



NEWS and REVIEWS

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Stay at Home *in Wilton* Celebrates 5th Year Anniversary!



From left Chairman Phil Richards, President Barbara Quincy, Vice President Ann Newton, and Fundraising Chairman Dick King. (Jeannette Ross photo)

Stay at Home in Wilton is celebrating 5 years of staying home! Join us Friday, May 15th, 5 PM at Ambler Farm. Members, Board Members, Donors

Volunteers, and all who are interested in learning more about Stay at Home are invited. The evening includes drinks, hors d'oeuvres, live mu-

sic, anniversary cake and a celebration of being a part of a community that gives back to its most important members, the seniors who shaped it.

Stay at Home in Wilton is a non-profit organization in Wilton but part of a nationwide movement to help seniors age in place. Over 200 towns across the country have adopted this "village" concept. For less than \$1 a day seniors gain valuable services, support and membership in a community where they can give and receive.

Membership dues are kept very low due to the generosity of our donors.

Celebrate with us! For reservations call Janet Johnson, Executive Coordinator, at 203-762-2600.

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WEPCO

48 New Canaan Rd.
R.S.V.P. 203-762-2600

New Member Brunch

Thursday, April 30th 10:30 AM - Noon

Members are invited to bring a friend or neighbor who would like to know about us! Board Members, Volunteers and our Executive Coordinator will present the practical and social benefits of Stay at Home in Wilton. Don't miss this opportunity to introduce Stay at Home to a friend.

Reservations Required by April 27th

Mark Your Calendar for Stay at Home April Events

Men's Breakfast Orem's Diner at 9 AM
Tuesday, April 14th



All Men are Invited!
167 Danbury Rd.
R.S.V.P. 203-762-2600

**"It is just a lot of good conversation
 and exchange of information about daily life!"**

**Join us for Mah Jong , held the 2nd
 and 4th Tuesday of the Month.**
It's really great fun!

**April 14th, 2 PM &
 April 28th, 12:30 PM**

**If you would
 like to play contact:
 Kay Chann
 203-762-9026**



Ladies Tour of Nod Hill Soap on Thursday, April 23rd at 11 AM
Followed by Lunch at Bianco Rosso at 12 PM



Ladies Meet at Nod Hill Soap 11 AM
 81 Old Ridgefield Rd. in Wilton Center
 for a special tour and demo;
 Lunch will follow at
Bianco Rosso at 12 PM
 151 Old Ridgefield Rd. ,Wilton Center
 R.S.V.P. 203-762-2600



Stay at Home in Wilton Sponsors Identity Theft Workshop
Tuesday, April 28th, 3PM – 5PM

How to Protect Your Personal Information When Nothing is Private Anymore



Presented by Bankwell's Ann Mitrione who brings over 25 years of
 experience in the financial services industry.

Learn the latest scams and useful tips on how to protect your money and identity.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are recommended and can be made through Janet Johnson, Executive Coordinator, for Stay at Home in Wilton at 203-762-2600.



Meet Founding Board Member Joan Starr

Joan Starr, a resident of Wilton for more than 20 years, is very active in the community, and she is one of the founding members of Stay at Home. Five years ago, Joan was approached by Ken Dartley with the idea of starting an organization that would serve as a safety net to seniors. She saw a need to provide rides for seniors and quickly became the Chairperson of Volunteer Drivers. Joan said the initial idea of Stay at Home was to serve as a lifeline for seniors, but as Stay at Home grew, and began to bring people together through social events, a community emerged creating a sense of belonging, like a family. The Stay at Home community includes many volunteers who Joan says, are the heart of the organization. "They're a special group of people who go above and beyond." There are so many active members and volunteers like Joan who join to help and support the cause but end up getting so much more.



Meet Stay at Home Member Al Wood

You can find Al Wood driving passengers in his 1928 Model A antique truck in the Memorial Day Parade! Cars has been a hobby of Al's for decades. He said, "cars and guys just go together." Al's had his Model A for nearly 30 years and was a member of the Fairfield County A's Club that shared a common interest; the fun of owning and driving a Ford Model A. This enthusiastic group of people would meet throughout the year hosting tours. For Al, it was not about the destination but about the enjoyment of driving. Al likes to drive and he says, "As a veteran, it's a natural thing to enjoy the Memorial Day Parade." He's participated in many parades over the years. Come out and celebrate Memorial Day with Stay at Home on Monday, May 25th. If you would like to walk with us in the parade, call Janet Johnson at 203-762-2600.



Meet Stay at Home Member Helen Shortell

Helen is a senior who has benefited greatly from the volunteer drivers. Since June, she's been in physical therapy and it's been difficult for her family to take time off from work to drive her to appointments. Having had a career as a nurse, Helen appreciates the care she's received from Stay at Home. Helen says, "Stay at Home has served as a lifeline, and the drivers couldn't be more courteous; they go above and beyond." The time she got locked out of her home, a volunteer made sure she stayed warm in the car while they waited for the locksmith to arrive. Stay at Home is like family to her and gives her loved ones and relatives peace of mind, knowing she is being cared for in their absence. They don't need to worry because Stay at Home is there.

We Celebrate Staying at Home...

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Visit our website

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info@shwil.org

Janet Johnson
Executive Coordinator

Debbie McClelland
Public Relations
Coordinator & Editor

In early 2009, I met with Ken Dartley to discuss starting an organization to serve the seniors in Wilton. He had a contact with a board member of the equivalent group in New Canaan called Staying Put. They provided us with a good deal of initial guidance. Ken got us incorporated later that year, with he, my wife, and I as the initial incorporators.

"An association where you can give but also receive."
-G.T.

Between us, we found about a dozen Wilton residents who felt that this organization was a good idea, and they formed our initial Board of Directors.

"Having rides to therapy gives me and my family peace of mind."
-Phyllis Tousey

They were anxious to start serving people of Wilton, but by March 2010, there were still three major blocks to overcome:

- We needed to be certified by the IRS as a non-profit charity.
- We needed insurance to protect all members from any difficulties.
- We needed a coordinator to handle the phone requests for services.

"Stay at Home is my safety net. I know they are there if I need them."
-Al Wood

Not expecting any resolution of these items, we scheduled an information meeting at Trackside for the public on April 15th to update them on our status.

"Meeting and interacting with our members has enriched my life."
-Dick King

We had been working for three months with the Pro-Bono Partnership to get the non-profit certification, but that process had been known to take a year. Well, the firm worked its magic and we received the certification that March.

"Whether it's a faulty doorbell or crashed computer, Stay at Home is always there for us!"
-Jack & Julienne Daniels

We had talked to several insurance companies, but they all wanted to insure us as a health care organization (VERY expensive). We turned to our trusted advisors, Staying Put in New Canaan, and they told us about their insurance agent, and again in March, our coverage came through at a reasonable cost.

"I want Stay at Home in Wilton to be a strong and viable organization when I need them so I joined now to ensure that."
-Ann Newton

At a meeting of agencies serving seniors in Wilton in early March, we met the new marketing manager of Ridgefield VNA. When we told her about our problem getting a coordinator, she suggested that we work with Quality Living at Home. There we found Eloise Barron, and a very agreeable management that allowed us to use her to handle our coordination as well as their own.

"A year ago I joined SAHW as a birthday present to myself. It's given me the opportunity to participate in fun adventures while fostering new and longtime friendships. It's the gift that keeps on giving."
-Marge Anderson

So our April 15 information meeting turned into an announcement that we were starting services at that time. We signed up about a dozen members at the meeting and almost an equal number of volunteers. Most of them are still involved today.

"Our volunteers are a special group of people. They are always wanting to do more."
-Joan Starr

Early on, we were fortunate to have received contributions from the Wilton Kiwanis Club and several individuals that allowed us to handle all of our bills prior to getting any membership fees.

Did I mention the Board of Directors? They made the process easy to happen once we got our three challenges met. Many of them are still on our board to this day.

"Friends and relative may move away but Stay at Home stays!"
-D.S.

So we want to say thanks to all of our members, all of our volunteers, all of our donors, and our Board of Directors. It has been a fine five years with many more to come.

"Stay at Home is the best thing that has happened to seniors in Wilton."
-Doug Jones

Phil Richards
Chairperson