

Voice



Holiday Gala Returns to Mohegan Sun December 16

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Foundation is thrilled to present the **37th Annual Holiday Gala** in-person celebration on Friday, December 16, 2022 from 5:30 - 9 pm. The event, presented in partnership with the Mohegan Tribe, will take place in the festively decorated Uncas Ballroom, and will raise funds for the Foundation's grant and scholarship programs.

After a two-year hiatus from the live event, guests will be treated to a champagne reception as they mingle in the festive atmosphere and bid in a silent auction. A chef-crafted seasonal dinner will be served followed by a decadent dessert buffet sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. The evening continues with a live auction featuring gifts and experiences, hosted by former Channel 3 newsman Kevin Hogan and professional Auctioneer Max Wolf.

The Foundation is a business community based 501(C)(3) foundation affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Inc. It strives to promote

initiatives that enhance and enrich education and economic opportunities, especially for children and families, in the Chamber service area. It is the intent of the Foundation to provide such organizations with resources to assist in pilot programs, expansion of programs, research, and more.

At its virtual holiday auction in 2021, the Chamber Foundation raised \$66,000 and awarded \$75,050 using some of their rainy-day funds in March 2022 to 30 local nonprofit organizations. For more information on the Foundation and its grants, visit ChamberECT.com.

Donations for the live and silent auction are still being accepted. Contact Shöna Nilsson at snilsson@chamberECT.com for donation interest.

Tickets are **\$125 per person** or **\$1,250 for a reserved table of 8**.

For information and tickets visit **ChamberECT.com/gala** or call 860-701-9113.

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Stays local*

**SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES
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Spend \$100 at a small business and nearly half of it stays in the community. Why? Local businesses rely on each other for operations and marketing support, and they hire local talent. When local business thrives, property values rise, housing demand increases, more people are encouraged to start a business, and communities flourish.

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT encourages you to support local this holiday season, and always. For a list of local Chamber businesses, visit ChamberECT.com.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU | Through their commitment to the Chamber, these companies have demonstrated support for the many smaller businesses we serve.

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The Day

Make the Most of Your Membership in 2023



As a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, you're part of a network of 1,400 organizations. Thousands of representatives in the industries of business, finance, healthcare, education, and more can connect across the region through the chamber; in-person and virtually through our member portal.

As a regional chamber, we offer visitors, current and prospective employees, developers, startups, and business leaders a gateway to engage in eastern Connecticut.

Employees are entitled to member benefits.

They can attend events and workshops at Chamber member rates and enjoy member to member discounts.

Login to the member portal.

Member login is on the top menu bar of our website, ChamberECT.com. Here you can share your news, connect on a social network, post jobs, register to attend events, contact fellow members, pay invoices, and update your company information.

Use us to promote your business.

Be sure you are sharing the most relevant, up-to-date information about your organization. People reference our business directory, and we receive daily inquiries from people looking for services in the area. Members-only advertising opportunities are also a great value.

Grow your business by growing your network.

Attend Chamber events to make valuable connections. You will gain perspectives on the region, the business climate, and opportunities to partner with other organizations. Young Professionals of Eastern CT is a great way to connect newer employees to the region. You'll also have the chance to share your opinion and advocate for pro-business legislation.

Share your stories with us.

Working with chamber staff can be your link to the region. We seek venues for events, write profiles on local businesses, and refer members to each other.

Keep up to date with the Voice, eNews and Chamber blog for updates on regional issues, Chamber events, and member and benefactor news: ChamberECT.com/publications

Not a member yet? No problem!

Our Director of Membership and Engagement, Jane Davis, can help you sign up and begin enjoying a host of benefits and resources. To join the chamber visit ChamberECT.com, call (860) 701-9113, or email memberships@ChamberECT.com

Chamber recognizes 2022 Social Service Award Winners



Deborah Fountain of the Brian Dagle Foundation accepts the *surprise* Sava Guided by Heart award.

On November 17, the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut hosted its 13th Annual Social Services Recognition Breakfast at the Holiday Inn in Norwich. Business and community leaders joined staff and volunteers from social service organizations across eastern Connecticut to show appreciation for the work done in this important field. Social service organizations' efforts have a significant positive impact on people's lives, strengthening their wellness, access to education, and economic possibilities while also improving the standard of living in eastern Connecticut.

Attendees heard from keynote speaker Tricia Cunningham, Executive Director of Always Home, who emphasized the importance of connection. She asked audience members who have worked with her personally to stand, then those who have worked with anyone standing to rise, and so on. Quickly the room realized just how connected eastern CT is.

Following Tricia Cunningham's address The Eastern CT Social Service Awards were presented. The awards recognize agency staff and volunteers who have gone above and beyond in their duties, as nominated by industry peers.

This year's winners were Rob Lawrence of Groton Community Meals for Staff Member of the Year; Charlie Witt of United Way of Southeastern CT for Volunteer of the Year; Ornet Hines of Liberty Bank for Board Member of the Year; Kathy Allen of Thames River Community Service for Executive Director of the Year; Sound Community Services and New London Adult Education for Collaboration of the Year; and Deborah Fountain of the Brian Dagle Foundation for the Sava Guided by Heart award.

Introducing Josh Posey

Business Development & Operations Manager to Oversee Chamber's Regional Innovation Center

The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT hired Joshua Posey as the Business Development & Operations Manager on October 17, 2022. His role focuses on developing and managing the Regional Innovation Center on Eugene O'Neill Drive in New London as well as supporting economic development for the City of New London and the region.

Joshua Posey, resident of New London, CT, and former Membership Development & Marketing Director for the Ocean Community YMCA, gladly accepted the newly established position. Joshua's experience in the YMCA platform has provided him with over 10 years of leadership building, program coordinating, building management, marketing, event management, and more. Joshua's array of knowledge and dynamic skillset set him apart as the ideal candidate for the position.

The new position aims to seamlessly connect businesses with resources from the Chamber's Innovation Center and its partners. Joshua also works collaboratively with the City of New London as a contributor to economic development.

"The Chamber and the Regional Innovation Center greatly benefit

from the addition of Joshua Posey as the Business Development & Operations Manager. His values aligned well with the Chamber's mission, and we look forward to expanding our team and strengthening our services," said Tony Sheridan, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT.

Felix Reyes, Director of Economic Development & Planning for the City of New London said, "The office of economic and community development is excited about partnering with the Chamber to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs... This type of position has always been a missing ingredient in growing our business community. Having the personnel to aggressively promote, pursue and bring opportunities to New London will complement our Economic Development Coordinator (Elizabeth Nocera) who will then guide them through any type of approvals, permits, incentive programs, networking, etc. and ultimately get them open for businesses.

The Chamber now employs a professional staff of 12 and welcomes Joshua to the Chamber Team.

Follow us! @ChamberECT

We always thank renewing members and welcome new members on Facebook. Follow us to stay up-to-date on Chamber news and be the first to engage with members.

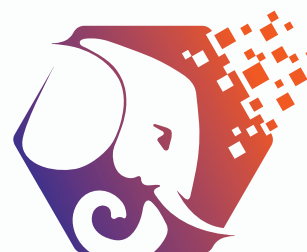


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vs. HAND
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MEMBER NEWS

Breeze Airways Adding More Low-Fare Flights at Bradley International Airport

The Connecticut Airport Authority is pleased to announce that Breeze Airways, the Seriously Nice™ low-fare airline founded by aviation entrepreneur David Neeleman, is once again growing their presence at Bradley International Airport and will be launching new nonstop service to Raleigh Durham, NC, in February, 2023. In the new year, the airline will also return nonstop service to Pittsburgh, PA, and introduce one-stop/no plane change “BreezeThru” service to New Orleans, LA.

The routes will operate as follows, with fares starting at \$49* one way, if purchased by November 21, for travel by May 16, 2023:

- Pittsburgh, PA – Fri and Mon, starting February 3
- Raleigh-Durham, NC – Thurs and Sun, starting February 16; and
- New Orleans, LA – One-stop/no plane change, Thurs, Fri, Sun and Mon, starting February 3

From Bradley International Airport, Breeze currently serves Charleston, SC, Columbus, OH, Jacksonville, FL, Las Vegas, NV, Nashville, TN, Norfolk, VA, Richmond, VA, Sarasota-Bradenton, FL, and Savannah, GA, nonstop. In 2023, the airline will also be introducing nonstop service to Phoenix, AZ and Vero Beach, FL.

“We welcome Breeze’s addition of new nonstop service to Raleigh-Durham,” said Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E., Connecticut Airport Authority’s Executive Director. “The new route, along with the return of Pittsburgh service, and the BreezeThru service to New Orleans complement the airline’s growing menu of destinations at Bradley International Airport. We appreciate Breeze’s continued partnership in bringing low-fares and so many convenient travel options to our passengers.”

“Breeze always looks for underserved routes where we can add nonstop flights, low fares and our brand of Seriously Nice service,” said Tom Doxey, Breeze Airways’ President. “We’re thrilled to add more destinations from Hartford with nonstop service to Raleigh-Durham and Pittsburgh – as well as BreezeThru service to New Orleans.”



Nature’s Art Village Presents \$10,000 Check to Safe Futures of Southeastern CT to Help Victims of Domestic Violence

On November 5th, Nature’s Art Village and The Dinosaur Place, a premier tourist destination in Montville, CT, made their annual donation to Safe Futures of Southeastern CT — a program that serves victims of domestic violence in New London County.

“We have been fortunate enough to contribute to Safe Futures for over 20 years,” the company’s owners stated, “This past year, our patrons graciously donated a total of \$5,000, and so we decided to match this amount for a grand total of \$10,000, breaking all previous records.”

Nature’s Art Village would like to make the public aware of the Adopt-a-Family Holiday Program, which provides for families in crisis or in transition. If you are interested to learn more or to help make a family’s Christmas special, please visit safefuturesct.org or call (860) 908-5770.

Eugene O’Neill Theater Center launches Winter Cabaret Series, featuring Broadway talent and cabaret favorites

The Eugene O’Neill Theater Center will ring in the 2022 holiday season with its first ever Winter Cabaret Series running December 15 through December 18. Programmed by Grammy and Emmy Award-Winner John McDaniel, Artistic Director of the O’Neill’s Cabaret & Performance Conference, the line-up will feature an array of accomplished Broadway and cabaret favorites, who will perform festive, holiday-themed shows.

“We are beyond excited to present our brand new Winter Cabaret Series, building upon our annual festivities in the summer,” McDaniel said. “Fire up the egg nog and join us for some fantastic holiday performances!”

Performances begin on December 15 when Cabaret & Performance Conference Junior Fellows Program Director and acclaimed cabaret performer Brad Simmons joins some of the O’Neill’s talented Junior Fellows alumni for a winter music celebration titled Fa la la la la in the Barn!

On December 16, the O’Neill will welcome nightclub sensation Klea Blackhurst, who has wowed audiences in venues from coast to coast

and at London’s Palladium and Royal Albert Hall and has previously entertained Connecticut audiences as Dolly in Goodspeed Musicals production of Hello Dolly!. She joins John McDaniel for the swingin’ holiday celebration A Holiday Mixer.

O’Neill favorite Natalie Douglas takes the stage December 17 for A Very Natalie Holiday!, featuring a dazzling collection of festive tunes. She will be accompanied by Jon Weber.

On December 18, Broadway’s Liz Callaway (Merrily We Roll Along, Cats, Baby) will raise the rafters in spirited song as she closes the inaugural series with Merry and Bright. A Tony nominee and Emmy Award winner, Liz is one of the great voices and storytellers of our time, and has appeared at Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl.

Performances will take place at 8pm nightly in the Rufus and Margo Rose Barn Theater. General admission ticket options range from \$30 to \$40, and table seating is available at a higher price. More information and tickets can be found at theoneill.org/wintercab22.

BENEFACITOR NEWS



Which comes first?

**\$200k OR
100 days**

Charter Oak's 'Matching Gifts' Donates \$400,000 to Charities

Charter Oak Federal Credit Union's 2022 Matching Gifts Program has donated a combined \$400,000 from the credit union and its members to more than 280 charitable organizations this holiday season, from local food pantries and food centers to programs providing housing and educational assistance.

Since Charter Oak created its innovative Matching Gifts Program in 2016, the combined giving of the credit union and its generous members has totaled nearly \$2 million.

Based on the large volume of member donations during 2022, Charter Oak's Matching Gifts pledge of "Which comes first? \$200k or 100 days" was met in 70 days, shattering last year's record of 84 days.

"This year we started the program with \$200,000 doubling the previous years' starting match of \$100,000 and our members rose to the challenge. We met our match in a record 70 days. Our members and Charter Oak were able to provide over 600 donations to non-profit organizations across eastern Connecticut," said Brian A. Orenstein, Charter Oak's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Our members' generosity is truly amazing, and once again they've shown how much they care about helping our community," said Orenstein.

Among the many local organizations to directly benefit from Charter Oak's Matching Gifts Program during 2022 are Wheeler Library, Friends of Chikumbuso, Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation, and Care and Share of East Lyme.

Charter Oak's Matching Gifts Program, which starts in August each year, matches all qualified donations made by its members to 501(c)(3) charities. During 2022, Charter Oak's Matching Gifts Program matched over 800 donations from its members that will aid 281 charities and non-profit organizations.

Charter Oak is eastern Connecticut's largest credit union with assets of \$1.54 billion as of September 30, 2022. For more information about Charter Oak's broad range of products and services, please visit any of our convenient branches, call our Contact Center at 860.446.8085 or visit CharterOak.org. Federally insured by NCUA. Equal Housing Lender.



Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Member Jean Swift has been appointed to the U.S. Department of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee

Congratulations to Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Member Jean Swift on her appointment to the U.S. Department of the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee (TTAC)! Ms. Swift was appointed by the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard E. Neal.

"I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Jean Swift to the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee," says U.S. Treasurer and Mohegan Chief Lynn Malerba. "Jean brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with tribal finance and economic development along with a deep commitment to tribal equity. She will be a thoughtful addition to the Committee."

"Jean has developed an eminent reputation throughout Indian country as a leading voice on important tribal parity issues such as taxation and debt restructuring," says Rodney Butler, Chairman of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. "Known for her keen understanding of the nuances of tribal economies and finances, Jean's credentials and experience make her a tremendous asset to and advocate for all of Indian country, and we are thrilled that the TTAC has appointed her to this vitally important Committee."

Currently serving as Chief Financial Officer for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Ms. Swift is a former Tribal Council Treasurer, having served on Tribal Council from October 2013 to December 2018. During that time, Ms. Swift chaired the Tribe's Finance and Economic Development Committees, and served as the Vice Chair of the Tribe's Endowment Trust Board of Directors.

From January 2019 to May 2021, Ms. Swift served as a financial advisor to the Tribal Council, providing consultation on financial matters, audit, tribal taxation, and economic development initiatives. She was also a program instructor for the Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA) Tribal Finance Manager Certificate Program at Arizona State University, and in 2019 was honored as NAFOA's 2019 Executive of the Year.

Ms. Swift's past advisory roles to the Treasury Department included serving on the TTAC Subcommittee on Dual Taxation, which published a report in December 2020 providing a number of recommendations to the Treasury Department and the Department of the Interior to address the scourge of dual taxation on tribal lands. She has also recently completed a three-year term on the Internal Revenue Service's Advisory Committee, with a focus on issues relating to tax exempt and government entities.

Special Thanks to Our Regional Benefactors

