



FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the time of the year when we can expect to see funding requests in our mail from deserving local non-profits. You may soon see one from Hill House among them. It will include a letter with information about who we are and what we do, along with a request for your consideration of making a tax-deductible contribution.

You may ask why we do this kind of fund raising since Hill House receives funds from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing as well as rental payments from our residents. In our budgets, residents' rent payments cover about sixty-six percent of the cost of operating Hill House. State Rental Assistance payments add another twenty-six percent to our finances. The balance, that eight percent, is what we ask from those who support us in our community.

Those community-donated funds cover some of our staff costs not covered by residents' rent payments or the State Assistance payments, costs related to the essential transportation our van provides, costs to cover groundskeeping to maintain the beauty of our campus, and various professional fees we incur to assure careful, accountable management.

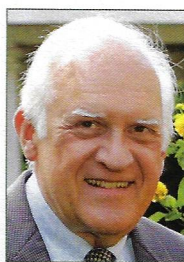
It's important to note that the Rental Assistance payments we receive from the State Department of Housing are provided since our residents have limited income that falls within the guidelines the State of Connecticut sets for persons to be eligible for our form of housing. Given the cost of maintaining a house in Greenwich, our residents could not easily afford to continue to live in the community they and their families helped to build.

That's why Hill House is here.

Our residents have benefited from the support and good will this community provides. In return, our residents are continuing to enrich and support our community in many ways. One of our community supporters has commented about the "Seniors Helping Seniors" program organized by the residents featured in a story in this Newsletter. She comments, "This entire program is amazing to me!... our residents are vibrant members of the Hill House community and the Greenwich community with a continuing 'can do' attitude toward life. They are an inspiration!"

This is made possible through the support our kind of housing provides, along with the financial support from our community. Thank you.

~ Sam Deibler, *President*



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Bobbie (Barbara) Collins graduated from Nasson College in 1970 after spending her sophomore year in France at the Université de Caen. More recently, she has taken courses at NYU in Contemporary Art.



She began her government career in 1972 as Mayor Lindsay's (followed by Mayor Beame's) liaison to the NYC City Council. In 1977, she was recruited by Governor Carey to be Secretary of the NYS Emergency Financial Control Board. She became associate Director/Secretary and served in that position for thirty-seven years, also serving under Governors Cuomo and Pataki.

Upon her retirement, Bobbie volunteered with "Puppies Behind Bars," an organization that allows maximum security inmates to raise puppies to become Seeing Eye Dogs, as well as Bomb Detector dogs. Volunteers take the dogs out of the prison to experience normal daily life encounters.

Currently Bobbie volunteers at the Greenwich Hospital gift shop where she serves as a buyer in the plush/books/toys department.

Bobbie and her husband Rick have been married forty-eight years and have resided in the Milbrook community for thirty-seven years. They have raised three children there and now have four grandchildren. She has also been the proud owner of five golden retrievers, two of whom are still alive.

Recently, a close friend of theirs moved into Hill House. This has given Bobbie an opportunity to familiarize herself with Hill House and all its amazing amenities and programs.

Welcome, Bobbie!

NEW BOARD MEMBER



Caralliene Westbrook, known as “Car”, is a new member of our Board of Directors, but she is hardly new to Greenwich. She started life in Indianapolis, Indiana. By the time she was ready to start school, in 1948, the family moved to Old Greenwich to a home in Havemeyer Park, and Car went to first grade at the Old Greenwich elementary school. After graduation from Greenwich High School, Car attended the University of Connecticut, which she describes as “the perfect school for me!”

Car taught in the Greenwich Public Schools from 1963 - 2003 at Old Greenwich, North Street and Parkway Elementary schools. Along the way, she earned a Masters degree and a Sixth Year Certification in Education Administration. After retiring in 2003, she continued to work for Greenwich Public Schools from

2003 – 2019 on a part-time basis in the Advanced Learning Program for talented and gifted children and also as a clerk in special education.

Music has certainly played a major role in Car’s adult life! She plays the violin in the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra and formerly played the trombone in the Sound Beach Volunteer Fire Department Band. She has been a member of the Greenwich Choral Society for many years, and remembers fondly the summer trips to European capitals arranged by then musical director, Richard Vogt. Car has been very active at First Congregational church of Greenwich, singing in the Chancel Choir, playing in the Handbell Choir, serving as President of the Women’s Fellowship, and a member of the Rummage Room Board. Ever since moving to The Commons in the late ’70s, she has served on the Board, currently as Secretary.

Car looks forward to her role as member of the Hill House Board and we are fortunate to have her join us.

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

by Jeanette H. Clonan

*The “Greenwich Sentinel,” a local weekly newspaper, on July 29, 2022, published an article by Anne W. Semmes entitled **How Seniors Help Seniors**. The article details how Hill House residents, led by project organizer Marilyn Machi, raised the funds to purchase personal items and assemble gift bags to present to 200 Greenwich residents less fortunate than they. Following are lightly edited excerpts from the article which may be read in its entirety at www.greenwichsentinel.com/2022/08/08/the-hill-house-shows-how-seniors-can-help-seniors-in-the-wider-greenwich-community. Copies of the article are available at the Hill House front desk.*

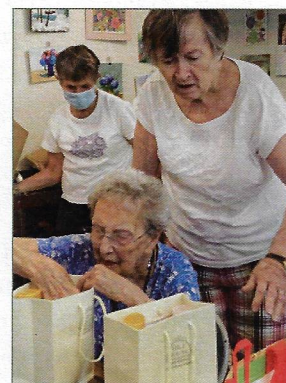
This is a story of seniors helping seniors. Lisa Crowley, Hill House program director, explained that this “Seniors Helping Seniors” project is special because seniors who receive SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, i.e., food stamps) may not buy personal items like toilet paper, shampoo, and deodorant with their SNAP cards. Those expenses come out of their social security checks.

The same Greenwich seniors who benefitted from the Hill House Christmas Gift Card program last December had completed a questionnaire asking for their preferences for personal gifts. The number one thing they wanted was toilet paper, and it went from there to shampoo, soap, deodorant, and hand cream. Here’s where Hill House resident Marilyn Machi stepped up with a plan to distribute these essentials to fellow seniors – and under her leadership that plan became “Seniors Helping Seniors.”

Machi proposed that residents contribute \$5.00 per month for four months to raise money to buy the personal items. She would do the shopping and resident volunteers would fill the bags. By the time the funds were collected, prices at the Dollar Store had risen but Machi was not to be stopped. A contributions jug in the Hill House entryway brought in additional funds.

Looking for a source for toilet tissue, Machi made a call to the operations manager at Neighbor to Neighbor and found that two pallets of toilet tissue had just been delivered there. The manager made 200 4-packs available at cost to the Hill House program. The last piece of the puzzle fell into place when the Hill House board underwrote the cost of the packaging. They took care of purchasing the bags, the stickers, and the ribbon. Residents assembled the bags, and the Greenwich Human Services Department distributed them in July.

Lisa Crowley applauded Marilyn’s enthusiasm for this project and her ability to get everyone involved. “It’s all about ‘Let’s do this project,’ Crowley said. “Let’s rally around our neighbors or peers who aren’t as lucky as we are to be in a place as wonderful as Hill House. Let’s do this.”



ROSE GARDEN PAINTING

by Judy Gordon

A beautiful painting of the Hill House rose garden now hangs on the wall at the entrance to the dining room. The painting is a gift from the Neikirk family in memory of their mother, Doris, for Hill House residents, staff, and volunteers to enjoy.

Doris Neikirk was a resident of HH from 2004-2010. She lived in Old Greenwich and Riverside for over 60 years where she raised her three children and gave her time as an active volunteer in the community, including as a nurse at GH for fifteen years. Toward the end of her life, she was happy to call Hill House her home. On warm, sunny days, her family spent wonderful visits with her sitting by the rose garden enjoying the peace of that place, and Doris could look out at the rose garden from her apartment windows on the first floor. These memories and Doris' love for HH led her family to commission the artist, Chris O'Herron from Simsbury, Connecticut, to visit HH with Doris' son, John to see the rose garden and to create the oil painting now on view.



John Neikirk met with Pat Speroni to present the painting; and Diana Whyte chose the spot where it now hangs near a window looking out at the rose garden. John and his wife came to Hill House to see the painting and to add a plaque that reads **In Memory of Doris E. Neikirk, Hill House Resident 2004-2010 From Her Children.** At an appropriate time of HH's choosing, the painting will be returned to the Neikirk family, but is now there for all to view and appreciate.

GARDEN CLUB OF OLD GREENWICH – FALL DECORATIONS PROGRAM

by Beth Eaton

The Garden Club of Old Greenwich returned to Hill House on September 23rd to see our friends and work together to make a Fall Decorative Item for their homes.

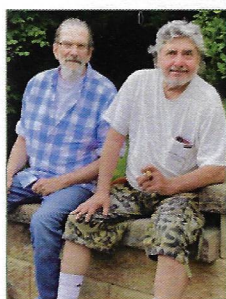
Residents could choose from an assortment of projects – wreaths, small baskets, pumpkins – to get their creative juices flowing and feeling the satisfaction of creating! Looking at the photos you can see the wonderful results!

The Garden Club of OG comes to Hill House four times a year – Fall, Holiday, Winter Bulb Forcing and Spring – with all the “stuff” needed to create our projects. We sometimes “refresh” items with new material. It is an opportunity to see friends and former neighbors who many of us have known for years. We all have fun figuring out how to turn all the “stuff” into a wonderful creation, chatting away while we work.

Please come join us!



SUMMER FUN



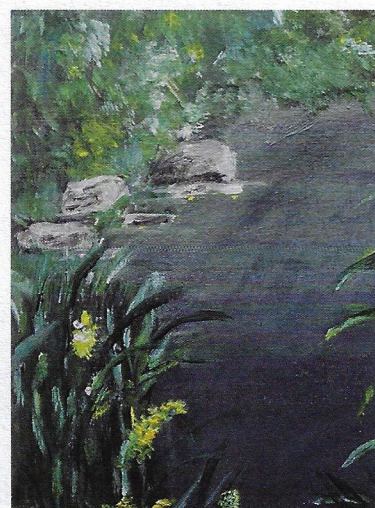
ART SHOW RECEPTION

by Carole McIvor

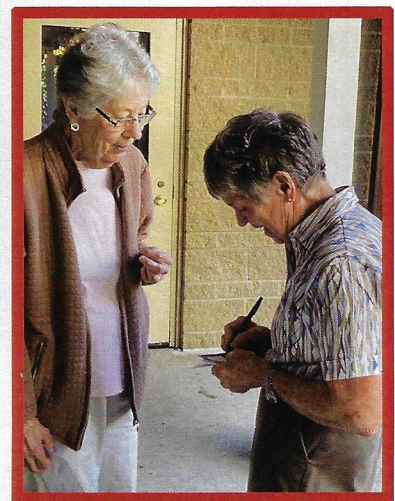
On a glorious September 15th afternoon, the HH Resident Art Show was held; and it was magical! Many Board members, along with a few spouses and guests, joined approximately 25-plus residents in the Garden to enjoy punch & delicious homemade delicacies. The Board was overwhelmed and so impressed with the lovely breezeway display of artwork, photos & life philosophy prints, all done by the residents. Each piece of art shared a special meaning with the viewer. It should be noted that fifty residents contributed to this special art show!

Resident Association President, Joan Anderson, thanked acrylics art teacher, Lucie Anderes, and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a special bottle of wine. Joan also thanked Hill House Resident, Maureen vanDeusen, who teaches watercolors. Maureen was away and was not able to join the event. One other important thank you went to Lucie's husband, Walter, a behind-the-scenes worker who framed the pictures and helped with the lovely display of artwork.

Our sincere thanks to all who attended and helped to make the reception the special, fun, BIG success it was!



Collage by Kathy DiGiovanna



Collage by Kathy DiGiovanna

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RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CONTRIBUTIONS

by Libby Callaway

This past summer, Hill House resident Mildred Cogliandro, accompanied by numerous HH residents, traveled to New Haven's Ronald McDonald House to deliver her large collection of aluminum can tabs.

These aluminum tabs are sold by Ronald McDonald House to a collection center. The proceeds are then used for the many charities which Ronald McDonald sponsors, such as meal and educational programs, medical care and shelter for families with children.

Heartfelt thanks go to Mildred and her helpers for the part they play in giving assistance to others.



NEWSLETTER STAFF

Libby Callaway, Jeanette Clonan, Kathy DiGiovanna, Beth Eaton, Pat Geismar, Judy Gordon, Carole McIvor.
Pictures courtesy of Lisa Crowley and Beth Eaton.

Visit our website at www.thehillhouse.org and click on "Calendar" to see all of the exciting activities and programs in which our residents are participating!

If you would like to feel good about giving to others, **volunteering at Hill House** is perfect and much needed. You can volunteer at the front desk or help serve in the dining room during lunch. Call Claudette Benvenuto at 203.637.9068 for more details.



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

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.