

Dear Friends,

In spite of the unusual heat, **At Home In Darien** has had a very busy and productive summer. Since the last **Out & About** issue, our most significant news is the hiring of a new Executive Director. Chris Jones began working at the end of June and has spent the summer becoming acquainted with the policies, procedures, and individuals that are part of our organization.

Chris has settled in just as the demand for our services has significantly increased. As a vital source of assistance for seniors, many of our activities are returning to pre-pandemic levels. The office is buzzing with calls for transportation. To this end, we have hired a second driver, Drew Burke, allowing us to have both of our vehicles on the roads simultaneously.

In addition, we are once again offering transportation on Fridays from 9 AM until 1 PM. While rides to medical appointments remain a priority, completing errands and attending social events is vitally important for alleviating both loneliness and stress. Our goal is to provide a safety net, so that Darien seniors will remain connected to the community.

This issue of **Out & About** includes brief introductions to some of our favorite individuals. We have profiled people who use our services, staff members, supporters, board members and volunteers. Their stories illustrate a community network that bespeaks strength and satisfaction, offering insight into the many ways that we are working to assist local seniors.

Finally, on Thursday, September 29th we will host our second Sip 'n Shop with J. McLaughlin's Darien store. Fifteen percent of all purchases that day will be donated to **At Home In Darien**. Please stop by to shop and mingle with other supporters as you enhance your fall wardrobe. On Thursday, November 3 we will resume our annual Fall Luncheon, in conjunction with the DCA. This event is open to all Darien seniors, free of charge, for lunch and a talk by Allia Zobel Nolan. She will speak about her popular book *Laugh Out Loud: 40 Women Humorists Celebrate Then and Now...Before We Forget*, a compilation of humorous reminiscences about our former social norms. Please call the office to make a reservation for this convivial event.

Should you know of someone who might benefit from our services, please give us a call at 203-655-2227, or refer to our website www.AtHomeInDarien.org for additional information.

All the best,



Susan M. Bhurud

Susan M. Bhurud
President of the
Board of Directors of
At Home In Darien



Chris Jones

Chris Jones
Executive Director of
At Home In Darien
Chris@AtHomeInDarien.org

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2022 Board of Directors

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WE ARE ONCE AGAIN OFFERING
TRANSPORTATION AND SERVICES
ON FRIDAYS FROM
9 AM TO 1 PM.
PLEASE CALL FOR RIDE RESERVATIONS
IN ADVANCE.
203.655.2227

Sip, Shop & Celebrate Fall



Shop at J. McLaughlin on
Thursday, September 29th
15% of all purchases
will benefit **At Home
In Darien!**

If purchasing before
September 29th, simply mention you are
shopping to support **At Home In Darien**
at check-out.

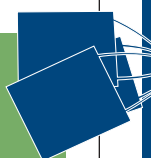
**Need help with leaf raking this
fall or shoveling snow from your
public sidewalk this winter?**

**Please call
At Home In Darien
at 203.655.2227
for an application.**



our mission:

*"Helping Darien seniors live
independently, comfortably
and with dignity in their own
homes and the community
as long as possible"*



At Home In Darien

Fall Luncheon

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

11:30 AM AT THE DCA

**Speaker Allia Zobel Nolan
on her book**

LAUGH OUT LOUD...

Open to all Darien Seniors

Free of charge

Reservations required

Co-sponsored by the DCA

Presort Standard
ECRWSS
Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2124
Stamford, CT

2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820
CONNECTING SENIORS TO COMMUNITY
**AT HOME
IN DARIEN**



David has utilized **At Home In Darien's** transportation and Vetted Service Provider (VSP) programs for several years. A Darien resident since 1973, David has impacted the town and its residents through a wide range of unique initiatives. He was responsible for acquiring the Caboose from the old Victoria Station restaurant and bringing it to the Depot Youth Center where it remains in use today. He was also one of the pioneers that created Darien TV79, the town's own government and community television station. During his sales career David had the distinction of working for a British company and being the first representative to sell digital television technology in the United States. In addition to being an electronics enthusiast, David also enjoys sailing and boating off the coasts of Darien and Maine.



Although born in Dallas, Texas, **Jim** traces his roots to Montana and Wyoming where he spent most of his childhood. Jim returned to Texas to attend Rice University in Houston on a track scholarship, while earning a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Jim spent most of his professional career at Texaco (33 years), in addition to working for five years at Energy Conversion Devices and serving as the Chief Financial Officer at Mercy College for another year. Jim's relationship with **At Home In Darien** began when he joined the Board of Directors as its Treasurer in 2019, and believes that the role of a Board member is to enthusiastically support the organization's mission, while remaining committed and engaged. During his Texaco career Jim traveled extensively around the world, but these days he enjoys traveling with his wife Belinda, having recently visited the beautiful countries of Australia and New Zealand. Jim has seven grandchildren and enjoys playing bridge and golf.

Cris' efforts in supporting the **At Home In Darien** mission as a volunteer shopper for the past five years align with her background volunteering at local schools and various clubs for her four children. Cris has a particular fondness for her work with **At Home In Darien** and says that she enjoys "helping the seniors because I know it makes a big difference in their day." While COVID impacted her ability to volunteer, she is happy to again be able to give her time to help the community and its seniors. Cris was born in Chicago, Illinois and attended college at Georgia Tech, before moving up to the Northeast. A Darien resident since 2010, Cris enjoys spending time with her family in addition to serving as a volleyball coach and doing broadcast work for Darien volleyball matches through the Darien Athletic Foundation Media.



Chris joined **At Home In Darien** as the Executive Director in June 2022, after many years leading sales and marketing efforts at agencies that partnered with major national brands such as Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Nationwide Insurance, The Home Depot, General Electric, and Marriott. Born and raised in Weston, Connecticut, Chris is a lifelong Fairfield County resident and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Quinnipiac University where he was a 2-year captain of the soccer team. Chris is excited to join the amazing **At Home In Darien** team and says that "there is no better mission than to support our seniors and provide the critical services that will help them age in-place for as long as possible." Outside of work, Chris spends as much time as possible with his wife Jennifer and their daughter and son (when he's not playing golf or fishing!).



Elizabeth was born in Brooklyn, New York, and holds fond memories of a childhood spent playing in-and-around the local neighborhood. After earning her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from Brooklyn College, and a graduate degree from New York University, Elizabeth embarked on a 33-year teaching career, working primarily with students from Pre-K to 2nd Grade. She moved to Darien in 2020 and considers **At Home In Darien** her "lifeline for getting to everything I care about", utilizing our transportation services to bring her to swimming sessions at the Darien or New Canaan YMCAs, and driving her to Mahjonn and Cribbage games at the Senior Center. Elizabeth has traveled extensively to a wide variety of countries including England, Italy, Ireland, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, and the Netherlands, with Tuscany, Italy being her favorite destination.



Barbara has lived in Darien for nearly 50 years and has had a notable imprint on the town’s education and government sectors. As a History teacher and Guidance Counselor, Barbara taught many of the children that attended Darien High School and as a member of the Darien RTM, she has been directly involved in many of the important issues facing the town. Her history with **At Home In Darien** dates back to the beginnings of the organization in 2009 (when we were called Aging in Place in Darien), and she maintains a particular fondness for supporting **At Home In Darien’s** mission. She makes particular note of “how friendly everybody is” and says that the organization “amplifies the good qualities that are so evident in this town.” She has used our transportation services in addition to our Vetted Service Provider (VSP) referral program where she was able to connect with a “fabulous” plumber. Barbara has two children, living in California and Colorado Springs, and looks forward to their periodic visits back to Darien.



Sally was already familiar with **At Home In Darien** when she joined the staff in January of this year, having been a volunteer shopper and visitor for the previous two years. She in fact shares that it was her passionate support of the mission that influenced her decision to join the office team! Now also the organization’s bookkeeper, she is firmly entrenched in the day to day activities of the office, and says “it’s such a pleasure to work here — everyone wants to go that extra mile to help a senior out”. If you have ever spoken to Sally on the phone, you may have caught that hint of a British accent! Growing up in the U.K. she earned a B.Sc. from Reading University and later qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse, pivoting into a long career in Financial Services which finally took her to the US over 20 years ago. When Sally retired from the financial services industry a few years ago, she enjoyed expanding her volunteer commitment to various non-profit organizations within the local Darien community, including the Darien Scouts, Andrew Shaw Memorial Trust, Person to Person, Saint Luke’s Parish, and of course **At Home In Darien**. In her spare time when not spending time with her husband, son and 2 dogs, or volunteering, she enjoys gardening, cooking and drinking cups of tea!

Like many of our riders, **Betsy** is a long-term Darien resident, having moved here in the early 1960’s. Prior to Darien, she had lived in a number of other cities including Charlottesville, Virginia, Gross Pointe, Michigan, and Litchfield, Connecticut — which she believes was actually colder than Michigan! Betsy has been involved in a number of volunteer activities in Darien, and considers the 15+ years that she spent volunteering for the local Family & Children’s Agency to be among the most rewarding, as it impacted such a wide range of people in Fairfield County. While still an active driver, Betsy has utilized **At Home In Darien’s** ride service to bring her to visits and appointments beyond Darien. She says that Darien has always been kind to its seniors and **At Home In Darien** has been “a tremendous help and I’ve never had to worry about anything” when utilizing its services. Betsy has three children, including one living in Darien and the other two in Boston and London.



Over three years ago, **Michael** decided that he wanted to get more involved in volunteer work and was pointed in the direction of **At Home In Darien**. He has been a key part of our volunteer team ever since and believes it is a “very valuable organization and volunteering is something that I really love to do.” A resident of Darien for over 45 years and with a background working at Johnson & Johnson, Michael also maintains a love of playing the guitar and piano. Though he has primarily been self-taught and has honed his skills playing “by-ear”, he was able to catch the attention of a few impressive musicians while he was in college at Villanova. Tim Hauser, who formed the first version of the band Manhattan Transfer, and Tommy West, who produced records for Jim Croce, Ann Murray and others, heard Michael playing in a dorm room and were so impressed they added Michael to their band, which proceeded to play at colleges and universities throughout the Northeast!



At Home In Darien
provides the following
free services to all
Darien residents age 60+:



Transportation within Darien,
Stamford, Norwalk and New
Canaan, Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m; Friday 9 a.m.
to 1 p.m.

Half-Price Taxi Voucher Program.



Telephone referral, advice and
counsel.



Communication and Programs —
Out & About newsletter.

Monthly calendar of events.

Monthly blog.

Membership Cards that provide
discounts with local businesses.

Home safety evaluations.

Social and educational programs.



Handy Services —

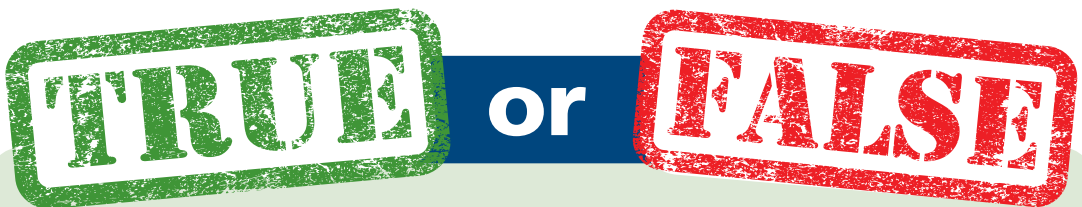
Volunteers including Friendly
Visitors, Shoppers, Helpers,
Callers, and Drivers along with
seasonal services such as snow
shoveling of public sidewalks
and leaf raking.

Referrals to discounted vetted
property and home maintenance
services.

**The At Home In Darien staff that proudly
supports our seniors!**



(L to R): Chris Jones, Michele Treacy, Jane Mathews, Fran Bellingham,
Andrew Burke, Sally Laird



At Home In Darien...

1. Traces its roots back to 2009, and the subsequent (2011) merger between Aging in Place and Gallivant (True or False)
2. Typically provides an average of over 3,000 free, door-to-door rides each year (True or False)
3. Mails over 2,500 birthday cards and gifts each year to seniors 75+ (True or False)
4. Provides membership to all Darien residents 60+, at no cost (True or False)
5. Receives the majority of its funding and support directly from members of the Darien community (True or False)

(If you guessed “True” to each question, congratulations, you are correct!)

Use your IRA to make a donation and reduce your taxes

Individuals with certain IRA accounts and 401(K)s must begin withdrawals the year they turn 72 years of age. Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) must be made that year and every year thereafter, and are taxed as ordinary income and must be taken to avoid a penalty. Transferring money from your IRA to a qualifying charity (in lieu of taking an RMD) can be a tax efficient way of meeting your charitable giving objectives and is known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).



Thanks for your Support!

At Home In Darien is supported by hundreds of people. Are you one of our generous donors? We depend on your charitable contributions to serve Darien’s senior citizens. We are a private, tax-exempt, non-profit 501(c) 3 organization.

Please send your gift today to:

At Home In Darien
2 Renshaw Road, Darien, CT 06820

THANK YOU!

Please remember **At Home In Darien**
in your will or trust!



MEMBER
Your Name Here

203.655.2227
AtHomeInDarien.org
2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820

Stay Active and Engaged

Your free **At Home In Darien** membership card makes it very easy to get out and take advantage of discounts at local restaurants, shops, and services in town. Whether it’s an afternoon shopping, or a meal out, bring your membership card with you to receive special promotions. Check out our website to see a

complete list of participating businesses or call us at **203.655.2227**.

If you are 60 or over and have not received your free membership card, please contact us to receive it.

Make sure you know what’s going on around town...subscribe to our monthly calendar of events!

Stay connected this fall and make sure you know what’s being offered around town...subscribe to our monthly calendar of events! Call **203.655.2227** to request to receive it by mail or email. You will also receive our BLOG notifications where we share important information on various subjects of interest.

