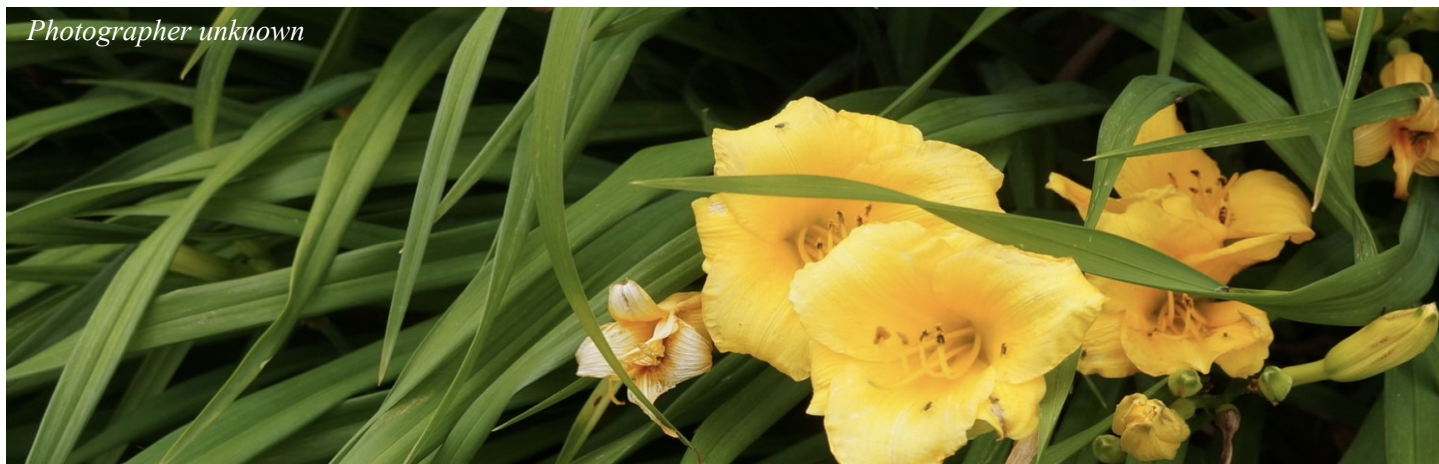


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# *LIBRETTO* 🎵

## SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

**MAY 2023**

**VOL. XVIII No. 05**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To enhance the quality of life and promote a harmonious community through the timely publication of accurate information about residents, events, and activities in and around Symphony Village.

**Welcome to the Neighborhood!**



Judy Osgood  
207 Concerto Avenue

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### **MAY 2023 SV HOA BOD**

**DEBI WELLS, SECRETARY**

Thank you to all who attended the May 5 HOA meeting in-person and virtually. If you did not attend, these highlights are offered from that meeting.

#### **President's Report—Bill Ridgway**

- **Parking Lot Asphalt:** We are soliciting proposals to resurface our Clubhouse parking lots, perhaps as early as this fall. The pre-bid meeting with the contractors is scheduled for May 31.
- **New Reserve Study:** The Study will determine appropriate capital reserve requirements and our budget contributions for the next few years. Reserves are at approximately \$1,265,000 as of March 31. The Reserve Study this year will have more urgency and impact than previous years because new Maryland requirements allow less flexibility in funding capital reserves.
- **Irrigation System Assessment:** A new team is reviewing our irrigation components for ways to mitigate failure risks. In addition to possible new control devices, a longstanding consideration is whether to drill a new fifth well to replace the failed one at Bravo and Harmony.

- **Terms of Reference HOA Document:** The Board is seeking feedback from Committees to make suitable updates to this document, that defines the roles of Committees and members to support the work of the Association.

### **New Business Topics the Board Voted upon during the Meeting:**

- **Clubhouse Signs:** With a goal to make monthly signage more attractive and to harmonize, a proposal from Shore Sign was recommended by the Artisan’s Guild. It was unanimously approved for an amount not to exceed \$1.2K. For details, please review the signage descriptions on the May 5 HOA meeting [Reference Materials—https://symphonyvillage.net/s/Document-05-Art-Reception-Signs.pdf](https://symphonyvillage.net/s/Document-05-Art-Reception-Signs.pdf).
- **2022 Draft Audit:** This document is an assessment of the Association’s financial statements. The Budget and Finance Committee recommended this audit be approved as submitted by Goldklang Group CPAs, P.C. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Common Area Bluebird House Placement:** Guided by resident Bluebird expert, Pete Zerhusen, the resident at 138 Symphony Way requested a Bluebird house on a 6’ metal stake be placed in a tree landscaping bed in the common area close to the putting green. The Bluebird house will be maintained by either Pete or the resident, with no maintenance nor cost to the HOA. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Sweetgum Trees in Opera Court Common Area:** Several homeowners on Opera Court are concerned about the Sweetgum seed pods (nicknamed ‘gumballs’) being a nuisance. Three trees were requested to be removed. Since common areas are the jurisdiction of the Board, a discussion and vote (with one abstention) resulted in the decision not to remove the trees. Instead, the General Manager will coordinate with the community landscaper, Level Green, to determine the cost of removing the ‘gumballs’ more frequently.
- **Clubhouse Entrance Planters:** Level Green will seasonally update the planters by the Clubhouse front doors on May 11. Since the Landscape and Irrigation Committee will not meet until May 16, the Board was asked to make the decision to keep or donate the Hinoki Cypress in the planters. The unanimously approved vote result was to allow replanting since the trees will become too large for the planters, and to donate the Hinokis to the Town of Centreville for their beautification project. Mary Colling-Officer volunteered to coordinate the donation to the Town.

**Gateway System (aka the Antenna/Water Meter project):** This system will be located in the Town’s right-of-way in the traffic circle on Symphony Way. While the HOA maintains all traffic circles throughout Symphony Village with the same aesthetic quality as our common areas, these traffic circles are each a right-of-way belonging to the Town. The Town continues to work closely with the Board in an attempt to be transparent and to coordinate with the HOA.

You may know, the Gateway System is a Town of Centreville Public Works project designed to allow customers to view their water usage in “real time” through an online portal that graphs usage over periods of time. The System will also eliminate time-consuming manual scanning and its related input system by the Town. The Gateway System components that will be installed in the Symphony Way traffic circle are an 80’ aluminum flagpole with lighting (for the flag) outfitted with a 5’ antenna (an electronic device that receives low-power radio signals from curbside water meters), with a 3’ x 5’ electric water meter base (looking much like a green utility cabinet, the unit collects water meter data and transmits it using mobile cellular connectivity). The antenna will be utilized to keep track of pre-existing radio water meters in Symphony Village. However, it is also part of a larger project called the ‘Gateway’ encompassing the entire Public Works system used by the Town of Centreville. All costs of the Gateway System, including landscaping to camouflage the water meter base, along with symmetrical landscaping on the other side of the traffic circle, will be assumed by the Town.

**IMPORTANT:** The Gateway System (previously referred to as the Flagpole/Antenna Water Meter) does *not* emit high-powered transmissions and it will *not* support WiFi capability.

Want accurate HOA information? Please attend HOA community meetings (bring your questions) and rely upon reading the *Libretto*, eBlasts, SV Website. The SV Website archives information about past meeting minutes, future meetings, vote information called *Reference Materials*, etc. You can also speak with our General Manager (Rebecca Wagner, 410-758-8500), or send the Board an email request for information at [board@symphonyvillagehoa.com](mailto:board@symphonyvillagehoa.com).

## ARTISANS GUILD

**KATHY McMANUS, CO-CHAIR AND SUE GANFIELD, CO-CHAIR**

Our newest show, *Stars and Stripes—Americana* opened on May 7. Come view the works of the many talented artisans in Symphony Village.



*Jim Glauert alongside his wife, Pat*



*John Olson Artist of the Day*



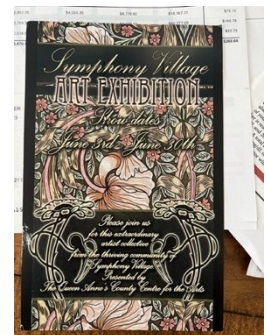
*Featured Artist Cathy Olson*



*Painting by Steve Guy*

We are excited and proud to announce that the Artisans Guild will be featured artists for the month of June at the Queen Anne's Centre for the Arts in downtown Centreville. A reception will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 6 – 8 p.m. All are welcome.

Contact for information:  
Kathy McManus, [kpmcmanus317@yahoo.com](mailto:kpmcmanus317@yahoo.com)



Well, this has been a very busy time for Symphony Village. There have been forty Exterior Modification Forms (EMFs) submitted since April 1. Twenty modifications were roof replacements and seven involved some form of landscaping.

Landscaping has been very popular this spring season, as many homes that were built in the early stages of our community are showing signs of overgrown plants and shrubs. I must commend the residents who have submitted landscaping EMFs throughout this spring season. Most have been very prudent to check the **Recommended List** or more importantly, the **Unapproved or Maryland Invasive** lists before purchasing the plants, shrubs, and trees they planned to plant. Please continue this practice as we move through the planting season.

Perhaps some of you are asking where the lists are located? The **links** are referenced in our Architectural Requirements Document (located on our website) on page ten under the topic of Plantings. See below:

### Plantings

**Prohibited Plantings** in Symphony Village will follow the Maryland Department of Agriculture invasive-plant-list: [http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland\\_invasive\\_plants\\_prevention\\_and\\_control.aspx](http://mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx)

**Prohibited Trees, Ornamentals and Shrubs** are listed on the Symphony Village Website within the Landscape and Irrigation topic at <https://symphonyvillage.net/landscape-irrigation-and-trees/> (Just click on each icon on the page to see the database. Approved and Prohibited Trees, Ornamentals and Shrubs will be listed first; scroll down to see what is prohibited.)

**Approved/Recommended Plantings** including trees, shrubs and natives perennials are on the Symphony Village Website within the Landscaping and Irrigation section:

<https://symphonyvillage.net/landscape-irrigation-and-trees/>. Plantings of trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials, grasses, and vines shall consider future growth, be at a reasonable distance from foundation walls and be maintained.

Some residents have submitted plants and shrubs were not on either list. Provided that your selections are within reason with regards to overall height and width dimensions, consistency with other residents' gardens, and do not infringe on the common areas adjacent to your lot, these EMFs have been generally approved by the Covenants Committee (CC). As you continue to plan your new landscaping designs and/or enhancements of existing flowerbeds, please continue your much appreciated vigilance in these areas.

By the way, regardless of what your project entails, how has your overall experience been with the EMF process? Would you like to provide feedback regarding that experience? Please keep an eye out for an invitation to do just that coming to your email inbox. A one-page questionnaire is being sent out to SV residents who have submitted EMFs from the beginning of 2022 and through April 5, 2023. Instructions of how to record and send in your responses will be included in the email blast. Please take a few moments to help the current and future members of the Covenants Committee to understand how we can improve this experience for our residents. That's it for this month. Enjoy Spring 2023 as it *finally* arrives!



## FUN WITH TREES

### A creative use for fallen twigs

Early spring often means twigs scattered around the yard. Put them to good use with this easy paper flower project for children! In addition to a nice twig, all you need is tissue paper, scissors, glue and a vase for the finished artwork.

## TREE FOCUS

### Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*)

#### History

The flowering dogwood is native to much of Eastern North America, from Southern Ontario to Central Florida, and west to parts of Texas and Oklahoma. Popular since the 1700s, dogwood was planted by both Washington and Jefferson, exported to England, and gifted to Japan. It has stunning white bracts in the spring, followed by shiny red fruits that are highly attractive to birds, and beautiful red to purple autumn foliage. There are many cultivars, including those with pink bracts.

#### Culture

- Does best in moist, well-drained, acidic soil (pH 5.5 – 6.0) high in organic matter
- Prefers morning sun and afternoon shade
- Needs adequate soil moisture during dry periods because of its shallow roots

#### Concerns

- May be one of the first trees to show drought symptoms if not mulched and watered
- Thin bark is susceptible to lawn mower and trimmer damage
- Shallow roots compete poorly with turf
- Anthracnose, powdery mildew, root rot, and other diseases are common problems
- Stressed trees become vulnerable to borers

#### Bartlett Management Practices

- Expose root flares and mulch a large area around the tree to help retain moisture and prevent damage from mechanical equipment
- Fertilize according to soil analysis
- Prune disease-susceptible shoots on trunk and branches, as well as dead and dying branches
- Protect against foliar fungal diseases to reduce stress and new infections



**It is wise to plan before planting a flowering dogwood. This species can be difficult to transplant and keep healthy. Many die within a few years of planting if site conditions are poor.**

Committee Members have been busy coordinating fun activities and spring events for all residents, we hope you have enjoyed some of these activities over the past month. Participation is an excellent way to meet new neighbors and reconnect with SV snowbirds returning to the Village.

**April 15:** Kudos to Susan Rayner for coordinating a very successful “Yard Sale.” Over 250 flyers/maps were distributed in the early hours of Saturday, April 15. Forty-three homes participated. There was much activity all morning with lots of happy people, sellers, and buyers alike.

**April 17:** Thanks to Ed and Cindy Beres for another successful Dumpster Day.

**April 19:** Our own Martha Anthony, a lifelong resident of Centerville, presented an informational session on the history of Centerville and Queen Anne’s County. Martha provided lots of local history and information, along with many brochures for the 70 attendees, who were really pleased to get the information. Thanks Martha! We are looking forward to more wonderful informative tours of QAC in the near future.

**April 29:** Kudos to Randy Officer for another great Movie, *80 For Brady*—The event was very well attended and provided lots of laughs.

**May 5:** Social Hour celebrated *Cinco de Mayo*—A fun time had by all. Carolyn Harty’s *Margaritas* were a huge hit. Thanks to all who helped host this very busy, well attended social hour.

### **Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendar!**

**Wednesday, May 17, 24, 31, June 7 and 14 - 10 a.m., Healthy Lifestyles**— Each Wednesday, Carolyn Harty presents information on healthy foods, activities, recipes, and hints for living healthier. Different topics and recipes are discussed every week. Drop by the Concert Hall to check it out. You are not required to come every week, come as you wish. The May 17 meeting will be held in the Activities/Craft Room.

**Thursday, May 18, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.**—Food Drive for Haven Ministries, Clubhouse Parking Lot. We will be collecting non-perishable food and baking items, paper products, and diapers for Haven Ministries. If you do not have time to shop and would rather make a donation, checks of any amount should be made out to *Haven Ministries*.

**Saturday, May 20, 6 - 8 p.m.**—Social Hour will be celebrating the Preakness. Ladies—don’t forget your special hats or fasteners. Prizes will be awarded for the best hat and the best fastener hat. Come cheer your favorite horse. Who knows, you may even win a few bucks in the drawing. Bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share join the fun, fun, fun.

**Monday, May 22, Pick-Up Softball Game**—All guys and gals are welcome to play. Bring your mitt and join the fun at 1 p.m. every other Monday at the QAC ballfields on Rt. 18 in Centerville. All who come will get a chance to play. Cheerleaders are welcome as well. Come and have lots of fun.

**Saturday, May 27, 7 p.m.**—Movie Night showing *Champions* starring Woody Harrelson. Randy has another special movie planned. The reviews have been great. Come join us.

**Sunday, May 28, 12 noon – 4 p.m., Memorial Day Weekend Picnic**—The pool will be open. The menu includes fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and rolls. All attendees are asked to bring a dessert. Sign-up sheets are in the Wall Street Room. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Come join the festivities.

**Sunday, June 4, Charcuterie Board Class, 2 – 4 p.m.** presented by Jenny Gallo—Jenny has been providing some amazing classes. Sign-up sheets are in the Wall Street Room. Cost is \$40. You will go home with a completed Board. It’s always fun.

**Saturday, June 17**, Social Hour—Special Welcome for New Residents who have moved in since June 1, 2022. There will be a special registration table for newcomers to check, pick up nametags, and more. Additional information to follow.

**Tuesday, July 4**, Jack Cohen will be coordinating the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in Symphony Village. Ride your bike, your motorcycle, drive your car. Looking for all willing participants. More info to follow.

**Wednesday, July 12**, back by popular demand, *Cheeseburger in Paradise* 6 – 9 p.m. featuring *The Chris Sachs Duo*, poolside. Cost is \$10. The menu includes cheeseburgers, coleslaw, pickles, chips, watermelon, and dessert. The sign-up sheets will be in the Wall Street Room on May 22. Please mark a “V” next to your name if you need vegetarian. Great Music! Great Food ! Great Dancing! Great Fun!

Hosts and hostesses are still needed for the monthly Friday and Saturday night Social Hours. Hosting is pretty simple, and Helen does lots of the prep work. Please consider hosting any first Friday or third Saturday. We would really appreciate your help. Email Helen Fitzgerald, coordinator, at [helen6289@gmail.com](mailto:helen6289@gmail.com). if you would like to host an event or if you have a question.

*Happy Spring!*

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## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

**JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR**

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

The Operations Committee met on April 20 and received a briefing by Solitude Lake Management regarding procedures for dredging our three stormwater ponds. The ponds are divided into two parts. The main pond is protected by a forebay whose function is to filter silt to avoid overflowing the main pond basin. The forebays of our ponds may require dredging over the next couple of years. John Phelps of Solitude Lake Management provided good information on what the dredging procedure would entail. Operations will use that information in our annual inspection.

Operations also discussed a number of recent reports regarding sidewalk disruption. The committee inspects all community sidewalks each year and proposes replacement for problem areas. While SV is not governed by the American Disabilities Act (ADA), we have adopted the ADA standard of repair or replacement when a rise of ½ inch or more occurs. We also consult with an arborist when tree root invasion continues to raise the sidewalk. Cutting the roots is acceptable as long as it is not too close to the tree base. We will be inspecting recent reports of sidewalk problems this month.

Lastly, **an Audio Fetch Express** system has been installed in the Clubhouse. This system allows residents to receive audio on their Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids when using smartphones connected to the Clubhouse WiFi. Residents simply download a free app that allows them to individually adjust sound for events such as movie night. The free app automatically detects the Audio Fetch system and is fairly simple to use. We plan to schedule a demonstration for interested residents since new technology always has bugs that need to be worked out.

The next Operations meeting will be held on **May 18, 2023, at 10 a.m.** in the Clubhouse. The meeting will be hybrid and all residents are welcome to attend either in person or virtually.

**Guide to the Wall Street Room**

The Wall Street Room seems like the lifeline to what is going on in Symphony Village. Listed are some of the guides and information available in the Wall Street Room:

- The items below are available on the credenza under the television.
  - Black box for checks needed to pay for an activity or event.
  - Clear box for cash payments for Ladies Social Hour .
  - Three ring binder for Lifestyle Sign-up.
  - Three ring binder for SV Activity Sign-up.
  - Occasional other Sign-up sheets.
  - In the Credenza is a collection of CDs and DVDs that may be borrowed on an honor system.
  - Social Club Chest used to contribute to Social Club fees.
- The lamp table in the right corner of the room holds the Memorial Book.
- Leaflets, pamphlets, etc. for local area activities are located on a table on either side of the room. Business cards for different companies and services are also located on the table on the left side of the room.
- The *Libretto*, Weekly Calendar, and *Attraction* newspapers are located on the table as you walk into the Wall Street Room.

There is a TV on the wall above the credenza. Residents occasionally choose to watch TV at the Clubhouse.

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**OUTREACH—SYMPHONY VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.****LORETTA QUIGLEY****Outreach Author's Luncheon****Attention ticket holders:**

Two days to go until Outreach presents *An Author's Luncheon, May 17*, with guest author, Susan Reiss.

Sign in begins at 11:30 a.m. There will be raffles and door prizes. Please bring your tickets to participate in the door prize giveaways. Bring your book if you want to have it signed by the author.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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**SYMPHONY SNEAKERS—BOOK GIVEAWAY****LINDA FARRAR**

Spring has sprung and we are gearing up for our annual HOA Raffle. It will begin in early July. The raffle provides an opportunity to have your HOA dues paid in full for 2024. All of the profits from this raffle go to fund our *Readers are Leaders* programs for the elementary school children in our community. We encourage all SV residents to participate and help us raise the funds necessary to finance this project. Look for details in the June *Libretto*.

All of the books for the end-of-year-book giveaways have been ordered so that every student at Centreville Elementary, Kennard, Church Hill, and Sudlersville will receive a book to read for pleasure over the summer.

Our next Sneakers meeting is May 22 at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall. All residents are welcome to join us. Hope to see you there.



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## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

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### LUNCH BUNCH—JUNE & JULY

BEA TROTTA & MARGE STRANO

Welcome back to the Lunch Bunch! We look forward to seeing many familiar faces and hopefully some new faces for our first event of the year. Sign-up online and mark the following two dates on your calendar. Invite your SV friends and new residents to join us for the first two Lunch Bunch events of the year.

**June Lunch Bunch**—After making several calls and visiting several restaurants, we decided to return to one of our favorite Annapolis restaurants on **Thursday, June 1, 12:30 p.m.** The **Carpaccio Tuscan Kitchen and Wine Bar** is located at One Park Place, Suite 10, Annapolis, next to the Westin Hotel. Carpaccio Tuscan Kitchen and Wine Bar specializes in Italian foods and has an extensive menu that you can visit at <http://carpacciotuscanKitchen.com>. Signup for the June Lunch Bunch begins on May 16.



**July Lunch Bunch**—The July Lunch Bunch will take us to a fairly new restaurant on this side of the Bay Bridge. We have reservations set for **Thursday, July 13, at 12:30 p.m.** at the **Dock House Restaurant** located at 110 Piney Narrows Road, in Chester. The Dock House Restaurant offers beautiful waterfront dining at Kent Narrows. The menu has been expanded since the Dock House first opened in 2022 and now offers a variety of interesting small plates, local favorites, soups and salads, handhelds, tacos, entrees, steamers, and a raw bar in a relaxing nautical atmosphere. You can visit the menu at <https://dockhouserestaurant.com>. Signup for the July Lunch Bunch will begin on June 15.



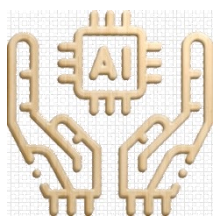
Sign up online for the June Lunch Bunch starting **May 16** by using the [Lunch Bunch sign-up Link](#). You can also go to the [Symphony Village Website](#) and scroll down to *Current and Upcoming SV Events* and click the link. As usual, you can sign up in the Club Activities Book at the Clubhouse. Please call Bea Trotta at 410-758-0332 (cell 610-217-4754) or Marge Strano at 410-758-2511 (cell 609-221-6378) if you have a question or need a ride.

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### COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

JOHN OLSON, CERT COORDINATOR

#### Artificial Intelligence



AI (Artificial Intelligence) can be applied to CERT in several ways to enhance emergency response capabilities. Overall, AI has the potential to enhance CERT's emergency response capabilities by providing real-time situational awareness, predictive analytics, and decision support.



If you would like to know more about AI, there are many resources available for seniors who are interested in learning about this exciting technology. Here are a few resources to consider:

**AI for Everyone:** This free course from Coursera, [www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org), is designed for anyone who wants to learn about AI, regardless of their technical background. The course covers the basics of AI, including machine learning, deep learning, and neural networks.

**TechBoomers:** This website, [www.techboomers.com](http://www.techboomers.com), offers a wide range of free online courses on technology topics, including AI. The courses are designed for seniors and cover topics such as how to use virtual assistants and how to stay safe online.

**The Silver Surfers Guide:** This website, [www.silversurfers.com](http://www.silversurfers.com), provides a wealth of information on technology topics for seniors, including AI. The site includes articles and tutorials on topics such as how to use smart home devices and how to stay safe online.

**SeniorNet:** This nonprofit organization [www.seniornet.org](http://www.seniornet.org), offers technology training programs for seniors, including courses on AI and machine learning. The courses are taught by volunteer instructors and are designed to be accessible to seniors with a wide range of technical backgrounds.

There are plenty of options to choose from; by taking advantage of these resources, you can stay up to date with the latest advances in AI and explore the many ways this technology can improve your life.

### Consider Joining CERT

CERT can provide valuable skills and knowledge to help yourself, your family, and your community during times of emergency or disaster. CERT training covers a variety of topics, including disaster preparedness, fire safety, medical operations, search and rescue techniques, and team organization. You will have the opportunity to learn from experienced emergency responders and gain hands-on experience in simulated disaster scenarios. It's a great way to make a positive impact in your community and develop important skills that could potentially save lives. Call John Olson, 443-262-8458, for more information.

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## READING FOR FUN – APRIL 2023 REVIEW

JOE SIKES

The SV Book Club met on April 18 to discuss *Letters in Time* by Susan Reiss. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Sue Goldberg, Len and Carol Saltiel, Kitty Wilson, Jim and Kathryn Buckheit, JoAnn Walker, Cathy Olson, Bob Nilsson, Mary Jo Volpicelli. Sandy Allegra and Donna Harkins. Sandy and Donna were welcomed as new additions to the club.

This month's selection is the first book in the author's *Time* series and is the first of two books by Susan Reiss that we will read in advance of a luncheon with the author. The SV Outreach Committee has invited Ms. Reiss to speak on May 17 in the Clubhouse as a fundraising event. I had an opportunity to chat with the author during a preparatory visit to SV in April.

Author Reiss described her book in terms of a recent trend in mystery writing, which combines two disparate themes in one story. In this novel, the author combines Civil War history on the Eastern Shore with a contemporary murder mystery involving Emma Chase who is a brand-new resident of St. Michaels. In this novel the connection between the two eras takes the form of some unique correspondence, hence the title *Letters in Time*. But make no mistake, this book is definitely a murder mystery. In fact, it is a double murder mystery since the author gives us a murder in both centuries.

Emma Chase relocated to Maryland's Eastern Shore to recuperate from a serious car crash and write her first novel. She inherited a quiet cottage on a saltwater creek from her beloved Uncle Jack and had spent many happy childhood summers there. It seemed the perfect place to escape her hectic big city life and start her journey as an author. The cottage sits on land that had once been a large plantation, *Waterwood*, and her Uncle Jack had left a large antique desk for her to use in her writing. The desk had belonged to the plantation manager of *Waterwood*.

So, let's get this mystery started! T.J. Dorset is a local farmer who resides in the original *Waterwood* plantation house and has been hired to provide transportation for Emma while she completes her physical therapy. Shortly after settling in, Emma is visited by the local sheriff who reports that a teenager had been found dead on land just across the creek from the cottage. The sheriff wonders if Emma heard or saw anything from her porch and left his card. So, a killer is roaming the area.

Emma is thrilled with the plantation desk, that had been in storage, but is now set up in the cottage so she can start writing. After her first night's sleep, Emma hobbles downstairs to the desk to find a mysterious handwritten letter addressed to *Emma* and signed by *Daniel*. *Daniel* wonders why Emma hasn't written. Emma is mystified since there are no Daniels on her contact list. She starts writing back just to keep Daniel happy by taking on the persona of this unknown Emma. She avidly researches the **Waterwood** plantation history to discover the identities of these two Civil War lovers.

Back in the present, it turns out the teenager's death was not accidental, so there is a murderer on the loose. Emma is living alone in her remote cottage with only T.J. nearby with his trusty dog, Ghost (really?). Stories of buried treasure emerge and lead to solving the current murder. Emma eventually discovers the true story behind the two lovers and continues to ghostwrite as Emma, leading to uncovering the nature of Daniel's demise. Did I really write that?

In any case, the author keeps us turning the pages and gives us interesting background on the Eastern Shore during the Civil War. She also finds a clever way to reunite the two lovers to tie the story up in a neat bow. And she sets up her *Time* series nicely so we can continue to revisit her characters as we read **Messages in Time** for next month. The Book Club enjoyed this mystery, and we look forward to meeting Susan Reiss on May 17 at the Outreach luncheon.

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

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

**May 16**—*Messages in Time* by Susan Reiss

**June 20**—*Founding Mothers* by Cokie Roberts

**July 18**—*Zero Fail: The Rise and Fall of the Secret Service* by Carol Leonig

**August 15**—*The Invisible Life of Addie Larue* by V.E.Schwab

**September 1**—*Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty

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## SOFTBALL NEWS

MARIE BOSSIE

### Recruiting more guys and gals! Our mission is to have fun!

On Monday, May 8, eighteen players showed up to play a spirited softball game thoroughly enjoyed by all. The game was called after five innings—score, 9 to 3—due to nothing more than the need for a beer. What a day! What laughs! What fun!



Following the game, players voted on having team names. The names ROCK and ROLL won handily. Economy Restorations has agreed to sponsor the teams and purchase the tee shirts. Amy Landen is working on logos for the shirts. The new player shirts can be worn instead of, or over clothing, as desired. Team Rock and Team Roll—can't wait!

Beginning with the next scheduled game on May 22, bottled water will be made available to all players; other beverages are the responsibility of players.

Games will be played every other Monday till the end of September. We are currently playing at 1 p.m., but as temps increase, we will look at earlier start times. Anyone who shows up will play. Remember, everyone needs a mitt to play. All games are played on Field #2, QAC Parks and Recreation Fields on Rt. 18 in Centreville.

Anyone 55 or older is encouraged to join us to play, learn, watch, cheer, or just laugh at our efforts to play a younger person's game.

Remember, you're never too old to be anything you chose to be, unless you chose to be younger. Then you're Screwed—taken from a birthday card.

Any questions, call Norm at 202-255-8942

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

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### QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

MARYJO VOLPICELLI

I was appointed to the Commission on Aging for Queen Anne's County. This commission reports to the Community Services Department of the County as well as the Department of Aging for the State.

Some of the topics that we discuss are transportation, housing, medical issues, safety, and community services.

The senior centers in Sudlersville, Grasonville, and Kent Island sponsor many activities and membership is free after you fill out an application. There will be a Senior center housed in the new YMCA in Centreville. That Senior Center will also be free.

The Commission on Aging is supportive of many activities, including The Senior Summit at the 4-H Club on May 19 and the Sports Summit scheduled for June 3 to June 9.

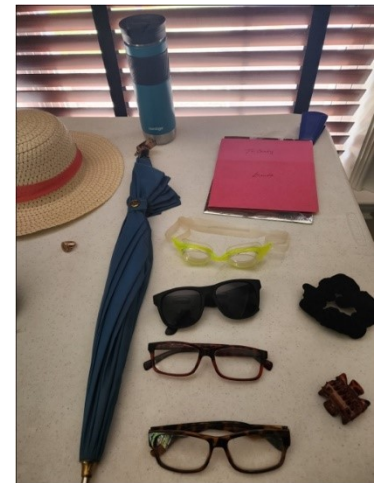
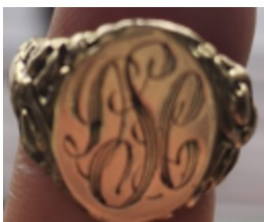
Save the Date! There is going to be a Town Hall on September 21 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Grasonville Senior Center. We have invited a panel of people to attend, including the Queen Anne's County Commissioners.

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### SYMPHONY VILLAGE LOST AND FOUND

Please look at these pictures carefully. These are items found in the Clubhouse or by others walking through the community or on their property. If not claimed by Wednesday, May 31, items will be donated to a charitable organization. The item(s) are available in the Craft Room and can be retrieved at your convenience.

The following photos include a blue umbrella, gold engraved initials ring, two pair glasses, one pair sunglasses, Amazon essentials zip-up XXL fleece, Old Navy size ten girls shorts, Vietnam Veterans green brimmed cap with Mason-Dixon VFW post pin, ladies easter bonnet, plastic car bumper edge, Contigo teal stainless steel cup, swim goggles, hair scrunchie, hair clips, silver gift bag with two cards to Brenda and Cindy, two individual gold earrings, one silver earring, and one baseball glove.



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## CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

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### CENTREVILLE AND SURROUNDINGS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY

**The QAC Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage: Tour of 11 historical sites May 13.**



**Queenstown Colonial  
Courthouse, 1709**



**Queen Anne's County  
Courthouse, 1796**



**James Croney House 1794**

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

**Community Wellness at the Symphony Village Clubhouse Craft Room:** second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon (May 10). Screenings include blood pressure, pulse, glucose, and cholesterol.

**Centreville Farmers' Market** every Sunday from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Lawyers Row.

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

**Kent Island Farmer's Market:** Thursdays year-round, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville.

**Easton's Farmers Market:** 100 block of North Harrison St., Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Denton's Farmers Market:** Wednesdays, 4:30 – 6 p.m. at the corners of Market and Third St.

**Easton Night Out:** Every first Friday from 5 – 8 p.m. (June 2), the streets will be filled with music and excitement. Explore the downtown shops, restaurants, and galleries.

**Chesapeake Forum, An Academy for Lifelong Learning:** [www.chesapeakeforum.org/new-courses](http://www.chesapeakeforum.org/new-courses).

**Institute For Adult Learning:** 45 courses, history current events, brain and body health, literature, crafts, and more. \$90 fee for unlimited courses. [www.instituteforadultlearning.org](http://www.instituteforadultlearning.org).

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Summit:** hosted by QAC Area Agency on Aging with Mardi Gras theme. Includes health and wellness fair, vendors, and food for purchase. Friday, May 19 at QAC 4-H Park. Info: 410-758-1040.

**Tour Historic Sites** on the first Saturday of each month from May through October in 2023. Spend the day or just a few hours touring train stations, colonial houses, an operating grist mill, a country store, an early courthouse, and churches. Admission is free. Brochures listing the sites are available throughout the County

with opening days and times. More information, special tours, or free heritage guide maps are available by calling 410-604-2100. [www.historicqac.org](http://www.historicqac.org).

**Find Your Chesapeake:** a new adventure is featured each month with Trips and Tips including birdwatching, fishing, camping, and hiking. [www.FindyourChesapeake.com](http://www.FindyourChesapeake.com). This month features Historic London Town and Gardens, a 23-acre park featuring history, archeology, and horticulture located just across the South River from Annapolis in Edgewater. See article in May *Attraction*, p. 33.

**Strawberry Festival:** Martin Sutton Memorial Park, Ridgely, Sunday, May 28, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
[www.ridgelylions.org](http://www.ridgelylions.org)

**Chestertown Tea Party Festival:** a weekend of events to celebrate Memorial Day starting Friday, May 26 to Sunday, May 28. [www.chestertownteaparty.org](http://www.chestertownteaparty.org), p. 54 in *May Attraction*.

**Foraging Fun Around Chestertown Class with Dr. Bill Schindler:** at Eastern Shore Food Lab Saturday, May 20 at 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and **Fun with Fermentation Cooking Class** Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., [www.eatlikeahuman.com/classes](http://www.eatlikeahuman.com/classes).

**Museums of Kent Driving Tour throughout Kent County:** each museum will have an activity in celebration of Earth Day, Saturday May 20, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. - Sunday, May 21, from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. email: [museumsofkent@gmail.com](mailto:museumsofkent@gmail.com).

**Maryland Maritime Heritage Festival at Wilmer Park:** Classic boats and cars on display Saturday, June 3.  
[www.mdmhf.org](http://www.mdmhf.org).

**National Music Festival:** at various locations in Chestertown; over 35 concerts and 200 free open rehearsals Sunday, June 4 – Saturday, June 17. [www.nationalmusic.us](http://www.nationalmusic.us), p. 39 in *May Attraction*.

**Chesapeake Music's Chamber Music Festival 2023:** "Cultural Crossings" Ebenezer theatre, Easton, Friday, June 9 through Saturday, June 17, internationally renowned musicians performing Haydn, Mozart, Brahms, Dvorak, Brittin, and Wiancko, [www.ChesapeakeMusic.org](http://www.ChesapeakeMusic.org), p. 28 and p. 56 in *May Attraction*.

**Matilda The Musical:** at the Church Hill Theatre Friday – Sunday, June 9 – 27. [www.churchhilltheatre.org](http://www.churchhilltheatre.org)

**Antique Fly-In at Massey Aerodrome:** Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Free, over 100 general aviation aircraft, many taildraggers, biplanes, antique and classics. 410-928-5270, [www.maasseyaero.org](http://www.maasseyaero.org).

**Saturday in the Park at Wilmer Park:** June 10, lawn games, yoga classes, martial arts, arts, and crafts, sailing events and more, [www.chestertownrecreation@gmail.com](mailto:www.chestertownrecreation@gmail.com).

**Kent Island Day:** downtown Stevensville, food, vendors, authors, artisans and more, Saturday, May 20, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., [www.kentislandheritagesociety.org](http://www.kentislandheritagesociety.org).

**Fun With Flowers Biennial Flower Show:** Saturday, May 20, from 12 – 4 p.m. at River Arts Education Center on High Street in Chestertown, open to the public, 5 design classes, and 15 horticulture classes; email [fcreegan2@washcoll.edu](mailto:fcreegan2@washcoll.edu).

**Fiber Arts Center Gallery, Denton.** Call 410-829-5136 or visit the website for detailed information regarding these classes. [www.fiberartscenter.com](http://www.fiberartscenter.com)

- **Sunflower Applique Quilt Class:** June 9, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**KIFA - Paint Stevensville:** Wednesday, May 31 through Saturday, June 3, Stevensville  
arthousekifa@gmail.com.

**Attraction** Page numbers listed for further reference in the *May Attraction*.

- **On the Cover** and an article on page 6 features Susan Schauer's "thread paintings," featured at Oxford's Fine Arts event Friday-Sunday, May 19 – 21.
- **Oxford one-of-a-kind painted Picket Fences:** on display throughout the town of Oxford for the entire summer. p.7
- **Caroline County Events:** p. 14 – 15
- **Old Wye Mill:** open May through October from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays, and Sundays from 1 – 3 p.m., p. 27
- **35<sup>th</sup> Antique and Classic Boat Festival and Coastal Artisans Fair:** Friday, June 16, through Sunday, June 18, at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, p.38
- **Poetry in the Park:** [www.carolinearts.org](http://www.carolinearts.org)
- **Third Thursdays:** of every month downtown Denton businesses extend their hours and offer specials 5 – 7 p.m.
- **Eastern Shore Jousting Association's Mid Atlantic Joust:** Saturday, May 27, at 1 p.m. Tuckahoe Equestrian Center, 619 Crouse Mill Rd., bring your own chairs, p. 43
- **May at the Avalon Theatre:** p. 58 – 59.
- **Here's Georgie Concert: Nashville country artist Jimmy Charles and his band will perform at the benefit concert for/at the Dorchester's Center for the Arts:** Saturday, May 20, at 6 p.m., p. 49.

**Queen Anne's County Arts:** open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. [www.queenannescountyarts.org](http://www.queenannescountyarts.org)

- **Tuesdays at Six Open Mic:** Tuesday, May 16, from 6 – 8:30 p.m.
- **Symphony Village Art Exhibition:** Opening night Saturday, June 3 from 6 – 8 p.m., exhibit runs through Friday, June 30.
- **Kiti Gartner and the Drifting Valentines:** (Western Swing, Rockabilly), Matapeake Beach Clubhouse, sponsored by QAC Parks and Recs., Thursday, June 1.
- **Beginner Level 2 East Coast four-week Dance Class:** beginning Wednesday, May 24, from 6 – 7 p.m. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/621928905097>.

**Queen Annes's County Library:** [www.qaclibrary.org](http://www.qaclibrary.org)

- **Ongoing Technology Help** —Schedule 1-on-1 by appointment at Centreville Library. 410-758-0980.
- **Adult Story Time on Wheels:** Themed backpack kits filled with books, activities, sensory items for adults with memory loss. 410– 758-0980, [www.qaclibrary.org/adult-storytime-on-wheels](http://www.qaclibrary.org/adult-storytime-on-wheels).
- **Books by Mail:** 410-643-8161 or 410-758-0980.
- **Crime and A Cuppa:** fun hour of murder kidnapping with mystery reader Kathleen Wilson Saturday, May 27, at 10 a.m. at the Centreville Branch.
- **Book Club at the Kent Island Senior Center:** Monday, June 12, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. will discuss the *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand.
- **Genealogy/Local History Research Office Hours:** get one-on-one help to investigate your family tree, Tuesdays during the Month of June at the Centreville branch from 10 – 12 noon.

**The Adkins Arboretum:** (410-634-2847), [www.adkinsarboretum.org](http://www.adkinsarboretum.org)

- **Climate Circle:** Wednesday, May 17, from 2 – 4 p.m. program free but advanced registration is required, a deeper dialog of climate crisis.
- **Beavers, Tuckahoe Creek, and Beyond Soup n' Walk:** Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- **Botanical Art Open Studio: Second Fridays.**
- **Plein Air Painting Basics – 3 classes:** Sundays, May 21, 28, and June 25 from 1 – 3 p.m., Join Maryland Master Naturalist and impressionist oil painter Diane DuBois Mullaly
- **Mt. Cuba trip:** Thursday, May 25, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., a bus trip to lush botanical garden in Delaware featuring 1,000 species of native plants.
- **Artists in Dialogue with Nature:** on display Thursday, June 1 through September 30. **Reception and Guided Sculpture Walk:** Saturday, June 3, 2 – 4 p.m.
- **Forest Music:** Thursday, June 15, 2 – 4 p.m.
- **Breathing in Nature:** Saturday, June 17, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- **The Book Club** meets on the third Tuesday of each month (May 16) at 2:45 p.m. at the Arboretum with no meeting in August. The book club reading lists are on the SV Website
- **Healing Walks:** email Jenny Houghton for information to join.

**American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18:** 2619 Centreville Rd.

- **Every Saturday Queen of Hearts:** Ticket Sales at 4 p.m., and Drawing at 7 p.m.
- **Dinners:** Friday nights at 5 p.m.
- **Bingo:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month, at 6 p.m. (games start at 7 p.m.)
- **Brandin and Thordis:** Sunday, May 15, at 7 p.m.
- **TFT Bull/Oyster Roast:** Sunday, May 23, at 12 – 4 p.m.
- **Toni Schelts:** Tuesday, May 25, at 6:30 – 9 p.m.
- **Blood Drive:** Wednesday, May 26, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- **Team Foster Charity Bike Ride:** Saturday, May 29, 2 – 5 p.m.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lewis Class Shoot at the Point at Pintail:** Sunday, May 30, at 8 a.m.

## SYMPHONY VILLAGE CONTACTS

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Trash Removal and Recycling: 410-742-0099