

COMMUNITY LIVING CORP.

# THE OPEN DOOR

PROVIDING QUALITY CARE TO DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY LIVING

## CLC RINGS IN NEW YEAR AT SEA!

Cue the Calypso music and put on your best straw hat - or parrot! CLCers cruised the Caribbean!

This past December, twenty consumer travelers and five staff boarded *The Norwegian Gem* for a 10-day, Eastern Caribbean New Year's Eve Cruise. The group dined, danced, toured and celebrated their way through the Ports of San Juan, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, and Tortola! On land, CLCers took in all the salty sites and sandy beaches to be found. Once at sea, the ship was a virtual palace, with

round the clock entertainment, theater productions, gourmet dining and oh, the dance clubs! Said one happy CLC sailor, "We were a floating party!" *continued p.2*



### Inside this issue:

- Message from ED 3
- Joseph 4
- Coffee Anyone? 4
- A Horse is a Horse 5
- Getting Reel with Stephen 6
- Hidden Treasures 6
- Jennifer Eisman 7

## IN MEMORIAM: LEONARD EATON

We mourn the loss of Leonard Eaton, CLC Board member and father of Eric Eaton. "Len," as he preferred to be called, was a staunch advocate for the disabled for more than 40 years.

Even as his health began to decline, owing to advances in technology, he continued to participate at all Board meetings. Our condolences go to his wife, Diane, his daughter Merri, and everyone who knew and loved him.



# CLC RINGS IN NEW YEAR AT SEA!



*Part I*  
We set out like ancient Mariners  
To stop at one of three  
St Maarten, Thomas, Tortola  
With the first four days at sea

We cheered Verrazano's Bridge  
We cheered the open sea  
We cheered the buffet  
for ten long days  
Oh, how we'd love thee

Before Andrew gave a  
"Land Ho!"  
We Celebrate New Year's Eve!  
Rick and Dan danced  
And clearly romanced  
A woman with some drinks  
up her sleeve.

Tom, Bill and Scott made  
new friends  
And with the friends and  
wives they danced  
The smiles on all  
Showed they were having a ball  
And on through the night  
they pranced!

*Part II*  
San Juan was January second  
The year Twenty Seventeen  
We bought t-shirts like carrots  
Took pictures with parrots  
And no one forgot sun screen

The next day St. Thomas  
the sun still upon us  
We commandeered an open  
trolley  
Everyone heard  
Us sing "three little birds..."  
And other great songs of  
Bob Marley

We spent the day on the beach  
Puffy clouds looked  
within reach  
Chrissy lay out her hand  
Across the sand  
To see what it could teach

St. Maarten taught us with pride  
There was both a Dutch  
and French side  
On a quick ferry boat  
Beauty stuck in our throat  
Green blue waters and  
mountains astride

Under Gino and Joe's Fedora  
was a smile and Coca-Cola  
It made quite a scene  
This Island so green  
These beaches and peaks  
of Tortola

*Part III*  
The Stardust Theater every night  
Entertained to Suzanne's delight  
With dancing and singing  
Wonderfully bringing  
Another day to close...at midnight

Mousy and Mary swooned  
in their ocean staterooms  
Ken and Judy said they'd  
meet us later  
Eileen and Jim  
Always quick to swim  
The whole ship just felt  
like our waiter

Where we could order a win  
Again and again  
Whether it was Carrie or Jill  
Who manned the till  
Or the laughs of Holly and Louise  
We truly felt free...Extraordinarily  
Like we could really do  
what we please

*Part IV*  
It was to take us three days  
to get back  
And it was then when we  
truly relaxed  
BUT, This paradise ship  
Is moving too fast a clip  
And so we moan  
"We don't WANT to go home  
Please let us stay  
At least another day

We must have more crepes  
And video tapes  
Of how we traipse  
'Cross sea and landscapes  
With our friends who are Great...  
With... Creative Escapes  
Anonymous



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Imagine sitting at your desk late on a winter afternoon. There's a knock at the door and you answer it with the phone still attached to your head.

And there it is! Standing right in front of you is one of our Culinary Connections students presenting you with the very first product of their baking and pastry program, a large snow white coconut cake.

I love this job, and boy, things just couldn't get any better! We immediately appointed a committee of cake testers and gave each member a slice for testing and validation purposes only (ha!).

As it turned out, this wasn't a good cake. It was a GREAT cake. The room became silent as all of the testers went about tasting their sample.

As the first slice was eaten, we began to compare notes and all of the reviews were just extraordinary. One tester put it this way, "That was good. That was one heck

of a cake! I hope that I can buy one for dessert after Easter dinner."

Several weeks ago we received an invitation to attend a luncheon entirely prepared and served by Culinary Connections students. The menu consisted of Chicken Francaise, a wonderful penne and a perfectly cooked risotto. Dessert was amazing hand-made cupcakes, chocolate covered strawberries and banana pudding.

We were met at the door by a smiling hostess and our coats were hung up. Water was delivered to each diner and our order for drinks was taken.

I chose the café latte, prepared perfectly by our own barista. I even ordered a second one to go, and it was just as good as the first, indicating to me that this was no lucky fluke.

With the warm weather just around the corner, we are all looking forward to even better times. It is clear to me



Jennifer presents a delectable coconut cake, made by Culinary Connections bakers.

that several of our students will be capable of working in the food industry, holding competitive positions in several specialties.

We'll keep you posted as this program grows and just keeps getting better and better. In the interim, I'm going to try and walk some of this off, just in case there will be more surprises at the door!

*John Porcella*

## About Culinary Connections

CLC has teamed up with Infusion Restaurant in Pelham NY and developed a training program to prepare people with disabilities for a career in the food service industry.

This culinary training program is a hands-on food service training program. With the support of the team at Infusion Restaurant, participants receive comprehensive restaurant skills training.

The Internship is a structured training course in a classroom setting, a restaurant dining room, and a professional working kitchen. Our ServSafe Food Safety Training Program is specifically designed for our personnel and combines classroom instruction with mentored work-site experiences. Along with the tailored instructions are positive, fun and engaging activities, posters and quizzes to provide not only a suitable error-less learning environment, but a greater degree of comprehension and retention.

### \$\$\$ ADDING UP!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO ALL YOUR AMAZON SHOPPING THROUGH **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** AND HELP SUPPORT CLC!

AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% OF ELIGIBLE PURCHASES TO THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OF YOUR CHOICE. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ENTER AND CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW AND A PORTION OF YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES WILL SUPPORT CLC!

EACH SUBSEQUENT TIME YOU ENTER AMAZON, MAKE SURE YOU GO TO **SMILE.AMAZON.COM** FIRST (OR RE-CLICK ON LINK BELOW), AND YOUR PURCHASES WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUPPORT CLC! NO EFFORT REQUIRED! PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

[HTTPS://SMILE.AMAZON.COM/CH/13-3563609](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/13-3563609)



# Joseph: Work + Play = Happiness



**JOSEPH PRIZES HIS 1935 DELUXE EDITION MONOPOLY.**

A four-year resident of Barker Street, Joseph B. used to live with his sister Margaret in Pleasantville. "She's an

accountant in Manhattan," says Joseph, proudly. "I have another sister, Mary, and my brother Richard lives in Albany."

Joseph worked for *McDonalds* for 30 years. "I ate a lot of Big Macs." Since 2004 he's been an employee at the *Shoprite* in Bedford. "I do maintenance and also bring in the carts," he says, and quickly adds, "Be careful, people! I've seen too many bumps and dings from runaway carts and drivers backing up without looking." (We have been warned.)

"I really like working at *Shoprite*. The people there are so nice, and I hear they're starting a bowling league!" Joseph is an avid bowler and plays on two leagues, *Upper Westchester Ladies & Gents* and *Team Here We Go*.

"I rolled a 214 yesterday. Not too shabby."

When he's not tracking his bowling average, Joseph dreams of future vacations. He's been to California, Martha's Vineyard and Florida, where he visited *Universal Studios* and *SeaWorld*. When asked to pick a favorite, Joseph threw up his hands and looked at the ceiling, "How can I choose? They're all my favorite! That's why it's called a *va-ca-tion*."

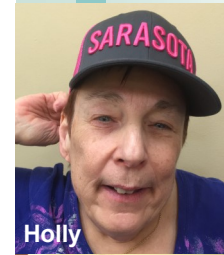
This working man does play favorites when it comes to food, "I love steak! My roommates and I take turns cooking. I make spaghetti and meatballs, burgers or steak, medium rare, of course. I can't have steak all the time, but I need to keep my strength up, especially since my heart surgeries," he says. "I've got a pacemaker right here," he says, and taps his

chest for emphasis. "Docs put it in before Christmas. I feel just great!"

Joseph would rather watch TV from the comfort of his couch than trek to the movies. "He especially likes *American Pickers*, where the hosts scavenge in old barns and garages for buried treasures. "I call it old, cool stuff. Too bad I didn't know they were in Katonah last fall. I would have gone to meet them," he says wistfully.

Joseph continues, "I also like to play *Rummykub* and *Monopoly*. When I play *Monopoly* with my family I have to watch out for my sister Margaret." When asked why, Joseph smiles and reports, "Because when she plays I always lose my shirt! I used to wish the money was real, only not when I play against Margaret."

D. Descloux



HOLLY



PATTI



EMILY



COMANCHE

BELOW, LUCY WITH VOLUNTEER ROSE.



## A HORSE IS A HORSE, OF COURSE!

BY JONATHAN LUKENS

A horse is a horse, of course. Except, of course, when they are specially trained Winslow therapeutic riding horses.

Last year, excitement over the prospect of winning a beautiful *Gypsy Vanner* horse monopolized much of the excitement both here at CLC and at Winslow. That excitement reached a fevered pitch when Winslow won a beautiful dappled mare, *The Dance* or *Dance* as she is commonly known here.

*Dance* has proven to live up to the hype, and she is a beautiful and friendly horse that will make an excellent therapeutic riding horse once she matures and is completely trained.

As beautiful as she is, *Dance* is not the only new horse in town. Several recent equine friends have made their way to Winslow and into the hearts of CLC residents.

I asked several CLC consumers about this and who their favorites were, and like most people, every-

one had their own opinions and ideas. Many, including Louise and Emily were great admirers of *Lucy*, a big and beautiful black and white paint and thoroughbred cross whose gentle nature and graceful fluid movements make her a dream to ride. For the accomplished riders of the bunch, *Lucy* was "the best" hands down.

Karen is a great admirer of *Yars*, a beautiful Frisian Gelding that looks more at home at a joust or medieval banquet than a therapeutic riding center. Standing about 17 hands tall, with a long graceful neck, the sight of his beautiful black color and soulful coal colored eyes leaves a lasting impression on anyone he happens to encounter.

Holly's vote, however, gives the award ("without a doubt") to *Comanche*, a massive painted draft horse that resembles a cross between a Clydesdale and a Rhino.

I asked Holly to explain why this unlikely chum was the one she admired most. She replied, "He's a little like me, you know. We are both always hungry and he loves food and so do I." Patti chimed in, "He's a nice sweet boy, but he's so big-- he is like sitting on a big bouncy couch."



## Coffee Anyone?



**JEN IS ANXIOUS TO START HER NEW CAREER AS A BARISTA.**

CLC'er for the past 16 years, Jennifer was born in England and came to the U.S. as a young child. "My father was in the Royal Air Force (RAF) of Great Britain and we traveled around a good deal," Jen recalls. "It was great fun."

"I'd like to write an autobiography one day and include stories about my father's career, and my two sisters, Frances (she lives in California) and Tara, in Cortlandt."

Jen formerly worked at the Keon Center in Peekskill doing piece work, such as folding linens or stringing bags. She has, however, recently embarked on a new career.

After taking an online barista course, Jen attended hands-on barista training at the *Gimmee Coffee* café in Brooklyn, NY. "It was amazing!" Jen exclaimed. "We

learned about filters and hoppers and all the different beans. I learned coffee design and drew a beautiful heart in the coffee froth. I was amazed that I could to it," she said, beaming. "Next month we'll go to a local restaurant, *Infusion* to practice on a \$10,000 cappuccino machine. I am beyond excited!"

So what is all this preparation for? Jen has been offered a job as a barista at *JoJo's Java*, which will be opening at CLC main offices this spring. The café will be primarily run by CLC consumers. Coffee and tea lovers alike are thrilled to have this new venture onsite.

Besides starting a new career, Jen was recently recognized for her athletic accomplishments and was

inducted into the Norwest Regional Hall of Fame as an All Sport. "I was MVP in 1998 and 2002," she says proudly. "I've played floor hockey, volleyball, basketball, bowling and track and field. I also work out regularly at *Planet Fitness*."

During her downtime (does she have any?) Jennifer watches favorite TV show, *Dog, the Bounty Hunter*, or the occasional horror movie. "Of course I follow football, basketball and baseball," says this diehard Yankees fan.

"I'd also like to go on another vacation; Martha's Vineyard was awesome! Next trip will be to England so I can do a little research for my autobiography." (Think *New York Times* bestseller list.)

D. Descloux

## HOLIDAYS AT CURRY & TODD

Todd Road and Curry Street folks sure know how to throw a holiday party! In mid-December last year, consumers, family and staff gathered together to make merry. Even Santa joined in!



Carol and Louise posed with Santa.



Chrissy arranged the holiday decorations.



Louise and Ron baked sugar-free cookies and set up the buffet.

Page 5

## A SPECIAL WELCOME TO KAITLYN BLANCHARD

I would like to welcome Kaitlyn A. Blanchard, our new Executive Director of CLC Foundation, effective January 1, 2017. For the past year Kaitlyn has been working with John Signorelli (who retired December 31, 2016) as Associate Executive Director of CLCF and previously served as a CLCF intern. John continues to be actively involved in a consulting role to the Board, working on specific projects.

Kaitlyn holds a BBA in Business Economics and Public Policy from George Washington University School of Business and a JD (concentration on tax law) from Benjamin N. Cardoso School of Law in New York and is licensed in New York and New Jersey. Her not-for-profit experience includes courtroom advocate for the Cardoso Advocates for Battered Women, Volunteer Tax preparer and as Founder/President of United Women in Business Foundation, which fosters professional success among young women. Kaitlyn was a judicial intern for the Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino Jr. of the Westchester County Surrogate Court and a law clerk for Sall & Geist, Counsel to the Westchester County Public Administration. Most recently she was an associate attorney for Novick & Associates, PC.

We are happy that she has joined the CLC family, and has already managed to build on the work that John initiated decades ago. We look forward to many years of her continuing to manage and build CLCF, providing exceptional quality services to an ever widening community.





## GETTING REEL WITH STEPHEN



Hi, it's Stephen M. again. I wrote a couple of reviews in the last issue of *The Open Door*, and the editors asked me to become a regular contributor! My favorite things to do on weekends are to go to shows and movies, so of course I said 'yes!' I hope you like my new column.

**MOVIE: FENCES**  
**RATING: PG-13**



The movie *Fences*, directed by Denzel Washington as well as starring Denzel Washington, tells the story of a sanitation worker by the name of Troy Maxson. The story takes place in the 1950s in the city of Pittsburgh.

Maxson was bossy to his family because he could not become the football player he once dreamed of becoming. It was an OK movie; the story line was a little slow. I give this movie just two stars out of five.

**LIVE SHOW: SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER** 👍👍!

**WESTCHESTER BROADWAY DINNER THEATRE**

This show was excellent. I really enjoyed the singing and the dancing. A lot of the songs were from my childhood, so I could relate to the content of the show.

I loved the actors and actresses, and thought it was sad when Bobby, a main character, died. I also love the fact that the theatre serves you a nice dinner and dessert before the show starts. I had delicious eggplant parmesan! Two thumbs up!

**MOVIE: THE GREAT WALL**  
**RATING: PG-13**



I give this movie two thumbs way up! It was a great action movie.

Matt Damon, plays a European mercenary in China during the Song dynasty, searching for a substance called black powder. While on his search, he is caught and imprisoned within the Great Wall. While there, he ends up joining the Chinese army to defend the wall against monsters that were trying to overtake it. I enjoyed the action scenes and think everyone should go and see it.

## JENNIFER EISMAN: HOME AGAIN



JENNIFER IS BACK AT CLC AND SHE COULDN'T BE HAPPIER.

I'm home again! This time as a trust officer with CLC Foundation. It's exciting to be once again working with so many familiar faces - people I know and love.

In my new position I'll be working closely with the CLC consumers helping to manage their trusts, approving trust payments and expenditures and developing annual budgets for trust beneficiaries. All of this to help enhance the quality of life for consumers.

Some of you may remember that I worked at CLC many years ago and left to join the Stamford JCC as Managing Director of Family Services. I oversaw all of the youth departments, helped build new programs for people with special needs, secured funding for many new initiatives and served on several committees and boards.

In that time, my children, Rachel and Douglas, have grown up and are now young adults in their early 20s! That's mindboggling since the first time I worked at CLC (with John Porcella and John Signorelli) as case manager at Lyndel Road and Barker Street Apartments, my daughter was 9 months old! How time flies!

I hope to see friends, both old and new, at CLC events, enjoying a day in the country at Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center or at a Hidden Treasures class (don't miss this year's sensational show on June 15!) It's so great to be back and a part of the CLC family again!

## Veronica Says...

My job as receptionist at CLC's Radio Circle Drive main office is very interesting. I had a career in publishing for 33 years, and working for CLC is quite different. It's like a family here and I just love it.

My favorite part of the job is chatting with consumers. I look forward to seeing them and my co-workers every day. It may sound funny, but folks here make me feel wanted and appreciated.

Penny Ayotte, my supervisor, is very hands-on and attentive to everyone in her department. I've never had such a thoughtful supervisor. I look forward to being a CLC employee for many years to come!



VERONICA ROGERS JOINED CLC AS RECEPTIONIST IN SEPTEMBER 2016.

SAVE THE DATE!  
SAVE THE DATE!  
SAVE THE DATE!

## HIDDEN TREASURES 2017 SHOW



THURSDAY, JUNE 15

FOX LANE HIGH SCHOOL  
BEDFORD, NY

6PM ART SHOW  
FABULOUS WORKS ON SALE

7PM TALENT SHOW

\$10 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR

DON'T MISS IT!

## GOFUNDME!

HIDDEN TREASURES  
NOW HAS A GOFUNDME PAGE!

[HTTPS://WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/R7JJW](https://www.gofundme.com/r7JJW)

Hidden Treasures is an educational arts program designed to enhance the quality of life for developmentally disabled people by nurturing creativity, self expression and self esteem.



Shhh Sneak Peak!

## HIDDEN TREASURES ANNUAL SHOW 2017

Here's a behind the scenes peak at CLC consumers practicing for the *Hidden Treasures Annual Show* on June 15. We can't tell you much more except that this year's theme is *Cats and Dogs* and, as always, we promise a fabulous performance! Special thanks go to Sharon Sinnott for taking photos and providing show information.

Besides assisting with the Arts & Crafts sessions, Sharon plays a vital role in helping to run the *Hidden Treasures* program.



At left, Donald takes a turn on the drums.

Far right, Modern Dance and Tap classes have students' full attention.





COMMUNITY LIVING CORP.  
135 RADIO CIRCLE DRIVE  
MOUNT KISCO, NY 10549

---

## Notes from You

AT THE END OF EACH YEAR WE RECEIVE THANK YOU NOTES FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF YOUR HEARTFELT MESSAGES TO CLC STAFF:



“Many thanks and much appreciation for all you do and are.”

“Thank you all so much for taking such wonderful care of my daughter.”

“We thank you for all that you do.” “To CLC staff – Thanks for the great work.”

“I can’t tell you how appreciative I am for all the care and concern the staff has for my son.”

“Many, many thanks to all at CLC for your continuing care and support to our brother.”

“God Bless your wonderful work.” “Much gratitude for all you do for our son.”

## CLC CORP. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ROGER J. COOPER, PRESIDENT; PRISCILLA ORR, VICE CHAIR  
SANDRA DAMMANN, R.N., SECRETARY; ROBERT BRODY, TREASURER;  
ROBERT HELLER; CHRISTINE JOHNSTON; LEO KAYTES; MINA SALLIS

---

JOHN E. PORCELLA, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR