

See Valley Artists at their creative best on Page 2!

Going to the Dogs for a Great Cause

By Patricia Villers
The Valley-Voice Ct

SEYMOUR - Resident Dorie Poeta’s new business is going to the dogs.
Poeta, mother of the late Nina Poeta, launched a doggie treat business last month out of her kitchen.
Nina, 17, died on Nov. 1, 2014 after battling an inoperable brain tumor.
She was a senior at Seymour High School, where she was an honor student and a cheerleader.



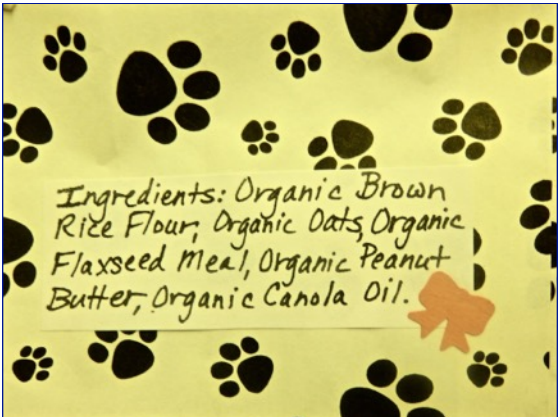
Nina Poeta with Bella

After her friend, Elizabeth Anderson Pisano, opened Lizzie’s Corner Home Consignment and Gifts at 19 Bank St. in January Poeta started making the treats for sale exclusively at Pisano’s



Dorie Poeta

She may have been small in stature, but Dorie Poeta said Nina “lit up a room” with her smile and winning personality.
Dorie Poeta said she originally started making organic dog biscuits for the family’s three canines - Bella, Ana, and Elsa.
“They gave the treats their Poeta pup paw prints of approval,” she said.



The large-size 'Happy Dog' biscuits are shaped like bones; the smaller 'Puppy Love' treats are heart-shaped.
They are packed in resealable bags and priced at \$7.50 a bag. Pisano said several customers have paid with \$10 bills but told her to keep the change to go toward the scholarship fund.



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Oxford woman follows dream, launches Dajana Design

By Patricia Villers
The Valley-Voice CT



Oxford resident Dajana Damjanovich has embarked on her dream venture by launching Dajana Design. She is creating a variety of jewelry pieces for all tastes, and is also taking custom orders.

Damjanovich has an extensive background in retail and design and for the past two years she considered starting her own business.

It was not until the death of her father, Mitar “Mike” Damjanovich in November that she decided it was time to launch her jewelry-crafting venture.

Damjanovich found a niche as a volunteer with [Seymour Pink, Inc.](#) soon after the nonprofit opened a gift shop in September, 2014 at 3 Franklin St, Seymour.

All of the profits from sales at the shop benefit Seymour Pink, a community’s fight against breast cancer.

Damjanovich said since she is a Seymour Pink board member she will not be selling her jewelry at the shop, because it would be considered a conflict of interest.

However, she said will donate 20 percent of the sales of a pink awareness charm bracelet she has created to Seymour Pink.

Damjanovich is especially excited about creating custom order jewelry for weddings and other special events.

She is working on pieces for a September wedding and said she feels honored to be a part of the bride’s special day.

You can read all about her life story and her new venture on her website, [Dajana Design](#).



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“Imagine” art exhibition at the Valley Arts Council’s E Street Gallery

DERBY - Imagine that.

More than 60 people braved the ice and snow recently to attend the opening reception for the “Imagine” art exhibition at the Valley Arts Council’s E Street Gallery.

Valley Arts Council President Rich DiCarlo said he was pleased with the turnout despite the winter weather. The [gallery](#) is at 35 Elizabeth St.

Artwork ranges from paintings to photographs to sculptures, and they are all feature a little or a lot of whimsy.

The show will be up through March 1.

DiCarlo said, “A good time was had by all, snacking on pizza and sipping soda and wine, chatting about all things art until the wee hours.”

Are you an artist who is interested in becoming a member of the Valley Arts Council?

Call 203-516-0822 or visit www.valleyartscouncil.org for more information.



Above and Right: Artwork at the ‘Imagine’ art exhibit by mixed-media artist George Pudimat of Derby



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