

We're still learning, for learning is...

Boundless



 FOUNDERS HALL

2021 Impact Report

Founders Hall is dedicated to providing a diverse program of social, educational and physical fitness programs for today's active seniors in a warm, fun and stimulating atmosphere.

ANNUAL ACTIVITY

2021 Overview:

ACTIVE MEMBERS.....	3,278	NEW MEMBERS.....	150	AVERAGE COST PER CLASS....	\$30
AGE RANGE.....	52-102	INSTRUCTORS.....	56	COST TO JOIN.....	\$0

Bruce Lee said, **“I’m still learning, for learning is boundless.”** How true this is when it comes to Founders Hall. It embodies everything we hope to accomplish, for ourselves and our members.

There is no end to what you can discover when you walk into our building. We want to empower our members to become successful in anything they wish to achieve. Our diverse classes include something for everyone, including opportunities to build on their initial entry into their new skillset.

Beyond the academic programs and social outlets, we’re striving to give our members the resources that they need to grow and learn. It’s part of our greater purpose. To do that we must expand our viewpoints by learning from our community.

How many times have I sat down with a member and they told me something that resonated? The wisdom that our members have imparted here is just as invaluable as the things they’re learning in class. I like to think that it’s part of their legacy.

Every day we open our doors and look for ways to make good things better. How do we continue to improve? Where do we go (grow) from here?

While some things changed, other things remained the same, like the fact that Founders Hall became a place that perpetuates continuity and connection all while lifting our collective dreams upward.

Because of your support, that remains what Founders Hall is all about.

One thing is certain, we will never stop trying to improve each member’s experience. And as long as we continue to learn, the sky is the limit.



All My Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace".

Grace F. Weber

Executive Director

Master the many ways to keep

Moving

“Age is a matter of feeling, not of years.”

| George William Curtis

Dance, aerobics, sports and yoga are only a few of the monthly exercise programs offered here at Founders Hall. Members pushed their bodies to the max as they found fun new ways to work out their muscles and minds. Members found flexibility with virtual options, taking advantage of hybrid or remote classes. This allowed us to expand our enrollment as virtual participants made room for more in-person learners.

Because of you, our classes stretched beyond the conventional, empowering members to try new things like Tai Chi, Zumba, and strength training.

As the sounds of tap shoes filled our hallways, we promised our members they can set their goals high and we will help them reach them.



Try something new.
 Dance your heart out.
 Find ways to relax.

Members were emboldened to embrace new physical activities. As they attempted the impossible, they discovered there were no limits.

20 PROGRAMS HELD
 IN PERSON

18 PROGRAMS HELD
 VIA ZOOM

WELLNESS

3355 Slots Filled for 32
 Fitness Programs:

AEROBICS	3
DANCE	8
SPORTS	4
STRENGTH & BALANCE	8
TAI CHI	5
YOGA	4





Cultivate your inner

Creative

**“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use,
the more you have.”** | Maya Angelou



Thanks to you, our creativity programs flourished. From Art Nouveau to Let’s Get Crafty, the artists among us nurtured their skills and cruised to new heights. They experimented with watercolors, oil paints, and colored pencils. They took formal classes on complex subjects and pushed their comfort levels to unprecedented limits. Members immersed themselves in their subjects, reaching for new understanding while developing their skills. Students worked together with like-minded artists; or independently as they were handed the freedom to grow at their own pace.



Drop-in programs such as weaving, quilting, and gardening offered flexibility and a way to meet new people while doing the things they love in an informal setting. Mentoring each other is one of the most special ways we learn here. As our garden grew, so did our friendships.

Students found inspiration in unexpected places and nurtured their newest passions. You provided a guide for an endless journey.

CREATIVITY

324 Members Participated in 38 Creativity Programs:

DECORATIVE ARTS	1	PLUS DROP-IN GROUPS:
FIBER ARTS	3	GARDENING
LANGUAGE ARTS	4	QUILTING
PERFORMING ARTS.....	4	WEAVING
VISUAL ARTS	26	

27 PROGRAMS HELD
IN PERSON

11 PROGRAMS HELD
VIA ZOOM



Elevate your

Education

“Commit yourself to life-long learning. The most valuable asset you’ll ever have is your mind and what you put into it.” | Albert Einstein

Because of your support, our members’ educational opportunities were elevated to new heights. Almost 3,000 people were able to take advantage of all we offer here to further their quest for knowledge. We held 61 educational programs via Zoom, like Classical Wisdom, French, and Film. When we were able to resume in-person classes, we opened 44 programs, like our lively book discussions, 100 Years of Comedy, and Italian.

What’s especially notable about this year’s programming are the hybrid classes we were able to provide. Beginning in the summer of 2021, three hybrid classes were available. By fall the number was up to 11.

This opened up the door for people to take classes from the comfort of their own home, not just because of the pandemic, but for any reason at all. No one had to miss a class ever. They could Zoom from vacation, on snow days, or when they didn’t feel like getting out of their pajamas.



Iconic Buildings and Film - Artists and Writers were two of the academic programs available via hybrid. Our members engaged in vibrant conversations about The Girl with the Pearl Earring, Frida, and Ruby Sparks.

Offering our members this valuable resource allowed them to connect from anywhere, at anytime. Our academic programs soared in new ways, taking flight through the most challenging storm.

ACADEMICS

2990 Members Participated in 112 Academic Programs:

BRIDGE.....	16	LANGUAGES.....	11
CURRENT ISSUES.....	2	LITERATURE & FILM.....	39
GENEALOGY.....	14	MUSIC APPRECIATION.....	12
HISTORY.....	10	SEMINARS.....	2
		TECHNOLOGY.....	6

44 PROGRAMS HELD
IN PERSON

61 PROGRAMS HELD
VIA ZOOM



Forge new Friendships

**“There are no strangers here; only friends
you haven’t yet met.”** | William Butler Yeats

Because of your generosity, almost 600 members were able to participate in 13 different camaraderie and social programs, expanding their views when our worlds seemed to become smaller. Our holiday party and ice cream sundae walk-by allowed our members to mix and mingle. The Independence Day picnic was a huge success, where 131 members socialized and felt as though life had, at last, gone back to normal, at least here at Founders Hall.

For those who weren't ready to meet in person, you allowed us the technology to host virtual games, which were available over Zoom: Wheel of Fortune, Scattergories, trivia, and Bingo. This enabled our members to stay connected even when they couldn't leave their homes.

Finally, we offered pick-me-ups to give our members a much-needed joyful reminder that we were still here, even if they couldn't come see us. Our staff was delighted to see our members and will always remember



10

PROGRAMS HELD
IN PERSON

3

PROGRAMS HELD
VIA ZOOM

the sheer joy that radiated throughout these days. Members drove by our building for waves and conversations, getting seasonal treats. For members who couldn't come by, we delivered to their homes, knowing everyone needed a virtual hug and a reminder Founders Hall would unwaveringly lift them any way we could.

A strong sense of community has always been one of our goals, and thanks to you, we continue to elevate these programs for the betterment of our members.

CAMARADERIE

595 Members Participated in 79 Camaraderie Programs:

COOKING	34	PLUS DROP-IN GROUPS:
TOURNAMENTS & GAMES	4	BILLIARDS
MOVIES	29	BINGO
PARTIES	4	BOCCE
PICK-ME-UPS	6	BRIDGE
TEAS	2	MAH JONGG
		PINOCHLE
		SCRABBLE



Light up **Locally**

“The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.” | Anonymous

The second annual Founders Hall-iday Light Fight raised over \$43,000 to support Founders Hall's academic, fitness, and social programs. Thanks to our entire community rallying behind us, we found a way to celebrate the season, spread goodwill, and raise donations for our mission.

The Light Fight was graced with generous sponsors, of which over half were local Ridgefield patrons and businesses. Participants included both businesses and homeowners, who decorated their exteriors with

thousands of lights and décor. The result was a winding road map of festive cheer, culminating in a contest to vote for the favorite.

Winner Palmer Sperry designed his light display featuring over 40,000 lights, which he kept lit throughout the entire contest because he was afraid they wouldn't turn back on. The Sperry's raised \$3,805 in donations.

Every once and a while we get a chance to bask in the beauty and feel grateful to call Ridgefield home.



Founders Hall-iday Light Fight Participants

109 CHEESE & WINE
 ADAM BRODERICK SALON & SPA
 ALLY BALLY BEE
 BELLA HOME
 BOOKS ON THE COMMON/
 KELLER WILLIAMS
 COLDWELL BANKER
 CRAIG'S FINE JEWELRY
 ELIZABELLA'S BAKE SHOP
 FAIRFIELD COUNTY BANK
 INSURANCE SERVICES
 FOUNDERS HALL
 HERS MODERN BOUTIQUE
 JOHN'S BEST PIZZA

LOUNSBURY HOUSE
 NANCY O
 OLLEY COURT
 REDDING VETERINARY HOSPITAL
 RIDGEBLIND CONSERVATORY
 OF DANCE
 AMY KAHN RUSSELL
 TEWES-CARES: GERONTOLOGIST
 & PATIENT ADVOCATE
 SPECIALIZING IN ADULT/AGING
 LIFE & HEALTH CARE
 WEST LANE INN
 WILLIAM PITT SOTHEBY'S
 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Sponsors

Fairfield County Bank
 Liz and Steve Goldstone
 Nancy and Larry Bossidy
 Jenn and Ron Kubick
 Ridgefield Crossings
 UBS
 The Couri Family

Hollandia Nursery
 Regional Hospice
 Youngs of Ridgefield
 Civility Home Care
 Montanari Fuel
 Reese Hirsch Shoultz & Harrison
 HamletHub

\$46,889

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

\$3805

SPERRYS RAISED

42

LIGHT FIGHT
 PARTICIPANTS

14

LIGHT FIGHT
 SPONSORS

THE ARCHER FAMILY
 THE COOLBAUGH FAMILY
 THE D'AMICO FAMILY
 THE DYER FAMILY
 THE FUJITANI FAMILY
 THE FUREY FAMILY
 THE GARGUILO FAMILY
 THE GODBOUT FAMILY
 THE INTERLANDI FAMILY
 THE IWINSKI FAMILY
 THE KEATING/HUTCHINS
 FAMILIES

THE KUBICK FAMILY
 THE LOFTUS FAMILY
 THE MAYETTE FAMILY
 THE MCCLELLAN FAMILY
 THE MORONEY FAMILY
 THE PALMER FAMILY
 THE SIEWERT/WAKIN FAMILY
THE SPERRY FAMILY—1ST PLACE
 SUTTON SURGOT KNOWLES
 FAMILY
 THE ZETTL FAMILY

Live your best Life

“Let us remind ourselves that it is ordinary people...
that make the world a special place.” | Nelson Mandela



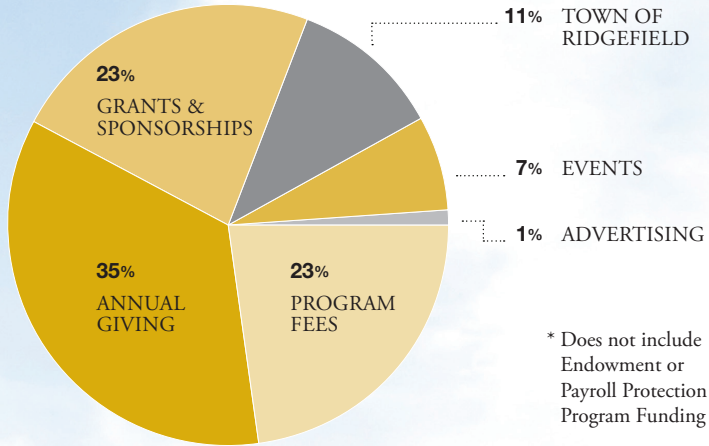
Lori and Ted Seibert discovered Founders Hall in 2008 and embraced everything it had to offer. From finding family as far back as the 1600s in genealogy to ballroom dancing to teaching pickleball, Ted and Lori stay active and busy all week long.

“We’ve lived here for 41 years,” Ted said, “and everyone talks about how great Ridgefield is... but the hidden jewel is Founders Hall, which is beyond belief.” Every time the registration booklet comes out, Lori has to restrain herself

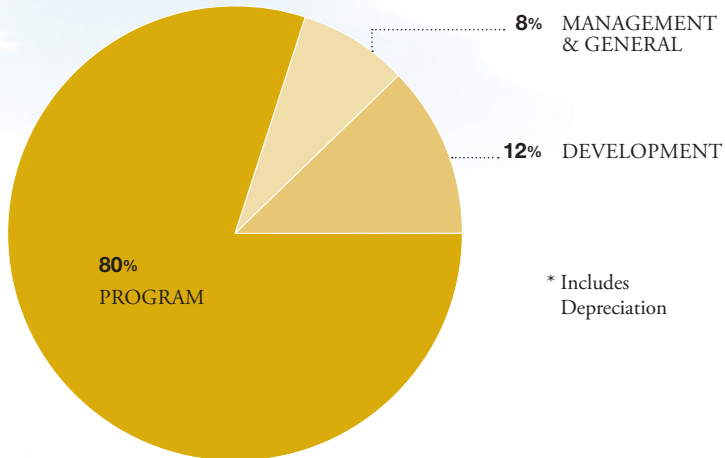
to not sign up for too many programs and overextend herself because they all sound interesting. And their circle of friends expanded exponentially since joining.

Lori and Ted give generously and are members of Founders Circle as a way to ensure Founders Hall continues on for future generations. “It’s obvious to me that supporting this is our way of giving back,” Ted said. The Seiberts recognize a real need to have a place to belong and Founders Hall is that and so much more for the entire community.

2021 OPERATING INCOME : **\$949,688**



2021 OPERATING EXPENSES : **\$1,036,395**



Statement of Financial Position

Founders Hall Foundation, Inc. | December 31, 2021

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 465,654
Accounts and pledges receivable	2,749
Investments	44,430
Prepaid expenses	3,800
Security deposits	200
Total Current Assets	516,833

Property and Equipment,

net of accumulated depreciation 1,732,390

Investments - Endowment Fund

5,377,364

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 7,626,587

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 21,310
Deferred revenue	39,785
Total Current Liabilities	61,095

Long-Term Liabilities

Deferred Compensation 44,430

Total Liabilities

105,525

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	176,128
Board-designated - Reserve	124,043
Board-designated - Endowment fund	2,751,855
Net investment in property and equipment	1,732,390
Total without donor restriction net assets	4,784,416
With donor restrictions	2,736,646
Total Net Assets	7,521,062

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 7,626,587

Full audited financial statements are available upon request.



Leave a lasting Legacy

“Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present.” | Albert Camus

2021 DONORS

Donations Received
January 1 - December 31

- FOUNDERS CIRCLE
- ^ MONTHLY DONOR

Generous gifts come in all shapes and sizes at Founders Hall. From our volunteers who give countless hours to our monthly donors whose reliable giving makes it possible to plan, we have generosity lifting us up and allowing us to be so much more.

Some have chosen to leave their legacy to Founders Hall by joining Founders Circle and leaving a bequest. Others choose a small, one time donation, and we can feel their love as they hand over something small that

means so much. Businesses, groups, and individuals sponsor events, programs, and seminars. We look within our community and beyond to see overwhelming generosity. Your support, visible and invisible, is the reason for any success.

Whatever the gift, we are so grateful for the outpouring of love that allows Founders Hall to reach ever upward.

Champions | \$10,000 and Up

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Griswold Home Care
Ronald and Ruth Gustafson
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Conte Guzman-Hoffman
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Lizzy Hanson
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Hope Heller
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Sabine Heym-Kloeckner
Joe Hogan

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DONORS**
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Participated
in 2021

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Al Ryff
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Joanne Christiano Salerno
Richard Sanderson
Inge Sands

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INCOME**

\$7,900

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Jeffrey Schneider
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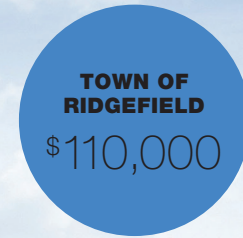
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BEQUESTS

\$23,914

These forward-thinking and caring individuals are securing their legacy by including Founders Hall in their estate planning, ensuring Founders Hall will be available for future generations.



Treasure our Teachers

“In learning you will teach, in teaching you will learn.” | Phil Collins

Founders Hall said goodbye to one of our beloved teachers this year. After almost two decades of teaching, Patti McEvoy Maloney announced her retirement.

Patti’s career as a fitness instructor began after an employment counselor suggested she might enjoy teaching exercise. Patti immediately saw the positive impact she made on people’s health and spirits. From helping students lower their blood pressure to watching them achieve fitness goals, Patti recognized the importance of fitness in member’s lives.

She and her students went through ups and downs together. When Patti’s husband was fighting cancer, her students surprised her by showing up in t-shirts that read “I Survived Patti” as a tribute to Patti and her husband’s strength in the face of cancer and recognizing her challenging classes.

Founders Hall meant never having to feel alone. “It was my favorite of my three careers,” Patti said. The friendships she made helped her through life’s greatest challenges and for that, she will be forever grateful.

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do... Explore. Dream. Discover!” | Mark Twain

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