

Night of 'Wine, Women, Wisdom' in Westport

By **MICHELLE TOOKER**
Hour Correspondent

Area women are invited to the Westport Country Playhouse from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. March 3 for a night of sharing, embracing and spreading wisdom as part of "Wine, Women and Wisdom."

Produced by Westport-based public relations boutique Connections, the event will feature a light catered dinner, casual atmosphere, three notable speakers and the opportunity to make new friends.

Robin Scarella, owner of Connections, created this event so women can experience an empowering evening with peers. She defines wisdom as "being open to hearing all different kinds of people speak," and with that belief, the evening will be full of interesting discussions on topics pertinent to all females.

"Women need to come together and enjoy each other," she said, noting that "connecting on a friendship basis is being lost."

Scarella came to fully appreciate the value of solid friendships after battling a number of serious health issues. When friends quickly offered their support, she not only realized the importance of their assistance, but also that it is okay to ask for help — something many women are scared to do. So with that knowledge, her hope for "Wine, Women and Wisdom" is that the participants will not simply network, but also form new friendships, feel inspired to make changes, laugh and learn.

Lectures from three speakers are the night's focal point. *New York Times* best-selling author Jane Green will discuss the inspiration behind her novels and why women always get a second chance. Anne Keefe, co-artistic director at the Westport Country Playhouse, will explain how her skills as a stage manager helped expand and solidify her current career. Keynote speaker, Dr. Jerry Rosenthal, a Fairfield, Connecticut board certified plastic surgeon and Chief of Plastic Surgery at Bridgeport Hospital, will discuss the internal benefits of natural-looking cosmetic surgery.

As an artist and surgeon, Rosenthal blends his creative talents with his extensive knowledge of science to individualize each patient's results. For him, plastic surgery is an art form, and as with his sculpting, poetry, photography and other creative endeavors, he does not stop until he is satisfied with his work. His lecture will help women explore the

benefits and downfalls of surgery, understand why cosmetic alteration is desired and what the realistic outcomes will be.

"Plastic surgery is not an end-all, but it allows you to put your best foot forward," Rosenthal said. For example, "natural-looking eye surgery will make someone look more awake."

Plastic surgery may also improve psychological function and allow an individual to exude more confidence, and therefore give a better first impression, he said.

Rosenthal involved himself with this event to resolve misconceptions about cosmetic surgery, and explain its positive psychological effects. He said he was also attracted to the evening's informal, lighthearted structure coupled with the discussion of important topics, which will give attendees valuable information.

As for fare, spirits hail from Castle Wine and Spirits and the one-hour light dinner will feature hot and cold food, hors d'oeuvres and stationary items prepared by Collyer Catering.

"Ninety-nine percent of what we serve is made by hand, which is very unique," said cofounder Reed Collyer.

Getting involved with "Wine, Women and Wisdom" was an easy decision, she said, because Scarella's energy and enthusiasm make it impossible that the event will be anything but successful.

Additional support for the event comes from Patriot National Bank, Go Figure Studio, Riverside Club and Spa, Bob Lebonson and AG Edwards. The Inn at National Hall is providing a raffle prize for two nights' stay, and AGI-Dermatics, leaders in research for DNA repair of skin, will hand-out free samples their product Remergent, which reverses skin cell dysfunction and protects against skin cancer.

A portion of the night's proceeds will benefit The Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center, which serves women throughout Connecticut.

Transcend, transform and triumph are the themes of the night, and participants are sure to do all three while connecting with new people and shedding preconceived notions based on social status and appearances.

Tickets are available at the door for \$40. The event is located in the Sheffer Rehearsal Hall at the Westport Country Playhouse, 25 Powers Court, Westport. Contact Connections at 256-2320 for more information.



Event Details

Monday, March 3
5:30-8:30pm

Sheffer Rehearsal Hall at the
Westport Country Playhouse
25 Powers Court, Westport,
CT

\$35 in advance

\$30 in advance for groups of
four

\$40 at the door

Please call Connections at
203-256-2320, email at
connectionswestport@yahoo.com
to provide credit card
information and zip code, or
you can mail a check to
Connections, 1465 Post Road,
Westport, CT 06880 to make
your reservation.

Raffle Item: A Two Night Stay At The Inn At National Hall

Tickets: \$5 or four for \$15
Simply indicate how many
tickets you would like when
purchasing admission tickets.
Complete proceeds of the
raffle will go to the Norma
Pfriem Breast Care Center
Winner will be contacted by
email the day after the event

Value of item: \$700

Wine, Women and Wisdom 2008

Transcend, Transform, Triumph: Look Your Best, Live Your Best

A evening featuring Dr. Jeffrey Rosenthal, Board Certified Plastic Surgeon, addressing cosmetic surgery as an art form that allows you to feel good about yourself by either restoring or rejuvenating a natural healthy appearance, Anne Keefe, Co-Artistic Director at the Westport Country Playhouse, speaking about how her skill set as a stage manager equipped her with the ability to expand her career, and Jane Green, New York Times Bestselling Author, discussing her latest bestseller, the inspiration behind her novels, and why she believes it's never too late for the women in her books to have a second chance.

Wine, Women and Wisdom, produced by Connections, LLC, invites you to an evening with fabulous wine, gourmet light fare and wisdom for women. The three powerful speakers are sure to inspire you, inform you, make you laugh and will create an unforgettable evening.

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be benefiting The Norma F. Pfriem Breast Care Center, with an office at 111 Beach Road, Fairfield and Bridgeport Hospital. The center helps to provide highly advanced care and personalized treatment with dignity, privacy and warmth in a serene, comfortable and totally professional setting, and the Westport Country Playhouse.

Our empowering speakers for this upcoming evening include:

Anne Keefe: Co-Artistic Director

Anne served as associate artistic director for Westport Country Playhouse from 2000-2006 with Joanne Woodward. She was originally Co-Chair of the Artistic Advisory Council, with Ms. Woodward. In the fall of 2007 she served as assistant director to Gregory Boyd on the Hartford Stage production of *Our Town* with Hal Holbrook. Formerly she stage-managed both at the Long Wharf

Theatre (27 years) and at The McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey. Ms. Keefe also serves on the Advisory Board of the Sono Ballet, Norwalk, and has taught the third year stage managers at the Yale School of Drama. She was awarded the Del Hughes Award for Lifetime Achievement by the Stage Managers' Association.

Dr. Jeffrey S. Rosenthal: Board Certified Plastic Surgeon and Chief of Plastic Surgery at Bridgeport Hospital

Dr. Rosenthal has been in private practice for 23 years. He specializes in cosmetic surgery which results in a natural-looking appearance that can only be accomplished by combining art and science. He uses his creativity and imagination to achieve balance and harmony, be it as a surgeon, artist, poet, writer, sculptor, illustrator or inventor.

Dr. Rosenthal is the Chairperson for a national medical book review service. His reviews of plastic surgery texts and writing reach 300,000 subscribers and medical librarians in the country. He has lectured both nationally and internationally on plastic surgery topics and has had numerous articles written about his art in combination with cosmetic surgery. Likewise, these subjects have been discussed during appearances and interviews on both radio and television. To learn more about Dr. Rosenthal, please visit his website at www.artofplasticsurgery.com or call 203-335-3223

Jane Green: New York Times Best Selling Author

Jane Green was a journalist for many years before writing *Straight Talking* in 1995, which landed her straight onto the bestseller lists. One of the founders of the movement known as chick lit, Jane has written nine novels, all of which have been New York Times and London Times bestsellers. Winner of a Cosmopolitan Fun Fearless Fiction award in 2007, *Jemima J* is being made into a movie for Lifetime. Jane's tenth novel, *The Beach House*, will be published this June. A native Londoner, Jane now lives in Connecticut with her partner, four children, and many animals. To learn more visit www.janegreen.com

Special Thanks To:

Collyer Catering LLC- a full service, off premise catering company based in Westport, CT. In business since 2000, this husband and wife team focuses on handmade foods, original menus, and unsurpassed attention to detail. Mark, a graduate of Johnson and Wales Culinary School has had a career ranging from restaurants

to corporate catering for the likes of the Diamondbacks and Phoenix Suns luxury suites in Arizona. For more information visit www.collyercatering.com

AGIDermatics- Remergent is formulated by AGI Dermatics, the biopharmaceutical laboratory that has led the research of DNA repair of the skin for more than 20 years. Founded by Daniel B. Yarosh, PhD, a molecular biologist with a specialty in gene repair, AGI specializes in skin photobiology, dedicating research and development to DNA repair, solar impact on the immune system and cell-signaling in skin. Developed to fill critical voids in current skincare therapies, Remergent products activate self-healing, reverse skin cell dysfunction, and maximize results for long term gain through prevention, repair and restoration. For more information visit www.agiderm.com or www.remurgent.com.

Castle Wine and Spirits in Westport, CT- Wine generously donated by Chris Vellozzi. Look for their new website coming soon at www.castlewineandspirits.com or call 203-259-5948

Inn at National Hall- Built in 1873 and transformed into a luxury hotel in 1993, The Inn at National Hall was selected for inclusion in The National Register of Historic places in 1994, just one year after its opening. The Inn has earned the coveted AAA 4 diamond award since 2001. To learn more visit www.innatnationalhall.com

The Riverside Club and Spa- located on the Saugatuck River in Westport, CT, the facility offers luxury, the utmost convenience, and, above all, a highly individualized program that will yield the true measure of success: a life lived well in every way. Membership not required to experience the magnificent and rejuvenating spa services, including new body treatments. Watch for the fabulous expansion to accommodate groups and bridal parties. To learn more visit www.riversideclubusa.com

Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$30 in advance for groups of four, and \$40 at the door.

Please call Connections at 203-256-2320, email at connectionswestport@yahoo.com or you can mail a check to Connections, 1465 Post Road, Westport, CT 06880 to make your reservation. All major credit cards accepted.