



Free

“More of the Best of the Valley”

September 15, 2016



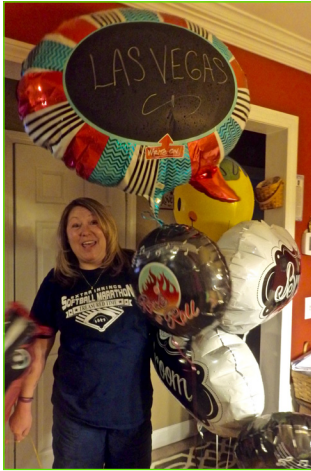
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Derby family to make memories with trip courtesy of Treasured Time



By Patricia Villers
DERBY - The Mather family of Derby is getting ready to enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to Las Vegas thanks to Treasured Time.

The Seymour-based nonprofit Treasured Time, Inc. grants wishes of parents with terminal illnesses who want to create memories with their families. Nicole Mather, her husband Brian, their son, Austin, and his girlfriend, Jaclyn Mulqueen, will fly to Las Vegas for a week-long vacation.

The Mathers will renew their wedding vows at the Little White Chapel in Las Vegas to mark their 20th anniversary. Austin Mather will escort his mother down the aisle. The wedding package will include a limo ride, flowers, and 18 digital photos for the couple.

On Wednesday three members of Treasured Time went to the Mathers’ house - armed with balloons and gifts - to celebrate their upcoming trip.

Chief Operating Officer Cassandra O’Hara, family relations chairwoman Arlene Greco and events chairwoman Jenn Moffatt described the fun planned schedule.

They presented the Mathers with “bride and groom” balloons, T-shirts that say “We Still Do,” an itinerary, a shopping bag packed with snacks for the trip, and lots of hugs. The back of Nicole Mather’s T-shirt says, “My Wish Was Granted.”

She had tears in her eyes during the visit. “These ladies do great work,” she said. “I always try to do things for others, that’s why I feel like I don’t deserve it.”

Nicole Mather, 43, has faced a variety of health issues since she was 15.

According to information provided in a program for last weekend’s softball marathon fundraiser sponsored by Treasured Time, she was diagnosed with lupus at 17.

The program says: “When she was first diagnosed with lupus she had a major car accident where she died five times. The priest had even given her, her last rights. Nicole defied the odds.”

The Mathers were told they would never have children but she once again defied the odds when their son, Austin was born.

The program continues: “In recent years Nicole was diagnosed with diabetes and has suffered two severe strokes and three mini strokes. She has APS lupus, which means she creates blood clots all over her body, intensifying her susceptibility to strokes.”



Women Making a Difference fundraiser Oct. 6 in Seymour

The Valley Women's Health Initiative will recognize five outstanding women at the 16th Annual Women Making a Difference in the Valley Tribute Luncheon and Breast Cancer Fundraiser Oct. 6. The event will be held from noon-2 p.m. at the Inn at Villa Bianca, 312 Roosevelt Drive.

The tribute recognizes women who have made positive contributions to the community and have demonstrated significant achievement in their fields of endeavor, both professional and volunteer. This year’s honorees are Linda Doczynski of Oxford, Janette Fedak of Derby, Esther Jones of Derby, Jenn Moffat of Ansonia, and Anastasia Timpko of Seymour.

A special recognition will be given to former Griffin Hospital Vice President William Powanda, a co-founder of the Women’s Health Initiative. Liz Kennard of Comcast will host this year’s event.

Proceeds from the Luncheon and Tribute will benefit the Valley Breast Health Care Fund. Established in 2001, the Fund works to ensure that no person, regardless of age or socio-economic condition, is denied screening mammograms or diagnostic testing for breast cancer

The Women’s Health Initiative is co-chaired by Kate Cosgrove of Oxford and Dr. Stephanie Wain of Griffin Hospital, and is comprised of members of the community working toward a common goal of addressing and improving women’s health issues including breast cancer awareness.



Tickets to the Luncheon and Tribute are \$40. To purchase tickets or make a donation, call 203-888-3290 or email: katecosgrove7@yahoo.com

Ticket orders can also be sent to: Radiology Department, Griffin Hospital, 130 Division St., Derby, 06418, Att: C. Cooper.

To become a sponsor or to place an ad, call 203-233-7639 or email dott.g@comcast.net

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Classic Sights on Elizabeth Street

The classic look at Derby's past is seen on a beautiful late summer's Day.

Left:
The Italianate-style Sterling Opera House, opened in 1889.

Right:
The Second Congregational Church was dedicated in 1846. The top of the steeple was damaged beyond repair during Hurricane Gloria in 1985.

Learn more about the unique architecture in the Valley and in Connecticut at this informative site:

<http://historicbuildingsct.com>



Book highlights 15 families affected by 9/11

By Patricia Villers

The 15th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks this week reminds Americans of the horrors experienced on that fateful day.

A new book, *Finding Fifteen, How My Daily Walk to the 9/11 Memorial Became a Journey of Love, Hope & Survival*, pays tribute to 15 victims of the attacks that took nearly 3,000 lives.

Long Island resident Timothy P. Oliver, an art director at Golf Digest magazine who also lives part-time in Trumbull, wrote the book to honor those individuals. He chose their names at random from the 9/11 memorial in New York City.

He launched the book Sept. 1 at Book Revue in Huntington, L.I. to rave reviews.

For more information about Oliver's book, please see:

<http://findingfifteen.com>



Master's Table Community Meal & Concert by *SISTER FUNK*



Where: Assumption Church Hall
61 N. Cliff St., Ansonia
(handicap accessible)

When: September 18, 2016
Dinner 4:00 - 5:30 pm & Music 4:30 - 6pm

Free Admission - Donations accepted



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