

Building Momentum

Dear Friends,

As we approach the close of another eventful year at **At Home In Darien**, we want to take a moment to reflect on one of our primary goals for this year: combating loneliness and isolation among seniors in our community. We are delighted to share that, thanks to the collective efforts of dedicated volunteers, generous supporters, and our passionate team, we are making significant strides and building momentum as we head into the new year.

Over the past several months we have initiated new programs and have expanded services to broaden our support and drive greater connection between seniors. These efforts have been met with enthusiasm and appreciation. By introducing new social programs and heightening interpersonal activities between seniors, progress is building. We are also excited to be moving forward with our planned purchase of a passenger van which will primarily be used for group rides to special events to foster an even deeper connection between seniors. But we are only scratching the surface, and while more is needed, even more is planned. We are committed to doing whatever possible to maintain this momentum and increase senior socialization. We look forward to engaging the broader community in this important quest.

In this issue of **Out & About** we wanted to share a few moments and memories from the past few months, reflecting the type of connections we strive to create. We would also like to introduce you to Rachel Peterson and Alini Conti Cirumbo de Toledo. Rachel and Alini embody the enriching and transformative friendships that our organization aspires to cultivate between seniors and volunteers. Their relationship is a testament to the intergenerational exchange of wisdom and enthusiasm that we champion.

Thank you for continuing to join us on our journey to support Darien seniors.

Sincerely,



William Carney
Co-President of the
Board of Directors
At Home In Darien



Peter Sosnow
Co-President of the
Board of Directors
At Home In Darien



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

Follow us on Instagram 

Like us on Facebook 

our mission:

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



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.**

2024 Board of Directors

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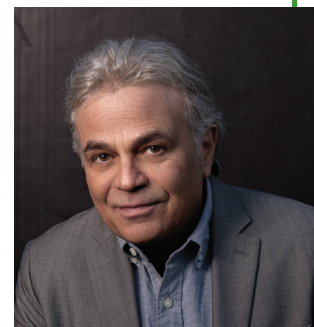


At Home In Darien and the DCA will once again co-sponsor our annual luncheon, which will be held on Friday, October 18th at the DCA. In addition to the complimentary

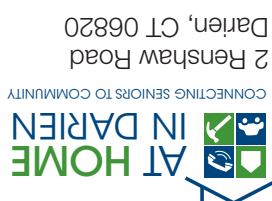
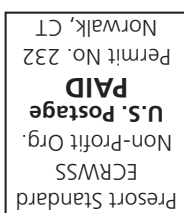
lunch, the event will feature guest speaker Tim Manners, a local author who has written a highly successful book titled **Schoolboy: The Untold Journey of a Yankees Hero**. Many people consider the 1927 New York Yankees to be the greatest baseball team of all-time, with a historic roster featuring immortal players like Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. However, some might not be familiar with the ace pitcher of the team and Hall of Famer Waite Hoyt. The author shares the unique and never-been-told story using a treasure trove of Hoyt's writings and records, and provides a deeper understanding of a hero who remained conflicted on whether he took the correct path in life.

The special lunch is open to all Darien seniors free-of-charge but reservations are required as space is limited.

**Sign-in begins at 11:00 a.m.
Call today and secure your spot –
(203) 655-2227.**



Local
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AHID Summer Beach Party

Over 60 people enjoyed a beautiful early July evening at Darien’s Weed Beach, celebrating summer at a party hosted by **At Home In Darien** and co-sponsored by the local organization **Seniors Helping Seniors**. Laughter and lively conversation filled the Paddle Hut as seniors were treated to plenty of food and music and, more importantly, the opportunity to connect with each other. Thank you to the great team at **Seniors Helping Seniors** for supporting **At Home In Darien** and Darien seniors!



*At Home In Darien and its members are grateful to the **Seniors Helping Seniors** team for supplying the food, drinks, and music for the Summer Beach Party. The team, pictured above, included (L to R): Monica Ferrer, Amin Adra, Majed Roz, Chady Saad, and Connor May*



AHID members enjoying the event activities



Jennifer Glossoti and Joanne Nielsen in the party mood!



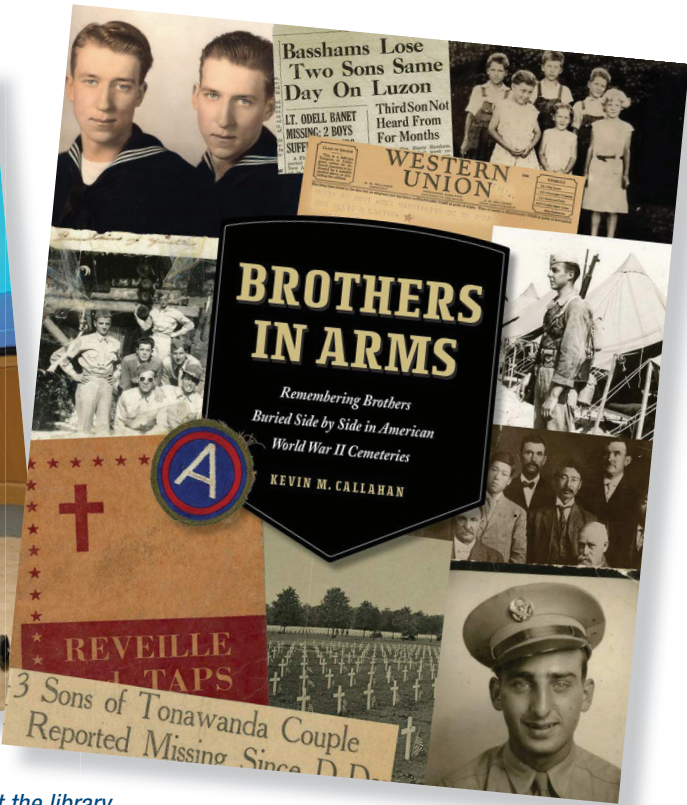
*The staff from **At Home In Darien** overseeing the festivities*

Brothers In Arms

At Home In Darien and the Darien Library hosted a presentation by local author Kevin Callahan, who discussed his book **Brothers In Arms**. Kevin, recipient of the “Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book (Nonfiction),” captivated the audience with compelling stories about brothers buried side by side in American World War II cemeteries overseas. He shared intriguing anecdotes from his research, recounting his meetings with families across the country, and spotlighted some of the many heroic sets of brothers featured in the book. With over 700 photographs, **Brothers In Arms** takes readers on a powerful and emotional journey through the lives and final resting places of these remarkable members of the greatest generation.



Author Kevin Callahan’s book, and Kevin entertaining guests at the library



Bridging Generations: A Special Bond

At the heart of every community lies a collective spirit—a beacon of empathy and support that lights the way to a brighter future. **At Home In Darien's** volunteers embody this spirit, acting as guardian angels who help us offer unique support to Darien seniors. Through their interactions and affection, volunteers and seniors breathe life into our organization's efforts. While we can't share all the heartwarming stories, we're excited to highlight two special individuals who exemplify the deep connections and care that define our mission.

In late 2022, Alini Conti Cirumbo de Toledo reached out to volunteer with **At Home In Darien**, drawn by her experience as a stay-at-home mom and her background volunteering at nursing homes in her native Brazil. She was particularly interested in supporting seniors. At the same time, Rachel Peterson, a Darien resident for over 70 years and a member of **At Home In Darien**, was looking for someone to accompany her and her beloved dog, "Woofie", on walks. The match was perfect, and the relationship has far exceeded everyone's expectations. As Rachel put it, their bond "has turned into much more".

Alini and Rachel now walk together at least once a week and share numerous other activities, including having lunch, hiking local trails, planting trees, working around the house, and attending events for Alini's two children. Rachel often brings books and puzzles for Alini's ten-year-old son and six-year-old daughter, and took great pride watching Alini's son win a local geography contest. Alini says, "My kids like her so much and always ask about her." Rachel considers Alini and her children "part of my extended family." With her own two children living in California, Rachel has found this deep local connection immensely important.



Rachel (L) and Alini (R) with Woofie

Their routine and relationship, however, faced a challenge recently when Alini's family considered moving back to Brazil for her husband's work. The uncertainty left Rachel feeling "very sad and depressed," but fortunately, Alini's family decided to stay, preserving the cherished relationship they have built.

The impact of our volunteers extends far beyond the lives of individual seniors; it reverberates throughout the entire community, enriching the fabric of our town with empathy and solidarity. Spending time with Rachel and Alini is truly heartwarming and reinforces the power of kindness that is so prevalent between **At Home In Darien's** members and our volunteers. While Rachel feels that we'll "never find another Alini", we know that we are blessed and fortunate to have other amazing volunteers such as Debbie, Tammy, Marti, Reva, Peter, Kathy, Rosemary, Sue, Michael, among others!

Karaoke at Senior Center

Over 70 seniors attended a special karaoke event over the summer, co-sponsored by **At Home In Darien** and the Darien Senior Center. **At Home In Darien's** staff and board members, along with Beth Paris and her staff from the Senior Programs, served lunch prepared by the Senior Center's own Chef Judi. Guests were thoroughly entertained by seniors singing a wide range of songs from classic artists like Elvis Presley, Andy Williams, and Patsy Cline, in addition to a special rendition of the New York Mets' theme song "Meet the Mets" added to the mix.





**AT HOME
IN DARIEN**
CONNECTING SENIORS TO COMMUNITY

MEMBER
Your Name Here

203.655.2227
AtHomeInDarien.org
2 Renshaw Road
Darien, CT 06820

Special Discounts for AHID Members

At Home In Darien is dedicated to supporting Darien's seniors by offering a range of services and programs designed to help them thrive at home and stay engaged in the community. One standout initiative that deserves more attention is our **Membership Discount Program**. This special program allows seniors to enjoy exclusive discounts and offers at a growing number of local businesses simply by presenting their AHID membership card. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the participating businesses for their partnership and commitment to Darien's senior community. Together, we look forward to expanding this invaluable program to include even more local businesses, enriching the lives of our seniors.

- Barrett Book Store
- Robert F. Carroll, Esq., CPA
- Darien Diner
- Darien Eye Care
- Darien Flowers
- Darien Plumbing
- Fabricare Cleaners
- Four Forks
- The Gardener's Center & Florist
- Karen Goersch, CPA,CRPC
- Gofer Ice Cream
- Hands on Pottery
- Little Thai Kitchen
- Live Well PT, LLC
- Lou Iacono Landscape and Masonry
- LYMBR
- Mayflower Home Organizing
- Michael Joseph's
- Museum of Darien
- NEAT Coffee
- Nedder & Associates
- Nielsen's Florist and Garden Shop
- North Star Wealth Investors LLC
- Osborn Home Care
- Palmer's Market
- Paparazzi Italian Restaurant
- Richard Williams, CPA
- Salt Cave of Darien
- Shirley Sykes Massage Therapy
- The Seana Method
- Scena Wine Bar & Restaurant
- Sipsters
- Sweetgreen
- UPS Store
- YMCA

Please support the local businesses that support **At Home In Darien!**

Visit our site at <https://athomeindarien.org/> to receive the most updated list of partners and offers, and if you are a Darien senior and don't have one yet, call our office at (203) 655-2227 to request an AHID Membership Card



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.

Social and educational programs.



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.

Centennial Celebration: Helen Ierardi

At Home In Darien was proud to visit with **Helen Ierardi** in the spring and join her son Robert in celebrating her 100th birthday. Helen, a Darien resident for over 70 years, was also honored by First Selectman Jon Zagrodzky with a proclamation declaring the day Helen De Maio Ierardi Day. Helen's secret to longevity? She says to "stay active, everything in moderation and be thankful for each day". Words certainly to live by!



Helen Ierardi with AHID Board Member Debbie Parnon and son Robert Ierardi

Accessible Technology



Brittany Netherton (L) and Mary-Beth Mason (R) presenting some of the library's impressive equipment to participants at a recent Accessible Technology workshop

At Home In Darien is pleased to be partnering with the Darien Library to offer a series of workshops focused on the availability of some of the library's amazing technology that helps expand the world of reading for individuals with visual, perceptual, reading, or physical disabilities. In addition to these ongoing sessions, Brittany Netherton and Mary-Beth Mason from the library remain available to help seniors optimize the power and benefits of the library's unique reading and audio equipment.



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!

TAXI ANYONE?

At Home In Darien transportation services are safe and trustworthy, but are available only on weekdays. Our Half-Price Taxi Voucher Program allows you to arrange transportation for yourself on-demand, around the clock, 365 days a year! Taxi rides are 50% off the regular price for Darien seniors 60+ and residents with disabilities. For example, a booklet of taxi vouchers worth \$25 is available for purchase for only \$12.50. Simply pay the taxi driver with your vouchers.

More than 75 Darien residents currently take advantage of this program!

To purchase vouchers, residents must bring proof of age or disability. Please call **At Home In Darien** at **203.655.2227**, or stop by the office at 2 Renshaw Road, for more information.

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.

