

Staying Spring 2016 inTouch

“If we can’t get out of dying, why not plan for it?”

That’s what Executive Director **Barb Achenbaum** asked when the New Canaan based **Alliance of Business Professionals** approached *Staying Put* to collaborate in presenting two panel discussions on “End-of-Life” issues — geared not just to seniors but also to their adult children.

Save the dates April 27 and May 11 from 5 to 7 pm at the New Canaan Library. A reception and opportunity to meet the panelists will follow. And do invite your children if they live nearby.

The April 27 discussion will cover guidelines for facing end-of-life issues with dignity, helping families talk about what they want their children to know and how they can work together to make the most of their final years. Topics include “Having the Conversation with children and/or other family members,” “Hospice and Palliative Care,” “Legal Decisions,” and “Funeral Wishes: Burial and Cremation Options.”

The May 11 Panel will provide practical resources to ensure effective end-of-life planning — legal, financial, medical and living options in New Canaan for seniors.

Call *Staying Put* to make your reservation.

Save the date!

Annual Meeting, Sun., May 1

New venue: Smith Hall, Congregational Church, from 2-4 pm. Updates about *Staying Put*, fun and refreshments along with guest speaker **Bill Piper** from Waveny Care. Bring friends and family.



Board members (left) **Joel Pelzner**, **Jim Cole**, **Sue Scannell**, **Patti Geanakos**, and President **Judy Bentley** toast our 133 gift givers at the end of a busy Fairfield County Giving Day.

Another *Staying Put* Success\$

Fairfield County Giving Day on March 10 was a major success for *Staying Put*, thanks to our generous donors and dedicated volunteers and staff. We raised a total of \$10,600!

Giving Day is a 24-hour challenge to more than 400 county nonprofits to raise as much money as possible in a single day. The Fairfield County Community Foundation hosts the online event with the Bank of America.

Board members **Patti Geanakos** and **Joel Pelzner** coordinated the campaign. **Betsy Afragola** provided lunch for the 26 people (some shown at right) who dropped in the office to contribute, and **Sue Scannell** helped call-in donors to make their contributions online.



Let's make a date!

Docent Tour of Ridgefield's Keeler Tavern

Wed., April 13, 1 pm

Visit this charming Colonial museum housed in an 18th century tavern. \$5. RSVP

Men's Coffee

Third Wednesday every month at 9:30 am

April 20, May 18, June 15. New Canaan Inn

"Can't Get Out of Dying?

Might as Well Plan for It!" Part 1

Wed., April 27, 5 pm NC Library Lamb Room

A professional panel will address the important issues associated with end-of-life planning. *Staying Put's* **Donna Simone** and **Pat Stoddard** will help get the conversation going. Free. RSVP

New Canaan Artisans Spring Boutique

Fri., April 29, 9 am to 3 pm Lapham Center

Exceptional handcrafted items on sale. Free admission and parking. Call *Staying Put* for a ride.

Lunches at Grace Farms

Fri., April 29 and Fri., May 6, 1 pm

Meet your *Staying Put* friends for a casual lunch in this serene setting. RSVP

Park Street Singers Annual Community Concert

Mon., May 9, 1:30 pm

New Canaan Congregational Church. Refreshments will follow the concert. Free. RSVP

"Can't Get Out of Dying?

Might as Well Plan for It!" Part 2

Wed., May 11, 5 pm NC Library Lamb Room

A professional panel will address the financial, medical, and emotional issues associated with end-of-life planning. Free. RSVP

Town Players "The Farnsworth Invention"

Sun., May 15, 2:30 pm

Aaron Sorkin's riveting re-telling of the drama behind the creation of the first television. \$20. RSVP

Dinner at Oak Hills Restaurant

Tues., May 17, 6 pm

Enjoy a delicious meal on the porch overlooking the beautiful golf course. \$30. RSVP

Classic Show Tunes performed by young people

Sat., May 21, 4 pm

New Canaan Performing Arts Conservatory, 70 Pine Street. A special performance by young students.

[Staying in Touch](#)



Historian and Professor **Peter Bales'** World War II lecture drew 76 members at this event co-sponsored by *Staying Put* and Lapham Center.

Reception to follow. Free. Rides available. RSVP

"New Canaan Heroes of the Revolutionary War"

Wed., May 25, noon. *Staying Put* Office

Member **Jim Bach** will profile military leaders from our hometown including a crafty spy, an early medal winner, and the town's first land baron. Lunch will be served. Free. RSVP

Garden Tour and Farmer's Lunch

Fri., May 27, 1 pm

Enjoy a tour of the spring blooms in **Kris Johnson's** lovely garden followed by a hearty country lunch. Free. RSVP

Memorial Day Parade

Mon., May 30, 9:15 am

Meet at St. Mark's to march with your patriotic *Staying Put* friends or join in along the way. RSVP

Mead Park Friday Lunches Begin!

June 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 1 pm

Join us for hot dogs and hospitality every Friday.

"A Day in Hollywood, A Night in the Ukraine"

Sat., June 4, 2 pm

A musical comedy at New Canaan High School. \$15. RSVP

"Feathers with Phil"

Thurs., June 9, noon. *Staying Put* office

Member **Phil Ives** will share his knowledge of native birds and encourage other "inner birders" to join in. Lunch will be served. Free. RSVP

Save the Date: Sun., June 26

"A Night in the Caribbean!"

Join us for *Staying Put's* annual fundraiser on the beautiful lawn of **Lila Coleman's** home. Dinner, drinks, and steel band. Bring friends and family.



Adult children of members met at the home of **Amy Freyre** (daughter of **Pris Thomas**) to brainstorm how to communicate the benefits their parents could receive by having membership in *Staying Put*. Among the 22 attending were (from left) **Pris, Pam Silverman, Mark Silverman, Amy, John Murphy,** and **Gigi Priebe**.



“Ready, Set, Safe”

“Caveat Emptor: Let the Buyer Beware!” says Executive Director **Barb Achenbaum**.

Spring is a great time to take a look at how the exterior of your home survived the winter. If you decide to make repairs or improvements, be aware that some service providers may try to take advantage of seniors. Here are a few safety tips from Barb.

- **Be skeptical** of vendors who call offering to help. They may be soliciting unnecessary work and may not be qualified to do it.
- **Be wary** of vendors asking for cash or checks made out to cash; you can't track them down if you're not satisfied with their work.
- **Be careful** in agreeing to make improvements to places you can't see, such as roof repair, gutter clearing, tree trimming, or chimney cleaning.

Call *Staying Put* if you think you need work. We have some handy volunteers who can take a look at your project and help you decide if it's necessary.

Most importantly, tap into our list of reputable providers for more than 50 services, from paving to power-washing, excavating to exterminating. Our vendors are carefully vetted — they are experienced, licensed, and insured — and recommended by at least one of our members.

“Most *Staying Put* vendors offer a 10% or more discount. Make sure you ask!” says Barb.

The Luck o' the Leap Day Potluck

While celebrating Leap Day at our potluck dinner on Feb. 29, some of our members got a big surprise.

This was a first *Staying Put* outing for new member **Donna Todd** who recently moved to New Canaan. When she met **Harriet Bonner**, they discovered they both attended the University of Kansas.

They were among 26 others who enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones including **Bill Sessions** and **Dave Scannell**. They met for the first time and found they shared a lot in common.

“The best part of tonight was making new friends at my age,” said Bill.



Harriet Bonner (left) and **Donna Todd** share an alma mater.



Dave Scannell (left) and **Bill Sessions** have a lot to talk about.

Our members recommend

Pris Thomas recommends “In the Heart of the Sea” by Nathaniel Philbrick. This is the gripping true tale of a dramatic encounter in 1819 between the Whaleship Essex and an enraged sperm whale. It was the inspiration for Herman Melville’s “Moby Dick.” Available in the Book Group Collection at the New Canaan Library.

Staying Put ^{IN} New Canaan

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The January Thaw Tea at the home of Assistant Director **Donna Simone** warmed the spirits of 16 members who enjoyed scrumptious teatime treats. Shown here are **Rosalind Nielsen** and **Christa Sanfilippo**.

Thanks to contributors for this issue: **Nancy Helle, Patti Geanakos, Kathy Collins, Donna Simone** and **Barb Achenbaum**.



Staying Put members meet every other week for a casual lunch in the serene setting of Grace Farms. Enjoying a recent lunch with *Staying Put* is the Gores family (from left) **Valerie Gores, Liz Donovan, Pam Gores, and Craig Donovan**.

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.