make sure we throw a great party to raise a lot of money to fund another round of projects that enhance life here. Let me explain . . .

## SPRING GALA – HOW'D WE GET HERE?

The NWC has traditionally held a spring fundraiser that was dedicated to being the funding source for community projects grants. The gala replaced Floribunda, a 26 year institution that was returning less and had run its course. Dreaming up an event to top Floribunda was not easy, but the “hook” for it became obvious as we struggled along. A Citizen of the Year! In the words of someone we know in town, the one in the store, the one who is the fundraiser extraordinaire, it was a win/win idea.

We wanted to throw a party. We wanted it to be over in one night. We wanted to have drinks at it. We wanted to eat some good food, too. We wanted to auction some stuff off. We wanted to honor the people who make life so great in Norwich. And we wanted to maybe spiff up a bit, perhaps wear those great shoes and a dress, and not be fleeced out.

Hence, the Spring Gala, now four years old. Without Ledyard Bank and their wonderful support, we'd never be able to make it as good as it's been. Ledyard underwrites the catering for the event, and we're eternally grateful for their commitment to us. It's worked out to be a great partnership. And without the people who keep attending, it would surely be a bust. Let's face it – we need a willing audience, we need bidders on all those great prizes, and we need people to raise their hands during the live auction to commit to spending their money. Thank God we have so many folks who want to have a good time and support our work.

## Auction ! Auction ! Auction !

About our auction this year, lots of new things happening !

First and foremost, finally we can offer you an ONLINE auction. For those who love to attend however have a conflict that night, please take advantage of our online auction. Beware, not ALL items are offered online, as we have an online, silent on site and also a short LIVE auction !



We have no doubt that this year's auctions' proceeds will top our fabulous numbers from last year. With everything from jewelry and clothing, beauty and spa services, wines and foods, trips and goodies for your kids, you are bound to find something you just need to have.

So please be on the lookout for our online auction catalog and happy bidding!

**Geneviève**

# Food Glorious Food !

## *The Barefoot Gourmet*

Especially prepared for you by Barry Clarke

### *Displayed*

**Southwest Dip Platters:** Chunky, hand-chopped guacamole and a zesty pico de gallo, served with an assortment of tortilla chips

**Smoked Salmon Canapés:** Smoked salmon with crumbled egg, capers and creme fraiche on cucumber wafers

**Spanish Tortilla:** A tasty tapas bar staple made from egg, potatoes, onions and sweet peppers, Served with pickled white anchovies

### *Passed*

**Soup Shots:** Creamy and crunchy butternut squash and sweet corn soup in shot glasses

**Chili Bites (Bhajias):** Mildly spiced, Durban style potato fritters served with a cilantro/yoghurt dipping sauce and Angry Goat Hot Jam dipping sauce

**Peri Peri prawns:** Shrimp flash fried in the fiery South African bird's eye chili sauce

**Righetti Ranch Tenderloin:** Whole tenderloins grilled on a hardwood charcoal fire and mopped – Righetti Ranch style – with a red wine herbal tisane.

Served cubed and skewered.



## *Desserts*

By Rita LaJoie

Ultimate Fudgy Brownies

Lemon Ginger Snaps

Old Fashioned Molasses Cookies

My Best Chocolate Chip Cookies

Coconut Macaroons

Blueberry/Lemon Poundcake

Vermont Maple Meringues

Mini Cheesecakes

Strawberries Dipped in Chocolate



## Mini Cheesecakes

350 degrees 15 minutes

350 degrees 5 minutes

Yield: 48 tea size

16 oz cream cheese, room temperature

3/4 c sugar

3 egg yolks

1 grated lemon rind

3 egg whites

graham cracker crumbs

3/4 c sour cream

2 t vanilla

2 T sugar

Thoroughly combine cream cheese, 3/4 c sugar, egg yolks and lemon rind.

Beat egg whites until stiff and fold them into the cream cheese mixture. Use butter to grease mini muffin tins. Dust each with graham cracker crumbs.

Spoon mixture into tins more than half full.

Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Cool in tins on wire racks for 15 minutes. Centers will fall in.

Combine sour cream, vanilla and 2 T sugar. Spoon 1 t on each cake.

Optional: Top with a tiny bit of a fruit of your choice.

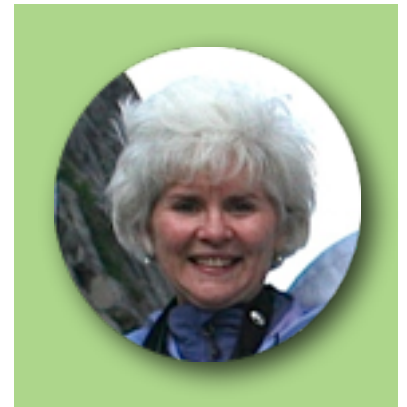
Return to oven for 5 minutes.

Cool completely before removing from tins.

# Member Profile : Anne Silberfarb

From the time she was a young child, Anne Silberfarb knew she had to work harder than most of the children in her class; she just didn't know why. It was not until she was tested in the sixth grade that she learned why she could not read - she was dyslexic. That revelation, and her ongoing struggles to keep up in school, was the beginning of Anne's lifelong pursuit of finding effective ways to teach students with disabilities how to learn and teach their teachers how to help them learn.

Anne grew up with her three siblings in Darien, Connecticut. She attended public school there but finished her last years of high school at the National Cathedral School for Girls in Washington, D. C. It was there, after years of tutoring, that Anne finally learned effective study skills. She went on to attend Bucknell University, in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, and her continuing effort paid off when she made Dean's List 7 out of 8 semesters and was invited to join Phi Beta Kappa. She was the first elementary education major to be inducted into the Bucknell Chapter.



In her sophomore year, Anne met her husband Peter, also a Bucknell student, on a blind date. On their first date, Peter invited her to a dinner at his fraternity house where he presented a live bison to the new Dean as a mascot for the school. Whether it was the bison or Peter's charm, Anne acknowledged that Peter had "certainly caught my attention." They were married in 1962 after Anne graduated and while Peter was in medical school. Anne taught first grade until Peter finished medical school, and in 1966 they moved to Norwich for Peter's internal medicine and psychiatric residencies at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital.

Before starting a family, Anne spent one year teaching at the Hanover Elementary School (now the Bernice A. Ray School). She and Peter have two children, Ben Silberfarb and Leah Koff. To the delight of Anne and Peter, they both still live in the Upper Valley. Ben, a talented filmmaker, lives in Norwich, and Leah, an accomplished teacher, lives in Lebanon, NH. Leah's 3 children, ages 14, 11 and 6, keep their grandparents active, and Anne and Peter love spending time with them.

While Anne was at home with Ben and Leah, she earned her Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities at Goddard College. During that time Congress passed the "Education For All Handicapped Children Act" which was a pivotal event for Anne. The law required all federally-funded public schools to provide children with physical and mental disabilities equal access to education. "I knew I had to find ways to deal with the new law, so I became what I called a pioneer learning specialist." For her thesis she wrote a handbook on how to be a learning specialist in a public school. She went on to use the handbook as her guide for testing children for learning problems and writing individual educational plans for them. She became a licensed specialist, first doing testing at the Ray School, then for the Lyme School District, and later at Dartmouth College.

It was also during that time period that Anne and Peter decided to build a new home in Norwich. They chose to model it after an 18<sup>th</sup> century house in Rockingham, Vermont that they had seen, which had been built in the “Connecticut River Valley Style.” Anne showed me the detailed drawings she had made for the house, which she told me were used by their builder. The drawings looked so professional I thought they had been drawn by an architect. She and Peter spent many enjoyable hours searching for and collecting antique 18<sup>th</sup> century wood, bricks, and doors for the house, including doors from the Freeman House and the Ballard House, ensuring that their house would be an authentic replica of the style they had chosen.

Anne and Peter moved into their new house in 1975, and thus began Anne’s love affair with gardening. Over the years she has created beautiful gardens all around the house and has generously shared them with others. Her gardens are well known and admired throughout the Upper Valley. The Norwich Women’s Club has held events there, even when she was not at home! She has also hosted fund-raisers in the garden for many charitable organizations as well as for political events such as a bi-annual fundraiser for Peter Welch. Of course, all I could see from Anne’s window was a snow-covered expanse waiting to come back to life under her loving and watchful eye, but looking at her pictures I could see the beauty that has made the gardens so renowned. With Anne’s permission, I plan to make a return visit in the spring and summer to see them in person!

Despite her busy teaching schedule and parenting responsibilities, Anne enthusiastically volunteered her time to the community, making significant contributions by serving on numerous committees and chairing non-profit boards in and around Norwich. She co-chaired a very successful Capital Fund Drive with Alison May for the Norwich Public Library, the funds from which substantially enlarged the usable library space. The new space included a community room used by many non-profits for their meetings, including the monthly Board meetings of the Norwich Women’s Club. While Anne was Chair of the Norwich Historical Society Board, they were successful in having the Town of Norwich listed as a Historic Town on the Federal Register of Historic Places, with 150 designations. Anne is currently on the Norwich Historic Preservation Commission, which is pursuing further designations for the Register of Historic Places beyond those in the village.

Although Anne retired from teaching in 2000, she has not retired from her active life as a citizen of Norwich and hopes to continue being involved in the community that she loves. Anne noted that moving to Norwich at the age of 26 and having so many opportunities to be involved has given her “a very rewarding life.” But it is clearly a life she created by seeking out the opportunities and willingly giving of her time to the many civic, cultural, and educational activities that have been such a benefit to Norwich and the Upper Valley.

Eileen Shaevel

# MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome to new members Inge Brown, Daphne Moritz and Lily Trajman.

How about mentioning the Club to your neighbours as a way to get involved in the community as well as to make new friends? Details about joining can be found on our website [www.norwichwomensclub.org](http://www.norwichwomensclub.org). And I'm always happy to answer any questions.

Sophia Crawford  
Membership Coordinator  
[sophiajcrowford@gmail.com](mailto:sophiajcrowford@gmail.com)

## BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON

Held on February 16th was well attended by many

Members and Non-members.

Ellen Stimson and her book

Mud Season was featured. A good time was had by all!



## TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The new 2015 NWC townwide telephone directory is now available! You can buy one (or two, so you have one in your car) at Dan & Whit's, the Norwich Bookstore, the town clerk's office, or Diane's Casual Cuts. Still only \$5 – and what a bargain! So look for the yellow directories and find the cell phone number for your neighbor. Alison May