

Staying inTouch

Winter 2014

Happy Birthday to us as we launch our 7th year!

It's now a tradition for us to have our birthday party at the beginning of the year. As President **Tom Ferguson** said at our 7th annual party on Jan. 12, "Who wants to wait for the end of the year to celebrate?"

Tom thanked the 120 volunteers who serve our 350 members. Executive Director **Jane Nyce** noted volunteers donated around 9,000 hours and drove about 10,000 miles last year.

Tom also recognized original board members who are still serving on the board: **Lyn Chivvis, Gloria Major-Brown, Judy Bentley, Bill Sessions**, and Tom himself.

Dr. Jo Deen (Jody) Blaine Davis then wowed the crowd with her piano performance ending with a sing-along. Jody is Director of Music Ministries at the Congregational Church and has given organ recitals all over the US and abroad.



About 125 members and guests turned out for our party. From left: **Antoinette Vardamis, Ruth Carroll, and Marion Blose.**

Development Chair Judy Bentley gave a financial update (see page 3) and thanked the mothers and daughters of National Charity League who helped with refreshments. As Jane Nyce said, seeing all the happy faces, "This is the best day of the year for *Staying Put!*"

There's never a dip in the job market for our volunteers!

When member **Rosalind Nielsen** needed help organizing her garage, she got the muscle power of not one, but three volunteers who helped from time to time.

Along with **Kevin Morley** and **Steve Orteig**, **Joel Pelzner** (pictured left with Rosalind) helped move an air conditioner, jostle a bookcase, and move boxes around. As they say, "Many hands, etc." If you'd like to lend a hand, just call the office to volunteer.





Hud and Pat Stoddard were among our birthday partygoers.

Let's make a date!

"Inspiration 2014" Juried art show

Wed., Feb. 5, 2 pm Rowayton Arts Center.
Photographs, mixed media, watercolors, oils, etc.
Followed by pizza at Rowayton Pizza! Carpool

Met Opera: Dvorák's "Rusalka" in HD

Sun., Feb. 9, 12:55 pm
Ridgefield Playhouse. Tkt. \$24

Stamford Symphony

Sun., Feb. 9, 3 pm
Mozart, Shostakovich and Schumann. Tkt. \$18

Birds of Prey

Wed., Feb. 12, 2 pm
By New Canaan Nature Center staff (Indoors).
American Bald Eagle and Falcon, just two of the
birds in the Center's care. Free

"The Answer is Risom"

Fri., Feb. 14, 1 pm
Silvermine Arts Center: Exhibit of signature
furniture designs of **Jens Risom**, long-time New
Canaan resident and artist of 70 yrs. His
daughter, **Helen Risom Bellushi**, will lead our
tour. Refreshments at Silvermine Market!

Dinner at Gates

Tues., Feb. 18, 6 pm
Always a favorite! Dinner is \$30 all inclusive

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Men's Coffee

Wed., Feb. 19, 9:30 am. New Canaan Inn Library

"Aboriginal Paintings and Masks"

Thurs., Feb. 20, 4 pm. New Canaan Library.
Annie MacDougall, niece of member **Gloria
Major-Brown**, will share stories and stunning
photos from her private collection of Aboriginal art
and culture from Australia and New Guinea. Free

Orem's Diner, Wilton

Wed., Feb. 26, 11 am
Late breakfast or early lunch. Individual checks.

Stamford Symphony

Sun., Mar. 2, 3 pm
Ravel & Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. \$18

"Light-hearted Look at the American Presidents through History"

Mon., Mar. 3, 2 pm
Apolitical comedic talk by **Dr. Peter Bales**,
professor, comedian and author. Lapham. Free

Kitchen Bridge

Tues., Mar. 11, 10 am
Want to meet other bridge players? All levels,
come and sit in at the *Staying Put* office kitchen!
Coffee, tea and donuts.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie"

Fri., Mar. 14, 7:30 pm
New Canaan High School. Tkt. \$15

Dinner at Long Ridge Tavern, Stamford

Tues., Mar. 18, 6 pm
Known for a great pot roast! Carpool

Men's Coffee

Wed., Mar. 19, 9:30 am. New Canaan Inn Library

Pot Luck Dinner

Thurs., Apr. 3, 5:30 pm
Presbyterian Church meeting room

Met Opera: Puccini's "La Boheme" in HD

Sun., Apr. 6, 5 pm
Ridgefield Playhouse. Tkt. \$24

Dinner TBD

Tues., Apr. 15, 6 pm. \$30

Men's Coffee

Wed., Apr. 16, 9:30 am. New Canaan Inn Library

Poetic thank you by Dr. Brown

*When Staying Put adds Christmas joys
To what it does year round,
The human wisdom it employs
Seems even more profound.*

*It makes us all feel younger,
Gives mounting age new shapes
With décor that tears asunder
Our nonsense—blocked escapes.*

*Your blessings flow from great ones
Who serve with Jane and Donna
To let us face whatever comes
With joy assured – and honor.*

*To this we add our thanks and awe
Our love and all best wishes
Your gifts show us what life is for
Like – from time to time – kisses?*



Dr. David Brown (left) is a founding member of *Staying Put* and our poet laureate. Above he talks with member **Chris Snyder** at our birthday party

Annual Appeal steams ahead

To date we're right on target at 57% of our \$250,000 goal. Of our 310 donors, 21% are new and 31% are members. There's still time to make a tax-deductible gift.

We also encourage supporters to become members of the ***Staying Put Legacy Society*** by providing for *Staying Put* in their estate plans.



Members enjoyed the Holiday Lunch hosted by **Sally Campbell** in her lovely home. From left **Georgia Little**, **Gloria Major-Brown**, **Marion Hazlehurst**, and **Dorothy Pojasek**.

2 great guys join our board

Phil Ives and his wife Joan have lived in New Canaan since 1964. He is active as a Getabout Advisory Board member and has worked as a Community Fund grants distribution member. Phil is also a former trustee of the New Canaan Nature Center.

Joel Pelzner moved to New Canaan in 1980 with IBM. He retired in 1998 and then co-founded a technology company in Norwalk. He retired again in 2009 and got his real estate license to help his wife Carol with her business. He served as President of the Senior Men's Club from 2012-2013, and is currently a board member and chairman of the 2014-2015 nominating committee. He is also on the Board of the Schoolhouse Apartments and a volunteer driver for *Staying Put*.



Staying Put board member and membership chair **Peggy Jay** (right) recently spoke at a meeting of the New Canaan Board of Realtors about *Staying Put* and its role in the community. On the left is **Arlene Bubbico**, president of the Realtors Board.

Staying Put IN New Canaan

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fullest at home
in New Canaan

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Guess: how many \$\$\$ can we raise in 24 hours?

On March 7, *Staying Put* will participate in the first **Fairfield County Giving Day**. During this one 24-hour period we encourage you to make an on-line contribution to *Staying Put*. Sponsored by the Fairfield County Community Foundation (one of our supporters) and Bank of America, the day is meant to help Fairfield County residents support the important work of local nonprofits.

Every gift counts no matter what the size. Your tax-deductible donation will go solely to *Staying Put*. Contribute through the link on our website or visit or call the office. More details to come.

Thanks to contributors for this issue: **Molly DePatie, Mike Rodell, Peggy Jay, Dr. David Brown, and Donna Simone.**



At our birthday party, **Marvin Newman** and **Noel Shields** sample some delicious soup and sandwiches before the program.

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.