



# NEWSLETTER

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SMCNC.ORG

## NOBODY EVER SAID MEN DON'T HAVE FUN SHOPPING! - (thanks to George Brakeley)

A retired SMC member's wife insisted that he accompany her on her trips to Target. He painfully obliged. As she browsed, he waited around looking to do just about anything to curb his boredom. After about 6 months and many trips to the store, his wife received a letter from the store informing her that she and her husband were banned from the store explaining he was caught 9 times by the surveillance cameras causing disruptions in the store: 1. He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in elderly women's carts when they weren't looking. 2. He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the woman's restroom. 3. He went to the service desk and tried to put a bag of M&M's on layaway. 4. He looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose. 5. While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the anti-depressants were. 6. He hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, he yelled, "Pick Me, Pick Me!" 7. When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and screamed, "On No! It's Those Voices Again!" 8. He took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked, "Where is the fitting room?" 9. On another day he went into a fitting room, closed the curtains, waited awhile, and then yelled very loudly, "Hey, somebody! There's no toilet paper in here!" One of the store's clerks standing nearby fainted! His wife now only shops Friday mornings while her husband quietly and contently attends the SMC meetings.

## JANUARY SPEAKERS - (Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Marks Church)

January 3            No Meeting - New Year's Week

January 10        Chris Schipper, President, New Canaan Land Trust, will be speaking on all the recent Land Trust activities in New Canaan. During the past year, the focus has been on raising awareness about the importance of our town's open spaces, wildlife sanctuaries and the scenic beauty of New Canaan. Two properties have been opened for recreational access and programs are underway to improve overall stewardship. Much has been accomplished in the first year with the Land Trust. Now we'll find out what's in store in the future.

January 17        Jack Hennessey, Director of Fire Services for Town of New Canaan, will speak on the "NCFD: Past, Present and Future". He has had thirty-seven years experience in fire and emergency management. New Canaan stole him away from the City of Stamford in 2006 to be Assistant Fire Chief and was promoted this year to Chief. His list of duties and responsibilities could fill up this page. Needless to say, the Chief is kept very busy supervising all facets of New Canaan's fire operations and staff.

January 24        Tucker Murphy, Executive Director, New Canaan Chamber of Commerce, has been actively involved since 2009 revitalizing our Chamber of Commerce. She will cover all the many initiatives to promote our town and continue to make it an eminent destination for dining, shopping and entertainment. That's great for our home values and our local merchants. She is on NC's Town Council. And if not enough service, is on the Board of the League of Women Voters and member of CERT, National Charity League, YMCA Board and Kiwanis Club.

January 31        Craig Wright, President of Peripatetic Activities for the SMC, will be making his 15th speech to the Club. This time he will be covering yet another vacation destination entitled: "Mongolia and Genghis Kahn - Then and Now". He will discuss the ascent of Genghis Kahn, and his sons, from the most humble beginnings to control of the largest contiguous empire the world has ever known and how this Mongolian influence impacted the development of modern Europe and Asia.

**SMC YEARLY CLUB DUES ARE DUE IMMEDIATELY!** - Gentlemen, thank you for your 2014 club dues payment. However, there still are a number of members that have yet to pay! So as a reminder, please submit your \$50 payment at our next meeting in cash or check, or you can mail your check to SMCNC, c/o YMCA, 564 South Avenue, NC, CT. 06840. And a special "Thank You!" to those who have paid an extra amount over the \$50 to help balance our budget....we're almost there. Members who do not pay by the end of January will be removed from the new rooster and mail list!

## COUTH

**February** Culinary Institute of America Trip - Tuesday, Feb. 25th. We leave St. Mark's around 8:45am; tour will be at 10:30am; lunch at the Ristorante Caterina de' Medici at 11:30am; will return by about 3pm. The menu and cost will be announced soon. The sign up sheets will be available at the Couth Desk. Questions? Ask: Dave Conrad (203-594-1401), Bob Spence (203-966-6499)

**April** NY Philharmonic Open Rehearsal - Thursday, April 10th. Advance notice! Save the date.

**May** NY Tenement Museum Tour - Tuesday, May 20th. Advance notice! Save the date.

**October** EXPLORING SCOTLAND & IRELAND TRIP! - OCTOBER 15-26th - Plan way ahead! Save the date! Exclusive trip for SMC members and friends. Our own 12 day tour. Further details will soon be available at the Couth Table and at future meetings or contact: Stan Stanziale (203-966-2862) or Bob Witt (203-966-2892).

## ACTIVITIES - (Check the website at SMCNC.ORG for updates)

- Amateur Chefs.** January luncheon is on Thursday, Jan. 16th at Lapham, 12 noon. Will accept 12 attendees. Sign up at Couth Table. Nick Zaccagnino (203-966-7217), Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696)
- Bridge** Talk with friends and organize your own games after Friday meetings.  
Eric Musa (203-966-3696)
- Mystery Books** Our discussion of Sue Grafton's oeuvre in December was snowed out, but the ever intrepid mystery crowd rescheduled a meeting in time for a murder and mayhem-free Christmas. In January we are reading the works of Elmore Leonard, author of "Get Shorty", who's movie hero, Chili Palmer, was played by John Travolta on the silver screen. Our January meeting will be announced at our next Friday meeting. Brian Hollstein (203-972-0633)
- Investments** The next meeting will be in April. Harry Hitch (203-966-1947)
- Paddle Tennis** Play on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays; 9am-11am at Waveny. A Rec. Dept. permit is required. Sam Samai (203-966-0427), Nick Guthrie (203-966-6192)
- 4F Luncheon** Plan on a January 24th lunch. Details at Friday meeting. Don Tiefenthaler (203-966-5794)

## DISTINGUISHED NEW CANAAN SENIOR MEN NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for the Distinguished NC Senior Men's Award. If you know someone in the club with exceptional service to the club, to the NC community and the NC government, please consider nominating him for this recognition in 2014. SMC members may submit a nomination, which describes titles, descriptions of service, length of services, funds raised and benefits provided to people or groups. Nominations are due Feb 15, 2014 and should be given to SMCNC President, Bob Spence (RMSpence@msn.com). For more information, visit the Distinguished NC Senior Man section of the SMCNC website. Any questions, contact Ralph Hills (203-966-6211).

**NEW MEMBERS** - Very happy to announce that we have one new member: Peter Herring. Welcome to the SMCNC, Peter! We are delighted you have joined us.