

A Retirement Dinner

A priest was being honored at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation, and give a little speech at the dinner. He was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited.

“I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here,” he said. “I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set, and when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, taken illegal drugs, and had an affair with his boss’s wife.”

“I was appalled. But, as the days went on, I knew that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people.”

Just as the priest finished his talk, the politician arrived, full of apologies for being late. He immediately began to make his presentation and gave his talk.

“I’ll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived,” he said. “In fact, I had the honor of being the first one to go to him in confession.”

Moral of the story – Don’t ever be late!

JANUARY SPEAKERS (All meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark’s Church)

- Jan 6** Our first speaker of the new year will be Steve Roach. He is a Managing Director and the Chief Economist for Morgan Stanley, overseeing the firm’s highly regarded team of economists in New York London, Frankfurt, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Singapore. Before joining Morgan Stanley, he was with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company and also served on the research staff of the Federal Reserve. Mr. Roach has a Ph.D in economics from New York University and a bachelor’s degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin.
- Jan 13** Fellow SMC member Harlan Anderson will speak to us on “Breaking the German Enigma.” This achievement was credited with shortening the war by two years. Harlan was a co-founder of Digital Equipment Corporation. He also served as director of technology for Time Inc. In addition, he was a co-founder of the local ABC chapter, and of the New Canaan Inn, and has served on the board of many local non-profit organizations. He was born in Illinois and received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Physics at the University of Illinois.
- Jan 20** Rear Admiral (Ret) Malcolm MacKinnon, III will cover the response from a marine salvage standpoint to disasters (both man-made and natural) in US ports. A graduate of the Naval Academy, Adm. MacKinnon also has a graduate degree from MIT and is a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College. He is a qualified diver, and specialized in other aspects of ocean engineering as well. Among his many service activities, he participated in the search for and recovery of the H-bomb lost off of Palomares, Spain, in 1966.
- Jan 27** Lou Noto will again address us, with “Comments on the Oil Scene.” He is currently the Managing Partner of Midstream Partners, LLC, a private investment company specializing in the development of energy-related projects. He is also a director of IBM, Altria, Roger Penske’s United Auto Group, and Shinsei Bank. He previously was Chairman and CEO of Mobil, and Vice Chairman of Exxon Mobil. He has a degree in Physics from Notre Dame and an MBA from Cornell.

COUTH

- Jan 18 (Wed)** It's theater time in New York City again! We'll be back at Le Rivage for dinner, and then on to the Broadway production of Jewtopia. It's a very, very funny show about one man's search for a Jewish girl – so he'll never have to make decisions. There's a special price of \$110 per person. Departure time from St. Mark's will be 3:00 p.m. Hosts again will be our Broadway critics, Ron Seger and Mike Alloca.
- Feb** There will be no couth trip in February.
- Mar 16 (Thur)** Mark your calendar for one of the most popular couth trips, the New York Philharmonic open rehearsal. The program includes Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri* Overture, Paganini's Violin Concerto No. 1 in E-flat, and, Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Lunch will be at an SMC favorite, Tavern on the Green. Price and time to be announced. Tracey Mackle will be our host.
- Apr 4 (Tues)** Do you watch WNET PBS Channel 13? Bill Baker has invited us to visit their headquarters and studios in mid-town Manhattan. We'll follow the tour with a luncheon in Rockefeller Center and a trip to the newly reopened "Top of the Rock" observation deck. Pete Stair will be the host, and price and time are pending.

Please note: As a reminder, the Couth policy is as follows: The sign-up sheet is to be used as an indication of interest and intent to participate, but not to establish a reservation. The date of the check receipt by the Couth Committee will be the control of a confirmed reservation.

ACTIVITIES

- Bridge** Bridge follows weekly meetings. Games last until about 2:00 p.m. Sign up before the meeting or at start of the break at the Couth Desk. A post-meeting drawing establishes who'll go to Waveny House for play. Eric Musa (966-3125)
- Paddle Tennis** Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. A Rec Department permit is required. George Perkins (972-6852)
- Racquetball** Players wanted. Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 a.m. at the YMCA. Bill Patton (966-4849)
- Skyblazers** The Skyblazers will be flying on January 23 at 9:00 a.m. at the new Lapham Community Center. Jack Murray (966-1416)
- 4F Luncheon** Selection of the site for the luncheon is announced at a meeting during the month. Sign up prior to or during the break at the fourth Friday meeting. Eric Petschek (966-0624)

Attention Amateur Chefs Thursday, January 19, we will meet at the kitchen at Lapham Community Center at 11:00 a.m. for "hands on" cooking, lunch and discussion. Please contact Marvin Newman at (972-8165) or Bert Liebelt (966-3696) for more details.

Dues For 2006 Your Senior Men's Club dues of \$30 for 2006 are now payable. The deadline for payment is February 28. Please pay as soon as possible to avoid a loss of membership. You may pay Joe Elmlinger or Chic Lyttle any Friday, by check to SMCNC, or mail your payment to SMC, c/o YMCA, 564 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840.

Dave Hunt, Editor

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