



WRITERS

CONSERVATIONISTS

PAINTERS

ACTIVISTS

PHILANTHROPISTS

BUILDERS

DESIGNERS

RESTAURATEURS

FINANCIERS

MERCHANTS

ACTORS

WRITTEN BY THE EDITORS

50

MOST
INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE

OF LITCHFIELD COUNTY



BARBARA SPIEGEL



SKIP BARBER



JOAN RIVERS



OSCAR DE LA RENTA



JAMES O'SHEA & CHARLES KAFFERMAN



JAMES BUCKLEY



SAM WATERSTON



CAROLE PECK



NANCY & HENRY KISSINGER



GRAYDON CARTER

These hills are filled with talent and money and dedicated community spirit. We have among us great artists and shop owners, non-profit organizers and big-money philanthropists. They use their time, talent, and resources to improve this corner of paradise and to weave a certain charm into the fabric of Litchfield County.

FRAN KEILTY

The owner of the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot, Keilty brings authors big and small to share their love of reading with a community that cherishes the written word.

ANNE MAITLAND

Co-founder of Literacy Volunteers on the Green, a program dedicated to improving literacy in the targeted towns of Bridgewater, Kent, New Milford, Roxbury, Sherman, Warren, and Washington, Maitland has helped over 200 newcomers to the area learn to speak, read, and write English.

ANNE BASS

A philanthropist living in South Kent, she directed a documentary "Dancing Across Borders," which tells the story of her experience helping a young Cambodian dancer Sy Sar pursue a career. Her fundraising and community organizing skills are legendary.

BARBARA SPIEGEL AND NANCY ROGERS

Spiegel is executive director and Rogers is a driving force with others of the Susan B. Anthony Project, which helps survivors of domestic and sexual abuse.

JAMES PRESTON

The former CEO of Avon Products, Inc., he has helped create modern-day Kent, through development and stewardship of the local business community.

He and his family now manage the Kent Village Barn Shops.

JEFFREY ENGEL

His love and knowledge of music makes his lectures on the topic the harmony of northwest Connecticut.

BILL O'SHAUGHNESSY

The president of Whitney Radio and editorial director of WVOX and WRTN, he is an authoritative voice on air and around town.

JAMES O'SHEA AND CHARLES KAFFERMAN

For 20 years these two gentlemen have welcomed sophisticated diners into their West Street Grill for superb food, conviviality, and an unforgettable experience.

CAROLE PECK

With her husband she operates the iconic Good News Café, using locally grown seasonal ingredients and a magic touch.

DENIS AND ANN LEARY

Denis is a comedic actor whose "Rescue Me" entertains millions. Ann is an author—her most recent novel is *Outtakes From a Marriage*. The couple's charity, the Leary Fighters Foundation, funds fire departments nationally.

DAN SHAW

This former *New York Times* writer has brought big-city sophistication to Litchfield with ruralintelligence.com.

DOUG CLEMENT

Editor of the *Litchfield County Times*, he is the weekly voice of the region.

JOHN MILLINGTON

Former executive at Time Inc., he is president of the Steep Rock Land Trust

and serves on the board of Connecticut Fund for the Environment. A notable keeper of the lands.

ELIOT WADSWORTH

Owner of White Flower Farm, his true passion is the Litchfield Hills Green-print Project, an effort to protect critical watershed and farmland.

ELYSE HARNEY

A realtor, she represents the Harney family, which operates the Harney Tea Company and supports local organizations.

JOE CICIO

The driving force behind the revitalization of Warren—including the Rooster Tail Inn and General Store.

PHILIP ROTH

With two National Book Awards and a Pulitzer, he is one of America's most admired purveyors of ideas.

ADAM VAN DOREN

He carries on the Van Doren legacy intellectually and physically, by maintaining the farm and lands in Cornwall.

DIANE VON FURSTENBERG

Revered fashion designer, she sketches numerous local fundraisers, chief among them, the Housatonic Valley Association's annual auction.

OSCAR DE LA RENTA

One of the world's leading fashion designers, he is a consummate host and supporter of local organizations.

CAROLYNE ROEHM

A taste-maker and entertainer. An invitation to Weatherstone, her home in Sharon, is on everyone's wish list.

JOAN RIVERS

This New Milford dwelling comedian,

writer, and actress is an iconoclast, community spirit, and legend.

DIANE MEIER

She brings savvy marketing ideas to local projects, such as the Litchfield County Writers Project, based at UConn, Torrington.

FRANK DELANEY

Author of *The Celts*, *Tipperary*, and more, with wife Diane Meier he brings intellectual life to Kent.

CHRIS MURPHY

With the other elected officials among us, he carries the hopes and wishes of northwest Connecticut, in his case to the floor of the U.S. House.

CAROLYN KLEMM

For the past three decades she has become godmother of area real estate, gaining an intimacy with every significant property in the region.

DAVID OWEN

New Yorker staff writer, this Washington resident commits his non-writing hours to zoning for his community.

MAGGIE SMITH

Owner of the spectacular Winvian Resort, she brings elegance to Litchfield.

SHEILA NEVINS

President of documentary and family programming for HBO, Nevins channels that experience into her Bantam Cinema.

GRAYDON CARTER

Editing *Vanity Fair*, the world's most sophisticated society magazine, certainly carries its own degree of influence.

ANTHEA DISNEY

This longtime colleague of Rupert Murdoch, she recently founded the

Women's Enterprise Initiative to help female entrepreneurs succeed.

HENRY AND NANCY KISSINGER

This most famous international diplomat and magnetic socialite wife host soirées in their Kent home, while providing goodwill community gestures.

SAM WATERSTON

With a trail of acting honors, he has led "Law & Order" by night and raised cows by day on his Cornwall farm.

PRISCILLA AND JAMES BUCKLEY

Two of the ten Buckley children who grew up on Sharon's Great Elm Estate, where they live today. Priscilla was an AP writer and managing editor of *National Review*; James was a U.S. senator, federal judge, and assistant secretary of state.

SKIP BARBER

Owner of Lime Rock Park and founder of one of the world's most famous racing schools, the former race-car driver has brought international fame to the northwest corner.

DAYNE VERSTANDIG

The Litchfield County Writers Project celebrates our county's remarkable literary talent, and as its director, Verstandig has helped attract such writers as Arthur Miller, Charles Van Doren, Honor Moore, and Frank McCourt to its UConn Torrington programs.

BILLY NELLER

Along with Joe Concannon, Neller put together the Litchfield seven-mile road race that for 34 years now has been a regional powerhouse of a running race and an attraction for out-of-towners.

WILLIAM MORRISON

Owner and inspiration behind the 7,000-square-foot Morrison Gallery in

Kent, he brings his influence through the bold and often grand art that he shows but also as a representative of the large Litchfield County gallery scene.

DAN HINCKS

He led the effort to revitalize Infinity Hall, the late 19th-century music hall, into a gorgeous entertainment venue, attracting people from all over to its restaurant, performances, and events.

JAMES PATRICK

As executive director of the beautifully restored Warner Theater, he represents the intellectual fortitude, financial doggedness, and creative beauty that saved this gem of a cultural arts center in Torrington from demise.

DANIELLE MAILER

A talented painter and community supporter, she represents the tremendously vibrant visual arts community, with her bold strokes and colors.

JILL CLAYBURGH

An acclaimed actress, she brings her fame and talents to support the arts in the region, where she lives with husband and playwright David Rabe.

RAFE CHURCHILL

As part of the Churchill family in Sharon that has been bringing quality design and construction to the region, he has been a pioneer in "green" building.

JOANNA SEITZ

A leading purveyor of lifestyle design, J. Seitz & Co. has made New Preston a shopping destination.

RICHARD LAMBERTSON

He and partner John Truex built a brand around their eponymous handbag and accessories business and now bring those talents to Tiffany & Co. ■