

# LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

August, 2007

Vol. II No.8

*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 NEW HOMEOWNERS!!

The following residents settled and/or moved into their new homes since our last publication:

Thomas and Janice Carmody  
213 Opera Ct.  
240-876-0799  
tom.triangle@atlanticbb.com

Edward and Nancy Frey  
202 Opera Ct.  
410-758-2537  
EdnaFrey@yahoo.com

Thomas & Mary Kisker  
834 Harmony

Robert & Eleanor Strietman  
235 Opera Ct.  
443-262-8162  
estrietman@juno.com  
rstrietman@juno.com

### **Welcome to each and everyone!**

\*\* Some of our new residents were not available to complete the application for the Directory but the information will be updated as soon as possible and will be available on the Web site.

### **FROM JAN'S DESK**

Thank you for all that joined us for the Cruise of the Miles River. In spite of the bad weather, we did have a good time. Please check the Activities Book often; I am adding new information, almost daily, about upcoming craft classes and returning classes such as Joy of Music, quilting, etc.

Just added: Churchill Theatre has offered to do a "preview" of their next performance, "The Lion in Winter," here at Symphony Village on Saturday, October 13, at 6:00 p.m. Details will follow.

### **FROM DENNIS' DESK**

Reminder!!! There is a sign up sheet at the front desk for overseeding, aeration and lime application for your entire lot. The deadline to sign up for this is September 7. The cost is \$65.00 payable at time of sign up.



Who can I get to put in a solar skylight? *See pages 15 and 16.*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

#### Architectural Guidelines

By Gil Hoffman, Chairman, Architectural Review Committee

The Architectural Review Committee has completed and reviewed the guidelines for exterior modifications to the residences in Symphony Village. The guidelines have been reviewed and are now posted on the web page <http://www.villagehoa.org/>. Also, there is a feedback form to be used for questions and comments. The plan to move forward with the guidelines is as follows:

- Feedback forms will be submitted to the General Manager of the Symphony Village HOA.
- After the feedback is processed by the Architectural Review Committee, all changes to the Final Guidelines will be resubmitted to the HOA Board for approval.
- There will be an opportunity for the community to discuss this subject prior to the September HOA meeting September 27. After approval by the officers of the HOA, the Guidelines and the process will be implemented.

There will an update of the status for implementation of the Architectural Guidelines at the HOA meeting in August. We continue to look forward to your comments and questions as we work together to adopt and implement the guidelines for Symphony Village.

### LIFESTYLES COMMITTEE

#### Calendar

##### August

- |    |  |                       |
|----|--|-----------------------|
| 18 | Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre, “Thoroughly Modern Millie”<br><b>\$15.00 pp.</b> Meet at Clubhouse by <b>7:15 p.m.</b> to carpool.<br>Sign up in the Activities Book and pay Jan. | 8:30 p.m.             |
| 18 | Happy Hour   | 6:00 p.m.             |
| 19 | “Act II” (Connie and Ben)-- <b>\$3.00 entertainment fee</b>  | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.      |
| 20 | Dare to Care – (Only homeowners who have been notified)  | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. |
| 21 | Brain Aerobics--Sign up in the Activities Book.  | 6:30 p.m.             |
| 26 | Oxford Community Center, “George M”-- <b>\$15.00 pp</b>  | 2:00 p.m.             |

Meet at Clubhouse by **12:45 p.m.** to carpool.

## September

- 3 Labor Day Picnic – **\$15.00 pp.** *Deadline is August 17* 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.  
**Menu and other pertinent information** are in the Activities Book.  
Sign up and pay Jan.
- 7 Happy Hour 6:00 p.m.
- 11 Lifestyles Meeting. All homeowners are welcomed. 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Game Night 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Crab Feast at Crab Deck, Kent Narrows –(Adults Only) 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
**\$40.00 pp.** *Deadline is September 15.* **Menu and other pertinent information** is in the Activities Book. Sign up and pay Jan.
- 22 Happy Hour 6:00 p.m.
- 30 Spa Day and Football Party (Details to be announced)

The next Garage Sale will be held Saturday, October 6, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Pig Roast catered by the Smokehouse Grill from Stevensville on Sunday, October 14.  
Trip to The Dupont Theatre in Wilmington to see “The Producers,” Wednesday, October 17.  
Pride of the Bay Pirate Chorus will perform on Saturday, October 20, at Chesapeake College.  
The Christmas Party date has been changed to December 1. (Details to be announced)  
The party scheduled for December 15 will be changed to a Holiday Happy Hour.



Who can I get to sell me some property? *See pages 15 and 16!*

## OUTREACH PROGRAM

### Donations

Thanks to the generosity and support of our neighbors, their families and friends, the Outreach Committee has been able to donate the following:

- \$500 QAC Adult Day Care Center
- \$800 QAC Council for Youth and Children  
(\$400 for school supplies now and \$400 for holiday expenses in the fall)
- \$174 Centreville Police Safety Fair-- August 19--(donation and prizes)

We are only able to give these monies because you supported our very successful House Tour fundraiser. Kudos to each and every one of you!

### Governor’s Service Award

A Governor’s Service Award from the State of Maryland has been presented to SV Outreach Program, Inc. for our assistance to the Department of Social Services of QAC. It will be hung in the Clubhouse. As mentioned earlier, \$400 has been donated this month for the purchase of school supplies

for underprivileged children. The QAC Council for Youth and Children will purchase and distribute the school supplies.

This award was made possible by all the residents, who have volunteered time, talent and treasures to make our program successful. We have so many wonderful volunteers, but we would like to mention a few unsung heroes. Pat Kindle takes the time to send get well cards, sympathy cards, and flowers to our residents as a service of the Neighbor to Neighbor Program. Bob Butler devotes time every month to keep our books and prepare financial statements. Doug Dewhirst picks up food from Acme Markets and Food Lion on Kent Island on a weekly basis and delivers it to a food pantry in Church Hill. He is also a weekly volunteer for Hospice. Thanks to these great volunteers and everyone, who gives their time.

**This incredible award is something we can all be very proud of!!!**

### **New Hospice Center**

**Have you seen the new Hospice Center under construction in Centreville?** If you have not, please ride over to view it. Take Route 213 toward town and turn right on Courseval Road near Queenstown Bank. Turn left on Comet Dr. and follow it to the end. The three million dollar facility will be opened in January 2008. The building will house six patient rooms and several counseling rooms. We are so fortunate to have the facility so close to us. The Outreach Committee is considering making a three-year financial pledge to the Hospice Building Fund. Many residential communities are working together to provide financial help through pledges. Some of the designated pledges for the facility are:

\$10,000	Plaque in lobby	\$35,000	Patient Room
\$25,000	Staff Room	\$25,000	Elevator

We are planning to raise funds through the sale of the Village Cookbooks and garage sales. (Please start gathering items for the next garage sale in October.) We are also planning some other very interesting activities and will need lots of volunteers in the future. Should you like to make a personal donation to our Hospice Building Fund, please call either of our Neighbor to Neighbor co-chairpersons, Pat Loiacono (410-758-8170) or Helen Schultz (443-262-9181). The amount of our pledge will depend on the response of our residents to our fund raising activities.

### **Hospice Fundraiser**

The Outreach Committee is in the process of choosing a design and format for a Village Cookbook. Dust off those old family recipes so we can include your favorites in this great project. We would like each and every homeowner to submit three or four tried and true recipes so that we can put each of you in print. The following categories will be included:

Appetizers & Beverages	Breads and Rolls
Soups and Salads	Desserts
Vegetables and Side Dishes	Cookies and Candy
Main Dishes	Misc

Our heartfelt wish is that we could publish a great cookbook and deliver it in time for Christmas. Therefore, dear friends and neighbors, we need your recipes as soon as possible with a firm deadline of September 15. Please add your personal comments at the bottom of the recipe. Following the business

ads is a form that can be printed. Please use one form for each recipe. Additional forms may be picked up at the Clubhouse, and we ask that all completed forms be returned to the Clubhouse. In addition, we ask that all of you great typists and proofreaders come forward and lend us a hand. We believe this will be a wonderful project and a chance for all of us to participate in a community publication. All profit will go toward the Queen Anne's County Hospice Building Fund. Please join us for the next Outreach Committee planning meeting on September 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Any questions contact Dorothy Hamm at 410-758-3803, Joyce Edmonston at 410-758-4908, or Helen Schultz at 443-262-9181.

### **Sunset Celebration**

Don't forget the Sunset Celebration Hospice fundraiser to be held on September 15, from 5 to 9pm. The Outreach Committee is one of the sponsors and as such, we would like all of you to take advantage of this wonderful evening. There will be dancing to the island sounds of Sean & Mark, an open bar and dining on roast pig, grilled chicken and salmon pasta entrees as well as an assortment of side dishes and desserts. There will also be a silent and a live auction, which will include the auction of jewelry, trips, furniture, etc. Tickets are only \$50 per person and include admission, food, and an open bar. This event will be held at the Chesapeake Environmental Center in Grasonville. To purchase a ticket or to volunteer, contact Dorothy Hamm at 410-758-3803 or Deborah Davis at 410-643-6609.

### **Volunteer in Action—Helen Schultz**

Did you know that the SV Outreach Program Inc. sponsors, among others, the Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Foundation? Helen Schultz (one of our members) is on the board of this foundation. She knows first hand how valuable this group is.

This foundation was formed as a charitable civic group to aid, encourage, advise, and correlate all fund-raising activities for the Queen Anne's County Adult Day Care Medical Center, so that all seniors can attend a daytime health care facility that has a home-like atmosphere. This year one of the facilities had to shut down due to restricted funds. The remaining center, The Percy Thomas Center, is located at 891 Love Point Rd. in Stevensville. The foundation raises funds to support the medical team by aiding in outings to local restaurants and attractions, classes on crafts, current events, etc., sing-a-longs, games, parties !!!, and other needs.

This year The Adult Day Care Foundation Inc. will hold its Annual Card Party on Tuesday, November 13. Symphony Village participated last year, and all had a great time for a great cause. We are looking for volunteers to supply cakes for their "Cake Table," (about 25 cakes are needed). If you would like to attend and/or donate a cake, please call Helen Schultz for information at 443-262-9181.

### **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Meeting**



After a two month hiatus, Neighbor to Neighbor will be meeting on September 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. All are invited to attend this meeting to begin planning some reorganization as our community continues to grow.

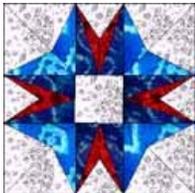
### **Important Sneakers Meeting**

Sneakers is gearing up for our Silent Auction on November 3. The next meeting will be Thursday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We will be handing out donation letters and organizing our committees for the auction. With more people continuing to move in we will need to have more help this year so that our auction can be better than ever. Please volunteer!!!

Next year we hope to have sufficient funds to expand our help to Centreville Middle School. Remember; if you have something to donate to the auction please contact Helena Joy (410-758-6532) or Linda Farrar (410-758-8744) as soon as possible. Everyone in Symphony Village is invited to join us in our endeavor to help the school age children of Centreville and their families.

## **CLUBS AND CLASSES**

### **Quilting**



Jeanne Novack will hold an Introduction to Quilting meeting for those interested in learning to quilt on Tuesday, September 18, at 1:00 p.m. in the craft room of the Clubhouse. At that time Jeanne will discuss the Beginning Quilting Class to be held Monday's from 1 until 3, October 1—January 7. The meeting will cover projects to be made (some will be on display), equipment needed, and skills required. There is no charge for the class. Please sign up for the September 18 meeting in the activities book at the Clubhouse prior to September 18. Those completing Beginning Quilting will be qualified to join Independent Quilting that meets Tuesday's from 10 until 12. If you feel that you qualify for Independent Quilting without taking Beginning Quilting, call Jeanne Novack at 410-758-2842.



Who can I get to do my window treatments? *See pages 15 and 16.*

### **Gazebo Garden Gang**



A meeting of the garden club was held in the gazebo on August 2. We started the meeting with a chocolate-chocolate-chocolate cake, milk, and raspberry drink. The general consensus of the members and visitors is that we did very well for a first year garden. We are trying to have twenty people to care for the twenty beds in the garden. Right now, we have several people caring for two or more beds. If you would like to help in the flower garden, please contact Joan or Jack Hennessey-410-758-4872. For next year, we have decided to replace a few of the anchor plants, to move a few plants, and to concentrate on perennials. Many suggestions were received regarding the kind of flowers to add. Several persons have requested that we install a purple martin house in their neighborhood. We hope to do this next year. The current

martins left for South America on August 1! We have estimated that we will need about \$1700 next year for flowers, fertilizer, mulch, and potting soil. All residents are invited to join the garden club or to just sit in the gazebo and enjoy the flowers.

## **Book Clubs**

### **Third Tuesday**



The July meeting was cancelled, since most of the members were invited to a Tuna Roast given by Carol and Ray Stephens. Consequently, the book for July has been rescheduled for August 21. *The Road*, by Cormac McCormick, is reputed to be one of the best books selected for review. We expect a big turnout and a lively discussion. The book for September will be selected at the August meeting. The fall season, when the outdoor pool closes, is the best time for reading. All are invited to join us. Call Joan or Jack Hennessey on 758-4872.

### **Third Thursday**

The Third Thursday Night Book Club has chosen its next two books. You have plenty of time to read them this summer. Our September book is *A Thousand Splendid Sons* by Khaled Hossini, the author of the well-known *Kite Runner*. This novel also takes place in Afghanistan. Our October book is *The Girls*, by Lori Lansens. It is the story of conjoined twins and is about love and of finding their way in the world. Please join us at our next discussion on Thursday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We are not a serious group but try to choose thought provoking books. We hope you will join us. All are welcome!!!

## **Symphony Village Bird Club**



The Bird Club took its maiden field trip to Millstream Park in July. The early morning weather was perfect for walking and for stopping often to see what we could see. We identified over a dozen birds including a magnificent great blue heron and an Eastern kingbird. We also had glimpses of birds that didn't stay around long enough to ID. As a bonus, we saw beautiful butterflies and dragonflies, bunnies, and several awesome spider webs glistening in the morning sun.

At our next club meeting on August 30 (at noon, at the Clubhouse picnic pavilion), we'll discuss plans for a fall field trip. Please join us. Call Linda Blume at 410-758-3194 for more information or to give us your ideas if you're unable to attend the August meeting.

## **Mah Jongg Players Wanted (Men and Women)**

Mah Jongg lessons will be offered on Tuesday evenings this fall and will be taught by our resident experts, Caryn Martin and Anita Morris. Come join the Symphony Village residents who are already addicted to this ancient game of skill and luck.

### **WHAT IS MAH JONGG?**

Mah Jongg is a Chinese game that dates back to the era of Confucius and originally could only be played by the ruling class. In 1911, when China became a Republic, Mah Jongg was no longer confined to the Mandarins and the game became an instant hit with all the



classes. Eventually, Mah Jongg came to the US and in the 1930's the game was standardized, so that all players would play using the same patterns and rules.

If you are looking for ways to keep your brain nimble, Mah Jongg is the ticket. Check the September calendar and join the Mah Jongg enthusiasts for an evening of fun, friendship, and sometimes hilarity.

## PAST SOCIAL EVENTS

### **Sunset Happy Hour Cruise** Barbara Atamian Reporting From The Upper Deck Of The Patriot



As we boarded the Patriot for our Happy Hour Cruise, some of us decided to go upstairs to enjoy the view. Little did we know that we would have to brave the elements. At the beginning, the plastic chairs were lined up perfectly, near the railings. Friends got drinks, claimed seats, and settled in for a ride. The captain came by and informed us that we were in for some wet weather and to be careful walking on the fiberglass floor. Soon, we heard thunder and it started to rain. As we pulled away from the dock, I noticed two ducks that had taken shelter under the pilings. Was this meant to be a sign? Rain started to force us back from the sides of the boat. We moved our chairs inward and complained about drops of water hitting us.

At one point, we thought the storm was over and we enjoyed cruising for a while. Little did we know that the worst was yet to come. The captain announced, on advice from the Coast Guard that we turn around and head for home. The storm had stalled over St. Michaels. As the weather got worse, we huddled in our chairs, making a circle in the center of the deck. We got closer and closer together. As a diversion, we thought of games we might play. How about musical chairs? Someone suggested a wet t-shirt contest. As I looked around, I thought of having a funkier hair-do contest. Then the big one came! Across the water, we could see the latest storm coming. My husband said, "We need to get up and move now!" We ended up standing together as close to the bar as we could, holding on to each other. The wind and rain kept pounding us. We had thoughts of The Poseidon Adventure, Titanic, and The Perfect Storm. As we finally came into port, we thought about what our children would think of us now. We imagined a newspaper report would read, "Symphony Village Seniors Cruise During A Thunder Storm". We arrived safely. Otherwise, we were totally soaked! And, those perfectly lined up chairs, are now in a heap.

Meanwhile those who were down stairs, sheltered from the rain, enjoyed the music provided by Bill Edmonston on the Banjo and Doug Puls on the guitar. We had singers and dancers doing their best to sing and dance to the great music coming from the banjo and guitar. Food was plentiful and delicious. Whether upstairs or down, everyone had a great time in spite of the storms. A big Thank you to Jan and Doris and committee members for all they did to make our cruise and Happy Hour an event to remember.

### **Jimmy Buffet Party**



On July 22 Symphony Village gathered for their annual Jimmy Buffet party. We had beautiful weather and festive "Parrot-Head" decorations. The featured entertainment,

returning by popular demand, was Act II (Connie and Ben). We ate hot dogs, hamburgers, potato chip and pretzels, washed down with beer, soda, and of course margaritas. Act II kept the party swinging. Connie and Ben provided some of our local talent (Judy Hamm, Cyndy Bourke, and Gail Reel) with musical instruments so they could play back-up rhythm. Partiers enjoyed dancing. Connie moved through the crowd wearing funny disguises and handing the microphone to any willing singer. Judy and Cyndy led many people in enthusiastic sing-a-longs. A fun time was had by all, even those who brought their own chairs and sat under the shade of the large trees enjoying the music and company while drinking their margaritas and eating “cheeseburgers in paradise”. Our thanks to the Life Styles Committee and their many helpers for another fun party. We look forward to seeing Act II again August 19 for Picnic in the Pavilion.

## OF LOCAL INTEREST

### **Centreville Safety Day Fair**

The First Annual Centreville Safety Day Fair will be held on Sunday, August 19, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. behind the Goodwill Fire House. The Centreville Police Department and Goodwill Fire Company host it. There will be free balloons, face painting, dunking booth, prizes, cotton candy, “Pucker Powder Machine” and hot dogs. The SV Outreach Program has donated funds to help support this event. Please come out and have a good time with your grandchildren.

### **Betterton Beach Park** by Linda Blume



Betterton Beach Park is a lovely little park directly on the Chesapeake Bay in Betterton, Maryland. There is a sandy beach for swimming (lifeguards on summer weekends) with picnic tables under tall trees and a separate picnic pavilion on the hill. In addition, there is a pier for fishing and crabbing, a beach volleyball court and net, and benches facing the Bay for just relaxing. The Park is open dawn to dusk, no admission charge; the bathhouse is open 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Betterton Community Park, on the right just as you enter Betterton, has playground equipment, but it’s too far from the beach to walk between the two.

Directions (about 31 miles from Symphony Village):

Proceed north on Route 213 through Centreville and Chestertown. Turn left onto Route 561 (Lynch Road). In Lynch (where Route 561 dead ends), turn right onto Lands Meadow Road. Turn left onto Route 292 (Still Pond Road). Where Route 292 meets Route 566, turn left onto the continuation of Route 292. Follow Route 292 into Betterton. The Beach Park is down a final hill, parking to the left, bathhouse to the right.

### **Future Day Trips**

Have you taken a day trip to a destination you can recommend? Would you share with your neighbors? A short paragraph is all we need. Include the destination name, what to see and do, directions,

admission charge (if any), hours, as well as anything else of particular interest. You can e-mail your submission to Carol Hodges at [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or give Carol a hardcopy. Thanks for your input.

### **Queen Anne's Chorale**

The Queen Anne's Chorale will begin its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert season with its first rehearsal on September 10, 2007, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Centreville United Methodist Church in Centreville, MD. Rehearsals will focus on the December Christmas concert on December 2, at Queen Anne's High School. Mr. Robert Huntington is the artistic director of the 55-voice singing ensemble. The Chorale is always seeking singers of all voice parts and will hold an "OPEN" rehearsal on September 17 at the church. There is no audition, and a reception will be held afterward. Interested singers should come at 6:45p.m. Music will be available for those who attend. For more information please call Kathryn Marchi at 410-758-3183 or call 410-827-8618 or visit [www.qachorale.org](http://www.qachorale.org).

### **Pride of the Bay Barbershop Chorus**

Pride of the Bay Barbershop Chorus is holding open rehearsals Wednesday's, 6:30 p.m., Chesapeake College Humanities Bldg., Room 117, (Cadby Theatre) preparing for their October "Music Man" 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show. Information: call Jack Walsh, 443-262-9449.

### **Sandtown Habitat – Big Time Recycling** by John DiLaura

On Tuesday's when Willie and I take our morning walk, we are pleased to see how many of you have enrolled in the town's curbside recycling program. After breakfast, however, I drive to Baltimore to engage in a recycling program on a significantly larger scale: turning century-old row houses into affordable homes for low to moderate income residents of West Baltimore's Sandtown-Winchester Community.



Habitat for Humanity, International sponsors such housing programs worldwide. In the US, local affiliates build or rehab single-family homes for homeowners whose down payment is 300-400 hours of "sweat equity" in their home. Upon completion, the houses are purchased with 20-30 year, interest-free mortgages, financed through the affiliate. At Sandtown, monthly mortgage payments include property taxes, insurance, and an accrual to repair or replace the flat roof, to minimize financial shocks to new homeowners.

During my 10 years of volunteering, I have done demolition, concrete, masonry, framing, roofing, staircases, and recently, trim and finishing work. There is work for everyone, regardless of age, gender or skill level. If you would like to join me on a Tuesday trek to Baltimore, please call 443-262-8062. If you'd like to volunteer closer to home, most mid-shore counties have Habitat affiliates, as well.

## Personal Ads

Do you have something to sell, a condo to rent, something you need? Email the ad of 20 words or less to [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. Commercial or real estate sales are prohibited.

**Bicycles—Ten Speed.** 1 man's and 1 lady's. \$50 each. 410-758-2649.

**Boat--**2003 17 Ft. Glastron Bowrider, 90 HP Johnson, Venture roller trailer, full canvas Low Hours, Good Cond, \$7900, 443-262-8062.

**Travel to Ireland—**Oct. 14-25, airfare, hotels, , breakfasts, 8 dinners, and admission to attractions included. Call Kathy 410-758-1743.

**Help Wanted.** Part-time supervisor. Flexible hours. Here's the Scoop Ice Cream, Centreville Plaza. Contact Kathy 410-758-1743.



Who is a good lawyer? *See ads on pages 15 and 16.*

### Special Reminders

- Club House Phone Number (Jan and Dennis)—410-758-8500
- Jan Van Riper's email--[symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net](mailto:symphonyclub@atlanticbbn.net)
- Dennis Sesplankis' email--[dsesplankis@LNresorts.com](mailto:dsesplankis@LNresorts.com)
- Warranty Office—410-758-8775 x11
- George Bachman—301-261-0277 ext.211; email—[gbachman@carusohomes.com](mailto:gbachman@carusohomes.com)

### **FROM THE KITCHEN OF.... Jan DiCarlantonio** Brown Sugar Brie with Nuts



¼ cup light brown sugar, firmly packed  
¼ cup chopped pecans  
1 tablespoon bourbon  
½ package (17-14 oz) frozen puff pastry sheets, thawed

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1 (13.2 oz) round Brie

Caramel Nut Sauce (see below)

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Stir together first three ingredients. Place puff pastry sheet on a lightly floured surface; roll out fold lines. Spread pecan mixture in a 5" circle in center of pastry. Place Brie on top of pecan mixture.

Wrap pastry around Brie, pinching to seal tightly, and place on an aluminum foil-lined baking sheet, folded side down. Bake for 25 minutes or until light brown. Cool 10 minutes.

To prepare caramel sauce, combine ½ cup cream, ½ cup butter, 1-cup light brown sugar and 2 tablespoons light corn syrup in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, whisking occasionally. Cover and boil for 1 minute. Uncover and continue to boil for 3 to 4 minutes, without stirring. Mix in 1 cup chopped pecans. Cool, then spoon around warm Brie. Serve Brie warm with assorted crackers, apple and pear slices.

*Serves 8.*

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## **TRAVEL ARTICLE OF THE MONTH**

Hidden Treasures in San Diego

By

Valerie Siegel

Whenever I cross the skywalk at Lindbergh Field and step onto the escalator, the soft breeze of the San Diego Bay feels like a welcome home embrace. On the evening of June 19, 2007, the sky still sunset lavender and burnt gold, that embrace lingered. This trip was more than a vacation. This trip was the opening pages of the next chapter of my life.



San Diegans move with an ease of purpose. Everything gets done efficiently, but one never feels rushed. I was off the airplane and onto the freeway in my rental car in less than 30 minutes. White wine, Brie, and friendship greeted me at Ann's house in the hills of Spring Valley where my late brother had made his home until his untimely death in 2001. We enjoyed several fireworks displays as we caught up on recent events, and plotted our next day's route to available rentals in close-in East County. Ann and I used to enjoy the Thursday night Classic Car Shows along La Mesa Blvd and the wonderful antique stores that line both sides of the street. La Mesa is a settled community with great fresh food markets, holistic health care providers, and D.Z. Aiken's Deli and Bakery that rivals the Stage Door or Carnegie in Manhattan. Living in LaMesa could be a beautiful thing!

With a box full of apricot Hamantash and Raspberry Rugulach, I bid Ann farewell and continued east on I-8 (Kumeyaay Highway) to Alpine. The Viejas Indian Reservation there is home to a huge casino, fabulous shopping, and The Grove, which is probably the best steakhouse outside the San Diego City Limits. A few years ago I attended outdoor performances by Bill Cosby, Chicago, Kenny G, and others in the intimate park theater at Viejas. Viejas was my neighborhood. I was pulling into my garage 10 minutes after leaving my third row seats at the park. Bill Cosby called Viejas, "Humphrey's without the water." He was referring to Humphrey's By the Bay, San Diego's premier outdoor jazz venue on Shelter Island near the airport. My friends and their Standard Poodles live across the freeway from

Viejas in the mountainous enclave of Palo Verde Ranch. Their home overlooks Palo Verde Lake. Bob and Barb (the Bickersons, as I call them), have been married “47 years, 5 months, 2 weeks, 3 days, 11 hours, 23 minutes and 7 seconds, but who’s counting?” Toby and Julie, their black and white Standard Poodles, were Mocha’s first chums in San Diego. Bob is a volunteer sheriff’s deputy. He brought me up to date on what has happened in our little town in recent years. On a drive along Alpine Blvd, one might still encounter horses coming in the opposite direction, or tethered in front of the microbrewery. The Bread Basket still serves breakfast in their garden alongside a babbling stream. It never got the memo that most of the working ranches around Alpine are now residential communities, so it still serves ranch-hand portions. Breakfast or lunch at Janet’s in the J.K. Montana Corale is a better bet for smaller appetites. It also offers an opportunity to explore the tiny natural wonder next door that is home to “Chirp,” non-profit sponsor of the annual Sage and Songbird Festival.

On Thursday morning I made my way west past El Capitan Mountain and Reservoir, Hotel Circle, and Fashion Valley Mall, and up the hill to the University of San Diego. Established in 1948, USD is a major Catholic university built in classic Spanish style. Cortez Plaza, with its flowers and fountains, separates the newer Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice from the Terrero stadium and student housing. Terrero’s on the ground level of Maher Hall is Starbucks without the Starbucks: Great coffee and specialty drinks, lots of fresh fruits, home-baked pastries, and excellent sandwiches. Instead of sipping on a city street, I like to relax among the roses on the patio adjacent to the pristine Immaculata Church lawn. And I always stop to notice Mission Bay sparkling below as I walk to my car on the parking lot behind the church.

Another good friend lives in Bay Park on the edge of Tecalote (owl) Canyon at the base of the hill below USD. The Canyon is an oasis of natural beauty near the heart of an over-developed city. When jogging or biking the 6.5 miles of trail, a stop in the Nature Center, which hosts exhibits on the animals and plant life in the canyon, adds to the experience. Noreen and I spent the afternoon together settling my housing needs for the next two years. That having been accomplished, I had the whole day free on Friday.

Leaving Bay Park, I took Tecalote Canyon Road to Sunset Cliffs Blvd, past Sea World, and into 60’s-style enclave of Ocean Beach. At Newsbreak Café on Sunset Cliffs I picked up two orders of spectacular curried chicken salad and headed over to the lovely convent/retreat Spiritual Ministry Center on Del Mar Ave. for a good visit with Sister Mary Ann Flynn. We sat above the cliffs on the edge of the Pacific and caught up on past events and future plans. Had Mocha been with me, we might have taken a romp on the nearby doggie beach. After lunch, I made a moderately successful attempt to beat the rush hour traffic northbound on I-5. At Del Mar Heights I made my way to the Coastal Highway and proceeded north through Cardiff by the Sea, Encinitas, Carlsbad, and Oceanside. I returned to I-5 for the 17-mile stretch along Camp Pendleton. The Marine Corps reservation is what keeps Los Angeles and San Diego from becoming a huge megalopolis. Along the way I was reminded of the delightful experiences I enjoyed over the years at my cousin’s in San Clemente overlooking the ocean, the Mission at San Juan Capistrano and the ocean-front Marriott Resort in Dana Point.

I spent the early evening with family and friends in Mission Viejo, a beautiful seaside town above Laguna Beach in Orange County. Laguna Beach is home to two annual events well worth the trip. One is the Sawdust Festival of artisans and high-end crafters. The other is the Pageant of the Masters in which great paintings are recreated in tableaux.



After spending the weekend with friends in Lake San Marcos, where I once lived, I met five women friends for dinner at Jake’s in the seaside community of Del Mar, just north of La Jolla and Pacific Beach. Jake’s is one of several outstanding eateries in the town that is home to the

Del Mar Race Track on Bing Crosby Drive (and the Del Mar Doggie Beach). Others include Bully's for Prime Rib, the Poseidon, and Il Fornaio on the terrace of 1555 Camino Del Mar overlooking the Pacific.

While this was a very personal trip for me, it was also laced with new experiences in familiar places that travelers to San Diego would enjoy. My hope in sharing them is to whet the appetite of so many Village People who have welcomed me into their community and their hearts. My phone numbers will not change and I would love to share in your own San Diego experience in the months and years to come.

I will miss you all as I follow the advice of Henry David Thoreau: "Step confidently in the direction of your dreams, and endeavor to live the life you have only imagined."

### **From the Publications and Communications Committee**

Valerie, you are leaving a large hole that will be hard to fill. We will miss your humorous presentation at the welcome nights. We will miss your excellent insight on difficult situations. We will miss your smile. We will miss your ability to edit when the rest of us cannot solve the problem. Most of all we will miss *you*.

### **Travel Articles**

If you have had an interesting travel experience, please share with the readers of the *Libretto*. Submit a paragraph or two telling of the exciting trip. Share mode of transportation, inviting restaurants, itinerary, etc. Email to Carol Hodges at [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or call at 410-758-0591.

### **Small World Stories**

Please submit your small world stories to above address. For example: Larry and I bought a condo in Ocean City and our next-door neighbors are cousins with Kathy Briggs. Also, the man we bought the condo from was the son of one of our best friends in Ocean Pines, and we didn't know until after settlement.



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Larry Dent

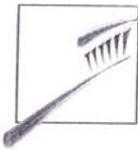
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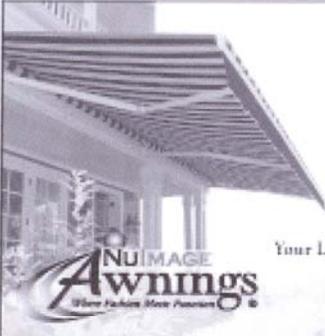
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Recipe Title \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By \_\_\_\_\_

**INGREDIENTS:** Use abbreviations: pt. qt. plg. env. c. tsp. T. oz. lb. gal. doz. sm. med. lg.

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Personal Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

# INSTRUCTIONS

- TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK, NOT PENCIL, AND PLACE ONLY ONE RECIPE PER FORM.
- If more room is needed, use another sheet of the same size and staple together.
- List all ingredients in order of use in ingredients list and directions.
- Include container sizes, e.g., 16-oz. pkg., 24-oz. can.
- Keep directions in paragraph form – not in steps.
- Use names of ingredients in the directions, e.g., "Combine flour and sugar."  
DO NOT use statements like, "Combine first three ingredients."
- Include temperatures and cooking, chilling, baking, and/or freezing times.
- Anything not part of the recipe (ingredients, directions, contributor name, serving size or recipe title) will not be included unless you select Recipe Notes for an extra charge.
- Be consistent with the spelling of your name for each recipe you contribute.
- Your recipes should fit into the following categories:

- Appetizers & Beverages**
- Soups & Salads**
- Vegetables & Side Dishes**
- Main Dishes**
- Breads & Rolls**
- Desserts**
- Cookies & Candy**
- This & That**

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Each cookbook will contain helpful cooking hints, recipe category dividers, a table of contents, an index, and special pages of interest to our community. The cookbook will be typeset in an easy-to-read format and professionally printed and bound.

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P.S. Please submit your recipes to the committee within 5 days so they can be turned over to the publisher. Thank you!