

Symphony Village's Newsletter

February, 2009

Vol. IV 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.

# Welcome Evening for New Residents



All new residents are invited to a "Welcome Evening" on Wednesday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse Grand Concert Room. This is an informal get-together to meet other new neighbors, have dessert, and learn more about your new community. Please sign up in the Activities Book in the Clubhouse or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591 so we can plan appropriately. If you have been previously

invited and were not able to come, please feel free to attend. Again, call Carol or just sign up.

# **Directory Updating**

The response to the introduction of the Picture Directory has been overwhelming, not only in the number of positive responses from the residents, but also as seen in the numbers of folks who have

visited the website. (See log files of <u>villagehoa.org</u>.) The Picture Directory was created by one of our own residents, Charlene Smallwood Brown, a member of the Publication and Communication Committee of Symphony Village. The Picture Directory is still in its early stages in that there are many pictures of residents missing. One way of getting your picture added to the directory is to send a digital picture as an attachment to an e-mail to Charlene (gsmallw594@aol.com). If you don't know how to do this, note that the Webmaster makes house calls and will assist



you in this. The Webmaster also has flash drives, laptop, and blank CDs and will travel as an alternative to e-mail. Just give John Schultz a call at 443-262-9181, <u>shultzy@schultzy.org</u>.

Much appreciation to Charlene for her efforts, and to Symphony Village residents for supporting our Website, and allowing us to serve you. Being able to contribute to the community makes living in Symphony Village such a delight.

# FROM DENNIS' DESK

# **Snow Removal**

The Association will contract to clear sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots as designated by the Board of Directors of Symphony Village. Plowing of those areas will begin when snow accumulation is 2". Driveways must be clear of vehicles in order to facilitate snow removal.

# PUBLICATION AND COMMUNICATION UPDATE Advertisers

Please patronize our advertisers. When you have services done in your home or outside the home, encourage the person to advertise in the *Libretto*. You could give them the page of ads showing the price of advertising. We want to thank those of you who have done just that.

# <u>Wanted</u>

Does any villager have and use InDesign and PhotoShop (or PhotoShop Elements)? The Communications Committee is looking for a backup person who has this software. Please contact Carol Hodges (410-758-0591) or George Drake (410-758-8266). Thank you in advance.

# SCHEDULED BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS and HOA MEETING

All Symphony Village homeowners are invited to attend the quarterly Board of Directors meetings at 10 a.m. in the Grand Concert Hall at the Clubhouse:

# April 24 July 24

# October 23

The SV Homeowners Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for December 2.



Need to install a backyard irrigation system? See the ads at the end of the newsletter.

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

# LIFESTYLE UPDATE

# **Calendar of Events**

- Saturday, February 14, is Valentine's Day Happy Hour, 6 p.m. Bring an appetizer and dance to the music of DJ Dan Ludlum from 7 to 10 p.m.
- On Monday, February 23, Lunch Bunch is going to the Crossfire Café in Chestertown. Everyone will meet at the Clubhouse at 12 p.m. Please sign up in the Activities Book.
- Ladies Night is Thursday, February 26, at 5:30 p.m. Come and enjoy good food, interesting conversation, and the special drink of the night. It is a fun evening.
- Game Night is Friday, February 27, at 7 p.m. Bring your own game or join the Singles playing the card game 2500. Bring snacks if you wish.
- Saturday, February 28, is an additional Happy Hour to celebrate Mardi Gras.

# **Upcoming Events**

March	3	Lifestyle Meeting	7:00 p.m.
	5	Men's Happy Hour	5:30 p.m.
	13	St. Patrick's Day Happy Hour	6:00 p.m.
4	20	Movie Night "The Quiet Man"	7:00 p.m.
4	26	Ladies Happy Hour	5:30 p.m.
4	27	Game Night	7:00 p.m.
4	28	Dining Inn	6:00 p.m.
4	28	Happy Hour	6:00 p.m.

# **OUTREACH UPDATE**

## Neighbor to Neighbor

Last summer, the Neighbor to Neighbor Street Captains distributed our beautiful new brochure (printed on eye-catching light purple paper) to every home in Symphony Village. Since then, there have been some changes to the information in the brochure. We told you about some of those changes in the January *Libretto*. We realized, however, that some folks might not have been able to find their copy of the brochure to insert the new information. So...here is a complete list of the current Street Captains. Please save this information. In a time of need, knowing how to reach your Street Captain could be important for you or for a neighbor.

Symphony Way	110 550 (500	Harmony Way	
Nancy Cotter	410-758-6728	(from Bravo Blvd. to	
Carole Walsh	410-758-0384	Nancie Cameron	410-758-3948
		Linda Gardner	410-758-0646
		Dottie Dillon	443-262-8362
Sonata Way			
Karen King	443-262-9450		
Marlene Tennier	410-758-4743	<b>Overture Way</b>	
		Marlene Anderson	410-758-9981
Harmony Way		Estelle Drewen	410-758-3930
(from Overture Wa	y to Bravo Blvd.)	Betty Gingerich	410-758-3102
Helena Joy	410-758-6532	Cass Smith	410-758-6965
Harriet Goodmuth	410-758-6596		
<b>Concerto</b> Avenue		<b>Encore Court</b>	
Jackie Moran	410-758-2950	Pat Porter	410-758-8543
Mary Ciesielski	443-262-8305	Gretchen Storer	410-758-3459
<b>Opera</b> Court			
Ellen Miller	443-262-8270	<b>Orchestra Place</b>	
Janice Carmody	(1) 240-876-0799	Ellen Norman	410-758-3047
canoc cannody	(-) = 10 010 0100	Shirley Clark	410-758-3076
		Shirity Clark	+10-750-5070

If you cannot find your Neighbor to Neighbor brochure, please call your Street Captain for a replacement.

One last note...We are preparing a master list of all those folks in Symphony Village who would be willing to prepare a meal for a neighbor in need and another master list of all folks who have unused medical equipment that they would be willing to share. Please call your Street Captain if you would like to be on either of these lists. Thanks so much! — Eleanor Strietman

# **Hospice Training**



Hospice of Queen Anne's serves all of Queen Anne's County by providing comprehensive, professional, and compassionate end of life care and bereavement support. We are always looking for people who would like to volunteer with us as we serve our neighbors. Contact us for more information about how you might help: in the office, at our upscale resale shop, visiting patients, preparing meals in the Hospice Center, or supporting our team and patients in other ways. Contact Debbie Gilmer, Coordinator of Volunteers, (443-262-4112 or dgilmer@hospiceofqueenannes.com)

with any questions or to request a registration form be mailed to you for any of the three classes below.

Sign up for a four-session, 18-hour training program on visiting with patients and families: Fridays--March 6, 13, 20, and 27--from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Or sign up for one of two separate 3-hour Trainings for Volunteers to Prepare Meals in our resident kitchen of our Hospice Center in Centreville on Friday, February 20, from 9 a.m. to noon or Tuesday, March 10, from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. You need only to attend one of the classes. You must be registered to attend and registration is due one week prior to each class.



# Who can I hire to clean my floors and bathrooms? See ads at the end of the newletter.

## SYMPHONY SNEAKERS UPDATE

Despite the weather, we had a great turnout for the Muffins for Moms on Friday, January 30. Everyone had a good time.



The next book give-away will be Donuts For Dads on February 19 & 20 at Kennard Elementary School from 7:30 to 9 a.m. We are looking for volunteers. There is a sign up sheet in the Activities Book in the Clubhouse. If you have any questions, please call Pat Tominovich at 410-758-1897.

On March 5, we have planned a book give-away, also at Kennard Elementary. This event will run all morning, starting at 8 a.m. and finishing around 12:30 p.m. Once again, there is a sign up sheet in the Activities Book. You can volunteer to work one or more hours.

# **Changes to Our Clubhouse**

Over the next several weeks, there will be a number of changes to the Clubhouse. Some you will see and



some you will not see. The goal for adding these changes is to improve energy efficiency and control or reduce costs. There will be signs on doors and above light switches reminding homeowners to turn off the light when they are the last person to leave the room. Timers on the fans in the fitness room and on the light switches in the bathrooms will turn them off automatically if someone forgets. Two additions that you will not see are sealers and safety plastic caps to those electrical outlets on walls that are exposed to the elements and wrapping the 250

gallon water heater to conserve propane usage.

Once the weather turns warmer, we will look at fixing the doors so that when you close them, they will remain shut and not allow cold air into the room. Another area that we will look at is installing fans in the attic to reduce the summer heat--again, trying to be energy efficient.

So when you are walking through your Clubhouse, please turn off lights in rooms that are not being used. We all pay for the costs when electricity is left on. Also, take a look around to see if there are any areas that you feel we should investigate. If so, email tomsan2@atlanticbb.net. Tom Love-- Chairperson – for the Committee to Improve Energy Efficiency in the SV Clubhouse.

# **Congratulations!**

We are proud to announce that Larry and Ellen Miller of Opera Court are the winners of a \$100 Gift Certificate to Martini's restaurant in Easton for participating in the resident referral contest. A drawing was held to determine the winner since 7 residents each brought 1 referral.

Caruso Homes and the Symphony Village team would like to thank all who participated in our resident referral program. The resident who sends the most referrals between February 11 and March 10 will receive a \$100 gift certificate to Good Guys Restaurant.

Don't miss the Symphony Village **Bring a Friend, Make a Neighbor** party February 21 at the Clubhouse from 5:30-7 p.m. \*Bring an age qualified friend and when they register you will receive a \$50 Gift Card.\* RSVP by February 18 at 410-758-8516.

If you have any questions, or need more referral cards, please stop by the Sales Center. Good Luck!



Who can I get to design my patio? See ads following page 10.

# **CLUBS AND CLASSES**

# The "Gazebo Gang" Symphony Village Garden Club

The Garden club is pretty quiet this time of year, except for everyone wishing for spring. Ray Stephens and Paul Blair did help to dismantle the Gazebo Christmas tree, which Duke and Shirley Clark agreed to store for us until next year. Around the first of March, we will get the martin houses ready for

occupancy. This year, we hope to have all three houses occupied. By the end of March, crocuses, tulips and daffodils should brighten our days. The new garden contractor has agreed to provide a load of mulch for the gazebo garden. We will need help to spread this mulch after the flowers have started



blooming. Hopefully, all prior gardeners will agree to continue to help us this year. We will need a few more volunteers to help with the 20 beds in the garden. Please contact Jack or Joan Hennessey if you would like to be involved. If you do not want to get your hands in the dirt, you can still help financially to allow us purchase new plants and supplies for the garden. We will still have the herb garden, where all residents are welcome to gather some herbs. If you would like to learn more about flowers, we have several very knowledgeable people in our club, who are willing to share their knowledge. If you would like to have a purple

martin house in your area, please contact us. The martins usually prefer open spaces for their houses. Also, we would have to get a permit to install any new houses. We are anxiously waiting for spring to arrive! Jack & Joan Hennessey 410-758-4872.

# The Reading For Fun Book Club

The book club met on January 20 to discuss the book *The House On Sugar Beach* by Helene Cooper. Dorthea Turek, who also provided a delicious sweet potato cake for refreshments, recommended this book. The story was based on the real life of the author, and revealed the sometimes vicious happenings about the founding of Liberia, which the author survived. The book received a rating of 4.25, on a scale of 1 to 5.



The reading for February is *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory. The story is based on the life and times of Henry VIII of England and was selected by Pat Loiacono. The February meeting is scheduled for February 17 in the Clubhouse.

The selection for March is *The Night Blooming Cereus* by Hal Wilson, a local resident. Hal will be attending our March Meeting to discuss his book. If you wish to purchase a copy of this book for \$25, please contact Jack Hennessey. Jack has a copy of the book, which he will circulate to club members. This book received an outstanding review in the *Star Democrat*. All residents are invited to attend the March 17 book club meeting. Please let Jack know if you would like to attend this meeting, so we can accommodate all attendees. It will be fun to meet the author. Jack & Joan 410-758-4872

# **Symphony Ssingles**

On January 25 the Ssingles gathered at the Clubhouse for Sunday Brunch. We enjoyed waffles, scones, coffeecake, and many wonderful dishes. There was great conversation and fellowship. It was such a huge success that we plan to have another one on Sunday, March 29, at 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse Please sign up in the Activities Book so we can plan our menu.

On Thursday, February 26, the Ssingles are going to lunch at Hunters Oak. If you are interested, please sign up in the Activities Book by February 19.

The Philadelphia Flower Show starts March 1 and we plan to go Wednesday, March 4. Tickets are sold at the Acme for \$22. If we have enough interest, we will hire a bus (cost to be determined). If not, we will carpool. Sign up in the Activities Book.

# **Exploring Maryland Heritage**

On Wednesday, February 11, a group of nineteen Villagers went to the Chesapeake Exploration Center for a tour. We had perfect weather to travel to Kent Narrows to the Center and to spend some time outside enjoying the surrounding views overlooking the Chester River.

Inside, we divided into two groups. One group toured the Chesapeake Exploration Center offices and exhibits plus the QAC Office of Tourism while the other toured the Our Chesapeake Legacy museum. We then reversed sides so that no one missed a thing. Our tours were very ably led by Center employees Judy and Heather.

In the museum, there are many hands-on exhibits. These exhibits trace the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore from the Indians to the early settlement of the area by colonists to building the Bay Bridge and beyond. The museum contains more than can be appreciated in just one visit.

After our tour, most of us went to Fisherman's Inn for a delicious lunch and an enjoyable social time. Everyone had a great time and plans to visit the Center again.

LOOK further to see what we have planned for March!

Please join the Heritage group at the Clubhouse on Thursday, **March 12**, 7 p.m., for a very interesting talk on "The History of Centreville." It will be presented by Dan Tabler and Woody Woodford. You won't want to miss this evening! Here's your chance to learn the history of our little town. Please sign up in the Activities Book.

# **NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

# <u>Thank You</u>

A huge "Thank You" to all who sent cards, brought soups, food, and flowers. It is a warm and



wonderful feeling to have so many thoughtful and caring neighbors. A special thank you to Cathie Spray who lovingly loaned me her beautiful scarves and head wear. I couldn't have done without them. Jim and I are very grateful and delighted to be living in this loving community. We are both doing well at this time and thank you all again for your encouragement, good thoughts, and prayers. God be with you all. —Anita Dell

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Mentoring at the Middle School**

Symphony Village is full of people with many gifts and talents from numerous walks of life. The experience and the wisdom are overflowing in this community. If you would be willing to share these wonderful attributes, we have the opportunity of a lifetime. Centreville Middle School has approximately 550 students in grades six through eight (11-13 year olds), and they have a very real need for mentors!

What is a mentor? A mentor is male or female, young or old, working or retired, busy or bored. A



mentor is someone who cares about others, especially children. What does a mentor have to do? After being assigned a child (with input from the mentor about choices), the mentor visits the child at school about once a week. The schedule is flexible and can be arranged to fit your lifestyle. Some of the things you would do when sharing 30-60 minutes with your student would be as follows: be a role model, encourage responsible behavior, provide positive reinforcement, show interest in your student's academic progress, listen to

his/her concerns and problems, share life experiences and wisdom, and help your student understand the realities of education and work.

There are many children in our school and community who are need additional adult support in their lives. Sometimes one or both parents work away from the area and are not at home when the child is there. Sometimes a child comes from a single-parent home, and that parent works two jobs. There are also children who live apart from either parent, and they just need to know that someone cares! If you think you might be able to help one of our students develop greater self esteem or give one of them hope for a better future, then this is the place to begin that special relationship. Applications for our mentoring project are available at the Clubhouse, or we would be happy to mail you one. You may also come to the school, obtain a form, and fill it out on site. Please fill out the paperwork (much harder than the actual mentoring) and send it to: Centreville Middle School, 231 Ruthsburg Road, Centreville, Md. 21617, Attention: Pam Edwards. For more information, please call the school and ask to speak to Pam Edwards or Robin Laird at 410-758-0883. We sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

# **Volunteering with Animal Services**



The Queen Anne's County Department of Animal Services is reaching out to the local community to help drive a new program. QAC Animal Control is focusing on its volunteer program to enhance the level of service provided to the 1000+ animals that pass through the center each year. Positions vary from hands-on interaction with animals in the facility to more community-oriented programs. There are multiple positions inside and outside of the center that, when filled, will benefit the center, the animals, and the community residents it serves. The current focus is establishing the Core Group or Board that will

direct this project. So anyone with a background in marketing, media, technology, human resources, or other volunteer program is encouraged to step forward to serve on the initial Board of Directors. In addition to the executive positions, there are volunteer positions available. For those interested in hands on contact with the animals inside the facility, we need people for socializing, exercising, and grooming animals along with the daily maintenance of the kennels. Outside the facility there are many positions that ultimately lead to direct community contact. Those positions include working with rescue groups, media exposure, adoptee home visits, fund raising, community education, adoption days, and other programs. People who are interested in finding out more can contact Brooks Bosley at 410-758-8653 or brooks.bosley@verizon.net <<u>mailto:brooks.bosley@verizon.net</u>

# Letter to the Editor from THE CAPITAL, January 25, 2009

Thank you so much for your recent coverage of the new expansion of Baltimore Washington Medical Center, or BWMC. Although the project is a milestone for the hospital itself, it represents closure on many personal fronts. The beautiful donor wall in the main entrance represents many stories like mine. A medical surgical suite was donated by my family in memory of my sister, Monica Novack Fowler, who passed away in 2006 after a courageous battle against cancer. For two years, her husband Michael Fowler worked tirelessly with the Baltimore Washington Medical Center Foundation to honor the pledge of \$50,000 he made to dedicate a room to Monica. Although half of the money came from donations from generous individuals, the other half came from the proceeds from a bull and oyster roast held last April. Over 800 people bought tickets for this event. Most I will never know well enough to

thank personally. Suite 472 is in memory of Monica Fowler. It was made possible because of those people who came out in support for the cause. The Novack, Fowler, Richardson, and Ashburn families thank everyone. We thank BWMC for the wonderful care it provided my sister. We trust that, with its beautiful new facility, it may continue to serve the community that came together for our family. **Teresa Novack Ashburn** 

**Note:** "Teresa is our daughter. I think this letter almost says it all. We want to add that 55 SV residents attended or bought tickets to the fundraiser held at Michael's in Glen Burnie. At least that many more made donations or bought raffle tickets on my quilt. What a community! Thank you again." **Jeanne and Ed Novack** 

# **Tennis Anyone?**



The days are getting warmer and longer with hints of spring. Several of us have been playing tennis during the past two weeks. A meeting will be scheduled in March to discuss tennis activities for the year. If there is adequate interest, a beginners' group could be organized. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you on the courts. – Larry Miller (LARRY MILLER@atlanticbb.net, 443-262-8270)

# What is that Flash of Blue?

A number of SV residents have been looking out their windows over the past few weeks, seeing



something out of the corner of their eye, and thinking, "What is that flash of blue on the wing?" When the "flash" lands on a perch allowing a longer look, we see it's the Eastern Bluebird. Because the bluebird is usually seen from spring through fall, winter sightings are especially noteworthy and exciting and somehow "hopeful."

Bluebirds are beautiful birds. The male has an entirely bright blue back with reddish-brown throat and breast. Females have lighter blue wings and tail, a brownish throat and breast, and a grey crown and back. Both male and female

adult bluebirds are about 7" (the blue jay is much larger—10").

Most of the year bluebirds feed on insects. They sit on a conspicuous perch from which they drop to the ground for insects and other invertebrates, including grasshoppers, crickets, beetles, katydids, spiders, and earthworms. They also catch insects on the wing. In fall and winter, as insects become scarce, they add berries to their diet. The availability of a winter food source often determines whether or not a bird will migrate.

Bluebird numbers declined seriously and were critical by the mid-1900's due to habitat destruction, pesticide use, and competition from starlings and house sparrows for nesting sites. Creation and use of specifically designed nest boxes has led to a comeback. Urban and rural birding enthusiasts who erect nest boxes on the edges of open fields have encouraged an increase in bluebird numbers. So if you see a flash of blue on the wing, say "Hi" to an Eastern Bluebird and look forward to spring when we'll see increasing numbers.

# **OF LOCAL INTEREST**

# **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**



On Friday, March 6, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will present Stravinsky's "Apollon Musagéte," a Ballet in Two Scenes (1947 version) and Mozart's "Requiem," K.626 with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society at the Todd Performing Arts Center at Chesapeake College. The program will begin at 8 p.m. The cost of the concert is \$35 for adults and \$10 for students. You may order tickets in advance by telephone at 410-827-5887. VISA, MASTERCARD, and

DISCOVER cards are accepted.

# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Upper Eastern Shore Regional Poetry Contest



Five local county arts councils sponsor this contest that is now underway. *Poetry* Experienced and beginning writers submit their original, unpublished poems to compete for cash prizes in four categories: children (grades 1-8), students (grades 9-12), adults (ages 18-59), and seniors (ages 60+). Entry forms with

full details and rules are available at the QAC Arts Council, 410-758-2520 or www.arts4u.info. Entries are due to the Arts Council by February 29.

# **Rock Hall Expo**

The Rock Hall Fire House will host the Rock Hall Expo on February 21, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Over 50 businesses will be represented including retail, restaurants, gift shops, B&B's, hunting, sailing, boating, fishing, and construction trade. Admission is \$2 for adults, children under 12 are free. For more information go to www.rockhallmd.com.

## Sense of Wonder Sunday Family Program



Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely presents a family-oriented program one Sunday a month through spring. February's Sense of Wonder Sunday Program will be "Alive in the Dead of Winter" on February 22, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Come to learn about which plants are blooming despite the cold, and explore Arboretum grounds for signs of animal activity. Pack a lunch and dress for both indoor and outdoor activities.

Pre-registration is required. Call 410-634-2847, extension 0, to register. Admission is \$5 for members, \$7 for non-members. For more information, visit www.adkinsarboretum.org.

# 64<sup>th</sup> Annual National Outdoor Show

This annual event celebrates trappers, watermen, and wildlife in Dorchester County. It takes place February 27 and 28 in Golden Hill, southwest of Cambridge. Doors open on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Events include Miss and Mr. Outdoors Scholarship Pageants, a world championship muskrat skinning contest, demonstrations of unique skills such as game cooking, duck carving, and much more. For a schedule of specific events, driving directions, and more information, go to www.nationaloutdoorshow.com.



Where can I get my hair styled? See ads at end of the newsletter.

# Soup 'n Walk



Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely hosts a monthly Soup 'n Walk event. The next presentation will take place on **February 28**, 11 a.m. -1:30 p.m. The theme is "Discover the Greens in the Winter Woods" and will include a guided walk with a docent naturalist and a delicious lunch (caldo verde with kale, pasta primavera, pumpernickel bread with spinach spread, and cranberry nut bars). Pre-registration is required: call 410-634-2847, extension 0 to register. Fee is \$18 for members and

\$20 for non-members. For more information, visit <u>www.adkinsarboretum.org</u>.

# Trip to the Baltimore Aquarium



Queen Anne's County Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the Baltimore Aquarium on **February 28** (program #403006). The cost of \$45 per adult, \$35 per child, includes round-trip transportation and admission to the aquarium and to the 11:30 a.m. Dolphin Show. For additional information and to print a program registration form, visit <u>www.parksnrec.org</u>.

## Trip to the 2009 Philadelphia Flower Show



Queen Anne's County Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a trip to the 2009 Philadelphia Flower Show on **March 6** (program #403002). The landscapes, gardens, and culture of Italy serve as inspiration for the 2009 Show "Bella Italia." The cost of \$60 per person includes round-trip transportation and admission. For additional information and to print a program registration form, visit <u>www.parksnrec.org</u>.

## Seventh Annual Books Café

Wye Parish will host its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Books Café at St. Luke's Chapel in Queenstown on March 6 from 2—8 p.m., March 7 from 9 a.m.—2 p.m., and March 8 from 10 a.m.—noon. More than 8,000 books will be sold at 90% off the retail price. Several authors will sign books; see local papers for more information or call 410-827-8454.

## Post # 18 American Legion's Meals and Activities



Friday	February 20	Oyster Dinner	6 – 8 p.m.	<b>\$ 9</b>
Saturday	February 21	Luau, Pig Roast,		
	Dance to m	nusic by "Flashback"	6:30 p.m. to	•
			\$35 couple/ \$2	20 single
		~ . ~ .	6	<b>*</b> •
Friday	February 27	Shrimp Dinner	6 – 8 p.m.	<b>\$ 9</b>
Saturday	February 28	Chili Cook Off	6 - ? p.m.	\$5

For more information, contact Keith Tennier (410-758-4743).

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Eagle Festival

The Eagle Festival will be held on **March 14**, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Cambridge. The festival celebrates eagles and other birds of prey and will feature live animal programs, children's activities, and guided birding trips. Admission is free. For additional details and a complete schedule of events, see <u>www.fws.gov/blackwater</u>.

# A Taste of Jazz, with Steve Abshire and Vince Lewis



The Center of the Arts of the Queen Anne's County Arts Council (410-758-2520) is presenting *A* **Taste of Jazz** with Steve Abshire and Vince Lewis on Saturday, **March 28**, at 7 p.m. Paul Langosch will be on bass and Mike Shepherd will be on drums. The cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

After the performance, meet the band and enjoy food favorites from the home of jazz with a cash bar. Neal Tilghman, hosted by the Center of the Arts, presents this. The Arts Council is committed to promoting, sustaining and expanding the arts. Visit them on the web at www.arts4u.info.

# TRAVEL ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



## Panama Canal, Lima and Machu Picchu

by Carol Hodges

George and Mary Drake, Bob and Linda Farrar, and Larry and Carol Hodges recently returned from an interesting and wonderful cruise and land tour arranged by Linda. The trip consisted of four parts: Caribbean, Panama Canal, Northwestern South America, and Machu Picchu in Peru.

The Caribbean part consisted of visits to Half Moon Cay (an island in the Bahamas owned by Holland American), Grand Turk, Aruba, and San Blas Island. The highlight of this part was when George, Mary, Carol, and Larry rented a catamaran and sailed around the beautiful blue water bay of Half Moon Cay. We

managed to get wet (we were in regular clothes). Linda and Bob took a taxi into Grand Turk and although surprised by the damage left by a hurricane that hit in October enjoyed the historical sites. For those who have been to Aruba before, you may not be aware that the Natural Bridge collapsed in 2005. Now everyone goes to see the collapsed bridge and the Baby Bridge next to it. The seas were spectacular. San Blas Island is a small island (smaller than Symphony Village) inhabited by the Kuna Indians. They still live much as they have lived for centuries. The ships stop to allow the tourists to buy the handicrafts, especially "molas," that are hand sewn appliqués onto fabric (you may see them worn one day in the Clubhouse by the travelers!). We did notice that they have electricity, which has arrived within the last five years. It was strange seeing a big screen TV in the crude hut.

The Panama Canal was amazing. There are three sets of locks connected by rivers and lakes. It took most of the day to go through. We had attended several sessions on the history and construction prior to the passing. The thing that most people do not realize is that the route is north to south when going from the Atlantic to Pacific. When standing on the bow, it was hard to imagine that this huge ship could fit through that little lock. Remember how you feel when you try to put your SUV into your garage. The ship had only two or three feet on either side to spare. Small trains tied ropes and held the ship to keep it from hitting the sides. The shores were covered with tropical forests. To see the canal live go to www.pancanal.com/eng/photo/camera-java.html.

We weren't aware that the US had given the Canal to Panama a few years back. The results are that Panama City is a huge metropolis with lots of high rises. Check out the panoramic view online. It cost our ship somewhere around \$150,000 to traverse the canal. The charge is by the head for cruise ships and by the ton for cargo ships.

After stops in Columbia and Ecuador (very depressed countries), we went to Peru. We enjoyed visiting archaeological sights in Trujillo. This is a fairly recent find. The archaeologists are working as we speak. Some of the things we saw had only been uncovered the day before. It is amazing what the ancient peoples were able to build with adobe bricks.

Our last stop was Lima, which had one awesome stop at the Casa Luna, a home that had a collection of over 3000 nativity sets from all over the world. Three rooms of the house were devoted to this collection. Linda was thrilled with that as one of her children collects the sets as well.

From Lima we flew to Cusco the starting point of the trip to Machu Picchu. To get to the archaeological site we took a 2-hour bus ride, a 1-hour train ride, and then a 30-minute heart attack bus ride (lots of hairpin turns at what we thought was a high rate of speed, especially when we met buses coming down) up to Machu Picchu, "The Lost City of the Incas," which was discovered by American explorer Hiram Bingham in 1911. This citadel (dating back to the 1400s) is 8000 feet above sea level. It is an awe-inspiring experience to walk around the remains of palaces, houses, temples, and agricultural terraces. You have to remember that you are on top of a mountain. The granite rocks (some as much as 50 tons) had to be carried there to build all of this. These Incans performed great feats of construction with ancient tools.

Some of the highlights onboard were Larry and George playing tennis on the Pacific Ocean. George and Mary surprised us with some intimate details as contestants on the Marriage Game. George, Mary, Bob, and Linda were on a stunt show where they participated in a silly game. Bob, George, and Mary became honorary crocodiles for swimming in the Panama Canal. Bob, George, Mary, and Carol participated in a 5 K for breast cancer.

It is hard to remember all we have seen. The three families hope to post our pictures on the website as soon as we have them organized, so watch for them. Linda is planning a trip later this year to Egypt, which will include a trip down the Nile, and a Mediterranean cruise in 2010.



Where can I get my taxes done? See ads at end of the newsletter.

# PERSONAL ADS

Do you have something to sell, a condo to rent, something you need. Email the ad of 20 words or less to <u>lhodges@atlanticbb.net</u> or call Carol Hodges at 410-758-0591. Commercial or real estate sales are prohibited.

# Wanted--

Is there anyone in the Village who does calligraphy? If so please call Ellen Norman, 410-758-3047.

<u>Wanted</u>-- Small frame adult bicycle for our mentee. Thanks for your consideration. George and Mary Drake, 410-758-8266

# SPECIAL REMINDERS

- Clubhouse Phone Number (Laura and Dennis)—410-758-8500
- Dennis Sesplankis' email—<u>dsesplankis@legumnorman.com</u>
- Laura Wright's email—<u>symphonyclub@verizon.net</u>
- Warranty Office—301-261-0277 ext. 135, Katherine Zell
- George Bachman—301-261-0277 ext.211; email—gbachman@carusohomes.com
- Recycling--410-778-5949



Who gives senior citizens 10% off of their pizza order? See ads at end of newsletter.

# **RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

**Cole Slaw** From the kitchen of Nancy Frey



2 bags shredded cabbage 1/2 bag shredded carrots 1 finely chopped onion 1 finely chopped green pepper 1/4 C vegetable oil 1/4 C white vinegar 1 & <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> C mayonnaise 3/4 C sugar 1 tablespoon of salt 2 tablespoons of mustard

Mix the oil, vinegar, sugar, mayonnaise, salt, and mustard. Add this to the vegetables.



2009 Annual Hunters Oak Golf Memberships \$1200—unlimited golf with cart on 9-hole Parkland course \$3000—unlimited golf with privileges to all club amenities including pool, tennis courts, fitness center & more.



Dates to Remember

#### Saturday, February 28

River Plantation Bridal Showcase Experience a wedding event at The River Plantation, meet with an onsite Wedding Coordinator, enjoy hors d'oeuvres, music, and some of the top vendors in the industry. Consider a ceremony, reception, rehearsal dinner, bachelor/rette party and more. Reservation required; RSVP 410-827-7029 x 302 or email: riffanyp@pintailpoint.com

# Tuesday, March 17

St. Patto's Day Happy Hour

All Day at Hunters Oak Dornoch Pub: complimentary apperizers. Pub offering Irish lunch and dinner menus.

An ideal location for birthday, anniversary and retirement parties. Thursday, March 26 Wine Tasting Hunters Oak, call for details.

# Saturday, March 28

Youth Shooting Clinic 10 am-noon

Ages: 16 years and younger, \$20 pp wheervation. Includes instruction, equipment, lunch. Great activity to bring the grandchildren.



www.TheRiverPlantation.com 410-827-7029 marka@huntersoak.com





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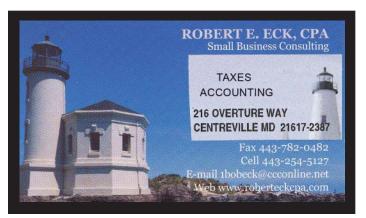
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all Carol	Hodges 410		

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1/4 page 1/2 page 3/4 page FULL page	\$36.00 \$72.00 \$108.00 \$144.00	\$45.00 \$90.00 \$135.00 \$180.00		
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6 months: Deduct 20% off of 1 month rate X 6				
1 year: Deduct 30% off of 1 month rate X 12				
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