

LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

November, 2009

Vol. IV 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 Homeowner

Symphony Village welcomes: Will Callaghan at 835 Harmony Way.

Caruso Announces Winners

We are proud to announce that Bob and Lauren Rose are the winners of a \$100 Gift Certificate to Martini's for participating in the Symphony Village resident referral contest. Caruso Homes, and the Symphony Village team would like to thank all who participated in the resident referral program. The resident who sends the most referrals between November 12 and December 11 will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Annie's. Remember this is the last month to bring in your referrals for a chance to win a \$100 gift certificate and to qualify for our vacation give-a-way. If you have any questions or need more referral cards, please stop by the Sales Center. Good Luck!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIFESTYLE UPDATE



Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, November 19 – Ladies Night** – 5:30 p.m.
- **Friday, November 20 – Happy Hour** – 6:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, November 21 – Dining Inn**
- **Thursday, December 3 – Longwood Gardens** – Admission - \$11
Dinner (optional) \$18 includes appetizer, entrée, dessert and beverage.
Meet 12:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse to carpool. Sign up in the Activities Binder and make checks payable to **SV @ Centreville HOA**.



- **Friday, December 4 – Decorating Party** – 5 p.m. **Happy Hour** – 6 p.m. Bring your favorite appetizer and fewer desserts.
- **Saturday, December 19 – Holiday Party** – 6 p.m. - \$25 per person
Menu: Antipasto dish, cheese and fruit tray, make your own pasta with alfredo, marinara or clam sauce, meatballs and sausage, stuffed shells, garlic bread, dessert and sangria. Catered by *The Omelette Chefs*.

- **Sunday, December 20 – Caroling** – 5 p.m. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Come back to the Clubhouse for wassail, hot chocolate and cookies after caroling.
- **Thursday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve Happy Hour** – 9 p.m. Details to be determined.



The Mystery Man



The mystery has been solved! The mystery man in the picture from the school days happy hour is Ed Novack. Ed has admitted it and Jeanne has confirmed it. All other guesses, reports, and speculations you may have heard throughout the Village are not true. Kudos to Ed for keeping us guessing

OUTREACH UPDATE

Poker! Bridge! Mahjonn! Scrabble! Pinochle! Canasta! Hand and Foot! Etc.!
 Calling all card players! Calling all table game players! Men! Women! Outreach will hold a fundraiser Card & Game Party with Luncheon on Thursday, **January 21, 2010**. Save the date for this fun event and watch for additional details in the coming weeks.

Caregivers Open House



The Caregivers Group of Symphony Village will host an Open House on Monday, November 23, at 1 p.m. at the home of Beth Dewhirst (301 Overture Way.) Sharon Loving and Marilyn Grossman from Queen Anne’s Hospice will present a program on the physical and emotional effects of being a caregiver. They will also briefly describe Hospice’s new Bridges program. This is information everyone can use, and we encourage you to join us for this meeting. Your attendance does not commit you to our regularly scheduled meetings. Bring your neighbor and friends. Light refreshments will be served.

PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Symphony Village Communication Guidelines

Check the website Bulletin Board regularly for pertinent bulletins that the committee feels would be beneficial, e.g., volunteer opportunities, email problems, and Halloween Happy Hour photos.

Photo Gallery

Please check out the fantastic **Picture Directory** changes made by Charlene at our website www.villagehoa.org. Now you can also click on a picture and a name will

appear. Continue sending in your pictures to Charlene Smallwood Brown (gsmallw594@aol.com). Also, please send John Schultz (schultzy@schultzy.org) trip pictures, candid shots of SV events, pet pictures, and fish pictures to be included on the website as well.

Advertisers



Please support our advertisers. At the end of the newsletter you will find ads for the following:

Accountant	Electrician	Landscaping
Air Condition Service	Eyewear & Eye Exam	Medical Equipment
Awnings	Handyman	Painter
Chair Rail	Holiday Decorating/ Makeovers	Pharmacy
Chiropractor	Home Care Provider	Physical Therapist
Construction	Home Theater	Plumber
Cosmetics	Insurance	Remodeling
Custom Carpentry	Irrigation	Travel Agent
Custom Sewing	Jeweler	
Dentist		

SYMPHONY SNEAKERS UPDATE

Sneakers Auction

On Saturday, November 7, over 200 Symphony Village residents and invited guests attended the fifth annual silent auction. After registration, the participants reviewed and submitted bids on the 158 auction items. In addition, the four raffles inspired a great deal of interest. While all of this was going on, there were tables filled with delicious crab dip, shrimp, sandwiches, vegetables, egg rolls, bacon wrapped dates and olives, cheese, antipasto, and desserts, much to the delight of all. Our great bartenders dispensed wine, beer, and soda for everyone. Not only were there Symphony Village residents in attendance, but the Queen Anne's County Superintendent of Schools, one of our County Commissioners, and several members of the staff from the local elementary schools. In between bidding, guests spilled over into the foyer and were treated to music by B.J. McClueb who was later joined by Bob Offerman.

Excited winners of the raffles were: hand carved duck – Dorthea Turek; crab feast quilt – Joanna Nies; diamond and ruby ring – Joan Studnicky; and 50/50 – Ira Ehrenfeld (Thanks, Ira, for donating part of your winnings to Sneakers!)

Donations by our sponsors (Caruso Homes, Queenstown Bank, and Draper Brothers Liquors) allow all monies raised to go directly to the work of Sneakers in the local schools. Many thanks to everyone in Symphony Village who donated items for the auction, prepared the baskets and tables, helped prepare and serve the delightful refreshments, and, most importantly, bid on the many auction items and the raffles.

Final accounting is still underway, but as of this publication, it appears as though there was a profit of between \$8,500 and \$9,000. This is especially exciting, considering the condition of our economy. It will allow Sneakers to continue to support the children and their families in the public schools in Centreville.

Book Giveaway

Our first book giveaway was held October 29 and 30. Approximately 450 students and parents attended “Pastries for Parents.” The next function is the Holiday All School event on Thursday, December 10. We will need help from approximately 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets are at the Clubhouse.

Kennard Depot

Please don't forget to help at the Positive Behavior Depot at Kennard Elementary. They need help every other Wednesday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sign-up sheets are at the Clubhouse.

Santa Tree

There are still items left on the Santa Tree in the Wall Street Room at the Clubhouse. Instructions for the acquisition, wrapping, and delivery of the items are by the tree.

Next Meeting

All Symphony Village residents are invited to our next meeting on Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

ENERGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

United Propane's new terms and conditions:

Last summer United Propane issued and mailed a Notice of Change of Contract Terms pamphlet. Item #3 of this publication references Minimum **Purchase of Propane**, which obligates its customers to purchase an amount of propane equal to or greater than two times the capacity of the installed tank during a 12-month period. It also stated that there were substantial penalties/costs if you did not meet this requirement.

Many residents expressed concern that meeting the minimum use requirement was unfair due to the fact that they either resided out-of-state for a portion of each 12-month billing period or just conserved energy by keeping their temperature low.

This is to let you know that recently, United Propane's Regional Manager not only verbally stated that all Symphony Village residents are exempt from this requirement, but also provided a written confirmation to one of Symphony Village homeowners for his residence.

Alternative Electricity Suppliers:



Do you realize that your electric company (Delmarva Power) is both a distributor and supplier of electricity? Do you also realize that consumers have a choice of suppliers? Delmarva Power does not tell you this when you sign up. You can choose either Delmarva Power or an alternative electricity supplier. One reason for choosing an alternative supplier is that they can offer you reduced rates. Rates are

applicable for a one, two, or three year period. Savings can potentially be 10%. One alternative supplier choice is Washington Gas Energy Services, Inc., which has been in business for 15 years. Their telephone number is 888-884-9437.

Keep in mind that when you make your selection, some of the other suppliers may not last. Do your homework and research alternative suppliers. To review other choices go to www.psc.state.md.us.

HOA MEETING



The Symphony Village at Centreville Homeowners Association, Inc. will hold their annual meeting on Wednesday, December 2, in the Concert Hall of the Clubhouse at 6 p.m. The purpose of the annual meeting is to take care of association business, update homeowners on community issues, and elect one member to the Board of Directors. All homeowners are encouraged to attend this meeting, as a quorum of 10 percent is required in order to conduct the meeting. If you are unable to attend, you are encouraged to submit a proxy. Call Dennis Sesplankis at the Clubhouse (410-758-8500) if you have any

questions.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

The “Gazebo Gang” Symphony Village Garden Club



The garden club has been pretty well inactive after a successful summer season. We will be planting a few tulip bulbs that we have on hand. All gardeners are encouraged to do some deadheading to get ready for spring. We will be erecting a Christmas tree after Thanksgiving, but Jack can't remember who agreed to store our tree over the summer! Please let me know. We will plan a Christmas sing-a-long at the gazebo after Thanksgiving. Our veggie garden had a very productive season, with tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, squash, and other veggies coming out our ears! Ray and Judy Caffiero even had enough success with pumpkins to give a few away! We had four veggie farmers in 2009, and our friendly farmer has given us permission to expand our veggie garden next year! If you would like to participate, please email Jack ASAP. There are six residents currently signed up. Please confirm your intent to garden in 2010. We will have a planning meeting, probably in February, to set rules for the garden. We will keep you advised.

You Don't Want to be a Male Praying Mantis



Have you seen a praying mantis on any of your plants this summer? They are among the greediest of all insects, feeding on not only other kinds of insects, but on other praying mantises as well. A female does not hesitate to devour her own mate if she is hungry.

A full-grown praying mantis is about 5” in length. It is green in color much of the year and turns brownish as it approaches mating and egg laying in the fall. Eggs are laid attached to tree limbs, to shrub branches, or to plant stems in a single mass of 14-400 eggs in a frothy liquid that turns into a hard protective shell. The dried egg masses resemble dried foam, are light tan in color,

and approximately 1” top to bottom. The young overwinter and emerge in the spring to eat undesirable (to humans) insects all season. The newly hatched mantises also do not hesitate to have a sibling as a first meal.



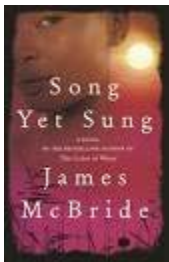
As you do your garden fall clean-up, watch for these egg cases. Leave them in place (or clip the stem above and below the egg case and put it securely within another shrub) to produce hundreds of baby mantises in the spring. But don't be tempted to bring an egg case into the house to watch “the miracle of nature” as you can with a butterfly chrysalis. Two examples:

- When I was in elementary school, someone brought some egg cases to school and they were put into a glass display case on the wall as a “teaching tool.” Well, one overnight, the egg cases hatched and we came to school to see hundreds of baby praying mantises crawling everywhere. What an event! The babies were so small that they easily “escaped” from the display case. Somehow this was not quite the “teaching tool” the teacher had in mind, but it certainly made a lasting impression on the students; and
- One praying mantis egg case unwittingly came into a friend's living room on the freshly cut Christmas tree. The warmth of the house apparently made the babies think it was “time” and out they came. What seemed like millions of them hatched and swarmed all over the living room. Dear me!

So if you see a praying mantis egg case attached to a stem, leave it there, knowing that next spring will bring a hatch of hundreds of hungry “bad-bug” eating machines. (Linda Blume)

The Reading For Fun Book Club

The book club met on October 20 to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer. Dorthea Turek, who also provided a potato pie with



whipped cream for dessert, selected this book. On a scale of 1 to 10, the book received a rating of 8.7. The book for November is *Song Yet Sung*, by James McBride that has a setting on the Eastern Shore. The Maryland One Book had selected this book to be read by all Marylanders for 2009. Mary Jo Keefe recommended *Song Yet Sung* and will be providing dessert for our meeting on November 17. Jack Hennessey has recommended *Cheating Death*, a novel by local author Judy Reveal, president of The Eastern Shore Writer's Association,

who will be attending our December 15 meeting. Meetings attended by the author are our most interesting meetings. All residents are invited to attend. Y'all come! Please let us know if you plan to attend so we will be sure to have enough dessert. Call Jack 410-758-4872.

Homeowner Fire And General Safety (Part I of III)

by Your CERT Team

As we head into fall and winter, each homeowner should consider the following actions to prevent emergencies or actions to take in case of emergencies. It's a good idea to locate house main electrical, water, and propane shutoffs, and you might even put a tag on them for future reference (and in a panic situation, you'll find them quickly and be sure of the correct shutoff!).



ELECTRICAL: To turn off electricity in the entire house, go to the garage and flip the LARGE Master Breaker Switch at the bottom of the breaker panel. To switch off only portions of the house, flip the applicable circuit

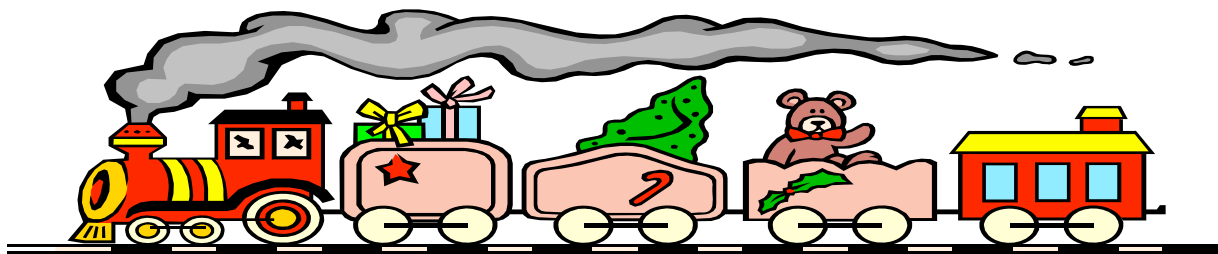
breaker in the panel to OFF. Never block your circuit breaker panel with stored items!

PROPANE: To turn off all propane going to your heating unit or fireplace(s), locate the shutoff immediately outside the house (in the back against the wall). Turn the valve ¼ turn by hand or with a pair of pliers (depends upon your type of shutoff). When the valve is open, it is aligned up and down with the pipe (parallel); when it is closed, it is crosswise (perpendicular) across the pipe. **CAUTION:** If you have to turn off the outside gas, contact the gas company to have them turn it back on.

If you have a spare propane bottle for your grill, **DO NOT** store it in the garage. If the bottle should leak gas in the garage, there is a chance of an explosion from any stray spark.

Most of these points are reminders of what we were all told along with a zillion other things when we closed on our houses and are meant to be a reminder of where things are around the house.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS



CHRISTMAS TRAIN LAYOUT

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Calling all kids 1 to 102 year old. Again this year, you are welcome to come and enjoy a Christmas train layout at Paul and Kay Blair's home at 133 Encore Court (410-758-2119) and at Larry and Betty Gingerich's home at 355 Overture Way (410-758-3102). Beginning Friday, November 27, and then Saturdays and Sundays through January 3, open houses will be from 2-4 p.m. Please call before coming. If these times do not work for visiting families, 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.

Thank You from Judy Shellenberger



Symphony Village is a wonderful place to live. Bill and I want to thank all of our friends and neighbors who extended such lovely kindness during my recent surgery and recuperation. So many of you sent food, flowers, cards, and prayers our way. You truly made a difficult time much more pleasant with your compassionate thoughtfulness. Judy

Putting Your Rain Garden to Bed

It's that time of year. Your rain garden needs a final weeding and a light layer of mulch unless it has just been installed. Many residents ask about how to tell a weed from a plant. Your garden was planted according to a template or plan. Most flowers were planted in groupings. If there

are 3 plants near each other and another with a different leaf, chances are it is a weed. After a couple seasons most of your plants will be clearly visible above weeds unless you allow them to flourish. If you monitor the flowerbed on a regular basis, you will save yourself a lot of future grief. When you see weeds beginning to come up, scuffle them up with a hoe when they are small. If you return from vacation and discover many weeds have sprung up knee-high in your absence, your first step should be to prevent the weeds from flowering and setting seed. Weeds will reseed prolifically so this is really important. If you cannot pull them immediately, cut off the flowering part and discard in the trash. To sum up, vigilance is the key to keeping weeds at bay.

Should you or someone you know in our community be unable to maintain a rain garden due to illness or injury, please contact Cass or Betty for assistance. Congratulations! You have successfully completed another season of gardening!

Note to those planting fall bulbs. Daffodils are toxic to deer and rabbits. There are early, intermediate, and late blooming daffodil bulbs available, which will allow you to enjoy three months of uneaten blooms.



Rain Garden Applications Available for Spring

We are now developing a list for rain garden installations for spring 2010. In order to continue the funding process, we must send a list of recipients to the grant provider a few months early. All residents are eligible. The gardens are configured to each lot and may be incorporated into existing landscaping. Installing a rain garden can slow erosion on slopes and absorb some of the volume of storm water in the swales when many of the homeowners on a street participate. Ask those of us who have rain gardens on Overture Way. It has made a difference. For applications or more information, call Cass Smith 410-758-6965 or Betty McAtee 410-758-2443. Fall rain garden installations have begun and will continue into December. Residents who are on the current list will be contacted soon for a site consultation. Thank you for your patience.

Video of Charlie and Maria Scheck

Charlie and Maria were the subjects in a recent very short WJZ-TV video highlighting the two as a couple dealing with Maria's Alzheimer's. Kellye Lynn of WJZ-TV made this video on October 13. It was made in the Johns Hopkins Bay View Memory Center where Charlie and Maria are blessed to have Maria as an outpatient. It was an interesting experience and Charlie was delighted that Maria agreed to do it. Below is the link to see the video. It is not certain how long the video will be available.

<http://wjz.com/local/alzheimers.disease.caregiver.2.1250909.html>

The White Rabbit



Have you spotted the SV white rabbit? I don't mean the one in *Alice in Wonderland* dressed in a waistcoat and carrying a large watch! "Our" rabbit has been spotted in backyards and front yards on the even-numbered side of Orchestra Place and the odd-numbered side of the 800-block Harmony Way from mid-summer onward. Most recently, it (he? she?) was

spotted running in the grass on Taylor Mill Road just after a right turn from Symphony Boulevard. We've watched it grow from a small juvenile to an adult in size. Numerous tries to capture the bunny "on film" have been unsuccessful. Have you seen it? Call Linda Blume on 410-758-3194 so we can keep everyone up-to-date via the *Libretto* on this unusual SV resident. If you've seen any other unusual resident critters or "varmints," please call Linda.

The Village Chain Gang



Eleven residents answered the call to man the first down chains and the downs marker for all of the Queen Anne's High School football games. Other than Dave Peterson who had done this before, the nine men and one woman had to learn the importance of dropping the sticks and running, what "manning the clip" meant, and what the Line Judge meant by "on the back foot." The Chain Gang worked 15 regular season games, 5 each for the Freshmen, JV, and Varsity. No one was touched by any of the players this year, and yes the sticks were dropped several times each game. While it always helps to have the home team win, which the Varsity and JV did quite handily, nothing beats having some of the best seats in town.

As rainy as it has been, the weather cooperated with a light mist one game and a few drops of rain another, we should always be so lucky. All who participated have an entirely new perspective of the



game. The Queen Anne's Athletic Director was extremely pleased with the Chain Gang's efforts and appreciated our doing this task. It is expected that we will be doing this again next year. Any Villager that wants to be a member of the Chain Gang just needs to be able to pay attention to what is happening on the field and be able to drop everything and run without any hesitation.

In the first picture are Tom Kisker, Ira Ehrenfeld, and Dave Peterson with the markers at the Queen Anne's vs. Kent Island game. In the second picture members of the Symphony Village Chain Gang are left to right Mike King, Bob Offerman, Paul Blair, Skip Kornmeyer, Ron Dillon, Diane Briggs, Rich Ryan, Tom Scull, Ira Ehrenfeld, and Dave Peterson. Missing – Tom Kisker.

Senior Moment

One of our residents was cleaning up her rain garden. She was admiring it with Cass Smith who happened to drop by. Cass told her that one of the plants she was admiring was a weed. The response then was, "What did I pull up then?" Upon looking in the weed bucket in the garage, it was determined that she had pulled up the rain garden plants and left the weeds. (We've all been there.)

Symphony Village Volunteers in Action Food Pantry at Our Mother of Sorrows Church

At this time of year, the food pantries are busier than ever. Queen Anne's County has a pantry at the Dept of Social Services on Comet St. across from the Food Lion Shopping Center. Churches in the county run other substantial pantries. They are Living Waters in Kent Island, Calvary Asbury Methodist in Sudlersville, and Our Mother of Sorrows (OMOS) here in Centreville.

OMOS Food Pantry is staffed by local volunteers, many of whom are residents of our Village.



The pantry has been in existence for quite some time. Due to the present economy, the demand has greatly increased. OMOS established an Outreach Ministry at the beginning of this year. This group of volunteers runs the food pantry, obtains temporary housing for those in need, helps to prevent utility shutoffs and evictions, and obtains critical medicine for desperate county residents. The pantry is located at Corbaley Hall behind OMOS church at 301

Chesterfield Ave. in Centreville. The pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. Approximately 300 bags of food are distributed each month.



This holiday season, we will provide about 75 Thanksgiving dinner baskets and Christmas boxes with food and gifts to those less fortunate in our area. Items needed for the holidays: cash donations (tax deductible), food gift cards, supermarket turkey coupons, frozen turkeys, hams, canned cranberry sauce, applesauce, assorted vegetables, sweet potatoes, evaporated milk, and pumpkin and apple pie fillings. Also needed are boxed or bagged stuffing mix, piecrust mix (not refrigerated), Jiffy Muffin Mix, turkey gravy

mix, and instant mashed potatoes. Please drop off items at Corbaley Hall, or leave them on the porch at Ross Camardella's house, 146 Opera Court.

Volunteers are needed in many areas. If you can help in the pantry collecting, sorting and distributing food, please call **Ross Camardella** (301-356-4711). If you wish to help with the holiday basket preparation and distribution, please call **Dorothy Hamm** 410-758-3803. A Christmas Bazaar will be held at OMOS on Dec. 5 and the Outreach Ministry will have a craft table. If you knit, quilt, crochet, or paint and would like to donate a craft or any other item to help the needy in the area, please call **Lois Labs** (443-262-8134). If you would like further information about OMOS Outreach Ministry, please call **Jack Dedrck** (410-758-1252).

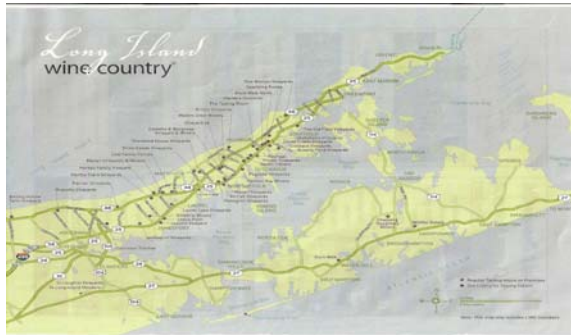
Literacy Project Gets Underway at Crossroads Community, Inc.

The gift of “reading, writing, and arithmetic” costs so little to give and yet that small investment compounds interest daily for the receiver as well as the giver. Basic literacy represents even greater value to adults who do not have even the basic skills. Here’s how in a struggling economy you can fill your *emotional bank account* to the brim with moments of discovery and learning by becoming a literacy project volunteer for Crossroads Community.

Volunteer tutors are needed to support the individual needs and guarantee a level of personal success in the learning process. Won’t you consider giving the gift of education to someone less fortunate? The only qualifications are an open heart and a desire to enhance the learning of another.

Orientation about adult learning styles and providing assistance to those with mental health needs will be conducted in preparation for your involvement in the program. Orientation classes will be conducted, as demands requires. Please consider this gift of your time by contacting Suzanne Moore at moores@ccinonline.com or call at 410-758-3050 ext. 26 for more information.

Symphony Village Travel **Wineries on Long Island, New York** **by Kathryn Marchi**



You don’t have to go all the way to California if you want to visit wineries! Dennis and I just visited an area on the East End of Long Island, New York, that is a miniature version of Napa and Sonoma Valleys.

Long Island is about 115 miles long and most of it near the urban area of Brooklyn is heavily populated. As you travel east toward

the end of the island, the land becomes rather rural. Near the end it splits into two parts: the North Fork, which begins with the town of Riverhead and ends in the village of Orient, and the South Fork, which comprises Sag Harbor and the famous “Hamptons,” and ends at Montauk.

On the North Fork, there are two roads, Rt. 48 to the north and Rt. 25 to the south, that have vineyards and wineries dotting the area for miles. For the past thirty years, thirty-five winemakers have planted over three thousand acres of vines that usually produce half a million



cases of wine a year. This area, located near the Long Island Sound, is just right for the production of “oaky” chardonnays, light rosé wines, and various full-bodied reds. It has become a premier wine region, garnering many awards for its excellence in winemaking.

If you’ve already visited California’s wine country, you’ve noticed the vines growing on rolling hills, surrounded by

mountains. Long Island vineyards are grown on flat land close to the water, which is quite different. Other than that, the wine business is much the same. Wineries offer tastings (for a fee), tours, cooking classes, festivals, food pairings, book signings, sales and gift items.

During our four-day stay, Dennis and I really enjoyed exploring this unique East Coast “wine country.” With our guidebooks in hand, we began our trek down Rt. 48, stopping at several wineries for tasting. We likened this area to Sonoma Valley. Crossing over to Rt. 25, we discovered that this was quite similar to Napa Valley, with most of the vineyards and wineries located on this road. We chose several that had been recommended to us and visited them for tasting. Since we were there in October, some of the larger wineries held Harvest festivals, offering live music, tables for light fare, exhibits, games for children and, of course, tastings. These festivals are “family friendly,” with something for everyone.



We also took advantage of the proximity to Sag Harbor and traveled by ferry from Greenport over to Shelter Island and another ferry from there to Sag Harbor. We then drove on to Montauk, where we ate fresh lobster, mussels, clam chowder, and local corn on a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Long Island Sound.

Because we were in our motor home, we stayed at an RV park in Greenport at the end of the “wine road.” We found this small town to be very convenient to the entire area, either by driving or by ferry. There are many motels, bed and breakfast inns, and condos to rent in Greenport or any of the other towns along the North Fork area: Southold, Peconic, Mattituck, Cutchogue, or Riverhead. Of course, in any of these towns, winery tours are available. This is a great way to enjoy the wines without worrying about driving!

Most of the wineries are open year around so it’s possible to visit the area in the “off season.” This is a great time to visit because the crowds are smaller and you’ll receive more individual attention at the various tastings. There are also special programs and promotions during November and December; and the “Vine Winterfest,” featuring jazz performances at the various wineries, runs during February and March. Local hotels and bed and breakfast inns offer special incentives during this time as well.

Dennis and I really encourage you to visit this area, whenever you can. If you do travel there, enjoy the wine...and remember, “The best wine is the wine you like!”

www.eastendseaport.org

www.greenportvillage.com

www.liwines.com

www.NorthForkWineTours.com

www.townsendmanorinn.com

www.northforktrolley.com/current-specials.htm or call 631-369-3031

www.hamptonjitley.com

Restaurant Review

By Linda Blume

My sister and I recently lunched at the **Chesapeake Gourmet Café** inside the store located at Prime Outlets in Queenstown. The food was delicious, moderately priced, and a nice surprise to fuel more shopping.

My shrimp salad sandwich was wonderfully full of Old-Bay-seasoned shrimp salad with lettuce and tomato. My sister got a combo of a half sandwich plus a bowl of soup. This ex-patriot of Maryland declared the Maryland Crab soup delicious “with just the right amount of kick” and the chicken salad sandwich was “creamy with a pleasantly sweet crunch from the cranberries and walnuts.” The soup was authentic – it had a shell in it.

Buffalo chicken salad and seafood salad were also available separately or in a sandwich (six choices of bread). Made-to-order sandwiches using a good selection of meats and cheeses are also served. The café offers entrée salads, several kinds of quiche, crab pretzels, muffins and scones, specialty cheeses and spreads, and specialty hot and cold beverages.

We didn't partake of desserts, but they looked scrumptious. Individual slices of cake (e.g., Smith Island Cake and Black Forest Cake), cheesecake (e.g., Tuxedo Cheesecake and Key Lime Cheesecake), pie (e.g., blueberry and coconut custard), and dozens of kinds of cookies (e.g., Macadamia Nut and Chocolate Truffle) were very tempting.

This café is good enough, in my opinion, to be a destination in itself. Service is cafeteria-style with counter personnel assembling the sandwiches and ladling the soup. Other items are individually wrapped and available on the cafeteria line. The seating area isn't fancy, but it is adequate. All in all, we had a terrific lunch for an affordable price.

LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

Woman's Fashion Jewelry Store to Benefit Queen Anne's Chorale



Accents, a woman's fashion jewelry and accessories store, will sponsor a fundraiser for the **Queen Anne's Chorale** on **November 29 from 3 to 9 p.m.** *Accents*, located in the Queenstown Outlets on Routes 50 and 301, will give the QA Chorale **10%** of every sale between those hours. Shoppers who are looking for Christmas gifts will find necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, scarves, handbags, and designer jewelry at affordable prices.

The Queen Anne's Chorale, now in its 22nd year is committed to enhancing the lives of Bay Area residents through a variety of quality choral music. This year's Christmas concert, “**A Holiday Pops Concert**” will be held on **December 6, at 4 p.m.** at the **Todd Performing Arts Center, Chesapeake College in Wye Mills**. For more information, please visit www.qachorale.org or call 410-827-0825

Winterfest of Lights

Ocean City's Winterfest of Lights presents dazzling lights on winter nights from **November 19, 2009 – January 2, 2010**. Almost a million holiday lights sparkle throughout Ocean City. Tour the streets of Ocean City to see the old-fashioned lighted wreaths and the Avenue of Trees on Baltimore Avenue from 15 to 32 Streets. Take a night drive through the tunnel of lights at the Inlet, and head to Northside Park on 127 Street where you can ride on the Winterfest Express to discover a winter wonderland of spectacular animated displays including the themed exhibits of the Twelve Days of Christmas and your favorite fairy tales. Hours are Sunday – Thursday, 5:30 –9:30 p.m., and Friday – Saturday, 5:30 -10:30 p.m. The fee to ride the Winterfest Express is \$4 for adults and children 11 years of age and older, and children 10 and under are free. For details, visit www.ococean.com/events.

Soup 'n Walk



This month's Soup n' Walk at Adkins Arboretum will be held on **November 21**, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., and is entitled "Berries, Nuts, and Seeds." The walkers will identify dogwood, hibiscus, partridgeberry, oak, juniper, tulip tree, verbena, ironwood, strawberry bush, hickory, and beech and will enjoy a delicious and healthy lunch (sixteen-bean soup, orange walnut salad with citrus vinaigrette, anadama oatmeal bread with cheddar cheese, and fresh fruit crisp). The price is \$18 members, \$20 nonmembers. Preregistration is required by calling 410-634-2847, extension 0. For more information, see www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Lights on the Bay



The Lights on the Bay display is a scenic drive along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay with more than 60 spectacular animated and stationary displays illuminating the roadway at Sandy Point State Park. The show will open to the public on **November 21** and will run through **January 3**. The hours for the show are 5 - 10 p.m. each evening. The cost of the show is \$14 per vehicle. There will be discount coupons for weekday admission except holidays, available in some local publications and at some local businesses (e.g., *The Baltimore Sun*, *Pennysaver*, *The Capital*, Graul's Markets). The event is sponsored by the Anne Arundel Medical Center. For more information, see www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/Southern/sandypoint.html.

Sunday Family Program

The next Sunday Family Program at Adkins Arboretum will be on **November 22**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The theme will be "Time Out" and will provide insight into why daily outdoor time is essential to our well being and will offer interesting solutions for spending even a few moments outdoors every day. Parents will learn strategies for encouraging children to take pleasure in simply being outdoors. Pack a lunch and dress for both inside and outdoor activities. The fee is \$5 per person members and \$7 per person nonmembers. Preregistration is required by calling 410-634-2847, extension 0. For details, see www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Holiday Shoppers Fair

This event will take place at the Ocean City Convention Center on **November 27 – 29**. The holiday shopping extravaganza will include quality photography, florals, jewelry, nautical items, toys, candles, sports autographs, and more. Children’s activities are offered along with a visit with Santa. Admission is charged. Hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, see www.ococean.com/events.



Country Crafts Guild Fall Arts & Crafts Show

Rock Hall will host a Fall Arts and Crafts show on **November 27 - 28** at the Rock Hall Fire House, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Handmade arts and crafts will include pottery, miniatures, woodworking, folk art, jewelry, knitting, quilts, and more. Christmas decorations and ornaments will also be featured. For details, see www.kentcounty.com/events.

Chestertown Antiques Show and Sale

Chestertown Middle School (402 E. Campus Street) is the site of this year’s Antiques Show and Sale on **November 27-29**. You’ll see period furniture, jewelry, primitives, linens, oriental rugs, silver, glass, brass, postcards, china, Chinese export porcelain, and much more. Hours are Friday 4 - 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, call 410-810-3837. Admission is charged.

Fall Nature Walk

Naturalist Shirley Bailey will lead a Fall Nature Walk on **November 28** at 2 p.m. at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge. The walk will be along a trail, and Ms. Bailey will point out the many different trees, plants, birds, and other wildlife that may be seen. Admission is free. Meet at the Visitors Center. For more information, see www.fws.gov/blackwater.

Bird Walk

Harry Armistead will lead a Bird Walk on **November 29** at 8 a.m. at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge. The event is free. Bring your binoculars and field guides. Meet at the Visitors Center. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/blackwater.

Christmas Garden of Trains

Gaze in wonder at this holiday-themed train display at the Cambridge Rescue Fire Company in historic downtown Cambridge, **December 1 – 31**. Admission is free with donations accepted. For more information, go to www.ci.cambridge.md.us.

State House by Candlelight



The Maryland State House in Annapolis will be open and decorated for the holiday season on **December 4 - 5**, 7 - 9 p.m. There will also be a variety of musical entertainment. For information, call 410-260-6400.

Centreville Christmas Parade

The Annual Centreville Christmas Parade will be Friday, December 4. Centreville Parks Board and *Centreville Alive!* are adding to the festivities. There will be Christmas trees decorated by local Boy & Girl Scout troops, the Totland Nursery, and others lining Lawyers Row. There will be a Santa House (constructed by Jim Roe and Callahan's Appliance) where children can visit Santa after the parade in the lot beside the Board of Education building. Sponsors are being sought for the Santa Shack. Those interested in donating time or funds should contact Kara Snyder at 443-262-8390.

13th Annual Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Open House

Blackwater NWR will hold an Open House on **December 5**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come out and enjoy one of the best times of year at the refuge while shopping for unique gifts for nature lovers. There will be a Bird Walk, Eagle Prowl, and ranger-led tours. There will be crafts and activities for the children and free refreshments for all. Several local artists and artisans will be on hand to display and sell their creations. Admission is free. For information, go to www.friendsofblackwater.org.

11th Annual Heck with the Malls

Experience a Centreville-wide open house on **December 5**, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will be unique artwork and gifts, artist vendors, refreshments, music, and more. Admission is free.

Old Fashioned Christmas

Experience an Old Fashioned Christmas at the Sudlersville Train Station Museum in Sudlersville (191 Linden Street) on **December 5** and **12**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. The museum will be open and a model train will be running. For more information, telephone 410-438-3501.

Holiday Greens Sale



Adkins Arboretum will hold their annual Holiday Greens Sale on **December 5**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. There will be fresh local greens, decorated wreaths, swags, roping, boxwood trees, and other natural materials offered for sale. For additional information, go to www.adkinsarboretum.org.

Holiday Open House

Join the Historic Annapolis Foundation on **December 6**, noon – 5 p.m., at the William Paca House in Annapolis (186 Prince George Street) to celebrate the holidays at an open house. Tour the William Paca House and learn how 18th century Annapolitans celebrated the holidays. Children are invited to make holiday gifts and enjoy craft activities at History Quest. Admission is \$15 per person. For more information, visit www.annapolis.org.

Bird Walk

Harry Armistead will lead a Bird Walk on **December 6** at 8 a.m. at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge. The event is free. Bring your binoculars and field guides. Meet at the Visitors Center. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/blackwater.

Christmas in St. Michaels



Come enjoy the festive parade, historic home tours, a gingerbread house display, events with Santa, and much more at Christmas in St. Michaels on **December 12-13** in the Historic District. There are free as well as ticketed events planned. For a complete schedule, go to www.christmasinstmichaels.org.

Bird Walk

Naturalist Shirley Bailey will lead a Bird Walk on **December 12** at 8 a.m. at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge. The event is free. Bring your binoculars and field guides. Meet at the Visitors Center. For more information, visit www.fws.gov/blackwater.

Enchanted Campground Driving Tour

Martinak State Park in Denton will host a driving tour **December 15–31**, 6-9 p.m. You can take a relaxing ride through festive, twinkling lights around the park. For more information, see www.tourcaroline.com.

Holiday Carriage Rides Downtown Easton

Carriage Rides around Historic Downtown Easton will take place on **November 24, December 4, December 11, and December 18**, 5-8 p.m. The rides depart from the corner of Dover and Harrison Streets. The event is free. For information, go to www.eastonmainstreet.com.



The League of Women Voters of Queen Anne’s County

The League of Women Voters of Queen Anne’s County is a nonpartisan organization. Its membership is made up of women and men over the age of 18. The mission of the Queen Anne’s League is to help democracy work by encouraging the informed participation of citizens in their government.

To this end, the Queen Anne’s County League holds candidate and informational forums, and publishes *The Guide to Elected Officials* and *The Voters’ Guide*. Published for both the primary and general elections, *The Voters’ Guide* includes a brief biography of all the candidates and their positions on important issues. It is distributed in all the local newspapers and made available in libraries and other public places. The League does not endorse candidates. The League also aids in voter registration and helps the Board of Elections with signage at the polls on election days. Many League members serve as Election Judges.

Every year, the League joins the Kent County League of Women Voters and holds two “Reporting to the People” forums – a legislative preview held before the Maryland General Assembly begins and a legislative review held at the conclusion of the General Assembly’s session. Our elected Delegates and State Senator take this opportunity to describe the hopes and the accomplishments of the General Assembly and answer questions from the audience.

Since 2010 is an election year, it will be a busy one for the League. On the ballot in September and again in November will be candidates for County Commissioner, Sheriff, State's Attorney, House of Delegates, State Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, State Attorney General, Governor, as well as other elective offices. To help voters make informed choices, the League will be holding numerous candidate forums for both the primary and general elections. The League also holds candidate forums for seats on the Board of Education and town councils.

This winter, the League is holding two informational forums – one on the 2010 Census in January and, in March, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, an interactive forum on sea-level rise and coastal flooding.

The League is governed by a Board of Directors meets monthly. Members are welcome to attend all Board meetings, and strongly encouraged to attend the League's Annual Meeting in April. Members support the mission of the League in a variety of ways: helping with informational and candidate forums, working on publications, registering voters, serving on the Board, or simply through their membership. For more information or to join, please contact the League at LWVQAC@toadmail.com or call 410-758-3071 or 410-643-1433.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

from Brenda Stoltz

Crab Quiche



Filling

7 ½ ounces fresh lump crab meat
½ cup Swiss cheese, grated
½ cup Colby cheese, grated
4 eggs
2 cups half-and-half

⅓ cup onion, minced
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 tablespoon fresh parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 425. Prepare your favorite piecrust. Place in the bottom and sides of a 9" pie pan. Over the dough, sprinkle all of the crab meat, then all of the cheese. In a bowl, beat the eggs, cream, onion, salt, and cayenne until blended. Pour mixture over crabmeat and cheese. Sprinkle with parsley. Place pan on a cookie sheet; set on middle rack in oven. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes, and then reduce heat to 300 degrees F. Bake 30 minutes more or until knife, when inserted, comes out clean. Remove quiche from oven; let cool 10 minutes. Cut and serve warm. Yields 6 slices.



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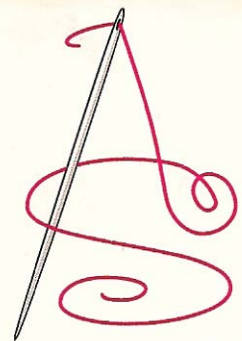
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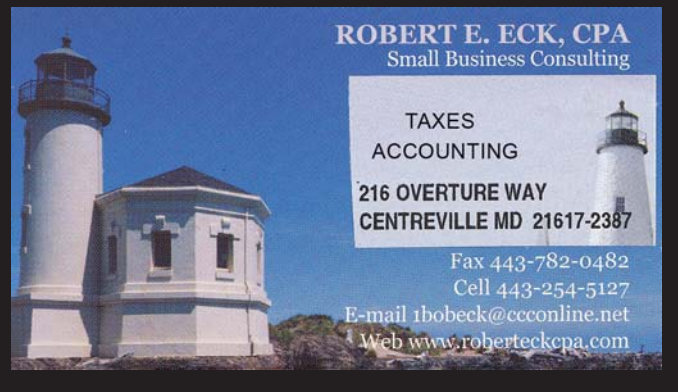
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