



Light a Fire

BY JILL JOHNSON MANN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREA CARSON



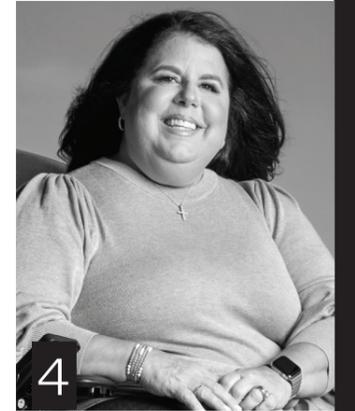
Nina Lindia
Grassroots Leader



Steven & Sandy Soule
Impactful Duo



Saskia Zimmerman
Outstanding Teen Volunteer



Stephanie Cowie
Inspiring Leader



Robert Doran
Community Advocate



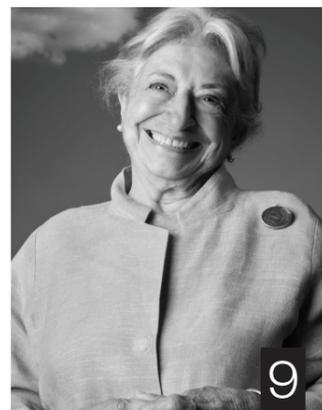
Suzanne Brown Koroshetz
Best Friend to Children



Andrew Wilk
Supporter of the Arts



Mike Miller
Community Good Neighbor



Marianne Pollak
Dedicated Committee Member



Harry Day
Lifetime Achievement

It's our favorite time of year at Moffly Media—the time when a warm glow emanates from the pages of our Light a Fire issue. It comes from the Fairfield County residents who spend all year working tirelessly to help their neighbors, improve our towns and make the world a better place. They rarely have a chance to sit still and bask in the glow they have created. We, with the help of your passionate nomination letters, can give them this one moment to shine before they return to protecting children's mental health, delivering food to the hungry, offering homework clubs and music lessons to immigrant children, making our towns easier to navigate for those with disabilities, buoying the spirits of breast cancer survivors, resettling refugees, preventing abuse, preserving the glorious land around us, championing the arts, building synagogues, bringing together our communities and saving lives. Take a moment and give them your full attention. They just may spark something in you that will land you in our Light a Fire issue one day.



Lindia

Nina

Grassroots Leader

ORGANIZATIONS

Pitch Your Peers, Breast Cancer Alliance, B-Search.org

INSPIRATION

"I started volunteering at twenty-two, when I moved to New York," says Old Greenwich resident Nina Lindia. "For the first time in my life something broke my heart enough that I wanted to see what I could do about it." All the vision-impaired residents astounded her. "I couldn't imagine navigating the city without the power of sight," she says. Nina began volunteering with a youth program, and then something magical happened. "Volunteering literally solved my own problem. I witnessed how powerful it can be," recounts Nina, who joined every committee she could when she moved to Greenwich. "Each was another opportunity to learn something," she says. "The first thing I ask people I meet is: 'What breaks your heart about the world?' I always have a recommendation for a great nonprofit that will unbreak their hearts. I'm not

necessarily someone people come to for advice, but in this category I am. It's a wonderful feeling."

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Nina is cofounder of the organization Pitch Your Peers, which grew out of a simple observation. "Donation requests usually start with: 'sorry to ask' and 'no amount is too small,'" she says. "That's a terrible pitch! I thought what if we create a forum in which we can pool resources, without a lot of red tape, one meeting a year, with the notion of giving where you live. Members each give \$1,000 annually and in addition pitch their networks: 'I'm going to ask you for \$2,000 and give you really good reasons why.'" If she gets a no, Nina asks what the potential donor is passionate about, so she knows for the future. "I wanted to diversify the portfolio of how we ask for donations," she explains. Pitch Your Peers raised \$10,000 in one day for Ukraine. New chapters are sprouting up across America.

As a breast cancer survivor, Nina is also a champion of the Breast Cancer Alliance. She cochaired its 2019 luncheon, which shattered all records with a sold-out event of 1,100 people and \$1.6 million raised.

HOPES AND DREAMS

"One way we can all give back is an intangible way. If you care about an organization and the community it supports, set a great example. I genuinely care about the population of global breast cancer survivors, and I try to set a great example for people who are newly diagnosed," says Nina, who had a double mastectomy and numerous rounds of chemo and radiation. "I want to help them to not be terrified, to not give up on themselves. I've been through it all, and I'm full of joy." She adds, "Friends are so important to me. I want to keep helping them unbreak their hearts." »

WORDS OF PRAISE

"Nina is a force to be reckoned with. When she sees a need, she looks to fill it. As a lifetime resident of Greenwich, Pitch Your Peers supporter and close friend of Nina's, it's so inspiring to see how she harnessed the power of women to make a very real and hands-on impact. Starting a movement is never easy, but Nina has done it with intention, humor and grace. With the help of some good friends who believe in the vision of collaborative giving, informed philanthropy and volunteerism, Pitch Your Peers quickly went from an idea to reality. Since its inception, PYP has expanded from Greenwich to Chicago and Seattle—Nina is heavily involved with both to ensure their success. She also passionately supports many other nonprofits. Her gratitude for life shines through in everything she does!"

—LINDSAY POTTER, FRIEND AND PITCH YOUR PEERS SUPPORTER

Steven & Sandy Soule



Impactful Duo

ORGANIZATIONS

First Reform Synagogue, Jewish Family Services, Mill River Collaborative

INSPIRATION

"Steven and I grew up in families with a tradition of helping others," says Sandy Soule. "My parents were refugees of the Holocaust and were founding members of Larchmont Temple. We'd been in Greenwich over forty-five years when the opportunity came up for me to help build a new synagogue. We dedicated the arch in the synagogue in memory of my parents, so I would say we were

continuing a family tradition." Sandy is also involved in Jewish Family Services. "There is a saying: To those who much is given, much is expected," she says. "Steven is still very busy running his business, but when I retired, it was our time to start giving back. It's really important to us." Steven concurs: "Watching what Sandy's family went through and what they did, you have no choice but to do this."

WORDS OF PRAISE

"For the past fifteen years Sandy has served on the JFS of Greenwich board of directors, including ten years on the executive committee as secretary. In both 2021 and 2022, Sandy and Steve graciously hosted our annual fundraisers at their Riverside home, with close to 200 people in attendance. Their dedication to our growing social services agency is unmatched."

—RACHEL KORNFELD, CEO, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES OF GREENWICH

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Sandy serves on the board of Greenwich Reform Synagogue and is copresident. "We built a new synagogue on Orchard Street in Cos Cob. It's amazing," says Sandy, who also serves on the board of JFS of Greenwich. "Jewish Family Services has really stepped it up since the Afghan resettlement program started," she says, "and now they're working with Ukrainian refugees as well. Everyone is entitled to a safe place to live."

During the pandemic, when indoor fundraisers weren't feasible, the Soules graciously offered to host an outdoor event for JFS. "Since we live in paradise, we are very happy to share," says Sandy. The first event was a success and attendance tripled at the next. First Presbyterian Church was one of JFS's community partners in its resettlement efforts. "When Christians and Jews get together to help Muslims, that's a very special moment," says Sandy.

Steven became involved with the Mill River Collaborative through his company SB&W (a custom components manufacturer) and First County Bank's philanthropic foundation. "They have made a commitment to the community that is wonderful to be a part of," comments Steven. "Mill River is just becoming what it has potential to be." Sandy adds, "It used to be full of rusting shopping carts and now it's magnificent."

At the Soule's annual Fourth of July party, they request food donations for Neighbor to Neighbor, rather than hostess gifts. For bar mitzvahs, they give one check to the child and one for a charity of the child's choice. "The kids feel empowered and engaged," says Steven.

HOPES AND DREAMS

Steven quips: "To be alive and to be retired!" Sandy adds, "I would hope for a fact-based reality, recognizing women as human beings with minds of their own. Needless to say, I'm a very strong supporter of Planned Parenthood. I signed my first pro-choice petition when I was pregnant with our daughter, who is now forty-six."

INSPIRATION

"I was very lucky to go to a high school with so many resources," says Darien resident Saskia Zimmerman, a first-generation American. "My parents immigrated [her mother from El Salvador and father from Holland] to the United States, and they have worked very hard to provide me with the best possible education within their reach. I had the opportunity to take challenging classes [at Darien High School], to learn to play the violin, to fence, to participate in many extracurricular clubs and activities. Not everyone has that good fortune. That's why I worked with immigrant children at Building One Community (B1C), because they should also have those same opportunities." The kids served by B1C, an organization focused on the successful integration of immigrants and their families, attend schools that often don't have the resources Saskia benefitted from, and knowing that inspired her to make a difference.

COURAGE INTO ACTION

During high school, Saskia volunteered by offering academic tutoring and violin lessons, and she also led a Homework Club. Last summer, she developed a summer STEAM Club for elementary-school-age children at B1C. "I created

lesson plans, led hands-on activities, and fundraised for all the materials," she explains. "I also enlisted one of my older students to help me run the club, so she could give back to the community as well. The children weren't the only ones who learned. I discovered what it feels like to create and pitch a program, along with how hard it is to be on the other side of the classroom breaking down complicated STEAM topics in a way that even Junior, the youngest student fresh out of kindergarten, could understand. I had never seen a class more eager to learn. I was constantly impressed by their small hands furiously scribbling notes and their engagement. The success of the camp was very rewarding and reinforced my belief that equal access to education is something every kid deserves."

HOPES AND DREAMS

"I hope that the kids I help grow up to help other kids, and I hope B1C is able to continue to provide the means through which the bond is formed," says Saskia. "I hope volunteers at B1C continue to help community members learn the skills that will give them the best chance at success in this country, while volunteers deepen their understanding and appreciation of other cultures." »



Saskia Zimmerman

Outstanding Teen Volunteer

ORGANIZATION B1C

WORDS OF PRAISE

"Saskia's commitment to B1C, and what she has accomplished in her 215 hours of volunteering since 2019, have exceeded our expectations for a youth volunteer. Saskia has volunteered to teach immigrant adults English and tutor youth immigrant students in math. She is also one of our most diligent Homework Club Leaders. Saskia volunteered to run the STEAM summer camp at B1C. She raised the money for the camp through a GoFundMe campaign she created and also used her own birthday money to make supplies available to the kids in her class. Undoubtedly, Saskia's volunteer work has not only impacted our immigrant children's lives but also B1C's success." —LORELY PECHE, FAMILY AND SCHOOL SERVICES DIRECTOR, B1C

Stephanie Cowie

Inspiring Leader

ORGANIZATIONS

Greenwich Public School PTAs, GPS Building Committees, Junior League of Greenwich, United Way of Greenwich, American Red Cross (Metro NY North), League of Women Voters, First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities

INSPIRATION

"My parents instilled the importance of giving back," says Steph Cowie. "Whether they were coaching teams, serving as volunteers for our town or various organizations, we grew up knowing volunteerism should be a part of our day-to-day."

In January of 2018, Steph suffered a stroke to her spine, which caused paralysis from the waist down. "Faced with undoubtedly one of the most difficult personal challenges, my life and our family's life changed dramatically," says Steph. "Unable to continue my thirty-year professional career, I found that volunteer work became the outlet I needed and carried me through some of the difficult times. Through my volunteer commitments, I was able to adapt and continue to make a difference. Volunteering will always be a part of my life. I continue to volunteer, because I enjoy being with people and making even the slightest difference in a project or a person's life."

COURAGE INTO ACTION

"I have been so fortunate to work with so many wonderful organizations over the last twenty-one years," says Steph, who was the recipient of the Greenwich PTA's Lifetime Essence Award and served on the boards of the United Way and American Red Cross.

"My lens seems very different now than it was previous to my stroke. Like so many, I was unaware of the inadequate services, lack of accessibility and inclusivity in our community for those with disabilities," she explains.

"Several years ago, I became the vice chair of the First Selectman's Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities. I have learned so much and have put all that to good use."

Steph now directs most of her volunteer time to infrastructure in Greenwich, advocating for the town to be Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant in all schools and public spaces. "We just celebrated the ADA's thirty-second anniversary at the new—and now ADA-compliant—Greenwich High School Cardinal Stadium," she says. "I couldn't be more proud to have been a part of this improvement for all to use."

HOPES AND DREAMS

"I hope that Greenwich continues to work together—all town departments and the public—to better the lives of those with disabilities by making public spaces and buildings inclusive and accessible. We are all only temporarily able."



WORDS OF PRAISE

"Steph's passion for philanthropy is infectious, and that has never been more apparent than it is today as she struggles with her own physical challenges and still finds ways to help others and offer them support and encouragement. Steph has a deep passion for life, which permeates all that she does, making her a great messenger of endless possibilities. While she has held many leadership positions, Steph pours as much energy into working behind the scenes as she does leading the way."

—SUE BODSON, FRIEND (2010 Light a Fire Honoree, Best Friend to Children)

Robert Doran

Community Advocate

ORGANIZATIONS

Domestic Violence Crisis Center, Westport Country Playhouse, New Canaan Chamber Music, New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership

INSPIRATION

"As a community relentlessly working together with our nonprofits, we can break cycles of abuse, addiction, hunger and poverty," says New Canaan resident Bob Doran.

"We can provide education, skills and tools for people to be in control of their own lives. The work of our local nonprofit organizations in the trenches, at their best, transforms lives. The people who are reached by those services and are better for it transform our communities. That is inspiring."

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Doran is active in numerous nonprofit organizations in Fairfield County—Domestic Violence Crisis Center (advisory board), Westport Country Playhouse (trustee) and New Canaan Chamber Music (founding board member)—and also is the volunteer head of New Canaan's Channel 79 and a founding member of New Canaan Abuse Prevention Partnership.

As host of the *Talking About It* podcast, Doran is dedicated to preventing abuse, promoting healthy relationships and reducing the stigma around behavioral health issues.

"We need to talk openly about the issues our neighbors face," says Doran. "Our communities are neither their healthiest nor their strongest if one of us is in need. I made a conscious decision many years ago to not be a bystander. Instead, I try to move the needle as an advocate for change—actively and respectfully speaking out loud about issues affecting our communities. By being a visible advocate—writing op-eds, producing podcasts, speaking publicly and working with nonprofit leadership—I look to raise awareness of important issues, remove the stigma of being in need and give people a voice and a language to 'talk about it.'"

Doran adds, "I work with many nonprofits on strategic planning and



engagement to define 'Purpose' and share their compelling stories."

HOPES AND DREAMS

"I hope organizations find their Purpose—with a capital P," says Doran. "I would like to see organizations do the unconventional and set aside their 'Mission and Vision Statements.' I find that most board members, staff, volunteers and clients don't know them anyway. 'Mission and Vision' narrow our focus in ways that constrict peripheral vision; like putting blinders on a horse, you can only see what's in front of you. Solutions are invariably found around corners. When we look through a Purpose-driven lens, our stories are more compelling, everyone is more engaged, difficult and divisive choices become constructive dialogue, the path to success is clearer, and we make a greater impact in the world." »

WORDS OF PRAISE

"Bob Doran embodies the true essence of why one dedicates their time to volunteering. While many raise a hand from time to time in support of a cause that is near and dear to them, Bob raises both and jumps in, feet first. Bob has done so much to lift countless lives through his leadership and to provide a path forward for those who might not otherwise find one."

—TUCKER MURPHY, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, TOWN OF NEW CANAAN

Suzanne Brown Koroshetz



Best Friend to Children

ORGANIZATION
Kids in Crisis

WORDS OF PRAISE

“As an innovative educator and principal of Stamford High School and Brien McMahon High School, Suzanne demonstrated exceptional compassion, connection and leadership on behalf of students and families. She has been an impactful speaker advocating for Teen Talk programs throughout Fairfield County. Countless students have benefited from mental health services due to Suzanne’s commitment and prioritization of this service. It’s impossible to quantify how many children’s lives were saved due to her tireless effort to assure funding and program availability year to year. Since retiring, she continues to share her expertise and passion as a Kids in Crisis board member. As part of the Substance Misuse Prevention Task Force, Suzanne is helping to build a campaign to educate families and youth on the dangers of marijuana use. Her work has a direct impact on the health of today’s youth.”

—DEBRA KATZ, KIDS IN CRISIS, DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

INSPIRATION

“When I was the principal of Brien McMahon High School in Norwalk, my students were the recipients of a Kids in Crisis (KIC) donor-funded Teen Talk counselor,” recounts Suzanne Brown Koroshetz. “This masters’ level, compassionate counselor helped many students navigate difficult personal and school-related issues.” The Teen Talk counselor augmented the school staff by providing confidential individual, group and family counseling.

“She identified at-risk students and families flying under the radar and reached out to students experiencing depression, anxiety, substance-use struggles, and trauma- and conflict-related stresses,” says Suzanne. “She was an angel who arrived to help my kids. I believe she saved lives.” Suzanne now has the time to support the wonderful organization that did so much for the students in her care. “While Teen Talk is a vital component of KIC, the organization does even more to support children and families,” she adds.

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Suzanne now serves on KIC’s board of directors. “What a gift to join a group of dedicated board members and remarkable staff. And to be able to ‘officially’ represent an organization that has meant so much to me for a long time,” she says. Suzanne is cochair of the program committee and works with staff, fellow board members and volunteers. “Our role is to support KIC programs and stay true to the vision and mission of KIC,” she explains. “The programs we directly support include Safe Haven, Light House, Helping Kids Thrive (KIC’s webinar), Outreach and Community Partners.”

HOPES AND DREAMS

“I wish for KIC’s incredible staff and amazing volunteers to continue to have the energy and compassion and all the funding needed to reach the KIC vision: a community where all children are happy and safe,” says Suzanne. “We are working to build healthy communities where children and families can thrive—with prevention, counseling and crisis services available twenty-four hours, every day.” Suzanne continues: “This work is so important. It’s hard to be a kid today, and many families are struggling. It is a privilege to support KIC values as the staff works to welcome all people with respect and kindness, by responding quickly and thoughtfully, while bringing strength and compassion for the benefit of children.”

Andrew Wilk

Supporter of the Arts

ORGANIZATIONS
Westport Library, Westport Country Playhouse

INSPIRATION

Westport resident Andrew Wilk retired as executive producer of *Live From Lincoln Center* in 2019, but there is no valve to turn off the creative flow generated by this producer/director/conductor/multi-E Emmy-winning brain. “In a show biz career, you do it because you love it, and you want to keep doing it,” says Wilk. “It was my chance to do something with this artsy town that I’m really attached to. Westport has been a wonderful place for our sons to grow up. And part of it is selfish—I want to stay sharp, keep directing, keep conducting, and I don’t want to wake up and stare at the ceiling! Retiring with a unique skill set motivates me to keep at it regardless of any compensation.”

COURAGE INTO ACTION

In just a few (pandemic-riddled) years, Wilk has brought a slew of stars and Lincoln Center-quality concerts to Westport. He shared his talent conducting the Staples Pops Concert at the Levitt Pavilion, which led Bill Harmer to inquire if he’d do something for the library. “Something” in Wilk-speak translated to a Malloy Lecture with Broadway greats James Lapine, Stephanie Block and Bill Finn about their show *Falsettos* (which Wilk filmed for PBS); a riveting speaker series, *Andrew Wilk Presents*; another Malloy Lecture on Leonard Bernstein; and orchestrating the Booked for the Evening event with Itzhak Perlman. Harmer wisely asked Wilk to join the board. Andrew is now in his second term.

“Part of the reason I moved here was the Playhouse,” says Wilk, who suggested the venue for the *Falsettos* talk and subsequently brought the Playhouse into homes across America via PBS with his *Stars in Concert Series* in 2021, featuring Shoshana Bean, Gavin Creel and Brandon Victor Dixon. Wilk is currently brainstorming on a future large-scale production to galvanize support for the Playhouse and bring local performers and Broadway stars together on its stage.

HOPES AND DREAMS

“I would hope that the arts will continue to flourish here, and we revive the Playhouse with community support,” says Wilk. “Our library is beyond ground-breaking, and the community provided tremendous support and generosity for the renovation of the library and construction of its state-of-the-art recording studio, Verso Studios. I hope the Playhouse can benefit from the town’s generosity and enthusiasm like the Library has.” »

WORDS OF PRAISE

“Andrew has been on the Board of Trustees since 2017. During his tenure he has graciously shared his directorial and production talents, while freely opening up his Rolodex to bring in various personalities allowing for world-class programming at the Library, from Bob Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic, to Jay Schadler and Mick Davie, correspondents and journalists, to Itzhak Perlman, world-famous violinist and so many others. He is generous to a fault with his time and talent, and we at the Library are grateful and indebted to him for his immeasurable contributions.”

—BILL HARMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WESTPORT LIBRARY



Mike Miller



Community Good Neighbor

ORGANIZATIONS

Transportation Association of Greenwich, Neighbor to Neighbor, Greenwich Department of Human Services, Art Society of Old Greenwich

WORDS OF PRAISE

“Mike has been on the board of directors at TAG for fourteen years, starting as a financial advisor, and is currently the board president and CFO of TAG—all volunteer positions. Mike is more than a board member. He is a true friend of TAG, doing everything he can to help it grow and become more successful in its mission. He works as many hours as a full-time employee! Mike has been there every step of the way as a mentor, advisor, teacher and friend. His commitment to this organization is one of belief—believing that TAG is a truly valuable asset to the Greenwich community. He does anything and everything to make it happen on a daily basis.”

—DEB VETROMILE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TAG

INSPIRATION

“Shortly after my family relocated to Riverside nearly three decades ago, we participated in what can accurately be described as a type of local barn raising,” explains Mike Miller. “Over six weeks during school break, several dozen neighbors—some with construction trade experience, many without—built from the ground up an entirely new playground for Riverside Elementary School. I enjoyed this experience immensely and knew that when other opportunities to serve our community presented themselves, I would again gladly volunteer and participate.”

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Miller began volunteering with neighborhood nonprofits after supporting public school programs for many years. He became very involved with Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG), which offers specialized para-transit services for the Town of Greenwich, annually providing over 30,000 rides for seniors, the disabled, school-age youth and neighbors with limited resources. “My career skills—team building, collaboration, organizational strategy, finance and management advisory—that were honed through supporting a variety of organizations experiencing periods of urgent transition, dovetailed well with TAG,” says Miller, who helped the organization recover from the Great Recession. He has served TAG as board member, treasurer and president, for over fourteen years.

During the pandemic, TAG pivoted to focus on its pre-pandemic food delivery program, Feed Greenwich, in conjunction with Neighbor to Neighbor and the Department of Human Services. “Throughout the pandemic to date, TAG has surpassed 72,000 home deliveries, delivering a cumulative total of over 800,000 pounds of food,” says Miller. “In June, following a competitive bid process, TAG was awarded a \$3 million contract, which doubled its annual ridership to over 60,000 and expanded its operating footprint to seven additional communities. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience, working alongside the dedicated people here at TAG who help so many.”

HOPES AND DREAMS

“That our community-at-large maintains its commitment to the many organizations that make such a major difference day after day for our neighbors.”

Marianne Pollak

Dedicated Committee Member

ORGANIZATIONS

Fairfield County Community Foundation, Soundwaters, CT Committee of Regional Plan Association, Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford Garden Club, League of Women Voters

INSPIRATION

Originally from Buffalo, Marianne Pollak attended a League of Women Voters meeting when she and her husband moved to New Haven. “The League is nonpartisan and is concerned with the functions of government for community,” explains Marianne, whose enthusiastic engagement in the organization continued to Westchester and then Stamford, where she became president. “The League exposed me to many nonprofits,” she says.

“Because my husband spent so much time working in Asia, we travelled a lot, and I became aware of other people and communities,” she adds. “This broadens one’s perspective. No matter what color, what ethnic background—we are all people, and our needs are the same.”

And Marianne’s parents, avid gardeners, inspired her green thumb and concern for the environment.

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Marianne has served on numerous committees in the past thirty years. “I was a founding member of the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF),” she says. She also served on the steering committee of its Fund for Women and Girls. She currently serves on the boards of Soundwaters, FCCF, The Bartlett Arboretum, League of Women Voters and Stamford Garden Club. Previously, Marianne served on the boards of Inspirica, the Connecticut Commission of Landscape Architects and the Bruce Museum and was board chair for the Stamford Museum and Nature Center. She also served on the

Connecticut committee of the Regional Plan Association.

“I think I bring an awareness of the importance of engaging the community and helping the community understand the needs of nonprofits,” she says. “I hope I’ve helped these nonprofits become stronger organizations. The relationship between the board and staff is crucial. I’ve also encouraged other community members to be more engaged with nonprofits and the government.” Marianne adds, “I hope I have been effective in helping nonprofits who did excellent jobs of meeting their mission to communicate with the public, so that there is a greater understanding of how all of our lives are impacted when needs of the community are not met.”

HOPES AND DREAMS

“Covid has obviously changed our lives in many ways and perhaps even placed more emphasis on the needs of communities,” says Marianne. “As we go forward, how can we be more positive about engaging all peoples and all needs and having a vibrant, exciting community? I encourage people to be engaged in politics in the broadest sense: get out there, serve on a board, try to make a change. People talk about giving back; for me, it’s more about what I’ve gained being on boards. I hope going forward our government roles will be looked at in a more positive, broader way and that people will want to be engaged in their community—whether local, state or broader than that.” »



WORDS OF PRAISE

“Marianne is consistently engaged and dedicated to every organization that she is involved with. She brings strategic insight, thoughtful ideas and questions, consistent attendance, and is an excellent ambassador and supporter for all of her causes.”

—JUANITA JAMES, PRESIDENT & CEO, FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (2010 Light a Fire Honoree with her late husband, Dudley Williams, Most Involved Couple)



Harry Day

Lifetime Achievement

ORGANIZATIONS

Stamford Museum and Nature Center, Stamford Land Conservation Trust

INSPIRATION

"Giving back came to me naturally," says Harry Day. "I felt I should do anything I can to help organizations that help kids and our citizens in Stamford. I just felt compelled to do that. It made me feel better. I have been very fortunate in many respects—to have great parents, to get into Yale University and Cornell Law School—so I felt responsible to do my best in helping others."

COURAGE INTO ACTION

Day's service in Stamford and Fairfield County as a whole could fill pages. He served on Stamford's Board of Representatives for nearly two decades. He has served on the boards of Mill River Park Collaborative, Stamford Emergency Medical Services, Old Town Hall Redevelopment Agency and Smith House Health Care Center. He has been involved with Kids in Crisis for fifteen

years, served as board chair for six years, and continues to be a generous contributor and fundraising organizer. "I was very proud and inspired during my time at Kids in Crisis," says Day. "I got involved by first being able to persuade the city of Stamford to contribute."

Day is currently president of Stamford Museum and Nature Center. "We were able to complete the building of the new farmhouse, which has brought many hundreds of new people to the Center," explains Day. "Now we are working on getting the planetarium rebuilt, which will set the Center apart from anything like it in the metropolitan area."

Day is also president of Stamford Land Conservation Trust, which owns and preserves over 450 acres of land across fifty-seven properties. (A tripling in the twenty years that Day has been involved.) "It's a huge part of my life," he says, "and of extreme importance to me. I love to save beautiful properties from development. I understand the need to build more homes, but it's so important to have places people can escape to and enjoy the beauty of."

HOPES AND DREAMS

"I hope for these organizations to bring people together and allow people to take advantage of their own abilities to learn things, enjoy life and make friends. That's pretty much it!" says Day. "The Stamford Museum and Nature Center does all of those things and it's an incredible organization. I'm very proud to be president." 📸

WORDS OF PRAISE

"Harry is a leader who is professional, effective, caring and generous. Ever self-effacing, Harry is not one to seek the spotlight. He is a listener. He is financially generous, but does so with the belief that quiet and anonymous giving is the best kind. I can think of no other individual who has contributed more to the city of Stamford and to Fairfield County—just consider the sheer number of nonprofit and municipal organizations that he has been involved with over so many years. I have no doubt that he will continue his selfless quest to making the city of Stamford more livable, lively, interesting and beautiful with the enthusiasm, perseverance, dedication and graciousness that define Harry Day."

—LYNN VILLENCY COHEN, BOARD MEMBER, STAMFORD MUSEUM AND NATURE CENTER (2018 Light a Fire Honoree, Dedicated Supporter of the Arts)



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