Floyd Douglas Little was born in New Haven in 1942. He shined as a running back at Hillhouse. He played for Syracuse University, and professionally for the Denver Broncos, where he was known as "The Franchise".

Little said at the dedication of the Floyd Little Athletic Center at Hillhouse High, "No one could ever believe that a guy who came from this area, with very little means, could rise up to be an all-city, all-state, All-American, All-Pro, College Football Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame player. It's an unbelievable story, but I feel that I've been truly blessed."
Where to find New Haven Notables murals around Chapel West

1. Karen Carpenter*
2. Paul Giamatti
3. Fr. Michael J. McGivney
4. The Five Satins
5. Michael Bolton
6. Patricia Smith
7. Adam Clayton Powell Jr.
8. Charles Goodyear
9. Edward Bouchet
10. Eli Whitney +
   James Hillhouse
11. Noah Webster
12. Ernest Borgnine
13. Norman Lear
14. Chad Dawson
15. Roger Sherman
16. Albie Booth
17. Meryl Streep
18. George Murphy
19. Robert Moses*
20. Walter Camp
21. Craig Breslow
22. Josiah Willard Gibbs
23. Lt. Augusto Rodriguez
24. Floyd Little
25. Constance Baker Motley
26. A. C. Gilbert
27. Dr. Benjamin Spock
28. Foster Furcolo
29. Al Capp
30. George Weiss
31. Simeon Jocelyn

*not currently hanging, awaiting installation
Dr. Benjamin Spock

A New Haven notable

Dr. Benjamin Spock was born in New Haven, CT in 1903. He was a pediatrician who published the highly successful book, Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care. He urged parents to trust their common sense, be flexible, and refrain from using corporal punishment. The book has been published in 39 languages and sold over 50 million copies.

Al Capp

A New Haven notable

Alfred Gerald Caplin, better known as Al Capp, was a cartoonist and humorist. He was born in 1909 in New Haven to Latvian parents who had come to live in America where “it was no crime to be a Jew”. He was best known for his satirical comic strip Li’l Abner. He won the National Cartoonists Society’s Reuben Award in 1947 for Cartoonist of the Year, and their 1979 Elite Sagar Award for his “unique and outstanding contribution to the profession of cartooning”.

Patricia Smith

A New Haven notable


Roger Sherman Baldwin

A New Haven notable

Roger Sherman Baldwin was born in 1793 in New Haven. He attended Hopkins School, and later graduated from Yale College with high honors in 1811. After leaving Yale he studied law in his father’s office in New Haven, and was admitted to the bar in 1814. Baldwin served as city alderman, U.S. congressman, senator, and Connecticut governor. A prominent abolitionist, Baldwin served as counsel with former president John Quincy Adams, for the African prisoners in the Amistad case. Baldwin’s 1841 defense gained him national recognition.

Edward Bouchet

A New Haven notable

Born in New Haven (1852), Bouchet was enrolled in the Artisan Street Colored School with only one teacher, who nurtured his academic abilities. Bouchet attended New Haven High School and then Hopkins School where he was named valedictorian. Bouchet was the first African-American to graduate from Yale in 1874 and the first African-American to earn a Ph.D. in Physics from an American university in 1876. He taught physics and chemistry at the Institute for Colored Youth, in Philadelphia, for 26 years.

Paul Giamatti

A New Haven notable

Born in New Haven (1967), Paul was schooled at Yale University, and trained at the Yale School of Drama. He has appeared in American Splendor Sideways, Cinderella Man, The Illusionist, John Adams, Cold Souls, Barney’s Version and Win Win. Nominated for 45 separate awards between 2001 and 2008, he has won 26 of them, including both an Emmy and a Golden Globe.
A New Haven notable

Robert Moses

Born in New Haven in 1888, Moses was class of 1909 at Yale College. He was, in every sense of the word, New York's master builder. Before him, there was no Triborough Bridge, Jones Beach State Park, Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, West Side Highway or Niagara and St. Lawrence power projects. He built all of these and more. He also built parks, playgrounds, housing, tunnels, beaches, and the 1964-1965 New York's World's Fair.

The works he created in New York became a model for the nation at large, although they were discredited by some planners in later years.

A New Haven notable

Meryl Streep has worked in theatre, television, and film. She is widely regarded as one of the most talented actors of all time. She earned an M.F.A. from Yale School of Drama. While at Yale, she played a variety of roles at the Rep. She won an academy award in 2012 for her film portrayal of Margaret Thatcher.

Michael Bolton

A New Haven notable

Singer and songwriter Michael Bolton was born in 1954 in New Haven. He is known for songs such as his #1 hit version of "When a Man Loves a Woman" and his song "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You". He is a two-time Grammy winning artist and has sold over 52 million albums and singles worldwide; he has written songs for Barbara Streisand, Kenny G, Cher, and Kenny Rogers. In 1993 he established the Michael Bolton Foundation to assist women and children at risk from the effects of poverty and abuse.

New Haven notables

Eli Whitney

Eli Whitney, born in 1765, educated at Yale College, is best known for inventing the cotton gin, a key invention of the Industrial Revolution that made it possible to mechanically remove the seeds from cotton. Later, he secured contracts with the government for the manufacturing of muskets in New Haven for the Continental army.

James Hillhouse

James Hillhouse, born in 1754, was an American lawyer, real estate developer, and politician from New Haven. He represented Connecticut in both the U.S. House and Senate. He is responsible for much of the current look of New Haven. A New Haven High School and street commemorate his name.
Karen Carpenter

Karen Carpenter was born in New Haven in 1950. She and her brother, Richard, formed the 1970s duo The Carpenters. They were the biggest-selling group of the 70s. No fewer than ten of their singles went on to become million-sellers, and by 2005 combined worldwide sales of albums and singles well exceeded 100 million units. Carpenter’s skills as a drummer earned admiration from her peers, although she is best known for her vocal performances of romantic ballads.

Ernest Borgnine

Ernest Borgnine (1917-2012) grew up in New Haven, and graduated from James Hillhouse High School. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he went into stage acting, moving onto television programs; and ended up landing roles that would build his impressive career as a film star. He appeared in films such as From Here to Eternity, Bad Day at Black Rock, Marty, All Quiet on the Western Front, and The Dirty Dozen. He is also well remembered for his run on the 1960s ABC sitcom McHale’s Navy.

Adam Clayton Powell Jr.

Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. was born in 1908, in New Haven. He built a formidable public following in Harlem through his crusades for jobs and housing for the poor. He won election to the New York City Council in 1941, becoming the first black man to serve on that body. In 1945, he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives. There he began a long fight against racial segregation.

Noah Webster

Webster was born in New Hartford in 1786. After graduating from Yale in 1796, Webster became a lexicographer, textbook pioneer, English spelling reformer, political writer, editor, and prolific author. He was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1800 and 1802–1807. His blue-backed speller books taught five generations of American children how to spell and read, secularizing their education. His name became synonymous with “dictionary,” especially the modern Merriam-Webster dictionary that was first published in 1828 as An American Dictionary of the English Language.

Josiah Willard Gibbs

Josiah Willard Gibbs was an American scientist who made important theoretical contributions to physics, chemistry, and mathematics. His work on the applications of thermodynamics was instrumental in transforming physical chemistry into a rigorous deductive science. In 1863 he received a doctorate from Yale in engineering. He later worked as a professor of mathematical physics from 1871 until his death in 1903. He ended up earning an international reputation and was praised by Albert Einstein as “the greatest mind in American history.”

Gibbs also received what was at the time considered the highest honor awarded by the scientific community, the Copley Medal of the Royal Society of London.

A.C. Gilbert

Alfred Carlton Gilbert, inventor, athlete, toy-maker and businessman. He is best known as the inventor of the Erector Set. In 1909 Gilbert earned a M. D. degree in sports medicine from Yale. He won a gold medal for pole vaulting at the 1908 London Olympics. Choosing not to pursue a medical career, Gilbert founded New Haven’s A. C. Gilbert Company, which built and sold erector sets, magic sets, and electric toy trains.
Lt. Augusto Rodríguez

A New Haven Notable
Augusto Rodríguez was born in 1841 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He emigrated with his family to the United States in the 1850s.

Rodríguez joined the 15th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry of the Union Army during the Civil War, and served in combat during the Battles of Fredericksburg and Wyse Fork.

After the war, he owned a cigar store, was a bartender and saloon keeper, and was also a firefighter in New Haven. He died in 1889, and was buried under the name of "Gustave Rodrique" in grave #2 in the Firefighters’ Pantheon at the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven. In 2013, a ceremony was held which recognized Rodríguez as Puerto Rico's first known U.S. Armed Forces veteran.

Constance Baker Motley

A New Haven Notable
Constance Baker Motley (1921 – 2005) was a civil rights activist, lawyer, judge, state senator, and Borough President of Manhattan. She was born in New Haven, and attended New Haven public schools.

Following law school, she was hired by the NAACP as a civil rights lawyer and was a lead trial attorney in a number of early and significant civil rights cases. She was the first African-American woman ever to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed her as a Federal Judge to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

George Murphy

A New Haven Notable
George Murphy was an actor, dancer, and politician. He was born on July 4, 1902 in New Haven and attended Yale.

After working as a tool maker for the Ford Motor Company, as well as a miner, a real estate agent, and a night club dancer, he became a famous ring and dance man, appearing in many musical films, including "Little Miss Broadway, For My and My Girl, and This is the Army."

He was president of the Screen Actors Guild from 1944 to 1946 and was given an honorary Academy Award in 1951. In 1946, he was elected to the U.S. Senate representing California, serving from 1953 to 1971.

Simeon Jocelyn

A 19th century abolitionist and social activist born in New Haven. He is known for his attempt to establish an African American college in New Haven and for his role in the Amistad affair.

An intensely debated issue, Jocelyn’s “Negro College” was voted down 700 to 4 in a 1831 town meeting. A few years later a white mob attacked his home.

Chad Dawson

A New Haven Notable
Born in South Carolina, Chad Dawson moved to New Haven attending Hillhouse High. A former WBC & IBF Light Heavyweight champion. In 2012, he was rated by The Ring Magazine as number one Light Heavyweight boxer in the world.

George Weiss

A New Haven Notable
Weiss was born in New Haven in 1894, and attended Yale. He was promoted to general manager of the Yankees in 1943, and led them to 10 American League pennants and seven world titles, in his thirteen seasons as GM from 1943 to 1960. In 1970, Weiss was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Casey Stengel lamented "He wasn’t a terrific mixer but George sure knew how to pick men. Why, you can’t stay in baseball that long by putting players out of action."
New Haven notables

The Five Satins, formed in New Haven, consisted of leader Fred Parris, Lou Peebles, Stanley Dorch, Ed Martin and Jim Freeman in 1954. The doo-wop group is best known for their 1956 million-selling song, “In the Still of the Night.” In 1957, the single was number three on the R&B chart in and number 25 on the pop charts. It sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc. In 2003, the Five Satins were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame.

A New Haven Notable

Norman Lear

Norman Lear was born in New Haven in 1922. He spent part of his youth living in a fourth-floor walk-up apartment on York Street. He and his family moved to Brooklyn in 1934. In the 1950s he landed a job as a TV comedy writer.

Lear’s greatest achievement was writing and producing All in the Family, the 1970s TV breakthrough comedy that examined bigotry, sexuality, and other timely topics. The lead character was Archie Bunker, based on Lear’s father, Herman.

Lear went on to bring us the popular TV shows Maude, The Jeffersons and Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman. In 1981 he founded People for the American Way, dedicated to protecting First Amendment rights.

Text by Randall Beach

A New Haven Notable

Albie Booth

New Haven born, “Little boy blue” Albie Booth was a star football player at Yale University from 1929 to 1931, and was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1966. Not yet a regular starter, he entered the game with Yale losing 12-0, and proceeded to rush for 233 yards and scored all of Yale’s points, leading Yale to a 21-11 victory over Army. Newsmen reported the game with the caption, Booth 21-Army 11.

A New Haven Notable

Foster Furcolo

New Haven born and Yale College graduate Craig Breslow has pitched for the Milwaukee Brewers, San Diego Padres, Cleveland Indians, Minnesota Twins, Oakland Athletics and the Arizona Diamondbacks. He currently pitches for the Boston Red Sox, where he maintained a 1.81 ERA for the 2013 World Champions.

A New Haven Notable

Walter Camp

Born in New Britain, Walter Camp, who was associated with football at Yale University from 1876 to 1910, is considered the “Father of American Football.” After attending the Hopkins Grammar School in New Haven, Camp graduated Yale University in 1880. He stayed on at Yale to study medicine for two years.

Camp played football at Yale from 1876 to 1880. He developed rules changes that form the foundation of modern American football. A savvy businessman, Camp sold college athletics to a ready public. He applied his business acumen to college athletics in producing both athletes and spectator interest.
31 murals commissioned by Chapel West Special Services District. They are installed on buildings throughout the district between Sherman Avenue and York Street. The idea for the series is Vincent A. Romei’s, president of CW. The series is an ongoing celebration of historical figures of New Haven and Yale. The murals have been designed by the staff of Strong Cohen over the past decade.

Strong Cohen designers: Tom Strong, Liz Garvey, Debbie Pucillo, Margaret Watkins, Andrew Haskell, Laszlo Feher

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