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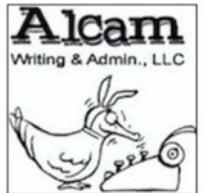
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More of the Best of the Valley

October 9, 2017

Griffin Hospital social worker an inspiration to many

Outstanding women win plaudits for dedication to Valley community

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - Someone who is always there for her friends.

That's the best way to describe Donna Hayes of Derby. She is one of this year's six Women Making a Difference in the Valley awardees, and I am happy to know her personally.

I'm certain the same quality can also describe the other five dedicated, hard-working women who were recognized! The prestigious award given by the Valley Women's Health Initiative honors women's commitments to the community.

I attended Thursday's 17th annual awards luncheon at the Inn at Villa Bianca to support Donna, an oncology social worker at Griffin Hospital in Derby. She always unselfishly gives of herself to all who cross her path, including myself.

Although I didn't know Donna in 2011 while I was undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments at The Center for Cancer Care at Griffin Hospital, I met her when she became co-facilitator of the Circle of Friends, a support group for breast cancer survivors. Donna is also a breast cancer survivor, as is co-facilitator Joyce Grohe.

Words cannot express how much I appreciate the dedication and empathy they show to everyone in our group.

In addition to Donna, I want to congratulate awardees Jodi Dawley of Shelton, Tammy Link of Ansonia, Sheryl Riley of Seymour, Karen Spargo of Seymour, and Dawn Supranovich of Seymour.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Women's Health Initiative in conjunction with Griffin Hospital in Derby, The Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital, and Bigelow Tea of Fairfield.



The Women's Health Initiative is co-chaired by Kate Cosgrove of Oxford and Dr. Stephanie Wain of Griffin Hospital. It is comprised of members of the community working toward a common goal of addressing and improving women's breast health issues.

Committee members include Darlene Breving of Oxford; Cary Carpino of Derby; Dolores Chew of Beacon Falls; Christine Cooper of Seymour; Karen T. Cusick of Woodbridge; Dorothy Gandy of Naugatuck; Antonietta Hallet of Southbury; Elizabeth Johnson of Oxford; Lisa Kechjian of Derby; Peggy Marlowe of Hamden; Francis Michaud of Ansonia; Patricia Tarasovic of Oxford; and Nancy Valentine of Ansonia.

Last year The Valley Goes Pink raised \$100,000 for The Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital.



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Shelton resident stars in 'I Hate Hamlet' at Center Stage

Shelton resident John Corrado is starring in Center Stage Theatre's production of "I Hate Hamlet" that opened Friday at the Richard O. Belden Cultural Center, 54 Grove St.

Corrado plays television star Andrew Rally who just moved to Manhattan to start rehearsals for his New York debut as Hamlet. There's only one problem - he hates Hamlet - and fears the epic role. When the ghost of John Barrymore shows up to help him prepare for the role, he's in for the ride of his life.

"The production is great fun. You don't have to know anything at all about 'Hamlet' to enjoy it. It's a hilarious play about a person who has been put into an uncomfortable situation and being convinced to follow through by a ghost!" Corrado said with a laugh.

A veteran of Center Stage, Corrado started performing at the local theater as a seventh grader appear in Neil Simon's *Lost in Yonkers*. Since then he appeared in numerous productions for Center Stage including Javert in *Les Miserables*.

More recently he played roles including Kevin in last year's *In the Heights* [Youth CONNECTION](#) production.



"I grew up at Center Stage," said Corrado. "I began my career in theater when I was in Center Stage's theater camp, and never looked back. Center Stage is an awesome community theater, and I remain committed to its mission to provide quality, affordable theater in the region."

Corrado is a graduate of St. Joseph High School in Trumbull and Manhattan College. A Financial Planner with Barnum Financial Group, he is active in his community, serving on the Board of Directors for Center Stage Theatre and The Foundation for Life.

"John is a key figure in our Center Stage community," said Artistic Director Gary Scarpa. "It has been very gratifying for us to see John's grow through the years. His talent was evident when he was a child. As a teenager, he was someone who was not only a performer, but volunteered behind the scenes."

"Today, he is an involved and important contributing member to our board of directors." *I Hate Hamlet* plays at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, through Oct. 22, and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 8, 15, and 22, and at 7 p.m. on Oct. 19.

For tickets call 203-225-6079 or click [Here](#).

Center Stage Theatre, Inc. is a non-profit, 501-(c)3 organization founded in 2005.

Center Stage's purpose is to enhance the cultural environment within its community; to present high quality theatrical productions at affordable prices; to encourage growth and education through the performing arts; and to provide a means for interested adults, teens and children to experience and participate in various aspects of live theater.

Learn more at centerstageshelton.org