

LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

November, 2008

Vol. III No.11

MISSION STATEMENT: To enhance the quality of life and promote a harmonious community through the timely publication of accurate information about residents, events, and activities in and around Symphony Village.

New Homeowners

The following residents have settled and/or moved into their new homes since our last publication. Symphony Village welcomes—

Tony & Wendy Redman	114 Harmony Way
Irv & Vicki Kohne	810 Harmony Way
Joy & Ira Ehrenfeld	255 Opera Court

Directory Updating: To update your entry in the Symphony Village Directory, contact John Schultz, 443-262-9181, schultz@schultz.org. Thank you for your help in keeping our Directory accurate.

FROM JAN'S DESK

Slide Show for Rockies Rail

Monday, November 17, at 6 p.m. Laura from Collette Vacations will be here to give a slide presentation of the Rockies Rail Highlights trip scheduled for May 2009. It is not too late for you to sign up. Come to the slide show and see if this trip would interest you. The homeowners (Ellen Norman, Dortha Turek and Bobbi King) who took this trip this past May had a wonderful experience and they will be present on the 17th to answer questions. **Attending the slide show will not commit you to the trip.**

Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, November 18, leaving SV at 11:30 p.m. This month we will travel to Cambridge to the beautiful Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Resort. Please sign up in the Activities Book by Monday, November 17.

Circuit Workshop

Tuesday, November 18, at 6 p.m. Minimum of four people, and a maximum of eight. Cost is \$15 for the 2-hour class, payable in advance to Jan. Checks should be made to Mary D'Orsaneo.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIFESTYLE UPDATE

Holiday Show Update

The Holiday Event scheduled for Saturday, December 6, and Sunday, December 7, has been cancelled. Many thanks to all who paid for reservations. Reimbursements will be mailed within the next two weeks.

The **Soup, Salad, and Dessert Supper** in conjunction with decorating the Clubhouse for the holiday season is scheduled for Monday, December 1. Please sign up at the Clubhouse to attend and to bring a pot of your favorite soup or a homemade dessert. Salad and bread will be provided. Crock pots work well for this event. Supper begins at 5 p.m. and the decorating fun comes later.

A **Holiday Happy Hour** for the month of December is scheduled for Friday, December 19. Look for further information about this happy hour in your weekly update.

Be sure to make your reservation for the annual **New Year's Eve Party** on Thursday, December 31. This reservation must be made with a check for \$20 per person payable to the SV HOA @ Centreville. We will celebrate with a light fare buffet and a DJ that provides wonderful dance music. The party begins at 8:30 p.m. and lasts until after midnight. If you wish to reserve a table for this event, you must take care of this personally with Jan. All persons at a reserved table must have a paid reservation.



Looking for New Members

Members of the Lifestyle Committee look forward to meeting with other homeowners who are interested in serving on this Committee, which is the “hub” of all social events in the community. All that is needed to be a member is committed service. We work hard but we also have a lot of fun. That transition meeting will be scheduled at a later date in December. Check your weekly update for more information.



Where can we go to get floral holiday decorations? *See pages 16 to 21!*

OUTREACH UPDATE

SV OPI wants YOU !!!!

A message to all "newcomers" and neighbors of Symphony Village--



Are you looking for something interesting and rewarding to do with some of your time???? Come to the next Outreach Program meeting **December 2** at 7 p.m. and learn more about Neighbor to Neighbor, Caregivers, and the wonderful local organizations we help support with our fundraising activities. Our next big fundraiser is our House Tour/Luncheon on **April 25, 2009**.

CAN YOU HELP???? For information, please call Dorothy Hamm 410-758-3808 or Loretta Quigley 410-758-6775.

New President



The S V Outreach Program, Inc. is very pleased to announce that Loretta Quigley has accepted the position of President of the organization. We feel so fortunate to have such a talented and enthusiastic leader to take over the reigns. We all look forward to working, as we tackle new projects for next year.

Joyce Edmonston, our former president, will be moving on to the Advisory Board. We wish to thank her for her exceptional leadership, which greatly expanded the role of the Outreach Program within our community and the Centreville area. This organization simply would not have reached the high degree of recognition and accomplishments that we enjoy without her wise guidance and gifted sense of humor. We will always be grateful.

Make a Difference Dinner



The Make a Difference Dinner at the American Legion was a huge success. A donation of over \$4,000 was made to Caring and Sharing of Queen Anne's County to help pay for food, medicine and rent for those in emergency financial situations. Symphony Village residents provided cakes and workers for the event. The Outreach Program purchased tickets for the Chesterwye residents, who enjoyed the delicious meals. The American Legion's kitchen staff provided 255 chicken dinners to the hungry crowd. The Chesterwye residents and senior citizens left with gift bags, which added to their delightful event. Thanks to everyone who participated. Your contribution was very much appreciated and will be put to good use in the community.

Adult Day Care Foundation Card Party



Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Foundation, Inc. had its 12th Annual Card and Game Party November 6 at Prospect Bay Country Club. There were well over 100 attendees with many participants from Symphony Village. Many door prizes were given away as well as a variety of homemade cakes. Other activities included a silent action and a 50/50 drawing.

Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Foundation is a private, nonprofit, volunteer organization formed to coordinate fund raising activities for the Queen Anne's County Adult Day Medical Center. The Adult Day program is a health care facility for patients with cognitive or physical limitations that need professional supervision during the daytime hours. The program is sponsored by the Queen Anne's Department of Health.

Symphony Village residents generously donated fifteen cakes for the cake bingo event. Symphony Village Outreach also donated \$100 to Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Foundation. Symphony Village's generosity is greatly appreciated and needed for the continuation of Adult Day Care Services for Queen Anne's County. We hope to see you next year!

Volunteers In Action

On November 6, twelve volunteers from SV assisted the Queen Anne's County Board of Elections (BOE) in their effort to open and count absentee ballots for all QAC precincts. On very short notice, Jack Dedrick organized volunteers who also included Linda Blume, Bill Edmonston, Bob Farrar, Jim Hamm, Judy Hamm, Alma Harrison, George Hughes, Betty and Lloyd McAtee, Rich Ryan, and Gerry Storer.

We arrived at the Board of Elections office at 10 a.m. only to be adjourned until 11 a.m. Some of us stayed and talked and enjoyed coffee and doughnuts; some of us went to the library to pass the time. The BOE officers reconvened at 11:15 a.m. Brittani Thomas, QAC BOE Supervisor, read us a list of rules and regulations to be strictly adhered to during the ballot opening process. There seemed to be a lot to remember; but once we got down to it, the process was pretty straightforward.



We worked in pairs of two so everything was checked by two sets of eyes and counted by two sets of hands. By luck, we had the proper mix of Republicans and Democrats (one of the rules and regulations). Any ballot that had no signature or had an anomaly went to the BOE officers for adjudication.

There were observers around us constantly as we opened over 1400 absentee ballots. These observers were extremely diligent about their part in the process and took their oversight very seriously. There was someone with a still camera and someone with a TV camera. There were reporters, lawyers, campaign representatives, BOE officers, and others observing, literally, the opening of every ballot.

It took the twelve of us from SV plus 2 additional volunteers from Centreville about 1 ½ hours to open all the absentee ballots postmarked on or before November 4 and received at the BOE by that day. The BOE officers then optically scanned the ballots to record the votes. The scanning process was also observed closely. While the actual counting continued, volunteers who stayed were treated to pizza for lunch.

About 500 provisional ballots were to be opened and counted on November 10. Six SV volunteers were on the list to help: Carl Collins, Judy Hamm, Alma Harrison, Betty and Lloyd McAtee, and Trish Newgent. Others may have joined them.

The final counting of any remaining absentee and provisional ballots was scheduled for November 14. If requested, SV volunteers no doubt assisted.

YOU are needed for the SV Citizens Emergency Response Teams

Hazmats, propane trucks and tanks, hurricanes, pandemics? These are some of the possible disasters that could come to SV.

We are interested in developing Citizen Emergency Response Teams in SV who will support family and individual safety and community preparedness: i.e., taking care of our own residents in catastrophic accidents/conditions before emergency responders can get to us.

What? CERT – Citizens Emergency Response Teams – Training provided by professionals on how to prepare an emergency kit, have a family disaster plan, put out a fire, provide emergency medical care, shut down utilities, save animals in disasters, and more.

Who? We are looking for SV residents who want to respond to this call to aid our own community (no special background needed) - people who are willing to step up to the plate for others. 20-30 volunteers are needed – we have 11 now - so join us!!

When? This is an appeal for a show of interest. Once YOU have responded to our call, we will schedule training. Don't wait if you are interested. Please respond NOW.

Action? Contact Mary and George Drake at 410-758-8266 or georgeandmarydrake@yahoo.com to let us know of your interest. THANKS!



Who gives a great massage? *See pages 16 to 21!*

SYMPHONY SNEAKERS UPDATE

Sneakers Silent Auction



On Saturday, November 8, Sneakers held its 4th Annual Silent Auction and what a gala event it was! Initial indications are that over \$9,500 was raised through the unbelievable generosity of Symphony Village residents and a few invited guests. This year, over 60 residents were involved in one way or another with helping to ensure the success of the auction. We had over 150 items that were contributed by residents and local businesses. Our major sponsors,

Caruso Homes and Queenstown Bank, provided funds that covered the auction expenses, including food and beverages, which meant that all bids and donations will go directly to the needy children in Centreville. Please support the businesses that were represented at the auction. There was great food and fun that was shared by everyone who attended. The winners of the

four raffles were: wine extravaganza – Mary Lou Walker; 50/50 – Jim Pullen; owl carving – Pat Verna; and basket of cheer – Vinnie Volpicelli. The food committee certainly outdid themselves and the surprise culinary hit of the evening was the bacon wrapped dates!! The background music added a lovely ambience to the evening. Thanks to all for their help and participation.

Book Giveaway

Our next book giveaway at Kennard Elementary will be Donuts For Dads on Thursday/Friday **November 20-21**. If you have not signed up yet and would like to help, please sign up in the Activities book. Last month we had over 400 parents and kids at the Muffins For Moms program.

On **December 11** there will be an all school Holiday Book giveaway at Kennard. Please sign-up in the Activities Book if you can help for one or more 1 hour shifts from 8:30 – 12:30.

Santa Tree

Our Santa Tree still has a few items left. This year we are helping five families. When you have purchased your gift(s), please wrap them and place the Christmas Ball you selected on the present so we can separate them. Please return the gift(s) to the Wall Street room in the Clubhouse by December 5.

Canned Goods and Adopt-A-Bear Gifts

Kennard will alert us as to which day during the last week of school before the holiday we will be helping to sort the gifts and canned goods that have come in to the school. We will send out an e-mail for help as soon as we know the date.

Next Meeting

Our next Sneakers meeting will be **Wednesday, December 17**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We are always looking for more help. Please come to a meeting. Everyone is welcome.

Hallowe'en Party

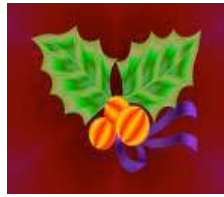


I would like to congratulate Linda Farrar and her committee and helpers on a great Hallowe'en party October 25. Our granddaughters enjoyed everything so much. It was certainly a fun time with so many activities from which to choose: the crafts, wonderful games, and the interactive story time and game before the parade. Thank you for all your time and hard work in making this a great time for grandchildren and grandparents alike. Carlene and Jim Cooke



Who can I get to put in a closet system? *See pages 16 to 21!*

SYMPHONY SINGLES



On Sunday, October 26, a small group of singles went to the Rustic Inn in Easton. We enjoyed a wonderful brunch and good conversation. The November event for the singles will be on the 15th. We plan to see the play *Our Town* at Church Hill Theatre. We will meet at the Clubhouse at 5:15 p.m. to have dinner at Doc's before the play. Please sign up in the Activities Book by November 13 so we may order tickets and make reservations. On December 9, we are planning to have lunch in Davidsonville at the Killarney Restaurant. After lunch we will tour the beautiful Christmas displays at Homestead Gardens.

We did this in 2006 and everyone enjoyed it. We will leave from the Clubhouse at 11 a.m. Please sign up in the Activities Book.

EXPLORING MARYLAND HERITAGE

Our first SV presentation was by Nancy Cook, Kent Island Heritage Society, who presented a very interesting talk and slide show on November 12. Did you know that Kent Island was first settled in 1631, was the first settlement on the Eastern Shore, and was the third oldest settlement in the United States? Captain John Smith (who founded Jamestown in 1607) wanted to trade with local Indian tribes, so he directed William Claiborne to establish a fort on the southern end of the island. It became known as Kent Fort. It was surrounded with palisades for protection, which, according to myth/legend, worked well since local tribes thought they would lose their spirit if they climbed over the palisade wall into the fort. But there is always one daring soul who did the unthinkable, and he survived going over the wall. The fort was no longer as safe as before. The fort was located at a place today known as Bloody Point, supposedly named when whites and Indians once met to talk peace, and the Indians were all killed. By modern day, the fort itself has vanished, claimed by the Chesapeake Bay.

Kent Island's settlement predates the Calvert family in Maryland history. There was quite a struggle between the Claiborne camp (Anglicans) and the Calverts (Catholics) for local control. In the end, the Calverts prevailed and received a charter from the King. This time of conflict was filled with mystery, intrigue, and changing loyalties.

Ms. Cook went on to tell us about other early settlements (Stevensville, Broad Creek, Queenstown, etc.) and some of the historic houses and structures now restored (or being restored) on Kent Island. She explained how the Shore's economic base went from farming (peaches, tomatoes, tobacco) pre-1940, to seafood (crabs, fish, oysters) until recently when tourism has become more important as making a living from the waters of the Chesapeake Bay has become harder and harder. There were many more interesting details and stories.

SV's Exploring Maryland Heritage group plans a combination of Clubhouse speakers and field trips over the coming months. Plans are being made for a field trip in January – watch for details of what will be a fun and informative outing with the option of lunch.

On another note, Ellen Norman is Docent Chairperson of the Queen Anne's County Historical Society. They are looking for docents for Wright's Chance and Tucker House in Centreville. Training will be provided. If you are interested in learning more, contact Ellen at 410-758-3047.

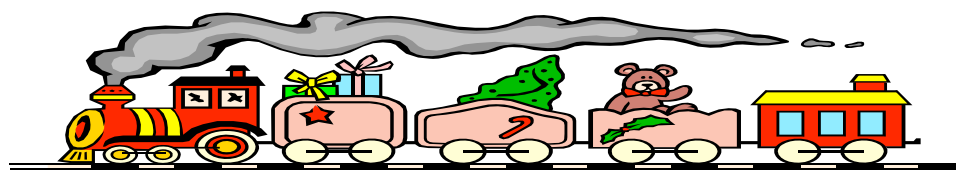
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations!! SV Referral Program Winner

Mr. Daniel Krpata and Ms. Phyllis Samples of Harmony Way are the winners of the \$100 Gift Certificate to the Narrows Restaurant. A drawing was held to determine the winner since 10 residents each brought one referral.

Caruso Homes and the Symphony Village team would like to thank all who participated in our resident referral program. The resident who sends the most referrals between November 11 and December 10 will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Kent Manor Inn. If you have any questions, please stop by the Sales Center.

Good Luck!



CHRISTMAS TRAIN LAYOUT

Hear Ye, Hear Ye calling all kids 1 to 102 years old. Again this year, you are welcomed to come and enjoy a Christmas Train Layout at Paul & Kay Blair's home at 133 Encore Court (410-758-2119) and at Larry & Betty Gingerich's home at 355 Overture Way (410-758-3102). Beginning Friday, November 28, thru January 4, open house will be each Saturday and Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (If this time does not work for visiting family, please phone and we will try to accommodate your needs.) Santa's helper (aka Kay) will have cookie treats for all good girls and boys.

Outlook by the Bay Magazine

The Holiday issue of the magazine *Outlook by the Bay* is now available at the Symphony Village Clubhouse. Ask Jan where the copies are if they are not at the front desk. Published four times a year, *Outlook by the Bay* is designed to inform and entertain “savvy seniors” and is full of helpful hints and interesting articles. This month you will find holiday ideas and an article on food allergies, which might be pertinent to your holiday entertaining. Another article gives advice on making and keeping those dreaded New Year’s Resolutions! One of our residents, Kathryn Marchi, is a contributing writer for the magazine and her articles usually appear in each issue. Also, look for pictures within the publication that might contain someone you know! Pick up your copy today!



Ninja Bear Visits Symphony Village



Whether you call him Ninja Bear (seen seemingly everywhere but unable to be caught), Wrong Way Bear, Bad Boy, Ted E. Bear, Vagabond Bear, or simply The Bear, the 2-year-old male black bear that visited Symphony Village on Halloween night has caught Villagers’ attention.

There were four SV eyewitnesses that this reporter knows of – Ellen Norman, B. J. McClieb, Jean Morais, and Mary Elizabeth Morais. The first glimpse happened just after Jean and Mary Elizabeth crossed Harmony Way and

entered B. J.'s house about 8:45 p.m. B. J. was closing her front door behind the visitors when something caught her eye, and upon a good look, she uttered, "Look what I see." The bear was leaving the driveway of #818 Harmony Way and proceeding toward B. J.'s. The bear was in the Morais' backyard and proceeding toward the street as Jean and Mary Elizabeth crossed. A close encounter indeed! Jean called 911.

The eyewitnesses watched (from inside the house) as the bear circled Ellen's car, sauntered slowly between B. J.'s house and the house next door, headed up the grassy slope of the swale, passed between #214 and #218 Orchestra Place, crossed the street, went between #215 and #219 Orchestra Place, and was headed toward Concerto when he was finally lost from sight.

Ellen jumped into her car and tried to follow the bear. She met the police (a Centerville Police car, an unmarked car, and a Sheriff's Office car) in the 100 block of Harmony Way. She told them where the bear was last seen and how to get there.

Meanwhile, when the bear crossed Orchestra Place, Jean jumped in her car and went to the Clubhouse (where Halloween Happy Hour was winding down) to warn everyone of the developing situation – anyone who had planned on walking home should get a ride instead.

After talking to Ellen, the three responders went in three different directions to begin their search. The Sheriff's Office officer spotted the bear on Opera Court, and he called the other two responders to meet him there. When the DNR truck arrived at B. J.'s (the 911 address of record), Ellen gave them directions to where the other three responders were looking.

Both before and after the eyewitness sighting, the bear dined (at least) from bird feeders in the 800 block of Harmony Way, the 200 block of Opera Court, and the 300 block of Overture Way. Bird feeder poles were bent as if they were as pliable as licorice sticks. A pumpkin in the 100 block of Encore Court was clawed deeply, but not eaten. The bear apparently dined very well in SV without the pumpkin.

When last spotted in the backyard of #242 Opera Court, the bear was heading into the woods. As we now know from newspaper articles, he headed for downtown Centerville to continue his Halloween walk.

Residents are reminded to take down their bird feeders until "Ninja Bear" is caught or permanently moves on.

"GETTING READY FOR WINTER: Working With, Not Against, Nature"



Cool, crisp autumn days are perfect times to be outdoors in your garden preparing it for winter. Obvious chores are weed removal and clean up of garden debris that can harbor disease organisms such as rose leaves, peony foliage, tomato plants, and bee balm. Instead of "pulling out" spent annuals, cut them to the ground to protect surrounding soil structure. If you remove leaves from your yard, they can be composted or stored in plastic bags for spring mulching/soil amending.

What is NOT done is in many ways more important than what IS done. Consider leaving in place perennials with stiff stems to catch snow and protect the plants' crowns. Avoid removing seed/blossom heads (e.g., cosmos, Echinacea, ornamental grasses, hydrangeas) to provide food and shelter for wildlife, not to mention aesthetic beauty on those grey, stark winter days. Wait until early spring to cut down the dried stems of these grasses and other perennials.

And what about those knockout roses? Mulching after the first hard freeze helps to prevent root damage. A 3-4' height can be maintained during the winter months. Wait until early spring when buds begin to swell to cut back the bushes to 8-12". Blooms will eventually appear on new growth.

It's not too late to pot the mandevilla still blooming in your yard. Cut it back harshly and place it in a sunny spot indoors. Be sure to water only when needed.



Remember to water your garden during winter dry spells when the ground is not frozen. Finally, since the ground is still relatively warm, fall is a good time to transplant woody plants, shrubs, and small trees. They will be better prepared for new growth as the warmer days of spring arrive.

Happy gardening!

Resources: *Eastern Shore* November 2008

Website: [thedailygreen](http://thedailygreen.com) November 7, 2008

Questions: Betty McAtee, Cass Smith

News from the Golf Front



Very early after our arrival here in the Village, I was badgered by the Mayor of Encore to take up golfing. I was told that it wasn't important that I know how to play, as there were some unique rules for Village golfers. After being brow beaten to a point of surrender, I borrowed some clubs and showed up in the Clubhouse parking lot to start my infamous golfing career. I was then told about the following Village golf rules that have been submitted to the PGA but have not yet been sanctioned.

1. The Village has a golf commissioner (who does not play when it is cooler than 60 degrees) who insists that anyone who shoots better than 41 have the scorecard notarized to its validity.
2. Squirrels, seen or unseen, are allowed to carry the ball from the rough or woods to the fairway without penalty.
3. All putts less than 4 feet (unless) for par are gimmees, however you do have to count them as a stroke.
4. Contrary to what some may do, teeing the ball up on the fairway is not allowed.
5. No more than one ball may be hit into any body of water, no matter how large. Balls may be placed on the opposite side of the water in the most advantageous location.
6. At no time will your score ever be greater than double par.
7. It is important for your tee shot to go beyond the ladies tee; however, it is okay to have a negative tee shot (which I have accomplished twice).

Sometimes the squirrels have been good to me; however, the water Gods seem to want to reclaim my balls. Many times it seems that there is nothing but sand traps, water hazards, or roads to capture my shots. I have enjoyed my golf forays, I have met many residents of the Village, and I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good laugh.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

The “Gazebo Gang” Symphony Village Garden Club



by your financial support.

Activity during the past month has been severely limited, consisting mainly of dead heading and planning for the future. We have purchased 100 tulip bulbs, 50 red and 50 yellow. Pat and Ruth Murphy have generously donated \$100 to pay for these bulbs. We need additional donations to pay for bulb-tone and topsoil. We plan to meet at the gazebo on Saturday, November 22, at 10 a.m. to plant these bulbs. All residents of Symphony Village are invited to help with the planting. Please call Jack Hennessey (410-758-4872) if you are interested in supporting the garden club, either by work or

The Reading For Fun Book Club



The book club met at the Clubhouse on October 21 to discuss *Time and Again*, by Jack Feeney. June Silverman, who also provided a wonderful dessert and beverages, had recommended the book. The book received mixed reviews. At least one member "Could not get into the book." Overall, the book was rated 3.9 on a scale of 1 to 5. The book for our meeting on November 18 is *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*, by David Wroblewski. Joan Hennessey recommended this book. It has been on the bestseller list for 14 weeks. Dog lovers will especially enjoy this book

The selection for December, recommended by Jack Hennessey, is *The Shack*, by William Young. This book is a somewhat religious, science fiction story, wherein the author displays a vivid imagination. We decided to go ahead with a December meeting, since this book is a very fast read. All interested residents are welcome to join the book club, and to recommend your favorite book for review.



Who can I get to service our heating system? *See pages 16 to 21!*

OF LOCAL INTEREST

Queen Anne’s Chorale Presents Christmas Concerts

The Queen Anne’s Chorale, under the direction of Robert Huntington, will launch the Christmas season this year with a Holiday Concert entitled “Christmas Spirit.”



Symphony Villagers performing in the concert include Tom Scull, Kathryn Marchi, Eleanor Strietman, Jack Dedrick, Diane Briggs, Sandy Palumbo, and Trish Newgent. There will be two performances--one on Saturday evening, **December 6**, at Christ Episcopal Church, Kent Island, at 7:30 p.m. and the other on Sunday afternoon, **December 7**, at Centreville United Methodist

Church, at 4 p.m. The Chorale will perform selections of beautiful and joyful Christmas music, accompanied by a chamber orchestra. The audience will have the opportunity to participate in singing some favorite and traditional carols. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and children through high school are admitted free. Tom Scull, who lives in Symphony Village, is selling tickets to residents for their convenience and can be reached at 410-758-8658. Tickets can also be purchased at the door. A reception will be held after each concert. The Queen Anne's Chorale concerts are accessible to the handicapped. For more information, please call 410-827-0825 or visit www.qachorale.org.

38th Annual Waterfowl Festival



This Wildlife Art and Sportsman's Expo takes place **November 14-16** at 12 locations throughout Easton and features paintings, carvings, sculpture, decoys, sporting gear, a wine pavilion, food, and music. Hours on Friday and Saturday are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; hours on Sunday are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is \$12 Friday or Saturday; \$10 Sunday; and \$22 for a multi-day ticket. For information, see www.waterfowlfestival.org.

45th Annual Antiques Show and Sale

The show will take place in Chestertown on **November 28-30** at Chestertown Middle School. Hours are Friday, 4-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Admission is \$5. Proceeds go to the Kent Association of Riding Therapy, Inc. (KART) that is a non-profit program and the sponsor of the event.

Chestertown Art and Craft Show

The Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company will host this show on **November 28-29**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Look for handcrafted items and holiday gifts. The show is in conjunction with downtown holiday festivities.

11th Annual Heck with the Malls

Heck with the Malls will be held on **December 6** in Centreville, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Unique artwork and gifts will be available throughout shops in Centreville as well as at the QAC Arts Council Auditorium and St. Paul's Church. For information, see www.arts4u.info.

Yuletide House Tour in Queenstown

The QAC Historical Society will present "A Yuletide House Tour" in Queenstown on **December 6**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., rain or shine. Ten private homes, including the well-known Bolingly Estate, will be open as well as two churches and five public buildings, all of historical significance. Admission is \$20 for adults; \$18 for QACHS members; children under 12 are free. For details, see www.qachistory.org.

Christmas Train Show

The annual Christmas Train Show will take place **December 6-7** and **December 13-14** at the Museum for Eastern Shore Life at 4-H Park in Centreville, noon – 5 p.m. All kinds of electric and antique trains and Christmas villages will be on display. See www.mesl.us for more information.

Old Fashioned Christmas

The Sudlersville Train Station Museum will host an Old Fashioned Christmas at the museum on **December 6** and **December 13**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The museum will be open, the model trains will be running, and refreshments will be available. For more information, call 410-438-3501. The Museum is at 101 Linden Street in Sudlersville.

Santa's Magic Workshop

Martinak State Park in Denton will host Santa's Magic Workshop on **December 13-14**, 4 – 7 p.m. Visit with Santa, see model trains, snack on cocoa and cookies, make ornaments, and enjoy a hayride. Admission is one canned good, which will be donated to St. Martin's Barn in Ridgely. For details, see www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/martinak.html.

Enchanted Campground

Take a ride through festive twinkling lights around Martinak State Park on **December 15-31**, 6 - 9 p.m. A box will be available for monetary donations, which will go to Hospice of Caroline County. See www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/eastern/martinak.html for more information.

TRAVEL ARTICLE OF THE MONTH **Cruising to New England and Canada**

by Brenda Stoltz



In September, forty-six Symphony Village neighbors boarded a bus at the Clubhouse and headed for New York. There we set sail on the Caribbean Princess along with 3,000 other passengers to cruise up the New England coast to Canada, waving to the Statue of Liberty as we sailed out of harbor. The ship was huge and, for several days, John and I walked around with a map in our pockets to keep from getting lost as well as to get ourselves “unlost”—which happened often. Our first port-of-call was Newport, Rhode Island, where many of us toured some of the “Cottages” along

the coast. They might be called cottages but they are truly mansions and were very impressive. From Rhode Island, we sailed to Boston, Massachusetts, to travel in the footsteps of Patrick Henry, visit Ivy League Universities, or just enjoy the city sights. In Bar Harbor, Maine, many of us toured Acadia National Park and drove along the beautiful coastline. Some Villagers took a Whale Watching trip, while others visited local cafes and enjoyed eating lobster rolls and blueberry pies. Our next stop, St. John, New Brunswick, was all about water—the “rain” and the “tides.” However, the rain didn’t keep the Village people from splashing out to see and photograph the Bay of Fundy (a marvel to behold with its 30-foot tides). Later we were rewarded with a delicious bowl of hot seafood chowder and a chance to explore the beach looking for “wishing stones.” Meanwhile, back in town, Alan and Lee Ettman were enjoying a rainy ride in a horse-drawn carriage. This was a unique carriage, driven by an “odorous equine flatulator” and a driver with a great sense of humor. Our last port-of-call was Halifax, Nova

Scotia. Ending our trip north on a beautiful, sunny day was perfect. I even got to explore Peggy's Cove with Peggy (Dedrick).

The land excursions are always interesting, but cruising is also about "eating." All day you can partake of huge amounts of delicious food of every description. (I doubt any of us have dared to get on a scale since we've been home.) Besides eating, we also had fun watching fabulous stage shows, playing virtual golf, dancing, playing canasta, singing with the stars, participating in game shows, or just relaxing while enjoying the view. We even had a little drama at the end of our trip. In the wee hours of the morning, our ship lost an engine as we entered New York's harbor. We were afloat under the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge for over two hours--most of the ship was without electricity. Fortunately, we were in the harbor and not out in the Atlantic and were readily towed in by at least four tugboats—**nothing like an exciting ending to a lovely trip.**

To view the pictures of the trip go to:

http://villagehoa.org/albums/sv_cruise_oct08/index.html

SPECIAL REMINDERS

- Clubhouse Phone Number (Jan and Dennis)—410-758-8500
- Jan Van Riper's email--symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net
- Dennis Sesplankis' email--dsesplankis@legumnorman.com
- Warranty Office—301-261-0277 ext. 135, Katherine Zell
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PERSONAL ADS

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Train Supplies--Three boxes of **HO model train supplies**--trains, cork for tracks, switches, decorations, etc.--\$100 for all-- 410-758-0591.

Recipe of the Month

Salmon in a Couscous Crust

Recipe courtesy Tyler Florence on Television Food Network

Made by Lauren Swartz at Dining Inn

1/2 bunch fresh flat-leaf parsley, chopped
1/4 cup golden raisins, coarsely chopped
3 tablespoons coarsely chopped green olives
2 tablespoons capers, chopped
3 tablespoons pine nuts, toasted and coarsely chopped
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
1 lemon, juiced
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 1/2 cups couscous (see note)
2 (6-ounce) salmon fillets skinned
2 cups water



Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

- In a large bowl, stir together the parsley, raisins, olives, capers, pine nuts, olive oil, and lemon juice, and season with salt and pepper; stir in the couscous to moisten completely, and season generously with salt and pepper.
- Put the salmon in a single layer in a smallish buttered gratin dish or baking dish (bottom measured 10 by 7 1/4 inches; 2.8 liter); the fillets should not touch one another. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and drizzle with a little olive oil.
- Now spoon the couscous mixture over the top of the fish so that it completely covers the fillets and fills in the whole dish at the same time. Pour the water over the fish and couscous. Drizzle with olive oil. Put the dish in the oven and bake 25 minutes. Use a large spoon to spoon out the salmon and the couscous.
- Serves 2

Note: 1 cup couscous plus 1 1/3 cups water is a better quantity to serve 2 if you have a smaller gratin dish or baking dish (remaining quantities are the same).


Cooking Trivia

QUESTION:

Why is it that many soups and stews seem to taste better, seem sweeter, more robust and/or well rounded -- when made in advance?

ANSWER:

The science editor of *Cook's Illustrated* explains it this way. Even after cooking ceases, many chemical reactions continue to take place in foods. In the case of a soup or stew containing milk or cream, the lactose breaks down into sweeter-tasting glucose. Similarly, the carbohydrates in onions develop into sugars such as fructose and glucose. Proteins in meat turn into individual amino acids that act as flavor enhancers. Finally, starches in potatoes and flour break down into flavorful components. The exception is for vibrant chili flavor, serve it the same day. The next day it is sweeter and less sharp.




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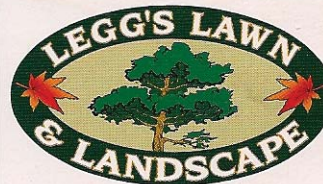
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