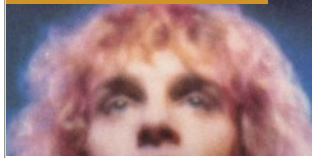




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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE POUND RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2017

VOLUME XXXVI NO. 2

Modern Love: Blame It On Breuer

by Tom Andersen



Marcel Lajos Breuer (1902-1981), a Hungarian-born modernist, furniture designer, and one of the world's most popular architects at the peak of 20th-Century design.

The story my late mother-in-law told about how my wife and I came to live in the first Modern house in Pound Ridge starts in the late 1940s, in Marcel Breuer's New Canaan house, with a guidebook by the Museum of Modern Art. Breuer, the Modernist master, rented his house to two couples he knew from Manhattan, Muriel and Joseph Hinerfeld and

Helen and Gene Federico. Helen was Muriel's sister; Helen and Gene eventually became my in-laws.

Like many young people after World War II, they were progressive, optimistic, and focused on what was to come, not what they had lived through. In a word, Modernist. From Breuer's house they searched for their own Modern houses, helped by the Museum

of Modern Art Guide to Modern Architecture: Northeast States. Under Pound Ridge, it said: "House for Mrs. Bertram F. Willcox, Trinity Pass Rd. Moore & Hutchins, architects, 1939." The Hinerfelds bought it.

The Federicos bought land on Eastwoods Road, and with Leroy Binkley, a Chicago architect, they designed their own Modern house. The Hinerfelds eventually left the Willcox house to the Federicos' daughters, Gina and Lisa. Gina and I moved in and have raised our two children here.

Today, Breuer's town—New Canaan—has rightly become known as a mecca of Mid-century Modern architecture boasting approximately 90 Modern houses. Pound Ridge, with a population one quarter of New Canaan's, has almost half as many Moderns—about 42.

Mid-century Modern houses are characterized by flat or gently pitched roofs, modest size, efficient use of interior space, rejection of ornamentation

for its own sake, expansive windows for a connection with the outdoors, and sensitivity to the environmental conditions of the building site.

Pound Ridge's hot spot is Eastwoods Road, with nine Mid-century Moderns. I'm partial to the Federico house, not only for the obvious reasons but also for its warmth, simple beauty, and connection to the landscape. And like the Modern house we live in, if it hadn't been for Marcel Breuer and his rental, I would never have known of it either. ■

This is an abridged version of an article by Tom (pictured below) that originally appeared in the May/June 2015 issue of Bedford Magazine.

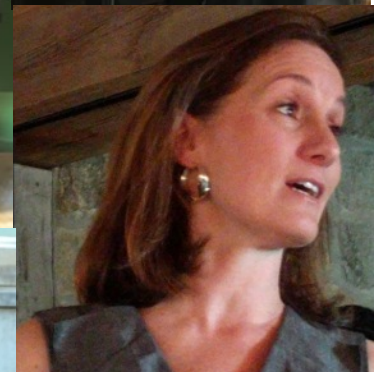


EVENTS

“Modern In Pound Ridge” Exhibition Opening Events

On April 22, the Pound Ridge Historical Society held a benefit luncheon, at The Inn At Pound Ridge, and previewed the “Modern In Pound Ridge” Exhibition. On April 23, the Exhibition – which runs through November 19 – officially opened at the Pound Ridge Museum.

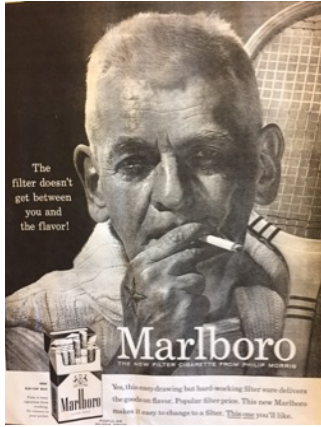
Pictured (clockwise from top right): Brendan DeSimone (Lead Sponsor, Houlihan Lawrence’s Bedford/Pound Ridge Manager) with Ed Condon (Town Historian); Carol Kurth (Exhibition sponsor) with Paula Resnick; Jennifer Stahlkrantz (Exhibition Chair); The Tashkovich family: Stefanie, Mark and Gligor; Meg and Dan DeVitto (Exhibition sponsors) with Ebbe Wood (PRHS President); Gina Federico with Tom Andersen (Exhibition curators); Kate Benjamin (exhibition videographer).



The Marlboro Man

by Judy Bria Storey

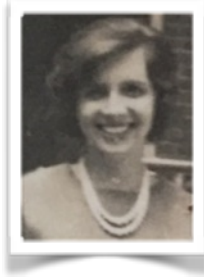
My uncle, Tom Ormsbee, who lived on Fancher Road and who in real life was an authority on American antiques, was spotted as a Marlboro Man type by one of the many Mad Men who lived in Pound Ridge. Imagine my astonishment one Christmas when I got off the train



from college in Grand Central Station to see an enormous panoramic, full-color image of Uncle Tom presiding over the scurrying commuters and travelers in the rotunda. His right hand, tattooed with the Marlboro star, was holding a cigarette to his lips for a satisfying drag. His craggy face and iron-grey crewcut, the tennis racket behind his left shoulder, and the white tennis sweater draped

around his neck were the image of casual athletic manliness in the 1950s. ■

Thomas H. Ormsbee was the author of thirteen books on American antiques. He wrote a syndicated column, Know Your Heirlooms, and was the author of a monthly column in House & Garden magazine. He lived with his wife, Renée, in a pre-revolutionary farmhouse filled with heirlooms from his New England family.



Judy Bria Storey (pictured at right) grew up in town, spends her winters in Maryland, but comes home to Pound Ridge in the summer.

Author, Author

Lawrence Schoonover and his family made Pound Ridge home in the late 1940s. After a brief stint in advertising, Schoonover became a well known novelist writing historical fiction ("The Burnished Blade," "Queen's Cross," and many more). But in 1952 he departed that genre and wrote "The Quick Brown Fox"—a rather racy and somewhat risqué look at the New York ad world. Much of the story is set in a time of transition in "a town like Pound Ridge"—the closing of the one room schoolhouses, the influx of commuters (many of them from advertising) the development of new roads and new homes. It's an interesting look at our town in the early '50s. ■

Schoonover's business melodrama, set in a '50s ad agency. (We have a copy if you'd like to borrow it.)



They Lived Here

By Gail Keene, Trustee

Some were renters or guests; some were homeowners. Some lived here part time (summers or weekends), and some lived here year 'round. You know their names and you may have seen some of these faces in town. These are people who could have lived anywhere in the world, but they chose Pound Ridge to call home.

Peter Frampton

Who knows what inspired Peter Kenneth Frampton, English-born American rock musician, guitarist and producer, to write his breakthrough album, Frampton Comes Alive? We'd like to think it was the time he spent living here in Pound Ridge – but that came later.

Frampton Comes Alive!



Ilona Massey Ilona Massey's star is still shining brightly on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. A gifted actress with many films to her credit, she also starred on the NBC radio spy show *Top Secret* and in *Rendezvous* on ABC television.



Sheriff Bob Dixon

The New Canaan born cowboy gained fame as the host of "The Chuck Wagon" on New York's WCBS-TV and "The Chuck Wagon Playhouse" later on the CBS network. He added to his curriculum vitae by becoming an actor and announcer on Edward L. Murrow's "See It Now."



Eartha Kitt This multi-talented and self-described "sex Kitten," Eartha Kitt gained worldwide fame with her recordings of "C'est Si Bon" and "Santa Baby." A Broadway, screen and television actress, she was the author of three autobiographies and created the role of "Cat Woman" on *Batman*. ■

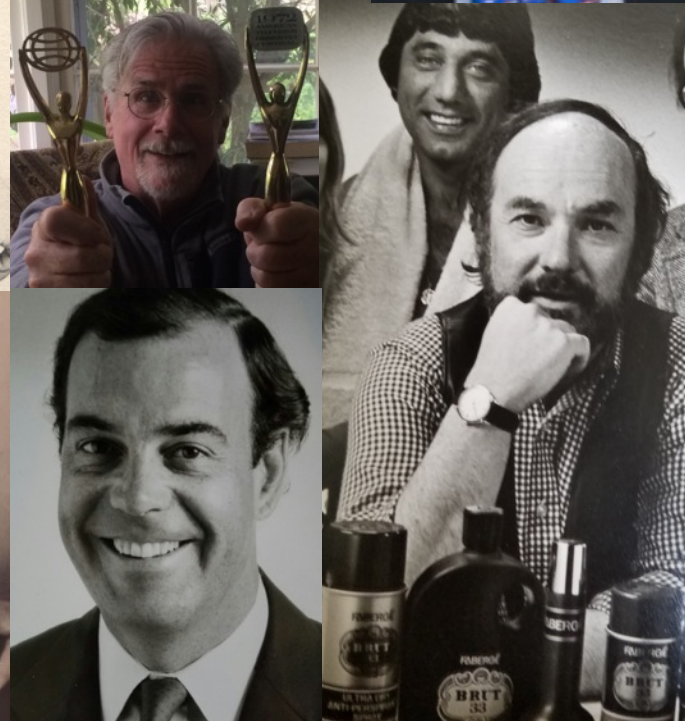
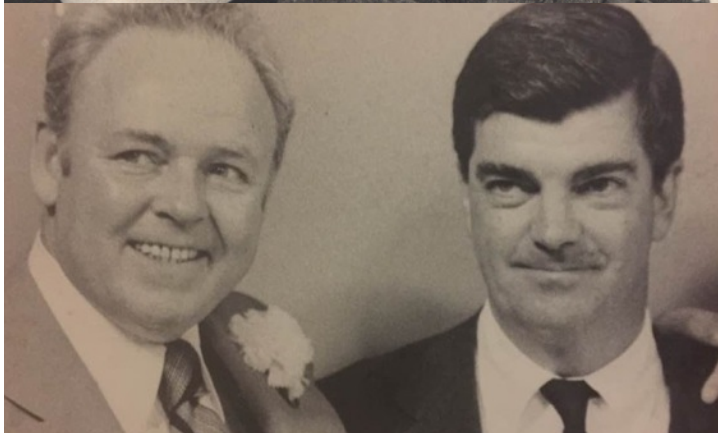
The “Mad Men” (and Women) That Lived Here



They lived here, but they worked on Madison Avenue. Their combined creative juices fueled and defined the artistic atmosphere of Mid-Century Pound Ridge. You may not recognize all of the names, but you will certainly be acquainted with the slogans and logos they influenced. Here's to all The Art Directors, The Account Execs, The Cameramen, The Producers, The Copywriters, The Photographers, The Directors of Photography and The Designers — of 10576. (See note below.)

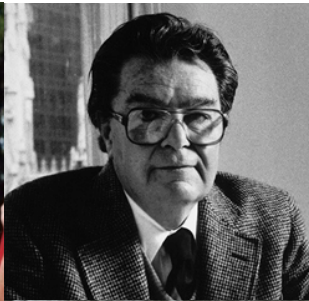
Pictured (top-to-bottom, left-to-right): Sam Antupit, Helen & Gene Federico, Dick Depew (with Carol O'Connor), “Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz” (Alka Seltzer), Phyllis Robinson, Denis Harrington, John Kelly, Chuck Griffith, Irwin Goldberg (with Joe Namath).

- Harry N. Abrams**
- Sam Antupit**
- Don Ayers**
- Robert Bean**
- Lee Child**
- Richard Depew**
- Jack Donnelly**
- Tanya English**
- Gene Federico**
- Helen Federico**
- Rudi Fiala**
- Bob Gage**
- Faye Gage**
- Gene Garlanda**
- Irwin Goldberg**
- Joan Goldberg**
- Chuck Griffith**



Pictured (top-to-bottom, left-to-right): Bob Gage, Rudi Fiala, Ed Russell in the Pound Ridge Firemen's Parade, Ted Shearer, "America Runs On Dunkin'" (Dunkin' Donuts), "Reach Out and Touch Someone" (AT&T), "I'd like to teach the world to sing" (Coke).

Denis Harrington
 Carl Harris
 John Kelly
 Stan Lomas
 Ross Lowell
 Richard Lowe
 Zoltan Medvecky
 Bob Olsen
 Rob Powell
 Santo Pulise
 Guy Rainsford
 Ed Russell
 Ted Shearer
 Carl Spielvogel
 Evan Stark
 Lewis Titterton
 Ruth Titterton
 James Yates



Editor's note:
 Apologies to anyone we have left out. So much talent in such a small town.



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Lionheart Gallery: Then & Now

In the 1940s Lionheart began as Jim McNally's Livery Service, a necessity as few folks in town owned 2 cars and often needed transportation for the family commuter to New Canaan or Stamford stations. After the war, cars were more prevalent and the livery service closed and the building became an antique shop. In fact through the 1980s Scotts Corners had so many fine shops that it became an antique lovers destination.

Now set amidst lush grounds Lionheart Gallery is known for exciting exhibits of contemporary art. Gallery Director, Susan



*Gallery Director,
Susan Grissom*

Grissom, curates eight exhibits during the year. In support of "Modern In Pound Ridge - Architecture and Lifestyle in the 20th Century," Lionheart will host three Pound Ridge Historical Society lectures (details below). ■



EVENTS

Modern In Pound Ridge Lecture Series at the Lionheart Gallery



David Hutchinson on Origins of Color in Modernist Architecture
Sat, June 24, 5:00pm



David Hutchinson is an Associate Principal and lead designer in the architectural firm, Perkins Eastman. Along with architecture, David is an artist whose work emphasizes the synergies between language and visual presentation, particularly with respect to color. He has works in the

permanent collection of the NY Public Library's Spencer Collection, the Museum of Fine Arts Houston, and the Menil Collection. In this lecture he examines how the development of color theory and societal conditions culminated in two seemingly-opposed approaches to color and spatial applications in early modern architecture, as exemplified by the works of Theo Van Doesburg and Le Corbusier.

Jacek Bigosinski on Mid-Century Modern Architecture
Sat, July 29, 5:00pm



Jacek Bigosinski has been a full-time faculty member at Norwalk Community College since 1989, where he currently is a Program Coordinator for Architecture, Interior Design

and Construction programs. He was responsible for introducing Interior Design program at NCC in 2005. His professional experience includes work at: PB Architects Darien, CT. where he is responsible for architectural design, construction documents, specifications and site inspections of residential and commercial projects. He has been a Partner since 1991 and currently is the sole owner of the business with a full-time staff of four. This lecture examines the American response to the International and Bauhaus movement: The Mid-Century modern architecture in the U.S.

Carol Kurth on Mid-Century Modern Furniture
Thu, October 5, 7:00pm



Carol Kurth, FAIA, ASID, is an award-winning architect and interior designer who has been designing modern residential and commercial projects for more than 30 years. A Manhattan native, Ms. Kurth moved to Westchester in the early 1980s and became a Partner in the architectural design and construction firm, Milowitz+ Kurth, where she was integral to the emergence of modern architecture in Pound Ridge. Ms. Kurth founded her own architecture and interior design studio, Carol Kurth Architecture + Interiors in 1995. Her distinguished and award-winning body of residential and commercial work is notable for its elegant and imaginative integration of site, form, structure, and materials. Ms. Kurth is passionate about designing distinctive modern backdrops and she takes inspiration from nature and the built environment.

Seating is Limited. Please RSVP
info@poundridgehistorical.org

Help From Our Friends

The Pound Ridge Library and Booksy, in Scotts Corners, have put together collections of architectural books and publications in support of our Exhibition, “Modern In Pound Ridge.” Visit them both. ■



Curated by Vanessa Harrington.

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From the Archives

You Lend, We Scan and Return

When you lend us your Pound Ridge photos (historic, vintage or important town memories) we will use our new state-of-the-art scanner and preserve them for future generations... and then we’ll return your precious photos to you. ■



From an album loaned to us by the Needells of Barrett Farm. c. 1900, Barrett mother and child.

2017 Hiram Halle Prize Winner

Amanda Zaino won the Hiram Halle Prize with her book “Pound Ridge: The Land and Its People.” She interviewed eight residents

of different ages who spoke about their experiences living in town from the 1940s to ’90s. She is going to the University of Tampa in the fall and planning a major in marine biology. Amanda works part-time (after school and on weekends) at the Market at Pound Ridge Square. ■



Hiram Halle Prize Winner: Amanda Zaino.

Errata

For The Record — some corrections

In our last issue we misspelled Major Tallmadge — of Major Tallmadge Lane — by omitting an “L.”

Apologies to all who live on the Lane!

Also...two years ago in our “Halle Exhibit,” we credited Mr. Halle with starting our library. Actually, Halle traded land that he owned (now the site of the Pound Ridge Elementary School) for Village School #5. After his death his estate donated the building and it became the library.

However, it was the generous financial support of Ruth Morgenthau Knight and others that the old schoolhouse became the nucleus of the library as we know it today. Mrs. Knight covered the library operating expenses for its first three years and was its first president. ■

Ruth Morgenthau Knight





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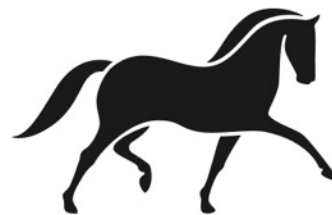
The Newsletter of the Pound Ridge Historical Society Summer 2017



The Pound Ridge Historical Society 2017 Exhibition,
“Modern In Pound Ridge,” and this Summer Newsletter
are made possible by the generous support of our sponsors.
Thank you.

Patron

Houlihan Lawrence



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