Dressed *for* Life

Born and raised here, these six Fairfield natives can't imagine living anywhere else—and neither could many of their ancestors—some dating back over 100 years. The lush surroundings of Southport's Delamar Hotel and Artisan Restaurant were a suitable location to complement our exceptionally good-looking group of "lifers." Showcasing the latest fashions from local retailers, Bert Andren and Kristen Morison are pictured in Artisan Restaurant while Joe and Jen Rainis relax at the bar in Artisan's garden. Bob Sussman cuts a fine figure in front of the hotel and in the Cunningham Room, while Betsy Milicia poses in the lobby.

Kristen Burke Morison / Though she was born on an army base in Georgia, Kristen returned to Fairfield when she was one and grew up here. As a realtor for Al Filippone Associates in Southport, Kristen loves getting to know new people and also helping friends find different homes or sell theirs. "It is exciting to see how neighborhoods have changed and to hear about why other families choose to settle in Fairfield." You'll most often find her and her family at Penfield beach, having a meal, and enjoying the sand and surf—something she did as a kid. "There are so many things to do here for families. It's small enough that you don't get lost in the crowd, yet big enough that you are always finding new things." From Apricot Lane of Fairfield, Kristen wears a Leigh Soutache dress from BB Dakota. Her jewelry includes a 18k white-gold diamond circles bracelet with 6.73 carats, and 18k white-gold diamond drop earrings with 3.7 carats from Henry C. Reid Jewelers.

By Robin H. Phillips and Sarah Milicia // Photos & Styling by Douglas and Ann Foulke
Hair & Makeup by Azra Ahmed and Heather Arena, The Barber and Beauty Boutique of Fairfield

Joe & Jennifer Rainis

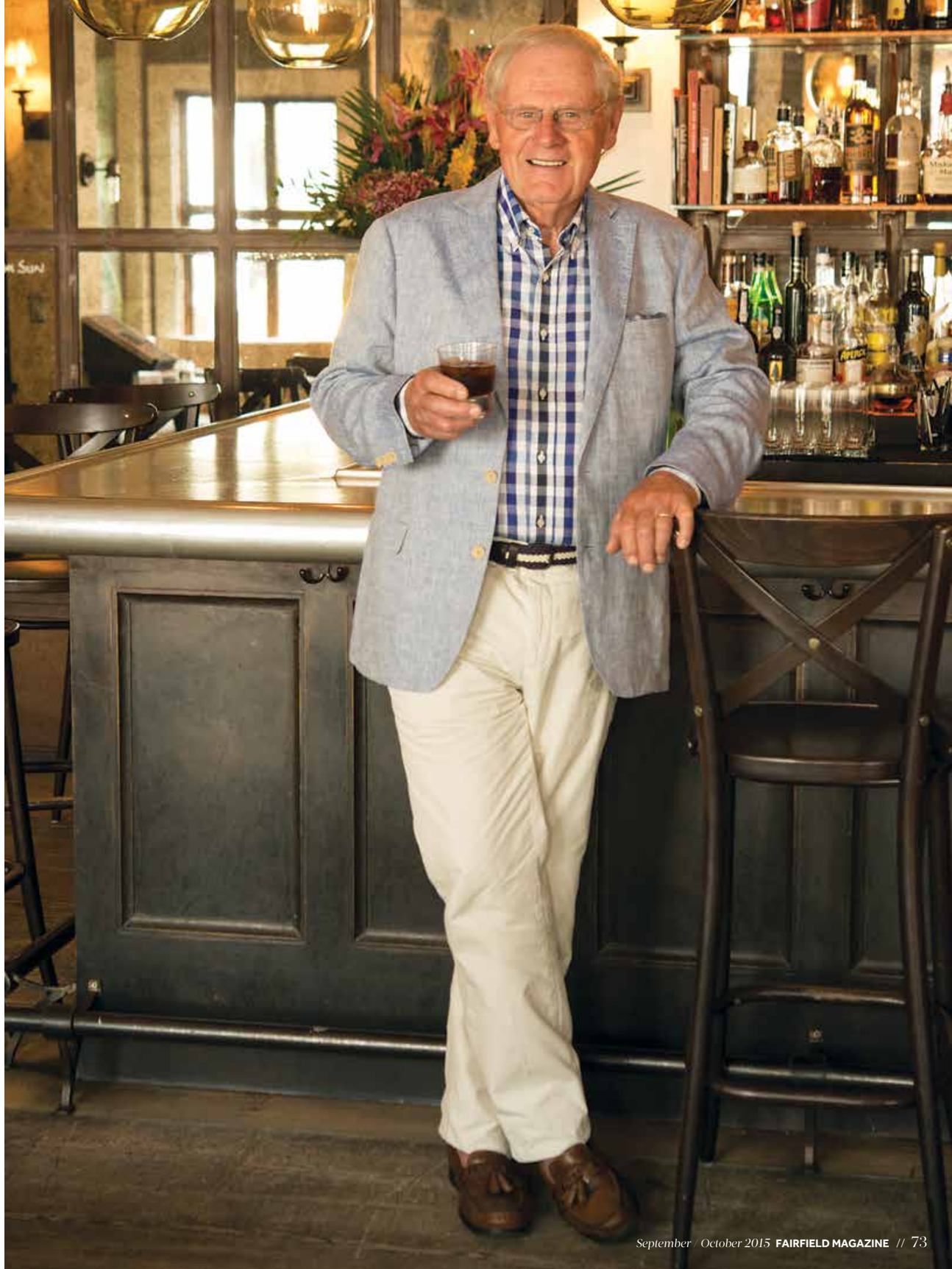
Both born and raised in Fairfield, Joe recently completed his 20th year as a member of the Fairfield Fire Department. "The best part, besides being part of a team of firefighters forming the Brotherhood with whom you trust your life, is the satisfaction of helping strangers in their time of need," says Joe. Jennifer Bambus Rainis is a fourth-generation Fairfielder—her great-grandmother settled in Fairfield over 100 years ago. A graduate of Fairfield public schools, Jen now has her own business—A Shore Thing—creating painted signs. With their two kids, Sydney and Joey, the Raini family spends time at Ye Yacht Yard. From Mitchells of Westport, Joe wears a Brunello Cucinelli wool reversible quilted vest and grey five-pocket jeans, a Loro Piana cashmere cable knit sweater, and an Eton dress shirt. From J. McLaughlin, Jen wears the Marcia dress. Her jewelry includes a rare 7-carat black opal and diamond necklace in 18k yellow gold, a halo ring in white gold with a 0.7-carat diamond,

Robert Sussman

In 1933, Robert's grandfather Louis opened Bridgeport Watch Hospital, now Fairfield Center Jewelers. Bob, as most people call him, is proud that the store is the oldest family-operated business in Fairfield. "I love how Fairfield has retained its small-town feel," he says. Bob has been a member of the Kiwanis Club since 1989, and is VP of the Norma F. Pfriem Urban Outreach Initiatives, which offers weekly meals and food pantry services in Bridgeport. Mitchells of Westport outfitted Bob in a Samuelsohn wool sport coat, a Peter Millar Firenza red corduroy pant, an Ordean green/blue shirt, and an Ermenegildo Zegna pocket square. He wears a Raymond Weil titanium chronograph watch from Fairfield Center Jewelers.

Betsy Milicia

Elizabeth Talbott Russell Milicia boasts roots that go back 90 years in Fairfield. Betsy is a long-time volunteer working with her church, Greenfield Hill Congregational, and its annual event —The Dogwood Festival—where she has run the Blossom Café for the last eight years. Betsy keeps busy working for her husband's company, Hobart Builders, and raising her three daughters: Sarah, Kelly, and Allison. From Mama Jane's Global Boutique of Southport, Betsy wears a Wooden Ships cotton asymmetrical colorblock sweater, Henry & Belle ideal ankle white skinny jeans paired with a Maasai Collection Manyatta bag. All proceeds from Mama Jane's are donated to selected non-profits around the world. Betsy's jewelry, all from 5 Oceans Fair Trade in Fairfield, includes a shimmery wave cuff hand-hammered by an urban artisan community in India, a heart pearl mala necklace and silver bead earrings from Mexico.

Bert Andren

Bert's maternal grandfather came to Fairfield from Sweden in 1905; he later was the sexton at the old Washington School on Villa Avenue. "My mother lived in town her whole life and also graduated from Roger Ludlowe High School," says Bert. "My father lived in Fairfield 67 years. Our four children have all graduated from Fairfield high schools. Nine of our 13 grandchildren live in Fairfield." A lifelong boater, Bert adores living on the Long Island Sound, and says you will most often find him hanging out at the town marina. J. McLaughlin of Southport outfitted Bert in a Cruz men's linen jacket in solid blue, a Carnegie shirt in gingham, and classic pima cotton pants.