

Arthur Murray to get his day in Greenwich April 4

Tuesday, April 2, 2013 *by:* Christina Hennessy

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Above, dancers perfect their steps at the Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich. By official proclamation, April 4 will be Arthur Murray Day in Greenwich

Last year's [100th anniversary of Arthur Murray's](#) entry into the world [of dance instruction](#) spun out multiple celebrations throughout the year, including a worldwide dance party that marked his birthday, which falls on April 4.

This year in Greenwich, it will be a quieter, but no less festive celebration of the man who brought dance into the lives of many people. Before he died in 1991, at the age of 95, Murray had built up the largest chain of dance studios in the world, which includes several locations throughout Fairfield County.

On the anniversary Murray's birthday this year, the [Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich](#) will join First Selectman Peter Tesei in celebrating "Arthur Murray Day," which will become official with the reading of the proclamation at a ceremony [at 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall](#).

Christine Georgopulo, president and owner of the Greenwich dance studio, said she is planning to have some dancers at the event, which is scheduled to be held outdoors, and has planned festivities at the studio located on Lewis Street.

Georgopulo, who also is a Greenwich resident, [switched gears two years ago and opened the studio](#), after a 30-year career in real estate development. She said she was spurred to do this based on her experience of becoming a competitive dancer.

"I started as a student ... and fell in love with it," she said. She began dancing in earnest about four years ago.

"I always wanted to be a dancer and an entertainer, but that didn't pan out," she said, laughing. "This way, I have an opportunity to have a little piece of that."

In addition to instruction, she said she has enjoyed community outreach programs, including a class for cancer patients at Greenwich Hospital. Georgopulo said it's been a busy time at the studio. She and a couple of her instructors are participating in Curtain Call of [Stamford's Dancing with the Stars fundraising event](#) on May 18 and her dance studio will host a bridal event on April 28.

She said for many, the process of learning about dance and sticking with it can be transformative, not to mention stress-reducing. She said there are other benefits, as well. For instance, she said it can help bolster social skills and ensure you will not be sitting on the sidelines when it comes to weddings, cruises or fundraising galas.

"It put me in the best shape of my life," she said. "It was just a soul-changing experience. You have to be 100 percent present."

Greenwich To Declare Thursday 'Arthur Murray Day'

by Eric Gendron News 4 hours ago [Comment](#)



Thursday will be declared "Arthur Murray Day" in Greenwich. Photo Credit: *Courtesy of Arthur Murray Dance Studios*

GREENWICH, Conn. -- A legendary dance instructor will be honored in Greenwich when First Selectman Peter Tesei declares Thursday "Arthur Murray Day" in town.

Tesei will lead a ceremony outside Town Hall at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday to honor the late Murray, founder of the biggest chain of dance studios in the country.

The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich is known for teaching ballroom dancing in Fairfield and Westchester counties.

Members of the Grande Ballroom will give a special performance of various dances such as the foxtrot, salsa, swing and rumba following the proclamation.

"We are thrilled to continue the legacy of Arthur Murray at the Grand Ballroom of Greenwich and proud to be able to honor his name and carry on his legacy with the participation of the town of Greenwich with 'Arthur Murray Day,'" Grande Ballroom president and owner Christine Georgopulo said in a statement.

Arthur Murray was born in 1895 and began giving dance lessons in New York City at age 17. His studio franchise opened in 1938.

"Arthur Murray was a trendsetter," Georgopulo said in a statement. "The Grande Ballroom of Greenwich is charting a bold new course for the future by honoring the traditions of dance, but combining them with the needs of those running in today's on-the-go lifestyle and the demands it places on our bodies, minds and spirits. Dance, for us, is more than just entertainment."

The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich is located at 6 Lewis Street, in the downtown.



ARTHUR MURRAY GRANDE BALLROOM OF GREENWICH CELEBRATES 'ARTHUR MURRAY DAY' TO HONOR DANCE PIONEER AND FOUNDER OF THE SECOND LONGEST-RUNNING U.S. FRANCHISE

Thursday, April 04, 2013, 09:00am - 11:00pm

Contact: Frank Tortorici (908) 875-8908 frank.tortorici@verizon.net

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GREENWICH, CT, March 11, 2013 -- The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich, CT announced today that it is planning a day of dancing and other festivities to mark April 4 as "Arthur Murray Day," the birthday of the man who founded one of the longest-running U.S. franchises.

Murray lived from 1895 to 1991; his method continues to teach the world to dance, bringing joy and changing lives for the tens of thousands of people. Arthur Murray Dance is the second oldest continually running franchise in this country's history, second only to the hotel/restaurant chain started by Mr. Murray's best friend, Howard Johnson.

The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich is known across Fairfield County and Upper Westchester for promoting movement and dance as a fun and social way to be healthy and vibrant. The Ballroom will mark the event with a special performance of popular dances, including the foxtrot, salsa, swing, and rumba. The dancing will follow the proclamation reading.

Greenwich First Selectman, Peter Tesei, will issue the Arthur Murray Day Proclamation to Christine Georgopulo, president and owner of the Grande Ballroom outside Town Hall at 12:30 pm; it will read: "Since Arthur Murray Dance Studio classes have helped generations of dancers of every skill level to find their footing... (and Murray) became the most successful instructor of all time, his studios have trained thousands and we're looking forward to much more success in the years to come."

"We are thrilled to continue the legacy of Arthur Murray at the Grand Ballroom of Greenwich and proud to be able to honor his name and carry on his legacy with the participation of the town of Greenwich with 'Arthur Murray Day'," Georgopulo says.

The Grande Ballroom of Greenwich, extends the Arthur Murray legacy by adhering to Georgopulo's philosophy that dance should be used to teach, grow, convene and heal; the Grande Ballroom has programs for singles, couples, weddings, kids, seniors and corporate team building.

"We have been a leader in health and wellness for the last 100 years," Georgopulo says. "Ballroom dancing has endless benefits – it is great exercise, tones muscles, keeps hearts healthy, relieves stress, and the mind/body connection keeps the spirit young and has been proven to stave off Alzheimer's disease.

"Most importantly dancing is a wonderful social activity that increases confidence and poise for all ages and can be applied and enjoyed by everyone, everywhere – unlike other forms of exercise and hobbies."

The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich donates dance programs and performs at every charitable event by request, has a free group class for breast cancer and other cancer patients of Greenwich Hospital and their support systems; is an advocate for Breast Cancer Alliance of Greenwich, and conducted a salsa warm-up for 5,000 "Making Strides" walkers at Sherwood Island.

"Arthur Murray was a trendsetter," Georgopulo says, "and the Grande Ballroom of Greenwich is charting a bold new course for the future by honoring the traditions of dance, but combining them with the needs of those running in today's on-the-go lifestyle and the demands it places on our bodies, minds and spirits. Dance, for us, is more than just entertainment."

The Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich, CT is located at 6 Lewis Street, in downtown Greenwich. The studio is staffed with champion dancers and hosts talented and aspiring students of all levels from around Fairfield County and Upper Westchester, has been completely restored and redecorated in the Regency period style and is truly a grand ballroom.

Follow Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich on Twitter @GrandeBallroom and on Facebook at Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich.

<https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/ArthurMurrayBallroom?fref=ts>

Arthur Murray Grande Ballroom of Greenwich Celebrates "Arthur Murray Day"

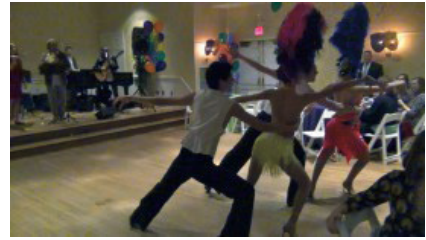
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April

[Tomorrow, April 4, 2013](#), 9:00 am

[Greenwich Town Hall, 101 Field Point Rd, Greenwich, CT](#) | [Get Directions »](#)

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