

***RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)
invites you to attend its meeting, on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2013.
First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Pl., Greenwich, CT.***

DIANE GARRETT OF DIANE'S BOOKS

THE FUTURE OF AMERICA'S SMALL BOOKSTORES



When Greenwich resident Diane Garrett opened Diane's Books on Grigg Street in 1990, a fellow bookseller told the Greenwich Time that she was crazy; 85 percent of bookstores fail in the first few years. At the time, Central Greenwich had seven independent bookstores. Twenty three years later it is the last one standing. Her contribution to the cultural life of our town has been significant.

Not all authors appear on the shelves of the store. Ms. Garrett will not sell a book that she doesn't like. She believes that her bookstore provides a value-added benefit that online sellers lack -- a staff that know the books and the tastes of customers. "Just because the New York Times says it's good, it doesn't (necessarily) pass my test," she said. Personal service goes a long way.

She decided to open a "family bookstore" instead of a "children's bookstore," because she wants to serve her customers from childhood to adulthood. She believes she has the largest selection of family books in the country, four times the average superstore. Ms. Garrett likes to focus on her younger customers. Walking through the stacks of books lined on shelves, tables and along the floor, she said children are the reason that she's in business.

Despite the store's old-fashioned hometown feel, Ms. Garrett and her customers know that readers are beginning to use electronic readers to access the works of their favorite authors. Ms. Garrett said she sees a niche in the literary world for the new class of electronic readers, such as the iPad, Amazon's Kindle, and other devices. The world is changing, but Diane's Books will survive and prosper. Ms. Garrett was born in Sudbury, Ontario. She came to the United States to study at Michigan State University, and attended nursing school in Toronto, before receiving her M.S in Library Science from the University of Toronto. She moved back permanently to the United States in 1982. Married, with three children, she lives in Greenwich.

Our business meetings begin at 10, and our speakers are scheduled for 10:30. No Charge, and No Reservations are required. For additional information, call Bernard Schneider, 203-698-2558; bgsesq@gmail.com.