

A watercolor painting of a serene lake scene. The water is depicted with various shades of blue and teal, showing gentle ripples and reflections. In the distance, a rocky island with sparse trees is visible against a pale, hazy sky. The overall style is soft and artistic, typical of watercolor art.

Experience *Madison*

A P R I L - J U N E 2 0 2 4

Madison Chamber of Commerce
www.madisonct.com

We are so excited to welcome spring and hope you enjoy our **spring edition of Experience Madison**, the Madison Chamber's quarterly digital magazine, celebrating and sharing information about our local businesses and vibrant community of Madison, CT. Madison is a coastal Connecticut town with a **rich history and small-town warmth**. In this edition, we invite you to discover what makes Madison a truly charming destination along the Connecticut shoreline.

During the spring season we invite you take time to **enjoy nature** at the Meigs Point Nature Center, where interactive exhibits and guided walks offer insights into the coastal ecosystem. Or, take a leisurely stroll along the Shoreline Greenway Trail, with **picturesque views of the coastline** and visit the local Audubon Shop for one of their **bird walks and talks** at Hammonasset Beach State Park, regarded as one of the premier birding spots in CT. From exploring the **lush hiking trails** and **pristine beaches** to savoring the flavors of **local cuisine** and enjoying the **local shops**, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

As the season unfolds, Madison comes alive with everything from the **Madison Farmers Market** on Friday afternoons, to relaxing and **rejuvenating getaways** at one of our local B & B's or the Madison Beach Hotel with breathtaking views of the Long Island Sound. After Memorial Day there's no shortage of opportunities to revel in the sounds of live music and the arts with live performances at one of our **local theater companies**, concerts on the historic town green and the concert series at the Madison Beach Hotel.

Whether you're a longtime resident or a first-time visitor, we invite you to **explore, experience, and embrace** the vibrant spirit of **Madison**, our coastal community.

Warmest regards,

All the best,



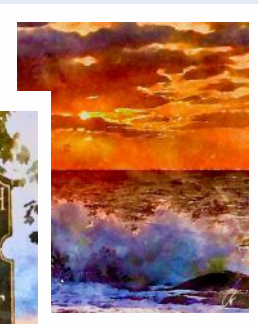
Dawn Jackson
Executive Director

**Special thanks to
Madison artist: CAT FRANCUCCI**

for allowing us to feature
her watercolor painting,
Tuxis Island, on the cover.

contact: info@catfrancucci.com

web: www.catfrancucci.com



In this issue:

Madison Events & Things To Do April - June, 2024

Small Business Spotlight

Supporting the Arts

Chamber Members & Celebrations

2024 Annual Awards Dinner

Nonprofit Feature

AQUATICS PHYSICAL THERAPY



 Madison Swim & Racquet Club in Madison, CT

WHAT DIAGNOSES?

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-  Genetic Disorders
-  Low Tone/Weakness
-  Post Injury/Surgery
-  Sensory Processing Disorders

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Madison Beach and Recreation

Program information & registration

Call: 203-245-5623

Visit: 87 Surf Club Road, Madison

<https://www.madisonct.org/165/Beach-Recreation-Department>

2024 Seasonal Beach Parking Stickers

Beach parking stickers for the 2024 summer season are now available for purchase online, through the mail and in person. Beach parking stickers, or a daily parking pass will be required to park at all three town beaches starting the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend (May 25) through Labor Day (September 2). Daily parking passes for residents and non-residents will be required at all three Town beaches Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Please visit the Town website at www.madisonct.org/beachstickers for more information, including special information regarding the 4th of July weekend (July 4-7).

Child & Babysitting Safety Class

The Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS) program from ASHI and MEDIC First Aid gives young people everything they need to know for safe and successful babysitting. May 1st, 5 to 7 pm.

Fee: \$106 for Madison Residents, \$116 For Non-Residents

Mother's Day Mini-Sessions

Are your Mom & kids photos up to date? How about a mini "Beach Photo Session". We'll pick a local seascape scene to create memories as Forever Keepsakes.

What's a "Mini Session" -It's an abbreviated version of a full photo session. Usually less than 30 mins each, and several client sessions consecutively. It allows the photographer to keep the costs to a minimum. Team up with a friend!

What do I get? - 3-4 Digital images (jpegs). I'll help you print and frame, if desired.

When & Where? - We'll decide on a mutually convenient time & location.

Cost? \$150 (A full Photo Session starts at \$450, in comparison)



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madison
lyric
stage

Marc Deaton, Artistic Director

May 4-5

MARC DEATON

FREEDOM

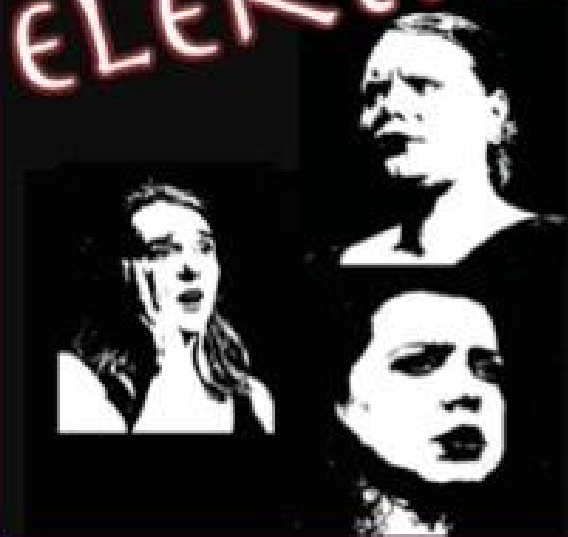
MUSIC OF
GEORGE MICHAEL AND ELTON JOHN



JUNE 7, 8, 9

ELEKTRA

EDWARD FRANKS



July 12-28

The Fantasticks

Henry Schatz and Tom Jones



September 20-22

All That Jazz

Music of John Kander and Fred Ebb



DEACON JOHN GRAVE HOUSE

MADISONLYRICSTAGE.ORG



Madison Events & Things To Do

The **Audubon Shop** will have their first small group Saturday Spring Migration Bird Walk at Hammonasset. Visit their website www.theaudubonshop.com and get outdoors to enjoy one of Connecticut's premier birding "hot spots."

Susan Powell Fine Art: 679 Boston Post Road in downtown Madison

35 Artists and their Favorite Paintings: Meet the artists at the opening reception on Friday, April 12, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. The show continues through May 6, 2024.

David Dunlop- Light Fantastic: Opening reception on Friday, May 10, from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. Meet David and enjoy hors d'oeuvres and wine. The show continues through June 15, 2024.

Summer in New England: June 21 - August 17, 2024. For reception information and show details visit: www.susanpowellfineart.com

The Madison Historical Society will host several **open house** events this spring at its **Allis-Bushnell House Museum**, at 853 Boston Post Road in Madison. The house will be open from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on April 13 and 20 and on May 4 and 18. Visitors are invited to take a self-guided tour of the 1785 residence, free of charge.

April 14, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Poetry, Poignancy and Possibility: Celebrating National Poetry Month with CT Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell

For the fourth consecutive year, Mercy by the Sea will celebrate National Poetry Month, a worldwide celebration launched more than 25 years ago by the Academy of American Poets.

This year's featured poet is Antoinette Brim-Bell, Connecticut's 8th State Poet Laureate. Brim-Bell is also a Cave Canem Foundation Fellow and an alumna of Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation (VONA). Brim-Bell was nominated for the Pushcart Prize twice for poetry and essay.



Visit www.mercybythesea.org for more information and additional programs at Mercy by the Sea in Madison.

The Madison Historical Society continues its **popular History Happy Hour series** on Friday, April 26, from 6 to 7 pm, at the Society's Allis-Bushnell House at 853 Boston Post Road, Madison, CT. This month's event features Madison resident and MHS trustee Jim Matteson, who will share his experiences making maple syrup and selling it at Field House Farm under the label Matteson's Maple Manor. For more information and future MHS events, visit their website: www.madisonhistory.org

Madison Newcomers is hosting the **15th Annual Touch A Truck on Sunday, April 28 from 10:00 - 1:00 at the Surf Club**. A shuttle will run throughout the event from the commuter lot by RT 79/I95 exit 61.

The event is a wonderful time for children and parents alike to explore all sorts of vehicles up close including cranes, fire trucks, ambulances, dump trucks etc. Plus lots of other things like food trucks, interactive exhibits and live music!

Paper Shredding Day

Saturday, May 4th

9:00 AM to Noon

in front of the

Madison Chamber of Commerce

12 School Street in Madison, CT

Thank you to our sponsors:



**Sher Walton &
Peter Scranton**



Friends of Hammonasset Plant Sale

Thursday, May 9 through Sunday, June 2, 2024

Thursdays – Sundays 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Located 300 yards east of the Hammonasset Beach State Park entrance on Route 1. Next to the Greenway Trail Parking lot. Friends of Hammonasset will be offering premium hanging baskets, perennials, 4" annuals, flats of bedding plants & vegetables. Proceeds benefit our work with the Meigs Point Nature Center and other projects at Hammonasset Beach State Park

Garden Club of Madison Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, May 18th, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

At the Deacon John Grave House at 581 Boston Post Road, a wonderful selection of hardy local perennials, herbs, shrubs, cut flowers and flowering annual baskets were offered for sale at excellent prices (paid by cash or check). Profits from the plant sale benefit the Club's community gardens and beautification projects.

All of the plants come from members' gardens and local donations. Because the plants are locally grown they are suited to our local growing conditions and should thrive in your garden.

Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 27th, 10:00 AM

American Legion and VFW, the Town of Madison will honor the fallen veterans with the Memorial Day Parade followed by a remembrance ceremony on the Town Green. The parade will start at the intersection of Samson Rock Drive and Boston Post Road, then proceed west on the Boston Post Road through the downtown area, and it will end with a ceremony at the Town Green.

Madison Lions Club to help continue the **60th Annual Lions Day and Flea Market** on the Madison Town Green on **June 22nd from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**. In addition to the traditional Lions Flea Market, The **Alpha Dog Fair** will feature lots of activities and entertainment for humans AND their dogs! Big dogs, little dogs...ALL DOGS are Alpha Dogs!

North Madison Congregational Church



Goodness Grows

PLANT SALE

May 4, 2024

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
1271 Durham Rd. Madison

perennials
hanging baskets
annuals
garden tools
baked goods
live music
silent auction



northmadisoncc.org
cash, check and venmo accepted

Madison Events & Things To Do

The Town of Madison's **Annual Independence Day Parade** will be on July 4, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The parade will proceed west on Boston Post Road (Route 1) from Samson Rock Drive to the West Wharf Road and will end in the Surf Club.

Madison Cultural Arts 4th of July Concert on the Green: Thursday, July 4th at 7:00 PM (rain date: Saturday, July 6th)

Madison fireworks: Friday, July 5th at 9:30 PM (rain date: Friday, July 12th)

Save the date for Madison's 2024 Summer Concert Series: www.madisonct.org/concerts

Free concerts are held each Sunday from 6-8 p.m. on the Madison Town Green. Feel free to bring lawn chairs and/or picnic dinner. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the Town Green.

July 7: The Taxmen

July 14: Larry Stevens Band

July 21: Cover2Cover

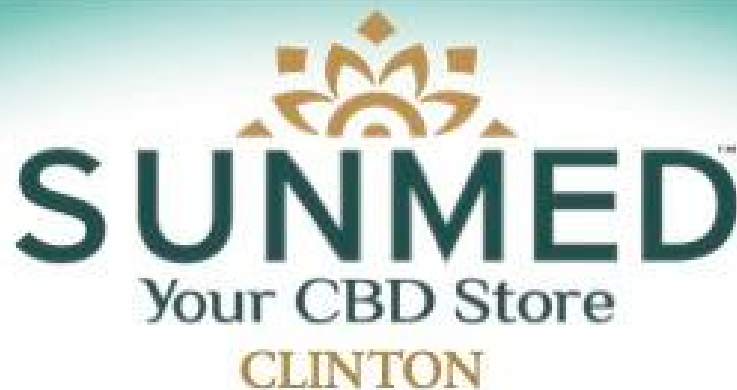
July 28: The KSF Tribute Band

August 4: 1 Wild Night Bon Jovi Tribute Band

August 11: The Kenn Morr Band

August 18: Last Licks

August 25: Take Two and Call Me in the Morning



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MOUSICAL

August 8-25



LOVE
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September 12-29



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April 20



BUBBLEMANIA!

June 22



The Princess
AND THE PAUPER

July 27



CARDBOARD
EXPLOSION!

August 17



SWEET DREAMS:
A BEDTIME STORY
COMES TO LIFE

September 28



THE CARROT
SALESMAN

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LEGACYTHEATRE 128 Thimble Islands Road in Branford, CT



Embracing Change: How Coastal KIDS Physical Therapy is Revolutionizing Pediatric Care

In the vast landscape of healthcare, innovation often emerges from the intersection of experience, passion, and necessity. Dr. Kali Penders, founder of Coastal KIDS Physical Therapy, embodies this spirit of innovation as she revolutionizes pediatric therapy with a model grounded in compassion, expertise, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

As a seasoned professional with nearly two decades of experience in pediatric therapy, Dr. Penders witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by families seeking quality care for their children. From the confines of hospital walls to the constraints of traditional outpatient clinics, she recognized the inherent limitations of these settings in meeting the diverse needs of young patients and their families.

Driven by a deep-rooted commitment to improve the lives of children and their families, Dr. Penders embarked on a journey to redefine the paradigm of pediatric therapy. Drawing inspiration from her multifaceted career spanning hospitals, schools, and early intervention programs, she envisioned a revolutionary approach that transcends the boundaries of traditional healthcare delivery.

At the heart of Coastal KIDS lies a hybrid model of care that seamlessly integrates evidence-based practices with the convenience of mobile outpatient services. By bringing therapy directly to the doorsteps of families,



Dr. Penders and her interdisciplinary team alleviates the burden of scheduling constraints and transportation challenges, empowering parents to play a more active role in their child's therapeutic journey and making their goals come to life.

We pride ourselves on our interdisciplinary team of experts, each dedicated to providing comprehensive care and support to children and their families. Our team comprises skilled Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Physical Therapists, and Aquatics Therapy professionals.



At Coastal KIDS Physical Therapy, our commitment extends beyond providing exceptional care to individual families; we are deeply invested in supporting the vibrant shoreline community centralized in Madison, CT. Through our presence and active involvement, we strive to be more than just a healthcare provider – we aim to be a trusted partner and ally to families, schools, and organizations throughout the area. Whether it's through community events, educational workshops, or collaborative initiatives, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of health, wellness, and inclusivity that

enriches the lives of all those we serve. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier community where every child has the opportunity to thrive.



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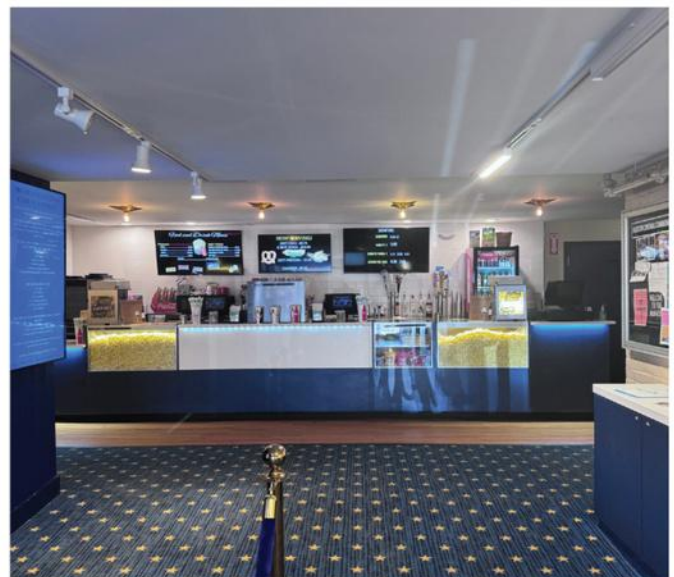
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INTERIOR DESIGN *Trend*

In a world where comfort and tranquility are cherished commodities, the quest for creating spaces that promote both physical and mental well-being has never been more pertinent.

Enter Rachel, a seasoned interior designer with a passion for marrying traditional aesthetics with modern wellness principles. Her mission? To elevate health and wellness through the artful curation of interiors that exude timeless elegance and unparalleled comfort.



Drawing upon her specialized education in wellness at home, Rachel has honed a unique approach to interior design that goes beyond mere aesthetics.

At the heart of Rachel's design philosophy is the belief that beauty and wellness go hand in hand. By carefully selecting color schemes and textures that soothe the senses, she creates environments that nourish the soul and uplift the spirit. With her classically elegant aesthetic and unwavering commitment to wellness, she invites us to slow down, take a breath, and embrace the beauty of the present moment.

Schedule a Call at: www.timelesslivingdesigns.com

Madison's own professional theater, Madison Lyric Stage, is back for its twelfth season here on the shoreline. This year, the non-profit theater company will feature Freedom: The Music of George Michael and Elton John in May, the opera Elektra in June, the musical comedy The Fantasticks in July, and All That Jazz – The Music of Kander & Ebb in September.

The company will also present its first-ever holiday production for the whole family – Amahl and the Night Visitors - next December at the First Congregational Church of Madison.

Founded by opera singer and director Marc Deaton and his husband John Johmann, MLS was born in 2012 with a small group of professional performers gathering in a private barn in Madison to present works ranging from concerts of Sondheim and theme dinners to operas, musicals and plays from Benjamin Britten to Shakespeare. Audiences were seated on mismatched chairs and sofas, with performers so close you could reach out and touch them.



Since 2018, Madison Lyric Stage has been resident on the grounds of the historic Deacon John Grave House inside their new, deluxe temperature-controlled tent. At first, they performed inside the house – but then Covid hit and in 2021 they decided to present an all-outdoor season. Audiences enjoyed the “summer stock” feeling and Marc and John decided to purchase a professional-grade tent for the company that brought the best of both worlds – something inside and protected from the elements, while still maintaining a summer festival feeling.

Over the past two seasons, this innovative company has produced distinct and entertaining works including: Seven Deadly Sins, Sweeney Todd, Pippin, Angels in America, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, and Spring Awakening, always bringing fresh ideas to the theatre. And, this year, with the support of the Madison Foundation and the Rotary Club of Madison, the company will introduce brand new chairs to enhance audience comfort.

MLS has grown through the years and developed into a much-cherished and innovative theater company that we all get to enjoy here in Madison. We can count on Marc and John to always bring us an eclectic mix of popular arts and entertainment.

You can also catch Madison Lyric Stage when they perform at the upcoming 4th of July Concert on the Green, presented by Madison Cultural Arts.

For more information and tickets, visit madisonlyricstage.org.



Chamber Members & Celebrations

Welcome to the following NEW Madison Chamber member businesses:

A & J Stump Grinding & Construction Services

Avocado Energy
www.avocado-energy.com

Body By Aja Fitness and Nutrition
www.bodybyajafitness.com

Camp Laurelwood
www.camplaurelwood.org

Cancion Tequila
www.canciontequila.com

Carefur Veterinarians
www.carefurvets.com

Chow Food and Beverage Co
www.chowfoodandbeverage.com

Class 101 New London County CT
www.class101.com

Comomango
www.comomangomadison.com

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Chamber Members & Celebrations

Welcome to the following NEW Madison Chamber member businesses (cont.):

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Joseff Family Farm

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Modern Oak

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www.purasoftwash.com

Range Physical Therapy
www.getRangePT.com

Rebel Anchor Food Company

Regenerative Edge Physical Therapy & Wellness
www.redgept.com

ServiceMaster of Old Saybrook,
Middletown, Guilford-Madison
www.servicemasterrestore.com

The Mur Salon
www.themursalon.com

Timeless Living Designs
www.timelesslivingdesigns.com

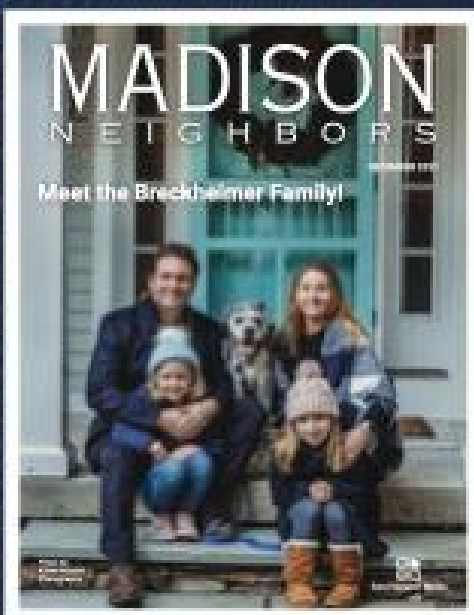
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A & J Stump Grinding & Construction Services

2024 Madison Chamber Annual Awards Dinner

The Madison Chamber of Commerce proudly announced the installation of our 2024 Board of Directors and honored six outstanding individuals, businesses and organizations at the 2024 Annual Awards Dinner. The event was held at the Woodwinds with over 115 Chamber members, friends and guests.



**Madison Citizen of the Year:
Jacques P  pin**



**Executive Director Award:
Anne Marie Pagli, William Raveis Real Estate**



**Madison Chamber of Commerce
2024 Board of Directors**



**Volunteer of the Year:
Priscilla MacInnis, ACT II Thrift Shop**



2024 Madison Chamber Annual Awards Dinner (cont.)



New Member of the Year:
Sally Esborn on behalf of Mosaic Marketing



Business of the Year:
Donahue's Madison Beach Grille



Nonprofit of the Year:
Exchange Club of Madison

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Additional thanks to Shoreline Pixels for taking photos and capturing our event and Andrew Stein Videography

Happiness is...

Being happy is not just about feeling good. Research shows that it also makes us healthier, more productive – and nicer. Studies have also shown that happiness is contagious, so happier people help others around them to become happier too. The pursuit of happiness is about helping people experience a better life and creating a society that is more productive, healthy, and cohesive.

Most people could agree that happiness is what we want most for the people we love the most. That's why the Happiness Club exists. Did you know that Madison has been home to a local chapter for over 20 years? The original Happiness Club was founded by Lionel Ketchian in Fairfield, CT in 2000, as a spin-off from a wildly successful and popular class about Happiness that he taught at Sacred Heart University. His club has been written up in magazines, hundreds of newspapers, and has appeared on television and in live radio talk shows.

The Madison chapter was started by Tina Garrity soon after meeting Lionel at one of the Fairfield meetings. She was so inspired by the idea that she started a local chapter along the Shoreline. Today, the club is known as the Shoreline Happiness Club and is co-facilitated by Madison residents and long time friends, Kerry Shay and Mara Dowler.

The mission of the Happiness Club is to promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and positivity through personal connection, gathering as a community, and learning from inspiring guest speakers on various topics related to happiness and well-being.

Meetings are held at Hubley Hall at the First Congregational Church of Madison on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM and include great speakers, lively conversation, and engaging topics all designed to help people live with presence, meaning, and joy.

Recent speakers have included Lionel Ketchian himself; local author, Jim Rinere (aka James Francis); motivational TED talk speaker, Jaime Diglio; mental health professionals, Janel Bacon and Josh Brant; and others who have shared personal stories from their heart with love and humor including Marie Mozzi and Taffy Bowes, to name a few!

Upcoming speakers include Michael Rizk, a MindBodySpirit coach and founder of The Whole Person Project, who will be visiting from New Jersey on April 17; and Gina Johnson, holistic business coach, who will speak on May 15.

Newsletters are sent each month sharing announcements and upcoming speakers. You can sign up to subscribe in person at a meeting or by sending an email request to HappinessClubCT@gmail.com.



Non-profit Feature (cont.)

Anyone can join, and attendance is always free!
Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors!
Kerry and Mara welcome your feedback and suggestions for upcoming speakers, topics, and any ideas that the community would like to share.

Spread the word, and follow us on Instagram
[@madisonhappinessclub](#) and Facebook
[@madisonhappinessclub](#).

You can also subscribe to Lionel Ketchian's newsletter here: <https://www.happinessclub.com/>



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🐾 Music - Food- Vendors

🐾 ABC Bike Corral

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El Compa: Where Friendship, Flavor, and Redemption Meet

In Madison there is a culinary gem that transcends the mere notion of a restaurant. El Compa Authentic Mexican Restaurant is a testament to the enduring power of friendship, the rich tapestry of flavor and the transformative journey of redemption. Founded by three compas—Vilma from Ecuador, Eva from Mexico, and Mario, from Mexico—this establishment stands as a beacon of resilience and camaraderie.

The story behind El Compa is one of intertwined destinies and shared dreams. Vilma and Eva's bond flourished amidst the challenges of immigration, as they navigated the complexities of single motherhood and labor. United by their unwavering determination to carve out a better future, they embarked on a culinary odyssey that would redefine their lives.

Meanwhile, Mario's narrative is one of redemption and renewal. Fleeing the shadows of gang violence in Mexico City, he sought solace across the border in California. Yet, it was in the sanctuary of the kitchen where Mario found his true calling. With each dish he crafted, he forged a path towards redemption, embracing his Mexican heritage with every culinary creation.



At El Compa, Mario's expertise and passion infuse every plate with an unmistakable flair. Each recipe is a testament to his journey from darkness to light, meticulously prepared to evoke the warmth and comfort of home. The name itself, borrowed from Mario's previous venture in California, serves as a poignant reminder of his resilience and the bonds of friendship that have sustained him.

El Compa is more than another restaurant on the shoreline; it is a place where flavors mingle, stories unravel, and friendships endure. El Compa is located at 44 Boston Post Road in Madison, CT (in the old Zhang's restaurant location next to Franco's Wine Store).



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