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LIBRETTO

December, 2015

Symphony Village's Newsletter

Vol. X No. 12

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.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!



Ed Ritchey & Laura Bittinger
358 Overture Way

Barney & Rita Stephens
169 Orchestra Place

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COVENANTS COMMITTEE— *Chris Pariseau--Chairman Covenants Committee*

It has come to our attention through observations of all the Christmas decorations that several homes have obscured their house numbers. There are over 30 homes whose house numbers are not visible. It is extremely important that homeowners keep their house numbers visible so that any emergency response team may find the correct address. Several wreaths hanging from the outside lights on the garage hide the house numbers. We strongly encourage those who have blocked house numbers to take steps to make them visible from the street. There are also several homes that have arborvitae trees or other decorative shrubs that are also blocking the house numbers. Please cut back or trim these shrubs and trees to make sure your house number is visible. We want everyone to be safe during Christmas and throughout the year. Please take the necessary steps to make your house numbers visible.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE—*Vinny Volpicelli, Chair; Carolyn Harty & Margo Wagner, Co-Vice Chairs Ladies*

Happy Hour—December 17, 5:30 p.m. Remember to sign up in the Activities Book.

Holiday Happy Hour—Saturday, December 19, 6 to 8 p.m.



New Year's Eve Celebration – Thursday, December 31, 9:30 to 1 a.m.

Lifestyle Committee Meeting – Monday, January 4, at 7 p.m.

Happy Hour—Saturday, January 9, 6 to 8 p.m.*

Happy Hour—Saturday January 23, 6 to 8 p.m.*

***Note --There will be two Saturday Happy Hours in January due to scheduling conflicts at the Clubhouse.**

Holiday Events

- Our **SV Holiday Party** will be on Saturday, December 19, at 6 p. m. Please make this special HH your opportunity to dress up and bring your best appetizer or dessert recipe to share. There will be eggnog at the bar and caroling around the piano! It was decided not to have a Secret Santa Gift Exchange, but will not be doing that as it takes too much time away from eating, drinking, and talking!
- **New Year's Eve** – \$10 per person. DJ by Grandmaster Randy Officer from 9:30 to 1 a.m. Champagne toast! Noisemakers & Hats! Snacks & Desserts! Please sign up in the Activities Book and make your check payable to SVHOA. You can leave the check with management at the front desk or put your envelope in the lockbox on the counter. Randy is taking song dedications! You can contact him at <mailto:randy.officer@atlanticbb.net>.

Our Gratitude Dinner Has Changed Dates Again – The Last Time!

A special Happy Hour to honor Symphony Village Committee Volunteers has been changed to Saturday, March 19. We are sorry for the confusion. The first date in January interfered with Bingo and too many people would not be able to attend on the second date in February since they are away from the Village for the winter. So, we will celebrate our neighbors who are so willing to put in time to make SV a great place to live; and perhaps inspire more folks to volunteer in March. We'll combine this event with some St. Patrick's Day celebration and libation as well.



Mark this date in **GREEN INK!!**

Theatre Production in the Planning Stage

Mark your calendar for a relevant historic play regarding Harriet Tubman known for her dedication to the Underground Railroad. Harriet lived outside of Cambridge. We will put together a Lifestyle night. We will be carpooling to the college followed by a Happy Hour and dessert back at the Clubhouse.

Chesapeake College--Friday, February 19, 2016

The Spirit of Harriet Tubman at 7 p.m. Location: Todd Performing Arts Center Theatre

Tickets: \$20 Adults/\$10 Students



For a breathtaking hour, actor Leslie McCurdy embodies the "spirit" of Harriet Tubman and shares Harriet's empowering story woven with words said to have been Harriet's own. Leslie takes the audience through Ms. Tubman's childhood, her harrowing solo flight from slavery, her dedicated involvement with the Underground Railroad, her victorious rescue mission during the Civil War, and her commitment to others in her later years. This inspiring solo performance, by an artist described as being "of exceptional skill and grace," teaches of the faith and conviction that drove Harriet Tubman to follow her dreams; the spirit of the past connecting with the present, inspiring her charges to have the courage to do the same in envisioning their future.

Need Hosts for Happy Hours – Free Drinks and Food!

To keep the fun rolling, Lifestyle Committee members will be asking folks who attend these functions to please agree to host future happy hours! Happy Hour hosts and hostesses will now be able to drink for free and don't have to bring food! What a deal! Donna will give you a wild ride home in the golf cart if you imbibe too much.

Hosting is a very easy assignment and a great way to meet fellow residents. Please review the sheet in the Activities Book that includes the step-by-step guide. You can select a theme if you wish; we will advertise that theme. You will greet people as they arrive, enjoy yourself through the evening, and help with simple cleanup at the end. If interested, please sign up in the Activities Book or contact Carolyn Harty or Margo Wagner to register. Lifestyle Committee members are always there and can help.

Bartender's Needed—Everyone is invited to sign up to tend bar for Happy Hour on the first Friday and third Saturday of each month. The sign-up sheet for January 2 through March 21 awaits you at the office. Go ahead, you know you want to do it. Have a question email skormeyer@msn.com or call [443-386-6553](tel:443-386-6553).

Lunch Bunch—The January Lunch Bunch is scheduled for Hunter's Tavern at the Tidewater Inn located at 101 East Dover Street in Easton on Thursday, January 7, 12:30 p.m. Hopefully, we will have a beautiful January day to stroll in the streets of downtown Easton after lunch. Enjoy great food, good company, and the opportunity to do some shopping. Remember to sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse.



Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 if you have a question or need a ride.

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SPOTLIGHT ON OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Ed Frey, Chair; Vice Chair Dominick Mancinelli

Marge Strano, Writer

In a meeting with Ed Frey, Chairman of the Operations Committee, we discussed many topics and issues related to Operations. Ed has been the Chairman of the Operations Committee for six years. This committee meets every third Thursday of the month. An agenda is set. The minutes are posted on the SV Website.

Responsibilities

The Operations Committee is responsible for working with the Board of Directors and Manager of SV as it relates to all of the physical assets including grounds, trees, and related areas. The Operations Committee develops a RFP (Request for Proposal) for projects they develop, assists with developing contracts, and works with the Manager in the implementation of the project. A flowchart illustrates the procurement process in the [SVHOA Terms of Reference Appendix C—Addendum 1](#). This document gives detailed information as to how an idea or suggestion becomes a project and the steps necessary to see the project through its completion.

The Operations Committee also develops an annual budget proposal for the projected projects and services for the year as they relate to operations.

Subcommittees—Three subcommittees were established in 2014.

Landscaping and Irrigation—This subcommittee meets with the contractor for landscaping and irrigation and reviews the schedule for service and the weekly irrigation. The committee also monitors the use of the allotment of 12 million gallons of water. The monitoring is extremely important since the State of Maryland imposes heavy fines should SV exceed its water allotment. A variable frequency drive (VFD) is currently being used on the Number 2 pump. This control keeps the water lines filled with water and makes for a more unified opening and closing of the individual sprinkler heads and a more even distribution of the water. A VFD control will be added to Pump Number 5 next year. In addition "flow meters" will be installed on the pumps with the VFD controllers. This will allow the pumps with the VFD controllers to shut off if a leak is detected.

Trees—SV hired Bob Stanley, an arborist, as part of an ongoing project to improve the health and appearance of the trees in our community. There are approximately 1,800 trees in SV. As a result of Mr. Stanley's recommendations, 42 curbside trees will be replaced on December 18--late fall is an optimum time to plant new trees. The rest of the common area trees will be addressed in 2016. There are plans to hire a *Treescape* contractor next year.

Clubhouse Maintenance—This subcommittee is responsible for assisting the SV Manager with all of the projects related to our physical assets (Clubhouse, pools, pavilion, tennis courts, etc.). A Comprehensive Inspection Plan has been developed to insure that our assets are well maintained and repaired as needed. The frequency of the inspection is outlined in the Comprehensive Inspection Plan document. A Project Closeout and Contractor/Vendor Performance Review has been developed for use after each project is completed to insure that the project has been completed to the satisfaction of the project contract. A review of contractor/vendor performance as related to the contract is also completed at the end of each project. This review will be used to assist the HOA Board and the Operations Committee in awarding future contracts.

The newly repaired Pergola is nearly maintenance free. Outdoor tables and umbrellas have been replaced. In addition, a sidewalk survey is completed annually to address any "tripping hazards" in the community. The

drainage issue on the sidewalk near the parking lot on the right of the Clubhouse has been addressed and the work is now complete. Hopefully, the water and ice that collects at that point will no longer be a problem.

You may have also noticed that the pub tables and chairs have been added to the bar area. The tables and chairs are a pleasant and comfortable addition to our bar area and appear to be in constant use at many of our SV events!

The many projects completed through the work and effort of the Operations Committee and the HOA have certainly added to the general appearance and comfort of the SV community. Look for additional information and an update on the Operations Committee in the Spring!

OUTREACH – *Bea Trotta, President*

Another Successful Food Drive!— *By Loretta Quigley*



In the group photo: left to right: Loretta Quigley, Kathy McManus, Dave Peterson, Willie DiLaura, John DiLaura, Larry Hodges, Mary Ciesielski, Rosemary Page, Teri Nudo, Scott Page, Lloyd McAtee, Carol Porosoff. Not pictured: Jim Cooke, Jack Hennessey, Linda Blume

Sharing the success: Loretta Quigley, Outreach Food Drive Chair, and Jone Taylor, Nurturing Program Coordinator for Social Services QAC.

Dear Neighbors and SV Friends,

I am so very pleased to report that we exceeded our goal for this year's food drive, and our final total was 2,096 items of food that was delivered to QAC Social Services on November 16. Our liaison at QAC Social Services is Jone Taylor, Nurturing Program Coordinator. Many thanks to our *Collection Home* volunteers:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carlene and Jim Cooke | Rosemary and Scott Page |
| Carol and Mel Porosoff | Lloyd and Betty McAtee |
| Linda Blume | Jack and Joan Hennessey |
| Carol and Larry Hodges | Dave and Sue Peterson |
| Mary and Bob Ciesielski | Willie and John DiLaura |
| Kathy and Tom McManus | Teri and Jerry Nudo |

Your generosity has helped to feed many hungry people in QAC at this holiday season. Thank you once again for assisting Outreach with this very important project!

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SV Outreach Online Fundraising—Merchandise Shop featuring new SVOPI Logo!



The Outreach Committee has just kicked off a new fundraising venture in cooperation with Cafe Press—an online shop for clothing and gifts. These items have the colorful new SV Outreach logo printed on them! For every item sold SVO receives funds to help support the Committee's donations to non-profits in Queen Anne's County. For now, all you have to do is link in or type the following web address into your browser: www.cafepress.com/symphonyvillageoutreach. This link will take you directly to our SVO shop where you will see a choice of t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, pj's, children's clothes, aprons, and even a shirt for Fido. There is also a variety of gift items including drinkware, bags, teddy bears, key chains, etc., Remember Christmas is fast approaching –start doing your shopping now. Show your Symphony Village pride and help Outreach raise funds.

SV Outreach Vehicle Donation Program—"Car Donating Is Easy"—Launched to Raise Funds for Symphony Village Outreach!



Donating a vehicle is a great way to support Symphony Village Outreach. Cars aren't the only vehicle that you can donate—motorcycles, boats, RVs, even quads can help Symphony Village Outreach. These items will be auctioned and the net revenue received, after a small percentage of administrative expenses are deducted, will be sent to Symphony Village Outreach to support the organization's charitable programs servicing Queen Anne's County.

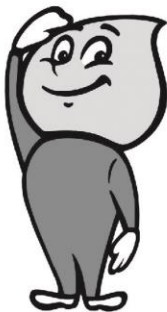
Each donor will receive a letter from Car Donating Is Easy (CARS) noting your charitable donation that can be used as a tax deduction. Family and friends living in other states can also donate in the name of Symphony Village Outreach. The CARS organization makes donating easy. You make the initial call or email request; they handle everything for you including pickup. You can call the CARS toll free number **877-537-5277** to get started or go to the Outreach webpage and click the CARS link to donate. A representative will call you.



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Once Again, Sponsored by ***Sheehy Lexus of Annapolis***

Thursday January 21, 2016

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

at the SV Clubhouse

\$30 Donation per person (80% tax deductible)

Includes morning coffee & tea, lunch, and door prizes.

50/50 Raffle

Reserve a table on the sign-up sheets in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse.

Beginning December 7 (Deadline Friday January 15)

Payment by check is due at sign up!

If you need help getting a group together, contact:

Lauren Rose at 443-262-8238 or swartz.lauren@gmail.com.

Other questions, please call Carlene Cooke at 443-262-8146 or

carlene.cooke@gmail.com.

Bring your own cards and games for your game of choice.

(Bridge, canasta, poker, scrabble, mahjongg, etc.)

If you cannot attend the event, but would like to support the Activities of the

Outreach Program with a donation, please bring a check to Cindy in the

Clubhouse, or mail to SVOPI, Box 642, Centreville, MD 21617.

(This donation is 100% deductible.)

Please make all checks payable to SV Outreach Program, Inc. or SVOPI.

SVOPI, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS—Carol Hodges, Chair; Linda Blume, Vice Chair

Thanks to the Committee

I wish to thank the members of the committee for all of the hard work they do. Thanks to John Schultz for such a wonderful job keeping our website up-to-date. Thanks to Linda Blume for filling in in my absence and for the Local Events for the Daily Bulletin and the ***Libretto***, to Brenda Stoltz and Marge Strano who take their turn at assembling the ***Libretto***, to Charlene Smallwood Brown for maintaining the Picture Directory and Recipe website, to Bob Rose for his great job managing the ads for the ***Libretto***, to Carolyn Kraft for recording the minutes each month, to Gil Hoffman and George Drake for photography and technical help, to Joan Hennessey for her valuable help with editing the spelling and grammar in the ***Libretto***, to Eileen Rowley and Sue Canfield for the welcoming of new residents, to Dave Gallop for the Trivia and maintaining the ***Libretto*** Index, and to Jim Arnts for technical help and for important posts to ECHOES. Thanks also to all of the committee for editing help.

SNEAKERS—Linda Farrar, President

Silent Auction—We are happy to report that Sneakers realized net proceeds of over \$11,400 from the November Silent Auction. You, our Symphony Village residents, have made this possible. Again, thank you for your continued generosity. The proceeds will be used to support the students of Centreville Schools.

As we move into the New Year, please mark your calendars for Sneakers upcoming gala event on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Details will follow.

Santa Tree—A big thanks is extended to all the residents of Symphony Village for their generosity and support of the Santa Giving Tree again this year. Your overwhelming response will provide an opportunity for a happier and brighter holiday this year for children who are in extreme need.

Centreville School Cubby Chorale—We thank the students of the Centreville Elementary School Cubby Chorale who performed at the Clubhouse for the residents of Symphony Village on Monday, December 14. Many residents attended this delightful performance and listened to the students raise their charming, young voices in song.

Kennard Elementary School Book Giveaway—Sign-up sheets are in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse for the December 21, book giveaway at Kennard Elementary School. If you have a couple of hours to share, please sign up to help.

Next Meeting—Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, at 3 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We welcome all residents to join us.

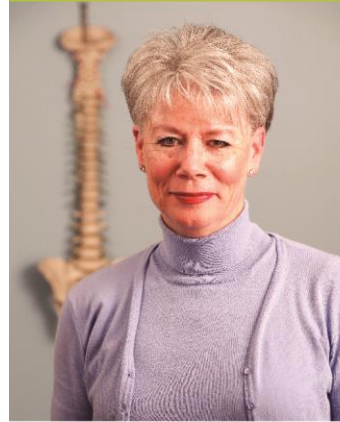
SV SPECIAL STORAGE COMMITTEE KICKOFF—*Pat Fox, Chair; Joe Brown, Vice Chair*

The Special Storage Committee set up by the HOA Board to investigate storage options at the Clubhouse will be kicking off its analysis in early January. To gather as much information as possible about community items owned and paid for by the HOA that need to be stored at the Clubhouse, the Committee is asking that anyone with stored items in their home please contact one of the committee members. This would include regular committees but also our nonprofits such as Outreach, Sneakers, and special holiday event groups. Our goal is to create sufficient storage to house decorations, equipment, etc., at the Clubhouse so no one is burdened with them at their home. While we have an extensive list of folks who have already reported what they are personally storing, we would appreciate hearing from residents who have not contacted us before as well as any changed situations from those who have.

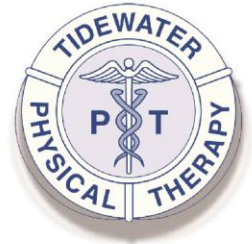
Our committee members are Pat Fox (Chairman), Joe Brown (Vice Chairman), Sue Canfield & Jane Romany (Co-Secretaries), Tony Loiacono, Rich Ryan, Kathy Mizer, Dominick Mancinelli, Bob Nilsson, Jim Arnsts and Cindy Backer. Dave Peterson is the HOA Board liaison. Robert Joy will attend meetings as Financial Advisor from the Board.

The first working meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, at 2 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Community members are welcome to attend as there will be a question and answer period. We will also have periodic updates in the *Libretto* as the work progresses.

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CLUBS AND CLASSES

NINTH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY BIKE RIDE—Lloyd McAtee

Mark your calendars for the 9th annual New Year's Day cycling event "I've ridden my bike every day this year." All Symphony Village bike riders are encouraged to meet at the Clubhouse at 10 a.m. on January 1, 2016, and ride for as long as weather permits. Some cycle a few hundred feet and others have been known to ride for as much as five to ten miles within Symphony Village. Following the ride, all participants traditionally gather in the Clubhouse for hot chocolate and pastries served by Nancie Cameron. Each year it seems some bikers are more eager to return to the Clubhouse for Nancie's delicious treats than rack up mileage and "bragging rights" for the New Year. Come join the camaraderie on New Year's Day.

NOTE: Helmets are required.
(If you need a helmet, call Lloyd McAtee at 410-758-2443.)



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BRIDGE CLASSES

Bridge classes have come to an end. A Special "Thank You" to Tom Love for his time in the preparation of lesson plans, for the excellent presentations, and for his patience with beginning bridge players!



CERT TEAM—George Drake

Your Cert Team wishes you HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a SAFE, HEALTHY, and HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Make a New Year's Resolution(s) from these reminders.

1. Have you completed the *SV Emergency Information Form*? If not, visit the Clubhouse office, complete it, and give it to Cindy.
2. Is your *File of Life* completed, updated, and on your refrigerator? If you need a *File of Life*, call Eileen Rowley at 410-758-0358 and leave a message.
3. Have you considered installing a wireless keypad garage door opener? A keypad would make a great surprise *Holiday* gift—Price & Gannon and Lowe's have in stock.
4. Info? George Drake, 410-758-8266

DINING IN—Victoria Weber



It's the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year!"— the theme for the December's *Dining In*.

There were two groups for the Christmas/Hanukah Brunch. Sharon and Jim Roe entertained 26 Villagers. Kathy and Tom McManus hosted ten Villagers. The menu included wonderful breakfast foods, various casseroles, sweets, coffee, and wine to satisfy the palate. A special *Thank You* to the Roe family and the McManus family for hosting this event and to everyone who attended. What a way to celebrate the Holidays!

The January 2016 *Dining In* will be held on Sunday, January 24, at 6 p.m. The theme will be "*Baby Its Cold Out There.*" The sign-up sheet is in the Clubhouse. To our new residents: this is a great way to meet your neighbors in a small-intimate environment. We share our favorite recipes and enjoy many conversations. The group is not limited to couples. If this type of event appeals to you, do not stay home because of being single. Hope to see you in January.

Gazebo Garden Club and Victory Garden—Jack Hennessey

Attention all victory gardeners! Please confirm your desire to have a plot in the veggie garden in 2016. Please email Jack at jhennessey@atlanticbb.net. Also, I started to burn off some of the weeds in the garden, but someone from the fire department saw the smoke and told me that such burning is not allowed. I guess Dave Peterson will have to plow the weeds under. One last item: Will the group that requested a martin house in their area please contact me. The cost will be about \$200, but labor and installation will be free.

Now, for the gazebo garden—it's a mess! But management has been requested to chop down everything but

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the anchor plant in each of the twenty beds. We still have room for seven more caretakers in the gazebo garden. Electricity has been restored to the gazebo, which has been decorated by Dan Battista and Jack. Thanks to the many residents who have expressed their enjoyment of the decorations. Several children have said that the gazebo looks like a merry-go-round. Well said!

We will have a Christmas sing-a-long at the gazebo, probably on Wednesday, December 23, depending on the weather. We will keep you posted.

Quilting Club—*Carlene Cooke*

There was lots of fun and laughter at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, December 8, when the Quilting Group held their annual Christmas party. Joan Hennessey taught the group how to make two Christmas ornaments after which they enjoyed a delicious lunch complete with yummy desserts.



The group resumes the twice-a-month meetings on Tuesday, January 5, when we will have an all-day sew-a-thon to make quilts for Project Linus.

For information about the Quilting Group, please contact Carlene Cooke at [443-262-8146](tel:443-262-8146).

Left to right: Courtney Pilgrim, Karen King, Marilyn Williams, Dorothy Mazzocchi, Pat Kindle, Shirley Clark, Carlene Cooke, Amy Marotta, Cindy Backer, Lauren Rose, Joan Hennessey, Betty Gingerich, Linda Farrar, Christa Fookes. Absent from photo: Mary Lewis

Social Singles—*Carol Donnelly and Joyce Brown, Co-Chairs*

- **Future Meetings**—January/February meetings will be in the Clubhouse: We are moving the meeting time to 10:30 a.m. so that the Water Aerobics members can join us. We meet the second Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room: Will bring breakfast treats!! Future meetings will be second Tuesday of the month. Celebrate the Holidays!! See everyone in January 2016!!
- **Looking Ahead**—Two of us have already signed up for the “Beautiful: The Carole King Musical” in NYC: Sunday, May 22. \$160—Bus and show admission. Send your \$50 deposit to Grasonville Senior Center: P.O. Box 147, Grasonville, MD 21638. Sign-up sheet in Activities Book.
- **Future Planning**— At our January 12th meeting we will explore:
 - Movie and Matinee in Easton?
 - Planning an overnight trip to Cape May in the spring.
 - Happiest of Holidays and a Happy New Year—Carol Donnelly and Joyce Brown

Reading for Fun Book Club—*Jack Hennessey*

The book that we reviewed at our November 17 meeting was a biography entitled *The Wright Brothers*, which was extremely well written by David McCullough. I think it is safe to assume that all of our readers know who the Wright Brothers are, but few of

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them may know any details of the brothers' lives. McCullough delivers a tidy and relatively short history of the lives of Orville (1871-1948) and Wilbur (1867-1912). Their father was a bishop, and the brothers lived in the same house, worked together six days a week, ate their meals together, kept their money in a joint bank account, and even thought together, as Wilbur once claimed. Neither of them ever had a romantic relationship, and they both died as bachelors.

They lived in Dayton, OH, ran a bicycle shop, and performed their first successful flight in Kitty Hawk, NC (no surprise) after much trial and error. McCullough details the extensive competition from several European countries, and he tells how the US finally got involved and bought many planes from the Wrights, creating the dawn of aviation!

This book was recommended by Lee Ettman and received a rating of 7.8 on a scale of 1 to 10. The Book Club will be taking a holiday break in December. The book for our January 19 meeting is *A Man Called Ove* written by Fredrik Backman, and recommended by Jack Hennessey.

DECEMBER TRIVIA QUESTIONS
2015 Oscars

1. What movie won the Oscar for Best Picture in 2015?
2. Actor in a Leading Role?
3. Actress in a Leading Role?
4. Actor in a Supporting Role?
5. Actress in a Supporting Role? *Answers on last page!*

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18

All residents of Symphony Village are welcome to attend the weekly **Friday Night Dinners** at the Legion Hall:



Friday, December 18: Adjutant's Crab Cakes

Friday, December 25: No Dinner

Friday, January 1: No Dinner

Friday, January 8: To Be Announced

Friday, January 15: To Be Announced

Call the Post at 410-758-3584 if you have any questions.

The Gingerich Train Display



Our train display is up and running as usual and guests with or without grandchildren are welcome to come by to see it. We ask that you call first to see if we are home and the engineer is available. We enjoy visitors.

Larry got his first train for Christmas in 1950 and it still runs with operating equipment of that era which he has continued to collect over the years. He has moved on to the modern era Lionel trains with realistic sounds and remote controls. He can run up to nine trains at once and even has a Thomas train. The Disney train is always popular and he has various Presidential boxcars, cars from

the original thirteen states, military trains, a pink girls train, his favorite University of Michigan train, and a collection of interesting handcars.

He bought me an operating merry-go-round and a flying swing set, my favorite carnival rides. His latest addition to the platform was several years ago when he put his engineering education back to work and built a helix which climbs the trains up to the ceiling track and then back down again. This was a copy of one of Lionel's big store displays.

The disappearing train layout is a favorite of the children as they look with wonder trying to figure out where the train has gone and then it magically appears again. He has some operating equipment set up with buttons for the children to operate. Of course, they love to blow the whistle and load the milk cans into the boxcar even though they have no idea what a milk can is! The lumber mill that cuts the logs is another favorite. The layout is approximately 15 by 35 feet and I am very happy that he has no more room to expand. The wall display racks are also full but, he still seems to find something he cannot live without every year at the York, PA train show.

We hope everyone will come to visit, although we will be in out of town from December 23-30. But it is operational and heated all year round so if you cannot get here before Christmas, plan to come later.

Merry Christmas Larry and Betty Gingerich, 355 Overture Way Telephone: 410-758-3102



Correction to the November *Libretto Trivia Question Number 3.*

The statue in front of the Courthouse of Queen Anne was dedicated in 1977.

Recipe of the Month— *From the Kitchen of Bob Rose*

Brown Sugar Pecan Shortbread Cookies

A combination of oat flour and white rice flour, both of which measure/weigh differently from all-purpose flour, gives these cookies a delicate texture. Although we can't imagine how, baking expert Alice Medrich says they taste even better after a day in airtight, room-temperature storage.

Make Ahead

The dough needs to be refrigerated for at least two hours and preferably overnight. The cookies may be kept in an airtight container for at least two weeks.

Servings

When you scale a recipe, keep in mind that cooking times and temperatures, pan sizes and seasonings may be affected, so adjust accordingly. Also, amounts listed in the directions will not reflect the changes made to ingredient amounts.

Ingredients

1¼ cups plus 2 tablespoons oat flour

⅓ cup white rice flour

¼ cup granulated sugar

2 tablespoons light brown sugar

Generous ¼ teaspoon kosher salt

⅛ teaspoon baking soda

¼ cup cream cheese, at room temperature

12 tablespoons (1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter, at warm room temperature

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1⅔ cups pecans, chopped medium fine

3 to 4 tablespoons coarse sugar, such as turbinado, Demerara, or granulated sugar for rolling

Directions

Whisk together the oat flour, white rice flour, granulated and brown sugars, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl until well blended. Add the cream cheese, butter, and vanilla extract. Use the back of a large spoon or a fork — or your hands — to mash and blend the ingredients into a stiff dough. Mix in the pecans. Shape the dough into a log about 12 inches long and 1¾ inches in diameter (taking care so the ends are not tapered) on a sheet of wax paper. Wrap it tightly in the paper and refrigerate for at least two hours, preferably longer, or overnight.

Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven; preheat to 325 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Unwrap the dough and roll the log in the coarse or granulated sugar to coat it completely. Use a sharp knife to cut it in half; cut each half into 18 slices, spacing them 1½ inches apart on the lined baking sheets as you work. Bake on the upper and lower racks for 15 to 20 minutes, rotating the baking sheets top to bottom and front to back halfway through, until the cookies are golden brown at the edges and browned on the bottom. Transfer the baking sheets to wire racks; cool the cookies completely before serving or storing.

Recipe Source

From cookbook author Alice Medrich. Tested by Bonnie S. Benwick.

Brown Sugar Pecan
Shortbread Cookies



RESTAURANT REVIEW

HOT OFF THE COALS – *Charlene Smallwood Brown*

8356 Ocean Gateway, Easton, MD 21601



As a native of the coal-mining State of West Virginia, I was somewhat intrigued by the name of this new restaurant on Route 50 in the bustling little town of Easton. So, at the end of a swift shopping spree, my brother suggested that we go and check it out. The name sounded familiar, but I couldn't recall when or where I had seen it. Hmm...!

Once you cross over the threshold of the main entrance to "Hot off the Coals", there is a long counter in front of a large wall menu. This is where you could place a takeout order and salivate over the goodies in the counter display case. As you pass the counter and walk around the corner, you will enter the dining area, which seats about 50 people. This is a very clean, friendly eat-in or take-out eatery with a small menu, which I find appealing in small dining establishments. It is not an elite, formal, and fancy Taj Mahal restaurant. So, depending on your lifestyle, you decide if you want to take your significant other there to celebrate a big anniversary.

As I studied the wall and the paper menus, I wanted to order one of each item I saw. Needing to know more about recipes, I engaged in conversation with Mike, the chef, about how he cooked the collard greens. He was very informative and offered me a taste, which he brought to me in a small cup containing much more than I expected. It was delicious, and I ate all of it! He said that he had learned to cook southern food while living in the south.

I convinced myself to go for the gusto and ordered ribs, collard greens, and macaroni. It was delectable and sufficient for two hefty meals. My brother ordered the tacos appetizer and a turkey sandwich combo, and he arrived at the same conclusion. Just for the record, we didn't eat all of our meals in one sitting.

If you are craving comfort food, are in need of a quick, no-frills tasty refill, and do not have an aversion to southern food, this could be the place for you. Having been raised on a basic New England "meat and potatoes" menu, I find the "southern taste" to be absolutely scrumptious.

This restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday through Wednesday, and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday. They also offer catering service. In addition to breakfast items, the menu offers a variety of beef, grilled jerk chicken, and pork BBQ sandwiches, hotdogs, hamburgers and combos, turkey, ham and steak subs, as well as chicken and ribs platters with a variety of sides. A "Kid's Menu" is also available. Please be aware that there are a few non-southern items on the menu.

The owner, Rick, said that he is closing his other "Hot off the Coals" restaurant in Queen Anne, where access is impeded by a large multi-year construction project at the 404/309 intersection. (Bam! That's why the name sounded familiar! I saw it on his truck!) He is seeking a location in a town that can accommodate the volume and traffic needed to keep it healthy.

UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENT

Pictures with Santa



Pictures with Santa, including pets, will take place on **Saturday, December 19**, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Price and Gannon Ace Hardware in Centreville.

All You Can Eat Country Breakfast



The Goodwill Volunteer Fire Company in Centreville will host an All You Can Eat Country Breakfast on **Sunday, December 20**, 7:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children.

RESCHEDULED: Workshop: Winter Craft Wreath



The Centreville Branch of the Queen Anne’s County Library will offer “Winter Craft Wreath” on **Wednesday, December 30**, 6 – 7:30 p.m. Make and take your own beautiful burlap wreath. Craft supplies will be supplied by the library. Advance registration is required and space is limited – call 410-758-0980 or register online at [Winter Craft Wreath](#).

To see a list of tourism and local attraction websites, press “Event Source Links” on the [Sources](#) page on the SV Website

Would you like to place an ad in the Symphony Village Libretto?
[Rates for Placing Ads in the Libretto](#)

Trivia Answers

1. *The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance*
2. *Eddie Redmayne*
3. *Julianne Moore*
4. *J.K. Simmons*
5. *Patricia Arquette*

Information at your Fingertips!

Clubhouse phone number for Dennis or Cindy: 410-758-8500
Dennis Sesplankis' email: dsesplankis@legumnorman.com
Cindy Clough's email: lClough@legumnorman.com
Collection and Recycling by Bates Trucking: 800-840-6454
Bulk Pickup and Yard Waste: 410-758-1180

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