

# FH FOUNDERS FORUM

November 2024

Sponsored by  
REGIONAL HOSPICE  
*Making the Best of Every Day*



## A Message from Grace:

As we enter November, a month known for gratitude and reflection, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for each of you and for the vibrant community we've built together at Founders Hall. Your enthusiasm, support, and participation make this place truly special, and we're continually inspired by the friendships, learning, and joy that flourish here.

In the spirit of gratitude, we're excited to unveil a fresh new look for our newsletter! This update includes a monthly calendar that highlights our special events and showcases our generous sponsors who help make it all possible.

We hope the calendar will make it even easier for you to keep track of special events and add your

classes—pin it up at home and enjoy!

Unfortunately, we must also address an important matter. Recently, an auction item was taken from the building without authorization, leaving a generous donor without their awarded prize. This behavior is unacceptable and goes against the values of trust and respect that are so important to our community. We ask that everyone ensures all items remain where they belong to prevent future incidents. Your cooperation is essential in maintaining the positive environment we all cherish.

With gratitude,

*Grace Weber*

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER YOU CAN EXPECT:

A Message from Grace & Welcome to New Members.

Community Updates & Movies

November Special Events & A Look Ahead

Founders Hall Calendar

Our Stories: Instructors, Members, and Events.

Gratitude for our Donors

## Welcome To Our Founders Hall Community!

*New members from September 16th - October 15th*



Dee Bandow  
Collette Coleman  
Doug Coleman  
Michael Conners  
Chris Conroy  
Elio DiBiase

Sandra Epstein  
Ira Joe Fisher  
Barbara Galazzo  
Tony Giovannoli  
Rhonda Lackon  
Cheryl Lozach

Kathy Mann  
Joy Nieda  
Gabriele Orbanic  
Irene Papagianoponlos  
Dana Powers  
Kevin Quain

Barbara Stagliano  
Ginny Strauch  
Catharine Webb  
Sally Yarrish

FH

Founders Hall is a Donor-Supported Education and Recreation Center for Individuals Age 60 and Older.

193 Danbury Road, Ridgefield, CT 06877 \* 203.431.7000 \* [www.founders-hall.org](http://www.founders-hall.org)

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

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## Community Updates



### Big Band Gala News to Founders Hall-iday Light Fight!

The **Big Band Big Night Gala** was a success! We are thrilled to announce that the gala raised over \$150,000 to support Founders Hall's exceptional programming! This generous support by so many directly impacts lives in our community. Thank you to all for your volunteerism, donations, and/or attendance--we appreciate you.

As we move into the holiday season we have been preparing for our next event--**Founders Hall-iday Light Fight**.

Inspired by board member Jenn Kubick during the pandemic, this festive event brings holiday cheer to our town showcasing beautifully lit homes. It's a fantastic way to celebrate the season while supporting Founders Hall. This year's event will shine bright December 6th-15th and will be fun for the whole family.

**Interested in decorating your home or being a sponsor? Contact [stephanie@founders-hall.org](mailto:stephanie@founders-hall.org) or register at [www.founders-hall.org](http://www.founders-hall.org).**



#### Apple Tasting

The days leading up to the **Apple Tasting** left us all drooling as Nikki started cooking in the kitchen. At the event, the aroma met our taste buds with delight. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy and who volunteered, especially our sponsor, Sheraton Caregivers.

Keep an eye out for Grandma's German Cake Recipe in this Founders Forum.



#### Bocce Tournament Fun!

We started off October with a BANG- of Bocce balls. Our members partnered up for a bracket-style tournament and had two days of fun. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a blast.

This year the runners-up were Angie Capocci and Phil Bronson, and winners were Mike Christ and Joe Zygala.

Congratulations to all!

### NOVEMBER MOVIES

Fri. 11/1 at 2:30pm    Wicked Little Letter (2023) 1hr 40mins ~PG13  
Jessie Buckley, Rose Gooding, Olivia Colman

Fri. 11/15 at 2:00pm    The Terminal (2004) 2hr 9mins – PG13  
Tom Hanks, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Stanley Tucci

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## Give Thanks for Pie ●

**Friday, November 8th**

**2-3:00pm** Join us for a delicious Founders Friday where we will sample several different types of homemade pie.

**Sponsored by**



**Ridgefield Station**

A SENIOR LIVING RESIDENCE (SLR)

## Book Discussion: ● North Woods

**Thursday, November 14th**

**3-4:30pm** Ridgefield Library staff members will facilitate a discussion of North Woods by Daniel Mason. Books may be available at the front desk.

## Live Music and Dance ● Party!

**Friday, November 22nd**

**4-6:00pm** It's time to get those dancing shoes back out of the closet. Join us for a fun evening of music and dancing. \$10/\$12NR

**Sponsored by**

**COHEN  
and  
WOLF**

## Eat Together Lunch ●

**Monday, November 18**

**12-1:00pm** Bring your own lunch and we will provide sweets. A great way to connect and meet new friends.

## Inclement Weather ● Reminder



### Closings for inclement

weather will be posted on [www.founders-hall.org](http://www.founders-hall.org) under our 'Announcements' section. Always check the website before heading out. Closings are also announced on WFSB Channel 3.

## Happy Thanksgiving ●



**Thursday, November 28th  
and Friday, November 29th**

Founders Hall will be closed. We wish all of our members a wonderful Thanksgiving. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, December 2nd.

## A LOOK AHEAD TO DECEMBER & BEYOND

New seminars and events have been added to December. Let's plan ahead and make sure we capture all of the incredible events happening at Founders Hall!

**Winter Semester Registration Due Date is December 3rd.** New evening classes added.

**New Member Coffee:**  
December 3rd at 10:30am.

**The History of the Nutcracker with Toni McKeen.**  
December 4th at 1:00pm.

Public Event. If you have your own Nutcracker, bring it to the seminar and we will display them.

**Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall on December 5th.** Registration Required.

**Founders Hall-iday Light Fight:**  
December 6-15th. Community Event, off-site.

**Holiday Film with Bob Klaeger, *Christmas in Connecticut*.** December 10th at 10:00 am and 1:30pm. Registration Required

**Holiday Parties**  
December 12th at 3:00pm and 6:00pm.  
*Registration Required.*

**Mrs. Washington's Christmas Reflections presented by Antoinette Brennan.**  
December 13th at 1:00pm. Public Event.

**Eat Together Lunch: December 17th at 12:00pm.**

**Winter Solstice with Michael Lankester.**  
December 20th at 10:30am and 1:00pm.  
Registration Required.

**CLOSED:** December 24th, 25th, & January 1st.

**FH OPEN 8:30am-12:30pm:** December 26th & 31st.

# F|H

## November 2024

### FOUNDERS HALL CALENDAR

*A Donor-Supported Education and Recreation Center  
for Individuals Age 60 and Older*

**FOUNDERS HALL**

193 Danbury Rd,  
Ridgefield, CT 06877  
Hours Monday-Friday  
8am-5pm

Phone: 203-431-7000  
Website:  
www.founders-hall.org

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

Winter Semester  
Registration is due by  
December 3rd

A Toast to Grace  
11/17 3-5pm at  
Founders Hall



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Seminars and  
Performances are  
open to the public.

Seminar

Public Event

Member Event

Performance

Trip

Reminder

### SOCIALS

Facebook: @FoundersHallRidgefield  
Instagram: @founders\_hall\_ridgefield  
YouTube: @FoundersHallRidgefield  
LinkedIn: Founders-Hall-Ridgefield

4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14 Book Discussion: North Woods by Daniel Mason 3-4:30pm	15
18 Eat Together Lunch 12-1:00pm	19	20	21	22 Live Music and Dance Party \$10/\$12/NR 4-6:00pm
25	26	27	28 CLOSED HAPPY THANKSGIVING	29 CLOSED

Give Thanks For Pie

Live Music and Dance Party

Monthly Book Discussion

Founders Forum Sponsor

**EVENT SPONSORS FOR NOVEMBER:**



**COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR NOVEMBER:**



*Making the Best of Every Day*



## Our Stories: Instructors, Members, and Events.



**Karen Pellecchia**  
Instructor

Since moving to Ridgefield from New York City, I am thrilled to share my passion for fine art and art history with the members of Founders Hall.

From 2022 to present, I have had the privilege and joy to teach courses in modern and contemporary art such as "Is it Art?," as well as studio courses including, "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain!"

The Founders Hall members bring a wealth of life experience and knowledge, ensuring that every class sparks engaging discussion and a deeper appreciation for the arts. Being a member of the Founder's Hall community is incredibly rewarding.



**Karen Casagrande**  
Instructor & Member

I started teaching tap at Founders Hall back in 2007, and it's been an incredible journey. The energy and enthusiasm of the group were infectious from the start—students like **Fran Head** and **Margo McEachern** have been with me from day one! We've grown into beginner and continuing classes. Now that I get to be a participant as well, I can't say enough about how much I appreciate our instructors. Each one brings so much joy. Founders Hall is truly a special, special place!



### Grandma's German Apple Cake Recipe

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ cup softened butter (or crisco) + some for pan
- 6 tbsp water
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla

Mix all ingredients in a bowl.

Use lasagna pan or 2 cake pans – use paper towel to spread butter or crisco in bottom of pan – add the batter and spread to edges.

- 4 apples – skin and cut into slices.

Add apples to top of cake batter.

Topping:

- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tbsp flour
- 3 tbsp soft butter
- Cinnamon

Mix together and rub with fingers into sandy crumbs. Sprinkle on top.

Bake 350 for 25-35 minutes. Enjoy! Reach out to Nikki for more recipes. [Nikki@founders-hall.org](mailto:Nikki@founders-hall.org).

The Founders Hall Board of Directors invites you to  
**A TOAST TO GRACE**



Please join us in celebrating  
Grace Weber and her profound impact  
on Founders Hall and the Ridgefield community.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17**  
**3:00pm-5:00pm**

Refreshments will be served.

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Nikki at [nikki@founders-hall.org](mailto:nikki@founders-hall.org) by November 8. Thank you!

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# Thank you to our donors

*From September 16th- October 15th*



Anonymous Donors	Jean Brennan Horend	Ellen Ross
Phyllis and Cliff Appel	Margot and Paul Ingrassia ^	David Sachs and Linda Shackelford °^
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Lillian Hernandez	Pinnacle Trips	
Barbara and Paige Hillery	Ridgefield Library	
Mrs. Ruth I. Holzthum ^		

**Founders Circle** ° members are donors who have linked their legacy with Founders Hall.

**Our Mission** is to provide a diverse program of social, educational, and physical fitness programs for today's active seniors in a warm, fun, and stimulating atmosphere.

**Board of Directors**

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Brenda Berta  
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Jenn Kubick  
Rudy Marconi  
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*Thank you for reading!*