



Photo by George Drake

LIBRETTO

December 2017

Symphony Village's Newsletter

Vol. XI 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!



Ted, Francoise, and Genevieve Wilson
216 Symphony Way

HOA

Congratulations to the New Board

The Annual Meeting was well attended with approximately 267 homes represented in person or via proxy; a total of 67% of the community participated in the election.

Congratulations to the three new members elected to the Board:

Joe Brown Arlyn Marshall Bob Nilsson

The Board convened in Executive Session and selected Officers, which are listed below:

Dave Peterson – President (Board term expires 2019) – Liaison to the Clubhouse Expansion, Lifestyle, Communications & Publications Committees

Pat Fox – Vice President (Board term expires 2019) – Liaison to the Covenants Committee

Arlyn Marshall – Treasurer (Board term expires 2020) – Liaison to the Budget & Finance Committee

Bob Nilsson – Secretary (Board term expires 2020) – Liaison to the Operations Committee

Joe Brown – Director At Large (Board term expires 2020) – Liaison to the Landscape & Irrigation Committee

Please note that the Board has elected to meet monthly with exception of February and November. All Board meetings will be held in the Clubhouse at 10 a.m. with the exception of the Annual Meeting. The first meeting will be **Friday, January 12.**

New To the Symphony Village Website

EXPANSION PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT PAGE!

As announced, the Expansion project will start construction in mid December. It is important that the full community be apprised of what will be happening and any site or building impacts that may occur. At our regular job progress meetings (once – twice a month), the contractor will submit what is called in the industry a “two week look ahead.” This will detail what they are planning to do over the upcoming two week period. The Committee will immediately publish that information on our new [Expansion Project](#) page on the SV Website to keep everyone up to date. We also have a construction calendar prepared so at a glance you can see what broad category of construction is planned or underway. This schedule will also appear on the Home Page calendar as well as on the Master Calendar. Progress photos of the project will be published on this page as they become available. This [Expansion Project](#) web page will be easily accessible from the Home Page or Dashboard as an Expansion Project icon. The webpage also has the architect’s drawings and floor plans that were previously presented to the community and that are now being implemented.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remember the committee sign up is in the Wall Street Room and is due by end of December.

COVENANTS – *Chris Parisaeu, Chair; Kathy Mizer, Co-Chair*

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the Covenants Committee members who worked very hard this past year. It takes time, effort, and a commitment to keep this community looking nice and maintaining the standards that keep Symphony Village looking the way it does. If you see these people during your day, give them a thank you and thank them for their service to the community: Dave Gallop, Joyce Brown, Dan and Vicky Kober, Kathy Mizer, Irene Hoffman, Robert Hardy, and Sandee Love.

I want to invite everyone in the community to consider joining the Covenants Committee. What is involved you might ask? Well the Committee reviews the applications for Exterior Modifications. Members of the Committee review all applications with the homeowners to ensure they follow the Architectural Guidelines. We meet the first Tuesday of every month. Here is your chance to get involved with the community. Several have already signed up for the Committee for next year.

Our first meeting for 2018 will be January 9 at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse. I look forward to meeting new members. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone,

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE – *Randy Officer, Chair; Susan Rayner, Vice-Chair and Secretary; Mary Colling-Officer, Treasurer*

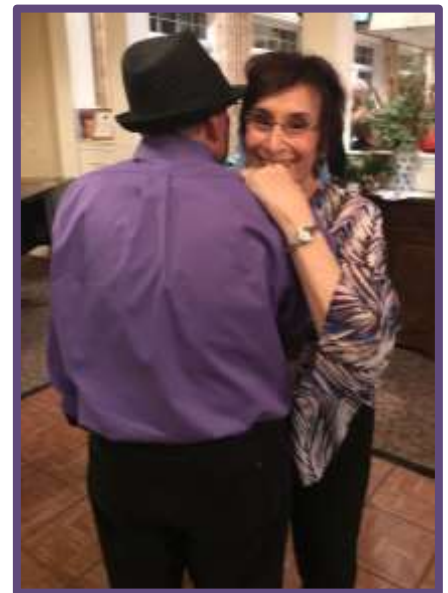
Birthday Happy Hour



On Friday, December 1, we celebrated Libras, Scorpios, Sagittarians, and a few Capricorns at Happy Hour. Zina Lichaa did her usual fantastic job assisted by Barbara Rosdail and Rosemary Page. They

hosted a party for birthdays beginning on September 23 and going until the end of the year. A holiday tree was decorated with photos of all the birthday boys and girls, complete with their unique birthday hats. Zina's cake took the stage early in the evening when it popped open to reveal layers of birthday candles and the Happy Birthday song, which I think is still playing.

Lee and Alan Ettman added Frank Sinatra to the festivities. Since it was Frank's birthday, it was only fitting that his photo was the tree topper. With album covers all around the bar and Randy Officer's music, the evening was a complete success. Of course, knowing the Lifestyle gang, they went one step further with a Frank Sinatra Live-in-Concert music video, after Happy Hour ended. Everyone agreed that it was like being at one of his concerts, live and in person. A truly great time was had by all!



Holiday Brunch



Mary Officer, Zina Lichaa, and all of their elves put on a fabulous brunch on Sunday, December 10. Over 80 residents showed up with all of their holiday finery and delicious casseroles, fruits, and desserts. The elves cooked up lots of bacon and sausage to accompany the dishes. The Concert Hall was beautifully decorated thanks to Mary's snowmen. Everyone had a wonderful time! Thanks to all of the helpers who assisted with the setup, serving, and cleanup. Looking forward to the next brunch when the expansion is complete.

Lifestyle 2017 Wrap Up

The Lifestyle Committee would like to thank all of the residents of Symphony Village for their support in 2017. Our goal was to create events that would appeal to a broad spectrum of interest. To those of you who came to some of the events (Movie Night, Themed Happy Hours, Semi Annual Yard Sales, Picnics, Guest Speakers, Holiday Brunch, Opus Café, Birthday Celebrations, Live Beatles Tribute Concert, Antique Road Show, Schooner Sail, Luau, Ice Cream Social, Churchill Theatre, Football Game, Oktoberfest, Wellness Seminars, Travel Presentation, Barbershop Quartet performance, Motown Night, to name a few), we sincerely thank you and welcome your suggestions to make each event better in the coming year. For those of you who missed our events, we thank you for putting up with all of the announcements and reminders of each.

This coming year will be challenging for the Lifestyle Committee in that our Concert Hall will be unavailable from January to May 2018. We vow to rise to the occasion with more great events, such as Game Night, Guest Speakers, Billiards Tournament, Birthday Happy Hours, Preakness Party, Pool Parties, and more ideas to be developed. We are always looking for creative people to join this Committee, or if you prefer to be a worker bee, please join our list of volunteers that we may call on throughout the year for assistance. Should you have an idea for an event but do not want to join the Committee and attend meetings, please contact someone on the Committee to get your idea on our Agenda.

Our meetings are held the first Monday of the month unless a holiday arises; this January our meeting will be on 0 January 8. Our Committee consists of Randy Officer, Mary Colling-Officer, Mary Jo Keefe, Joe Sikes, Susan Rayner, Tony Loiacono, Zina Lichaa, Carolyn Harty, Celia Love, Ellen Reid, Laura Bittinger, and Victoria Weber. Please look for our events on the [SV Lifestyle](#) page and on Nextdoor.

Still to come:

- **Saturday, December 16, 6 p.m. Holiday Happy Hour** sponsored by The Lifestyle Committee. Please bring your favorite holiday appetizer to share with fellow residents.
- **Sunday, December 17, Holiday House Tour**, sign up for this event has passed. I hope you will join us another year.
- **Sunday, December 31, 9 p.m.– 12:30 a.m. New Year’s Eve Celebration.** Come see in the New Year with friends and neighbors while not leaving the safety of our Village. We have Tommy the DJ who is bringing a light show, great dance music, and favors. Our Bar Manager, Skip Kornmeyer, is offering the Champagne Toast to the New Year and the Lifestyle Committee is providing the noisemakers and tiaras—a great time will be had by all. Cost is \$5 in advance; no money will be taken at the door.
- **Friday, January 5, 6 p.m. Happy Hour Re-Gifting Party.** We have a new event for our first Happy Hour of the Year, a Re-Gifting Party. You know you will get something this year you don’t need or want so trade it in for something you still might not want, but what a fun way to keep the spirit going. Rewrap your unnecessary gift; cost is not a factor. If you don’t want it, the price makes no difference. When you come to the Clubhouse at 6 p.m., you will be given a number. You then place your gift under the tree then at 7 p.m. we will begin taking new gifts. You know the saying, “One person’s trash is another’s treasure.” Don’t miss this new event.

“Note: there will be no movie in January due to the unavailability of the Concert Hall.”



OUTREACH – *Bea Trotta, President*

Outreach 2017 Food Drive: A Huge Success – Loretta Quigley, Event Chair



Thank you to all who put together and delivered food to our collection houses November 15 - 20. This team effort yielded a total of 2135 items delivered to Social Services to be distributed to those in need before Thanksgiving.

Kudos to the collection and delivery team, many of whom have been with this effort since its inception in 2008. We could not have done this without their special help. Many thanks to the

Petersons, Collins, Hodgeses, DiLauras, Ciesielskis, Pages, McAtees, Porosoffs, McManuses, Cookes, Farrars, and Nilssons.

Next year will be our 10th year of partnering with QAC in this effort. Plans are underway to make it a very special year!

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The Ninth Annual Symphony Village Card and Game Party

**(To benefit Queen Anne's County
Department of Social Services Food Bank)**

Thursday January 18, 2018

9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Goodwill Firehouse

212 Broadway, Centreville

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

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

50/50 Raffle

Reserve a table on the sign-up sheets
in the Card & Game Party Binder in the Wall Street Room.

When your table is complete, please note this on sign-up sheet.

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 Programs with a donation, please bring a check to Rebecca 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**.

SV OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

If you would like to donate an item for the table prizes, it would be much appreciated. If so, please contact Terri O'Connell at 443-928-3368 or drop off at her home, 127 Opera Court. We welcome bottles of wine, gift cards, cheese and crackers, small jars of jam, snack items, body lotion, etc.

Glass Painting Party— by Sue Canfield



On November 17, many residents participated in a fun evening painting glasses, bowls, and mugs with festive designs. Symphony Village Outreach sponsored the event. Heather Collins from Chestertown was our artist director. We now have one of a kind pieces of art to enjoy or gift others! We were able to raise a little over \$300 for Outreach to use helping others in the area.



December’s Bingo was festive and fun! It was the last Bingo until construction is completed. When Bingo resumes, the jackpot will be \$125 and 53 numbers will be called. See you next year!

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

Photos for the Website

Many of you take pictures of your events and want to share them with the community. Some you may feel should go in the *Libretto* —send those to Carol Hodges. Others you want to just share—send those to Jim Arnts.

eBlasts

Some residents are not receiving their eBlasts. Many have not subscribed by going to the Directory page. Others need to check their Spam/Junk email folder. If you see the eBlasts there, you need to add *no-reply@sv-info.org* to your online contacts list. This will ensure that official SV email does not end up in your spam/junk email folder.

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SNEAKERS – *Linda Farrar, President; Bea Trotta, Correspondent*

Book Giveaways



Sneakers conducted book giveaways at the Kennard, Centreville, Sudlersville, and Church Hill Elementary Schools. All book giveaways were successful and the children received a book of their choosing to read over the holiday break. A big “thank you” is extended to all those residents who helped with these events.

Thank You

Sneakers would again like to thank all those who participated in the Sneakers Silent Auction on the evening of Saturday, November 4. Your generosity helped make the auction a grand success.

Centreville Elementary School Chorus



On Wednesday, December 20, at 10 a.m., please join us at the Clubhouse for the annual Centreville Elementary School Chorus performance. This program by the chorus is a way for the students to thank the residents of Symphony Village for their generosity and support throughout the school year. All residents are welcome to come and enjoy this very special event and listen to the young singers lift their voices in song.

Next Meeting

Sneakers’ next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at 3 p.m. at the Clubhouse. We always welcome new members.

CLUBS AND CLASSES

Bird Club – *Linda Blume*



“The Twelve Days of Christmas” is an English Christmas carol first published in England in 1790 without music as a chant or rhyme. The twelve days in the song begin with December 25, Christmas Day, and end on January 5, the day before the Feast of the Epiphany. (Added is one partridge on day one, two turtle doves on day two, three French hens on day three, four calling birds on day four, six geese a-laying on day six, and seven swans a-swimming on day seven. Add all the days together, and how many birds are associated with this song? Look for the answer on page 12.

Now that many birds have left our area for warmer climates, it's fun to watch some online web cameras looking at areas around the country. Here are a few:

- Cornell Feeder Watch: Ithaca, New York: [Cornell Lab Feeder](#)
- Cornell Feeder Watch: The Pond, Ithaca, New York: [Sapsucker Woods Pond Cam](#)
- Cornell Feeder Watch: Ontario, Canada: [Ontario Feeder](#)
- Audubon: Atlantic Puffin Ledge on Seal Island, Maine: [Puffin Ledge](#)
- Audubon: Atlantic Puffin Boulders Cam on Seal Island, Maine: [Boulders Cam](#)



Lunch Bunch – *Bea Trotta & Marge Strano*



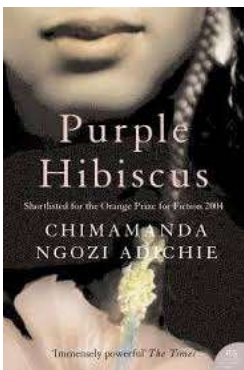
The Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, January 11, at 12:30 p.m. at Bridges on Kent Narrows, 321 Wells Cove Rd, Grasonville. The recently updated indoor

Terrace is comfortably heated with full-length windows that provide a beautiful and spectacular view of the water any time of the year. The sunset provides a wonderful setting for dining.



Sign up online by using the [Lunch Bunch Sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the Symphony Village [Website](#), and click on *Dashboard*. Scroll down to the Lunch Bunch Icon near the bottom of the page. **Please note that you will see a *THANK YOU* response visible on the webpage acknowledging that your Lunch Bunch submission did go through.** As usual, you can also sign up in the Activities Book at the Clubhouse. If you sign up online, please do not add your name in the Activities Book. Only sign up in one place. Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 if you have a question or need a ride.

Reading for Fun Book Club – *Jack Hennessey*



Purple Hibiscus, by Chimamanda Adichie, was reviewed at our November 21 meeting. Jack was responsible for recommending this novel, simply because it was listed as the ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK to be read by all Marylanders. Fifteen year old Kamili and her older brother Jaja live in Enugu, Nigeria. Their father is a religious fanatic, converted by Catholic missionaries. Their Papa cut off one of Jaja's little fingers because he finished second in his catechism test. He also poured boiling water on Kamili's feet because she came in second in her confirmation class! "Nough said!" Our Book Club gave this novel the lowest rating ever - 4.5 on a scale of 1 to 10!

December is a free month. Enjoy it! The tentative book for January is *Saigon Kids* recommended by Bob Nilsson.

Happy Holidays everyone!

CERT Leadership for 2018 – *by George Drake, past SV CERT Coordinator*

As a result of the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) meeting on November 17, I am pleased to advise you of new Symphony Village CERT Leadership. John Olson is taking over the position of SV CERT Coordinator. Debi Wells will remain in her role assisting John. I will act as advisor during the transition that will take place from now into the new-year.

The CERT Steering Committee has expanded and now includes John Olson, Debi Wells, Tegan Baumann, Luann Sackrider, Pete Sackrider, and George Drake.

Please welcome John as the new CERT Coordinator and provide him with assistance, cooperation, and enthusiasm.

I would like to thank John for stepping into this leadership role, Debi for her continued leadership role, and Tegan, Luann, and Pete for joining the Steering Committee. We can all look forward to new leadership and events in 2018. Change is good!

Thank you to EACH and every SVer who has been trained and joined our team and to those who have taken CPR and AED training with us and attended the speaker presentations we have provided to the village to help each of us be prepared in our homes for disasters. Much appreciated.

Eleventh Annual New Year's Day Bike Ride



George Drake, Don Downey, Bill Rowley, Steve Quigley, Nancie Cameron, Pat Scheirer, Kathleen Sullivan, Lloyd McAtee, Sandy Cheyne, DeAnn Cheyne, Scott Page, Vicki Kober, Dan Kober

Mark your calendars for the 11th annual New Year's Day cycling event "I've ridden my bike every day this year." All SV bike riders are encouraged to meet at the **Clubhouse at 10 a.m., January 1, 2018**, 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 SV. 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.)

Bocce by Don Rizzo

Since the Holiday Season is well upon us and the selection of appropriate gifts for our friends and family is always a great concern, may we offer a suggestion for a gift to end all gifts. However, like many good things, this gift comes with both "good news" and "bad news" consequences.

Bocce has become a very popular activity among all age groups as can be attested by the success of our local Symphony Village Good Time Rollers in the Queen

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Anne's competition as well as the success of our local players competing in our in-house tournaments and leagues. In fact, bocce may have reached the level of being considered the newest fad. Consider this. Golfers have their own clubs, tennis aficionados their own rackets, so shouldn't bocce players have their own balls? What could be a better holiday gift for your favorite bocce player than a set of his or her own, personalized bocce balls shiny and glistening under that holiday tree? What a pleasant and totally unexpected surprise that holiday morning! That's the good news.

Now to the bad news. When the fad was the ever-popular, every house received one or more of those plastic circles dubbed a hula hoop. Old Santa and his band of merry reindeer had no problem mastering the slippery slopes and rolling them down the chimneys. And the Barbie Dolls? Well except for having to be careful not to mess up the curly hairdos, they were a breeze also. But with these bocce balls, we're talking some potential heavy hernia happenings here. Already the elves' union steward has brought up the issue for mediation and Mrs. Claus has been seen knitting one of those weight lifters belts out of old Brillo pads for Santa. After all, "You're no chicken anymore you know!" she has been heard to say. God bless the little woman for caring for him all these years; but after all, she's the one who ends up being the care-taker. A runny nose is one thing but this? Ugh!!

Well, maybe a gift of nice bowling shoes so he or she doesn't have to wear those ugly colored rentals with the numbers on them telling everyone how big your feet are.

In any case, from the bocce community may you and yours have a wonderful Holiday, all good things for the New Year and always remember to ... Let the Good Times Roll!!

Senior Softball Play — by Joe Shanahan



We have a team made up mostly of men that live here in Symphony Village who play during the spring and summer. It is a way to get a good physical workout while having fun and making friends. Our home field is at the Route 18 Park in Centreville, and we usually all go to lunch nearby after the games.

This year we find ourselves in jeopardy of being able to field a team due to some members not returning. We are looking for able bodied players to come out for our team to keep it going. If you think you might be able to play, please give Irv

Kohne a call at [410-758-2668](tel:410-758-2668) as soon as possible. We need to show the league that we have enough players to field a team.

We will start practice in mid-March, with our season beginning in late April. You need only to be at least 60 (turning 60 in 2018 is OK) and have a desire to play. Please call Irv if you have any questions. Hope to see you at practice.

An advertisement for a coin appraisal service. The title is "What are those old coins worth!" in a stylized font. Below the title, it lists services: "Secure, Discrete Appraisals of Value for Individuals, Banks, Estates, Trusts", "Numismatic Brokerage Services", and "Investment Advice & Education". The name "G. 'Doc' Smith" is listed, along with "ANA . NGC . EAC" and "50 Years Experience". A phone number "443-480-3519" is provided, followed by "By Appointment Only". On the right side of the ad is a large image of a silver coin.

ANSWER

How many birds are associated with "The Twelve Days of Christmas?" **184 birds**

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Neighborhood News

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18

The public is always welcome to attend Friday Night Dinners at the American Legion, and the Post especially appreciates SV participation! Dinners are 5:30 – 7 p.m., or until sold out. Upcoming dinners:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Friday, December 15: | American Legion Riders will host a Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner |
| Friday, December 22: | Sons of the American Legion host a Seafood Feast: ½ pound shrimp, 2 soft crabs, and 1 crab cake |
| Friday, December 29: | Fried Oyster Dinner |
| Friday, January 5: | Fried Chicken Dinner |
| Friday, January 12: | American Legion Riders will host a Spaghetti and Meatballs Dinner |

Upcoming Events at the Centreville Branch of the QAC Library

- **Tuesday, December 19, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.:** [Upcycled Books - Folded Book Art](#) (Free)
- **Saturday, December 23, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (drop in):** [Take Home Craft Bags](#) (Free)
- **Saturday, December 23, 3 – 4 p.m.:** [Crime and a Cuppa: Have a Merry Little Murder](#) (Free, Pre-register on the website)
- **Wednesday, December 27, 6:30 – 8 p.m.:** [Trivia Night](#) (Free, Pre-register on the website)
- **Friday, December 29, 2 – 4 p.m.:** [Matinee Movie](#) – “Victoria and Abdul” (Free)
- **Thursday, January 4, 7 – 9 p.m.:** [Trivia Night](#) (Free, Pre-register on the website)

- **Wednesday, January 10, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.:** [Movie Night](#) – “Stardust”
- **Friday, January 12, 2 – 4 p.m.:** [Matinee Movie](#) - TBA (Free)

Institute for Adult Learning Showcase of Spring 2018 Classes



The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) in association with Chesapeake College is an organization of individuals whose mission is to provide learning and social experiences which enrich the lives of its members. The organization is open to all individuals age 50 years or older. In the company of like-minded people, members may enjoy college-level academic pursuits without concern for credit, grades, or performance.

The IAL will host the **Showcase of Classes Wine and Cheese Social** on **Thursday, January 11, 2 – 4 p.m.**, in the lobby of the Todd Performing Arts Center at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills. Please RSVP by **January 4** to Nancy Barbieri, 410-822-5400, extension 2300, or nbarbieri@chesapeake.edu. Join IAL members to learn about IAL, socialize, meet the instructors, and hear brief descriptions of upcoming classes. Snow date is January 18.

There are IAL Spring Class Brochures in the Wall Street Room at the Clubhouse for your information. More information may also be found online at [IAL](#). Many SV residents have taken classes and trips offered through IAL and have been pleased. You might want to check it out!

Volunteer in Action

"Sportfishermen's Association Scholarship

Foundation" – by *Pete Abbott*

One long-term effort to “SAVE THE BAY” is the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishing Association (MSSA) Scholarship Program. Founded in 1995 by the MSSA, Maryland’s advocacy organization representing the rights and interests of the state’s recreational salt water anglers, the Scholarship Foundation is a 501c3 corporation (charity) registered and in good standing with both the IRS and the State of Maryland. It operates under the Federal Tax ID #: 52-1946199.

Since the initial grant of \$1000 to a single student in 1995, by June of this year, a total of 163 annual undergraduate scholarships have been awarded with a total value in excess of \$369,000.

Since January, 2011, I have had the privilege of serving as President of the MSSA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. With the support of a dedicated Board of Directors (10), I lead the Foundation’s primary obligations each year starting in the fall with a variety of fund raising activities and concluding in the late spring with the evaluation of applications for financial assistance from both high school seniors and college students. In recent years applications have totaled 54 and 19 scholarships were awarded in both 2016 and 2017 with the average annual scholarship value of \$30,000.



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High School Seniors, from the states that border the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the District of Columbia, are eligible to apply as are students already enrolled in a college or university program leading to a degree in subjects such as Marine Biology, Environmental Engineering and Analysis, and Natural Resources Management (Fisheries Major). Students earning these kinds of degrees are encouraged to commit themselves to careers in positions where they can "make a difference" in finding solutions to environmental, technical, and managerial problems affecting the sustainability of our regional marine resources.

Residents of Symphony Village can have an immediate, positive impact on the success of the MSSA Scholarship Program. Almost all donations of any kind are tax-deductible for both Federal and State Income Tax reporting. One exception is the purchase of Raffle Tickets as there is an implied value exchanged because you can win something if one or more of your tickets is drawn. In recent years, several SV residents have purchased these tickets and some have won prizes. Here are other ways you can contribute:

Donate Money! Write a check payable to: MSSA SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION and mail it to Pete

Abbott, 219 Overture Way, Centreville, MD 21617. I'll send you a letter you can use when you file your taxes. Deductions are to be used for returns for the year in which the donation was made. If you prefer to donate using PAYPAL or a Credit/Debit Card, go online at WWW.MSSASCHOLARSHIPS.NET and click on the DONATE button. Documentation will follow your deposit to our checking account at BB&T Bank. Gifts of \$1000 or more qualify for Major Donor Status and access to named scholarships (Family, In Memory Of, and Corporate). Donate directly from your IRA to receive 100% tax deduction for your contribution. Call me to discuss this at 443-871-5342 (c), or 410-758-2071. If you are an AMAZON user, log onto SMILE.AMAZON.com and designate the MSSA Scholarship Program using our FED ID Number. The AMAZON Foundation will donate a small fraction of all you buy. It doesn't cost you a penny as Amazon is the donor.

Donate Assets! Used boats and autos account for a large part of our annual collections. Boating, fishing and outdoor equipment are accepted and sold at a number of winter fishing shows in the region. High value items may be accepted and later be used as prizes for special raffles. Earlier this year, we raffled off two classic fishing rods and reels and raised \$2000, enough for a generous scholarship. To make our Raffle more attractive, donate a Prize. I give a pair of Orioles Tickets on Opening Day, and another neighbor gives a lovely Wine and Cheese Basket.



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Thanks to all for the chance to introduce you to an opportunity to help deserving young men and women realize their ambitions and apply their education and energies to preserve and protect our priceless marine environment in the Chesapeake Bay and coastal ocean waters.

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Some General Guidelines on Selecting Astronomical Christmas Presents - by Larry Rayner, The Armchair Astronomer



Whether you buy binoculars or a telescope you'll need to be able to navigate around the skies. This requires familiarity with the constellations, their major stars, and upcoming celestial events of either planets, planetary conjunctions, comets, or meteor showers and eclipses (lunar and solar). After all, what is the point of looking to the heavens if you don't know what it is you are viewing.

Since a large majority of us now own smart phones, the first item you'll want to purchase is an App that displays a virtual map of the heavens. You will be amazed as you point your smart phone to the sky, day or night, you'll see stars and planets properly located as you move your device across the skies. You will feel like a pro when you can point to the morning or evening star and identify it as the planet Venus or Jupiter. Some are free or nearly free, (Sky Guide, SkyView, Star Walk 2, Sky Map: Full Version, Stargazers Pro, Night Sky, Star Chart). You should also subscribe to Cosmic Pursuit on line, which gives you up to date celestial events and Astronomy Magazine, which is known for its glorious photos, both give you a wealth of information.

Next you will need a good book. Go to your local bookstore and select a large size, hard back book of the constellations. This book should provide the legends and stories associated with each constellation and will help you on your way across the skies when you don't want to leave the house; select the one most appealing to

you. An example of the usefulness of this book is the story of Orion the Hunter chasing Taurus the Bull across the skies as the earth rotates underneath these two major constellations. Another very useful book is a soft copy of *A Peterson Field Guide to Stars and Planets* (available under \$20 from Amazon). A must have is *Guide to the Stars Map*, by Ken Graun, a circular map, 5th edition. This is a 16-inch diameter plastic Guide to the Stars chart. It is an instrument to help you identify the constellations. You simply dial in your observing time and date to find the set of constellations and major stars visible in your sky. You need this to be plastic to avoid dew damage (also available from Amazon or local book stores). This plastic map offers a quick study to locate the origination of meteor showers and to find “pointer” stars in various constellations which allows you to plan your tract around the skies.

Let’s talk Binoculars: Should you go the way of purchasing binoculars they will be good for determining which planet you are observing as well as nebulae and globular star clusters. The advantage of binoculars is that they can be used for other activities (sporting events, bird watching, etc.) They are easy to transport, to use, to store, more so than telescopes. If money is no object, get a stabilized pair for astronomical use, otherwise you will need a pair that accepts a tripod. A minimum of 7 or 8 magnification with a 50-mm objective lens (front lens) is what you should be looking for in binoculars, it will offer the most versatility. The problem with binoculars is that if looking at the moon, nebulae, planets, or globular star clusters is will just tease you into wanting something more powerful—a telescope. [Click here for the rest of the article.](#)

Travel Article

A Quiet Place to Write — By John A. Lewis

Editor’s Note: John wrote this old story for a creative writing class. It may contain some fiction. It might answer some questions you have about freighter travel.

I was looking for a good place to write that was quiet and allowed uninterrupted concentration. This led me to **Freighter World Cruises, Inc.** (www.freighterworld.com) and a booking on the CSAV *Rimac*, a ship specifically designed to carry shipping containers, lovingly referred to by the crew as “damn boxes.” My 13-day adventure started from the Port of Baltimore on a sunny cold day in February. The ship was to travel down the U.S. East Coast stopping at Charleston, Miami, thence sailing by Cuba to Cartagena Colombia, Manzanillo Panama, through the Panama Canal, then down the West Coast of South America to Buenaventura Colombia and then Guayaquil Ecuador, my destination. The ship and four passengers continued the trip to Chile and then retraced the route back to the U.S. East Coast.

I approached the ship with high excitement and expectation. A seaman was leaning over the side rail and not expressly looking in my direction. I waved to get his attention and pointed at the ship and then me in an international sign language effort to explain that I am to go on board and sail away. Later I would learn he was Filipino, with a mild manner and friendly air. He waved back and called out

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“Mr. Luis?” a name given me by many Spanish language people and a slight distortion of the name ‘Lewis’ that some family member in the past pinned on all male heirs to follow.

Above, the Filipino waved me up the ladder (a long staircase) attached to the side of the ship. Although firmly secured it swung back and forth as I climbed. I was carrying my computer and carry-on bag leaving behind an 80 pound suitcase and a Hecht’s shopping bag filled with things like cookies, tissue paper, and instant coffee. Also left behind was a case of my favorite beer, twenty-four 3/4 liter bottles of water and a wife wondering what to do next. “Come on,” I encouraged as she carefully followed me up the rickety ladder.

“I’ll take care of those,” my new friend called out, pointing to the suitcase on the dock. And he did, sending another, less senior seaman, who I would discover was the steward Arnel. When we reached the deck, my new friend greeted us with a smile and introduced himself as “Jose, your Safety Officer, ‘welcome aboard.’ I hope you have a nice trip with us, sir Luis, don’t worry about the bags. He will take care of them for you,” referring to Arnel. The friendly caring tone he expressed continued for the length of the trip. [Click here for more.](#)

UPCOMING CENTREVILLE EVENTS

Santa Saturday



Edward’s Pharmacy in Centreville will host the annual Santa Saturday on **Saturday, December 16**, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. There will be free photos with Santa along with cookies and punch. Everyone is invited to stop by!

All-You-Can-Eat-Breakfast



The Goodwill Fire Company (212 Broadway) in Centreville will host an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast on Sunday, **December 17**, 7:30 – 11 a.m., at the fire hall. The cost is \$9 per person. Breakfasts will take place the third Sunday of every month through May 2018.

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

SPECIAL REMINDERS

Camilla Gaines, General Manager

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Rebecca Cook, Assistant General Manager

agm@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Board of Directors Group Email

board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Clubhouse phone for Camilla or Rebecca:

410-758-8500

Bulk Pickup and Yard Waste: 410-758-1180

Yard waste will resume pick up March 19

Trash Removal & Recycling: 410-742-0099

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