

FIRESIDE Tastings & Treasures

On Saturday, March 30th CVEF hosted Tastings & Treasures at Powder Ridge Park, the Lodge in Middlefield. Everyone enjoyed wine, beer, and hors d'oeuvres beside the fire as our experts appraised antiques and collectibles.



Photos by Martin Anderson

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 8	Accidental Harmony Chorus Concert	4:30 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Dec 10	The Pressure to be Perfect and Its Unintended Consequences	6 p.m. Middlefield Community Cen.
Jan 17	Senior Health Seminars The Aging Brain, Dr. Marilese Hyacinth Lunch served at noon	1 p.m. Durham Activity Center
March 18	The Power of Pause, Parenting Strategies to Be Calm, Connected and Effective	6 p.m. Strong School
March 27	Trivia Bee	6 p.m. Strong School
April 17	Senior Health Seminars Get Outdoors Speaker: Peter Marteka	TBD Durham Activity Center
TBD	Kids and Screen Time: How Much is Too Much	6 p.m. IDS

Online donations are easy.
Go to www.coginchaugvef.org and click on



@cvefct



Like us on Facebook

WHAT OUR DONORS SAY ABOUT CVEF

Among all the organizations/ initiatives I support, CVEF is unique to me because the breadth and reach of the local programs supported by CVEF significantly enhance the quality of life and opportunities for participation in our community across all ages, interests and abilities.

—LESLIE BULION

I support CVEF for two reasons. First, it supports local organizations that promote learning opportunities which are not usually funded by government grants. Secondly, it gathers people together for a mutual cause, promoting associations which might not have occurred otherwise. Both of these activities promote a sense of community.

—RALPH CHASE

CVEF promotes fun, educational, and community based programs and provides grants to those with a similar vision. It is what we all want and need, to help our communities to be sustainable and resilient.

—ALAN & NANCY WINSHIP-POOLE

I support CVEF because they give back to the communities of Durham and Middlefield. This organization looks to fund different types of programs to meet the varying interests of our communities. CVEF promotes the 4 C's: creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication.

—JEN PENNY



FALL 2019

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 1

Coginchaug Valley Education Foundation Report

ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends of CVEF, Our **Talk of the Towns** event this November featured four of your neighbors who spoke about Native American belief systems and how we can apply those concepts today, the health benefits of singing in a group, the learning that comes from doing the hard work to meet goals and the courage of a Nazi major who saved hundreds of Jews. Throughout the talks, several themes emerged: the idea of community and that we are never really alone, the importance of relationship building, the fact that we can all contribute to the common good and finally, in the end, hope.

The volunteers who serve on the Board and the committees of CVEF believe and live these ideals. Many of this year's grant projects also reflect these themes: from conserving our natural habitats and our bird

populations, to providing health seminars for seniors, to promoting outdoor fun for families, to growing produce in the Giving Garden for local families, to young people tutoring other young people in math skills.

As always, your generous support allows us to build community and to promote lifelong learning opportunities such as these. We are proud of our towns, our neighbors and you, our loyal supporters.

At the end of the evening, an audience member approached me and said, "I feel uplifted." We all lift each other up in so many ways. Thank you for allowing us to continue the work that we do. It is our honor and privilege to serve you.

Nancy Earls

When is
the next
Trivia Bee?



Friday
March 27
2020



Supporting
lifelong learning
in Durham and
Middlefield.

2019 CVEF GRANTS

- ▶ **Durham Senior Citizens Board, Health Seminars.** A series of health seminars for residents age 50+ that assist adults in their understanding of the many facets of aging.
- ▶ **Maria Richardson, Chunky Hand Knitting Blanket Class.** A program to teach age 55 plus how to hand-knit with chunky yarn.
- ▶ **Levi E. Coe Library, Outdoor Family Fun.** Local families can check out popular outdoor lawn games to encourage time spent outdoors.
- ▶ **Jenny Lussier (District 13 Educator), We Can Do the Cube** A creative problem solving STEAM program using the Rubik's Cube for grades K-4.
- ▶ **Take the Challenge with Odyssey of the Mind,** Supporting local Odyssey of the Mind creative problem solving teams for the 2019-2020 year.

- ▶ **Levi E. Coe Library, Discovering Familial Roots Using Ancestry.com.** Through the purchase of the Library Edition of Ancestry.com and a genealogist-led workshop, library patrons learn about their lineage.
- ▶ **Birding for Pleasure,** Through presentations on conserving natural habitats and the purchase of binoculars, this program encourages bird watching and help with a local bird count effort.



- ▶ **Accidental Harmony Community Chorus,** Our local community choir can update current equipment to improve audibility at their concerts.
- ▶ **Heather Parente: Hand in Hand: A Communication Class,** An 8-week series that teaches the basics of American Sign Language. Open to all ages.



- ▶ **Claudia and Gage Rovelli, Math Tutoring for 7th Grade Students.** An 8-week math tutoring program for rising 7th graders led by volunteer CRHS students.
- ▶ **Regional School District #13, Kindergarten Flexible Seating.** Flexible seating will create brain-friendly student-centered environments while reducing sedentary time.
- ▶ **Coginchaug Area Transition Giving Garden,** The Giving Garden of Durham/Middlefield presents 5 events to share information on gardening.



Renee Kelley and Lorrie Martin.
Photo by Martin Anderson

CVEF awarded its 2018 **Howard Kelley Community Service Award** to **Lorrie Martin** for her work as a lifelong educator and community advocate and volunteer.

Lorrie was the creator of District 13's Outdoor Education Center. As a teacher, she inspired many of her students to pursue careers in the biological sciences. She also established an oceanography program at CRHS.

To quote nominator Sharon Berndt, "Lorrie has touched many lives in our community and has helped countless individuals by generously sharing her knowledge and talents."



Nominate Someone you Know for the Howard Kelley Award
CVEF is continually looking for nominations for the Howard Kelley Community Service Award, which is presented annually. For more information, nominating guidelines and how to nominate, please visit coginchaugvef.org/howard-kelley-award



Community Donations, July 2018 - June 2019

Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

George Eames IV
 Daryl and Renee Edwards*
 Lynn and Martha Temple*

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Bronze (Up to \$100)

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* 5 years or more of giving
 ** In honor of Nancy Earls

Business and Community Organization Partners, 2018/2019

Diamond (\$1,000 and above)

Peach Pit Foundation*

Platinum (\$500 - \$999)

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Chapman Manufacturing*
 Durham Fair Foundation*
 Durham Manufacturing Company
 Durham/Middlefield Exchange Club*
 RDDK Insurance
 Tenthorey Consulting, LLC

Silver (\$100-\$249)

Brenna Zettergren Memorial Foundation
 Durham Democratic Town Committee*
 Glazer Dental
 Lino's Market*
 Maggie Peterson Graphic Design
 Middlesex Dental Associates:
 Anthony J. Onofreo and
 Pamela A. Moore-Onofreo*

Middlefield Lions Club
 Middlefield Democratic Town Committee
 Center for Esthetic Dentistry
 Annette Willis, Attorney-at-Law
Bronze (Up to \$100)
 Dean Autoworks, Inc.
 Micheli Unisex Styling Salon, LLC*

* 5 years or more of giving

Talk of the Towns

We held our fifth annual **Talk of the Towns** series on November 15, 2019, at Indian Springs Golf Club in Middlefield. The evening featured a quartet of lively 10-minute talks delivered by members of our community. Speakers included **Christian Gonzales** on the regenerative power of Native American beliefs, **Michael Good** on the documentary *The Good Nazi*, **Tina Hurlbert** on climbing mountains, both literally and figuratively, and **Lisa Larsen** on the benefits of singing as a member of a group.



Photo by Martin Anderson