

# *Hoffman* DECADES

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

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# Hoffman DECADES

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## WELCOME

### TO OUR SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE OF *DECADES*!

After a winter likely to remain etched in everyone's minds for years to come, we look forward to spring and summer like never before. Knock on firewood, it should finally be safe to remove snow tires and put away snow blowers, snow shovels, rock salt, heavy coats and winter boots, hats, scarves and gloves. It's time for crocuses to force their way to the surface, wild onions to sprout, forsythia bushes to burst forth with golden branches, and magnolia trees, dogwood and laurel stands to blossom.

Just as the earth renews itself, we bring you a fresh lineup of stories in our Spring/Summer issue of *Decades*. Our editor Ellis Parker's cover story is about Winvian, that unique and exclusive resort, spa and fine dining destination located in the Litchfield Hills. At Winvian, 18 stunning cottages designed around 18 irresistible themes by 15 different architects sport names like Helicopter, Tree House and Beaver Lodge. Whose inner child could resist?

Eighteen is also an irresistible number for golfers, who welcome the advent of spring as few others do. John Torsiello of *Golfing Magazine* surveys Connecticut's best 18 golf holes, public and private, assembling a dream front and back nine. How many of this fantasy 18 holes have you played?

For decades, Lincoln automobiles have fueled car owners' fantasies, and now *Decades* brings you a Christopher Arnott story announcing the Hoffman Auto Group's addition of this acclaimed brand to its lineup and detailing the near-century of history behind it. History also plays a key role in Arnott's iQuilt piece. Hartford's iQuilt project seeks to transform our capital city, whose livability at times has been called into question, into a metropolis that's more welcoming, easier to navigate, and more pedestrian and bike friendly, in the process stitching key cultural and historic landmarks into a "quilt."

In addition to being a prolific writer, our other dual contributor, Todd Lyon, co-owns the super-stylish Fashionista Vintage & Variety in New Haven. Lyon's imaginative suggestions for backyard entertaining on a budget include both decorating and food tips.

Lyon is also a tireless charity supporter and, with Down syndrome in her own family, the ideal person to introduce *Just Cate*, a book about a Down child that touched Nancy Hoffman (Jeffrey's wife) deeply. *Just Cate* is about the first 12 years of Special Olympian Cate Alix's life and the profound impact she had on those closest to her. At Hoffman Auto Group, title sponsor for the Special Olympics of Connecticut, giving back is the cornerstone of our commitment to the community.

So we hope you enjoy this issue as much as we did putting it together. We're thankful for your continued loyalty and support.



Jeffrey S. Hoffman  
Co-Chairman



I. Bradley Hoffman  
Co-Chairman



Matthew S. Hoffman  
Vice President



PHOTO BY LANNY NAGLER

# Hoffman DECADES

VOLUME VIII, Number 1

## HOFFMAN AUTO GROUP

I. Bradley Hoffman  
Co-Chairman

Jeffrey S. Hoffman  
Co-Chairman

Matthew S. Hoffman  
Vice President

Sam Pines  
Fixed Operations Director

Christan D. Miller  
Director of Marketing & Communication

Randi Haney  
Public Relations Manager

## PUBLISHING COMPANY

360° Marketing and Events, LLC  
PO Box 422, Westbrook, CT 06498  
860.985.0087  
info@360mande.com

## EDITOR

Ellis Parker

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Christopher Arnott  
Robert Bailin  
Todd Lyon  
Ellis Parker

## ART DEPARTMENT

Kate Dawes, Creative Director  
Ellis Parker, Photographer

## ADMINISTRATION

Diane Mancini

## CIRCULATION MANAGER

Collene Fernwood

## BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICES

P.O. Box 422, Westbrook, CT 06498  
P: 860.985.0087  
360mande.com

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By Robert Bailin



## PowerCup 200 Watt Inverter with USB Power Port

The PowerCup 200 Watt Inverter from PowerLine provides a convenient source of 120-volt AC power in your car for small appliances such as TVs, DVD players, game consoles, laptops and other portable electronics. The 6-inch-tall coffee-cup-shaped device fits into standard cup holders, with an 18" cord that plugs into your car's 12V cigarette lighter or power port, eliminating the need for a clunky box rattling around in the passenger footwell. The PowerCup Inverter includes two standard AC grounded outlets and a USB port that provides up to 500mA of power for charging cellphones, tablets and other personal audio devices, and comes with overload protection and low battery shut-off. \$19.99. [www.thinkgeek.com/product/b29e/](http://www.thinkgeek.com/product/b29e/)



## Lubricheck—The digital "blood tester" for your car

Lubricheck, from WaveOn Technologies, is the first reusable consumer-based motor oil tester. You simply place a drop of engine oil from the dipstick onto its sensor pad, and within seconds it analyzes the oil for acidity, alkalinity and other detrimental effects of contaminants such as coolant leaks, water, soot buildup and metal particulates. The results display as visual readout of the oil quality from 1-10, where 1-7 (green LEDs) represents excellent to good, 8-9 (amber) fair, and 10 (slow flashing red) indicating an oil change is needed. A quick flashing red LED indicates a possible engine problem that should be brought to the attention of your mechanic. Lubricheck works with both conventional and synthetic motor oil. \$39.95. [lubricheck.com](http://lubricheck.com)



## Cobra iRadar ATOM Radar/Laser/Camera Detection System

The iRadar ATOM is the smallest and most powerful radar/laser/camera detection system ever developed by Cobra Electronics. The iRadar ATOM boasts a footprint that is 35

percent smaller than previous iRadar models, making it the smallest, most compact detector on the market while offering double the detection performance.

When connected via Bluetooth to your iPhone or Android smartphone with the companion Cobra iRadar App, the iRadar ATOM allows users the power to share reports and warn other members of the iRadar community of live police, caution areas and photo enforcement areas nearby. Now, drivers

can rely on a rapidly expanding community of detectors to be alerted accurately and reliably in real time. \$199.95. [www.cobra.com](http://www.cobra.com)



## Ford/Lincoln BLIS®—Blind Spot Information System

Ford's Blind Spot Information System (BLIS®) with Cross Traffic Alert is an optional accessory on several 2013 Ford/Lincoln models that helps detect vehicles in the driver's blind spots during normal driving, and traffic approaching

from the sides when backing out of parking spots. BLIS uses two multiple-beam radar modules, one in each rear quarter panel. When the passing vehicle enters the lead vehicle's blind spot, the BLIS radar identifies



the passing vehicle in the blind spot, and illuminates an indicator light on the corresponding side-view mirror, providing a warning to the driver that a vehicle is approaching.

When backing out of a parking spot, Cross Traffic Alert uses the two radar modules to warn of any vehicle moving at least 5 MPH from the left or the right side. When cross traffic is approaching, three alerts are given: A side mirror indicator lights up, an audible alert is sounded, and a message center warning is displayed. Price varies with model and equipment group chosen.



## Go Red Kickoff

In December, Hoffman Audi of East Hartford was the proud host of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women kickoff. The event's purpose was to create awareness for women's heart health and lead the charge towards planning the annual Go Red for Women luncheon. Special thanks to Fleming's Steakhouse in Blue Back Square for donating all the food and dessert, as well as to Macy's for entertaining our showroom with their Chanel beauty sample station for the night. The luncheon, also sponsored by Hoffman Audi, was held on Valentine's Day at the Connecticut Convention Center and was a smashing success.

*Pictured: Elizabeth Winsor, CEO National Accounts, United Healthcare; Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman; I. Bradley Hoffman, co-chairman, Hoffman Auto Group; Liz Hadley, private dining coordinator, Fleming's Steak House; Talia Kurtz, director of social events development, American Heart Association.*

## Business After Hours

In January, Hoffman Audi of New London hosted a business after hours party on behalf of the Eastern Chamber of Commerce. Local business owners and employees joined together for a networking opportunity over cocktails and hors d'oeuvre served by A Thyme to Cook. This is an event that Hoffman Audi looks forward to hosting for the chamber at the beginning of every year. Attendees included Co-Chairman of Hoffman Auto Group Jeffrey S. Hoffman, chamber President Tony Sheridan, and New London Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio, as well as almost 100 representatives from local businesses.

*Pictured: Jeffrey S. Hoffman, co-chairman, Hoffman Auto Group and Tony Sheridan, president of Eastern Chamber of Commerce.*



## Audi's Ultra Lounge

Hoffman Audi of East Hartford kicked off the new year with a revamped and enlarged customer waiting area. Service Manager Elliot Matos and his team decided to take the waiting area ambiance and amenities to a whole new level. The Audi Ultra Lounge was designed to pamper customers while Hoffman Audi pampers their vehicles. Complimentary indulgences may range from a gourmet omelet bar to the services of a manicurist or masseuse. A choice among five different Audi-themed breakfast sandwiches is currently available to customers six days a week; the customer experience will be constantly evolving, so stop by and say hi!

*Pictured: Manicure station at the Audi Ultra Lounge.*

## Hoffman Dealerships Receive 2012 Manufacturer Awards

Hoffman Honda, Hoffman Toyota, Hoffman Lexus, Hoffman Audi of New London and Hoffman Audi of East Hartford are the proud recipients of their respective manufacturer awards for exceptional performance in 2012. Thousands of dealerships compete for these awards every year, with only a handful earning the prestigious honor. The awards reflect excellence in all areas of operation – customer service and sales satisfaction, sales, training, and facility. "We work really hard to exceed customer expectations everyday. These awards reflect the type of culture one can expect when walking into any Hoffman Auto Group location," said Matthew S. Hoffman, vice president of Hoffman Auto Group.



**Audi**  
Magna Society



### Master Tech at Hoffman Honda

In January, José Peña became a Honda Master Technician. This is the highest level of achievement in the business and an extremely prestigious accomplishment. Of the 14,000 Honda technicians nationwide, only about 11% ever make it through the necessary training to become masters. Peña has been working as a technician for Honda since 2000.

We are all very proud of his hard work and grateful to have his expertise as a part of the Hoffman Auto Group family.

*Pictured: Jeffrey S. Hoffman, co-chairman Hoffman Auto Group; I. Bradley Hoffman, co-chairman, Hoffman Auto Group; Matthew S. Hoffman,*

*vice president, Hoffman Auto Group; Suzy Henry, district parts & service manager, Honda; José Peña, master technician, Hoffman Honda; Dwight Dery, service manager, Hoffman Honda; Jeff Leclair, zone parts & service manager, Honda; Roger Quandt, assistant zone parts & service manager, Honda; Sam Pines, fixed operations director, Hoffman Auto Group.*



### Hoffman Ford is Certified Electric!

In September, Hoffman Ford became Connecticut's first fully certified Ford electric vehicle dealer. The dealership features two brand new on-site charging stations as well as four exclusive models that are only available at certified electric vehicle dealers. With the hybrid and electric vehicle landscape evolving, Hoffman Auto Group is proud to have a wide selection of models available for its customers. Visit Hoffman Ford on Connecticut Boulevard in East Hartford for a chance to test drive the Ford C-MAX Energi, the 100% electric Focus, or the Ford Fusion Hybrid – just to name a few!



### Hoffman Honored at Crystal Ball

In April, Easter Seals Capital Region honored I. Bradley and Kathy Hoffman as honorary corporate co-chairs of their 26th Annual Crystal Ball. Easter Seals is the nation's leading provider of services for people with autism. The Connecticut organization has developed a program to carefully assess, diagnose and treat both children and adults who show symptoms of Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorders. "Kathy and I have seen first hand the difference Easter Seals has made for the families with autism. It's gratifying to know that the Crystal Ball will help make an even greater impact," said I. Bradley Hoffman, co-chairman of Hoffman Auto Group.

### Donated Auto Parts for Woman in Need

In December, Hoffman Honda teamed up with Turnpike Motors Autobody to make repairs for a woman in need. After hearing about the troubles of wheelchair-bound Michele Mele on *NBC 30's Troubleshooters*, local businesses teamed up to come to her aid. Mele, who suffers from lung disease and lymphedema, was having difficulty commuting to doctor appointments with her broken-down Honda CR-V. Enterprise put Michele in a rental for months while her vehicle underwent over \$26,000 of repairs (all at no charge for Mele). Hoffman Honda donated all parts while Turnpike Motors provided 150 man-hours towards completely rebuilding Michele's ride.

*Pictured: Mark Hutchinson, wholesale parts director, Hoffman Auto Group; Michele Mele; David Fisch, morning show host & assistant director of programming, Radio 104.1; Randi Haney, public relations manager, Hoffman Auto Group.*





# Winvian

## There's More To Morris Than Meets The Eye

By Ellis Parker

Probably more Connecticut residents are familiar with the seaside neighborhood Morris Cove than the full-fledged town of Morris in Litchfield County, which counted 2,388 residents in the last census. Those who actually do know of the town likely do so because of Bantam Lake, Connecticut's largest natural lake, most of which falls within the town of Morris. But there's more to Morris than initially meets the eye. In addition to being home to one of the Connecticut DEP's newest acquisitions, Camp Columbia State Historic Park, Morris also boasts another important attraction: the Winvian Resort.

Certainly, Morris will remain etched in the brain of anyone who visits Winvian, a Relais et Châteaux property that is as singular as it is expensive. Prices have come down considerably since the nearly \$2,000 a night cost that the resort opened with in 2007 and there are numerous special offers (see [winvian.com](http://winvian.com)), but Winvian still represents one of Connecticut's priciest tickets. Pricy though it may be, in Winvian's case you actually get what you pay for, as the resort provides unique experiences unmatched by any other venue in the state.

Winvian was named for husband and wife Winthrop and Vivian Smith. Winthrop was a founding partner of Merrill Lynch, while Vivian was a glamorous Powers model. The property remains in the









Smith family, which also own The Pitcher Inn, another Relais et Châteaux property in Warren, Vermont.

## Dining

Winvian has assembled a superb restaurant staff. Acknowledged by his peers as one of Connecticut's top toques, executive chef Chris Eddy is a French Culinary Institute graduate who traveled extensively throughout his youth, opening his palate to a world of possibilities. Eddy calls his cooking style "à la minute," which translates into taking the freshest, highest quality ingredients and cooking them at the last possible moment so they are at their very best.

While Winvian's lodging may be priced out of many people's casual reach, its prix-fixe meals are considerably more accessible. The public is welcomed Saturday and Sunday for lunch and Wednesday through Sunday for dinner. Every dish that comes from the kitchen is presented like a work of art. For adventurous diners like myself, it would be tough to resist an octopus niçoise salad or warm sweetbread salad, followed by sautéed foie gras with chanterelles and corn or

roasted pigeon, followed by grilled opah or sautéed veal chop, followed by a poached-fig-and-apricot tart or roasted peaches, followed finally by a cheese course. Reservations are required.

## Lodging

One thing rarely, if ever, lodged at Winvian are complaints. Winvian arguably provides the Nutmeg State's top accommodations. Located in the 1775 Seth Bird House, the Hadley Suite offers beautifully appointed quarters. But most folks come to Winvian for its unique cottages, which are strategically placed around the 113-acre property. Fifteen leading architects were recruited to design the 18 cottages, each following a particular theme. It's almost surprising not to find a Hobbit Hole or seasonal Ice Palace, because just about every other theme one could conceive of is represented. For those whose dog is a full-fledged member of the family, some cottages are dog-friendly. Ironically, Camping, Log Cabin, Stable and Woodlands are not among them. Take an alphabetical tour of the 18 cottages to see which might best suit your taste and arouse your passions.

**ARTIST:** Based on a 1920s artist's bungalow with an overall feel of wood, stained glass and gingerbread, this cottage has many artistic details such as ceramic shard sculpted mirrors and custom art tile inserts in the bathroom. The bedroom boasts a custom-made four poster bed with a barrel-vaulted wooden canopy. The living room has an adjoining artist's studio with open canvases that feature various mediums (water colors, acrylics and oils) that encourage guests to be artistic.



**BEAVER LODGE:** This refuge in the woods located by the side of a pond is intricate, utterly original and alluring—just like the fascinating animal that gave the cottage its name. A real beaver lodge cocoons you in an aura of wonder, deep tranquility and comfort with the elements of the outside extended indoors—wood, pebbles, the glow of an open fire and a lookout nook. This den encourages guests to leave worries behind, invent stories and be bravely romantic while creating everlasting memories.

**CAMPING:** Finding the perfect campsite is not always an easy task. Even less so if one is accustomed to creature comforts. Inside Camping, as if nestled in the ruins of a long forgotten garden, an old-fashioned tent canopy ensures perpetually dry weather, extraordinary views by day and clear constellations by night. As no camping experience is complete without marshmallows, here the supply is plentiful, and there are two wood-burning fireplaces in which to toast them—one indoors and one outdoors. Enjoy camping Winvian style with no creepy-crawlies!

**CHARTER OAK:** This spacious retreat is situated in the Orchard Lane, where three clustered cottages make it an ideal stay for couples traveling together. Inside the Charter Oak cottage is an imposing oak reminiscent of the tree that hid Connecticut's charter during the Colonial period. Entertain your friends in the tavern-esque living room or stroll up the silo stairs to the porch and enjoy





coffee or an evening drink overlooking the orchard and meadow.

🦋 **A CONNECTICUT YANKEE IN KING ARTHUR'S COURT:** Based on Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court, this cozy Medieval cottage is rich with warm colors, a herringbone fireplace, exposed beams and a bed fit for King Arthur himself. The bathroom features imposing granite slabs reminiscent of Stonehenge. The steam shower also boasts twin ceiling-mounted rain shower heads with individual controls. A dog-friendly cottage.

🦋 **GOLF:** With the intention of bringing St. Andrews, "the birthplace of the royal and ancient game," to Winvian, this cottage is designed for true golf enthusiasts. Grab a club and chip and putt your way over its undulating floors. This cottage is located on the north side of the Winvian grounds and overlooks the meadow to the south.

🦋 **GREENHOUSE:** In the Greenhouse, a combination of aluminum and glass creates a crisp and modern feel to this charming cottage. Two fireplaces, one in the bedroom and one in the living room, bring warmth indoors. Bird-watching and stargazing are encouraged from the outdoor patio and living room quarters. A dog-friendly cottage.

🦋 **INDUSTRY:** Harkening back to the modest individual mills and forges that housed the industries of old New England, this cottage has a modern take on history. Sumptuous mahogany floors and ceilings with

steel and iron accents welcome you inside.

The key feature is the bathtub, which is situated under a clerestory and faces the double-fronted fireplace that warms both the bathroom and the living room.

🦋 **HELICOPTER:**

Amenities do not get more thrilling than this: a 17,000 pound, meticulously restored 1968 Sikorsky Sea King Pelican HH-3F awaits your arrival in this cottage which resembles a hangar. Climb into the cockpit



for a "flight of fancy," enjoy a drink in the fuselage or cozy up by the wood-burning stove. This cottage evokes a genuine sense of wonder and amazement.

🦋 **LIBRARY:** Well before the era of technology, books were our sanctuary, our escape and our only hope of

exploring the world around us. More than a distraction, they were the basis for our morals, fed our curiosity and allowed us to dream. Winvian's Library, executed in the traditional wood and stone reminiscent of that period, houses a private compilation of memorable tomes from collectible picture books



to contemporary works, to read, many selected from renowned Connecticut authors. The Library's interior is bathed in natural light from the oculus skylight in the roof peak, directly above the wood-burning river stone fireplace where you can curl up and melt away into one of the many works lining the book-cases. Ladders take you to a mezzanine balconette where more books charm and amuse—certainly too many to enjoy on a single visit! You are encouraged to take some home and return them at your leisure with the added incentive of no late fees.

🐿 **LOG CABIN:** Tucked away in the corner of our woods is the Log Cabin. Imagine the quintessential log cabin experience and you will find it at Winvian. Surrounded by White Memorial's 4,000-acre nature preserve, this cabin inspires and delights the naturalist.



🐿 **MARITIME:** This cottage is a collage of traditional forms and materials that reflect on the paradoxical concept of lighthouse imagery set in the forest. While situated in the northern woods of Winvian, this nautical inspiration will transport you to the Connecticut shoreline. Imagine a night in a lighthouse without the worries of inclement weather.

🐿 **MUSIC:** Of very modern design, this cottage is a celebration of all things musical. Strong colors and bold shapes are the forum found in Music. Come “play” the cottage inside and out.

🐿 **SECRET SOCIETY:**

A very intimate cottage, secretive and mystical in look, this Greco-Egyptian style building is reminiscent of Yale's most famous secret society. At first glimpse, the cottage appears nearly windowless. However, the mezzanine floor's master bedroom ceiling is a glass canopy. Lay back and relax while enjoying a view of the night sky like no other.

🐿 **STABLE:** At the end of Meadow Lane stands the prominent Stable

Cottage. This multi-level cottage gives new meaning to an equestrian lifestyle. The lofted entry overlooks the sleeping area below with views into the western forest. On the ground level, surrounded by floor to ceiling windows, the sunken tub helps you transcend your surroundings into nature itself.

🐿 **STONE:** The Stone Cottage features large boulders supporting the undulating slate roof and large picture windows. A central stone chimney divides the living room and bedroom fireplaces. The bathroom boasts a custom-crafted, polished-concrete double sink. The half-moon-shaped porch overlooking a rolling meadow complements the intricate stonework of the cottage's interior. A dog-friendly cottage.

🐿 **TREE HOUSE:** In this suspended structure, architecture, animation and imagination blend to create an intimate, two-story space. The impetus behind this structure was childhood fantasies and adventures, a time of clear values and simple dreams. To transform long lost memories and blend them into an adult haven was no simple task. We learned that the act of designing such a visionary space would take much more than bricks and mortar—it was an invention, molded to

fit an idyllic setting. Entering Winvian's Tree House is like trespassing, like stumbling onto a secret. High above the ground, swinging in the breeze, you're granted an unadulterated look at nature. For unadulterated pleasures of another type, there's a fully stocked bar.



🐿 **WOODLANDS:** Life is a shade better among the trees. This cottage blurs the lines between indoor and outdoor living. Architectural features include a natural stone waterfall, interior wood siding, and sinks crafted from tree trunks. A sunken tub overlooks Charles Pond and the woodland landscape.

Having toured many of the cottages (and studied all of them), let me make some recommendations. Although it's well worth seeing, the hangar theme of Helicopter overpowers the lodging, resulting in an odd layout that may not be a comfortable fit for anyone except whirlybird buffs. The theme behind a couple of cottages, Music and Stable, seems underpowered, producing nice but somewhat generic results. I profoundly like Artist, Greenhouse, Industry, Log Cabin, Maritime and Secret Society. But in ascending order, my very favorites cottages are: Golf, Camping, Woodlands, Charter Oak, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, Stone, Beaver Lodge, Library and Tree House. It's very close between the last three, all of which are simply extraordinary.

What's impressive about Winvian is that, while some of its cottages may appear rustic, depending on their theme, trust me they are anything but. No conceivable amenity is omitted. I was fortunate enough to spend a night in the Beaver Lodge in early 2009. The attention to visual detail was breathtaking, the interior a fabulous blend of wood and stone. Over



the master bed was a ceiling of interlocking varnished sticks, a stylized rendering of what it would be like to live inside a beaver lodge looking up at its intricate construction. There was a massive stone fireplace, in it a fire blazing away. A wood canoe dangled near the fireplace. A circular staircase that wrapped around a thick tree trunk led to an additional loft bedroom. By the master bed, a carved wooden beaver, guardian of the lodge, reared up from the footboard of the master bed, as if surveying all he had wrought.

The cabin was wondrously rustic but stealthily modern. Hit the right button and a liquid crystal flat-screen television rose from inside a wall. There was a serious Bose sound system, and a well-outfitted bar. The bathroom was the nicest I had ever used, the beaver theme continued

with stone, tree trunks and varnished sticks. It included a toilet hidden behind frosted glass, a glassed, enclosed steam shower large enough so one could be seated, and a Jacuzzi. And let's not forget that Winvian boasts a full-blown spa.

With food, accommodations and amenities like these, who would ever want to leave Winvian? *H*



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# A Stitch in Time

## Hartford's iQuilt Partnership Finds a New Pattern for Cultural Awareness

By Christopher Arnott

You've heard of the old town square. Well, Hartford's iQuilt Project, true to its embroidery-happy name, finds a whole bunch of colorful squares and stitches them together in an elaborate pattern that comforts, dazzles and inspires.

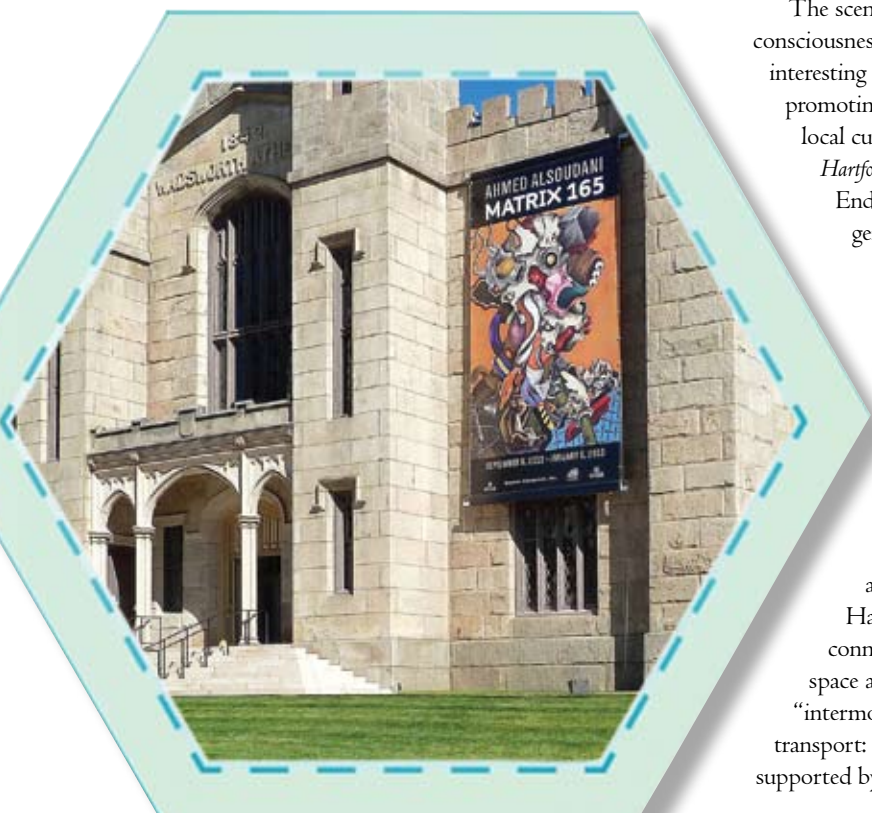
It began with a local interest in some of the city's cultural institutions getting to know each other better, and using those new relationships to bring more tourists, theatergoers and arts patrons downtown. These new connections aren't just social and cerebral. Paths are being marked. Signs have been erected. Public transportation routes are being enhanced and promoted.



The scenic landscape will change, but this is also about consciousness—how the city looks and moves and feels. iQuilt is interesting itself in everything from “traffic calming strategies” to promoting city history to inspiring collaborations among major local cultural organizations. Political leaders, urban planners, *Hartford Courant* columnists, the head of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the citizens of Hartford in general have applauded the plan.

One of the most appealing aspects of iQuilt is that it takes existing resources and attractions in Hartford and seeks to make them more appealing and accessible. It tells us that Hartford already has much to offer, and that such an overwhelming number of cultural options and opportunities can be immeasurably enhanced simply by linking them more strongly in people's minds, showing how plentiful they are and making them even easier to find and enjoy.

The main “panel” of the iQuilt isn't a square but a triangle. The Intermodal Triangle Project seeks to link Hartford's Union Station to its Main Street, more cleanly connect Bushnell Park to the rest of downtown through green space and walkways, and improve public transportation. The “intermodal” part of the Triangle Project refers to modes of transport: automobiles, bicycles and walking. The project is supported by a \$10 million TIGER (Transportation Investment







Generating Economic Recovery) grant from the United States Department of Transportation, \$13 million from the city of Hartford, several more millions from the State of Connecticut, and countless further investments from corporations and building owners in the downtown area who are adding paths and parks areas to their properties to help realize the iQuilt vision.

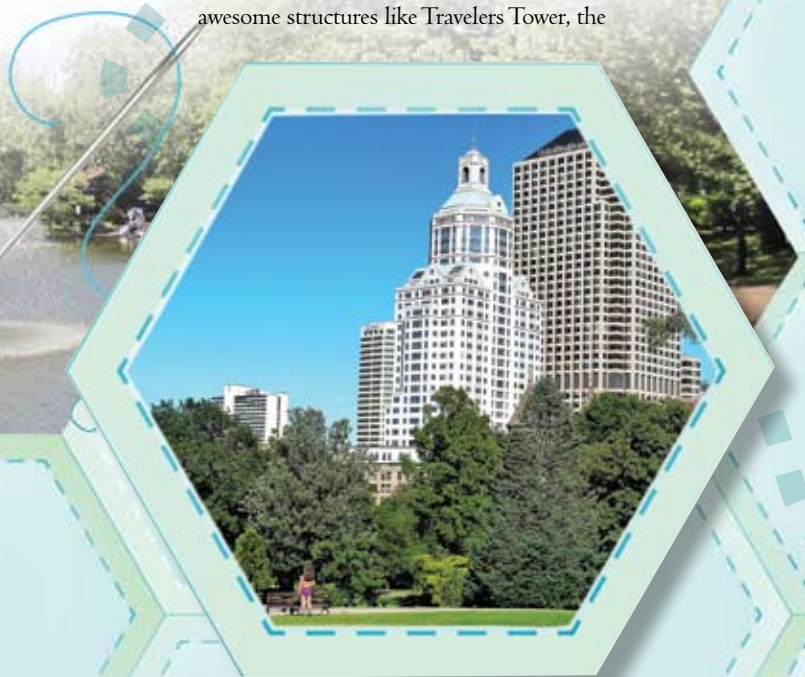
If iQuilt happens as planned, it will help motorists and pedestrians and bicycle riders and sightseers alike. It won't just help them tool around downtown Hartford more cleanly and efficiently. It should help them perceive the city in a completely different way than they are used to. Park walks will lead to museums. Strolling from downtown to the waterfront will feel natural.

iQuilt, which also seeks to seamlessly integrate dozens of downtown landmarks into one easily navigable and thoroughly enjoyable cultural patchwork, isn't waiting for the entire quilt to be complete before showing off all the colorful parts of it. Major events have been staged. Fresh collaborations among Hartford businesses, arts promoters and other institutions have been fostered.

The iQuilt project grew out of discussions among members of the arts community, namely the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, inspired by an Urban Land Institute suggestion that many of

the city's myriad cultural treasures could be scenically and thematically linked in an environmentally conscious manner.

Which landmarks are we talking about here? Things with Charter Oak in their name, like the Charter Oak Cultural Center and the Charter Oak Monument. Places invoking "Bushnell"—the park and the performing arts center. Stately museums from the Old State House and the Wadsworth Atheneum to newfangled hands-on activity centers such as the Connecticut Science Center. Theaters: Hartford Stage, TheaterWorks, HartBeat Ensemble and Sea Tea Improv. Galleries large and small, from City Arts on Pearl to the Wadsworth Atheneum. Government centers such as the Capitol, City Hall and Constitution Plaza. Public artworks—Calder's Stegosaurus, Carl Andre's Stone Field Sculpture, the Lincoln Financial Sculpture Walk, Corning Fountain in Bushnell Park. Architecturally awesome structures like Travelers Tower, the





Phoenix “Boat” Building, Soldier and Sailors Memorial Arch and Bulkeley Bridge. Historical societies and archives (Hartford History Center, Hartford Public Library, Connecticut Historical Society) as well as actual historical sites (the Ancient Burying Ground, the Butler-McCook House & Garden, Main Street Bridge). The impressive buildings which used to house great Hartford department stores of yore, namely G. Fox and Brown Thompson, and the stylistically similar Linden apartment complex. Neighborhood organizations such as the Billings Forge Community Works in Frog Hollow. Religious institutions, including Christ Church Cathedral, Center Church. Places of higher learning, like Capital Community College. Outdoor focal points of fun like the carousel in Bushnell Park. Parks in general, including all those along the Riverfront. Centers where people already flock by the thousands for special events, such as the Convention Center and XL Center. The Greater Hartford Arts Council. The Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

Interesting places throughout downtown will all benefit from iQuilt’s emphasis on connectivity. In case it hadn’t occurred to you, the iQuilt Project is here to demonstrate that getting from one of those places to another is as simple as a stroll in the park. Paths and greenspace are being designed to drive that point home.

Meanwhile, street signs on 45 downtown intersections are already doing the job of announcing how overwhelming, all-encompassing and immediately accessible the downtown arts scene is. The extremely useful street signs are posted on the backs of crossing lights and other existing posts, with arrows clearly pointing out nearby places of interest. The markers were thought up by the iQuilt folks, paid for



by the City of Hartford, and installed around downtown in a matter of months. They were put up in anticipation of EnvisionFest, the big downtown event held in September 2012, intended to (as the fest’s website puts it) “showcase and celebrate the ingenuity of the city’s and state’s industries, artists and people, while offering a taste, for the first time, of the transformation of Hartford through the iQuilt plan.”

“One of the challenges we have is that people don’t know how close things are together,” says Jackie Mandyck, who has been the Managing Director of the iQuilt Partnership since December of last year, and has been with the project in other capacities for over a year. She marvels at “how many things you can get to in Hartford” with little effort. You just need a little guidance and maybe a clearer, brighter route, and that’s what iQuilt seeks to provide. Next year will see some major construction efforts begin, but iQuilt also represents countless smaller efforts to simply show off the oft-hidden treasures of the city.

“We have a lot of work to do,” Mandyck says, “to make sure the funding we receive from the federal government is well used.” But she’s just as concerned about how the enthusiasm, environmental awareness and community spirit which iQuilt represents will influence how Hartford sees itself in the future. “We want to foster other people to work on their patches of the iQuilt. This impacts renovations that businesses will make to their own buildings. Major events will come out of this.”

The idea for iQuilt “started with the Bushnell,” Mandyck says. “The CEO and Vice President there jumpstarted the whole concept of linking cultural institutions downtown.” From the start, the plan was designed not just to point out fascinating buildings and cultural landmarks of downtown Hartford but to create a dialogue among leaders of these institutions, building a common interest in a more connected, more vibrant downtown.





Mandyck says that the project is “focusing on the quilt in downtown Hartford, but we hope that others will tend to their own patches,” expanding the iQuilt’s coverage into other areas of the city. One obvious outlying area is Farmington Avenue and Forest Street, where the historic Mark Twain and Harriet Beecher Stowe houses are. With several dozen downtown institutions benefitting from a shared vision of the future, other areas of the city will doubtless be inspired to patch themselves into the iQuilt.

“The city of Hartford has been a fantastic partner,” Mandyck says, which has helped the iQuilt Project think grandly about “where we link our patches.” She stresses that the iQuilt organizers are “not developers.” It’s a “public project partnership” whose array of partners are united in a vision to make Hartford more livable and accessible for the whole city.

Mandyck’s full of such quilt metaphors for the project—“seamless,” “stitching it together”—but she doesn’t extend the quilt references to the idea of staying in bed. iQuilt is about getting out and being active. “Hartford is a small city, very manageable, very walkable. What we’re doing is making connections, enhancing walkability. We’re looking at creating a pleasurable walking experience.”

A pedestrian-friendly, landmark-conscious Hartford augments some changes which the city has already undergone. More people are living downtown, with apartments at an impressive 98 percent occupancy rate. Many in this new wave of city dwellers are walking or biking to work, exercising, walking their dogs, just enjoying the outdoors and taking advantage of all the city’s cultural resources. Events are springing up to serve this newly engaged population. A skating rink near the pump house in Bushnell Park delighted thousands this winter.

Mandyck says she’s not only been looking towards a long-term, full-scale transformation of the city’s cultural landscape through iQuilt, but also keeping the project before the public eye with smaller projects and special events. Her thoughtfulness and community spirit is already demonstrating what wondrous things may result from a more committed, more interconnected cultural scene in Hartford. “It’s very exciting. You can feel the changes in Hartford.” **H**



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# BACKYARD BOHEMIANS:

## Outdoor Entertaining on a Budget

by Todd Lyon

If you've ever had a picnic on an artist's rooftop in Brooklyn, had a cookout on a Pasadena houseboat or shared a desert campfire with freegans, then you already know: Bohemians have a knack for making big fun out of few dollars.



That carefree, creative spirit can be captured on your own Connecticut patio, deck or lawn — uptight stereotypes be damned. Let your hair down and try these approaches to backyard entertaining on the cheap.

### GOODWILL, GOOD DECORATING



When it comes to setting the stage for a groovy good time, consult your inner hippie. Reuse, recycle and repurpose should be your mantra. Thus, forget the throw-away paper or, heaven forbid, plastic plates, cups and utensils hawked at Costco. Instead, get thee to a thrift shop. Pick a color scheme — I vote for

blues and greens for a cooling summer look — and grab plates of every size and shape, including platters for serving, all charmingly mismatched but visually related. Repeat for glassware and flatware. If you're having a party and will never use the place settings again, wash and re-donate. Or, put them to work all summer long and remember: if there's breakage along the way, single-stream recycling programs accept glass, stoneware, porcelain, metal — pretty much everything on your table.

Next, have a ball with table coverings. You don't need icky plastic table cloths with "flannel" backs; you need soulful lace throws, colorful lengths of fabric, old placemats or, my favorite, a great vintage rug turned into an old-fashioned table carpet, which can add beauty and romance to even the coldest glass-and-steel patio furniture. Ditto second-hand pillows as chair cushions.

### FUN WITH YARD WASTE

While you're shopping on the thrift, pick up a bunch of vases, large and small. (Remember, these vessels will likely cost less than \$5 each; therefore, they're "vaces, not vazzes".)

For centerpieces, look no farther than your own back yard. Take those vases that you picked up for a pittance and put them together in groups of three, none the same height. Fill each halfway with pebbles, Mardi Gras beads, seashells, marbles, kumquats, almonds in their shells... use your imagination. Then add water and artfully place branches, cut from your yard or a friend's, into the vases. Don't be afraid to go big — a three foot tall branch can make a dramatic statement. (In advance, take a hammer and smash the stem of each branch before putting it into water — it will last longer, although any living leaves on the branches will curl up before the party's over. Don't worry—still pretty.)

### LIGHT IT UP

For outdoor party lights, crack open your Christmas bin and deck the halls with strings of holiday lights, white or multicolored. When strung above seating areas, a crisscrossing of little lights can create a "ceiling" where there is none; likewise, they can be used to define serving and drink areas. Try massing strings of lights on the underside of patio umbrellas. Use them in remote seating areas as well; imagine a few chairs placed at the edge of the woods beside a tree whose trunk and limbs have been tightly wrapped in white lights. Heavenly.

Candles are beautiful and always approved by the free-of-spirit, especially when they're flickering in repurposed vessels. But the flameless candle is a godsend for modern hosts and hostesses, especially the candles that are sold with a recharging tray. Put these on your tables, at your bar and serving areas and, for maximum charm, in white paper bags placed along walkways, railings, stairways, on the deck, across the lawn or hung in trees.

## BEAUTIFUL, VIRTUOUS FOOD

True bohemians are also locavores. And here in Connecticut, we have such fantastic gifts from our seas and shores, gardens and fields that it's practically a crime not to eat what's fresh and local.

### CLAM UP

Perhaps the most perfect meeting between flame and food is littleneck clams on a backyard grill. Almost laughably simple and quite economical, this easy appetizer can be achieved in five simple steps:

1. Buy the smallest (thus sweetest) littlenecks you can find, preferably harvested in Branford.
2. Rinse in icy water. Don't overdo it; too much fresh water can kill a clam.
3. Place clams in a cupcake pan, one per cup.
4. Place pan on hot grill until clams burst open.
5. Eat clams immediately, dipping in natural broth first, if you choose. (Note: Broth will be briny. Delicious, but briny. Please reserve excess broth for future clam sauces. Yes, it can be frozen.)

#### *Variation:*

In a saucepan on the grill, combine:

½ stick butter

2 cloves garlic, finely diced

2 tablespoons real bacon bits

Fresh thyme leaves, roughly 1 teaspoon

Cook until bubbly, then use a culinary paintbrush to drizzle mixture on each clam as it comes off the grill.

## KEBABS GO POP

The classic shish kebab is kind of a pain. First of all, the difference in cooking times between, say, a hunk of beef, a cherry tomato and a quartered onion makes it almost guaranteed that what lands on your plate is an exploded tomato, raw-yet-charred onion pieces, and inconsistently cooked meat, depending on size and its position on the grill.

More fun and better suited to grilling are savory pops. For these, you need skinny wooden skewers that have been thoroughly soaked in water and an assemblage of pre-prepped ingredients, placed grill-side. Include a host of bite-sized choices like par-cooked Brussels sprouts, asparagus, broccoli rabe florettes; pre-grilled squashes, bell peppers and onions, quartered; marinated wild mushrooms; artichoke heart; seasoned red potato, par-boiled; sugar snap peas; quartered garden tomatoes; fresh grapes; quartered lemons and oranges (with rinds).

Now for the proteins: instead of the expected grill meats, try sausages. Sausage is great on the grill, easy to handle and is available made with chicken, turkey, pork, beef and even tofu. Also terrific on a skewer are shrimp and scallops.







Skewers can be threaded and grilled to order, with just a few bites on each, resulting in great choice and variety for guests. Fool-proof combinations include Italian sausage with peppers, onions and broccoli rabe; kielbasa with Brussels sprouts and summer squash; chicken sausage with mushrooms and grilled grapes; shrimp dredged in blackening spices with asparagus and citrus fruits. Yummy.

### SOMETHING CORNY

What is more sublime than farm-fresh Connecticut corn on a summer day?

You can ramp up the wow factor by adding some spice and heat. Try making a spread with butter, grated lime zest, fresh lime juice, salt, snipped fresh cilantro and a self-guided portion of finely chopped fresh jalapeño, seeds discarded. Husk corn, slather with spread, wrap each ear in aluminum foil and cook on a hot grill for about 20 minutes, rotating frequently.

### BOTTOMS UP

Pitchers of sangria, both red and white, are just about perfect for summer entertaining. Most crowds will need little more than those two options -- plus a frosty cooler of beer, of course.

At Spanish restaurants, sangria is a complicated and quite alcohol-heavy affair, featuring not only wine and fruit but also brandy, rum,



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1 bottle (750 ml) of California Cabernet Sauvignon  
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OR

1 bottle (750 ml) of a bright Sauvignon Blanc

½ cup orange juice

½ cup lemon-lime soda (Sprite works)

About 1 cup cut fresh fruit such as melons, berries and citrus fruits; slivered  
Granny Smith apples are a traditional addition.

Combine into pretty pitchers. Serve over ice, with plenty of fruit  
in each glass.

### SWEET ENDINGS

Don't turn that grill off just yet. Slice up some pound cake (pretend it's  
homemade) and grill it, then top with ice cream and fresh fruit. Perfect!

### ALL HAIL THE FIRE PIT

One final bit of advice from Bohemian Land: Get a portable fire pit. Or,  
convert an old grill into a fire pit just by cutting its legs nearly off (a favorite  
freegan technique). The warmth, beauty and heady scent of a wood-burning  
fire in the yard or on the roof or down at the dock (lucky you) extends  
the life of the party well into the night, inviting rounds of marshmallow-  
roasting, storytelling, word games and memories made under the stars. *H*



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# JUST CATE

by Todd Lyon

Cate Alix is a charmer. (She is certain that her Pop-Pop is in heaven feeding bacon to her family's deceased pets.) Cate Alix is a prankster. (She has on-going hijinx with a neighbor in which a toy rat is sneakily passed back and forth between the two households; recently it was hidden in a birthday cake.) Cate Alix is an athlete. (Basketball, volleyball, track and swimming are just a few of her competitive sports, played on various teams sponsored by Special Olympics, Unified Sports, Simsbury High School, where she is a sophomore, and the YMCA.)

And now, the sparkling teenager is the subject of a book called *Just Cate*.

Published in May of 2012, the 300-plus page read is a detailed and deeply felt story of the friendship between two women and how the arrival of a baby girl with Down syndrome forever changed and profoundly enriched their lives.

*Just Cate* begins with the birth of Cate Alix and is told in two voices: One is that of Noelle Alix, the mother who is initially blindsided by shock and fear upon learning that her newborn has "trisomy 21," the medical term for Down syndrome. The other is Noelle's childhood friend Angela Martin, who reaches out to her via a handwritten note added to a baby card: "She was born to give love,

receive love, and teach all of us how precious life is." Noelle turns to the phrase again and again, finding comfort and a sense of peace there.

Noelle and Angela's friendship was forged in the first grade at St. Mary's School in Wappingers Falls, a small town in Dutchess County, New York. Coincidentally, both married men from West Hartford; Angela moved to that town in 1990 with her husband Rob and subsequently had two boys, Ryan and John. Noelle moved with her young family to Simsbury in 1999 and put down roots with husband Tim and daughters Caroline, Cate and two-day-old Claire. With only a half-mile between them, the women grew closer than ever.



Left to right: Noelle Alix, Cate Alix with *Just Cate*, and Angela Martin

Book jacket and logo design by Elizabeth Panke Design

# SPECIAL OLYMPICS, UNIFIED SPORTS

**Special  
Olympics**  
Connecticut



by Todd Lyon

Talking over morning tea at Panera Bread in Bishop's Corner – Cate had an egg sandwich on an everything bagel – Noelle and Angela explained that *Just Cate* had originally been intended as a magazine article. “Everybody in my extended family loves Cate stories, they can’t get enough,” explained Noelle. “She’s very funny, a crazy character. So I asked Angela, who is a writer, to help me write an article about her – something light.” As the women dug into the project, they unearthed a story that was much more than a puff piece – it was a self-reflective journey for both of them.

At the gym, Nancy and Noelle were friendly; they’d take their places at exercise class and vigorously complain about how difficult the workout was. Sometimes, Noelle brought her daughter, Cate, and eventually learned Nancy’s not-so-secret identity: she was Nancy Hoffman, wife of Jeffrey Hoffman, who co-owns the Hoffman Auto Group in East Hartford. The family is known as much for its philanthropy as its business, and Noelle was already a big fan of the Hoffmans thanks to their prominent sponsorship of Special Olympics of Connecticut.

But from Nancy’s perspective, Noelle was just Noelle until Nancy saw her on television. That’s when she learned that her workout pal was lawyer/author Noelle Alix and that her daughter was the subject of the newly-published *Just Cate*.

“She gave me a copy of the book last summer, and I was so impressed with it,” recalls Nancy. “I felt like I got to know Cate – what a pistol she is!” Nancy also got to know Noelle. “I really liked her before and I adore her now. She takes so many things in stride and feels blessed.”

Nancy has bought many copies of the book to share with friends and colleagues, particularly those in the medical community, with which the Hoffman clan is deeply connected through charitable work. “Down syndrome is both an intellectual and a physical disability,” Nancy notes. For instance, low muscle tone is a challenging condition within that group, and Special Olympics can be a great motivator to get moving. “Did Cate want to exercise in that class? Not so much. But the Special Olympics makes it fun, the competition is exciting, and nobody’s thinking about building muscle or burning calories.”

At the 2013 Summer Games, aquatics, track and field, cycling, gymnastics, soccer and tennis will be featured in various locations across the state. Hoffman will again be the title sponsor, for the fourth time since 2009. “The Hoffman Group does everything,” says a grateful Noelle. “The regional and state games could not happen without them.” Last year, the Hoffmans even donated a van to Special Olympics.

New for 2013 is the Hoffman’s sponsorship of Unified Sports. This lesser-known program was adopted by Special Olympics in 1989, and combines approximately equal numbers of athletes with intellectual disabilities with partners without disabilities on the same teams at schools, parks and rec departments, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and more. The players are of similar ages and abilities, and engage in training and competition together. Today, the program has more than 1,000 athletes and partners in 120 schools across the state; at Simsbury High School, tenth-grader Cate Alix plays on Unified Sports basketball, soccer and volleyball teams.

The Hoffman Group provides both financial and hands-on support for Unified Sports; since January, marketing and communications director Christan Miller and a posse of co-workers have been volunteering at games played at local high schools, including Glastonbury and Farmington, where they cheer on athletes, hand out medals and generally have a terrific time.

As a Special Olympian, Cate helped her swim team capture two golds and one silver at the state games last summer. She will again bring her winning spirit to the Eastern Regional Games in Hartford on May 11th. The Hoffmans will be there, lending support in myriad ways. “I hope they know how much their generosity means to the athletes and their families,” says Noelle Alix. “They make these wonderful, feel-good days happen for my daughter and each and every athlete who participates – my gratitude could fill an entire auditorium.”

Nancy Hoffman is humble: “We are so thankful that we’re able to give back to the community,” she says. “It’s all about the people.”

To volunteer, call the Eastern Regional office of SOCT at 860-887-1555. **H**

Photo by Ellis Parker



Left to right: Nancy Hoffman with Noelle Alix, Cate Alix and Angela Martin



*“Cate loves lemons. It’s as simple as that. She taught us that appreciating the simple things things are different for everyone. For us it’s friendship, family, and faith. For Cate, it’s her*

An editor friend took a look at their early efforts and encouraged them to co-author a book. “She told us to start at the beginning and take the reader along, every step of the way,” says Angela. As it turns out, the hours and days surrounding Cate’s birth were so traumatic to Noelle that she’d never spoken to anyone about them, not even her husband.

“I gave her a cassette tape recorder and sent her into the back yard to talk it through,” recalls Angela. “As I transposed her words, I remembered that first day was vivid to me, too. We each put down milestone chapters.”

The book chronicles Cate’s first 12 years, and has spawned YouTube videos, a blog called Simply What Matters Most, a website (justcate.com) and is part of a new parent package put together by Band of Angels, a Down syndrome organization. But the story – and the brand – is about much more than a spirited little girl and a

“mama bear” navigating the challenges of Down syndrome. “More broadly, it’s about 40 years of friendship,” says Angela. “It’s about how friendship makes us grow and change.” (Example: The hyper-organized and prompt Angela arrived at our meeting three minutes late, much to the delight of Noelle who, even though she is a telecommuting finance attorney with offices in New York, is usually the late one.) It is also a spiritual journey in which faith is tested, in which prayers are offered up and the answers are often unexpected. Says Noelle in the book, “You’ve just gotta believe.”

As for Cate, she’s happy to talk about her own best friend – Sydney Winnick, whom she also met in the first grade, who is skinny with curly hair, like Angela. She chatters about her track coach, Mr. Collins, better known to her as “Chicken” (he calls her “Angel”), and shows off a picture of her boyfriend, Jamie, dancing cheek to cheek with her at her Sweet Sixteen party. She’s proud of her many medals

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*makes for a joyful, happy life. And those lemons, her mom, and her best friend, Syd.”*

won at meets and at Special Olympics State Games, most recently for swimming in May of 2012. Mostly, she’s proud of her mom and the book that bears her name. “She likes talking about the book and she’s read some of it, which I didn’t expect,” says Noelle. “She knows she has Down syndrome,” she continues, turning to her daughter, who is wearing a favorite fuzzy vest. “We define that as being able to do pretty much everything everybody else does – sometimes, it just takes a little longer.” Bringing mom breakfast in bed, taking trips to Manhattan, strolling around the neighborhood in a bathrobe and flip-flops with a lemon in her pocket. “We have the most wonderful life,” says Noelle.

Visit [www.justcate.com](http://www.justcate.com) to order *Just Cate* in paperback or e-book format. 



*(excerpt)*

“Cate has this wide group of people she knows, whom I now know. There’s this girl at Dunkin’ Donuts who has a million piercings, who greets Cate at 6 a.m. on Saturday mornings with, “Hey, Cate, ya going for the strawberry frosted or the chocolate stick today?” This girl is awesome, but I wouldn’t have made the effort to see that without her kindness to my daughter, without my daughter’s interaction with her... She taught me to get past the earrings in this girl’s nose and tongue to see the whole person. I didn’t teach Cate compassion, she taught it to me.”

*—from Noelle Alix’s talk to a high school class in Just Cate*

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# The Lincoln Legacy



2013 Lincoln MKZ side view

By Christopher Arnott

The Lincoln name has resonated in American culture for centuries. In recent years we've had the crime thriller *The Lincoln Lawyer* and Steven Spielberg's film biography *Lincoln*. Now Hoffman Auto Group has added Lincoln—a name as revered in automotive circles as it is in American history—to its array of fine automobiles. Hoffman Lincoln shares a showroom with Hoffman Ford at 600 Connecticut Boulevard in East Hartford.

The Hoffman Lincoln franchise boasts five Lincoln master technicians, who know everything there is to know about Lincolns today. But there's also nearly a century of history behind the Lincoln car name, a legacy as fascinating and awe-inspiring as the cars themselves.

Henry Leland, who started the Lincoln Motor Company in 1917 was old enough to have actually voted for Honest Abe in the 1864 presidential election. New England born and bred (moving from his native Vermont to study engineering in Rhode Island before finding his way to Detroit), Leland had previously founded the Cadillac company. His name was synonymous with luxury automobiles from the very beginnings of the auto industry in the 19th Century to Leland's death in 1932 at the age of 89. Under Leland, the Lincoln company represented not just the highest quality standards but an abiding interest in the community where the factory was based.



1937 Lincoln Derham Sport Sedan



1968 Lincoln Continental Mark III

Leland became an important civic leader in Detroit who fought for the betterment of society. Both he and the automobile he created were embodiments of the American Dream.

The Lincoln automobile didn't just name itself after a great president, Abraham Lincoln. It became the preferred car of presidents. The 1939 Lincoln V12 convertible limousine—specially equipped with wider running boards, outside handles and a siren to suit Secret Service agents along for the ride—was the first car made expressly to be used by the President of the United States (who was, at this time, Franklin Delano Roosevelt). Lincoln Cosmopolitans and/or Continentals were used by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan. George H.W. Bush had a Lincoln Town Car.

As if being the vehicle of choice for the leaders of the free world wasn't enough, Lincoln cars have been embraced for generations by movie stars, pop stars and men of wealth and power, from Nelson



2013 Lincoln MKZ front styling

Rockefeller to Henry Kissinger. Frank Sinatra may have derided rock & roll music as “sung, played and written, for the most part, by cretinous goons,” but when it came to cars, Sinatra and Elvis Presley shared an aesthetic sense and both owned Lincolns. Sinatra drove a Continental Mark II, a classy model that marked a new phase for Lincoln in the mid-1950s. Shock rocker Marilyn Manson is seen riding in a

customized 1969 Lincoln Continental in the video for his 2001 version of Soft Cell's old New Wave hit “Tainted Love.” Manson's vehicle, festooned with a metal skull and license plates that read “Goth Thing,” became part of the Ford Motor Museum collection.

*Lincoln V12 convertible limousine ... was the first car made expressly to be used by the President of the United States (who was, at this time, Franklin Delano Roosevelt).*

For this year's Super Bowl broadcast, Lincoln got late night talk show host Jimmy Fallon to commandeer a commercial composed of tweets from Lincoln lovers, which were submitted to a Twitter account called #SteerTheScript. The resulting ad fit well into the Lincoln tradition of melding new ideas with high production values—in this case, an intriguing tale of a couple that meets on a cross-country



journey (in a Lincoln, of course) and gets waylaid by alpaca, turtles and alleged space aliens.

Lincoln cars have surely meant many things to many different drivers, encompassing a slew of sizes and styles in its 95 years of existence, but an ineffable classiness was always in the mix. From the start, Lincoln was revered for its precision parts, sleek designs and, as the old magazine ads proclaimed, “a definite European manner.” The cars weren’t labeled “Continental” and “Cosmopolitan” by accident—they evoked a luxurious old-world European sensibility, one which neatly translated into an American ideal of big, bold ideas and wide open spaces. Radical designs, such as the aerodynamically astute Lincoln Zephyr, enhanced the company’s reputation as an innovator. Lincoln cars could be seen and appreciated as both traditional and progressive, classic yet contemporary.



1960s Lincoln Continental Mark III rear styling



2013 Lincoln MKZ rear styling



1941 Lincoln Continental 5th wheel view

Lincoln cars included such now-taken-for-granted items as gasoline gauges and radios. Lincoln evolved by deftly blending technological breakthroughs with impressive designs that integrated that technology into an impressive overall product.


Lincoln lives on, and the company’s charming, sky’s-the-limit magazine advertisements from the 1930s and ’40s still hold true:

“Look Out for Those Clouds!”

“The Feel of Flight.”

“Gosh, the Folks All Love Me!”

“Built as Deliberate Masterpieces.”

“In Lincoln, Modern Living Reaches New Heights.” 



# Lincoln Rocks!

Lincoln cars are a cultural icon, used as shorthand for class and status. That image hasn't been lost on pop songwriters, from the early days of rock & roll right up to the hip-hop era. The Lincoln company has bolstered its place in the pop music firmament through the canny selection of tunes it uses in its TV ads. Here's a Top Ten chart of great Lincoln-related melodies.

"Hot Rod Lincoln" by Charlie Ryan. The rockabilly bandleader not only had a national hit with the song, he built his own real-life Hot Rod Lincoln out of a used 1941 Lincoln Zephyr four-door sedan. "Hot Rod Lincoln," the song, has been a hit for a variety of rock artists, from Johnny Bond to Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen.

"Paradise Circus" by Massive Attack. The Gui Boratto remix of this tune soundtracks a popular Lincoln TV commercial from 2009. Massive Attack had never licensed their music for a commercial before this, and donated their proceeds from the ad to help clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Other hot tunes from Lincoln ads include "Get a Move On" by Mr. Scruff and "Major Tom" by Shiny Toy Guns. "Lincoln Town Car" by Dirty Bomb. A bluesy rock song about how cool the car is. "Lincoln Continental" by The Felice Brothers. A song about freedom and wonderment: "We can start a little country band/ And I was

thinking, in your Lincoln/ We can bum around the Promised Land." "Lincoln Continental" by Ne-Yo. The rapper just wants to be alone, and he gets to be alone in style, "in the back seat of a Lincoln Continental."

"Riding in a Lincoln Continental," a sweet folk-rock song by The Gougers. "Black Lincoln Continental, by Graham Parker." The British pub-rockers, who plays himself in the recent movie *This is 40*, declared in this track from his 1985 album *Steady Nerves* that "There's only one way to the American Dream/ They're awaiting your arrival in a big limousine."

"Lincoln Continental" by Stereo DeLuxe. A cheeky British electronic dance-pop band describes a Lincoln down to its "automatic windows."

"Anrahan Lincoln Continental," Elliott Murphy. This fetching roots-rock number, which plays on both the name of a U.S. President, a car and the old Irish surname Anrahan, turns up on the influential singer/songwriter's rarities disk *Vintage Series Vol. 4*, performed by his family's band, The Murphys.

"Mama Drove a Pink Lincoln Continental," Christopher Todd Davis. "It had a 460 under the hood/ Yeah, we cruised it down to Hollywood." A recent rocker with a severe guitar solo to match the grandeur of the automobile it's extolling.

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# Connecticut's 18 Best Golf Holes

What makes a golf hole cool?  
Well, it has to have, as they say, that “wow” factor.

By John Torsiello, *Golfing Magazine*



3rd hole at Gillette Ridge Golf Course, Bloomfield

By that we mean it must visually knock your golf shoes off your feet, which often means dramatic elevation changes and breathtaking views. It should have some element of risk/reward and force you to think your way to the flagstick. It should play differently day to day depending upon the weather conditions. And it should be approachable for the average golfer. A 625 par-five isn't cool just because it is long. And while we're on the subject of length, these holes are listed at their maximum yardages. We strongly encourage all golfers to play each hole from the tee box best suited to their ability. Each of the holes in our “Cool 18” offer several teeing options that still stand up as a great test.

So, here are 18 cool Connecticut golf holes, both public and private—all adding up to one very hip “fantasy” par-72, 18-hole golf course that would be one heck of a fun track to play if it really existed. How many of these holes have you played?

## #1: THE 18<sup>TH</sup> AT FOX HOPYARD GC, EAST HADDAM,

*Par-5, 551 yards (Public Course)*

A par-five is a great way to begin a round and let you stretch the muscles a bit. This is a beauty, with the drive needing to stay clear of bunkers, and the second, or third, shot to a large green that is protected by a pond on the right.

## #2: THE 2<sup>ND</sup> AT BULL'S BRIDGE GC, KENT,

*Par-4, 322 yards*

Magical is the view from the tee, as the green sits some 70 feet below with a pond protecting the right side. Big hitters can drive the putting surface but it's a risk.

## #3: THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AT BLUE FOX RUN GC, AVON,

*Par-3, 175 yards (Public Course)*

A great short hole that has, for all intents and purposes, an island green (a small strip of land connects the green to a cart path). A well-placed



mid-iron will be needed to find the short grass. You may hit everything from a 9-iron to a 5-wood, the latter when the wind is howling in your face.

**#4: THE 9<sup>TH</sup> AT THE CLUB AT RIVER OAKS, SHERMAN,**

*Par-4, 435 yards*

By the look from the tee box you could be playing golf in Vermont rather than Connecticut, as the hole offers a stunning view of the surrounding hills and countryside. The tee shot on this dogleg left has to find a smallish landing area between fairway bunkers, and the second shot is across a waste area. No room for nerves here.

**#5: THE 3<sup>RD</sup> AT GILLETTE RIDGE GC, BLOOMFIELD,**

*Par-4, 431 yards (Public Course)*

Another dogleg left where precision is a must on the approach shot. You also need a good drive, as you will not want to come in with anything more than a mid-iron. The green is surrounded by water left and back.

**#6: THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AT TORRINGTON CC, GOSHEN.**

*Par-4, 319 yards*

Again, a sumptuous view of the Litchfield Hills from an elevated tee and big hitters can drive the green. But woods lurk on the left side and the putting surface is ridiculously sloped.

**#7: THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AT GREAT RIVER GC, MILFORD,**

*Par-4, 435 yards (Public Course)*

The approach shot has to clear a pond. But that comes only after you thread the needle and steer clear of the water on the right with your tee shot. A par here is a great score! That's how tough, and good, this hole is.

**#8: THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AT THE STANWICH CLUB, GREENWICH,**

*Par-3, 198 yards*

A gorgeous little par-three and this great course's postcard hole. From the blue tees, it plays over a creek, then a lake, to a slightly-

elevated L-shaped green built around a deep bunker across its left front. The putting surface is built up from the front, then falls away in its left-rear sector. Oh, those Stanwich greens are fasssstttt.

**#9: THE 10<sup>TH</sup> AT THE HARTFORD GC, WEST HARTFORD,**

*Par-5, 512 yards*

Not long, but you can find anything from an eagle to a snowman here. A stream bisects the fairway on the sharp dogleg right about 250 yards out, so you'll need to lay up between two fairway bunkers. The green angles awkwardly around a left-front bunker and trees are all around on this hole.

**#10: THE 10<sup>TH</sup> AT LYMAN ORCHARDS GC, MIDDLEFIELD (Public Course)**

*("The Jones Course"), Par-4, 412 yards*

The hole is literally all in front of you visually from an elevated tee box. The decision must be made: How much of the yardage can you cut off by going over a pond on the left side of the dogleg left? Man up and let it fly.



17th hole at Wethersfield Country Club, Wethersfield





18th hole at Fox Hopyard Golf Course, East Haddam

**#11: THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AT LAKE OF ISLES  
(PUBLIC) NORTH COURSE,  
NORTH STONINGTON,**

*Par-4, 384 yards (Public Course)*

Visually stunning from the tee, this "little" par-four can be a bear. Your tee shot is an easy carry over a pond and then the fun begins. There are sets of bunkers up the left side and woods on the right. A back left pin makes you think twice about forcing the issue.

**#12: THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AT  
WINTONBURY HILLS GC,  
BLOOMFIELD,**

*Par-4, 455 yards  
(Public Course)*

The tee shot must steer clear of water to the right. You can bail out left but a steep hill deadens the ball and leaves you with a long-iron or fairway wood into a green that is protected by wetlands, woods, and bunkers. Whew!

**#13: THE 16<sup>TH</sup> AT  
SHENNECOSSETT GC, GROTON,  
*Par-4, 400 yards (Public Course)***

The tee shot is over a marsh and the second is at a green that truly offers one of the coolest views of any in Connecticut, as the putting surface basically borders Long Island Sound. Every so often you'll see a submarine coming or going to the naval base. How neat is that!

**#14: THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AT SHOREHAVEN CC,  
NORWALK,**

*Par-3, 155 yards*

Location, location, location! A short downhill par-three with a well-bunkered, crowned green that is backed right up to Long Island Sound. Club selection on any given day can go from pitching wedge to hybrid depending on the wind. This hole proves short par-threes can be awesome!

**#15: THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AT THE BLACK HALL  
CLUB, OLD LYME,**

*Par-5, 570 yards*

A well-designed, fair, challenging par-five, it has fairway bunkers, water to the left of the hole, and lots of sand guarding the putting green. This is indeed a true three-shot par-five from one of the toughest courses in the state.

**#16: THE 15<sup>TH</sup> AT TPC RIVER  
HIGHLANDS, CROMWELL,**

*Par-4, 296 yards*

Two factors put this hole on the list, where it falls on the golf course and the risk versus the



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reward. Longer hitters may try to drive the green, but there is a pond to the left of the putting surface and chipping from the right side is no bargain. A wildly undulating green keeps three-putting in the equation.

**#17: THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AT WETHERSFIELD CC,**  
*Par-3, 210 yards*

The 17th at Wethersfield, former site of the Greater Hartford Open, is as sweet a short hole as you will find, with water front, bunkers left and right, and a green that seemingly aches for a great shot.

**#18: THE 12<sup>TH</sup> AT RICHTER PARK GC, DANBURY,**

*Par-5, 527 yards (Public Course)*

One of the state's signature holes, this par-five goes uphill, bends right and ends with a green that sits on a peninsula in a reservoir. The match is in the balance... do you feel lucky? Another superbly thought-out design that is stunningly beautiful in autumn.

If you enjoy golf and would like to play some of these great holes, you might be interested in a subscription to *Golfing Magazine*. With your magazine subscription, you will receive a certificate for complimentary rounds of golf at over 65 courses in the area. For more information, visit [www.FreeGolf.net](http://www.FreeGolf.net)



That's our Connecticut fantasy 18, at least for today. When you're done with your round on this "track," an adult beverage may be in order to reminisce over great shots, swap lies and think about what holes you might add. And when you do, be sure to share your suggestions with all of us at *Golfing Magazine* on Facebook. *H*

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# HAPPENINGS

Greater Hartford hosts a variety of special events throughout the year — from street festivals and art shows to major concerts and sporting events. Here is a sample of events that may be of interest to you.

**April 12 – June 22. “Good News.”** Rah! Rah! Rah! Youthful energy abounds in this signature Goodspeed musical filled with Roaring Twenties nostalgia, laughter and rousing dance numbers. Anticipation builds on the Tait College campus as game day approaches but the football hero must first pass a big exam in order to play. When he unexpectedly falls for his tutor, romance blooms and hijinks ensue. Wednesday & Thursday, 2pm & 7:30pm; Friday, 8pm; Saturday, 3pm & 8pm; Sunday, 2pm & 6:30pm. \$32.50-\$77.50. *Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main Street, East Haddam; 860-873-8668; www.goodspeed.org.*

**April 15-19. “Earth Week Celebration at The Dinosaur Place.”** Celebrate Earth Week at The Dinosaur Place at Nature's Art Village. All events are free with paid admission to the Outdoor Dinosaur Adventure and will include different entertainment and hands-on activities every day of the week. Monday-Friday, 9:30am-6pm. Free with paid admission to the Outdoor Park. *The Dinosaur Place, 1650 Hartford-New London Turnpike, Oakdale; 860-443-4367; www.thedinosaurplace.com.*



**April 18-21. “Hartford Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Series: Roman Holiday.”** Program: Rossini “Overture to Semiramide”, Elgar “Concerto for Violoncello”, Mendelssohn “Symphony No. 4, ‘Italian’”. German composer Felix Mendelssohn wrote to his parents while on European tour, “This is Italy! And now has begun what I have always thought to be the supreme joy in life.” Enjoy this inspired and tantalizing musical feast with Rossen Milanov, recognized for his “strong interpretive concept” by the Philadelphia Inquirer. Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday and Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 3pm. Call for ticket information. *Belding Theater, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 166 Capitol Avenue, Hartford; 860-244-2999; www.hartfordsymphony.org.*

**April 27-28. “Meriden Daffodil Festival.”** Outdoor family festival with more than 600,000 daffodils on display in historic Hubbard Park. Enjoy continuous live music on three stages, the Silver Fork Food Tent—culinary delicacies from the community's non-profit entities, the premier parade, arts and crafts area, children's activities, a carnival for the children, spectacular fireworks and much more. Saturday, 10am-9pm; Sunday, 10am-5pm. Free. *Hubbard Park, West Main Street, Meriden; 203-630-4259; www.daffodilfest.com.*

**May 4. “Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation Annual Open House.”** A fun-filled day of family-friendly activities featuring behind-the-scenes tours of the Fidelco campus and puppy, police K9 & Guide Dog demonstrations. Experience what it means to “trust the dog” by taking a blindfold walk with professional Fidelco Certified Trainers and Guide Dogs. Special Lions Club Appreciation reception to be held at noon. Event held rain or shine. 10am-2pm. Free and open to the public. *103 Vision Way (formerly Old Iron Ore Rd.), Bloomfield; 860-243-5200; www.fidelco.org.*

**May 9-12. “Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Presents Build to Amaze!”** Surprise and wonder

delights audiences with over-the-top feats of strength, agility and courage. Circus performers from across the globe create the perfect blend of athleticism and bravery, where power meets fearlessness and amazement has no bounds. Magnificent elephants, ferocious tigers, astonishing acrobats and awe-inspiring aerialists are engineered into one spectacular performance. Thursday, 7pm; Friday, 10:30am & 7pm; Saturday, 11am, 3pm & 7pm; Sunday, 1pm & 5pm. \$18-\$103. *XL Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford; 860-249-6333; www.xlcenter.com.*

**May 11. “Special Olympics Connecticut Eastern Regional Games.”** Hoffman Auto Group will be the presenting sponsor of the 2013 Special Olympics Connecticut Eastern Regional Games as well as providing volunteers for the event. Hosted by the University of Hartford, the Eastern Regional Games will feature over 800 athletes from Eastern Connecticut competing in aquatics, track & field, and walk and wheelchair races. Special events will include Opening Ceremonies, Awards Ceremonies and Olympics Town. Admission is free and open to the public. Saturday, 8am-4pm. *University of Hartford, 200 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford; Hartford Public High School, 55 Forest St., Hartford; 860-997-1555; www.socf.org.*

**May 31 – July 7. “Dr. Ruth, All The Way.”** Direct from its world premiere at Barrington Stage, Debra Jo Rupp (Kitty Forman in That '70s Show) is warm, wise, inspirational and very funny as Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Everyone knows Dr. Ruth from her career as a pioneering radio and television sex therapist. Few, however, know the incredible journey that preceded it. From fleeing the Nazis in the Kindertransport and joining the Haganah in Jerusalem as a scout and sniper, to her struggles to succeed as a single mother coming to America, Dr. Ruth, All the Way is filled with the humor, honesty and life-affirming spirit of Karola Ruth Siegel, the girl who became “Dr. Ruth.” Tuesday-Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Saturday & Sunday, 2:30pm. \$17-\$50. *TheaterWorks at City Arts on Pearl, 233 Pearl Street, Hartford; 860-527-7838; www.theaterworkshartford.org.*



**June 15-29. “The International Festival of Arts & Ideas.”** The International Festival of Arts & Ideas is a 15-day extravaganza of performing arts, lectures, and conversations that takes over theaters and open spaces in New Haven each June. More than 80% of Festival events are completely free! Events include the Handspring Puppet Company's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Shantala Shibalingappa premiering a new dance piece; the Kronos Quartet and Wu Man playing live on New Haven Green; concerts from the String Quartet Truck, and dozens of other shows, exhibits, talks and concerts. See website for events calendar. Ticketed events: \$35. *Various locations downtown, New Haven; 888-ART-IDEA; www.artidea.org.*

**July 8. “Hoffman Audi quattro Cup.”** Hoffman Audi of East Hartford and Hoffman Audi of New London will be hosting their second annual Audi quattro Cup tournament at the exclusive Hartford Golf Club. Audi of America's quattro Cup is the largest amateur golf tournament in the entire world. Tournament is a completely

complimentary day of golf and players will include Hoffman Audi customers and their guests on a first-come-first-serve basis. Winner of this Hartford tournament will win an all-expense-paid trip to play in the Audi U.S. Final at the unrivaled Pebble Beach Resort. Monday, 11am-6pm. *Hartford Golf Club, 143 Norwood Road, West Hartford; 860-290-5516; www.audiquattrocup.com.*

**July 12 – August 10. “Anything Goes.”** The classic Cole Porter musical, directed by Ted Guhl. When the S.S. American heads out to sea, etiquette and convention head out the portholes as two unlikely pairs set off on the course to true love. The songs include such all-time favorites as “You're the Top”, “I Get a Kick Out of You” and, of course, “Anything Goes.” Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Sunday, 2pm. \$20-\$25. *Hole in the Wall Theater, 116 Main Street, New Britain; 860-229-3049; www.bitw.org.*

**August 7 – September 1. “Dreamgirls.”** A smash Broadway musical, Dreamgirls captures the spirit and hope of Motown when a girl group from Chicago makes it big. In a business controlled by men, the female trio fights for recognition, fellowship and love as superstardom challenges their musical and cultural identity. Dreamgirls sizzles with sparkling dance and R&B soul - with hit songs “Dreamgirls,” “And I am Telling You I'm Not Going.” Wednesday & Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Wednesday & Sunday, 2pm. Wednesday & Thursday, 7:30pm; Friday & Saturday, 8pm; Wednesday & Sunday, 2pm. \$15-\$40. *Ivoryton Playhouse, 103 Main Street, Ivoryton; 860-767-7318; www.ivorytonplayhouse.org.*

**August 15-18. “2013 U.S. Gymnastics Championship.”** The 2013 U.S. Gymnastics Championships returns to Hartford and the XL Center. “The U.S. Gymnastics Championships and Hartford are a winning combination,” said Steve Penny, president of USA Gymnastics. “After our success in 2010, we knew we would be back sooner rather than later. We have every confidence that Hartford and AEG will once again deliver one of the most successful championships ever.” Thursday & Friday, 1pm & 6:30pm; Saturday, 2pm & 7:30pm; Sunday, 11am & 6:30pm. \$58 - \$133. *XL Center, One Civic Center Plaza, Hartford; 860-249-6333; www.xlcenter.com.*

**August 24-25. “Schemitzun (Green Corn PowWow) at the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.”** We welcome you to celebrate our rich heritage, our Creator, our ancestors, veterans, elders, warriors, family & friends and to give thanks for abundance at this drug- and alcohol-free event. Join our social dances, or watch our exhibition dancers and contestants move with skill and power to the ancient rhythms of our grandfather drum. Experience 17th-century life in a living eastern woodland village environment. Try some authentic native food favorites. Our certified Native American craft vendors at our Powwow offer beautiful and distinctive handmade products straight from Indian Country. Join the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation as we proudly present our Green Corn Powwow 2013. Free shuttle service from Foxwoods Resort Casino. Saturday, 10am-10pm; Sunday, 10am-6pm. \$5. *Mashantucket Reservation, Mashantucket; 860-396-2136; www.schemitzun.com.*





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