



CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDING

One of our Board members noticed that the dedication plaque in the facility entrance listed 1998 as the year the building opened. She noted that a celebration of the 25th Anniversary might be in order. That raised the larger question, however, about how long Hill House has been home to Greenwich Seniors altogether. Our program predates our current buildings.

A number of Board members began to research the beginnings of Hill House, and they discovered a remarkable story.

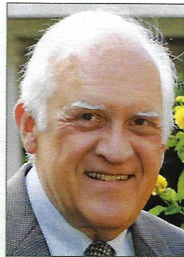
Hill House opened its doors on Riverside Avenue in January, 1979 and was originally home for 14 seniors. They lived in the renovated St. Catherine's Convent that had originally housed the Parish's 22 nuns. The original program offered residents three meals each day and was overseen 24 hours per day by the first Director and Resident Supervisor, Sister Kathleen Gustafson. The original President of the non-profit Board of Directors was Sister Angeline Monaco.

As is a Greenwich tradition, there were others from all sectors of the community who had a major hand in the development. The Rev. Vincent O'Connor, Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, offered to rent the Convent for the development of the housing. Patricia McDonald, a later Board President, along with Fred Sullaway and Henry Crampton, Board Vice President, played major roles in the Convent's renovation and in gaining the program's approvals by Town Boards. Some of the \$70,000 needed for the renovation was provided by the Town's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Cooperating in support of the program were Barbara Hoyt and Lydia Stevens of the Commission on Aging, which documented the need for senior Congregate Housing in Town, Barbara Williams of the Senior Center, Grace Knapp from the Greenwich Department of Social Services and the Rev. Robert Miner, President of Greenwich Community Housing. First Selectman Ruth Sims cut the ribbon at Hill House's opening.

The model for Hill House was to provide moderate income housing for seniors which permitted them to continue as vital parts of the community. The original mission continues and now serves resident seniors in new and newly-refurbished buildings; a soon-to-be 45-year old testament to a caring community.

~ Sam Deibler, *Retiring President*



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ardith Williams is delighted to have the opportunity to join the Hill House Board of Directors and looks forward to getting to know the residents, making a positive contribution and developing new friendships.



Ardith grew up in Chicago and attended Cornell University where she met her husband, David. They have called Greenwich home for 60 years and are happy that their three children and families have settled in Greenwich or nearby.

While raising a family, Ardith volunteered in the English as a Second Language Program in the Greenwich public schools for seven years. She then attended Teachers College, Columbia University and received her Master's Degree in ESL. Following graduation, Ardith was hired as the Program Leader for the ESL Program in the Greenwich school system. After her retirement in 1999, she continued as a volunteer in Greenwich schools; and during the winter months, she organized and participated in volunteer programs in schools in Vero Beach, Florida.

Gardening and travel are Ardith's major interests. She is a dedicated gardener and enjoys the time spent outdoors with her Havanese dog, Quint, by her side. Travel is another favorite activity. David and Ardith lived near London, England for three years and while overseas, traveled extensively. Currently, they have just returned from a trip to Scotland and they are hoping to travel to South America in the coming year.

Ardith is especially looking forward to participating in upcoming activities at Hill House. Welcome, Ardith!

Announcing TECH CONNECTT at Hill House

by Lauren Ghaffari

A collaboration with Greenwich Country Day School and the Greenwich Commission on Aging is bringing a new technology program to Hill House this fall. TECH CONNECTT (Connecting Our Neighbors Naturally Enriching Community Through Technology) grew out of the CONNECTT program developed by GCDS for the Greenwich Senior Center in 2020. The first session on October 25 was a huge success. The quiet hum of collaboration filled the dining room as twenty-three Hill House residents worked with GCDS grade 6-8 students in one-on-one tech lessons to learn and sharpen their iPad skills. The residents were most excited to use the iPads to improve their connection with family through FaceTime. Maria mentioned she will do research into history and geography, while Claire was looking forward to learning mind-sharpening games.



The program will continue for ten sessions. Some of the additional topics to be covered will be email and messaging, video communication, internet searching and streaming. At the end of the program, eligible residents will keep their devices which have been donated by the Greenwich Commission on Aging. Jennifer Donnalley, the Director of the Center for Public Good at Greenwich Country Day, says she knows the residents will learn valuable skills through the lessons from the students, “however, the real magic is watching the generations sharing and working together.”



Old Greenwich Garden Club Visits Residents

by Beth Eaton

After a Summer of tending their own gardens, the Garden Club of Old Greenwich returned in October to make Fall Decorations with our Hill House friends. With the leaves outside starting to turn, we gathered to create a Seasonal decoration. Summer's flowers and bright bows no longer seem appropriate and we are all ready for Fall's muted colors.

A selection of autumnal hued flowers, fruits and ribbons were laid out on the tables in the Activity Room and we all got to work. Everyone chose items that would coordinate with the décor in their apartment. Some participants brought back previous creations for a “refresh”. We all enjoyed catching up on events in our lives and starting to think ahead to Thanksgiving.



Joel Seligmann's Sax Dazzles Residents

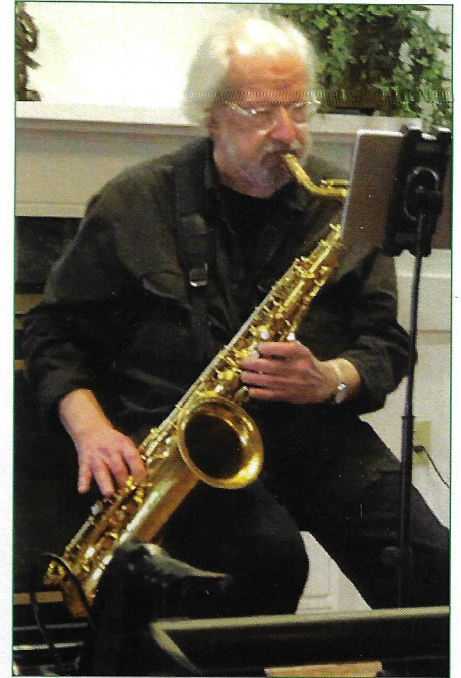
by Libby Callaway



On June 27, musician Joel Seligmann brought the house down with his special program, "Music & Memories." His wife Sally Ann Greenberg provided a fascinating commentary as Joel featured favorites such as "What is This Thing Called Love," "Stand by Me," "Don't Be Cruel" and "Amazing Grace."

Additional entertainment was provided when Geraldine Christophersen, who recently turned 100, got up and danced along with her walker.

We're all hoping that Joel and Sally will return to Hill House soon!



Sunday Sundaes

by Carole McIvor

On a sunny June Sunday afternoon, the Hill House Board of Directors invited residents to a SUNDAY PARTY! It was a wonderful, delicious event with many attending and enjoying a real treat! There were special GOFER ICE CREAM flavors: strawberry, chocolate and vanilla, smothered with a choice of hot fudge, butterscotch syrup, sprinkles, nuts, whipped cream, and topped off with a cherry! A fun time was enjoyed by all, and hopefully there will be another party soon.



Dressing Scarecrows and Supporting the Rummage Room

by Judy Gordon



HH residents learned that the Greenwich Historical Society was holding a Scarecrow Festival on October 9th and were looking for donations of clothing for the event. That's all they needed to hear, and they seized the opportunity to empty their closets of no longer used clothing that could help to outfit as many as 100 scarecrows. Their efforts were fruitful and they filled many,



many garbage bags with gently used clothes. The Historical Society came to Hill House to collect the donations the end of September. They also donated two carloads of clothing and linens to the Rummage Room in Old Greenwich. They returned home happy, satisfied and to newly-organized and trimmed closets. Just another wonderful example of HH residents living lives of purpose and connection to their greater community!

Thanks to Steve Boise

by Pat Geismar

Steve Boise began volunteering at Hill House in 2010. For over eleven years he has come, faithfully, twice a month to share conversations with residents on current events. Steve came prepared to discuss almost any topic of interest or concern to the attendees: history, politics, government, particular countries, arts and entertainment, weather, pop culture. Steve brought resource material and current articles but encouraged the residents to direct the discussion to areas of their interest. On his retirement, his dedicated following presented him with a sculpture representing a globe of the earth mounted on a pedestal - and a resounding "THANK YOU".



A Special Canine Visitor

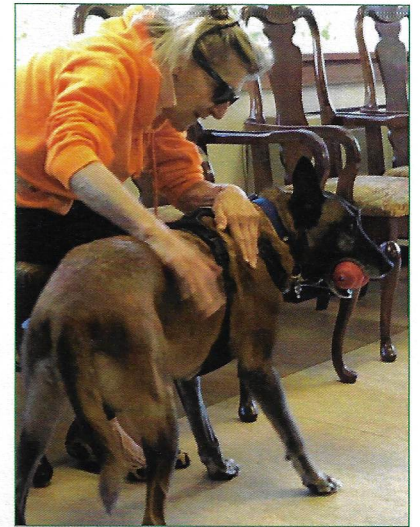
by Pat Geismar



This fall, Hill House residents welcomed MDD Rico Cosby (the MDD stands for Mine Detection Dog) and representatives from the Marshall Legacy Institute. The Institute, a U.S. non-profit, provides highly trained dogs to war-torn countries throughout the world, to sniff out landmines. They also sponsor a CHAMPS program, encouraging schools to take on the challenge of raising twenty thousand dollars - the cost of raising, training and transporting an MDD dog.

After six years of sniffing fields in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rico has retired from that assignment and is now a canine ambassador for the

Institute. Most importantly, land, ravaged by war, is safely returned to peace time use for agriculture and parks and recreation.



Geraldine Christopherson Turns 100!

by Carole McIvor

On September 26, the entire Hill House community of residents, Board members and administrators came together to celebrate Geraldine Christopherson's 100th birthday. Gerry enjoyed herself immensely and danced to her heart's content. In addition, the Town of Greenwich honored her with a proclamation of "September 26, 2023 as Geraldine Christopherson Day."

Gerry says that her family of three daughters, six grandchildren, ten great grandchildren, extended relatives and friends, old and new, are her pleasure in life. How did she make it to 100? Gerry will say, "everything in moderation." It may also have something to do with living a healthy, active, optimistic life. We wish Gerry many more happy dancing years ahead!



With gratitude and appreciation we extend a BIG "thank you" to Bob Wilson, retiring Treasurer. We welcome the following new officers to the Hill House Board:

President - Adriana vdB Phillips
Vice President - Bobbie Collins

Secretary - Carole McIvor
Treasurer - Sam Deibler

2023 – 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Adriana vdB Phillips, *President*
Bobbie Collins, *Vice President*
Diane W. Fox, *Vice President*
Edward Oppedisano, *Vice President*
Claudia M. Powers, *Vice President*
Samuel T. Telerico, *Vice President*
Carole McIvor, *Secretary*
Samuel E. Deibler, *Treasurer*

Susan S. Bartels
Ros Brady
Michele Brendel
Carol A. Burns
Libby Callaway-Carey
Carolyn Cleveland
Jeanette H. Clonan
Lynne Davenport
Kathy DiGiovanna
Marc Ducret
Beth Eaton
Patty Kaufmann
Darlene Moore
Geoffrey W. Robinson, DDS
Caralliene Westbrook
Ardith Williams

DIRECTORS EMERITI

Kathryn G. Gagliardi
Joan Kadlec
John H. Kuck
Joy Lautenbach
G. Peter O'Brien
Suzanne Prunier

ADVISORY BOARD

Allison Frantz
Patricia Geismar
Lile Gibbons
Judy Gordon
Jevera Kaye Hennessey
Barbara H. Hopkins
Gail P. Telerico
Jeffrey H. Weinberger, MD

Patricia Speroni, *Administrator*



SENIOR RESIDENCE
10 Riverside Avenue
Riverside, CT 06878
203.637.3177

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 6003
Stamford, CT

A "25/45 SILVER/SAPPHIRE CELEBRATION" THIS SPRING

- 1978 - Transforming the convent adjoining St. Catherine's Church to a "senior home."
- 1998 - Hill House, at 10 Riverside Avenue, opened to twenty-five residents.
- 2016 - An expanded facility became home for sixty-seven active, energetic, independent residents. Thanks to all who have supported Hill House through the years!

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Libby Callaway, Beth Eaton, Pat Geismar, Judy Gordon, Carol McIvor.
Guest Contributor: Lauren Ghaffari
Pictures courtesy of Lisa Crowley, Beth Eaton and Carol McIvor.



Please remember to like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hillhouseriverside/



Visit our website at www.thehillhouse.org
and click on "Calendar" for more activities.

MISSION: To offer affordable housing for the area's low to moderate income well elderly population in a safe and caring homelike atmosphere which encourages older people to be independent, physically active, and involved with their families, friends and community.