



LIBRETTO

Symphony Village's Newsletter

September 2012

Vol. VII - No. 9

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.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LIFESTYLE

SEPTEMBER

- **Happy Hour** – 6 p.m. Saturday, September 15 – Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert as your price of admission.
- **Ladies Happy Hour** – 5:30 p.m. Thursday, September 27 – The cost is \$5 for dinner and a beverage. (**Outreach will kick off their SV Name Tag Campaign at this LHH - \$10 per name tag – see all the details in the Daily Bulletin.**)
- **Movie Night** – 7 p.m. Friday, September 28 – Movie to be announced.
- **Game Night** – 7 p.m. Friday, September 28.

OCTOBER

- **Lifestyle Committee Meeting** – 7:15 p.m. Wednesday, October 3 – All residents are welcome.
- **Lunch Bunch** – 12:30 p.m. Thursday, October 4 – Sign up in the Activities Book.
- **Happy Hour** – 6 p.m. Friday, October 5, “Oktoberfest Theme” – Bring an Oktoberfest appetizer or dessert as your price of admission.
- **NEW ACTIVITY - Bunco** – 1 p.m., Monday, October 8 – Cost to play is \$5 for prizes. Sign up in the Activities Book. (**The plan is for this game to be a weekly activity, and it will be listed in the Daily Bulletin after it is set up.**)
- **NYC Bus Trip** – Saturday, October 13 – 9/11 Memorial, Ellis Island, Little Italy. The bus is now full.
- **Garage Sale** – 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 13 – Cost is \$5 per participating home. Sign up in the Activities Book.
- **Movie Night** – 7 p.m. Friday, October 19 – Movie to be announced.
- **Happy Hour** – 6 p.m. Saturday, October 20, “Halloween Theme” – Wear your favorite costume. Bring your appetizer as your price of admission.



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Grandchildren's Hallowe'en Party The Grandchildren's Hallowe'en Party will be Saturday, October 27, from 2-4 p.m. at the Clubhouse for grandchildren ages 11 and under. There will be crafts, games, pictures, snacks, and a costume parade complete with "trick or treating." Details on sign up and cost will follow in the near future.



Any questions, please call **Carlene Cooke**, 443-262-8146 or **Linda Farrar**, 443-262-8744. Also, we need volunteers to help man the crafts and games. If you can help or if you have teenage grandchildren who would like to help (as part of their community services projects), please let Carlene or Linda know. It is a fun way to spend a few hours!!

Radio City Music Hall Holiday Show Bus Trip to New York City

Friday, November 30 – The cost is \$150 per person, with a non-refundable deposit of \$75 due by Saturday, November 1, to ensure your reservation. The remaining \$75 is due by Friday, November 16.

Million Dollar Quartet If you loved the *Jersey Boys*, you can't miss *Million Dollar*



Quartet. It's the smash hit musical inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock and roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins for the first and only time. *Million Dollar Quartet* brings that legendary night to life, featuring a score of rock hits, such as "Blue Suede Shoes," "Fever," "Walk the Line," "Whole Lotta Shaking Going On," "Who Do You Love," "Matchbox," "Folsom Prison Blues," "Hound Dog," and more. This event takes place **Saturday, December 29, at the Kennedy Center**. The price is \$130 per person. Deadline to sign up

in the Activities Book is November 1. The trip includes Orchestra seating, bus transportation, and all taxes and tips. After the matinee, enjoy dinner on your own at Carmine's on 7th Street in Washington, DC, or one of the many other restaurants in the area. The bus departs at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, December 29, from the Clubhouse.

Williamsburg Illumination Ceremony **Sunday, December 2** – This signifies the opening of the Christmas Season in the Williamsburg area. There is no fee to attend the ceremony. Transportation and hotel arrangements are to be made on your own. The Clarion Hotel in Williamsburg is holding 10 rooms under the name Symphony Village at the rate of \$119 a night per person. The deadline to make your reservations is Wednesday, October 31. Please sign up in the Activities Book so we know how many are going on this trip.

OUTREACH

3rd ANNUAL ARTISAN'S FAIR



As we go to press, the Artisan's Fair is just days away. We have a fabulous group of artists and artisans who will display their creations on **Saturday, September 22**, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., in the Clubhouse. From SV, Roberta Ahmed, Nick Barbalace, Judy Brown, Nancie Cameron, Maggie Crosswhite, George Drake, Mary Drake, Jinny Guy, Pat Kindle, BJ McClaeb, Teri Nudo,

Dave Peterson, and Geoff Young will be participating. The event will be filled out by artisans from the local area. It would take too much space to list all the different types of crafts that will be for sale – suffice it to say, you will be astounded by the variety in an event of this size. There will be three raffles – a framed print, “Amalfi Boats,” by Howard Behrens; “Jeanie’s Dream,” a pineapple block design quilt and a memorial tribute to Jeanne Novack; and a wooden McCormick Gourmet Spice Rack. A bag lunch (sandwich, chips, dessert) will be available – sandwich choices will be gourmet chicken salad, cream cheese and olive, and the “we-sold-out-too-quickly-last-year” hot dog (don’t worry – we’ll have a lot more this year!). This is an event not to miss – free admission, free parking! Affordable lunch at \$5! Affordable raffle tickets at \$1 each or 6 for \$5! The beneficiary of this event is [Chesapeake Victories, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization in Church Hill that provides informational and educational support and a therapeutic riding program for neurodevelopmentally challenged children.

4th ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE TO BEGIN SOON!
Start Planning for Your Food Drive Contribution!

SV Outreach will be collecting food for our 4th annual delivery to QAC Social Services. The drive will take place from **November 7-11**, with delivery on **Monday, November 12** (in time for Thanksgiving distribution).

Select a “**drop-off**” house from the following for your food donation:

Sue and Dave Peterson	635 Harmony
Linda Blume	224 Orchestra
Carol and Larry Hodges	141 Encore
Joan and Jack Hennessey	146 Sonata
BJ McClueb	819 Harmony
Carlene and Jim Cooke	225 Opera
Mary and Bob Ciesielski	227 Concerto
Rosemary and Scott Page	227 Harmony
Betty and Lloyd McAtee	321 Overture
Teri and Jerry Nudo	106 Harmony



As in the past, we are looking for the usual things: canned soup, vegetables, fruits, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, mayo, tuna fish, cereals, and any other food that you would like to donate. Please, no outdated items from your pantry! If possible, place your items in a box rather than a grocery sack or bag before taking to a drop-off house.

Our goal this year is **2104 units** of food (or more!)... one more than last year. Please start looking at the grocery flyers for sales and stocking up to help us make our goal. The need is great, but so is the feeling of doing this good deed! Any questions? Please contact Loretta Quigley at lorettaquigley@yahoo.com or 410-758-6775.

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR



To date, nine SV residents have signed up to open their homes on **Sunday, December 9**, for Outreach’s Holiday House Tour. This promises to be a “must attend” event. Please put the date on your calendars now and watch future *Librettos* for further details. All homeowners who have volunteered to participate in the Holiday House Tour are invited to a meeting on **Wednesday, October 3, at 7 p.m.** We will discuss the plans for the event and answer any questions you may

have. We would love to have two or three more homes on the tour. If you are considering participating in the event, please come to this meeting to learn all the details. If you'd like to add your house to the Tour or for more information, contact Willie DiLaura at 443-262-8062. This is not like Outreach's House Tours of the past – only the portion of your home that is decorated for the holidays will be on the tour.

PUBLICATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

ADVERTISERS

Please support our advertisers. At the end of the newsletter you will find their ads.

Also, if you have good service from someone, encourage the company to advertise. You can print the ad rates from the website or pick up a rate list from Nancy at the Clubhouse.

Our advertisers help keep our HOA fees from increasing.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES

We would like your photo to be included in the SV Photo Directories. Please send it to George Drake (georgerdrake@yahoo.com) **and** Charlene Smallwood Brown (gsmallw594@aol.com).

TRAVEL STORIES

Have a travel story (day trips or longer) you wish to share with the community? Please share it through the *Libretto*. It should be no more than a page in length. We would love pictures as well. Submit to Carol Hodges at lhodges@atlanticbb.net **and** Brenda Stoltz at stoltz1958@yahoo.com.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Everyone is welcome to attend the P & C meeting on **Monday, October 1, at 2 p.m.**

SNEAKERS

Next Meeting

Our next scheduled Sneakers meeting will be held **Wednesday, September 26, at 3 p.m.** in the Clubhouse. All residents of Symphony Village are warmly encouraged to join us and participate in our ongoing activities. – *Linda Farrar*

SYMPHONY SNEAKERS SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2012

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

SYMPHONY VILLAGE CLUBHOUSE

All proceeds of the evening support Children's Charity programs

Donation – \$5 Per Person

Includes Wine and Heavy Hors D'oeuvres

If you have any goods or services you would like to donate,
please contact Helena Joy (410-758-6532) or Linda Farrar (410-758-8744).

~~ SAVE THE DATE! ~~

CLUBS AND CLASSES

BIRD CLUB

The Bird Club will meet at the Picnic Pavilion on **Saturday, September 29**, at noon for a picnic. All food plus water (as the beverage) will be provided. Sign up in the Activities Book or on-line at [Bird Club Picnic](#). See you there! Bring ideas for club trips or presentations.



Upcoming Trips:

- **Sunday, November 4** – Pickering Creek Audubon Center: bird hike, “Fall For Birds”
- **Saturday, December 8** – Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge: Annual Open House and 50th Anniversary Celebration – *Linda Blume*

KNITTING and SIT & STITCH CLUBS

The **Coffee for Knitters**, originally scheduled for August 27, will be held on Monday, September 24, at 10 a.m. in the Craft Room at the Clubhouse. Knitters and crocheters of all levels are welcome. It's time to get out that UFO (unfinished object) or get started on a holiday gift. Come join us!



Regularly scheduled knitting will be held on Monday, September 17, at 10 a.m.

Sit and Stitch will be held on Wednesday, September 12, at 7 p.m.

GAZEBO and VICTORY GARDEN

Gazebo Garden

A few of our gardeners have braved the heat and have their beds looking great. The other beds are looking rather ragged. Jack is willing to meet with any other bed tender to help with the weeding and deadheading. Unless we get some more volunteers, we will have to turn over care of the Gazebo Garden to Caruso. Jack is personally responsible for the pavilion garden, and it has been looking good. He will do this again next year. Steve Guy has taken over three beds, and he is constantly working them. We still need five more volunteers to take over a single bed each. Our purple martins left for South America on August 13. Since then, the mosquitoes have multiplied noticeably. We look forward to welcoming the martins back next year. Two more residents have expressed an interest in erecting a martin house next spring. The Garden Club is available to help in selecting and erecting new houses in the community. One of our current houses was blown down in a storm and will be replaced.

Victory Garden

The Victory Garden has been very successful. Many of our residents have benefited from the products of the garden. We had a total of 78 tomato plants which yielded many kinds and sizes of tomatoes that we gladly shared with neighbors. One gardener had three 8-foot high cucumber plants. Dave Peterson has about half a dozen pumpkins in his patch. Jack had many cantaloupes, which were very sweet. Jack produced one watermelon that weighed 28.5 pounds! It was shared with all of the gardeners during a cocktail party at Pat and Ruth Murphy's home prior to a harvest dinner at the Four Seasons Bistro in Chester on August 29. A good time was had by all! We are in the process of dismantling the garden for this year. A few members are planting some fall crops. Good Luck! – *Jack Hennessey*

Trivia

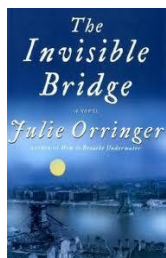
by Karin Anne Larsen

1. Which U.S. President signed the bill making Labor Day a National Holiday?
2. Which state grows two-thirds of the world's eggplant?
3. Which breed of dog was sacred to the emperors of China for more than 2,000 years and is one of the oldest breeds in the world?
4. Which pets can produce more vocal sounds, cats or dogs?
5. Which English word is the only one that ends in the letters "mt"?
6. Which state is the only one whose name is just one syllable?
7. According to research, birds do dream. So, what do they dream about?
8. Do dogs see color, or are they color blind?

READING FOR FUN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club met on August 21 to discuss the book *The Last Time I Saw You* by Elizabeth Berg. This book was selected by Mary Jo Keefe, who had to work late and could not attend the meeting. However, she sent her husband, Vinnie, to deliver a delicious dessert of cookies and green tea.

The story relates all of the details leading up to and including a Fortieth High School Reunion. Naturally, there are many stories about losing weight and looking good for the big event. The main characters include the class jock, the beauty queen, a successful business tycoon, and even a proctologist! It is definitely a chick book. (One of our male members refused to finish the book!) It is a quick read and somewhat enjoyable, although very predictable. On a scale of 1 to 10, this book received a rating of 6.5.



The book recommended by Lee Ettman for our September 18 meeting is *The Invisible Bridge* by Stephanie Deutsch. The main characters are two brothers, one who wants to be an architect and the second who plans to be a doctor. The year is 1937, and there is a sense of foreboding in Paris, where they are having a last fling before pursuing their dreams. Being Jewish, they both end up working in a forced labor camp. Of course, the story has a romantic angle and ends in America. It is a long book (600 pages), but is well worth the read! **All residents**

are invited to attend the meeting and enjoy the discussion. – Jack Hennessey

SOFTBALL CLUB

The new Shoremen's Softball Team continues to practice every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. at the 4-H field. Rain dates are the following Wednesday. The number of players continues to grow with the addition of three new men:

Mike Norris, Bill Reid, and Smoky Seigler.

Smoky is one of our Town Councilmen in Centreville and a great addition to our infield.

However, our roster is not complete as yet. We are still seeking additional players. If you are interested in trying out or have questions concerning the Shoremen team, call John Meyer (Team Manager) 443-262-8684.



TENNIS CLUB

The summer heat is finally starting to fade; therefore, the new times for SV tennis beginning the week of September 9 are: **9 a.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.** – *Larry Miller*



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

To a Loving and Caring Community



ZWANL.COM

I finally found time to read all the beautiful sympathy cards I received after the passing of my husband, Norman, Sr., on June 27th. He was a 12-year brainstem stroke survivor who had poor vision, was unable to walk by himself, but had no pain. We had 10 wonderful years with family until Hospice and caregivers were needed and gave him wonderful care. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness during this difficult time. God's blessings to all.

*Sincerely,
Ann Willox*

LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer opportunities are everywhere. To follow-up on what was included in last month's *Libretto*, go to [Volunteer Opportunities, Part 2](#) on-line to find opportunities with these organizations:

- American Red Cross (George Drake)
- Corsica Hills (Mary Drake)
- Crossroads (Mary Drake)
- Estate Treasures (Karin Anne Larsen)
- Pickering Creek Audubon Center (Linda Blume)



HOME DELIVERED MEALS (a.k.a. Meals on Wheels)



The Queen Anne's County Area Agency on Aging is looking for help delivering "Home Delivered Meals" to homebound seniors. This is a new name for the old Meals on Wheels program that many of us have volunteered for in the past. Volunteers are needed to deliver meals in the greater Centreville area. Meals would be picked up at the Kramer Center in downtown Centreville at 10 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and would take about two hours to deliver. If enough people volunteer, it is possible an individual would have to drive only one day a week. The County would welcome two people driving together to deliver meals. For security reasons, the County requires all volunteers to be drug tested and to have a police background check. Of course, the County pays for both. A county car is also available for delivering the meals, assuming the driver has a valid driver's license with a clean record. To receive an application packet, please call QAC Area Agency for Aging at 410-758-0848. – *Rich Ryan*



FLU SHOTS Available at SV

Wednesday, September 19, Flu Shots will be available in the Clubhouse Conference Room from **7 to 8:30 p.m.** (not a.m. as previously announced). Sign up at the Clubhouse front desk.

Join Us For Fun With *BUNCO*

WHERE: Symphony Village Clubhouse Card Room

WHEN: MONDAYS at 1 p.m.

Our first meeting will be **Monday, October 8**

COST: \$5.00 (To be used for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes.)

SIGN-UP: In the Activities Book at the Clubhouse

We need 12 people to play.



Please contact: Victoria Weber at 410-758-0436 or Peggy Anderson at 410-570-0644.

KINDLE BASICS Available for Check-Out at the QAC Library



The Queen Anne's County Free Library began offering pre-loaded Kindles for check-out in September to all library cardholders over 18 years of age. A set of informational sessions on using a Kindle were held in August. Call the Centreville branch at 410-758-0980 or the Kent Island branch at 410-643-8161 to ask when additional sessions will be held.

41st Annual ARTISAN'S FESTIVAL



The Centreville Rotary Club will host an [Artisan's Festival](#) on **October 6-7** at the 4-H Park in Centreville. Approximately 75 local artists will show and sell their creations, including painters, carvers, ship model, photographers, needleworkers, jewelry crafters, ceramics, woodworkers, quilters, and more. Hours on Saturday are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The *Chesapeake Bay Community Band* will play on Saturday, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., with an Oktoberfest flavor. *The Jones Boys* will perform on Sunday from noon – 2 p.m. Kid's Corner will have pumpkin decorating, the candy in a hay stack game, face painting, hay rides, and a small train ride. There will even be pet adoptions! Admission is free.

"MY GREAT MISADVENTURE"

by Charlie Scheck



Months after my wife, Maria, passed away, I was itching for some adventure. So, I bought an **old Mercedes Benz 300SD diesel** on **eBay**. Then I flew to San Antonio, Texas, planning to drive my new "old" car home to Symphony Village. My amusing, frustrating, nerve-racking story entitled "My Great Misadventure" (YIN and YANG) is available via this link: [Misadventure](#).

AMERICAN LEGION Jeff Davis Post 18 News

SV residents are cordially invited to participate in the following events:



- **October Friday Night Dinners:**

(Note: September dinner schedule appeared in August *Libretto*)

Friday, October 5: Fried Oyster – begins at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, October 12: Dinner to be determined – begins at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, October 19: Pan-Fried Chicken – begins at 5:30 p.m.

Friday, October 26: Ladies Auxiliary Ziti Sausage Meatballs – begins at 5:30 p.m.

- **Football:** If you like to watch your football with a crowd, come to American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18:

Sunday, September 16: Ravens at 1 p.m., Redskins at 4 p.m.

Sunday, September 23: Redskins at 1 p.m., Ravens at 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, September 30: Redskins at 4:25 p.m.

Sunday, October 7: Ravens at 1 p.m., Redskins at 1 p.m.

Sunday, October 14: Ravens at 1 p.m., Redskins at 4:15 p.m.

- **Community Yard Sale:** Saturday, September 22, 8 a.m. – noon.

- **Car Wash:** Saturday, October 6, 9 a.m. – noon.

For more information on any events, call the Post at 410-758-3584.



Help Centreville Become a Certified COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT

by Linda Blume

Centreville's effort to become certified as a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Community Habitat is well on the way to completion. All that remains is for 50 more individual backyard certifications to happen. All the other requirements have been met! Many of our yards here in Symphony

Village already qualify – all that is needed is for the application form to be filled out (Carol Hellmann and I have hard copies for the asking, or you can certify on-line at [Certify Your Wildlife Garden](#). If you can't manage the \$20 application fee, let either Carol or me know, and we can tap into the Centreville fundraiser proceeds to cover the fee (just give us the completed hard copy application form).



You can read about the requirements in the March 2012

Libretto ([Libretto Archive](#)) or online at [Garden for](#)

[Wildlife](#). If you're hung up on not having at least one water source, do what I do in the winter when my upright bird bath must stay in the garage – place a heavy plastic 16" plant saucer on your patio with a decorative rock in it (so it won't blow away in winter winds) and fill with water. When the water freezes, tip the ice block out of the saucer and fill again with water. If the winter is like last year's, there won't be a lot of ice to tip out – easy and cheap at Wal-Mart or Lowe's and rocks abound on un-built SV lots!

I hope you will join me, along with Pat Scheirer, Jo Kirchner, and Judy Brown to certify your yards. Upon certification, you will receive a one-year membership in the National Wildlife Federation, which includes a subscription to **National Wildlife** magazine and a subscription to **Wildlife Online**.

Centreville is in direct competition with Annapolis to become the next Maryland Community Habitat, and Annapolis is also very close to completing their requirements. Each of you can help Centreville to become the next Community Habitat in the state! If you have any questions or need help filling out the application, contact me at 410-758-3194 or Carol at 443-262-8175.

P.S. Filling out the application is on the “honor system” – no one from NWF checks your yard, and no one follows up a year later to make sure that water source is still in place, etc.

DAY TRIPPER

Wye Grist Mill and Museum

by Linda Blume



“Day Trip” is a misnomer, since the Wye Grist Mill and Museum is only 15 minutes from Symphony Village, but it is a step back in time. The mill was built circa 1682 and is the oldest frame grist mill on the Eastern Shore. Many of the original beams and timbers are still in place. On selected weekends, you can watch the waterwheel turn the heavy stones (the top stone weighs 2,600 pounds and the bottom stone weighs 1,800 pounds) to grind the grain while a docent explains the entire process. The mill also houses exhibits that feature 300 years of grinding technology.

There is a detailed illustrated display board that shows the entire grinding process, and a docent walks visitors through the steps involved. The mill has three stories, and equipment on each level performs precise functions in the grinding process. A series of enclosed elevator belts with small copper cups/buckets plus a system of chutes carries the grain through the different stages.

Simplistically (to the best of my memory and using corn as an example), dry corn is dropped into a chute in the floor of the middle level and drops to the lower level. It is then transported to the top level via elevator belt, sifted for debris, and chuted to the middle level just above the grinding stones. After being ground, it again drops to the lower level, where it is transported to the upper level via elevator belt. It is there divided into cornmeal and chaff and again chuted to the middle level, where the cornmeal is collected and bagged for sale and the chaff is separately collected. The chaff can be processed a second time (I don’t recall the resulting product(s)) or fed to cattle. The process is ingenious and has remained virtually unchanged for thousands of years, except for the addition of automation to move the grain through the various stages of the process.

A waterwheel turns the heavy stones to grind the grain. I asked if the mill stream always has enough flowing water to power the whole process – Yes, the stream never fails, since it is fed from Wye Mill Pond and the pond is spring-fed. One surprise – the docent told me that occasionally the tide is too high to allow the waterwheel to turn as it must – the Wye River (would be within sight if there were no trees) is tidal and affects the mill stream, since the stream empties into the river.

The mill grinds corn, wheat, rye, buckwheat, and barley. The on-site Gift Shop sells stone-ground whole wheat, buckwheat, and barley flour; stone-ground yellow corn meal and yellow grits; salt glaze stoneware; local honey (when available); and jams. All proceeds go to the non-profit Wye Grist Mill organization.

The Grist Mill and Museum is located at 900 Wye Mills Road, Wye Mills, near the intersection of Routes 213, 662, and 404. The mill is open mid-April to mid-November, Monday – Saturday (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and Sunday (1 – 4 p.m.). Grinding Days are the first and third Saturdays, April – October. A donation of \$2 is suggested. The website is [Wye Grist Mill](http://www.wyemill.org).



Three millers and a group of docents take turns on weekends to open the mill to the public. Occasionally, the mill may be closed if there is no one to open it (they are all volunteers on the weekends). So, before you make a special trip on a Saturday or Sunday, you might want to call the office at 410-827-3850 to make sure the mill will be open.

And, finally, speaking of docents and volunteers, the Friends of Wye Mills, Inc., is always looking for “new blood.” If you are interested in finding out what opportunities are available, call the office at 410-827-3850. You will be paired with a docent, who will “show you the ropes.”

Other historic sites nearby include Wye Oak Park; Wye School, circa 1800; Orrell’s Maryland Beaten Biscuits ([Orrell's](http://www.orrells.com)); Old Wye Church, circa 1721 ([Wye Parish](http://www.wyeparish.org)); and the 19th century United Methodist Church. Call the mill office for more information and to schedule a tour.

CARUSO HOMES



Coffee and Doughnuts

Come join the Symphony Village Sales Team for Coffee and Doughnuts Saturday, October 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Sales Center. We look forward to seeing you!



Friends make great neighbors! Receive a **\$1,000 cash rewards card or one year of free Homeowners' Association (HOA) fees** from Caruso Homes when you refer a friend who buys at Symphony Village. The Purchaser receives \$1,000 off the final Sales Price!

RESTAURANT REVIEW

PLAZA TAPATIA FAMILY RESTAURANT



Reviewed by Karin Anne Larsen

Ever wonder what it’s like to eat in the center of Guadalajara in the state of Jalisco, Mexico’s second largest city? Guadalajara is the cultural center of western Mexico and is nicknamed the “Pearl of the West” for its centers of commercial, cultural, and learning opportunities, not to mention two culinary institutes and a thriving art scene. Mexico’s Plaza Tapatia stretches over seven city blocks and was inaugurated on February 5, 1982.

Much easier to get to from SV is the Plaza Tapatia Family Restaurant in Easton. Dining here you can feel like a “tapatio” (a Spanish word meaning a person from Guadalajara or an adjective describing something typical of the region), and you can taste authentic Mexican cuisine seven

days a week. This family restaurant was named in honor of the famous Plaza and not only serves a wide variety of delicious ethnic food, but the combined service and atmosphere create a very pleasant dining experience. Some of my favorites are *Pollo Guadalajara*, grilled chicken breast cooked with chorizo sausage. This dish is served with beans, guacamole salad, and tortillas. I also recommend you try the *Quesadilla Marina*, a flour tortilla grilled and stuffed with grilled shrimp, onion, tomato, and bell pepper. Trust me, *Camarones a La Diabla*, shrimp in a spicy red chile sauce and rice will definitely wake up your taste buds. The *Chimichangas*, two flour tortillas fried crispy, filled with beef tips or chicken, covered with nacho cheese, beans, and guacamole salad, are delicious. Just as the *Fajitas Del Mar*, special fajitas with shrimp and scallops cooked with vegetables and served with beans, lettuce, tomato, guacamole, and sour cream are yummy. The desserts are also notable. There are *Sopapillas*, pieces of flat crispy flour tortillas with honey, butter, whipped cream, and cinnamon in addition to *Flan*, and *Fried Ice Cream*.

In fact, all of the food here is meticulously prepared with fresh, savory, and scrumptious ingredients. Just go east and in about 20 minutes you'll be requesting melodic mariachi music, the kind that is strongly associated with Guadalajara (the birthplace of Mexico's mariachi bands), while dining on the spicy robust flavors of Mexico and drinking the best Margaritas in town.

Plaza Tapatia Family Restaurant is located at 7813 Ocean Gateway in Easton, Maryland. The telephone number is 410-770-8550. Hours of service are Monday through Friday, 11a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, noon to 10 p.m. Also, Sunday, noon to 9 p.m. Lunch is served daily until 3 p.m.

**There are additional Plaza Tapatia restaurants (each family owned) located in the following places:
Ocean City, MD - Seaford, DE - Cambridge, MD. - Salisbury, MD. - Chestertown, MD**

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Wonton Sausage Appetizers

From The Kitchen of Karen King

- 1 package of **wonton wrappers** (recipe makes 24)
- 1 lb. bulk **sausage**, cooked and well drained
- 1 1/2 cups shredded **sharp cheddar cheese**
- 1 cup shredded **pepper jack cheese**
- 3/4 cup **ranch dressing**

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Press wontons into a mini muffin-tin and bake for 5 minutes.

Remove from oven and place on a cookie sheet.

Combine the cheeses, sausage, and ranch dressing.

Mix well and spoon the mixture into the wonton cups.

Bake for 5 to 10 minutes or until hot and bubbly.



LOCAL NEWS & EVENTS

NOTE: There are too many Local Events this month to include all of them in the *Libretto*. The entire list appears on [SV Website](#), and we will put a hard copy of the complete list in the *Libretto* Binder that is located in the Clubhouse. Also, if you do not have a computer, Nancy at the Clubhouse will print a hard copy of the complete list of Local Events from the website for you.

Fall Members' Best Show



The Queen Anne's County Arts Council and Centre for the Arts presents an exhibit of the work of abstract artist Caroline Weiss, fine artist Ann Crane Harlan, and multi-media artist Susan Mayberry on **September 15 – October 27**. ([Arts Council](#))

Events at Adkins Arboretum



A summary of the myriad programs at Adkins Arboretum will be included in Local Events, rather than complete details. These programs will be offered at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely in the coming month:

[2-For-1 Tuesdays](#): **September 18 and 25; October 2, 9, and 16;**

[Museum Day - Free Admission](#): **Saturday, September 22;**

[Soup 'n Walk](#): **Saturday, September 22;**

5th Annual [Magic in the Meadow](#): **Saturday, September 29;**

[Nature-Inspired Clayworks](#): **Friday, October 5;**

[Tails and Trails Dog Walk](#): **Saturday, October 6;**

[Foraging in Fall](#): **Sunday, October 7;**

[Second Saturday Guided Walk](#): **Saturday, October 13; and**

[Copper Bracelet Workshop](#): **Sunday, October 14.**

Click on the event title to go to the website for all the details and to register.

Monarch Tagging Workshop



Join [Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage](#) staff to tag and learn about the migrating habits of the Monarch butterfly on **Wednesday, September 19** at 4 p.m. or on **Saturday, September 22** at 10:30 a.m. at Barnstable Hill Farm in Chester. Participants will learn about the life cycle of the Monarch and help scientists from around the continent track the astounding generational migration of the Monarchs. This workshop is free to the public, but space is limited. Call 410-822-5100 to register. (*Record Observer*, August 31, 2012)

35th Annual Art Show and Sale



Chesapeake College will host an Art Show and Sale on **Thursday, September 20 through Saturday, November 3**, at the Todd Performing Arts Center Lobby. The lobby is open on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The show benefits Chesapeake College Art Scholarships. (*Attraction Magazine*, August 2012)

Queen Anne-Hillsboro Annual Fireman's Fair and Fall Fest



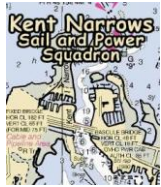
The Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company will hold their annual Fireman's Fair and Fall Fest on **September 21** and **22** at the fire house in Queen Anne. There will be the usual great food, cake wheel, money wheel, and other games; however, entertainment will be added for the first time. The Ashley Mitchell Band is a local pop/dance band who will perform on Saturday, 7 – 10 p.m. On Friday night, there will also be bingo. ([QAC Tourism](#))

Cabaret



[Church Hill Theatre](#) presents *Cabaret*, **September 21 – October 7**. It is Berlin 1930, an economically depressed period with millions of unemployed roaming the streets. Into this chaos enters Sally Bowles, an American dancer at the seedy underground Kit Kat Klub, where anything goes. Performances on Friday and Saturday begin at 8 p.m., and Sunday performances begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for members, and \$10 for students. ([QAC Tourism](#))

Sail Regatta, Fishing Tournament, and Fall Festival



The Kent Narrows Sail and Power Squadron will host the “District 5 Sail Regatta, Fishing Tournament, and Fall Festival” on **September 21-23** at Mears Point Marina in Grasonville. The public is invited to attend all weekend events. There will be plenty of food, as well as fun events like Dockside Crafts for children. ([Shore Update](#))

Antique Doll Exhibit



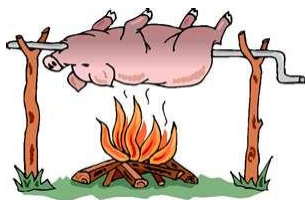
There will be an Antique Doll Exhibit on **Saturday, September 22**, 1 – 4 p.m., at Wright's Chance and Tucker House in Centreville. Admission is \$15 per person. ([QAC Tourism](#))

8th Annual Wet & Wild Auction



The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville will hold their annual [Wet & Wild Auction](#) on **Saturday, September 22**, 4 – 9 p.m. The theme this year is “An Autumn Garden Party.” The event includes live and silent auctions, food, beverages, and fun. There will be over 150 items up for bid. Tickets are \$85 per person, and include heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and cocktails. Purchase tickets on-line or call 410-827-6694.

4th Annual Pig Roast



Romancoke on the Bay in Stevensville will hold a Pig Roast at the Romancoke Clubhouse on **Saturday, September 22**, 3 – 7 p.m. The menu includes pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw, burgers, hot dogs, salads, and desserts. There will also be live music, prizes, and a bonfire. Tickets in advance are \$15 for adults (\$18 at the door), which includes four drink tickets (draft beer, wine, soda, water). For children ages 7-12, tickets are \$5, which includes two drink tickets (soda, water). Children under 7, no charge. To purchase tickets in advance, call 202-329-7960. ([Shore Update](#))

Annual Fall Picnic



The Kent Island Heritage Society hosts a Fall Picnic for members and guests on **Sunday, September 23**, at historic Kirwan House in Chester, 1 – 5 p.m. The event includes a potluck dinner, courtesy of its members. Fried chicken, hot dogs, iced tea, and lemonade are provided. Games, including horseshoes, corn hole, board games, and children's games are open to all, and demonstrations, displays, and music are ongoing throughout the day. Bring your lawn chair, a covered dish to share, and join us! The picnic is free. ([Kent Island Heritage Society](#))

Guided Kayak Tours



The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center (CBEC) will sponsor guided kayak tours on **Wednesday, September 26** (6 – 8:30 p.m.) and on **Sunday, October 14** (2 – 4:30 p.m.). The trips will be led by CBEC naturalist and experienced kayaker Courtney Leigh. Participants will explore the tidal inlets of Marshy Creek and the pristine marshes along the shoreline. The trip is appropriate for ages 5 and up. Pre-registration is required – call 410-827-6694 or email jwink@bayrestoration.org. The cost is \$8 for members and \$10 for non-members. ([CBEC](#))

4th Annual Hot Dog Grill



Animal Resource Foundation (ARF) will hold a fundraiser on **Saturday, September 29**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Rommel's Ace Home Center in Stevensville (300 Thompson Creek Mall). At "Hot Dog Grill," one gets a sandwich, chips, and a drink for \$4. Baked goods will also be available. All proceeds/donations go to ARF to care for all the animals waiting for their forever homes. (*The Update*, August 8, 2012)

Chesapeake Bay Community Band 2nd Annual Oktoberfest



The Chesapeake Bay Community Band presents their annual [Oktoberfest](#) fundraiser on **Saturday, September 29**, 5:30 – 10 p.m., at the American Legion Post 278 in Stevensville. Festivities include a German band, dancing, an all-you-can-eat buffet (6 – 7:30 p.m.), and a silent auction. The menu includes sour beef and dumplings, pork with sauerkraut, wursts, mashed potatoes with gravy, German potato salad, green beans, and carrots. There will be a cash bar. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and may be purchased on-line on the website.

Longaberger Basket Bingo



Ravens Nest 20 will sponsor Longaberger Basket Bingo on **Sunday, September 30**, at the Bay Country Moose Lodge (6154 Main Street) in Queenstown. Proceeds will benefit Hospice of Queen Anne's County. Doors open at noon, and the games begin at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, and includes 20 bingo games and one door prize raffle ticket. There will be two bingo specials, multiple door prizes, and much more. Food and drink will be available for purchase. Reserve your ticket before the event and receive a free ticket for a Special Early Bird

prize drawing. Wear your Ravens colors and receive an extra door prize ticket. To reserve your ticket or for more information, call Kerri at 410-758-3486 or Debbie at 410-827-5884.

Fall into Fall: Flavors of the Season



The Kent Island Federation of Arts presents an exhibit “Fall into Fall: Flavors of the Season” on **October 3-27**. ([QAC Tourism](#))

34th Annual Chesterwye Dinner and Auction



The [Chesterwye Center](#) will hold a dinner and auction on **Thursday, October 4**, at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Stevensville. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with an open bar, hors d’oeuvres, and silent auction viewing. Dinner and a live auction follow at 7:30 p.m. All of the proceeds will assist adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. For more information, and to order tickets, call 410-827-7048. (*Shore Update*, August 29, 2012)

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra



The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra will perform at the Todd Performing Arts Center at Chesapeake College in Wye Mills on **Friday, October 5**, at 8 p.m. The program is Rebel’s Chaos from Les Elemens, Schumann’s Violin Concerto in D Minor, and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, opus 55, Eroica. Tickets are \$40 and may be ordered on-line at [Tickets](#). ([QAC Tourism](#))

Annual Pumpkin Patch



Kent Fort Farm in Stevensville will hold their annual Pumpkin Patch celebration on all four **weekends in October**, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. There will be free hayrides to the pumpkin patch and a petting zoo. For information, call 410-643-1650. ([QAC Tourism](#))

Taste of Kent Narrows



The [Taste of Kent Narrows](#) will be held on **Saturday, October 6**, noon – 6 p.m., at the Chesapeake Exploration Center in Chester. The event features the culinary delights of over fifteen local restaurants, as well as hometown beer and wine, children’s activities, live entertainment, demonstrations, and more. Tickets are \$30 per person, with children ages 12 and under free with a paying adult.

Bird Hike



There will be a Bird Hike on **Saturday, October 6**, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center in Grasonville. The theme will be “Eagles at Leisure.” The cost is \$7 for non-members. Pre-registration is necessary – call 410-827-6694. ([Bird Hike](#))

Bird School



The Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center will hold Bird School on **Wednesday, October 10**, 6 - 7:30 p.m. The topic is “A Plethora of Stuff: Pellets, Droppings, Parasites, Injuries, and Other.” The cost is \$10 for non-members. Pre-registration is necessary – call 410-827-6694. ([Bird School](#))

Fall Celebration and Pet Adoption Day



The Queen Anne's County Department of Animal Services will hold a Fall Celebration and Pet Adoption Day on **Saturday, October 13**. Go to [QAC Animal Services](#) for all the details as they become available.

Ballroom and Latin Dance Party



Enjoy a mix of ballroom, Latin, swing, and tango music on **Saturday, October 13**, when the QAC Center for the Arts (206 S. Commerce Street) hosts a Ballroom and Latin Dance Party. The Dance Party will be 8:15 – 10 p.m., with a beginner's Argentine Tango lesson at 7:15 p.m. The cost is \$12 for non-members, \$10 for members. (Center for the Arts brochure "Classes Fall 2012")

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournaments



The Queen Anne-Hillsboro Volunteer Fire Company will host a no-limit, Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament fundraiser on **Saturday, October 13**, and again on **Saturday, November 10**. Doors open at 11 a.m., and the tournament begins at 1 p.m. The entry fee will be \$75, with \$50 going to the prize pool. Beer, soda, and water are included in the entry fee. Initial buy-in includes \$5000 in chips, and there will be no re-buys or add-ons. Food will be available for purchase. Side tables and other games will be available for tournament players only. All eight finalists will share the prize pool, with 30% going to the first-place finisher. The house take will benefit the fire company. Call 443-786-4532 if you have any questions. ([Queen Anne-Hillsboro VFC](#))

6th Annual Island Bay Day Music Festival



Kent Island On-Line hosts [Island Bay Day](#) on **October 13-14** at the 4-H Park in Centreville. This year's festival includes 14 bands, 2 stages, food, and vendors, and it raises money for the Armed Forces Foundation and the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

Grounds open at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday and close at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday. Folding chairs and blankets are permitted, but coolers and outside food and drink are not. The event is held rain or shine. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the gate, and there is no charge for children under age 12.

Fall Flea Market and Craft Fair



The Kent Island Senior Center (891 Love Point Road in Stevensville) will hold a flea market and craft fair on **Saturday, October 13**, 8 a.m. – noon. There will also be refreshments and homemade baked goods. (*Shore Update*, September 5, 2012)

Wye River Upper School's Fall Artisan's Fair



Wye River Upper School (WRUS) will hold an Artisan's Fair on **Saturday, October 13**, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Queen Anne's County Arts Council and at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Centreville. The event benefits WRUS financial aid. ([Shore Update](#))

Fall Festival



Centreville United Methodist Church will hold their Fall Festival on **Saturday, October 13**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. The festival will feature lots of children's activities, lunch, treasures for sale, crafts, a fall bake table featuring lots of apple and pumpkin goodies, games, and old-fashioned cider making. ([Shore Update](#))

Estate Treasures Fashion Show and Luncheon



Estate Treasures will host a Fashion Show and Luncheon on **Tuesday, October 16**, to benefit Hospice of Queen Anne's. The event begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Kent Island American Legion Post 278 in Stevensville. The cost is \$25 per person. Call 410-643-7350 for tickets. ([Hospice of Queen Anne's](#))

ICE! At Gaylord National



The Grasonville Senior Center is sponsoring a motor coach trip to Fort Washington, Maryland, on **Wednesday, December 5**, to visit the spectacular Gaylord National Hotel. The Gaylord presents a Holiday ICE show each year. This year's theme is SHREK THE HALLS, featuring DreamWorks' Shrek characters. Participants will visit this amazing ice sculpture display, as well as the beautiful hotel all dressed up for the Holidays. This fun day also includes a buffet lunch at Golden Corral en route. All this for only \$48 per person, and we'll be back before rush hour traffic. Children and adults of all ages are welcome (the cost remains the same). See the flyer posted on the [Daily Bulletin](#) for all the details, and call Ann Martin at the Grasonville Senior Center (410-827-6010) without delay to reserve your place.

REMINDER: Go to the [SV Website](#) to see all 128 Local Events and 34 Events Outside the Four-County Area.

PERSONAL ADS

Truck and RV – Owner is selling the two as a package for \$36,000, but may consider selling RV or Truck separately. Call 410-758-2119 for more details.

2003 Keystone Everest 312M 5th Wheel RV: Equipped with many extras and ALL extras are included in the asking price of \$17,400.

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Trivia Answers

1. Grover Cleveland, under pressure from voters, signed the legislation in 1894.
2. New Jersey
3. The Pekingese
4. Cats can produce more vocal sounds. They have more than 100 sounds, while dogs have about 10 sounds.
5. Dreamt
6. Maine
7. Birds dream about their songs, have dream rehearsals, and sing songs better the next day, according to research at the University of Chicago.
8. Yes, dogs see color and are not color blind. However, they do not see as vivid a color scheme as we see.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

- Clubhouse phone number for Dennis or Nancy: 410-758-8500
- Dennis Sesplankis' email: dsesplankis@legumnorman.com
- Nancy Griffith's email: symphonyclub@verizon.net
- Warranty Office: 301-261-0277, ext. 135 (Katherine Zell)
- Collection and Recycling: Bates Trucking, 301-733-2069
- Bulk Pick-up and Yard Waste: 410-758-1180 —Yard waste is picked up on Mondays without a phone call. Occasionally, it may be picked up on Tuesdays.



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THE GREAT MISADVENTURE YIN AND YANG

By Charles W. Scheck



PRELUDE

Can you imagine buying an old car on eBay, given that the car was over one thousand miles away from Maryland in San Antonio, Texas?? This a story about my experiences during my February 21 trip to San Antonio to pick up a car I had bought (believe it or not) from eBay. For a long time I longed to get back into my old car ownership mode, but my wife Maria was my priority, especially since she had Alzheimers disease and required constant attention. Now, after Maria's passing, I'm free to do foolish things (**again**). I've owned numerous cars over the years, sometimes jumping forward in vintage and sometimes backward. All of these acquisitions have been ridiculous from a monetary point of view, but they always gave me various degrees of fun and challenge to keep these old machines looking good and running; and, as you will see, sometimes it was a challenge simply to get them home. My latest **fatal attraction** is a **1985 Mercedes 300SD turbo-diesel**. For some dumb reason, I decided to try to drive this more or less unknown machine home from San Antonio by myself?? Go figure!

DOES IT ALWAYS PAY TO BUY CHEAP

I put down a deposit on the car and bought an online airline e-ticket (**not a ticket at all**) to San Antonio. I could not believe the low price, (\$97 w/\$5 discount) through Cheap-O-Air (**apropos**). Not really trusting what I had done online, I went back online to check my "stuff." (Remember the flyer who advised the TSA agent not to touch his stuff?) The web site I went to could not identify me or my flight by the booking number. I began to get p--- d, so I called the 800 number. A man very diplomatically advised that my inquiry was to the wrong site! I was on the **CHEAPAIR** site, **not the CHEAP-O-AIR** site. (Go figure-seems like someone should change their name-NO?). Now squared away, I was able to print out a boarding pass with a sigh of relief.

FLIGHT SUSPENSE, ER—I MEAN SUSPENDERS

Super friend and neighbor Jack Walsh took me to BWI at an ungodly hour. Soon, I was reminded of the stupid TSA process at the airport. Lines and lines of people doing screwy things like taking their shoes off, etc. I had to be separated out and wanded, unbelievably, because I had suspenders on with metal end clips. **Dangerous weapons NO???** Perhaps you could twang someone to death with an elastic suspender??

MANY AIRCRAFT MECHANICS ARE AFRAID TO FLY-SO WHY DO I?

The flight to San Antonio with a stopover in Houston went well. I enjoy good weather air flights. I'm always thrilled by the power it takes to get such a heavy machine off the ground and to rapidly climb to cruising altitude. If you understood even a little about parts count in these astounding flying machines as well as engineering reliability calculations and maintenance by ordinary humans, you would justifiably be very worried about safety and reliability. I happen to know more than one aircraft mechanic who is afraid to fly. One of them said what did it for him was to find a vacuum cleaner left rolling around in a wing fuel tank. It is truly a wonder how big airliners get off the ground and stay aloft. Looking down on the tops of cloud cover from 30,000 feet always seems like a new experience, and the cloud patterns are infinitely varied.

JOE WHO? I WAS DEALING WITH A GUY NAMED DREW

On to San Antonio—I got a call on my cell phone from someone I did not know, NOT the individual I bought the car from! Immediately, I began to smell something fishy, even though I had been advised that the car was titled to a dealership and not to the individual I was dealing with and who I had assumed was the owner. Anyhow, a Joe picked me up in about a half hour in a Porsche. **This was a treat even though he drove it quite normally.** He explained that he was the owner/mechanic of the dealership and he had the full authority to execute the deal and provide me with title transfer, temporary registration docs, and plates—OK!

THE FIRST SIGHTING

My first look at my Mercedes was reasonably pleasant. I had realized previously that the person who took digital images of the car had done a great job and made the car look considerably better than it would in the flesh, but I was prepared for this and all of the finish flaws that are characteristic of a repainted 27-year old car. Before testing the car, I was also keenly reminded of the glowing performance write up on eBay that ‘**Everything Works**’ – a-Ha-Ha. Experience tells one that even if everything works, which is unlikely, there are some things in an old car which are erratic, sometimes they work and sometimes they don’t.

THE FIRST TEST

Knowing that power windows are typically trouble, I test operated them – first only to find that the left rear window was totally inoperative, and the right rear window went down and would not go up. I stopped dead in my tracks and showed the owner/dealer. He went on about buying a car this old you will find things like this and you have to expect them, etc, etc. I allowed that the car was represented to me as having everything working. **He asked if I wanted him to bring me back to the airport. I said no, I wanted him to fix the windows.** He said he did not have a mechanic available. I countered with his earlier statement that he himself was an ASE mechanic. This was a sufficient challenge to him, and he pulled the car in to work on it. Several hours later, the windows were fixed. Mysteriously, wires were cut in the left rear window, and it could never have worked—so much for the eBay write up by the mystery owner Drew that “Everything Works.”

THE SECOND TEST

The car has a sunroof. In older cars, this is almost always unreliable or inoperative. **This was no exception.** The sunroof motor was trying to open the roof, but it was stuck. Since this is an unimportant feature of the car I decided not to push the issue and not to risk opening the sunroof and not being able to close it. I could deal with this feature later (or in reality perhaps never).

CLOSE MY EYES AND TURN THE KEY

The car started and ran, and all other features (lights, horn, wipers, power locks, a/c, etc) worked. The transmission shifted roughly, but properly. The mechanic allowed that the car had not been run for a long time and that it would perform better the more I ran it. This was believable, especially for a car of this age and mileage (235K); and, clearly, it had not been in use for some long time.

OFF AND RUNNING, BUT NO STOPPING

With documents in hand and temporary license plate in place, I gritted my teeth and was off and running on I-10 with a target of Mobile, Alabama, where I would pick up I-65. The car was running better all the time on the highway, and the diesel engine was meeting all my expectations. In the Beaumont, Texas, area, I pulled into a motel for an overnight stay. **Surprise, surprise!** My trusty diesel engine **would not stop** when the key was turned to off!! This sounds bad, but with a diesel it is a non-problem since simply by opening the hood and running the throttle linkage to stop cuts off the fuel.

FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A LOCAL MECHANIC

I drove the car to a repair shop. Here the mechanic knew enough about Mercedes diesel that he immediately realized that the vacuum operated fuel shutoff valve was not working. So, he applied vacuum to the valve directly using a hand vacuum tester, and the engine dutifully shut down. At this point, he said the entire ignition switch had to be replaced since the valve portion of the switch controlling the vacuum was not working. He said he’d need several days to get the part and fix the car. I said I wanted to keep moving so he said to go over to Tony’s Mercedes a few miles away because Tony may have the switch in stock.

TONY TO THE RESCUE

Tony took one look at the car, walked away in thought and returned with a small tool like a reamer. He took the vacuum hose apart near the power brake unit and reamed out some junk out of the hose. (He knew, by experience, exactly where the junk was.) So, Tony saved me several hundred dollars, and the car could again be shut off via the key switch (nothing wrong with the switch/valve). **(In other words, had I stayed with the first mechanic, I would have spent several hundred dollars, and it would not have fixed the problem.)** Since I

quickly assessed that I had a true experienced Mercedes expert on hand, I asked him to drive the car because of noises reflective of loose parts underneath in the rear. He went no more than one hundred feet and determined that there were some worn out links in the rear suspension. So, up on the lift we went. For sure, worn out links AND he had the parts in stock, so we replaced them. While the car was on the lift, I got a good look at the entire rear suspension condition which I must say was superb, and it is a type of independent suspension that I prefer. Also, we popped the wheels off and inspected the brakes and found the pads in need of replacement AND he had these in stock. The brake rotors were excellent in the rear and in the front as well and the front did not need pads. Tony and I got along well, and he gave me a generous discount on his work.

OFF AND RUNNING AGAIN WITH ROCK AND ROLL

The old car was running strong, and the transmission was, in fact, smoothing out. Somewhere around New Orleans a truck in front of me threw up a rock which put a disgusting large star flaw in the windshield--with a sickening thud. Thank goodness the flaw was down low and not in the driver's line of sight. I had to really try hard to roll with this punch which seemed unlucky and downright unfair. However, I was not p---ed enough to ignore it, so I stopped at the nearest dealership (Toyota) that had a glass repair capability. They worked on the glass flaw to avoid having to replace the windshield. I also wanted them to replace the windshield wipers, but they could not find anything to fit, so I had to let that go.

OFF AND RUNNING AGAIN – SMOKIN' DOWN THE ROAD

The car was running better all along, and I was playing with the cruise control. I felt comfortable continually increasing my cruising speed to a steady 75 mph. I began to think everything could possibly go alright from here on. Near London, Kentucky, (somewhat south of Lexington) I saw smoke coming out from under the hood near the windshield. This was doubling down on unlucky and unfair as the smoke began to infiltrate the passenger compartment, and I lost the power brake booster. Fortunately I was able to coast the car off on the London exit and coast to a stop in a parking slot in a Shell Station. I opened the hood, and flames were licking up around the intermediate firewall. I ran into the station and borrowed a fire extinguisher to put out the flames. This is the point in time when I asked myself how the hell I ever let myself get into this whole situation. I dealt rather easily (with some help) with all the previous problems, but this one was truly catastrophic – melted wires and insulation and all.

FOLKS FELT SORRY FOR ME

I called a tow truck guy the next day and told him about my problem with the idea of getting him to tow the car to a repair shop. He thought about this for a while and said he'd call back. When he called back he gave me the number of Don Emery who he said used to service exclusively Mercedes cars. I called Don and he was kind enough to come look at the car. He shook his head after seeing the damage and it was clear that he did not want the repair job. After I told him some of my previous experiences, I sensed he felt sorry for me, and he finally agreed to try to fix it. He said he would tow it to his shop, but it would likely take weeks to fix. **However, I still had to get home!** With kindness again, Don took me to Enterprise Rent-a-Car. Their first response to my inquiry was that **they did not rent one way**. As good luck would have it, there was a supervisor in the back room who overheard our conversation and gave her underlings an order to rent to me one way since she had very recently been given authority to do so. I personally went into the back room to thank her.

SHELL SHOCKED – BUT OFF AND RUNNING AGAIN

I was finally on the way home to Maryland, but I lost sight of the fact that I was still on route I-65 and not on I-85, but I drove on and on and on in sort of a trance until I began to see signs for Cincinnati. Instead of slanting off to the east I had driven NORTH. It wasn't until I got on an eastbound interstate that I was back on track toward home. I did make it home and with the help of Jack Walsh returned the rental car the next day.

BLANKED OUT

To mentally insulate myself from this fatal attraction misadventure, I put the whole episode out of my mind and purposely did not even follow up on the status of the Mercedes. What will be, will be, even if I have to sacrifice the car? The repair, if it was to happen, was out of my control albeit in the hand of an experienced Mercedes mechanic.

BAD NEWS!

Sometime after I got home, I got an email from the American Modern Insurance Company that they had cancelled my insurance policy because the car, although old enough, was not classic enough for their specialty car insurance. I found this especially annoying since I had gone all out to be sure the insurance was in place, and it was, prior to picking up the car and was, in fact, in force for the duration of my trip. I imposed on a nice young girl named Gina Mizzell at the brokerage (Voyager) to help me get appropriate insurance from another company. She went to bat for me, and I got old car insurance in place again from a Company named Hagerty (Essentia).

GOOD NEWS??

On Wednesday, March 21, I got my first call from the Mercedes mechanic in Kentucky. He had the engine running, but had not driven the car. The alternator was not charging the battery, and he had not yet replaced a burned vacuum hose to the brake booster. He intended to fix these things in a week or so. His goal, which I fully understand, was only to make the car safe enough to drive back to Maryland-not to get everything working properly. So, when I got his call that he was finished as far as he was willing to go, I had to figure out how I was going to get down there and drive it back. I figured out that I could fly into the Lexington airport and then to the small airport in London itself.

MORAL(S) TO THIS STORY (SO FAR)

Don't buy a car from eBay (especially a very old one) without test driving it or having it inspected by a local inspector. I knew this, but I was ready, willing, and able to gamble.

Don't bet on the seller's description being accurate, especially when it comes to "Everything Works."

Don't always trust that the advertiser of the car is the actual owner.

Don't bet on an old car's being able to travel long distances without problems (especially one that has not been driven for some long time). Actually, I could have finished this trip were it not for the fire.

Don't travel long distances (in any car) without a good fire extinguisher on board and a first aid kit as well.

Don't travel long distances without a compass in the car (so you don't drive north instead of east in a trance).

I know all of the above, of course, but for some reason I wanted an adventure. Well, I got it in the form of the "Great Misadventure."

THE CALL FROM KENTUCKY

The Horn Blows

Don Emery called. He installed lots of new wires to replace burned out ones, and the car began to come alive. However, the alternator was not charging the battery. In troubleshooting that circuit, when he put test voltage on a circuit which was supposed to be dedicated to the alternator, the horn blew. Oh-Oh, crossed/burned wires in some unknown location, probably buried within a wiring harness. At this point, Don Emery legitimately gave up. He is a one man shop, he's basically retired and has other customers to serve. So, we agreed that I should recover the car or cut my losses and run and tow the car to the salvage yard. I had to think this over. My stubbornness came to the fore. **"If man made this thing, man can fix it." Not always true; but, with older cars, it is often a truism.**

COFFEE SHOP RESCUE

Rick Coulby, of Commerce Street Creamery, heard my story. Perhaps he too felt sorry for me so he unbelievably offered that he and I would take his beautiful Ford F-250 super duty truck to Kentucky and tow the car home to Maryland on a U-Haul tow dolly. The plan was to leave Sunday, April 29, 2012, and tow the car back April 30 – May 1. On Friday, I called to check on the tow dolly. **The lady I spoke to was unsure if it would be available when I needed it – Bah!!** She gave me an 800 number for U-Haul central traffic. I thought this strange and not good customer service, but I did it anyhow. The lady there was more accommodating and assured me a tow dolly would be available. The ride to Kentucky went very smoothly, and we had a very nice overnight stay in the Hyatt Place in Lexington and a decent Italian meal in Carrabas. In the Lexington Hyatt Place hotel, I pulled a minor "prank," since some time for levity was long overdue. One day, while surfing the web, I came across an ad for bed bug "Devices." Never heard of these before, but I opened the packages and put one under my bed and one under Rick's bed. When I showed him the device (looks like an ant trap), we had a much needed and long laugh. If it worked we would never know. However, you will have to admit that I really know how to take care of my friends.

The next day, as we approached London, Kentucky, we had a brainstorm and became uncomfortable towing the car with two old tires on the roadway at 75 miles per hour versus using a full car (transporter) trailer with all four wheels off the roadway. So I called U-Haul central and found a transporter 10 miles south of London. I paid the extra freight for peace of mind, and it paid off big time. Rick was an expert in rigging the trailer, and we hit the road again. The only time we knew we were pulling 5,000 pounds behind us was when we were climbing hills; but even then, with an automatic transmission and automatic downshift, the truck proved its mettle many times over—and there were lots of **big** hills through the constantly variable grades in the mountains of West Virginia. The beautiful scenery and rock cuts through the mountains made the long trip more interesting and renewed our appreciation for our freedom and the grandeur of our country. Also, it provided plenty of time for discussions of a myriad of other subjects.

DEWEY'S DIAGNOSIS

Rick Coulby dropped me home on Sunday and dropped off the car per previous arrangement to Dewey at Mid-Shore Imports in Easton, MD. Dewey was recommended as a Mercedes expert by my good friend Michael Wood who has had his Mercedes diesels repaired there. An interesting juxtaposition was that Rick Coulby went to the same high school as Dewey. So, my confidence in Dewey was bolstered. Dewey called me a day or two later and advised me of his findings after doing necessary disassembly. He indicated that he could fix most and maybe all of the problems caused by the fire. An interesting insight was that an electrical short probably did not cause the fire. It was most likely caused by a metallic resistor associated with the air conditioning getting cherry red hot due to leaves that we packed in under the power brake unit where this resistor lives. The hot resistor lit off the leaves which in turn cooked the wires. This resistor is installed in a poorly unventilated place and should probably be relocated where it can get some cooling.

Knowing full well that expert mechanics do not like anyone looking over their shoulder, I exercised great restraint to totally avoid telephone contact with the shop and to avoid the temptation to visit. This psychology paid off big time as evidenced by everything being repaired. I doubt seriously if there is an auto repair shop on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that would have taken on the job, no less completed it. My hat is off to Mid-Shore Imports.

THE INSURANCE MAN

On May 24, Dewey advised me that an insurance man had been around to his shop and had gone over the nature and scope of the work. I view this as a good sign that the American Modern Insurance Company that covered the car during its maiden voyage is considering some coverage of the repairs. I did not expect this, at least not at this point, and I can only keep my fingers crossed.

THE FINALE

(OF THIS GREAT MISADVENTURE-STAY TUNED)

At this finale, I ask the reader to review the paragraph entitled “Morals of the Story-So Far.” There are no new morals, just accolades. If you had the patience to read this whole story, you no doubt have sensed how every bad thing that happened was countered by a good thing or some sort of assistance. In ancient Chinese lore, the yin and the yang always remain in balance. It is astounding to realize that the USA is still full of Tonys, Dons, Ricks, and Deweys who are so ready, willing, and able to help whenever they sense help is needed. My faith in my fellow man has been elevated to a new high.

Oh, maybe there is a one moral to add and it comes from my father. It is simply that persistence wins. Never give up, never give up, never (Winston Churchill) during the second World War. Soon, I will drive my Mercedes, without fanfare (except internal), to the Commerce Street Creamery for breakfast.

WHOOPS! . . . I THOUGHT THIS STORY WAS FINISHED

Early in June, I got an email from the Hagerty Insurance Company with the subject line reading “Hagerty’s 2nd Annual Search for America’s Sweetest Lemon”. Entry into this contest only required 250 words or less to explain why your car is “America’s Sweetest Lemon,” together with a photo of myself with the car. Why not enter? – especially since my nephew Gregory Iacono is a prolific short story writer. Our submission went out in July, and there is supposed to be a public voting of the top ten on Hagerty.com. The really neat thing about this contest is that the winner and the winner’s car are flown to California where the winner will be the Grand Marshall for

Hagerty's "Tour of Lemons" – only in California. I told my nephew that, if we win, I'll buy him a plane ticket to California, and we'll drive back across county together.

NO LEMONADE

My Mercedes did not make the cut for the top ten Sweetest Lemons. It was disappointing in a way even though I know did not fit the mold of a truly antique car which is truly a lemon. Actually, my car had no intrinsic problematic defects characteristic of a lemon, but rather an unusual and unexpected circumstance involving some leaves which accumulated in exactly the wrong place and eventually caught fire. Actually, the vehicles that made the top ten tended to be funny little cars which by their appearance alone might be judged lemons.