Spring 2025
Free Friday Brown Bag Lunch & Learn Descriptions

No Registration Required - Open to members only, except for the Open House
All Programs are In-Person, East Campus Forum Auditorium
12:15 pm - Cookies, tea and coffee
1:00 pm – Presentation

March 7 - Entertainers Extraordinaire Chris Coogan and Michele Grace
Open House – All are invited - Bring a friend!

Michele, a vocalist, is also known for her wit and skill as an actress. Chris is known for his prowess at the piano. Together they perform a program of favorite songs and Broadway show tunes, in their own creative style that has made them so popular.

Michele Grace is a professional singer, actor, playwright, teacher, voice-over talent, vocal coach and music entrepreneur who has performed all over the US and abroad. She played the role of Shirley with Tim Daly in the play "The Fifth of July," opened for Bobby Short at The Carlyle in New York City, and performed at Madison Square Garden. As vocal coach, teacher and director, she served as a Musical Theatre instructor at Connecticut's prestigious Regional Center for the Arts and taught at New York's renowned theatrical HB Studios. Michele has written children's musicals performed at Connecticut's Polka Dot Playhouse and the famous Edinburgh International Festival in Scotland. She has written and directed original musical productions for Connecticut Playmakers. Currently, she performs with Chris Coogan and as a featured vocalist with the Fairfield Counts Big Band.

Chris Coogan, winner of the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, has recorded eight CD's of his original jazz and gospel music. He has performed at Manhattan's Blue Note and Montreaux Jazz Festival and shared the spotlight with musical legends including Bette Midler, Donna Summer, Stevie Van Zant and Mavis Staples. Chris founded and directs the Good News Gospel Choir and performs regularly at churches, festivals and fundraisers, and teaches jazz piano. "I see myself as a catalyst who uses the medium of music to bring people together."