



NEWSLETTER

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Animals We Know Well

The English language has some wonderfully anthropomorphic collective nouns for the various groups of animals. We are all familiar with a Herd of cows, a Flock of chickens, a School of fish and a Gaggle of geese.

However, less widely known are a Pride of lions, a Murder of crows (as well as their cousins the rooks and ravens), an Exaltation of doves and, presumably because they look so wise, a Parliament of owls.

Now consider a group of baboons. They are the loudest, most dangerous, most obnoxious, most viciously aggressive and least intelligent of all primates. And what is the proper collective noun for a group of baboons?

Believe it or not a Congress!

That explains a lot!

MARCH SPEAKERS (Meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in Morrill Hall, St. Mark's Church.)

- Mar 2** Karen Nisenson, Founder and Clinical Director of Arts for Healing, a creative arts therapy center based in New Canaan, will address the Senior Men's Club. She will speak to the growing use of arts therapy in medical and educational institutions. Ms. Nisenson will describe clients with conditions such as Autism and Alzheimers and how music and art act as a vehicle of change in their lives. Karen Nisenson holds a BS in Education from Hunter College and a MA in Music Therapy from NYU. She has worked in the field of creative arts therapy for the past 25 years.
- Mar 9** Rob Mallozzi, newly elected First Selectman, will be our speaker. He will give us an update on his vision for New Canaan and some of the policies he may implement – kind of a primer on the State of the Town. The Town's budget is the biggest issue facing the town, according to Mallozzi, and New Canaan will have to make some difficult choices in the future. Just as preparations for the 2012-13 budget season begin, New Canaan has its Chief Financial Officer Gary Conrad, a town employee for more than 17 years, who left for a similar job in Westport.
- Mar 16** Lori Kelly, a volunteer partner with the American Red Cross, will give us a presentation on Disaster Preparedness, and discuss coordination on fire safety with Fred Baker, our Fire Marshall. She will also tell us how the Red Cross has reorganized along functional lines, including their interface with the Town on the Call Out system, EMTs and the Red Cross Shelter. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Baker will address the new compression only CPR and provide information on home emergency kits, car emergency kits, supplies for power outages, and having a family plan for fire and evacuation.
- Mar 23** Our speaker will be Dr. Sherman M. Bull, on Mountaineering Experiences with Disabled Combat Soldiers. Dr. Bull began climbing mountains at the age of forty. He has the distinction of setting two world records: at the age of 64 he became the oldest person to have summited Mount Everest and with his son Brad by his side they became the first father and son team to do so. He has now climbed all of the "Seven Summits", the highest peak on each of the seven continents. Dr. Bull is a graduate of Yale University and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Mar 30** Capt. Frank Pelkowski will talk about the training requirements for U.S. Merchant Mariners and U.S. Flag vessel operators, most notably in the domestic ship trades. He will discuss what regulations have improved maritime security, and which regulations are a waste of time and effort. He will also discuss Cuban oil drilling and U.S. contingency planning to respond to a pollution release impacting U.S. Waters" His area of expertise includes the requirements set forth by the ISPS Code and Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA) as a reaction to the 9-11 attacks.

NEW MEMBERS - We have four new members since the last newsletter: Larry Brown, Austin Furst, Bill Heyn, and Jeff Milliken. Please welcome them when you see them at the meetings.

HELP WANTED -- There are opportunities to join several of the Club's committees. We need volunteers to help do such things as occasionally assist with the morning refreshments, put out the annual directory, be a part of the membership committee, write some of our newspaper articles and help develop favorable publicity. If interested, please talk with President Paul Stein or the appropriate Committee Chairman whose name you will find in the Club Directory.

COUTH

- Mar 15 (Thu) Annual trip to NY Philharmonic open rehearsal. David Zinman, music director of the Tonhalle Orchestra Zurich, will conduct Beethoven Symphonies No. 1 and No. 3 ("Eroica"), with Gil Shaham soloist in Karl Hartman's Concerto for Violin and String Orchestra. We will bus a few blocks to Bello's at 56th and 9th for lunch (Josephina's has closed). To allow for traffic, check-in at St. Mark's at 7:45 a.m., bus departs 8:00, to return about 4:00 p.m. Cost \$90 per person. Hosts Tracey Mackle (203-966-1149) and Pete Stair (203-966-6497).
- May 29 (Tue) We'll be visiting the New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, N.Y. The day includes a private, docent-led tram tour followed by a catered buffet lunch in a private area of the Visitor Center Café. After lunch, we'll have time to visit the Haupt Conservatory or just wander around the Garden. The Enid A. Haupt Conservatory is featuring a stunning tribute to French Impressionist Claude Monet that showcases a seasonally changing interpretation of the gardens that inspired his art. Our bus will depart St. Mark's at 10:00 a.m. sharp and be back by around 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$83 per person. Your hosts will be Mike Allocca (203-966-0547) and Dave Conrod (203-594-1401).
- Sept 2012 A deposit of \$250 is due March 21 for the Sept 16th to 27th National Parks tour. Save \$100 if booked by Mar 16th. Highlights include Lake Powell, Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks. We will also see Old Faithful, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse and more. Overnight stays in rustic lodges within the parks. The trip is the #1 most popular tour by Colette Vacations. Cost: Double \$3,399 includes air and transfers from St. Mark's. Total refund for any reason if insurance package @ \$165 is purchased. Call Bob Witt, for brochure/application, (203) 966 2892.

ACTIVITIES (Check the website at SMCNC.ORG for updates)

- Amateur Chefs The chefs' next meeting will be at 5:30 on March 22, our annual husband/wife dinner at Waveny Castle. Limit of 40 attendees, price is \$25 per person. Sign up at the Friday meetings.
Bert Liebelt (203-966-3696), Nick Zaccagnino (203-966-7217)
- Bridge Talk with your friends and organize your own games after the Friday meetings. You may play at Lapham or stay at St. Marks.
Eric Musa (203-966-3125)
- Cycling We're done for the season, and will resume next year.
Les DeVilliers (203-966-9645), Roger Colson (203-966-9258)
- Investments The investment group will meet March 19 at 10:30 at Lapham. Harry Hitch (203-966-1947)
- Mystery Books The Mystery Book Club meeting will feature a spy novel, Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love*. Listen at the Friday meetings or check the website for details. Brian Hollstein (203-972-633)
- Paddle Tennis Play on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 at Waveny. A Rec Department permit is required. \$10 ball fee. Steve Rowley (966-2376), John Ross (966-8339)
- Photo/Computer We'll meet Wed. March 14th at Lapham for an advanced Photoshop Class – hands on use of the tools. Limit of 10 attendees. Sign up at the Friday meetings. Jack Messert (203-966-8754)
- Sidewalks - NYC Hold these dates: May 9, June 6 and June 27! Details on each walk to follow.
Pete Stair (203-966-6497)
- Trailblazers Stay tuned for the next walk – next spring. Jack Murray (203-966-1416)
- 4F Luncheon Our informal, relaxing Dutch treat lunch is usually on the Fourth Friday. Details about future lunches will be announced at Friday meetings. All are invited to join in. Sign up at the Couth desk, either before 10 a.m. or during the coffee break. Don Tiefenthaler (203-966-5794)

AARP Driving Safety Program – Thurs. March 29, 2012, 8:45 AM to 1:00 PM AARP Driving Instructor Roger Colson will lead a driving class that gives students valuable driving tips and a certificate entitling them to a state mandated insurance reduction of at least five percent for two years. Attendance is limited to 25. Spouses are invited. Fees are \$12 per person for AARP members, \$14 per person for non members, checks to be made out to AARP. Register at the Friday meetings or contact Roger Colson at rochar@aol.com or 203-966-9258 for the course's scheduling and location.