

News & Views

*The Official Newsletter of the
Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Conn.*
<http://www.cgspouses-sect.org>

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MARCH 2008

TIFFANI KAMINSKI, EDITOR

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“Skinny” Dipping, Anyone?? GMM & Fondue Party Thursday, March 13 / 7PM

Our March General Membership Meeting will be held Thursday, March 13, at 7PM, at the home of Kim Davis (1 Dogwood Lane, Old Lyme). We'll enjoy fondue while we tend to the business of the club. Members attending will be asked to bring sides for dipping. Please RSVP to Jill Billiau at (860) 395-2001 or jill@billiau.com.

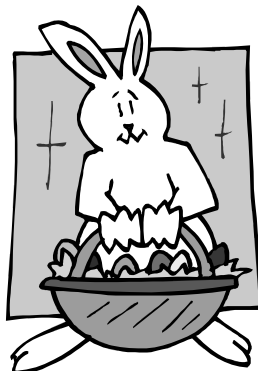


Directions:

From 95 South: Take exit 71 and turn left at the end of the ramp. Continue on Route 156 until you see Cherrystone's Restaurant. Turn left onto Dogwood Drive (the street opposite the parking lot). Kim's house is #1 on the right with a red door. **From 95 North:** Take exit 70 and turn right at the end of the ramp. Continue on Route 156 until you see a Gulf gas station. Turn right onto Dogwood Drive (the next side street). Kim's house is #1 on the right with a red door.

Hoppin' Down The Bunny Trail...Breakfast With the Easter Bunny Saturday, March 15 / 9AM

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny is back this year! It will be held on Saturday, March 15, from 9-11AM at the Officers'/All-Hands Club. Tickets are available now from the MWR office at a cost of \$3 for adults and \$1 for children ages 5-10. In addition to breakfast, each child will receive a goody bag and a photo with the Easter Bunny.

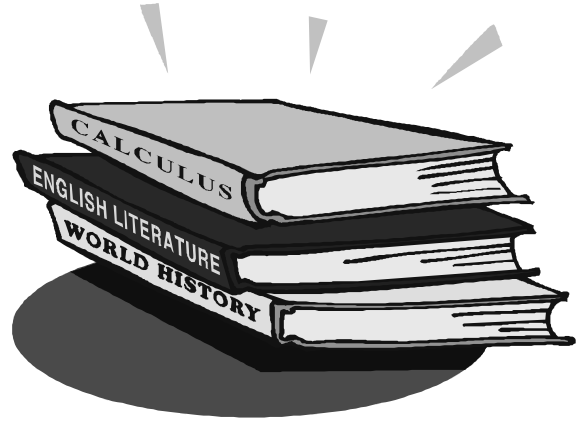


The deadline to purchase tickets from MWR is Wednesday, March 12. Please call (860) 444-8476 for more information.

Activities & Events

Chip Boswell Scholarship Fund: Academic Year 2008-2009

Each year the U.S. Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut provides two \$500.00 scholarships in memory of Chip Boswell, a past president of the association. One scholarship is available for active members of the CGSA and the other is given to a deserving member of the local Coast Guard family. Those eligible include Coast Guard members (either active duty or reserve), Coast Guard retirees, Coast Guard-affiliated Public Health Service members and Coast Guard civilian employees. "Local" is defined as all personnel attached to Coast Guard units in the New London-Groton area and Coast Guard retirees residing in Southeastern Connecticut.



The scholarship may be used for any educational purpose. No person shall be awarded this scholarship more than twice. Priority will be given to members pursuing their initial two- or four-year degree or certification. **Please complete the application and mail with postmark dated on or before April 20, 2008.** Scholarship recipients will be notified by June 1, 2008. For questions and an application, please contact Gail Boehm, Awards & Scholarship Committee Chair, (860) 447-9235 or gail_boehm@sbcglobal.net.

Shhhh! It's NOT a Secret! Secret Pals Party is Disclosed

Mark your calendars, as this is NO secret! The date has been set for the CGSA Secret Pal Reveal Party. Meet your mystery friend, share stories of concealed mischief, and unveil your own identify. **Please bring something yummy to share with everyone as well as a final gift for your Secret Pal.** Some people also like to bring a "Thank You" gift at this time for their newly uncovered friend. The main dish and drinks will be provided. Contact Rachel at (860) 691-0876 or beninbunch@gmail.com for more information or ideas on what to bring.

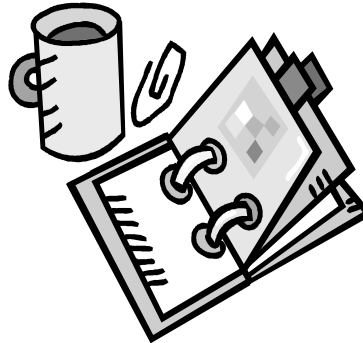


Secret Pal Reveal Party
Sunday, April 27, at 2:00 PM
Hosted at Erika Lund's Home
21 Meadowlark Drive
Westerly, RI 02891
(401) 348-0370

President's Corner

Winter is almost over and I can sense spring is quickly approaching. It'll only be a matter of time before the trees start to bud and flowers begin to sprout. With the arrival of spring, there are other things that are expected, like taxes, preparing to move to a new duty station, and voting for our next Board of Directors. I hope you'll consider serving the CGSA in some capacity in the next year.

Even though our membership year is winding down, we still have many events on the horizon. We'll enjoy a combination General Membership Meeting and Fondue Party, our monthly Lunch Bunch, our annual Retiree Luncheon and the Secret Pal Reveal Party. The New London Coast Guard Officers Association (NLCGOA) has also invited us to a Wine Tasting Event to be held at the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Center in April. I expect the evening to be a lot of fun and it will give us an opportunity to meet and learn more about other organizations and members while enjoying some fine wine.



We're always looking for new ways to get our name out to prospective members and while I'd hope that the spouses of the NLCGOA are already CGSA members, I look forward to the opportunity to connect with, and gain some, new friends.

Our recent events have been great fun – in January members made beautiful necklaces after a night of “beading” with Tiffani Kaminski; Bunco made for a lively and entertaining evening thanks to Ruth Caputo. Nine of our sweeties received special baskets chock full of goodies for Valentine’s Day with Takako Dolan’s wonderful idea; and Lunch Bunch continues to be a great way to get together informally and try different restaurants in the area. It’s been great seeing some new faces and we hope you’ll consider attending something soon!

Wishing you the luck of the Irish this St. Patty’s Day!

My Best,
Jill Billiau, President

Happy Birthday! CGSA sends good wishes and cheer to the following members on their birthday:

Loren Hammond	March 08
Jill Billiau	March 11
Melissa Hudspeth	March 15
Sarah Ferguson	March 18
Christina Allen	March 22
Dee Paulsen	March 23
Jeanine Robitaille	March 31

Welcome Aboard!
The CGSA proudly salutes the littlest Coastie to join our ranks:

Estelle Marie Edwards
Born January 30, 2008 at 12:43AM
8 lbs., 10 3/4 oz. and 21 inches

Congratulations to Sam & Peggy Edwards!

Activities & Events

Help the CGSA Designate its Donations

The end of our membership year is nearing and it's time to consider making our annual charity donation. Your thoughts are requested to help us choose three recipients. Last year we chose to donate to Fisher House, USCGA Cadet Activities, and the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut.

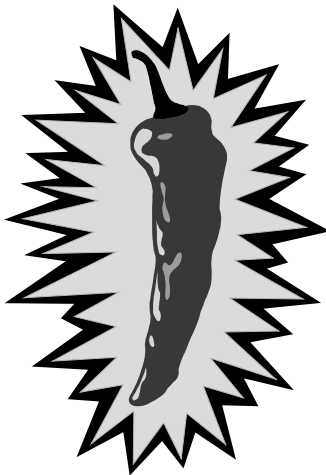
If you have a particular charity in mind that you'd like to have considered, please contact Jill Billiau at (860) 395-2001 or jill@billiau.com.

Take A Bite Out Of The Big Apple!

Plans are still in the works for a trip to New York City to see a Broadway show. Want to join in on the fun? The date and show will be decided by those interested in going.

Contact Jill Billiau at (860) 395-2001 or jill@billiau.com with a date (in April, May or June) and we will work out the details together.

Add Some Zip to your Life! Lunch Bunch at Chili's Restaurant Thursday, March 20 / 11:45AM



Add some spice to your week and join us at Chili's on Thursday, March 20, at 11:45AM. The restaurant is located at 396 N. Frontage Rd. in New London. Chili's offers great salads like Quesadilla Explosion and Grilled Caribbean, black bean burgers, baby back ribs and, of course, chili! See the rest of the menu at www.chilis.com.

Please RSVP to Melissa Brown at (860)495-5500 or jmbrown0806@hotmail.com.

Save the Date: Wine Tasting Event Saturday, April 12 / 7PM

All members of the CGSA and their spouses are invited to a Wine Tasting Event hosted by the New London Coast Guard Officers Association (NLCGOA) on Saturday, April 12 at 7PM. This event will be held at the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Center. *See insert for invitation and RSVP information.*

Save the Date: Retiree Luncheon Friday, April 25 / Noon

We hope you'll consider joining us at our annual CGSA Retiree Luncheon on Friday, April 25, at noon, held at the Hideaway Restaurant in Old Lyme. More details will follow in the April issue of *News & Views*.

Club Notes

Great Destinations for Several Locations Co-Op Travel Book Lending Library

Are you interested in the area surrounding your next duty station? Planning a spring break trip or looking forward to those lazy days of summer? Well, a few members are opening-up their bookshelves just for you!!

To satisfy the travel bug, please take a look at the following list of great destinations. If interested get in touch with the contact person listed below:

San Diego, NYC, & New England area tour books

Let's Go Europe, USA, Central America, Mexico, & South America guide books

Military Lodging guide book

Contact Melissa Brown at (860) 495-5500 or jmbrown0806@hotmail.com

San Antonio/Austin & the Southwest area tour books

NYC, Mid-Atlantic, NC/SC/Georgia, Florida & the Caribbean guide books

National Parks guide book

Contact Tiffani Kaminski at (401) 348-8789 or tkayk17@msn.com

Also, if anyone has a few good books on New Orleans, please call Tiffani!

DK Eyewitness France & Europe tour books

DK Top 10 Paris and On Foot Guides

Munich and the Bavarian Alps guide books

Contact Rachel Benin at (860) 691-0876 or beninbunch@gmail.com

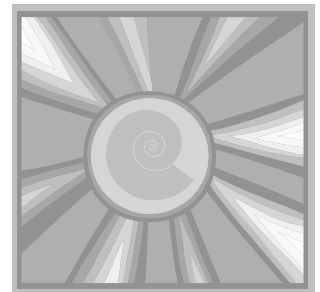


Sunshine Meals Shine On For New Families

The “sun” has shone on the CGSA’s newest moms with the assistance of our members delivering meals after their babies were born.

Thank you Rachel Benin, Jill Billiau, Kim Davis, Takako Dolan, Loren Hammond, Erika Lund, Becky Noreen, Alison Peabody, Jeanine Robitaille, Maryanne Ruckes Watson, and Claire Tyson for bringing sunshine to our new families.

Sunshine Meals are available to members in need due to, but not limited to, a birth or illness. If you are in need of meals in the near future, we hope you’ll consider letting the CGSA assist you. We deliver five meals whenever you’d like them. Most folks ask for them every other day while others pick and choose times that coincide with hectic family schedules or times when they are lacking assistance.



Club Notes

Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut General Membership Meeting * February 7, 2008 * Munro Hall, CGA

Present: Jill Billiau, Erika Lund, Rachel Benin, Melissa Hudspeth, Loren Hammond, Takako Dolan, Kim Davis, Megan Bennett

Call to Order: Jill Billiau called the meeting to order at 1920.

Report of the Recording Secretary: Rachel requested to have January 08 minutes approved. Jill moved to accept and Erika seconded the motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Melissa provided a summary of the current CGSA Treasurer's Report. Each committee was made aware of the available funds. Dues, directory advertisement money, and other deposits have been made. Shared shipping and handling money from bulk napkin purchase has been verified.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary: Loren stated that cards have been mailed to Peggy Edwards and Jessica James-Carnes.

Report of the Vice President: Erika Lund reported on the activities calendar. March's meeting will be held March 13th at Kim Davis' home, 1900. A Fondue Party will be held in conjunction with the monthly meeting. Under-the-Lemon-Tree has been postponed.

1. Bake Sale: CGA Musical- February 22-24th – *Volunteers needed. Refreshments served will be streamlined to a few set items. Note forthcoming email. Based upon price value, half or whole-sized water bottles will be purchased.*
2. Lunch Bunch: Somewhere in Time – February 29th – *RSVP to Melissa Brown. Café in Mystic has small dining area.*
3. Sweetheart Dinner:- February 29th - *Location: Lighthouse Inn, NL. A menu is being arranged with the restaurant*

Report of Standing Committees:

Cadet Cakes- Kim Davis reported. Valentine's orders have been finalized. Volunteers are needed to bake the week of Feb 25th - March 2nd. A small buffer of money is to be left in the Cadet Cake account at all times in order to account for monthly overlaps.

Hospitality/Luncheons and Socials- Liz Herman was unable to attend. Future Spouses Tea is in progress. Retiree' Luncheon will tentatively be held on April 25th at the Hideaway. This is a new location for this social.

Membership- Jill Billiau reported. The 2007- 08 CGSA SEC directories have been completed and mailed to members. One new member has registered with the Association.

Newsletter- Tiffani Kaminski was unable to attend. It was noted that February 20th is the deadline for the March issue's articles.

Ways and Means- Takako Dolan is gathering inventory ideas. Ocean State Job Lot has several nice items available. Complications with currently used embroidery shop were discussed. A Coast Guard album is now available at the Exchange and need not be sold through this committee any longer.

Awards and Scholarships- Gail Boehm was unable to attend. Solicitations for high school awards should be made. Chip Boswell deadline is near.

Sunshine- Claire Tyson was unable to attend. Peggy Edwards delivered a baby girl. Meals are being organized for the Edwards and James-Carnes families. Jill Billiau should be contacted for details.

Report of Special Committees:

F S F- Erika Lund is collecting endorsements for the Edward's scholarship. Outside association heads must send approval.

Crafts- Liz Herman was unable to attend. Beading night went well. Ideas & interests for a March Craft Night are being discussed.

Co-Op- Rachel updated others on the travel book lending library. March article will list specifics.

Historian/Publicity- New scrapbook made by Liz Herman was shared with group.

OCS Representative- Christine was unable to attend. Nothing pressing to report.

Secret Pals- Program near end. Date and location was set for Reveal Party: April 27th, 1400, Erika Lund's home. March article will announce event in detail. Also, Rachel stated that next year this special committee chair will be open for volunteers.

MWR Representative- Christy Newell was unable to attend. This is a newly formed special committee organized to meet the needs within both organizations. Volunteers and ideas for the Easter baskets are needed. An age-range for treats was discussed.

Old Business:

Officers' Association Wine Tasting Party- The CGSA has been invited to attend. The date has been changed to April 12th.

New Business:

Nominating Committee- All openings should be announced as soon as possible. Interest shown so far in various positions was listed. Vacancies will be filled by committee propositions.

Announcements: Valentine's baskets will be assembled and decorated at the closing of this meeting. Takako Dolan will lead activity.

Adjournment: Jill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2030. Loren Hammond seconded the motion.

*Respectfully Submitted February 20, 2008
Rachel Benin, Recording Secretary*

March 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Daylight Savings Time	10	11	12	13 Fondue Party and GMM 7PM	14	15 Break-fast-Easter Bunny 9AM
16 Palm Sunday	17 	18	19	20 Lunch Bunch 11:45AM	21 Good Friday	22
23 Easter	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

2007-2008 Leadership Roster

Honorary President

Betsy Burhoe

Parliamentarian
Sunshine
Ways & Means

Kim Davis 434-7047
Claire Tyson 319-1558
Takako Dolan 437-0042
Pat Simpson 739-4033

Executive Board

President Jill Billiau 395-2001
Vice President Erika Lund (401) 348-0370
Treasurer Melissa Hudspeth 367-9280
Recording Secretary Rachel Benin 691-0876
Corresponding Secretary Loren Hammond 405-0757

Special Committees

Standing Committees

Awards & Scholarships Gail Boehm 447-9232
Cadet Cakes Kim Davis 434-7047
Luncheons/Socials/ Hospitality Liz Herman 848-4884
Membership Jill Billiau 395-2001
News & Views Tiffani Kaminski (401) 348-8789

Babysitting

Bowling
Crafts
Co-Op
Family Support Fund
Historian/Publicity
Lunch Bunch
OCS Representative
Phone Tree
Retiree Rep.
Secret Pals

Volunteer Needed

Janice Norton 437-3671
Liz Herman 848-4884
Rachel Benin 691-0876
Erika Lund (401) 348-0370
Liz Herman 848-4884
Melissa Brown 495-5500
Christine O'Connor (401) 823-8707
Melissa Brown 495-5500
Sue Branagan 691-1285
Rachel Benin 691-0876

**COAST GUARD SPOUSES' ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT**

Coast Guard Spouses' Association
USCGA Chase Hall, Box A-25
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

First Class Postage

Be sure to add info@cgsouples-sect.org to your email address book to ensure that all CGSA emails and newsletters always go straight to your inbox.

mark your calendar!



General Membership Meeting	March 13
Fondue Party (With GMM)	March 13
Breakfast with Easter Bunny	March 15
Lunch Bunch at Chili's	March 20
Wine Tasting Event	April 12
Chip Boswell Scholarship Deadline	April 20
Retiree Luncheon	April 25
Secret Pals Reveal Party	April 27