



THE LINK

June 2026



A Note from our Founders...

June has arrived, and with it comes a calendar filled with vacations, family visits, weddings, and all the activities that make summer such a special time of year.

We know summers are anything but quiet, and in that spirit, Next Chapter will be offering one event per month throughout the summer months. Our goal is to stay connected while giving everyone flexibility to enjoy the season at their own pace.

At the end of June, we are planning a local excursion to a charming Inn in Litchfield County CT., followed by time to explore the charming shops, galleries, and cafes of New Preston and Washington Depot. We think it's the perfect blend of flavorful food and scenic views in the company of friends.

Looking ahead, we are exploring a July beach day on Long Island and a summer lobster bake in August.

And for those looking to stay connected and keep moving this summer, feel free to join us for our early morning weekday walks, 7 am at Cos Cob Park. Whether you come once or often, we'd love to see you.

Wishing you a wonderful start to summer, and we hope to see you along the way. Cheers!



Anne & Mary Beth

Read On for...

Worth It!

Photo Gallery
from
Devil Wears
Prada 2
&
Game Night

Membership
Update

Upcoming
Events

Refer a Friend!

WORTH IT!

AN INTERVIEW WITH NEXT CHAPTER MEMBER, ANNMARIE GRAHAM



THE PIVOT

What was happening in your life or career that made you realize it was time for a change - even if the path ahead wasn't yet clear?

I'm a fashion designer and professional dressmaker. I began sewing as a teenager, and soon began designing dresses for myself and my friends. In the 90's I had a successful business in New York City designing and making bridal gowns and bridesmaid dresses. After moving to Greenwich with my family, I had a small business designing my own collection of dresses and separates, and selling my clothes at trunk shows. The change came when my husband was diagnosed with cancer, and died in 2017. After his passing, I was less inspired to design and create. The inspiration was just not there. I was also an empty nester (my boys were then 21 and 19).

I needed work where I would be around people. I decided to try working in retail sales - the other side of the fashion business. I got a job at J. McLaughlin in Greenwich. It was a fantastic, fun and challenging job. I loved the clothing and the clientele. My creativity found an outlet by helping women select clothing that complimented them. I was there five years, the last two as assistant manager.

THE RESISTANCE

What fears, doubts, or practical concerns did you have to work through before taking that leap?

I initially resisted the idea of going into the retail side of fashion. I thought it would not be creative or stimulating enough. A good friend kept pushing me, saying I would be perfect for J. McLaughlin! Just go in with your resume! It can be a good idea to take the advice of a friend. In this case she gave me the push that I needed to get beyond my doubts and take a chance.

THE AHA

Was there a moment - big or small when you knew you had made the right decision?

A few months into my job, as I got to know the product line and the customers, I felt that I was in my "zone." When I first breached one of the company's sales benchmarks, I was thrilled and realized, this is for me. I enjoy and I am good at it.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

THE GROWTH

How has stepping into this new chapter changed how you see yourself--professionally, personally, and creatively?

Losings my husband had been a blow to my confidence. So much of my identity had changed with him gone. My sales job was helping me gain back confidence in what I knew from my fashion designing days - how to help women look their best. It surprised me, as it was creative in a different way from designing and sewing a garment. The social aspect of the job was also good for me. It kept me engaged with fun and interesting people. I met Anne Murdock through my J. McLaughlin job!



THE WORTH IT

Looking back now, what makes this pivot “worth it” and what would you say to a woman standing at the edge of her own next chapter?

Stepping out of your comfort zone can be disorienting and scary, but also very satisfying. I recently changed jobs and am now at Helen Ainson, a special occasion dress boutique in Darien. My experience in tailoring and alterations has come in handy with selling gowns that may need a few custom touches. Customers really appreciate that knowledge. The change has been good — to keep me on my toes, moving forward, reminding me to keep trying new things.



Annmarie's love of books inspired her to start Next Chapter's Book Club along with Laura Aronstein. They encourage all to join the monthly gathering for socializing and discussion.

If you have an upcoming event and need a semi-formal dress or black tie gown, feel free to visit Annmarie at Helen Ainson in Darien. She will make sure you look fabulous for your special day!!

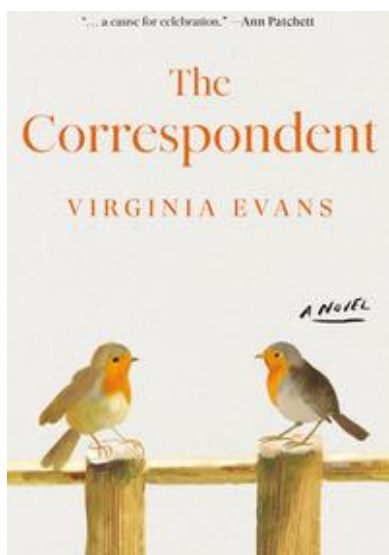
MAY MEMORIES

Movie Night - May 4th
The Devil Wears Prada

Friendship & Fashion
Girls Night Out!



May 7th Book Club



May 18th Game Night



A Big Thank You to Annmarie Graham for organizing Next Chapter's first Book Club discussion on May 7th at the Greenwich Boat & Yacht Club. Join us on June 11th for June's discussion. Details on the Upcoming Event page of this newsletter.

A beautiful night enjoying cocktails and conversation.....what happened to charades??? A great time was had by all. Join us for a future Game Night and be part of the fun!!

Membership Update

Next Chapter is better and more fun with friends! Please continue to spread the word and help us expand our community!



All new members will electronically receive a New Member Welcome Packet.. You will be asked to complete a profile and include a headshot as well as provide contact information and fun facts to share with fellow members. The Membership Circle, our new member directory is being developed and will be live on our website in the coming months.

Upcoming Events

*****HOT FLASH*****



Join us mornings at 7:00am
Cos Cob Park

June 11th - Book Club



6:30 pm

Details and location on the link provided
<https://forms.gle/YsqSvVWjAs5rXDcR9>

**June Excursion to Litchfield
June 27th**



Join us for a summer escape to beautiful Litchfield County. We'll enjoy lunch at one of the many quaint local restaurants, followed by shopping and strolling in the charming villages of New Preston and Washington Depot. Detailed itinerary to follow.



EMAIL: INFO@NEXTCHAPTERNETWORK.NET

NC BULLETIN BOARD

Job Opportunity

J. McLAUGHLIN

J. McLaughlin in Greenwich is currently looking to bring on a friendly, sales-driven associate to join their team. The ideal candidate enjoys building relationships with customers, has a strong sense of personal style, and thrives in a community-focused retail environment.

If you or someone you know is interested in a fun, flexible, customer-focused role with a friendly team please reach out to Kristin. Kkidder@jmcclaughlin.com

You are “Worth It”!

Everyone has a story and we'd love you to tell yours! Be a part of Next Chapter's **Worth It** series and share **YOUR** Next Chapter journey. Inspiring and supporting one another is what Next Chapter is all about!

Interested?

Please reach out and let us know at info@nextchapternetwork.net.

Calling All Members



In our continued quest to cultivate connections amongst our members, we are designing a Member Directory and need your help!

To be included, please send a head shot to info@nextchapternetwork.net and complete a member profile on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/qdsiaXNqYaCgwA7d6>

The directory will live on the Next Chapter website on a password-protected page. Once completed it will be a great resource to keep conversations and connections active!

We look forward to receiving your materials! Help us continue to build our community!

