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Dinearound event: Elinor Appleton, Sarah King, Meriwether Schmidt, Tina Bishop, Elaine Suchman, Audrey Kahn

Kay Schacter and Nancy Stengel take a coffee break on Greenwich Avenue.

CLASSIFIED

- **WANTED**: a “comfortable” golf game; I’d love to join a few members for a relaxed game without pressure. Please email thebamer@optonline.net.
- **ARE YOU A SERIOUS BRIDGE-PLAYER** looking for a lively foursome? email mdekker@dekker.org.
- **ANYONE INTERESTED IN MAHJONG FOR BEGINNERS?** email Taracka1@juno.com
- **CAN YOU OFFER A RIDE** to a doctor’s appointment every now and then? Call Lise 203.422.2342
- **KNITTERS WANTED!** The brainstorm of Christine Gerli continues in the capable hands of Mary Babcock. Supported by several At Home knitters (Mary Coan, Lib Green, Rhona Johnson, Ellie O’Brien, Gay Whitehead, Pat Harriss, Phoebe Ballard Ford, Louise Hoffman and Peg Hroziencik) these lovely ladies knit squares which Ellie O’Brien whips together into baby blankets. These soft, cuddly blankets are given to Person-to-Person in Darien who distributes them to first time moms needing some extra support at the Stamford and Norwalk Hospitals. To join the knitting group, call Mary at 203.637.1631 who will supply the wool and instructions.

**What should I shred, and when?**

Says AARP: Shred everything with your signature, birth date, Social Security number, account numbers, passwords or pins. When? Shred credit card statements after 45 days unless you need them for proof of purchase or for tax purposes. Shred bank deposit slips and ATM and credit card receipts as soon as the transactions appear on statements. Shred bank statements, and pay stubs after one year. Save indefinitely any paperwork that is related to taxes, mortgage payments, improvements on your home and medical and prescription records. Call the office for a reliable shredder!
At Home in Greenwich, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that enables Greenwich seniors to remain in their homes as they age by providing them with a unique combination of vetted services, social activities and social work consultation when needed.

Clip & mail to:
At Home in Greenwich, 139 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830

Please □ send or □ call me with more information.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________________ State ______ Zip ______
Phone __________________________ Email __________________________

□ I want to make a contribution to At Home in Greenwich. My check is enclosed. (We thank you!)
Hope to See You at our First Benefit!

At Home will hold its first fundraising benefit on Sunday, September 25 at the Greenwich Hyatt Sun Court Tent from 4 to 7 pm. Listen, sing, tap your toes, kick up your heels to your favorite Gershwin, Porter, Kern and Berlin songs played by Chris Coogan and his musicians.

We’ll honor Betty Hauptman, founder and former vice president, who raised the funds for At Home to open its doors and Bob Arnold, CEO of Family Centers, who gave At Home its first office space and helped in immeasurable ways. Sam Deibler, a member of At Home and Director of the Commission on Aging will be Master of Ceremonies.

This fun event will also feature an exciting Silent Auction which will offer something for everyone. For starters, how about two tickets to The Book of Mormon, a week at a waterfront villa in Jamaica with a cook, housekeeper and laundress, a week at a hotel on Bermuda’s Tuckers Point, dinner for two at a number of favorite restaurants, eight hours donated by a skillful carpenter?

Chairpersons Helen Maher, Carla Wallach, and Audrey Kahn, together with their committees, have planned a fabulous party for everyone to enjoy. The proceeds from this benefit will enable At Home to continue providing its unique combination of services to Greenwich residents who want to feel safe and comfortable in their own homes as they grow older. During the past three and a half years At Home’s membership dues have only provided half of its operating costs. This benefit aims to raise the other half to balance the budget. Ticket prices range from $100 to $300 per person. Please join us with your friends and family to help make our first benefit an overwhelming success!
At Home’s Third Annual Meeting

Over 60 members attended At Home’s third annual meeting at Fletcher Hall. Marylin Chou welcomed the group congratulating those present as forerunners of a worldwide movement that has created a new approach to aging: one which has enabled people to maintain their independence, activities and associations in their own homes as they grow older. Since Beacon Hill Village started this model 10 years ago, 60 villages have been organized out of some 400 individuals and groups who attempted to start the model. At Home in Greenwich was among the first to succeed.

We said goodbye to outgoing board members Betty Hauptman, Dan Fredland and Morley Kahn. They were presented with plaques for their dedicated service to At Home.

Current Board Members Lori Contadino, Phyllis Herman, Louise Herz, Gerry Mayfield, Joan McClellan and Jack Sousa introduced themselves describing their responsibilities on the Board and their interests and experience.

Marylin thanked the Nominating Committee composed of Lori Contadino, Lin Lavery and Marv Berenblum for their excellent choice of new board members who then introduced themselves: Marcel Dekker, Helen Maher, David Rabin, Dr. Allison Ostroff and Chip Serrell.

Marylin then introduced the new members of the Advisory Council: Nancy Brown, Dick Ford and Lin Lavery who will join current Advisory Council members Bob Arnold, Stuart Adelberg, Marv Berenblum, Sam Deibler, Mike Harris, Dr. Steve Jones, Mindy Lang and Stephanie Paulmeno.

Gerry Mayfield described the current financial picture. Our operating expenses are roughly $150,000 per year. Our major expenditures are for maintaining our Executive Director, part time assistance, insurance, rent, printing, supplies and postage. Fifty percent of the operating expenses are met by membership dues and the remaining 50% are raised through our annual appeal plus contributions from faith-based organizations and foundations.

Lise’s Review of Operations:

- Current membership: 160 (updated as of August 2011)
- 67% single members
- 33% household (includes couples, sisters, partners, mother-daughter)
- All income levels

- 15% use financial aid
- All Greenwich zip codes
- Includes members in public housing, apartments, condominiums and single family homes
- Both homebound residents and world travelers
- 94% are active members utilizing At Home in some way; 6% are “just in case”
- 86% participate in social activities
- 82% use referrals
- 38% use social work consultation
- Seventy services are offered plus a growing Specialty List. Top requests for services include: electrician, plumber, handyman, transportation, roofer, social work

Upcoming programs were presented by the Program Committee: Phyllis Herman, Audrey Kahn, Joan Murphy, Barbara Martin, Dan Fredland, Sarah King, Elinor Appleton and Shaw Stuart.

Thanks to Hospitality Chair Sarah Whittemore, the lunch was delicious and the décor bright and fun.
Save the Date!
Thursday, November 3 at 2 pm
Making Choices: Planning for Future Health Care Needs

You will have the opportunity to hear from experts who can help you envision and plan for the kind of health care you want as you grow older. Get the answers to these common questions:
• What future health decisions might you be faced with?
• Which decisions need to be considered now?
• How can you ensure your wishes will be followed?
• How do you communicate your wishes to your family?

Common misperceptions we all have:
My children know what I want.
I’m healthy; I don’t need to plan.
My Living Will covers everything.
There are no options: dying will be painful.

When you take the time to give your family this gift of advanced planning, your wishes are more likely to be honored.

Panel Members
Sam Deibler, Greenwich Commission on Aging
and At Home Advisory Council Member
Tom Mahoney, Greenwich Department of Health
Christine Beechner, Greenwich Hospital
Allison Ostroff MD, Geriatrician
and At Home Board Member
Lise Jameson LCSW, Executive Director,
At Home in Greenwich, Inc.

At Home Planning Committee
Joan Murphy, Elinor Appleton, Melinda Scrivner

Results of the Annual Survey

Seeking input and feedback, At Home sent out its third annual survey to the membership. Over 50% of the members responded.

The survey was designed to answer 3 basic questions:
• Why did At Home members join the organization?
• Is At Home meeting members’ expectations and what aspects of membership do they value most?
• How can At Home improve?

The responses indicated that members value and use At Home in two ways:
• As an “insurance policy” in case a need for assistance arises either immediately or in the future,
• As a way in which to network: making new friends and participating in various activities which might otherwise be unavailable to them.

Most highly ranked of the services offered were the Monthly Calendar of Events; the e-mail blasts and telephone calls; dining groups (anything to do with food and a gathering of members was very popular!); theater, movies, opera, and museum visits, both local and in New York.

Members’ comments were overwhelmingly positive. “I consider At Home to be an insurance policy,” commented one happy member. Others wrote: “At Home is a safety net if I ever need it. That takes a lot of anxiety away from living alone...I have a feeling of security should I ever need the services...insurance for future needs.”

Perceptions of staff, volunteers, and the Executive Director were consistently very high in value and satisfaction. Members praised Lise as “a wonderful listener and full of helpful suggestions and comfort.” “I know Lise is there if I need her...she is great,” said others.

Answers to the third question about opportunities for improvement included more lectures (especially medical and current events), more direct contact such as telephone calls to those who are housebound or otherwise unable to attend many of the activities, and more referral sources.

There was a high degree of satisfaction with what has been offered, and the Program Committee will make every effort to include members’ suggestions in the future. Surprisingly, the survey also served as information for many. A number of members indicated they were not aware of all the services available to them as At Home members; the survey inspired them to increase their participation in activities and utilize more resources in the future.

To sum up, as one member put it and others voiced in many ways, “DOING A GREAT JOB!”

Survey Committee:
Sarah Sanderson King, Louise Herz, and Shaw Stuart
We have an amazing roster of At Home members who continue to contribute their many talents to the community and to celebrate meaningful personal milestones. Here’s just a sampling:

**Carla Wallach**’s memoir, *In the Company of Originals* is available on Amazon or by order from your local bookstore, hardcover or paperback. Carla continues to write a monthly op-ed column in *Greenwich Time* and *Stamford Advocate*.

**Tina Bishop** reports that, “Going off on various outings with my new friends from At Home has been a wonderful vacation from my usual routine as writer of novels. At 93, I am just finishing my fourth book, *Color Her Red*. And I’ve already found some attractive and interesting characters for book number five!”

**Never Too Late**, *Roy Rowan*’s inspiring new book subtitled: “A 90 Year Old’s Pursuit of a Whirlwind Life” is available through Lyons Press or Amazon.com.

**Kay Langan** received the 2011 Spirit of Vassar Award given annually to an individual whose volunteer efforts exemplify an enduring spirit of community and caring.

**Lucy and Francis Auger** celebrated their 65th anniversary!

**Mary Babcock** with six children and 17 grandchildren welcomed her sixth, seventh and eighth great-grandchildren this year.

In the space of two weeks, **Lib Green** attended the weddings of two of her grandchildren.

**Elinor Appleton** reminisces: “I have two travel experiences indelibly printed in my memory. One was the result of a decision I made on my first visit to Nepal to travel by river instead of bus to a jungle camp. The river had vicious rapids but, worse, the eight Germans who were to go with me quit before the end of the first day. That left me with three days and nights surviving with the river guide, the cook and his young helper! The other experience was going on a hideously uncomfortable 3-day camel safari in the Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India—right on the Pakistan border. I think I was a bit crazy to do this, but I survived to tell the tale!”

The paintings of **Richard Andre Lanoux** and the photographs of **Mike Harris** were featured in Greenwich Arts Council’s *Art to the Avenue* in May.


**Janet Baldi** was awarded first prize in oils by the Old Greenwich Art Society.

**Sue and Frank Millard** with **Gretel Lynn Owens, Sue Millard, Don and Nancy Dworken, Ralph Mastaloni**

In At Home in Greenwich circles, Sue Millard is best known as a gracious hostess whose generosity is unequalled in throwing open her house for our summer get-togethers. But there is a serious side to Suzanne Turtle Millard. She is the Chairman of the Board of Turtle & Hughes, Inc, a leading independent woman-owned distributor of electrical, industrial, communications and energy solutions products.

The company was founded in 1923 by her grandfather, M. Berry Turtle and when Sue and her husband Frank Millard assumed leadership of the firm in 1970, she became the third generation chief executive of the family business. She was succeeded as CEO in November 2008 by her daughter, Jayne Millard.

Headquartered in Linden, N.J., the company has ten locations in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Texas. Turtle & Hughes is one of the top 16 electrical distribution companies in the United States and one of the top woman-owned businesses of any kind nationally.

Sue has been the recipient of the Business Owner Achievement Award of the Professional Women in Construction Organization of New York City and the Distinguished Service Award of the Construction and Building Industry Division of the Archdiocese of New York.

We are so proud to have Sue and Frank on the At Home in Greenwich team!