

SummerWood Celebrates Tenth Year Anniversary!



Pictured: SummerWood members pose for pictures with "Marilyn"

On January 12th, West Hartford, Connecticut had one of the biggest and most troublesome snowstorms in history, but the eighteen inches of snow wasn't enough to prevent SummerWood from observing its tenth anniversary with a grand celebration. On January 13th, after digging out from the snow, employees began preparing the dining room. The tables were set with pink and black tablecloths which were accessorized with flowers and pink, white and black balloons decorating the walls. As members entered into the dining room the ladies were gifted with brilliant "diamond" necklaces, bracelets or earrings with a promise of a "surprise" for the men. After being

seated, hot hor d'oeuvres were served as the members happily chatted with their friends, neighbors and staff members.

Champagne was served in preparation for the champagne toast. David Houle, Executive Vice President and CFO of Hebrew Health Care, joined SummerWood's Executive Director, Joan Carney, in the toast which acknowledged some members who have been at SummerWood since 2001. Special guest, Marilyn Monroe impersonator and look alike, Elaine Chez, entered the dining room outfitted in a pink gown and white shawl. She began her show by singing "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" and "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" as she made her way to every table mingling with the members. Following her dynamic performance "Marilyn" readily posed for photographs with members and employees.



Pictured l. to r. Amanda Sisson, Anabela Ferriera, Robin Lund, Valerie Bartos, Joan Carney, Randolph Scott, "Marilyn Monroe," Jay Bourret, Karen Mudgett and Stephen Hall

Congratulations SummerWood on a wonderful tenth year celebration!

SummerWood Members Observe the Tu B' Shevat Seder

Tu B' Shevat Seder celebrates the New Year for Trees, also known as the Jewish Arbor Day, which is in essence is a celebration of the trees and fruits of the land of Israel. Jewish tradition marks the 15th of *Shevat* as the day when the sap in the trees begins to rise, signaling the earth's awakening from its winter slumber, and heralding the beginning of spring.

On January 20th, SummerWood members gathered to observe the *Tu B' Shevat Seder* with Rabbi Gary Lavit and the young emissaries from Israel, Gal and Yinon. Members prayed, sang, and discussed the historic significance of the holiday while enjoying the traditional fruits and nuts.



Pictured: Rabbi Gary Lavit and Gal serve traditional fruits and nuts

Celebrating the New Year!



Pictured: SummerWood members

On December 31st, SummerWood hosted a New Year's Eve party complete with noise makers and party hats. Local entertainer, Ted Williams, performed music ranging from classical to rock. Members enjoyed the concert. Saul Halfond, Member Council President and Joan Carney, Executive Director, toasted to the New Year with warm wishes as cake and sparkling grape juice were served.

Senior Voices, SummerWood Poetry Group

One of the most popular activities at SummerWood is the poetry group, "Senior Voices, Expressing Through Poetry" with poet Andy Weil. Members, under the guidance of Andy, are writing poetry, some for the first time. Selma Gordon wanted to share her first poem titled "SummerWood."

Morning

*I walk along the path
The sun is brightly shining
I enjoy a gentle breeze
As it brings me the smell
Of the earth, grass and trees.*

Autumn

*The summer woods are now
Turning its green, leafy trees
Into the majestic, glorious colors
Of red and gold and bronze
I begin to sing in gratitude.*

Mazel Tovs!

Joan Carney's son, Brian Carney, graduated from Eastern Connecticut State University with a BS degree in biology. Brian has accepted a chemist position at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Norwood, MA.

Ancel DaSilva, Waitstaff, is attending Eastern Connecticut State University studying psychology.

Natasha Fernandez, Waitstaff, is attending Capital Community College studying nursing.

Tanya Hartley, Waitstaff, is attending Capital Community College studying nursing.

Molech Jarrett, Waitstaff, was accepted to St. John's University in New York City.

Nicole Jordan, Waitstaff, is attending Capital Community College studying business.

New Employees

Stephen Hall recently began working at Hoffman SummerWood as a Culinary Liaison and already feels like part of the family here. Prior to SummerWood, Steve worked at Cavey's restaurants as a sous chef and also helped a friend manage a landscaping business. Steve is in charge of the dining room and will also assist in the marketing department.

Anthony Coleman, Chadwick Parnell and Danyisha Gaynor were all hired as waitstaff. *Marlene Pommel and Bruce Singer* were both hired for the front desk.

Corrections

- Silvia Pasternak is anticipating the birth of great-grandchild in April, 2011.
- Photo of Radio City on page 1 of the December *Sights and Sounds* was Jean Sanofsky, Gertrude Zimmel, Rosa Shields, Minnie Goldenberg and Betty Jacobs.