



Photo by George Drake

LIBRETTO

SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023

VOL. XVIII No. 2

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.

2023 SV HOA BOD

SV HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATES – FEBRUARY 2023

DEBI WELLS, SECRETARY

Thank you to all who attended the February 3 Symphony Village Homeowners Association (SV HOA) meeting via Zoom or in person. If you were not available to attend, these are the highlights.

BILL RIDGWAY’S PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

- ◆ *HOA Fee Increase* – Bill thanked residents for understanding the HOA fee increase. He stated that between 2017–2021 the SV HOA had unspent funds of ~\$100K each year. Those funds were used to pay off the Clubhouse expansion and build our Reserves and Operational assets. The year 2021 held its own as service costs increased but Clubhouse usage was still down (due to Covid-19), allowing maintenance projects to be deferred. In later 2021, the 2022 budgeting process dealt with growing cost uncertainties by trying a “pay it forward” approach. The HOA pre-paid two thirds of the 2022 Reserves requirement using \$100K of the 2021 surplus. It was also thought possible to have unused funds to “pay it forward” at this year’s end to cover 2023 requirements. So, what happened? The end-of-year financial report (<https://symphonyvillage.net/s/SV-2022-12-Financials.pdf>) shows a 2022 operating budget (unaudited) surplus of ~\$30K. That’s good news, but it was not the ~\$100K surplus needed for a sustainable budget.
- ◆ *2022 Income & Expenses* – Income was down as we stopped accepting ads in the *Libretto*. Cost savings from not adding a budgeted fourth staff member were partially offset by higher legal fees and one-time transition costs to the full-service ProCom contract. There were lower than expected expenses for Clubhouse maintenance, but higher utility costs. While there were unspent Landscape and Irrigation funds,

snow removal costs consumed those savings. In hindsight, kudos are due to Rebecca and the Budget and Finance Committee for creating a 2022 budget that covered the bases while dealing with such uncertainties.

- ◆ 2023 Costs – We expect snow and legal expenses to be less than last year. However, with increased utilities and contractors costs, and with the new State of Maryland HOA Reserve requirement, we no longer have flexibility in how we make contributions annually. We expect to complete a new Reserve Study this year, and we're committed to keeping a healthy financial posture with adequate Reserves and Operational Rainy Day assets.
- ◆ 2023 Home Inspections – A contractor is being considered to identify cleaning and repairs. Previously done in 2019, the goal again will be to keep up the appearance and value of our community with a maintenance review. If a contractor is hired, there will be ample communication about the home inspection process and timeline via eBlast and postal notices from the contractor.

February 3 HOA meeting highlights:

- Committee Members Approved – The Board voted and approved all homeowner members and Committee officers who signed up (to date); this was necessary to identify the quorum.
- Board Liaison Change – To better facilitate and represent the Budget and Finance's (B&F) views and recommendations, Nancy Emerick, Board Treasurer, will assume liaison responsibilities to that Committee while Bill Ridgway, President (and former B&F liaison), will switch with Nancy to handle liaison responsibilities for the Landscape and Irrigation Committee.
- Parking Lots and Stormwater Inlet Inspections – Lots of time and work has been ongoing by the Operations Committee to review and assess these community properties. How to best sustain both for the future has not yet been fully determined and recommended to the Board.
- Architectural Requirements – This HOA document that specifies exterior modification requirements for all homeowners continues to be reviewed and updated by the Covenants Committee. A final draft and recommendation for the Board and community is in the process of being prepared.
- Bank Account Signatories – Two Board members were approved to sign SV bank and investment accounts; they are Bill Ridgway, President, and Nancy Emerick, Treasurer.
- Clubhouse Dormer Windows – A proposal was voted upon and approved by the Board to install vinyl decals with grids for ~\$1.6K to camouflage aging tint on Clubhouse dormer windows only. Life expectancy of the decals is anticipated to be 5–10 years.
- Pond 1 Vegetative Buffer Garden – The Chesapeake Bay Trust mini-grant was awarded to our community for \$3,828 with contingencies to install a vegetative buffer garden along the walking path near Pond 1. This amount is ~\$1K less than the application requested; however, it's progress for the community toward future eco-friendly landscape practices.

Next SV HOA Meeting – March 3: The next SV HOA meeting will be on Friday, March 3, at 10 a.m. We hope you will be available to join us via Zoom or in person at the Clubhouse. For more details about past or future HOA meetings, please see the Governance page of the Symphony Village Website.

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE

PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN

PAT FOX, CENTREVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

On February 15, 2023, the Town of Centreville will hold a final public hearing on the draft updated Community Plan. The meeting will include a PowerPoint summary presentation of the plan details and the opportunity for questions from attendees.

On February 15, 2023, at 7 p.m., the Town meeting location is the Liberty Building, 107 N. Liberty Street, Second Floor.

The current Centreville Community Plan and the draft updated plan may be reviewed at Town Hall, 101 Lawyers Row, Monday–Friday between the hours of 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or on the Town website. You may also submit written testimony and comments that must be received by 5 p.m. on February 15 at <https://www.townofcentreville.org/>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ARTISANS GUILD

CO-CHAIRS: KATHY MCMANUS AND SUE CANFIELD

The Artisans Guild has a new show ready for your viewing pleasure! **Dance**, our new display, can be seen in the Clubhouse Concert Hall. We had a well-attended Reception on Sunday, February 5. As with all our themes, **Dance** can be interpreted in numerous ways by both the artist and the viewer. All of the pieces show some movement, as well as actual dancing.

Peggy Decker is our featured artist. On her wall of art, her paintings explore a wide variety of topics—from a Steam Engine Train to a Tiger up close and personal.

Peggy and her husband Art moved from Southern California to Maryland’s Eastern shore eight years ago. Originally from Colorado, Peggy has lived in Australia and traveled Europe and Asia. She graduated with a B.A. in Education from the University of Northern Colorado; continued her studies at California State University and received a master’s degree from Walden University. She retired in 2007 after 25 years of teaching. Peggy dabbled in creative hobbies from an early age. In 2011 she was looking for a new creative outlet. Watercolor was her first choice and still is her favorite media in which to work.



Featured Artist Peggy Decker



Bob Ciesielski

COVENANTS CORNER

TOM MERINGOLO, CHAIR

“Symphony Village at Centreville (“Symphony Village”) is an active adult community designed to respect the visual character of its site, minimize environmental impacts, and maximize water and energy conservation principles. In order to preserve and enhance our principles, these Architectural Requirements are established to maintain certain standards by which the community may grow and develop.”

The above quote is taken from the introduction page of our *Architectural Requirements*.

I certainly believe that it captures one of the major reasons that Nancy and I, and probably many of you, chose to move here.

Springtime is just around the corner! Many of you will be considering exterior projects that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any landscaping project
- Patios
- Invisible Pet Fence
- Satellite Dish
- Solar PV System
- Awnings
- Garage Doors
- Outdoor Lighting
- Generator
- Hardscape
- Driveway Extensions
- Storm Doors
- Split HVAC System for Sky Basement
- Roof Replacement
- Gutters
- Three Season Rooms
- Windows
- Change of Colors of the Front Entry Door and Shutters

It will be up to the five members of the Covenants Committee to oversee that all Exterior Modification Forms support and comply with our Architectural Requirements.

Yes, I said FIVE MEMBERS.

Folks, we absolutely could use some help. If you wish to be a part of this important committee and assist in supporting what is stated in the first paragraph of this article, please contact me at tmeringolo71@gmail.com or phone/text 410-739-0982.

I'll leave the lights on for you.

If you would like more information, please contact Tom Meringolo at 410-739-0982 or email me at tmeringolo71@gmail.com.

LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

MARY JO & VINNY VOLPICELLI, CO-CHAIRS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, February 25, Movie Night in the Clubhouse at 7 p.m.



Please Join our own Randy Officer and your fellow Symphony Village neighbors for a fun-filled **New Name That Tune** music trivia afternoon on Sunday, March 5, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Symphony Village Clubhouse. Hope to see you there!

With the new year starting and many changes to Committee chairs, please make sure to forward the name of your new committee chair and the new *Libretto* article contributor to the *Libretto* editors at librettoeditors@gmail.com. This is the address to send articles to the editors. Hope to hear from you.

Having a hard time using your computer and can't figure it out? The Grasonville Senior Center, 4802 Main Street, Grasonville, Md., might be able to help you out. They are offering a computer class for students with little or no computer experience and will explain lots of computer stuff. Each class is 2.5 hours, costs \$20, and the classes will be on Friday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in March. If all goes well with these pilot classes, they may consider expanding the class offerings to other topics and at other Senior Center locations. Their web address is <https://www.qac.org/212/Grasonville-Senior-Center>

Thanks for the tip, Pat Fox!

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

READING FOR FUN – JANUARY 2023 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club started our New Year on January 17 by discussing *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Mary Jo Volpicelli, Sue Goldberg, Len & Carol Saltiel, Kitty Wilson, Jim & Kathryn Buckheit, JoAnn Walker, and Bob Nilsson.

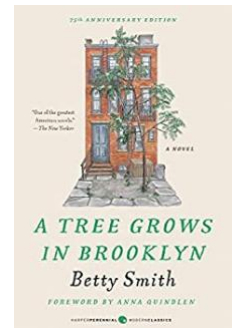
December's book selection came to our attention when recommended by my daughter when I visited California late last year. She had read it in school in the 1980s, and it had always been a favorite of hers. I was intrigued because immigration in America today is focused so heavily on the Southwest border, and I thought reading an immigrant story from the turn of the 20th century would provide a broader perspective. The club agreed and voted the book onto our current reading list.

The novel was published in 1943 and was America's best-selling book during World War II. It was quickly made into an Oscar winning film starring Dorothy McGuire (Old Yeller, Swiss Family Robinson). It is the story of a young Irish girl, Francie Nolan, growing up in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn at the turn of the 20th century. The theme of the story is the resilience of Francie and her family in the face of adversity. Most of the immigrants who populate the story were escaping famine, poverty, and oppression from different parts of Europe. What they shared was that they were all seeking the American Dream.

The story opens with eleven-year-old Francie collecting junk with her younger brother to sell for a few pennies to help feed their family. Foil from gum wrappers and cigarette packages is melted down and sold to the junkie for four cents a pound. Paper brings a penny for ten pounds, and, with luck, they find some copper (ten cents per pound.) Francie scores sixteen cents and uses five cents to buy the end of a tongue at the butcher for their evening supper. This meat is considered a real treat. It might have made good tacos.

Francie's mother, Katie, provides stability and discipline to help the family afford food and shelter. Her father, Johnny Nolan, is loving and works hard, but fights a losing battle with alcohol. Both parents recognize that education is the only way for their children to have better lives than themselves. Francie takes her mother's advice and commits to read a book a day at the free public library, starting alphabetically by author.

Much like the TV show *Seinfeld*, this is a story about nothing. We follow Francie and her family through their daily struggles. The extended family introduces many interesting characters who grow on the reader as we



watch them overcome one obstacle after another. At least they did for me. My favorite was Aunt Sissy who went through worthless husbands like toilet paper (not that they had any). And she called them all John regardless of their given name.

Francie is picked on at school and begs her father to help her go to a higher class school outside of their neighborhood. The feckless Johnny, despite being unable to hold a job, convinces the principal to admit Francie albeit by using a fake address. Francie's mother is skeptical but supports her husband's charade. When Francie's teacher gives her an undeserved grade, Katie Nolan ferociously confronts the unfair teacher. Francie is hard working and smart and loves her parents without reservation. She is the epitome of the story's theme of resilience and the secret to immigrant success in this land of opportunity.

The book grew slowly on most of the club, including me. When we met to discuss it, many were hesitant to grade it very highly. Interestingly, however, the more we talked about the characters, the more we appreciated the novel. The club ultimately awarded a grade 8.1 out of 10, which puts the book in the upper quarter of our selections for the last few years.

In researching the titular Tree of the story, I made an interesting discovery. The ailanthus tree, commonly known as the tree of heaven, appears in the first chapter growing amid the cement tenements. Despite barren earth and little sun or care, it survives attempts to cut it down and remains undeterred at the end of the book. The tree is the symbol of resilience of all the struggling immigrants of Brooklyn.

Much to my surprise, I discovered an article describing the tree in the *Washington Post* just as I finished the book. It seems the ailanthus tree is the preferred habitat of the spotted lanternfly currently rampant in the D.C. area. I have seen warnings about the lanternfly in the *Libretto* but don't believe we have any ailanthus trees, thank goodness. And despite being called the tree of heaven, it is an invasive species from northern China. An unlikely exemplar of resilience for our book, I think. But at least it is not a balloon!

We hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We have started to hold hybrid meetings, so contact me if you would like to attend virtually. My email is sikes.withers@yahoo.com

Our current list of books and associated review dates are listed below:

- February 21 *The Woman in the Library* by Sulari Gentill
- March 21 *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See
- April 18 *Letters in Time* by Susan Reiss
- May 16 *Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts
- June 20 *Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* by Carol D. Leonnig
- July 18 *The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* by V.E. Schwab
- August 15 *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty

There are several CERT activities to report on this month including an update on Clubhouse medical equipment, the latest CERT training, and planned 2023 activities.



Clubhouse Medical Equipment



Medical storage cabinets were installed in the Clubhouse next to the two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). There is one in the Card Room (see photo) and another in the gym. These cabinets contain AED supplies and a LifeVac choking rescue device. Although the cabinets have a locking mechanism, they are NOT locked.

After a long delay in obtaining AED replacement pads, they were received and are now up to date. We would like to express our appreciation to Queen Anne’s County Department of Emergency Services for loaning us an AED while our pads were on backorder.

2023 CERT Activities

The latest CERT training class is underway, and we are looking forward to welcoming several new CERT members. Look for a follow-up article in next month’s *Libretto*.

Last year’s Safety Day was well received, and we are exploring a repeat of the event for this year. We are also working on several presentations for this year including medical demonstrations (CPR, AED, LifeVac, etc.), preparedness briefings (Sheriff, cybercrime briefings, active shooter drills), and others. All events will be open to any Symphony Village resident.

Consider Becoming a CERT Volunteer

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program can teach you about disaster preparedness and how to organize to provide support during disasters. Check out the SV CERT website at <https://sv-info.org/cert-files/members.html>. We meet the third Tuesday of every month at 4 p.m. in the Concert Hall. If you are interested or have questions, please call John Olson at 443-262-8458.

OPERATIONS

JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors (BOD) and the General Manager (GM) regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on such things as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks.

The Operations Committee held its first meeting for the 2023 on January 19. Joe Sikes and Fred Kurst were re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair. We welcomed six new members to the committee and spent most of the meeting bringing everyone up to speed from 2022 and looking forward to 2023.

The committee expressed support for a request from the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to provide storage boxes for the numerous safety and life support items maintained in the Clubhouse. The GM acted on the request and the new boxes are in place and much better organized than previously, while remaining readily available.

Due to use of the Guardhouse for some storage by our contractors, the committee had noted usage had become excessive in November. The GM has gotten such usage under control, but some storage will continue to support maintenance of the community. The committee supported window tinting to enhance the appearance of the

guardhouse. Gary Coombe, Mary Colling-Officer, and I examined three tinting options and provided recommendations to the GM for her follow-up.

For some time, loud noises from the Clubhouse fire suppression system have regularly occurred in the Card Room and Pool Room. While the leak causing the noise remains elusive after numerous investigations, the GM is pursuing a method to suppress the noise with the support of the Operations Committee. Monitoring will continue.

We look forward to exciting projects in 2023 with our expanded membership. Our next meeting will be held on February 16, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse. The meeting will be hybrid and residents are welcome to attend in person or virtually.

OUTREACH

JOANNE WALKER AND LORETTA QUIGLEY

O IS FOR OUTREACH!

Happy 2023! Your Outreach team thought it might be a good idea to share a little of the history of our organization in hopes of encouraging some of our newer residents to join in.

Outreach actually was begun over 20 years ago by a group of early residents (many of whom are no longer in SV) to do good work and aid groups in need in our community. It was expanded over time to include many worthy partnerships in QAC including our library, Crossroads, EMT and Fire Department, Queenstown Emergency, Social Services (food drive), the Historical Society, IAL, and several other organizations. It was the vision of Dorothy Hamm assisted by Joyce Edmunston and a small group of other interested parties including Marilyn Williams, and it grew as the neighborhood expanded.

Neighbor to Neighbor became a viable offshoot as streets were completed and street captains took responsibility for aiding their neighbors in times of need. Two important leaders who you might know were Eleanor Strietman and Marge Strano.

Past presidents included Dorothy Hamm, Joyce Edmunston, Loretta Quigley, Carlene Cooke, Bea Trotta, and Sue Canfield. Our newest leader is JoAnn Walker.

Many different activities have been part of the fundraising including holiday house tours, a fabulous cookbook spear-headed by Nancie Cameron, food drives, the Artisan Fair, an art auction, Annual Card And Game Party, and our upcoming Author's Luncheon on May 17 that promises to be a sellout!

If you love the camaraderie of a group and love the feeling of helping others in need, do consider coming to our next meeting to see what we are about. Currently we meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. We will meet again February 22.

For further info, please contact our President, JoAnn Walker, at joann.walker@atlanticbb.net or our past president, Sue Canfield, suecanfield20@gmail.com for more information.

We love new people and new ideas!

Outreach is proud to present
An Author's Luncheon

Special Guest: Award-winning author Susan Reiss
When: Wednesday, May 17, 2023



Watch for details in the March *Libretto* about tickets and other important information.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

FEBRUARY NEIGHBOR OF NOTE: TERRI O'CONNELL

KATHRYN MARCHI

Our February Neighbor of Note is someone well known to all in Symphony Village. She has a wicked sense of humor and a huge heart. Her name is Terri O'Connell.

Terri, the oldest of six children, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania, but from age 11, lived in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, after her father was transferred there. Following high school graduation, Terri attended Marywood University and graduated with a B.A. degree in Social Studies and a minor in Secondary School Education.

In 1968 during her college spring break in Bermuda, Terri Murphy met Jim O'Connell, and they married in April 1970. When starting their family, Terri chose to be a stay-at-home mom and subsequently raised their three children: one girl and two boys. As Jim's career transferred him to other places, Terri noted that one child was born soon after each move and she began to be afraid to move!

When the children entered school in western New York, Terri and some other mothers helped organize the Parent Teachers Association. She ultimately became president of the organization!

In 1983, Jim switched jobs and the family moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Terri decided to get back into teaching and started two years of substitute teaching. This led to a permanent teaching position in Howard County, Maryland, teaching eighth grade Social Studies. Terri's career would last for 25 years!

During Terri's teaching career, she worked on the "Social Studies Disciplinary Team" and was Team Leader for nine years. For folks who know Terri, the word "disciplinary" has nothing to do with behavior! It is simply "education-speak" for teaching teams of specific subject areas.

One particular phase of Terri's last 15 years of teaching included a Gifted and Talented class in United States History for eighth graders. An option for this class was to compete in a Maryland State History Day project in which students would choose a historical topic, write a thesis statement about it, and then prove this statement. After competing at individual schools, winning students went on to represent their county at the state competition. Several of Terri's students went on to the state level representing Howard County. As a result of their participation, Terri was named "History Day Teacher of the Year" for Howard County. From that title, in 2008 Terri won "Maryland State History Day Teacher of the Year" for the State and was honored at the Maryland State Assembly! Terri was a "gifted" teacher, and this honor reflects that.

As if Terri wasn't busy enough teaching and raising her family, she became a Real Estate agent for Coldwell Banker from 1993 to 2012. Naturally, 19 faculty and staff members at her school bought houses from her!

In 2009, Terri and Jim both retired and began the difficult task of choosing where to live—their moves had always been orchestrated by Jim's employer. Since their daughter lives in Chestertown, Maryland, they decided to move to Symphony Village in 2010. (In hindsight, Terri said that moving here was a true "Godsend" due to the later onset of Jim's illness.)

As an active, outgoing person, Terri soon began her next phase of volunteerism, joining the Sneakers and Outreach committees. She helped organize the Giving Tree for Christmas and, along with five other organizers, ran the HOA raffle. Interestingly, Terri won the very first raffle they had...well, deserved, Terri! Later, she was one of the leaders of the Ladies Happy Hour when Nancy Cameron moved away. Terri also enjoys playing Bridge and Hand and Foot card games at the Clubhouse and exercising at water aerobics. In Centreville, Terri lent her voice to the Queen Anne's Chorale singing with the tenor section.



Folks here in Symphony Village know that when help is needed, Terri O’Connell is the gal to call! The same is true of Terri’s church, Our Mother of Sorrows, where Terri organized the schedule for the Back Packs for Kids Outreach and helped with the annual Easter egg preparation and sale.

As stated earlier, Terri has a wicked sense of humor and a huge heart. This would help her through a very difficult time in her married life when Jim was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. As Terri was very open about Jim’s condition, good neighbors and friends came forward to help and support in any way they could. Both Terri and Jim loved to walk, and these folks would take Jim for walks, for lunch, and other appropriate outings. Terri said that this caring community was an enormous help getting her through the ongoing trials of Jim’s disease.



For two years, Terri lovingly took care of Jim’s daily needs and provided him with family outings and visits to keep his mind engaged. This was especially difficult during Covid. During the 11 months prior to his passing, a hired caretaker was brought in to help with Jim. Terri is very adamant that primary caretakers need to also take care of themselves; they need to stay healthy both mentally and physically and have time alone as well as participate in activities with friends and family. Terri is an apt advocate for this and advises others in the same situation.

During my interview with Terri, I had to ask about her “Irishness.” She is the consummate Irish Lass and Terri Murphy O’Connell and Jim O’Connell are definitely Irish names. Terri let me in on a little secret, however; Jim has a bit of German in his lineage...his paternal grandmother was born in Munich, Germany!

As I completed this interview, Terri left me with one request: When a movie is made of her life, Terri would like to be played by Meg Ryan.



The Whole Family — May 30, 2022

SV SNOW REMOVAL

The SVHOA will contract to clear the walkway to the front door, driveways, and parking lots as designated by the Board of Directors. Plowing of those areas will begin when snow accumulation reaches a three-inch depth or as determined by the Board of Directors.





BLACK INVENTORS AND THEIR INVENTIONS

DEBORAH JONES-MILLER

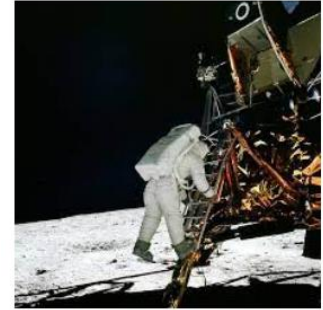
As the nation celebrates Black History Month, my attention turns to the contributions that Black Americans have made in the building of our country. Many inventions developed by these innovative Americans have made our way of life more convenient. The following is a short (but certainly not all inclusive) list of Black inventors and their inventions.

Product	Inventor	Date
Voice Over Internet Protocol	Dr. Marian Croak	1995
Home Security Systems	Marie Van Brittan Brown	1969
Refrigerated Trucks; Air Conditioning Unit	Frederick Jones	1930s; 1949
Microphones	James West	1968
Color Computer Monitor	Mark Dean	1980
GIFs Animation	Lisa Gelobter	1987
Dry Cleaning	Thomas Jennings	1821
Curtain Rod	Samuel Scottron	1883–1893
Automatic Elevator Door	Alexander Miles	1887
Golf Tee	George Grant	1899
Baby Buggy	Williams H. Richardson	1889
Blood Plasma Bag	Charles Drew	1945
Clothes Dryer	George T. Sampson	1971
Door Knob & Door Stop	Osborn Dorsey	1878
Electric Lamp Bulb	Lewis Latimer	1881
Fire Escape Ladder	Joseph W. Winters	1878
Fire Extinguisher	Thomas Marshall	1872
Fountain Pen	Walter B. Purvis	1890
Potato Chips	George Crum	1853
Traffic Signal	Garrett Morgan	1922
Synthetic Physostigmine (treatment for glaucoma); synthetic cortisone	Percy L. Julian	1935; 1948
Super Soaker®	Lonnie Johnson	1990

ARMCHAIR ASTRONOMER

LARRY RAYNER

Astronomy: The Science That Brings Us Together “We came all this way to explore the Moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth.” Apollo 8 Astronaut Bill Anders took the Earth Rise photo. The commander of the mission, Frank Borman, later said in the *Time* magazine issue that featured the Earth Rise on the cover, said that this photo was the most important thing to come out of the mission. It brought America together after the death of Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. The third astronaut, James Lovell, said that the photo is evidence of our coming together after receiving a message from a housewife in the Midwest who wrote “thank you for saving 1968.”



It has been more than 50 years since the world looked up and dreamed of seeing the first man to stand on the surface of the Moon. Those with a television in 1969 watched in groups together as Neil Armstrong spoke his immortal words “One small step for man, One giant leap for Mankind.” My wife, Susan, remembers eating at Luchow’s Restaurant in NYC that day; after a TV had been set up in the formal dining room because they all knew what was going to happen that night. A hush fell over the huge dining room as the Eagle landed on the moon, they waited as one for Neil Armstrong to emerge from the capsule.

I watched the landing with friends, gathered around the TV after rushing home from a Scuba trip in Florida. I was not about to miss this event. Our group of friends saw the stage 2 rocket separation from the highway on our way to the diving trip.

How many other things have happened on Earth, in real time, that brought so many people together. From the moon walk to the pictures that the Webb telescope is sending back to Earth, we come together. Astronomy brings the old and the young, people of many colors, those on the political right and those on the left, together as one. From the earliest times people gathered together to watch the movement of the stars, to put names to groupings we call constellations. We created stories and myths. No matter the continent, no matter the tribe, recorded history tells us how astronomy ruled our lives, how mankind tried and is still trying, to find his place in the universe.

Comets became an omen of both good and bad things to come. Comet Donati is said to be the most beautiful comet inspiring paintings showing it in all its glory. Halley’s Comet is the most popular; our children will come together to see it appear once again in 2062.



In our own community on December 21, 2020, we came together during the Jupiter/ Saturn conjunction. What many described as the “star of Bethlehem” was said to be this planetary conjunction—two planets so close as to appear to be one giant, bright star. Those of us with telescopes and binoculars looked up and saw that this one beautiful star was actually two planets.



What compelled me to invite neighbors to stand in the cold to see this phenomenon, together? Most likely the same reason the shepherds in the field, the tribal leaders of old, the groups of people who crowd into planetariums do—to be in the presence of the universe. To witness, with other humans, our place in the universe. Remember the last solar eclipse? The Astronomy Club of SV called everyone together and handed out special glasses, to watch as the Moon eclipsed the Sun. We have a need to share unique experiences, to

answer the same questions: Where do we fit in? Are we alone? These are uniting questions that make astronomy the science that brings us together.

Unfortunately, we may have missed seeing the green comet at its best on February 1, but with binoculars or a telescope, you may still catch C/2022 E3 (ZTF). Look towards Mars as the green comet begins heading away from the Sun. Look in the constellation Scorpio. On February 17, look to the constellation Orion. The Hunter's sword descends from the three-starred belt; the patch of light in the center of the sword is the Orion Nebula. Future articles will include quotations, poems, and mythology, all relating to astronomy. Look on YouTube for Ray Bradbury's poem "I wish we had taller been" for a preview.

CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY



*Chestertown Market
Saturdays 1 – 5 p.m.*



*Art Classes and Show at the
KIFA Gift and Art Gallery*

So much to enjoy! Scroll through the listings for your next adventure!

Community Wellness at the Symphony Village Clubhouse Craft Room: second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – noon (March 8 or April 12). Screenings include Blood Pressure, Pulse, Glucose, and Cholesterol.

Ongoing Wellness Classes: free and online, www.edwardspharmacy.com

Chestertown Farmers' and Artisans' Market: Saturdays year-round, 8 a.m. to noon, High St.

Kent Island Farmer's Market: Thursdays, year-round, 3 – 6 p.m., at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville. (Wonderful freshly baked bread!)

Chesapeake Forum, An Academy for Lifelong Learning: www.chesapeakeforum.org/new-courses – registration for multiple courses, open through Wednesday, March 22.

Institute For Adult Learning: 45 courses, history current events, brain & body health, literature, crafts and more. \$90 fee for unlimited courses. www.instituteforadultlearning.org

Easton Night Out: Every first Friday from 5 – 8 p.m. (March 3) the streets will be filled with music and excitement. Explore the downtown shops, restaurants, and galleries.

All Creatures Inspiring and Funny: A show celebrating the natures of all living organisms that provide a world of textures, colors, and shapes. Thursday, January 12, through Sunday, February 26. Kent Island Federation of Arts, www.kifa.us

QAC Centre for the Arts: 12th Annual Small Works Exhibit through Tuesday, March 14.
www.queenannescountyarts.com

East Coast Swing dance classes: Start Wednesday, February 15, through Wednesday, March 8, from 6 – 7 p.m., QAC Arts Council. 410-758-2520.

Knitting 101/102: Fiber Arts Center, Denton – Wednesdays, February 15, March 15, March 29, April 12, April 26. 410-829-5136.

Audition for Roald Dahl’s “Matilda,” The Musical, Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday, February 18 – 19 at 2:30 p.m., businessmanager@churchhilltheatre.org 410-556-6003.

Critters and Cocktails Lecture: Shaping the Landscape: The Archeology and History of the Chesapeake Bay, Thursday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. www.bayrestoration.org/speaker-series/

Lori Kesner on flute and Maria Jose Parker on piano at the Gibson Center for the Arts, Washington College, Chestertown, Thursday, February 16, at 7:30 p.m. 410-778-7839

Film Series: “Before the Flood” Thursday, February 16, at 7 p.m. and “Do the Right Thing” Thursday, March 9, at 7 p.m. at the Norman James Theatre, Washington College, Chestertown. mgrosse2@washcoll.edu.

Eat Like A Human: Intensive class with Dr. Bill Schindler at Eastern Shore Food Lab in Chestertown Friday through Monday, February 17–20. Five class package of fermented vegetables, sourdough mother, fermented dairy, and cheesemaking. www.eatlikeahuman.com/classes.

National Music Festival Resonance Concert with ARTEK: at St Paul’s Parish off Rt. 20 in Chestertown Sunday, February 19, at 3 p.m. www.nationalmusic.us

Seaside Boat Show: Indoor boat show with 350+ boats and 140 exhibitors, the Coast Guard, the National Resources Police, boat lifts, and electronics at the Roland E. Powell Convention Center in Ocean City, Md., Friday through Sunday, February 17–19. 443-880-3602

Chesapeake Fire & Ice Festival: Friday, February 17, from 5 – 9 p.m., and Saturday, February 18 from noon – 9 p.m. Family friendly ice carving festival, larger than life ice sculptures will be on display throughout historic downtown Easton. Also, restaurant tasting and live music events.

Early Birds and Ducks in Water: Intro to Birding and Avian Research, Adults, Saturday, February 18 from 11 a.m. – noon, Library, Chestertown Branch, 408 High Street.

Black History Celebration: with diverse offering of the arts, Soul food, music, and textile works. At the Foundry, 401 Market Street, Denton, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday, February 18.

Bountiful’s “First Ladies” Sale, Easton: Saturday – Monday, February 18 – 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Furniture, home accessories, and interior design. Supposedly wildly popular, in-stock items are 50% off.

Talbot County Garden Club Winter Lecture Series: Tuesday, February 28, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Carolyn Mullet presents a slide illustrated talk of “Tours of European Gardens” via Zoom at the Talbot County Free Library, Easton Branch, 100 West Dover St.

Annapolis Restaurant Week: Saturday, February 25, through Sunday, March 5. Enjoy a wide range of 40+ restaurants. Main Street, 410-858-5884, www.downtownannapolispartnership.org

Shore Love Little Quilts Exhibit: and other small works, open daily from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. from Saturday, March 4 through Friday, March 31. Heron Point, Chestertown.

Annapolis St. Patrick's Day Parade: Sunday, March 5, from 1 – 3 p.m., City Dock.

Spring Musical “Once Upon a Mattress” at the Gibson Center for the Arts in Chestertown, Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4 at 7:30 p.m. wcmusic@washcoll.edu.

“Sense and Sensibility” at Church Hill Theatre Friday through Sunday, March 17 – April 2.
www.churchhilltheatre.org.

CAT City Quilt Class: Fiber Arts Center, Denton, Thursday, March 16. 410-829-5136

Queen Annes's County Library: www.qaclibrary.org/calendar-monthly.

- **Creative Aging Yoga Workshop for Seniors:** Wednesday, February 15, at 10 – 11 a.m., a virtual event
- **Great Yard Bird Count:** all ages, count cardinals and other birds while strolling down the Cross Island Trail starting at the Kent Island Library, Friday, February 17, at 3 p.m.
- **Fabric Flower Pin:** Make a flower pin using hand sewing techniques, all skill levels, materials are provided, Saturday, February 18, at 10 a.m. at Kent Island Branch.
- **Ongoing Technology Help:** schedule 1-on-1 help by appointment at Centreville Library. 410-758-0980
- **Take online classes:** Gale courses instructor lead: 410 -758-0980
- **Black History Month: Tiny Art Show.** Display throughout the month of February.
- **Black History Month Bingo:** Drop by Centreville Library to pick up a bingo card that will introduce you to new authors and topics. Return card by Tuesday, February 28 to receive a prize.
- **Crime & a Cuppa:** with mystery reader extraordinaire Kathleen Wilson, Saturday, February 25, at 10 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.
- **Did you know?** You can check out other things such as board games, fishing poles, irons, DVD players, and many more items at the library? Call 410-758-0980 to see if they have what you need.

The Adkins Arboretum: (410-634-2847), www.adkinsarboretum.org

- **Climate Circle:** Climate crisis and building a community around solutions. Third Wednesdays through May, 23 from 2 – 4 p.m.
- **Rooted Wisdom: Nature's Role in the Underground** – Sunday, February 19, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. With a docent, learn how the self-liberators used the natural landscape to forge a path to freedom and how nature both helped and hindered the journey.
- **Docent Naturalist Apprenticeship Program:** Second Thursdays, March 9 – December 14, 10 a.m. – noon. Training is free, volunteer service is required outside of class time. Train to lead guided nature walks at the Arboretum. Contact Jenny Houghton at jhoughton@adkinsarboretum.org or 410-634-2847, ext. 230.
- **Botanical Art League Group Show** view from Wednesday, February 1, through Friday, February 24.
- **First Saturday Guided Walk:** March 4 at 10 a.m.; join a docent naturalist to explore the Arboretum's rich and unique native plant habitats.
- **Trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show: The Garden Electric!** Bus departs at 7 a.m. on Monday, March 6. Call for further information.

- **Planting for & Feeding the Birds:** Tuesdays, March 7, and 14, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Birding enthusiast Jim Wilson will guide you through what birds like. Advance registration required.
- **Bat Zen: Separating Fact from Fiction:** Talk with Maryland DNR ecologist Dana Lambert, Tuesday, March 14, from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Advanced registration required.
- **Pear Watercolor Study:** Friday, February 24, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Join Lee D’Zmura to learn basic color mixing and blending, the use of masking, and finishing details in the creation of a pear. Advanced registration required.
- **Spring Native Plant Sale:** On-line ordering Thursday, March 2 through Thursday, March 30.

American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18: 2619 Centreville Rd.

- **Every Sunday Queen of Hearts:** Ticket Sales at 4 p.m. and Drawing at 7 p.m.
- **Dinners:** Friday nights at 5 p.m.
- **Bingo:** 2nd Wednesday of each month, March 8, at 6 p.m. (games start at 7 p.m.)
- **Texas Hold’Em Tournament:** Poker — Saturday, February 25, at noon.
- **Annual Chili Cook off:** Saturday, March 4, at 3 p.m.

Avalon Theatre: www.eastonmd.org (see website for more events)

- 205th Birthday Celebration of Frederick Douglas: Saturday, February 16, at 6 p.m.
- High Noon: Friday, February 24, at 7 p.m.

If you know of any events you’d like to share, please email them to me at godfreycb@me.com

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE NEWS

TOWN OF CENTREVILLE GOVERNMENT NEWS AND COMMENTS

Yard waste pickup resumes on Monday, March 20, 2023.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

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maintenance@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Board of Directors group email:
Board@symphonyvillagehoa.com

Location:
 100 Symphony Way
 Centreville MD 21617

Telephone Numbers:
 Office: 410-758-8500
 Fax: 410-758-8509

Bulk Pickup & Yard Waste: 410-758-1180

Trash Removal & Recycling: 410-742-0099