Dear Friend,

Why all these cards? Simply to thank donors and show the many ways they have touched the lives of members like you. They may have funded a passion for learning, or helped you stay current and connected with technology. Because of donors, you and other members could strengthen your minds and bodies against the effects of aging. And, they brightened the afternoons of countless people, many of whom would have otherwise spent those afternoons at home alone.

So, as you flip through these cards, we hope you’ll take a moment to appreciate our donors and all that they helped to create last year. Perhaps you’ll even be inspired to become a donor yourself.

Because of their generosity, we closed 2013 on solid financial ground. Our constant challenge is to keep Founders Hall going not only for next year but for the next generation. We hope we can count on your help for that.

Of course, there is so much more to Founders Hall than will fit on these cards. Go to our website to learn more. Or, better yet, come in; that’s the best way to experience Founders Hall.

Sincerely,

Grace F. Weber, Executive Director
Where does inspiration strike?

For some, it was discovering the brilliance of Thomas Jefferson; others found it gazing out the art room windows at the brilliant autumn foliage. Many experienced a joyful “aha” moment when the Spanish conjugations finally clicked, or they mastered a scale on the piano, or discovered the birth certificate of a long-lost relative.

Last year, more than 3,200 people were inspired by classes in art, computers, current events, genealogy, history, investments, literature, languages, music, writing and more. Almost 60 Founders Hall instructors taught senior learners, and those learners enriched the experience with lifetimes of wisdom. What’s more, through 24 seminars and speakers, members delved into topics ranging from health and social services to comets, the America’s Cup, and writing as a second career.

That’s why your decision to fund life-long learning was nothing short of inspired.

www.founders-hall.org
On any given day, there is much to celebrate.

So, we did. Fourth of July picnic, Christmas party, Chinese New Year Tea, Spring Cruise, Volunteer Luncheon, Spaghetti Supper, Geography Bee, Billiard and Bocce Tournaments… well, you get the idea.

You brought people together in unexpected ways to celebrate the extraordinary and the ordinary. That meant a new retiree could begin to build this next phase of life. And, that a person who was starting over had a chance to meet people and make friends. Or, that someone who was struggling with a recent diagnosis or an ailing spouse found company and compassion in a warm and welcoming place.

Renewing, rebuilding, connecting, or affirming… wouldn’t you agree that no matter what stage you’re in, life is just better when you’re in it together?

www.founders-hall.org

Celebration Hall
Food has a delicious way of bringing us together.

At Tastings and Teas, members gathered to learn about different foods, sample fresh flavors, and savor sweet times with old friends and new. Thanks to generous sponsors and the expertise of local businesses, members tasted coffees, cakes, wines, tacos, sausages, sundaeas and more. At each semester’s cooking class, they watched cooking demonstrations, learned preparation tips and indulged in four-course lunches.

In June, three local chefs took Founders Hall to new culinary and fund-raising heights in the first annual Battle of the Chefs. This exciting foodie extravaganza generated an outpouring of community interest and support, attracted almost 200 guests, and made over $37,000 for Founders Hall.

As the saying goes, sometimes it takes a village… and three amazing chefs.

www.founders-hall.org
You helped fight the physical effects of aging.

On the chilly, dark morning of October 22, people began lining up outside our doors at 6 am. It was fitness registration and they were intent on renewing a spot in their favorite exercise class. Your donation gave them access to five-day-a-week fitness in 21 classes, including aerobics, aquacize, core, basketball, line dancing, pickleball, strength and balance, stretch and flex, tap dancing, tai chi, yoga and Zumba. Thanks to the experts from Western Connecticut Health Network, members also learned about back and spine health as well as posture and body mechanics at our annual fitness day. Held as part of a national health promotion for seniors, the event also offered members health assessments, fun fitness activities, and a healthy food cooking demonstration.

(So, did members really need to line up at 6 am for fitness registration? Nah. But with hot coffee and fresh bagels on hand, fitness registration becomes a bit of a social scene and some traditions are just too fun to let go.)

www.founders-hall.org
“Every child is an artist.
The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.”
- Pablo Picasso

With all due respect to the great Picasso, that wasn’t a problem here. Because of your support, a whole lot of grown-ups created all kinds of art in 2013. They drew portraits, painted landscapes, wove scarves, sewed quilts, hooked rugs, knitted sweaters and carved wood. Many tapped their inner artist through writing, or voiced it musically with the band, singing group and piano lessons. Creative thinking expressed itself over chess boards, hands of bridge and in other weekly games.

Life after 60 can be liberating. People generally have time to explore interests that were pushed aside by jobs and family demands. Because you gave to Founders Hall, low-cost classes, gifted instructors and beautifully-equipped rooms made it easy to dabble, deliberate, discover and create in an accepting, supportive environment.

We think Pablo would be pleased.

www.founders-hall.org
Day-Tripping Hall

It’s all in the view.

Whether it’s playing the odds at casinos or watching plays at theaters, day-tripping with Founders Hall can be an enlivening, entertaining and eye-opening experience. In addition to trips to casinos and theaters, groups reveled in collections at the Hartford Atheneum and Yale’s Peabody Museum; wandered stunning public gardens at Wave Hill in the Bronx; and peeked into the past at Kykuit, the Rockefeller estate in Pocantico Hills, New York.

By donating to Founders Hall, you made day-tripping easy for those who no longer want to wrestle with city traffic or distance driving. And, by supporting trips for people who share a passion for blackjack, Jackson Pollack, or jack-in-the-pulpits, you helped them connect with kindred spirits. You may have even led them to some self-discovery along the way.

Sometimes, a change of scenery works wonders.

www.founders-hall.org
Friendship fuels Founders Hall.

During retirement, people have time for friendship, and the need for it draws them in. Here, they can reconnect with friends they’ve missed since PTA days, or find new friends who share current interests. Friendship is evident in coffee klatches at dining room tables; conversations shared over craft room counters; and camaraderie exercised on yoga mats. And, then there are the billiards tables over which easy-going bantering, good-natured ribbing and ever-present laughter rack up friendships game by game.

Yet, retirement years can be fraught with changes, some of which are tough to overcome alone. Imagine a recently widowed 80-year-old who leaves the people and places she knows and relocates to Ridgefield to be close to family. But, her children work and the grandkids are in school. Then what?

That’s where you come in. When you give to Founders Hall, you help fill a need for basic human interaction and understanding. You’ve helped countless people find compassion and friendship here. To see photos of some of the friendships you’ve fueled, find us on Facebook.

Facebook: Founders Hall Ridgefield
“Lucky, lucky, lucky.”

That’s how Meg Downs feels because of you. On October 29, 2009, Meg (pictured on right) was on her way to recycle moving boxes when she saw two silver-haired ladies walking and talking on Catoonah Street. That’s when the enormity of her move struck this West Coast transplant, “Oh, I’ll never have a buddy to walk and talk with because I’m so new here.” Stopping by Town Hall for a permit, she learned about Founders Hall and drove right over. This vivacious 70-something immediately signed up for aerobics and yoga. The next semester she added bridge, pickleball and drawing. In subsequent years, Meg added more classes in history and art, and has plans to take all of them eventually.

“It makes your life awareness so much bigger,” she says of Founders Hall. Just as important is the sense of community it gives her. “I really feel like I belong here and,” Meg adds with a twinkle, “now I have an aerobics buddy, a history buddy, an art buddy… so many buddies and it’s so meaningful to me.”

www.founders-hall.org
GUARDIANS
The Chief's Workroom
Karen and Doug Coury
The Robert J. and Penny F. Morganti Foundation
Ridgefield, Connecticut

LEADERS (up to $10,000)
Ann Wray
Tusk and Cup
Margaret Keane and Jerry Hajdarovic
Herbert Goodman
Joan Goldberg
Gilbert and Joyce Gleit
Jane and Frank Gengo
General Reinsurance Corporation
Isobel Garvett
Raffaele Gallo
David and Carolyn Foster
Ellen and Mark Floyd
Mr. and Mrs. Ira Joe Fisher
Patricia Winslow
Catherine Michetti
Janet Hamm
Margaret Schmierer
Jane Scarbrough
Marsha and Vincent Savino
Linda Santoro
Linda Saks
Judy and Nick Rummo
Estella Round
Don and Peter Rose
John and Carole Rosa
Paul and Debbie Roche
Rod and Judy Rogers
John and Carolina Roncasi
Peter and Rose Rice
Patricia and Stephen Ross
Lee and Steve Rosen
Emilia Round
Ralph and Herb Schulkind
Karen Rubenstein
Judy and Nick Runsten
Paola Ruberto and Michael F. Russo
Linda Sacco
Nomarski and Vincent Serino
Lauren and Doug Siobhan
Tim and Mary Lou Sills
Liz and Howard Sleep
Beverly Smith
Tami Shuster
Shira and Irving Sosman
Thomas E. Simmons
Irene and Martin Slavin
Elinor Essex
Maureen and Donald Smith
Jacqui Stallard
Felicia and Peter Stenstrom
Linda Schuback and David Sachs
Nanette Sposato
Toni Stavale
Scott and Margaret Stavale
Fred and Susan Stone
Heather Storch
Janice Stover
Ann and Alan Stonestrom
Stephen Stavale
Lea and Jonathan Straw
Lynne Swanson
Pat T. Loucks
T. L. Bestun
Robert and Maryann Tanoskevich
Helene Tyler
James and Anke Tulip
Kathleen Tulipan
Joan Tull
Cherie and Gary Thomas
Peggy Thomas
Timothy Tompkins
Karen Ullman
Thorn HI
Tim Wohl
Tod Well
T. L. Bestun
Barbara B. Ughteter
Vicki and John Ullman
Catherine Van Arnum
Susan and Lukas Ullman
Mary Ellen Usili
Trina van Buhel
Karen and Robert Amato
Kristen and Joey van Nostrand
Tara Vanian
Ron and Kathy Vanwert
Mike and Deborah Vargish
Barbara Mansfield and Morgan Williams
Paul Williams
Michael Wolf
Paul and Usha Wight
M. D. John Wolsak
John and Carole Wolsak
Sue and Gary Wirth
Lori and Gary Wolff
Tina and Mary Lou Wolfe
Laurie and Herb Wolfskeel
Mary Lou Worthen
Ann Wray
You make you much possible.

Rudolph Cahn
Sandra Coat
Sandy and Joseph Contonio
Carrie Wood
A. S. Cook
Kathleen Cohn
Clark Cohn
Florin C Popescu
Roshni Comert
Valerie C. Cooper
Mark and Jane Costa
Fred and Tina Corsetti
Russ and Charles Cramer
Kris and Kimberly Cramer
John and Marc Capozi
Frank and Lisa Carr
Mike and Mary Jo Keiley
Cherette C Gabbard
Dana Daubler
Ellen and Murray Davock
Amy and David DelDuca
Mary DeFeo
Muriel DelGatto
Ralph and Maria Delgado
Carmella and Donald DeYoung
John and Ghana Dickie
John and Anthony Dima
Anna Lossius
Tony and Marianne Loomis
Marion Linhart
Patricia Ligos
Marie Libonati
Janet and John Leiphart
Ada P. Leary
Carolyn Lawrence
Grace Kulwin
Bill and Laurie Krebs
Gillian and Edward Kowalchuk
Mr. and Mrs. A. Kokalari
Jane Kirby
Georgia Ann Kindgren
Arline and Robert Kimerling
Michael and Patricia Kearney
Margaret Keane
Marjorie Karsch
Mary Lu Jurik
Laverle Jessup
Harold Huberfeld
Marge Holland
Carol and Frank Hillenbrand
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healey
Mary and Donald Healy
What will be your legacy?

If you ever admired the welcoming pots of spring pansies, summer petunias, autumn mums, or winter greens flanking our front doors, you knew a lovely part of Bobbie Schneider. She was a caring, unassuming woman who delighted in both plants and people.

When Bobbie died, she left a gift to Founders Hall. Her daughter wrote, "Very often when I came to visit, Mom would bring me to Founders Hall. Maybe she was registering for a class or checking on the annuals; but whatever it was I could count on being stopped and introduced to half a dozen of her friends! Mom loved Founders for the friends and community it provided – we loved it for that too!"

Bobbie’s far-sighted gift is a wonderful legacy that benefits her friends here now as well as future generations. Like Bobbie, you can link your legacy with Founders Hall through Founders Circle. Leaving a bequest won’t cost you anything now, but it will ensure future donations and for that we are deeply grateful.

To learn more, call (203) 431-7000.
Because you gave in 2013...

CURRENT MEMBERS: 3,243
ELIGIBILITY: residents age 60 or older of Ridgefield or of a surrounding town without its own full-time senior center
AVERAGE DAILY VISITS: 185
ACADEMICS: 192 semester courses, speakers and seminars
FITNESS: 16 monthly classes

SOCIALS: 47 events and trips
CLASS SEATS FILLED: 4,825
DONOR-SUPPORTED: two-thirds of our total operating budget came from philanthropy
STAFF: one full-time director, 7 part-time staff
INSTRUCTORS: 58
AVERAGE COST OF A CLASS: $2.70
COST TO JOIN: $0

MISSION
To provide a diverse program of social, educational and physical fitness programs for today’s active seniors in a warm, fun and stimulating atmosphere.

Founders Hall is a 501(c) 3 public charity incorporated under the name Founders Hall Foundation, Inc. The Foundation has an agreement with the town of Ridgefield to lease the land and run Founders Hall through 2022, with the option for future extensions. With continued support from generous people like you, the Foundation will run Founders Hall for generations to come.

Founders Hall
193 Danbury Road
Ridgefield, CT 06877
8:30 – 4:30 pm, Monday-Friday
203.451.7000