

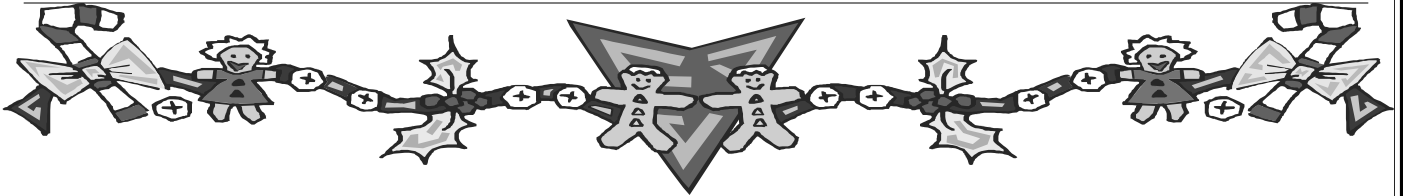
News & Views

*The Official Newsletter of the
Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Conn.*
<http://www.cgspouses-sect.org>

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 5

DECEMBER 2009 & JANUARY 2010

TIFFANI KAMINSKI, EDITOR



Holiday Party /Cookie & Gift Exchange **Thursday, December 10 at 7PM**

Our annual party is always great time to get together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays. We hope you can join us for the festivities, graciously hosted by Betsy Burhoe at her beautifully decorated home at One Seneca Drive, CGA, at 7PM on December 10. The attire for this event will be holiday casual. Participation in the Cookie Exchange and Gift Exchanges are voluntary, but both are loads of fun and you will walk away with a variety of cookies and some new gifts. This year the appetizers and desserts will be provided by the CGSA, so no need to do anything more than come and enjoy yourself!

The following are guidelines for the Cookie Exchange: Bring two dozen cookies split into four packages (don't forget to include the recipe). You'll then bring home two dozen assorted cookies to enjoy with your family.

The following are guidelines for the Gift Exchange: Bring a gift of your choice valued at \$10, and it will be assigned a number. The recipient of your gift will be the gal who draws the corresponding number out of a hat. This is a new addition this year, so all who attend will bring home a little something special.

In addition, if you would like to participate in the wacky White Elephant Gift Exchange the guidelines are as follows: Wrap the oddest, funniest thing you can find in your house (or buy for under \$10) and be prepared to laugh! As a hint – sometimes it is good to include something desirable within the gift, this way you can sit back and watch the many trades the ladies do in order to get or keep the gift!

Please RSVP by December 7 to Joellen Podoll at (231) 818-0769, jat_22@hotmail.com or Christina Allen at (914) 489-8335, hanker00@hotmail.com.



Activities & Events

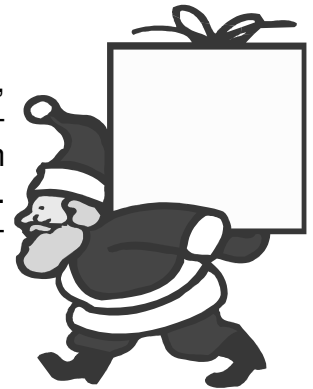
OCS Spouses' Tea

Each time a new OCS class graduates a tea is held for their spouses to celebrate the event. Some spouses are brand-new to the Coast Guard life and others have been around awhile but are new to the officer life. Join us in welcoming them to our "family" at Quarters One on Tuesday, **December 8** at 9:30AM. Please RSVP to Sarah Ferguson at (860) 514-6823 or ferguson.sarah@hotmail.com.

MWR Children's Holiday Party

The MWR sponsored Children's Holiday Party will be held on Friday, **December 11** from 6:00PM – 8:00PM in Leamy Hall. Bring your own camera to take pictures of your child with Santa. RSVP'S are required and can be made by calling MWR at (860) 444-8474/8476 by Monday, December 7. Don't forget to check out the MWR website (www.cgamwr.com) for more up-to-date information. The Party will include:

- *Dinner, beverages & dessert
- *Gift from Santa for children age 10 & under.
- *Entertainment & activity tables
- *Sleigh Rides (weather permitting)



Lunch Bunch

Christmas seems to be coming early this year (or is it just my very full calendar??), so let's meet before the holiday at **Singapore Grill** on Friday, **December 11**, at 11:30AM and enjoy some delicious Asian cuisine. The restaurant is located at 938 Bank Street in New London.

Also, coming in January...It's the new year so come and enjoy a nice juicy steak at the **Longhorn Steakhouse** on Wednesday **January 20**, at 11:30AM. Longhorn is by the Crystal Mall, 850 Hartford Turnpike in Waterford.

Please RSVP for both lunches to Sharnel Duarte 860-326-5405 or sharchar5@yahoo.com.

An Evening with our Spouse—Mirch Masala Cuisine of India

Hope you'll join us for a couples-night on Saturday, **January 9** at 6:30PM for an evening of Indian food at Mirch Masala Cuisine of India in Groton.

We hope to plan couples-nights throughout the rest of the CGSA year in place of our previously advertised International Dinner Club. This way, no one needs to commit to a committee or host in their home - if you're available to join us, come along! Is your spouse away? Come anyway for delicious food and fun conversation. Feel free to suggest other ideas for future get-togethers.

Mirch Masala Cuisine of India is located at 156 Kings Hwy in Groton. <http://www.mirchmasalaus.com/>. Please RSVP by January 4 to Jill Billiau at (860) 391-5601 or at jill@billiau.com.

January General Membership Meeting

Our first meeting of 2010 will be held on Tuesday, **January 12** in the Munro Hall living room at the CGA. Arrive at 6:30 to chat...the meeting will begin at 7pm. Bring along your favorite appetizer to share this month. The room has a kitchen for last-minute warming if needed. See you there!

Club Notes

Do you need a little Sunshine in your life??

We all know that the Sunshine committee provides meals for new moms, but that's not all they can do! Are you in need of some help due to deployment, illness, a geo-bachelor spouse, or move? Do you know a fellow CGSA member who is? Please let us know!

The Sunshine committee can help organize other club members to lend a hand with whatever is needed - someone to watch the kids for a couple hours, help packing or cleaning, or even monetary assistance if something comes up and times get really tough.

Please don't hesitate to contact Allison McSorley, our Sunshine chair, at mcsorley@ct.metrocast.net or (860) 848-3798 if you or someone you know is in need of assistance or if you would like to volunteer for this worthy cause.

Your Input Needed: By-Laws Revision

We have been working on revising the CGSA by-laws for several months, and the changes are finally complete! Per the current by-laws, the changes were presented to members at our November meeting. A vote will be taken on the changes at the meeting in January. If you missed the meeting, please take a minute to peruse the by-laws at <http://www.cgspouses-sect.org/bylaws.html> (click on the link "[November 2009: Review Revised Bylaws Here](#)"). Please note any questions, changes, or additions that you'd like to address and bring them with you to the January meeting.

If you are unable to make the meeting, please forward your input to Christina Allen at hanker00@hotmail.com.

The CGSA congratulates Craig and Christina Allen on the birth of their daughter,



Alexandra Claire Allen.



Alexandra was born Friday, October 16, at 6:35AM, weighing 7 pounds and 3 ounces.

Monthly Care Package Going Retro??

The theme for January's care package, being sent to the CG Cutter ADAK in Bahrain, is **Blast Back to the 80s**. We will include movies, music, games and snacks of the era. If you would like to contribute to the package, please bring your items to the General Membership meeting on Tuesday, January 12, at 7PM. The sponsors for this month's package are Sarah Ferguson and Melissa Brown. Please contact Melissa at jmbrown0806@hotmail.com or (517) 974-4417 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Please note that pork or pork by-products are prohibited in care packages going to the Middle East. Also, no chocolate or items that will melt can be shipped.

Club Notes

Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut General Membership Meeting • November 10, 2009 • Tastings, Mystic, CT

Present: Christy Newell, Meredith Novak, Patricia Pruett, Melissa Brown, Tiffani, Kaminski, Jill Billau, Andrea Krautler, Jennifer Calhoun, Laura Egan

Call to Order: Christy Newell called the meeting to order at 1915.

Report of the Recording Secretary: Laura Egan passed out copies of the minutes for October's meeting. Jill Billau accepted the published minutes and Melissa Brown seconded the motion.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill handed out copies of the November Treasurer's Report. She has received the membership checks and will deposit those along with the money earned at homecoming by Ways & Means. The amount for care packages was adjusted to show \$132.60 has been spent for this year and \$500.00 for last year. Jill is in the process of resolving a payment issue due to the use of Paypal during Parents' Weekend.

Report of the Corresponding Secretary: Melissa checked the mail, but has only received junk mail. She did note that those participating in secret pals can use the CGSA mailbox address as their return address if mailing something to their pal.

Report of the Vice President: Christina Allen was unable to attend. Christy went over the current activities.

November 13: Playdate at Children's Museum, RSVP to Christy

November 18: Lunch Bunch at On the Waterfront, RSVP to Sharnel Duarte

November 26: Turkey Trot, Mystic YMCA, et Christy know if you are attending in order to meet up

December 8: OCS Spouses' Tea, Quarters One, RSVP to Christy or Sarah Ferguson

December 10: Holiday Party, Quarters One, RSVP to Facebook, Joellen Podoll or Christina Allen

January 12: General Membership Meeting, CG Academy

Report of Standing Committees:

Awards & Scholarships: Jill has nothing to report.

Cadet Cakes: Allison McSorley & Megan Bennett were unable to attend the meeting. Nothing new to report.

Historian: Nothing to report

Hospitality/Luncheons & Socials: Joellen was unable to attend.

Membership: Kim Davis was unable to attend. She has received 2 more membership forms. The directory is currently ready to be printed.

Newsletter: Tiffani Kaminski stated the deadline for the December/January double newsletter is November 24.

Sunshine: Christy reported that Allison needs more help for meals this committee. A newsletter article on who the meals are available for was suggested. Also, sign ups for volunteers to make meals will be at the holiday party.

Ways & Means: Marion Gesele & Pat Simpson were not in attendance and have nothing new to report.

Special Committees:

Audit Committee: Melissa provided the audit for October and November on Christina's behalf.

Babysitting: Christy stated that a volunteer is still needed for this committee.

Care Packages: Christy obtained coffee from Starbucks that was purchased by their patrons for military members serving overseas. It will be included in this month's care package. Jennifer Calhoun & Andrea Krautler were in charge of the box for this month entitled, Coffee House. Melissa reported that no box is scheduled for December.

Family Support Fund: Jill will be contacting the 5 groups this fund is connected to in order to update the by-laws. A vote to donate \$500 for the C-130 crash in California was taken at the meeting, all members in attendance approved. A committee of 3 to 4 members will be created to approve future donations. Melissa, Patricia and Laura volunteered to join this committee.

Lunch Bunch: Sharnel was not in attendance. There will be no lunch bunch for December.

MWR Representative: Pat was not able to attend. Christy reported that you can visit www.cgamwr.com to view any upcoming events or special ticket prices.

OCS Representative: Christy stated that typically the wife of the head of the OCS command is in charge of this committee. In the meantime, Sarah Ferguson is volunteering as representative for the upcoming OCS Spouses' Tea. RSVP for this event can be made through Facebook.

Retiree Representative: Nothing to report.

Secret Pals: Melissa will send a clarification email on how to use the new secret pal emails.

Website: Jill has updated the website. She will remove the birthdays and Christy will include it in her President's Corner in the newsletter. The Paypal email will be changed to the Treasurer's email.

International Dinner Club: Jill has only 6 interested members. Due to lack of interest, a couple night will be scheduled.

Old Business:

By-laws revision: Christy passed out copies of the changes with notations. A vote will be take at the next meeting in January.

New Business:

Military Spouse of the Year: Christy stated that you can visit the Military Spouse magazine website to nominate CG spouses deserving of this award.

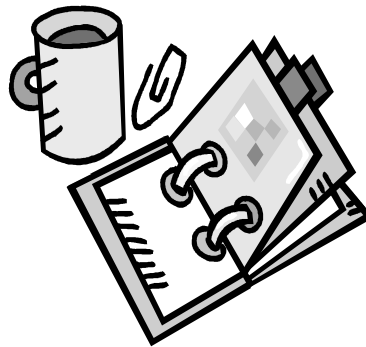
Submarine Officers Spouses Club: Christy was contacted by this organization. Their by-laws state that their club and the CGSA are to meeting during the year.

Announcements: Congratulations to the Allen family on the birth of Alexandra Claire Allen.

President's Corner

I love the holidays, especially in New England. With so many special events, a near-guarantee of snow, and fantastic friends all around, what's not to love? I hope to see each of you at our annual Holiday Party at the beautiful Quarters One. The Burhoes graciously host us in their festive home, and it is always a great chance to take a break from the hustle and bustle of the season and relax with friends. I just hope I don't end up with those frog ornaments this year in the white elephant exchange!

This is also a season for generosity. At our last meeting, it was voted upon that we donate \$500 to the Coast Guard Foundation to benefit the families of the CG-1705 out of AIRSTA Sacramento. With two Academy graduates onboard that flight, this incident is near and dear to many of us. All of our members have helped make donations like this possible through your hard work as volunteers for our fundraisers. Thank you for the gift of your time, as it benefits so much more than just the CGSA.



The new year will be quickly upon us! With a new year come even more new activities for the club. We hope to start game nights and maybe even a monthly couples' night out. We are adding different elements to our meetings to spice them up a bit—I am looking forward to tasting some delicious appetizers in January. If you have an idea for a fun meeting add-on or other event, please let us know! You can always post ideas on our Facebook page and get instant feedback from other CGSA members. We are 48 Fans strong and growing!

Lastly, I'd like to wish a very happy birthday to the following wonderful ladies:

- ◆ Sue Branagan (12/14)
- ◆ Andrea Krautler (12/15)
- ◆ Tori Gimple (12/19)
- ◆ Carolyn Bradley (1/5)
- ◆ Alicia Taylor (1/20)
- ◆ Phyllis Teeson (1/29)

Wishing you Happy Holidays and safe travels,

Christy Newell, President

2008-2009 Leadership Roster

Honorary President

Betsy Burhoe

Sunshine
Ways & Means

Allison McSorley	848-3798
Pat Simpson	739-4033
Marion Gesele	444-8620

Executive Board

President	Christy Newell	287-2282
Vice President	Christina Allen	245-5150
Treasurer	Jill Billiau	391-5601
Recording Secretary	Laura Egan	405-8114
Corresponding Secretary	Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417

Babysitting
Bowling
Care Packages

Special Committees

Volunteer Needed

Janice Norton	437-3671
Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417
Christy Newell	287-2282
Kim Davis	434-7047
Jill Billiau	391-5601
Christina Allen	245-5150
Sharnel Duarte	326-5405
Pat Simpson	739-4033
Christine O'Connor	(401) 823-8707
Sue Branagan	691-1285
Melissa Brown	(517) 974-4417
Jill Billiau	391-5601

Standing Committees

Awards & Scholarships	Jill Billiau	391-5601
Cadet Cakes	Allison McSorley	848-3798
	Megan Bennett	447-3345
Luncheons/Socials/ Hospitality	Joellen Podoll	(231) 818-0769
Membership	Kim Davis	434-7047
News & Views	Tiffani Kaminski	(401) 348-8789
Parliamentarian	Kim Davis	434-7047

Crafts
Family Support Fund
Historian/Publicity
Lunch Bunch
MWR Representative
OCS Representative
Retiree Rep.
Secret Pals
Website

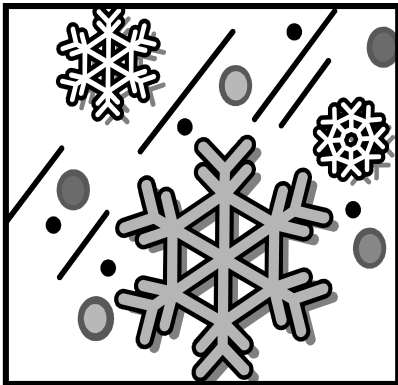
**COAST GUARD SPOUSES' ASSOCIATION OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT**

Coast Guard Spouses' Association
USCGA Chase Hall, Box A-25
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

First Class Postage

Be sure to add info@cgsouples-sect.org to your email address book to ensure that all CGSA emails and newsletters always go straight to your inbox.

Mark Your Calendar!



OCS Spouses Tea § December 8
Holiday Party § December 10
MWR Children's Holiday Party § December 11
Lunch Bunch § December 11
Couples Night Mirch Masala § January 9
General Membership Meeting § January 12
Lunch Bunch § January 20

Having trouble keeping up with all of our events? Want to hear about last-minute additions or changes to our schedule, or give your input on our event planning? **Become a Fan of CSGSA on Facebook!** Just sign in to Facebook (or visit www.facebook.com and create a free account) and search "Coast Guard Spouses' Association of Southeastern Connecticut."