



The Village at Stone Ridge

# THE QUARRY BULLETIN

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## New Year's Rockin' Eve 2007

By Shirley Chambers

*It was indeed a Rockin' Eve. It takes great partyers to make a great party, not to overlook a great social chairman with a great social committee, and a great clean-up gang (let's never forget them!). And that pretty well describes our VSR New Year's 2007 Party with a Hawaiian theme. Even though the attire was optional, most of us wore Hawaiian shirts, hula skirts, mumus, shorts, or other bright Hawaiian attire. Then there was our erstwhile Social Chairman Roni Hubbard decked out in hula skirt, lei, a big wide-brimmed straw hat, and tee shirt imprinted with a coconut bra. Nancy Fletcher went us one better by wearing the honest-to-goodness real thing - a bra of coconut half shells. She had left by the time "Best Dressed" was declared.*



Nancy Fletcher

*After we had our wine with pupu platter type hors d' oeuvres and devoured the excellent Chinese buffet, the VSR stevedores moved all the furniture out of the way to make room for dancing. Village professional DJ's Ray*



Ray & AnnMarie Barnes

*and Ann Marie Barnes then took the reins and kept the party moving at an enjoyable pace. I was delighted when a number of our men were good sports enough to let me lead them in a hula line dance (choreographed especially for this event) using the appropriate South Seas hand movements. And they were so good! Then our ladies followed suit, but the men took the cake for best "moves."*



Roni Hubbard



Judi & John Gilmartin

(Continued on page 6)



Dean Hubbard, John Gilmartin, Charlie Ryan, Dom DeFronzo, Shirley Chamber & Tom Barry



Jayne Currier, Linda Barry, Eileen Cotter, Nany Diaz, Christine Caterino, Shirley Chambers, Gail Sergenian & Cathy Shreve

## GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

### The Finance and Budget Committee



By Tom Barry, Board of Trustees

The year 2006 is now in the history books, and from a financial viewpoint it was a pretty good year. On an operations budget of \$400,000 we ended the year at \$11,600 (2.9%) excess expenses over revenue.

Although there were a lot of ups and downs in the various budget line items, a few significant things contributed to the overage.

We spent double the budgeted amount for deck staining because in 2006 we stained all the decks budgeted for both 2005 and 2006, resulting in our being over in that account by \$13,000. However, the offset credit was realized in the 2005 budget.



We saved \$14,000 in 2006 because we had budgeted to transfer that amount to the Water and Sewer operations but decided early in 2006 not to subsidize Water and Sewer with these funds.

Expenses to operate the irrigation system were over-budget by \$11,000. Most of that was from unexpected maintenance and abnormal repairs (\$9,000) to the sprinkler system heads and pumps and an additional \$2,000 for our share of repairs to the irrigation pump located near the Butterfly Place. We share the expenses for that pump with the owner of the Butterfly Place.

Given some of the unexpected expenses, I think the 2006 Total Net Loss of \$11,600 or 2.9% was excellent, especially since our condo fees remained unchanged for 2006.

At the end of 2006, the VSR Balance Sheet remains strong. It includes a positive cash position of \$36,000 and prepaid insurance of \$14,000. It also includes a Capital Reserve Balance of \$128,000, which was the recommendation of the Replacement Reserve Report Committee developed in 2004. It is also important that our Operating Accounts Payable at year end is only \$6,955.

Under the leadership of Ron Caterino, Chairman, the Finance and Budget Committee, consisting of members Ken Fisher, Ken Hyle, Bill Townsend, and Board of Trustees Liaison Tom Barry, spent many long hours in 2006 ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the VSR finances. From working with some of our vendors to provide us with level billing for all twelve months of the year, working with the Great North accounting staff to provide us with monthly statements in greater detail for better analysis, and monitoring and investment of the Capital Reserve Fund in Certificates of Deposit to generate maximum income, to instituting a more detailed and professional budgeting process for 2007, this group has brought VSR's financial status to a very professional level.

### Waste Water Treatment Facility Alarm Light

Have you noticed the new alarm light near the garage door entrance to our Waste Water Treatment Facility? This new light will serve as a backup in case of malfunctioning of our existing system for alerting us of ultra-high levels in the equalization tanks. These tanks are located under the parking lot in front of the Clubhouse. It was such a malfunctioning alarm that caused the recent overflows into the road.

If you notice that the **alarm light is RED**, please report this emergency directly to our facility operator, WhiteWater, Inc. at **888-377-7678** or to Great North.. We shall all be grateful for your vigilance.



### VSR's OWN WEBSITE

VSR has made it into the 21st century with our own website: [www.villageatstoneridge.com](http://www.villageatstoneridge.com), with Len Halio as our current webmaster. Although this website is still under construction and thus incomplete, it is destined to become an invaluable aid as an added communications tool for our Village. Our Trustees are confident that it will be useful in promoting an open cohesive community.

The site will have helpful information such as the Clubhouse rental schedule (currently not updated), the social events calendar, committee reports, as well as resource information (e.g., documentation for applications to the Architecture Committee). Also included are links to various businesses that are owned by your neighbors and friends. To be helpful, the website needs to be kept refreshed with current information. Don't hesitate to send updates to Len for inclusion on the site as well as comments on the design and suggestions for new items.

Len's email address is [lenhalio@comcast.net](mailto:lenhalio@comcast.net).

## PAINTING OF VSR CLUBHOUSE

At a very nice ceremony on Sunday November 19 between 4:00 and 5:00 pm, Marie Stabile formally presented to our Village an oil painting of our Clubhouse done as a collaborative artistic effort. Joan Francoeur did the photograph of the Clubhouse from which Nick Johnson did the final sketch. Ana Prip, Rosalie Johnson, and Marie Stabile did the actual painting. It was done in stages. Occasionally two people could work on it simultaneously. The painting, which is 24"x36" including frame, is now hanging over the fireplace mantel in the Clubhouse. It is an impressive and welcome sight there, and we all wish to thank them for this very nice gift to our Village.

Three of our Trustees were present at the ceremony, and George Heiter spoke for them and for our community in accepting the painting. George boasted about the incredible amount and variety of talent here at VSR and commented on the remarkable depth of sharing. As hostesses for the ceremony, Tink Nussbum and Charlotte Demetri served wine and finger goodies to the Villagers attending the event.

Marie has done a water color rendition of the painting and had it reproduced on note paper. It is offered for sale to anyone interested for \$3.00 each, which represents her printing cost



Marie Stabile



Joan Francoeur



Nick Johnson



Rosalie Johnson



Ana Prip

### "ILLNESS DEFINED – THE THEOREM"

*A new book published by Richard Diaz  
reviewed by Shirley Chambers*

Several weeks ago when I was at the Lahey Clinic, I ran into a friend whom I had not seen in some time. She explained to me that she was at the Clinic having a battery of tests made to see if the doctors could discover the source of her mysterious ailment. On impulse I asked: "Have they tested you for heavy metals?" Now where did I come up with that? I had recently been reading a book published by Richard Diaz entitled "Illness Defined." Richard has spent much of his lifetime investigating illness, and he believes that in order to understand illness, you must first define it. He does just that in this book.

When Richard was in military service in Vietnam he was impacted by a number of herbicides used by our military there, commonly known as 'Agent Orange' today. He believes that this was one of the catalysts for his present condition which is diagnosed as multiple sclerosis, the source and cure for which remain unknown. So, who better to write a theorem on illness and poisons than Richard Diaz? Collecting the data for this book has been a long and, at best, arduous task. Richard calls it a passion-driven quest for facts.

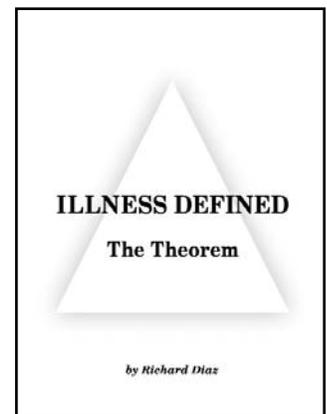
The author says "The elements of bad health are a compromised immune system, systemic consumption, and heavy metal body burden," and he describes each of these elements in some detail. "The only defense to poisoning is awareness." It seems that metals which poison us come from common sources of everyday life: food (especially the mercury in fish), drinking water (arsenic, fluoride,

lead), vaccines and plasma, consumable products (mercury, arsenic, aluminum), household items, cosmetics, the metal fillings in teeth, toys, and even some jewelry. The real bad boy of all of these metals is mercury. Richard says it is the easiest to identify in the human body, but it is also the most expensive and painful metal to eliminate and control.

"The hope of safeguarding our futures must be driven by the creativity, ingenuity, commerce and the industry of the individual citizen to bypass and overrule the corruption, greed and deviant behavior of our governing and manufacturing authorities." (Now this is surely food for some serious thought.)

When you read a book such as this one, and I suggest you do, you begin to apply all these findings to yourself and to your family. I found this book both enlightening and frightening at the same time. I think about all the heavy metals that I have had (and still get) in the water I drink, the food, the air, my tooth fillings, cosmetics, and on and on, and I wonder by what miracle I have lived as long as I have. Reading this book has been an awakening.

For more information see [www.illnessdefined.com](http://www.illnessdefined.com)



# Christmas Party 06

**VSR** residents have once again proven that they know how to have a good time when it comes to soirees. Our Christmas party on the second of December kept everyone smiling and amicable. The singles here sometimes wonder if they will feel welcome at the largely couples residential group at VSR. Well, the answer is yes, all are made to feel part of the festivities. The Christmas tree and other holiday decorations at the Clubhouse were lovely, thanks to our Social Committee and its leader Roni Hubbard. The gourmet offerings of appetizers and deserts brought by the partyers were a bit staggering, and we always have more than we need to be replete.



PHOTOS: MANY DIAZ

Joyce Minosh had composed a very clever parody on the *Twelve Days of Christmas*, and she had rehearsed her twelve singers well. It went like this:

*On the 1st day at Stone Ridge, where life is really grand, we live in a beautiful place.*

*On the 2nd day at Stone Ridge, where life is really grand, we pay our condo charges, and we live in a beautiful place.*

This pattern carried through to the 12th day with the 3rd being *make brand new friendships*, the 4th *sign up for committees*, the 5th *let the parties begin*, the 6th *plant lots of tulips*, the 7th *no grass for mowing*, the 8th *fishing at the quarry*, the 9th *karaoke singing*, the 10th *drinking with the neighbors*, the 11th *the treatment plant's still working*, and the 12th *parties at the clubhouse*. Each of the twelve singers had a little sign appropriate to his/her day, and they raised it high when it came their turn. Please accept our gratitude Joyce; everyone had fun with your creation.



Ruth Ann Dillon, our eminent VSR music maestro, had borrowed an electronic keyboard from the Westford school system and had copies of Christmas songs and carol reproduced to hand out to all. As she played the keyboard we sang and sang and sang all the beautiful Christmas music we get to hear only during this joyous season. Thank you so much Ruth Ann, from all of us.



## PERCEPTIONS

### Peace and Good Will to All



by Louise O'Donnell



Well, 2006 has ended, and as we muse over the past year we find it was filled with turmoil, fear and a desire for peace on earth.

The lights and magic of the holiday season ended all too soon. It calls to mind a Christmas when I was small and we received fruit, candy, and a small toy in our stockings and enjoyed the abundant food, visiting relatives, the snow and crispness of winter, and the presence of joy in our homes and hearts.

Here at VSR, the lights shone brightly, and the feeling of joyfulness filled our hearts. The hustle and bustle of the season filled the air, and everyone seemed so busy. All around town you could feel the holiday spirit.

We wish the new year brings an end to the war in Iraq and the return of our servicemen and servicewomen to their families. What profound joy that will bring!

We wish everyone in our Village a beautiful and bountiful 2007 with health, happiness and good cheer, making this a place where neighbor helps neighbor and peace reigns supreme. Hopefully, the new year will fulfill these hopes. How wonderful it would be if the peace and love that permeated the air during this season could last all year long for all of us!

## BOOK CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



by Dianne Marston

New Year! New Schedule! New Books! All are welcome!

Please note that the schedule for book discussions has been changed. Instead of the once monthly meetings, we have decided to meet on Thursday afternoon every 6 weeks to allow more time for reading each book. So if you've been considering attending, but have found the monthly schedule too restrictive, please join us as we begin our new plan to give busy folks a longer period to read the books. The discussions have been lively and informative. "Listeners" as well as "discussers" are most welcome!

### Schedule:

Feb. 15, March 29, May 10, June 21, Aug. 2,  
Sept. 13, Oct. 25, Dec. 6  
1:00 Light Refreshments  
1:30-2:30 Discussion

**Books:** Feb. 15 *Marley and Me* by John Grogan  
March 29 *Mr. Emerson's Wife* by Amy Belding Brown  
May 10: *Ellis Island* by Fred Mustard Stewart

Meeting dates and book titles will continue to be posted on the bulletin board in the clubhouse mailroom.

## MOVIE NIGHT



### The VSR Movie Club is ready to go!

We will start the year on Jan. 18 with a great love story

### *The Notebook*

Starring  
Ryan Gosling, James Garner,  
Rachel McAdams and Gena Rowlands.



THE  
DEVIL  
WEARS  
PRADA

Plan to join us on February 15th to see  
***The Devil Wears Prada***  
starring Academy Award winner  
Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway.

Based on the hilarious best-selling novel, this  
sinfully funny movie is sensationally entertaining  
in every way. A must see!!!!

Mitch Albom's

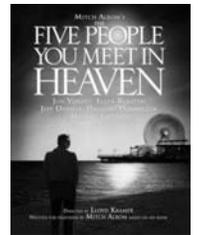
### *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

is the pick for Mar. 15.

This movie was praised by the  
New York times for its "genuine  
power to stir and comfort".

Showtime is at 7 pm. You bring your  
own beverage, we bring the popcorn.

-Dorothy Moran



## Kids Say the Darndest Things

Edited by Gail Sergenian and Mort Silverman

Lots of babies have a favorite blanket, doll or stuffed animal that comforts them...especially at night. For Dom and Chris DeFronzo's beautiful grandson Adam, it is a miniature stuffed bear that he adores. He calls it "Da-da," and he is rarely without it.

Late one night, after a visit from Adam, Dom answered the phone to a panicked mom. Adam had left his "Da-da" behind, and could not go to sleep. Wonderful grandfather that he is, Dom drove over an hour to return Adam's favorite toy. He felt it was all worth it to see a very tired Adam clutch the bear, sigh "Da-da," and, with a satisfied smile, drift off to sleep.



## VILLAGE WITCH IDENTIFIED

Have you guessed the name of the  
Village witch pictured in the  
Nov-Dec Bulletin?  
Here she is again - it's Nany Diaz.

# New Year's Party Continued



VSR's own Professional Hula Men.



Musical Chair/Scavengers Hunters ready to dash.



Larry & Carl, the two last survivors.

PHOTOS: NANNY DIAZ



Dean & Jean hula hooping.



Sharon wins the hula hoop contest.

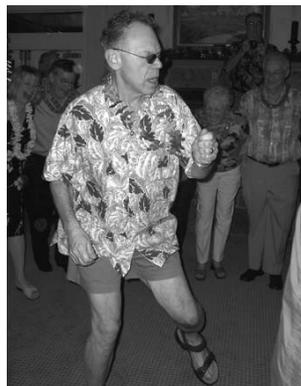


Aside from providing us with great music the whole evening, Ray and Ann Marie had up their proverbial DJ sleeves some games for us to play. Ray directed a version of musical chairs but with a different twist - there was no music. Always fun is "freeze when the music stops" especially when the dancers are caught in some outrageous positions. This was a hotly contested event.

Thank you so much Ray and Ann Marie for making this a very special New Year's celebration. We popped the bubbly and counted down to midnight, and then there was "We'll drink a cup o' kindness yet for auld lang syne." Bobby Burns would have been proud of us!



Dancing...



Dancing...



...and more dancing...





# Social Happenings



By Roni Hubbard

We sure ended this year with a lot of great parties. Our wonderful Christmas Party and then that New Year's Eve Party with our very own DJ's (who by the way made it such a great success) have set the bar high for all subsequent events. To see all those guys up there doing the hula, and you know who you are, was incredibly funny. As a matter of fact, I have pictures to show you how great you were!

Speaking of pictures, we are putting them in an album which we will leave on the coffee table in the Clubhouse Library for all to see. These should give all of us some good laughs.

Although I didn't take over this chairmanship until mid-year, I certainly have had fun and formed some wonderful friendships with my marvelous committee. Everyone is so cooperative and fun to work with. It's amazing how many ideas you can come up with when you get great minds together. I only hope we can keep the ball rolling in this direction. We've made it tough to surpass ourselves.

We will be resting up until April, and then watch out - we'll be at it again!

Happy New Year to everyone, and keep coming to the events and prove we are indeed a very active over-55 community. If our kids could only see us, they would never believe it!

## AFTERNOON TEA AT STONEHEDGE – A HIT!

by Barbara Leary

Thanks to the organizing efforts of Donna Hudon and an email chain passed around our Village, an afternoon tea at Stonehedge Inn in Tyngsboro was a big success. On Friday, December 8th thirty women from our Village enjoyed the Silks Dining Room menu items shown here, while catching up with friends and neighbors scattered at several tables along the Inn's enclosed porch.

*Afternoon Tea  
in Honor of  
The Ladies of  
Stone Ridge*

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

### Afternoon Tea

*Old Fashioned English Tea Cookies  
English Scone served with  
Devonshire Cream and Fruit Preserves  
Selection of the Finest Teas  
by M.E.M. Tea Imports  
\$11.00*

*Selection of the Finest Teas           \$3.00  
By M.E.M. Tea Imports*

*Decaffeinated English Breakfast, Black\*  
Finest Earl Grey, Black Flavored  
Sencha (Japanese), Green  
Crimson Berry, Herbal\*  
Ginger Lemon, Herbal\*  
Rooibos (Decorated), Herbal\**

*\*No Caffeine*

Located just across the river a mere ten minutes from VSR, Stonehedge offers a serene atmosphere that was festive and enjoyable for this pre-holiday gathering. If you somehow missed this event because you didn't hear about it, please make sure that your email address is up-to-date and available or ask a neighbor to keep you informed about what is happening here in our wonderful Village.

Everyone seemed to be having a good time and I, for one, am looking forward to a repeat performance in 2007.

## PLEASE

If you have books, kitchen items and other household surplus that you no longer want, please don't arbitrarily donate these things to the Clubhouse without first contacting someone on the Social Committee. The kitchen is fairly well equipped now, and the book shelves are becoming jammed and disorderly. Also NO magazines please. There are plans afoot to straighten out and put order to the library.

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