



# NEWSLETTER

December, 2014  
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**SIGNS OF THE TIMES** - At a gas station: "Don't die a virgin - Terrorists are up there waiting for you". <!--> At a florist: "Spring is here - I'm so excited I wet my plants." <!--> On a lawn sign: "Please don't empty you dog here." <!--> On a residential front door: "NO SOLICITING - We are too broke to buy anything. We know who we are voting for. We have found Jesus. Unless you are selling thin mints, please go away!" <!--> Sign on a front window: "Dogs are family. Would you drain your grandma outside?" <!--> At a coffee shop: "You haven't had enough coffee until you can thread a sewing machine while it is running." <!--> On a plumber's truck: "Don't sleep with a drip. Call your plumber." <!--> On an electrician's truck: "Let us remove your shorts." <!--> In a veterinarian's waiting room: "Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!" On a Septic Tank Truck: "Yesterday's meals on wheels". <!--> And on another septic truck: "Caution - this truck is full of Political Promises!"

**IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON - SO, SOME RELIGIOUS 'PAIRINGS'** - (thanks Dave Hunt)  
A Lutheran man walks into the lingerie department of Macy's in NYC. He tells the sales lady, "I would like a Lutheran bra for my wife, size 34B." With a quizzical look the sales lady asks, "What kind of bra?" He repeats, "A Lutheran bra. My wife said to tell you that you would understand what she wanted." "Oh, yes, now I understand. We don't get as many requests for them as we used to. Most of our customers lately want the Catholic bra, the Salvation Army bra, or the Presbyterian bra." The man asks, "So, what are the differences?" The sales lady responds. "It's quite simple. The Catholic bra supports the masses, the Salvations Army bra lifts up the fallen, and the Presbyterian bra keeps them staunch and upright." Asking the obvious question, the man says, "Hmm. I know I'll regret asking, but what does the Lutheran bra do?" "Ah, she replied, "the Lutheran bra makes mountains out of molehills."

## **DECEMBER SPEAKERS** - (Meetings are at 10:00am in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church)

**December 5**      James Rickards, author of the book, *The Death of Money*, titles his speech: The Coming Collapse Of the International Monetary System. Each past collapse (1914, 1939 & 1971) was followed by a period of tumult, war and civil unrest. He will explain his views of a coming collapse for the US dollar and the role that confidence plays in supporting the currency, shows why another collapse is rapidly approaching and why nothing less than the institution of money is at risk.

**December 12**      **NO MEETING - ANNUAL SMC CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON** - Lunch at Country Club of New Canaan. Wives and guests are invited. Choice of salmon or roast beef. Salad, table wine, tip and tax are all included in the modest cost of \$55 (\$60 at the door). Cash bar at 11:30, lunch at 12:20pm. Please write on your check your choice of salmon or beef and mail to: Paul Stein, 172 Oenoke Lane, New Canaan, CT or present the check to him at a Friday meeting. If any questions, call Paul at 203-966-1262.

**December 19**      Mark Mathias, founder of the Westport Mini Maker Faire, will talk about his experiences with the Faire and how that has a huge local impact on schools, businesses, libraries & communities. Beyond the boundaries of Fairfield County, he will also discuss how the "maker movement" is helping people around the world learn, earn and enjoy in ways they never considered possible. The unexpected success of the Faire has inspired people to learn, start businesses and have fun.

**December 28**      **NO MEETING** - Christmas weekend

**YEAR END MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT** - The year is flying by awfully fast - it's holiday time and the new year is close behind. By the time you receive this newsletter we should be thinking about the SMC Christmas Party at the Country Club of NC on December 12th. Hope to see you there and look forward to singing the "Twelve Days of Christmas" again with our always entertaining Blue Notes singing group. However you celebrate the holidays, your SMC Officers and Directors wish you very merry ones with those you love.

## COUTH

December      GOODSPEED OPERA - Irving Berlin's HOLIDAY INN, Thursday, December 4th. Due to it's popularity, Goodspeed extended the performance to be able to accommodate us. Package includes a full course meal at the Gelston House. Check in at St. Mark's at 10am. \$104 per person for bus, meal, show, refreshments on the ride home and all gratuities. Contact Bob Witt (203-966-2892).

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

Amateur Chefs      The December luncheon will be held at Lapham Center on Thursday, December 11th. For information contact Nick Zaccagnino (203-7217) or Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696)

Bridge      Organize your own games after the Friday meetings.      Eric Musa (203-966-3125)

Investments      Next meeting will be on Monday, January 5th at Lapham. Time: 10am. We will be reviewing our SMC portfolio.      Paul Strassmann (203-966-5505)

Mystery Books      Our club scared each other pretty well with "Silence of the Lambs" in November, so we will take December off to recover and have a holiday season without murder and mayhem. We will pick up in January with P. D. James' "Death Comes to Pemberly" and compare and contrast with "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austin. We will meet again at the library and plan to take a look at how PBS/BBC interpret the two writers. Brian Hollstein(203-972-0633)

Paddle Tennis      Play at Waveny on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-10:30am. A Rec Department permit is required.      Nick Guthrie (203-966-6192), Sam Samai (203-966-0427)

DISTINGUISHED NEW CANAAN SENIOR MAN 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/or NC government, please consider nominating him for this recognition in 2015. SMC members may submit a nomination that describes titles, descriptions of service, length of services, funds raised and benefits provided to people or groups. Nominations are due February 15, 2015 and should be given to SMC President Brian Hollstein. For more information, visit the website or contact Ralph Hills (203-966-6211).

SENIORS WELLNESS TELE-HEALTH PIONEERS is expanding! First participants became smarter health care consumers, more active walkers and exercisers, ate a healthier diet, and improved dealing with stress. The town furnishes vital signs monitoring & FITBIT to measure physical activity. The formal program starts on January 1, 2015. They will be conducting public informational sessions over the next few weeks. Candidates can call or email either Bethany Zaro (203-594-3093) or Vine Cottage (203-594-3076) to learn more. It's free, fun and it works.

2015 SMC DUES ARE DUE - Please submit your \$50 payment at next Friday's meeting in cash or check, payable to SMCNC. Or mail check to SMCNC, c/o YMCA, 564 South Avenue, NC, CT 06840. It would be a wonderful help if members made a voluntary donation above the \$50 to help the Club balance the budget.

NEW MEMBERS - Very happy to announce that we have 4 new members: David Cattrell, Jim Goebel, John Heyd and Leroy Ness. Welcome, gentlemen! We are delighted that you have joined the SMCNC!