A Message from Grace:

Happy Summer! We finally made it and look forward to soaking it all in.

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual meeting. The board and management provided very positive updates, and our annual report is available to all of our members. Please see page 3 for a summary.

You’ll find lots to do at Founders Hall this month. From the Books of Summer Tea to Mah Jongg Game Day, our events are always a great way to meet new people. Our summer semester begins June 17th. Don’t forget to get your registration in by June 4th at 4:30pm!

We’re looking forward to our annual Independence Day Picnic on Wednesday, July 3rd. Please note, the building will be closed July 4th and 5th in observance of Independence Day.

We hope to see you very soon!

EVENTS

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER:
NICK DONOFRIO
“If Nothing Changes, Nothing Changes”
Friday, June 21st 1:00pm

Please join us for a very special discussion with longtime Ridgefield resident Nick Donofrio. He began his career in 1964 at IBM, where he remained for 44 years. Sharing his life story along with the lessons that shaped his career, Donofrio offers a shining message of hope from a life well lived - that every day brings new opportunities to change our path for the better.

AUTHOR VISIT:
GERRI LEWIS
“The Last Word”
Friday, June 28th 1:00pm

We look forward to welcoming beloved Ridgefield resident, journalist and former Founders Hall Board Member Gerri Lewis to discuss her first mystery novel, which takes place in Ridgefield, and her second book, which she’s working on now!
Thank you to our donors
From April 16th ~ May 15th

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Many thanks to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 16th. If you have not yet received your Annual Report in the mail, please see the front desk. A few of our favorite fun facts from the report and meeting:

- Total number of members over 21 years: 7,008
- Number of current active members: 3,208
- Number of new members in 2023: 295
- Total number of participants in Camaraderie Programs: 1615
- Total number of participants in Wellness Programs: 817
- Total number of Founders Circle members: 95
- Average cost per class: $35
- Cost to join: $0

Founders Hall Welcomes 7,000th Member!

Please join us in welcoming Helen Smith #7000 and Bob Smith #7001.

Welcome!

New Members
(as of May 16th)

Nancy Baldaserini
Sandra Capriotti
Leo Comberiate
Nancy Cosgrove
Annamarie Del Franco
Frances DiBona
Camille Fennel
Adam Fennel
Tony Freeman
Lynn Griffio

Thomas Jones
William LaForgia
Randi Nussbaum
Mary Palmiotto
Susan Rho
Peggy Riordan
Frank Riordan
Christine Runk
Helen Smith
Bob Smith

Founders Forum
NEW MEMBER COFFEE
June 4th at 10:30am

If you’ve joined us recently, we’d love for you to come in to enjoy a cup of coffee, meet the staff and chat with fellow members.

Sponsored by:
Keystone Place
at Wooster Heights
A Life Fulfilling Retirement Community

BOOK DISCUSSION:
Violeta by Isabel Allende
Thursday, June 13th 3:00-4:30pm

We love book club! Join us for this discussion facilitated by staff members of the Ridgefield Library.

SEMINAR:
MEALS ON WHEELS
Thursday, June 13th 1:00pm

Directors Michelle Lange and Dean Miller from Meals on Wheels will present a seminar about the organization that does so much for our community. See the back page for a list of items you can consider donating if you wish.

FOUNDERS FRIDAY:
BOOKS OF SUMMER
Friday, June 14th 2:00pm

Come hear all about the latest summer book recommendations from staff members of the Ridgefield Library. Plus enjoy tea and sweets!

Sponsored by:
Books on the Common

MAH JONGG GAME DAY
Come play Mah Jongg with friends old and new! Beginner and experienced players welcome.

TUESDAY JUNE 11TH
$8 / $10 NR
10:00-12:00am Morning Session
12:00-12:30pm Lunch
12:30-2:30pm Afternoon Session

*Note: you will need the 2024 card.*

FOUNDEARS HALL
Lemonade Stand
Wednesday, July 10th

For more info, see Nikki.
Founders Hall is pleased to announce our Big Band Big Night Gala will take place on Saturday, September 14th, 2024 at The Amber Room Colonnade in Danbury, CT. This will be a fabulous evening of live music courtesy of the Norm Hathaway Band, dinner, and live auction, all to benefit Founders Hall. Tickets are on sale now at founders-hall.org!

We are thrilled to present the first Pillar of Founders Hall Award to longtime Board Member and supporter Rudy Ruggles. Rudy’s curiosity has led him on a lifelong exciting and rewarding excursion into the most significant scientific and intellectual matters, and having the experience of being invited to join the exceptional individuals and organizations at the core, including IBM, the Hudson Institute and The Explorers Club. Rudy has been a generous sponsor of our Academic Program for many years, enabling us to enlist outstanding instructors and keep class costs low for members.

We are honored to invite you to celebrate with us! Your participation will help strengthen our critical fundraising efforts and continue our vital mission of providing a diverse program of social, educational and physical fitness programs for today’s active seniors in a warm, fun and stimulating atmosphere.

If you have questions or would like to speak in greater detail, please contact Stephanie Campbell at 203.431.7000 or Stephanie@founders-hall.org.
June at the Movies
Selections may change based on availability.

**Agony and Ecstasy**
2:00pm
The Agony and the Ecstasy is a biographical novel of Michelangelo Buonarroti written by American author Irving Stone. Stone lived in Italy for years visiting many of the locations in Rome and Florence, worked in marble quarries, and apprenticed himself to a marble sculptor.

*1965*  
*Charlton Heston, Rex Harrison, Diane Cilento, Harry Andrews*  
*NR*  
*2 hrs 18 mins*

**It Could Happen to You**
2:30pm
Charlie Lang (Nicolas Cage) is a simple, kindhearted New York City cop. When he realizes he has no money to tip waitress Yvonne Biasi (Bridget Fonda), Lang offers her half the winnings of his lottery ticket. Amazingly, the ticket happens to be a winner, in the sum of $4 million.

*1994*  
*Nicolas Cage, Bridget Fonda*  
*PG*  
*1hr 41 mins*

If you would like to donate an item to Meals on Wheels when their directors are at Founders Hall on Thursday, June 13th at 1pm to present a seminar, they will be collecting the following items:

- 1 pound boxes short pasta (not gluten free): penne, rigatoni, rotini
- Bread crumbs, plain or seasoned Panko, plain or seasoned (not gluten free)
- Jars of smooth peanut butter
- Jars of grape or strawberry jelly
- Jars of unsweetened applesauce
- Bags of Craisins
- 15 oz. cans black beans, garbanzo beans cannellini beans, corn kernels, Thai unsweetened coconut milk (not coconut cream), peaches in juice or light syrup, pear in juice or light syrup, pineapple chunks in juice
- 32 oz. jars of ready to use spaghetti sauce or marinara, any brand, low-sodium is preferred but not necessary
- Spice World squeeze bottle of garlic
- Spice World squeeze bottle of ginger
- Nonni’s individually wrapped biscotti
- Stop & Shop Gift Cards