



# NEWSLETTER

February, 2010  
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SMCNC.ORG

## Health Care Proposal (with thanks to Alan Fleischer)

The American Medical Association has weighed in on the new Obama health care proposals. The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. The Gastroenterologists had a sort of gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve. The Obstetricians felt they were all laboring under a misconception. Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing. The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and the Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter." The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea. The Anesthesiologists thought the proposal was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the a\*\*holes in Washington.

## FEBRUARY SPEAKERS (Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church.)

- Feb 5 Suzanne A. Rosenberg, MS, LCSW is the Hospice Administrator and Program Director and Jenelyn C. Lim, M.D. is the Hospice Medical Director for Masonicare Home Health & Hospice. Together they will address "Everything You Wanted to Know About Hospice but Were Afraid to Ask." They will explore the growth of palliative medicine, including its implications for both disease management and end of life care, and will look at hospice care, consider some prevalent myths, and address its value, limitations and opportunities as part of the health care continuum at end of life.
- Feb 12 Dr. Heidi B. Hammel will talk about telescopes in space. She'll explain why astronomers put telescopes there, discuss what the current space telescopes like Hubble and Spitzer are revealing about the Universe, and examine the prospects for future space-based telescopes. Dr. Hammel, a long-time user of the Hubble Space Telescope, is a Senior Research Scientist and co-Director of Research at the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colorado. She is also an Interdisciplinary Scientist for the James Webb Space Telescope, the next major space telescope for NASA, which is scheduled for launch in 2014.
- Feb 19 "So You Want to Write a Memoir..." Everyone has a story to tell. That's why memoir writing has become such a popular phenomenon and a very rewarding and life-enriching experience. Having recently published his memoir, *The Langevin Legacy*, SMC member Roger Langevin will summarize the three-year journey he went through, outline steps to getting published, address genealogy and family history, and share a few humorous anecdotes. He will also reminisce about his unique experience as the all-time winner in the history of the TV quiz show "Beat the Clock."
- Feb 26 Congressman Jim Himes will provide an update on where financial regulation stands. He will also take us behind the scenes in Washington and tell us how laws are really made and what the life of a Congressman is really like, particularly that of a freshman Congressman. What are the satisfactions and frustrations of the job? What are the most important aspects of his job that are as he expected and what was unexpected? What are two or three issues he is particularly committing himself to, why, and what does he intend to do about them.

NEW MEMBERS - We have one new member since the last newsletter: Robert Clay. Please welcome him when you see him at the meetings.

NEED A RIDE TO FRIDAY MEETINGS? Members are reminded that Getabout Van service is available to you. Just call Getabout at 203-972-7433 one day in advance, and sign up to travel with the others enjoying this service. Getabout asks a donation of \$3 each way but does not require it. You can even arrange to be driven from the meeting to lunch or shopping downtown and taken home after that.

## COUTH

**Feb 9 (Tues)** We will again visit the Culinary Institute of America. The cost per person will be \$50. Departure time from St. Mark's is 9:30, and expected return about 4:00. Your hosts will be Don Hunziker (203-966-4318) and Ladd Seton (203-972-8786).

**Mar 10 (Wed)** Our annual trip to the NY Philharmonic open rehearsal. Riccardo Muti will lead the orchestra in Franck's D minor symphony and Vadim Repin, called by Yehudi Menuhin "the most perfect violinist I have ever heard," will perform the Beethoven concerto. We will lunch across Broadway at Josephina's. Depart St. Mark's 8:00 a.m. Cost \$80 per person. Hosts Tracey Mackle (203-966-1149) and Pete Stair (203-966-6497).

**Future trips include:**

**April 21<sup>st</sup> - Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Tour (Hosts Pete Stair and Tracey Mackle)**

**May - Essex Steam Train and Riverboat Ride (Host Mike Alloca)**

**June - Belmont Racetrack (Hosts Jack Murray and Stan Stanziale)**

**September 16 -24 - Collettevacations.com** have been able to accommodate our 22 sign-ups for the 9 day, "Canadian Rockies by Train" tour. This tour will take us from Vancouver, BC by overnight-day train in dome cars traveling through the Columbia Ice Fields and Jasper. Luxury bus for Lake Louise, Banff and Calgary. Hotel stays at Westin and Fairmont Hotels including the Fairmont Lake Louise. Special SMC rate \$3,699 per person. More spaces may be available. For a brochure, contact Bob Witt 203 966 2892.

**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 (Check the website at SMCNC.ORG for updates)

**Amateur Chefs** The chefs will meet at Lapham Community Center on Thursday, February 18. Details will follow at the Friday meetings and on the website.

Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696), Nick Zaccagnino (203-966-7217)

**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.  
Eric Musa (203-966-3125)

**Paddle Tennis** Play has begun. Play on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 at Waveny. A Rec Department permit is required. \$10 ball fee.

Steve Rowley (203-966-2376), John Ross (203-966-8339)

**Photography** The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17 at Lapham Community Center, from 1:30 to 4:00.

Jack Messert (203-966-8754)

**Racquetball** Players wanted. Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 a.m. at the YMCA. Bill Patton (203-966-4849)

**Trailblazers** Listen at the Friday meetings and check the website for more details on any upcoming hikes.  
Ray Davis (203-940-3013)

**4F Luncheon** Our informal, relaxing Dutch treat lunch is usually on the Fourth Friday. However, at the end of January, we'll have a Fifth Friday lunch instead, on January 29. The site will be Nino's. Details about future lunches will be announced at Friday meetings. All are invited to join in, especially newer members who will find the group always hospitable. Sign up at the Couth desk, either before 10 a.m. or during the coffee break. Don Tiefenthaler (203-966-5794)

**MEMBER DUES** Bob Spence, club treasurer, will be happy to receive payment of your Senior Men's Club dues of \$35 for the 2010 calendar year. Your prompt payment will help out by eliminating the need for follow-up reminders. You may pay Bob any Friday, by check to SMCNC, or mail your payment to SMC, c/o YMCA, 564 South Avenue, New Canaan, CT 06840.



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