

## **Fairfield Museum Board Members 2023-24**

### **Susan Bonner, *President***

Susan is owner of The Golden Ribbon, a corporate gift service which she started in 1987. She graduated with a BA from Vassar College and worked for *Redbook Magazine* and J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency early in her career. She was also Editor in Chief and Publisher of a monthly magazine she started in 1978 called *Profiles Magazine*. Susan sits on the Board of The Near & Far Aid Association and served as its President from 2007-2009. She has served on the Annual Giving Committees for Greens Farms Academy, Deerfield Academy, Williams College and Trinity College, and was a past Board member of the Nature Center in Westport (Earthplace). Susan has lived in Fairfield County her whole life. She is married to Larry Erdmann and they reside in Easton.

### **William Winget, *Vice President***

Bill has had a 30+ year domestic and international career in oil and gas production and development, beginning with ExxonMobil and physical/financial trading of the associated commodities ending with Sempra Energy/JPMorgan. He sits on the board of several companies in the green power generation/electric transmission space, and started a new green technology water treatment business in Europe. Bill and his family live in Fairfield.

### **Chris Daley, *Treasurer***

Chris and his family have lived in Fairfield since 1992. He is co-founder of a Fairfield-based private equity investment firm and has been in banking and investing for over 30 years. Chris serves on numerous corporate Boards, as well as the Boards of the Fairfield Beach Club and Fairfield American Little League. He received a BA in Economics from Cornell and an MBA from The Wharton School (University of Pennsylvania).

### **Rosalina Thomas, *Secretary***

Rose is principal at RMT MediaWorks, a boutique media consultancy providing business development services with a focus on digital strategy, partnerships, content distribution and operational management. Previously, she worked at Microsoft in business development and strategy for consumer properties and platforms. She was also Vice President for Media at Thomson Reuters where she headed up sales and account management for the Americas. Prior to her work at Reuters, Rose worked extensively in emerging markets and financial news and data at firms such as Internet Securities and Multex. Rose is a graduate of Tufts University and Suffield Academy. She is a member of the executive board at Near & Far Aid and serves on various committees at the Southport Congregational Church, the Fairfield County Hunt Club, and Goldens Bridge Hounds. She is an avid equestrienne and lives in Fairfield with her husband, Justin, and their two daughters.

## Board Members

### **Eddie Blair**

Eddie grew up in Fairfield and has always had an interest in researching and writing about its history. After graduating from Yale in 1977, she went to work at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company for many years before turning to freelance writing, primarily for banks and investment banks. Eddie has worked for many organizations, schools, and clubs as a volunteer researcher, writer, and producer of literary events. Eddie and her husband Michael raised their three children both in New York and in Fairfield. For many years Eddie has served on the board of the Fairfield Garden Club. As a member of the board of the Fairfield Museum she plans to contribute to the activities of the library and of the children's programs. She will also work on supporting the museum's relationship with the Fairfield Garden Club and its activities at Ogden House.

### **Kate (Foley) Browning**

Kate grew up in Fairfield and has lived in town with her family since 2013. She is currently a Senior Product Specialist at the Carlyle Group and leads product strategy globally for infrastructure credit. Previously, she worked at Invesco, Ltd., where she designed and delivered private market investment solutions for institutional investors. Earlier in her career, Kate held a range of strategy and business development roles in asset management and healthcare. Kate graduated magna cum laude from the College Scholar program at Cornell University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She has been engaged in the local Fairfield community for most of her life and enjoys volunteering with the Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County, where she served five terms on the Board and as President from 2019-2020. She is excited to contribute her knowledge of and enthusiasm for the Fairfield community to the Fairfield Museum's Board and continue advancing its community engagement efforts

### **Ellen Gould**

As a BFA graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, Ellen moved to NYC from Cleveland, Ohio to pursue work in the graphic design field. After working at a scientific book publisher, she became the Art Director of *New York Magazine* and then moved as Art Director to *Money Magazine* for many years followed by *Memories Magazine* and lastly David Lauren's *Swing Magazine*. Among her freelance projects, she did design work for the education department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and volunteer design work for The Museum of American Folk Art. In Southport, Ellen's love of historic architecture and design led her to become a member of The Fairfield Historic District Commission, where she served for 12 years and was its Chairman for 10. As an active member of The Fairfield Garden Club since 2005, Ellen served on its Board for over 10 years. She is currently on the Board of Trustees for Preservation Connecticut (formerly The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation).

## **Joyce Hergenhan**

Joyce is the retired vice president for communications at GE, and the retired president of the GE Foundation. She serves on the Board of Trustees at Southport Congregational Church and serves on (or has served on) the boards of Syracuse University, Connecticut Audubon, Westport Country Playhouse, the Inner City Foundation for Education and Charity, the Jackie Robinson Foundation, the Civilian Advisory Board at USMA (West Point).

## **Erin W. Hermann**

Calling Fairfield home with her husband and two children for the past 16 years, Erin has been involved and continues to enjoy supporting the community. She spent six years at Mitchells Stores with responsibilities that included Spatial Designer and Director of Ecommerce where she exceeded the five-year revenue target while executing a variety of innovative and engaging customer experiences. She currently is a Managing Partner of Laurine Group LLC, a style and image consultancy. In this capacity, she supports individual clients, as well as plans and executes luxury shopping and lifestyle events.

Previous board experience includes Near & Far Aid where she served as two-time chair of their primary annual fundraising gala with 500-800 attendees and raising \$2M+ for Fairfield County charitable organizations. Erin holds a B.A. in Journalism and Multimedia from Indiana University. She hopes to bring creativity to program development and execution, as well as driving broad community outreach and involvement.

## **David R. Hermenze**

David is a principal of the Southport law firm Brody Wilkinson PC and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Dave practices in the areas of estate planning and trust and estate administration. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Connecticut Bar Association's Estates and Probate Section, and an active Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Dave graduated from Weston High School in 1978, received his B.A. in history, magna cum laude, from Beloit College in 1982 and his J.D., cum laude, from Cornell University in 1986. Dave resides in Redding, Connecticut, and has three grown children. He serves as an elected Commissioner of Redding Fire District No. 1 and is a Life Member of Redding Fire & EMS Co. No.1.

## **Greg Keeley**

Greg is Senior Executive Vice President, Platforms & Technology for TD Bank. He currently serves on the Board of Directors at Wake Forest University. He also sits on the Board of Directors for the United Service Organizations Inc. (USO), which is an American non-profit charitable corporation that improves the lives of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

A resident of Fairfield with his wife Debbie, two daughters Sophie and Anna, Greg and his

family actively volunteer and participate in multiple charity and local activities and events.

### **Jill Littig**

After working for eleven years in the financial services industry, Jill is a stay-at-home mom who volunteers at school, St. Paul's church, The Sasqua Garden Club, and the Fairfield Museum as a Docent.

### **Niels Lyng-Olsen**

I am fascinated by local CT history, in particular the founding of Fairfield town and the process by which our community was initially created, how acquisitive colonial growth resulted in the creation of the surrounding towns of Westport, Weston, Easton and Redding, and how the natural ports of Blackrock and Southport sparked a rich, local maritime history. I have spent time researching the history of the Fairfield Long Lots and the Burr family's impact on Fairfield. Professionally, I provide strategic and financial expertise to the international maritime sector, and I have for the last three years been the CFO of a US family-owned shipping company with operations in Hamburg, Germany. Previously, I worked in investment banking as partner of Pareto Securities, CEO of DNB Markets Inc., a broker/dealer, and as VP at JPMorgan Securities. I have an MBA from Columbia Business School and a Bachelor's degree in economics and public policy from Brown University.

### **Roger W. Ludwig, Jr.**

Roger Ludwig is the President of Ludwig Commercial Real Estate LLC where he specializes in leasing office and industrial space as well as capital markets. Prior to his 18 years in commercial real estate, Roger spent two decades in corporate sales for Stone Container and Sonoco with a national account base selling packaging products. Roger is passionate about historical preservation and environmental issues. He has served on the boards of the Black Rock Homeowners Association, Coastal Conservation Association and Ash Creek Conservation Association. Roger is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and The Founders and Patriots of America. He, his wife Susan have lived in the Black Rock section of Bridgeport since 1999.

### **Bill Mallin**

Bill is the retired Vice President for Strategic Planning and Program Management for Purdue Pharma, L.P., a privately held pharmaceutical company headquartered in Stamford, Conn. Prior to joining Purdue in 1987, he spent 13 years with Procter & Gamble/Richardson-Vicks. Bill has a BA in Economics from Gettysburg College and an MBA from the University of New Haven. He has served on the Business Advisory Board at the University of New Haven and was the Chairman of Goodwill of Western & Northern Connecticut.

## **Tom Mindrum**

After graduating from Carleton College with a B.A. in economics, Tom pursued a career in consumer package goods marketing and marketing services. He was a co-founder of Catalina Marketing Corporation, a provider of consumer promotions in supermarkets, drug stores and mass merchandisers. Tom also founded and published Soccer Jr., The Soccer Magazine for Kids. He has served on corporate boards for Catalina Marketing, Health Resource Publishing Co. and Triplepoint, Inc., and on non-profit boards for Wakeman Boys & Girls Club, Burroughs Community Center and Students Partnership Worldwide/Restless Development.

## **Alan Neigher**

Alan Neigher has been an attorney in the Westport firm of Byelas & Neigher since 1980. A graduate of Colby College and Boston College Law School, he specializes in media, entertainment, first amendment and trade regulation law. He has been honored with an AV (highest) Martindale-Hubbell rating, and is listed in the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers as well as The Best Lawyers in America, Connecticut Super Lawyers (intellectual property) and New England Super Lawyers (entertainment and sports). He has served as a member of the adjunct faculty of Fairfield University, where he taught a course in law and ethics. He was the former Board president at Fairfield Theater Co. and serves as chairman of the Fairfield Arts Advisory Committee

## **Missy Palmisano**

Missy Palmisano worked in marketing for IBM and then in financial services for a brokerage firm in Washington, DC before moving to Southport in 1985 where she raised four children. Missy has served three terms on the board of Miss Porter's School and three terms of board service at the Fairfield Museum, as well as many years on the board of both the Fairfield Garden Club and the Arundel Beach Club.

## **Steven F. Schiffman**

Steve is recently retired as the CFO of Devonshire Investors (the private investment arm of Fidelity Investments) and as President of Eight Roads (the international venture capital group of Fidelity). He has over 35 years of corporate experience, including roles at Starwood Hotels, PepsiCo and Ford Motor Co. Steve has served on multiple corporate Boards and chaired a number of Audit & Risk Committees. He is currently on the Board of Advisors of the Int'l Business School at Brandeis University. Steve, his wife D'vorah and son Izzy have lived in Fairfield since 1998, after relocating here from Hong Kong. They own a prominent historic home in the heart of town which they've lovingly restored to period.

## **Gerald Torres**

Gerald is a Professor of Environmental Justice at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Professor at the Yale Law School. He is former President of the Association of American Law Schools and has taught at Stanford Law School and at Harvard Law School, where he served as the Oneida Nation Visiting Professor of Law. Professor Torres served as Counsel to the Attorney General on environmental matters and Indian affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice. He has served on the Board of the Environmental Law Institute, the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, as well as the National Petroleum Council. He is board chair of EarthDay Network and founding Chairman of the Advancement Project, the leading Civil Rights advocacy organization in the country. He is a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council. He has served as a consultant to the United Nations on environmental matters and is a life member of the American Law Institute and the Council on Foreign Relations.

## **Laura Wilson**

Laura is a Senior Executive Producer at Penguin Random House Audio. Before joining PRH Audio, she was the Executive Director of Production at Macmillan Audio, and she has worked in the audiobook industry for the past 20 years. During that time, she's produced numerous Grammy-nominated and Audie Award-winning programs. Laura worked as a talk-show radio producer at WNYC in New York for a number of years before discovering audiobooks. She served on the board of Music Haven in New Haven from 2012-2017. Laura and her family have lived in Fairfield since 1998.

## **Michael Jehle, Executive Director**

Mike Jehle has been the executive director of the Fairfield Museum and History Center since February, 2006. In that role he directs organizational operations, leads planning and institutional advancement, and guides the Museum's many educational and community initiatives. Mike has been a museum professional for more than 37 years and has worked at a wide range of organizations, including Mystic Seaport and the Philadelphia Maritime Museum. He was Director of Museums and Curator at Nantucket Historical Association for 10 years and Chief Operating Officer at New Bedford Whaling Museum for seven years, as well as Director of Development for the American Sail Training Association before joining the Fairfield Museum. Mike has a BA in History and American Studies from Kalamazoo College, an MA in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and has been awarded scholarships to the Getty Leadership Institute's Museum Management Program and Harvard Business School's Executive Education Program to continue his professional development. He has been honored as a Paul Cuffee Fellow, a Sainsbury Fellow at the University of East Anglia, and as a Curatorial Fellow at the Australian National Maritime Museum. Mike has served on the Boards of CT Humanities and Tall Ships America. He is a founding member of the Fairfield County Community Foundation's Non-Profit Executive Leadership Program and mentors rising non-profit leaders.