

# Staying inTouch

Summer 2010

## Annual meeting gets down to business (with lots of fun!)

About 130 members, friends, and guests had a blast at the third *Staying Put* Annual Meeting in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church. President **Tom Ferguson** thanked donors who have contributed \$192,000 toward our fundraising goal of \$250,000. He also thanked members, volunteers, and the Board saying, "I'm proud to be associated with such a fine group of people."

Tom also encouraged members to invite friends to join *Staying Put*. "We're here for everyone," he said, "and assistance is available for anyone who has financial limitations."

Executive Director **Jane Nyce** recognized the more than 100 volunteers who have helped fulfill more than 600 requests and/or referrals of services for members already this year.

**Dr. David Brown** and Vice President **Judy Bentley** spoke followed by **The Darien Senior**



Looking over the facts and figures are **Vona** and **Jim Bach**.



**Songsters** (above) in festive boaters who sang some oldies-but-goodies. Refreshments, friendship, and fun filled the afternoon.

## Staying Put receives great grant

*Staying Put* has received a \$48,560 grant renewal from the Barbara Benton Davis Fund of the Fairfield County Community Foundation, the largest foundation grant ever awarded to *Staying Put*. The Foundation also offered a \$10,000 challenge grant to support special memberships for those with significant financial limitations.

The challenge grant is to be matched with individual gifts of \$1000 and higher. "We are pleased to support *Staying Put* and are very impressed with the organization's growth and development," stated **Karen R. Brown**, Vice President of Foundation Programs.

*"One of the best decisions I ever made was joining Staying Put."* **Trudi Yeager**

## Keeping up with *Staying Put*

With newspaper space at a premium these days, watch for our news in these other media, too.

- **New Canaan Advertiser:** [NCAdvertiser.com](http://NCAdvertiser.com).
- **New Canaan News:** [newcanaannews.com](http://newcanaannews.com)
- **New Canaan Patch:** a fast-growing local news and information website that gives us regular coverage: [newcanaan.patch.com](http://newcanaan.patch.com). Enter *Staying Put* in the Search box.
- ***Staying Put* web site:** [www.Stayingputnc.org](http://www.Stayingputnc.org). Visit our own site for the latest news, events, and slide shows of programs such as "Fall Prevention" and "Home Adaptation." Look under Resources for Members.
- **New Canaan Channel 79:** TV channel show announcements and some of our lectures.

## 3 cheers for this volunteer!



*Staying Put* Board Member **Jim Hollyday** recently received the "Outstanding Established Senior Volunteer" Award from the Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County. Shown left with **Roberta Eichler**, Executive Director of the Center, Jim was recognized for his outstanding organization of rides for *Staying Put* members as well as his Board contributions.

## Let's make a date

### Picnic Lunch and Tour of Garden

Tues., June 8, noon

Home of Volunteers Sally and Kim Campbell.

### "Keep Your Feet Fit" in Healthy Aging Series

Friday, June 11, noon. Lapham dining room.

Podiatrist **Dr. Andrew Rice** of Fairfield Co. Foot Surgeons will speak on keeping your feet working to their maximum potential and answer questions.

Dinner, TBD

Tues., June 15, 5:30 pm

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Theater: "Henri IV"

Thurs., June 17, Preview 7:30, show 7:45.

NC Summer Theater Tent at Waveny. Free.

### Saugatuck Picnic Lunch

Tues., June 22, noon. Details to follow.

## We're getting jazzy June 27

Have you reserved your spot for the "Jazz 'Til Sunset" fundraising party? It's **Sunday, June 27, 5-8 pm** at the home of **John and Tanis Erdmann**, 143 Rosebrook Road.

The Ragtime Evolution Quartet will take you on a toe-tapping trip through the Golden Age of American Music while you relax out of doors or under the tent. A catered picnic supper will feature 10 mouth-watering choices of "Super Duper Weenies" plus veggie burgers, salads, beverages, and desserts.

Costs have been underwritten so all proceeds go to *Staying Put*. Bring your friends! Reservations are required. Tickets are \$50 each. Send a check or pay in person at our office.

### "Cruise to Nowhere"

Wed., July 7, 5-7 pm. Greenwich Ferry. \$8.

### Theater: "Big River" Huck Finn Musical

Wed., July 14, Preview 7:30, show 7:45.

NC Summer Theater Tent at Waveny. Tkt. TBD

### "Waveny Geriatric Evaluations" Healthy Aging

Thurs., July 15, 3 pm. Lapham Center.

Geriatrician **Dr. Andrea Schaffner** discusses what an assessment is & benefits of getting one.

Dinner TBD. Tues., July 20

### Bluefish Baseball Game

Sun., July 25, 2 pm. Bridgeport.

### Woodway Beach Club Picnic Dinner

Tues., Aug 10, 5-7:30 pm

Theater: "I do, I do"

Wed., Aug 18, 2 pm

Westport Country Playhouse. Ticket \$15.

## What do you know about healthy aging? Find out here

This month members took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> of our 9-part series on Healthy Aging. They found out all about balance and dizziness, two of the top medical issues for people as they age, presented by **Dr. Robert Weiss**, Director of the Hearing and Balance Center of Fairfield County. The series is co-sponsored by *Staying Put* with the Lapham Center, Waveny Care Center, and the YMCA.

The series continues in June and July (see calendar on left), resuming in September with specialists in vision care and urology-gynecology. All events are free and open to the public. Special thanks go to our co-sponsors and participants for their very much appreciated time and effort.

## Spectacular show of talent

More than 48 contributors created a spectacular show of 86 paintings, sculpture, photography, needlework, and collections at the recent Creative Endeavor Show sponsored by *Staying Put* and the St. Frances Fellowship of St. Mark's Church.

"The members are so creative," said **Bev Greenberg**. Her husband **Syd** added, "I wanted the show to last longer so that more people could appreciate all this talent." The Committee included co-chairs **Jeannie Hart** and **Gloria Major-Brown**, **Ro Bassett**, **Eloise Killeffer**, **Judy Bentley**, **Joy Luke**, **Brenda Kennedy**, and **Barbara Wood**.



**Ro Bassett** with her paintings at the Creative Endeavor Show.

## Volunteers rally in face of storm

On March 13, a storm with 70 mph winds ripped through town leaving 70% of our residents, including the *Staying Put* office, without power. But we were by no means powerless, thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers.

"We were very busy, even without our phones and computer," said Executive Director **Jane Nyce**. "We were carrying firewood, opening flues (sometimes after the fact), taking members to warm up at the shelter, and searching door-to-door to check on frailer members.

"At the same time volunteers took water and/or food to those staying at home, usually to care for pets, and we were busy pumping basements. Until power was restored, volunteers used their cell phones to check voice mail messages every 15 minutes. We had more than 40 phone calls on one day alone, some just members letting us know about other members."

## If it should happen again...

In the event of another weather emergency here's how you can help us help you:

- Call us or send an email with your cell phone number even if you don't use it now.
- We would love to know what neighbor you turn to if you need to leave your home.
- Do you know how to make sure your sump pump is working?
- Do you know how to check your generator? (You should turn it on every month.)
- Do you know how to make sure you have enough gasoline and propane for the generator?
- Do you know how to open your flue?

Let's not just assume it couldn't happen again!

*"Anyone who thinks they don't need to belong to Staying Put is crazy. Staying Put really supports you and adds spice to your life."* **Jane Sweet**

## “Read with a box of tissues!”

Member **Dinny Lawrence** recommends "Modoc: the true story of the greatest elephant that ever lived" by Ralph Helfer. 'It's a fabulous book for animal lovers,' she told us. "It says to read with a box of tissues and they're right." The book is available at the New Canaan Library.



Members got a hands-on experience at the "History of Canaan Parish and the Revolutionary War" talk with **Jim Bach** co-sponsored by *Staying Put* and the New Canaan Historical Society. Holding a revolutionary era musket are from left: **Ken Jayne** (kneeling), **Jim Bach**, **Mike** and **Kip Farrell**, **Ann Andresen**, **Muriel Killbride**, and **Diana Baker**.


## Board elects new members

The Board of *Staying Put* recently elected new members **Lee Barnes**, co-chair of Community Partners, an affiliate of the Harvard Business School Club of Connecticut, which conducts pro bono consulting projects for non-profits, and **Kit Devereaux**, a current member of the Town Council, Board of the League of Women Voters, and Advisory Boards of the New Canaan Library and Spencer's Run Dog Park.

President **Tom Ferguson** praised outgoing Board members **Eleanor O'Neill** and **Maru Brown** for their extraordinary service as founding board members since 2007.

A special thanks to reporter **Gloria Major-Brown**, **Louise Harris**, and photographers **Al Knaus**, **Arthur Congdon** and **Syd Greenberg** for this issue,

*Staying in Touch* is published by *Staying Put in New Canaan*, a private, nonprofit corporation to help New Canaan residents live full lives in their own homes as they grow older. Editor **Lois Sandberg**.

Staying Put IN  New Canaan

*Living lives to the  
fullest at home  
in New Canaan*

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New Canaan  
Connecticut 06840

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