

# Welcome

*As we move close to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday and that time for gathering with friends and family to give thanks for all that we have been blessed with, I want to take a moment to welcome all of you here tonight and to offer on behalf of the Norwalk-Nagarote Sister City Project a great big "Thank You." First of all for coming out tonight to this very festive gathering and second for your support of the incredible work that is being done for the young people of Nagarote, Nicaragua. For the past thirty years we have worked in partnership with the people of Nagarote to promote sustainable community development and provide opportunities for success. So much has been accomplished because of our dedicated board here in Norwalk, a committed staff in Nicaragua and support from people like you.*

*We are so thankful to all the performers that have volunteered their time and talents so that this evening could be a reality. So fortunate are we to have such incredible artists here with us; people, who have performed in New York City, on Broadway, in clubs, operas, produced CD's and each one a treasure with their own style of music. Five for the price of one; you are in for a joyful evening!*

*Each year we journey to Nicaragua as a board delegation to witness first hand the growth and progress of the project. In that time we meet with staff, observe programs and most of all interact with all of the young people and families we serve. Last year we went on visits to homes and heard first hand from the parents, grandparents and guardians of how grateful and meaningful this project has been to their children. They speak from the heart and you can hear it in their tone of voice, what they say and their body language, what a difference this program has made for them over the years.*

*So sit back, enjoy conversation with friends, fine food, fabulous music and know that so many people are so thankful that you are here tonight.*

*Tom Kretsch-President NNSCP*

# *Many Thanks to Our Fine Performers*

## *Suzanne Sheridan*

*is a singer-songwriter, guitarist, professional portrait photographer and long-time resident of Westport. She co-wrote the country cult hit, "90 Pound Suburban Housewife Driving in Her SUV." She has traveled throughout the Northeast, Canada and Australia performing her Tribute to the music of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen. The CD is available at CDBaby.com and on her website, <http://www.suzannesheridanmusic.com> . Suzanne produces and performs an ongoing series at the Westport Historical Society called "Coffeehouse at the Wheeler's" which has become extremely popular among folk audiences. The Suzanne Sheridan Band along with Rob Silvan and The Talmadge Hill Choir performed an original show called "Let The River Run" as a benefit for KEYS MUSIC. Other recordings include her latest compilation of 20 of her original songs entitled "Standing Ovation" also available through CD-baby.com. Her music website is [www.suzannesheridanmusic.com](http://www.suzannesheridanmusic.com) and her photography website is [www.suzannesheridan.com](http://www.suzannesheridan.com) She is now thrilled to be performing evocative French music with accordionist Don Gerundo.<http://www.cafeparis.com>*

## *Don Gerundo*

*is an active accordionist and pianist performing in the New York metropolitan area. He is a versatile keyboardist who plays various styles ranging from popular American Standards from the American Songbook, Jazz and Rock N Roll. He works with the Bensen-Scott Big Band, The Westchester Jazz Band and Reddy Valentino Orchestra. These orchestras play arrangements from the early 40's to today. He has also worked with small ensembles playing various styles that range from standards from the American Songbook, Latin music and even Rockabilly music from the 1960's. He has performed and accompanied Lenny Welch(hit record "Since I Fell For You"), Joe Piscopo and has performed at Swing 46 in New York City, White Plains Theater for the Arts, Coney Island Park and other large venues. Don started playing the accordion at age 10 and later studied piano. During his later teens he studied harmony and theory with Tony Mecca in Waterbury and later improvisation with Adolph Sandole in New York City. For the last several years Don has focused on Free Bass Accordion and exploring its use in pop and jazz.*

## *Mary Petro Noonan*

*Mary Petro Noonan received a Bachelor of Music from De-Paul University and a Master of Music from Yale University. Mary made her Houston Grand Opera debut in the world premiere of Harvey Milk. Other 20th Century roles include Female Chorus in Britten's Rape of Lucretia and Miriam in Lee Hoiby's The Scarf. A versatile and curious artist, Mary expanded her repertoire to include Iolanta in Tchaikovsky's Iolanta, Tatyana in Eugene Onegin as well as Yum Yum in Gilbert and Sullivan's Mikado. She has been seen by New York audiences as Mimi in La Bohème, Margarita/Helen of Troy in Mephistofele, Micaela in Carmen, Desdemona in Otello, Georgetta in Il Tabarro, Nedda in Pagliacci and the title roles in Tosca, Suor Angelica and Dona Flor. She has appeared in concert at Alice Tully Hall with the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation and made her Carnegie Hall debut singing Pamina in The Magic Flute with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. For international audiences, Mary has sung Pamina for the Rome Festival Opera, Margarita in Mephistofele in Tel Aviv, Israel, and Mimi in Castres, France. As an orchestral soloist, she has performed Barber's Knoxville: Summer of 1915 at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., the Garden State Philharmonic in NJ and the Chappaqua Orchestra, and Barber's Andromache's Farewell and Mercedes in Carmen with Norwalk Symphony in CT. Mary is a winner of the Metropolitan National Council Auditions and The Bel Canto Foundation Competition. She has spent the past 10 seasons in the extra chorus of the Metropolitan Opera and traveled with their tour to Tokyo, Japan. Mary recently returned from Cornwall, England where she served a week long residency as guest soloist at Truro Cathedral. She has performed similar residencies at cathedrals in Chester and Norwich.*

## *Emily and Bill Hall*

*This daughter and father duo is no strangers to the musical world of Fairfield County and beyond. Emily began her career with her talented parents, Bill and Maryann Hall and through their prestigious "Music for Children" program. She starred in numerous plays at Staples High and went out into the professional world of theater. Her credits include "Follies" (Broadway), "Gypsy" (St. Louis), "Whistle Down the Wind"(World Premiere), "O'Henry's Lovers" and more. Emily recently released a solo CD of children's songs entitled "Sun in the Morning Til the Moon at Night" which recently won a Parent's Choice Award.*

*Bill has been a professional singer performing in the Metropolitan Opera, the New York Philharmonic, Musica Sacra, Broadway National Companies and others. With a Masters from the University of Michigan in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy, Bill has been a vocal teacher for many accomplished singers who have starred in high school, college and on Broadway.*

## *The Men's Community Gospel Chorus*

*The Men's Community Gospel Chorus of Norwalk has been around for ten plus years. Directed by musician Greg DeTroy, they sing for various community events and*

*church functions. Comprised of 8-10 members from various churches, these guys enjoy fellowship and bonding and singing praises to the Lord. Say's one member, "We work*

*together to bring our heartfelt soul felt spirit to a congregation or audience. Through our music we express hope, faith, love and some sadness, but mostly our love and joy."You can hear by the way they sing they truly enjoy what they do.*

## *Elba Llantin Cruz*

*Elba is a regular classroom teacher by trade who loves music. She's been singing in a variety of venues since childhood. Her work as a singer has included roles in high school and college musicals, background vocals for a variety of artists in varied genres, which include World Beat music and gospel music. Elba also recorded numerous cds and educational songs as Señora Mágica for Beth Manners in Fun Spanish for Kids.*

*Besides singing, Elba loves writing songs and producing music. Elba's greatest influences in music came from her parents and family, who are Puerto Rican. She grew up singing Spanish music along with popular songs from the 80s and 90s. She recently recorded a children's cd, entitled, "Cantando y Jugando," which is a collection of childhood games, songs, and lullabies from Puerto Rico. The cd also*

*includes some original songs inspired by her two boys, Daniel and Gabriel. The songs are both fun and educational. In the cd children can learn animal names and sounds,*

*the alphabet, counting to twenty, and more. The rhythms may be used for music games and interactive fun.*

*Elba's performance is a reflection of both music inspired by popular culture and her Puerto Rican heritage. For more information visit:[www.http://cantandoyjugando.weebly.com/](http://cantandoyjugando.weebly.com/)*

*truly enjoy what they do.*

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The Norwalk/ Naragote Sister City Project is a partnership for sustainable community development between Nagarote, Nicaragua, and the Greater Norwalk Area in Connecticut.

*Since 1986, the project has been working with the people of Naragote to help break the cycle of poverty and provide hope for a brighter future.*

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Congratulations  
to the Sister City Project for many  
years of dedication to the children  
and families of Nagarote.

Helen Stein

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Wilton Monthly Meeting

Sunday Services – 10:00 am

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Sundays Service 10:00am

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Thank you for your dedication to our community.



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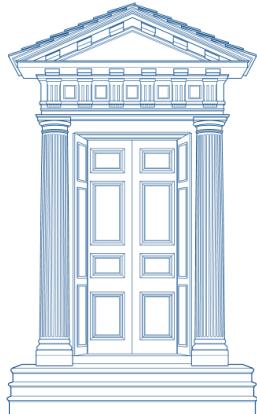


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