



**RETIRED MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF GREENWICH, Inc. (RMA)**  
**Invites you to its meeting **March 13, 2019** at 11:00 a.m.**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Place, Greenwich, CT**

## **Sylvia Reiss**

### **"The Stone Walls of Connecticut"**



“Stone walls are the most important artifacts in rural New England,” according to landscape geologists. They run along roadsides, far into the woods, up hillsides, across people’s back yards and between their houses. More than 100,000 miles of old, disused stone walls can be found in the forests, enough to circle the globe four times. These old dry stone walls, in varying states of decay and repair, are the signature legacy of New England. They delineate and define northeastern America.

Who created these thousands of miles of walls by hand, one stone at a time and why? Where did the millions of stones, grudgingly referred to as New England potatoes by farmers, come from and why? Digging, carting, stacking, and fashioning what are today valued artifacts and landscape assets was a dirty, heavy, time devouring, seemingly endless task to our forebears, one which did nothing to provide shelter or warmth for a family. Furthermore every farmer knew well the survey of his own property, where his fields and neighbors’ might abut. Boundaries were easily marked by cairns, tree blazes, or cedar posts set for the purpose.

Sylvia Reiss, a collector and recorder of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century stone walls, will discuss the history and significance of these artifacts, addressing the walls of Connecticut. Mrs. Reiss is a former teacher, retired antiques dealer, and past president of the Antiques Council, an international organization of antique dealers. She is also a history enthusiast, an interest she shares with her husband, Ken Reiss, Historian of The Darien Historical Society.

**Next week: March 20, Dr. Kevin Gutzman, J.D. & Ph. D., Professor at Western Connecticut State University, “Thomas Jefferson Revolutionary, a Radical Struggle to Remake America.”** *The Greenwich Retired Men’s Association offers a free program every Wednesday that is open to the public, both men and women; no reservations are required. Our social break starts at 10:40 AM followed promptly by our speaker at 11:00 AM. Programs are at the First Presbyterian Church, 1 West Putnam in Greenwich. For additional information see [www.greenwichrma.org](http://www.greenwichrma.org) or contact [info@greenwichrma.org](mailto:info@greenwichrma.org)*