

Local News

St. Michael's Parish Receives Grant for Food Pantry

St. Michael's Parish recently was given a \$2,000 grant from The Nolin Selby Fund, a fund of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation for the purpose of replenishing the food pantry the church has been managing in their community house for over a year. Treasurer for the Food Pantry Committee, Karen Ackerman, had applied for the grant since food donations did not always meet the needs for all the food pantry guests.

In a letter to Karen Ackerman, who is also parish administrator at St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Grants and Program Director Julia H. Schamberg wrote "Recognizing that financial hardship is ever-present in our communities, we are pleased to inform you that your organization has been chosen to receive one of the Year-End Critical Needs grants." She noted the timeliness of the \$2,000 gift since the next food pantry opening will be held on Saturday, December 15.

St. Michael's is located at 25 South Street, just off the Litchfield Green. For more details about the food pantry, please contact office@stmichaels-litchfield.org.

News from Wisdom House

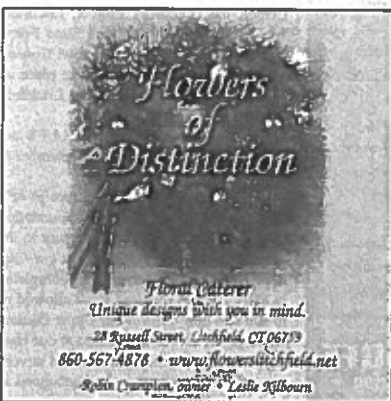
January 2019 Events

Saturday, January 5 – Connect, Reflect, Project: A Self-Care Saturday Day of Reflection, Release, and Intention with Gabriele Davis. For more information or to register visit: www.wisdomhouse.org, call (860)567-3163, or email, programs@wisdomhouse.org.

Friday, January 11-13 – Finding a Rhythm to Walk in: A Contemplative Weekend Retreat with Linda Chidsey. For more information or to register visit: www.wisdomhouse.org, call (860)567-3163, or email, programs@wisdomhouse.org.

Saturday, January 12 – From Wisdom's Table-The Envelope Please: Cooking En Papillote with Chef Margaret Jacobs. For more information or to register visit: www.wisdomhouse.org, call (860)567-3163, or email, programs@wisdomhouse.org.

Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center,
229 East Litchfield Rd., Litchfield, CT 06759
(860)567-3163 • programs@wisdomhouse.org



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Morris Creates Thanksgiving Meals for Eighteen Families

Social Services Director Laurel Gillotti identified eighteen local families in need of some help to enjoy a happy Thanksgiving, and a large number of town residents stepped forward to help their neighbors. Allen Schoenbach and Ron Lawrence transported donated food from Litchfield's DiFranco Restaurant and several other businesses in Torrington, Friends & Neighbors organization donated apple cider, Women's Fellowship at Morris Congregational Church donated all the potatoes, the Morris Fire Company held a collection among their members to purchase eighteen frozen turkeys and Connecticut State Police officers Steve Sordi and Nick DeToro shared items donated to their food drive. Town residents helped by bringing donations to the town's food pantry and monetary donations went into the Social Services account to purchase anything else needed to complete the holiday meal.



by the Morris Fire Company will go out with the food baskets to those who need the extra support. I must give a huge thanks to all those who have donated this year. It really is an incredible outpouring of support in this town and in our surrounding communities. I am also grateful to Laurel Perugini Gillotti for all the work she does to coordinate this effort above and beyond her regular duties."

Pictured are First Selectman Tom Weik, who personally delivered several of the large baskets to the homes of Morris residents and Social Services Director Laurel Gillotti, who oversaw the collections and helped distribute the baskets.

Those seeking information or to apply for assistance from the Morris Food Pantry at town hall are encouraged to contact Laurel Gillotti at selectmen@townofmorrisct.com or 860-567-7430. Donations are always gratefully accepted



Litchfield Catering & Deli
722 Bantam Road
Bantam, CT 06750
(860) 567-9878
Chef/Owner: Gene Genarelli
Litchfieldcateringanddeli@gmail.com



West Street HAIR DESIGN
Kade Renna
Stylist
860.567.5995
583 Bantam Rd., Bantam 06750

Monthly Musings Bring on the Light!

by Jane Bailey



December: my love-hate relationship. The hate starts in October, before Halloween, when the Christmas inventory hits the stores. I walked into Staples this October and a young salesman walked up to me as I was eyeing the holiday giftwrapping display with dismay. "Don't you hate how early the season starts?" he said.

I've been around long enough to know this isn't a new phenomenon, and to know his boss would not be pleased that he was bad-mouthing his store's inventory. Playing devil's advocate, I responded, "Well, it is good to get a head-start with shopping." *Strike me down* I thought. I detest Christmas before Halloween.

November gets worse. I remind myself that I must get shopped and wrapped so I can get mailed before the package deadline. I seem to miss it every year and pay more in postage than my gifts cost. I just can't bring myself to shop in November.

By golly, I'll shop in December; that's the holiday season. Not Thanksgiving month. Don't even mention Black Friday! Too many Thanksgivings have been ruined by folks who must run away from post-feast family time to get to the mad rush sales event to either sell or buy.

So, we're back to December. The real-deal holidays are now looming. The adrenaline sets in. It's when the perfect presents are too late to order, and way too late to make. Remember that Christmas book of pictures you thought about doing in July? Yup, too late now. As I try to think of the perfect gift for the perfect person who has everything, I am stuck. What would I want? I think. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. I want a Thanksgiving turkey and some apple pie where we can sit around the table and laugh without having to worry about looming credit-card payments.

Yet each December, just when I'm spinning into the vortex of a "Bah Humbug" spirit, one by one, lights are turned on. Until one evening when I turn the corner into

the Litchfield town center and gasp. The town is transformed. Evergreen is strung around the light poles, wreaths are up in the store windows; and best of all, the tree—that gorgeous big evergreen on the Green—is magnificently lit. My God, it's beautiful! Like a huge harvest moon on a black sky, the lights cause me to brake, and the switch, the love-switch, flips in my heart.



Photo courtesy of Litchfield.biz

I love driving the Litchfield hills in late afternoon December. Everywhere you look are lights—beautiful beckoning lights. Into the darkness flows light, from the lighted rooftop runways in Bantam ready to guide Santa's sleigh, to the hidden tree in Northfield. It's December when I remember to call social services to ask what the group home needs. It's December when I drop change into red buckets. It's December when we make time to gather with friends, with the usual amount of grousing

about our busy calendars. Who are we kidding? Anyone with a full calendar of friends is blessed. It's December when I remember how many people don't have full calendars. What can I do to put something on one of those calendars? It must be the holiday lights that remind me there is darkness all around that needs to be lit.

These little lights shining throughout Litchfield... on Bantam roofs, on Town Green trees, glass flames in windows, real flickering flames on Menorahs, each twinkle their December refrain from Carl Jung... *the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.* Oh December, how I love you.

Bring on the light!

Jane Bailey is a freelance writer who lives in Litchfield, CT. She is a retired educator who has been an elementary school teacher, college professor, dean, and provost. Jane enjoys writing essays that explore matters of the heart.