

# Staying inTouch

Winter 2010

## President thanks donors and volunteers for annual appeal

Thanks to our hard working volunteers and generous supporters, early results of our second annual fundraising appeal are impressive. One particularly important measure is that we had 135 new donors accounting for 58% of our early contributions.

“We extend a hearty thanks to all of our contributors,” said President **Tom Ferguson**. “Your gifts help us continue to link our seniors to the resources they need to stay in their own homes in town safely and independently.”

“We look forward to meeting our new donors,” Tom continued, “and inviting them, along with our current donors, to become even more actively involved in *Staying Put*.”

As of December 3, we had reached \$81,559 towards our goal of \$250,000. Close to half of this amount will go to current operations and the balance will go toward building our capital.

Tom reminded supporters that for *Staying Put* to maintain affordable dues and to provide ‘scholarships’ for those with financial hardships we must rely on donor generosity to fill the 60% gap between dues income and expenses.

You can still make a contribution by returning the envelope you received in the mail, by calling the office or on line at [www.stayingputnc.org](http://www.stayingputnc.org).

*“I encourage every senior in town to become a member of Staying Put In New Canaan because it is true: There is no place like home!”*  
**Kay Luff**

## Why join *Staying Put* when your daughters live in town?

Even though **Henny and Jens Risom**’s daughters both live in New Canaan, they were among the first members of *Staying Put*.

“They joined to lighten our responsibilities,” said **Helen Risom Belluschi**. “And *Staying Put* volunteers are like having another sister to help us.”

“We weren’t sure we needed *Staying Put*,” Jens said. “But then they came out to fix a light bulb and have been helping out ever since.”

“*Staying Put* does a wonderful job of matching volunteers to members,” **Peggy Risom Bull** said. One of the services the Rissoms use is a regular driver twice a week. “We have our own schedule and we stay independent,” Jens said.

*Staying Put* really is for everyone – even when your family is right here in town!



**Peggy Bull** (left) and **Helen Risom Belluschi** (right) know their parents **Henny and Jens Risom** are in good hands with *Staying Put*.



The Wizard of Oz" came to New Canaan High School and 10 members were there. **Gloria Major Brown** pictured above with cast members caught a preview at the New Canaan Library.

## Let's Make a Date!

Bruce Museum Exhibits

**Tues., Jan. 5, 10 am. Carpool from office.**  
Calder printmaking and Addams cartoons.

"For Safety Sake: Home Adaptations"  
**Wed., Jan 13, 2 pm.**

New Canaan Historical Society. **Kevin Finn**, contractor; **Jeanette Graham**, Nursing and Home Care's Lifecare Manager.

Opera "Carmen" simulcast  
**Sat., Jan 16, 1 pm.**

Fairfield Quick Center. A few tickets left at \$20.80.

"Picnic"

**Sun., Jan 17, 2 pm.**

Darien Theater Center. Ticket price TBD.

Dinner at Fifty Coins

**Tues., Jan 19, 5:30 pm.** Menu TBD.

"Catch 22"

**Sun., Jan. 24, 2 pm.** Curtain Call, Sterling Farms.  
Table seating. Tickets \$16.

Lunch/brunch at Orem's Diner

**Fri., Jan. 29.** Leave from office 11 am. A la carte.

Opera "Simon Boccanegra" simulcast

**Sat., Feb. 6, 1 pm.** Fairfield Quick Center. Sold-out. Call office to get on waiting list. Tkts. \$20.80.

### Bring a friend to our Birthday Party!

Celebrate our 3rd Birthday Party,  
Sunday, Jan. 10 at 2 p.m., Morrill Hall,  
St. Mark's Church. Entertainment,  
refreshments, friends, and fun!  
Guests welcome!

"Travels to El Capitan"

**Thurs., Feb. 11, 3 pm.**

New Canaan Historical Society. **Jeff Zaino's** slideshow of climbing and photographing in breathtakingly beautiful Yosemite National Park.

"Lincoln, Life-size"

**Tues., Feb. 16. Carpool from office 10 am.**

Bruce Museum exhibit, Greenwich.

Dinner at Gates Restaurant

**Wed., Feb. 17, 5:30 pm.** Menu TBD.

"The Full Monty"

**Sun., Feb. 21, 2 pm.**

Curtain Call, Sterling Farms. Ticket price TBD.

Lunch/brunch at Blind Charlie's Café

**Fri., Feb. 26, 11:30 am.** Office carpool 11 am.

"The Weir"

**Sun., Feb. 28, 2:30 pm.** Powerhouse Theater.

Four men and one young lady try to impress each other with tales of Irish folklore. Tickets \$8.



**Ann Gillerlain** and Bobby **Chapdelaine** got a little help with wreath making hosted by the Young Women's League.



Brunch at "Blind Charlie's" Café was so lively **Pete and Lorraine Stair** (left) and **Mel Flavin** couldn't sit still long enough for us to get a sharp picture! The next brunch is Jan. 29.

## "My life has definitely improved with *Staying Put*."

Members told us why they plan to renew their *Staying Put* memberships.

"I love the comfort and availability of help when I need it, the social events, and the chance to volunteer," said **Maisie Kohnstamn**.

**Barbara Gilderdale** said, "I like the ease of getting names of trades people, knowing that they will be screened, reliable and good workers."

"*Staying Put* has opened new doors in my life from meeting new people and hearing their life experiences," said **Muriel Kilbride**.

**Tish Frothingham** said "I enjoy keeping up with friends through planned events, and have peace of mind knowing a volunteer will drive me to the doctor. "

## Brrrrr – Give us a call

Winter weather is a perfect reason to call on our volunteers for a little extra help. Call us for:

- Grocery shopping
- Snow shoveling
- Prescription drug pick up
- Checking smoke detectors; replacing batteries

A friendly phone chat or visit when you're housebound

A ride to your doctor's appointment

## Our services are growing but not our dues

Thanks to our many generous supporters, we are able to keep our 2010 dues at the same affordable rate: \$360 per individual and \$480 per household. At the same time we've been able to respond to more and more requests for service. You should have received a membership renewal letter recently, so please send your check right away and get ready for another fabulous year for *Staying Put* and you.

## Hey, Santa! Put *Staying Put* in someone's stocking!

Someone you know—friend, neighbor, or family member—would love a gift membership to *Staying Put*. They'll get a full year of unlimited services and loads of activities that are only a phone call away. Call the office to arrange your gift. If you're one of those hard-to-buy-for people, why not put a *Staying Put* membership on your list for Santa, too?



Hiking the Mianus River Gorge in October were **Susan Petit Ponte**, **Anne Saunders**, and *Staying Put* President **Tom Ferguson**.

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## Thanks for our very generous 2007-2009 gifts-in-kind

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In addition to our many supporters who made financial gifts, we thank those who also made gifts-in-kind. Office furniture: Jean and Tom Gnuse, Bank of New Canaan, Vicki O'Neill; Computers: Arthur Congdon; Office space: United Way of New Canaan, Bentley and Farrell; Office art work: Al Knaus; Meeting facilities: Lapham Community Center, New Canaan Library, New Canaan High School, Presbyterian, St. Mark's, Congregational Churches, Waveny Care Center.

## Members pick good reads

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**Joan Keever** recommends *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks; **Rosie Lynch**, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Both are available at the New Canaan Library. Do you have a favorite book, movie, or activity? Let's hear from you!

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## Keeping you in stitches

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If you are a knitter and interested in becoming one of **Bev Greenberg's** "Knitting Angels," call her at 203-966-9897. She has a very worthwhile project and will supply instructions and yarn.

If you enjoy special interests or hobbies and want to connect with like-minded members, give us a call and we'll put the word out. Then it's up to you to get together and share the fun!

**You can turn your IRA distributions into tax-free donations to *Staying Put* through Dec. 31, 2009. Consult your tax or legal advisor.**

**Special thanks** to reporter **Gloria Major-Brown**; photographers **Donna Simone** and **Lois Sandberg**.

*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* Birthday Party! Sun., Jan. 10. Bring a friend.

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Staying Put  IN New Canaan

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

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