




the Village at Stone Ridge

Quarry Bulletin

May - June 2011

Our Village at Stone Ridge -- A CUT ABOVE THE REST



Photo by Phil MacPherson

Volume 9

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VSR WORK/PLAY DAY OBSERVATIONS

By Nancy Sharpe

May Day is a day of labor in some countries and a day of revelry and festivities in others. This year at our Village we combined them both into one. A group of nearly 60 people celebrated May Day by contributing their labors to a myriad of cleanup projects culminating in the traditional cookout and, of course, a bit of wine and merriment.



QUARRY CLEANUP GROUP

Yes, there is a quarry! It is visible now – a result of the chainsaw massacre a la Jack Bilodeau and team. It was a beautiful warm day to work outside, and the smell of bug/tick spray was in the air. Plenty of volunteers were available to help trim and pile the cuttings onto “brush mountain,” and there was no lack of bosses to give orders. Next, the team tackled the retention pond behind Bill and Tink’s unit, and using a chain gang process made fast work of removing the groove of young trees growing in the bowl. There was much huffing, puffing and schlepping, and afterwards a much needed water break on the lawn, which attracted the attention of several turkey vultures that swooped quite low to check for potential meals. After fending off the buzzards, the team staggered up the embankment and called it a day.



CLUBHOUSE CLEANUP GROUP

Kathy Abate and company washed clubhouse windows, cleaned kitchen appliances, and lined kitchen cupboards and drawers after eliminating something resembling pond scum that was flourishing in one drawer, all the while singing a repertoire of songs including *I’m a Little Teapot* and *99 Bottles of Beer on the Wall*. Cleaning will make people crazy like this.



Work/Play Day Photos by Dave Auld

continued

THE OTHER GROUPS

I apologize for not knowing more about what went on in the other groups since I was not allowed to stray far from the chain gang, but I do know that trash was picked up all over the village, bulkheads were painted, signposts were painted and new protectors installed (see article below about Larry Tobiason’s clever invention), obsolete irrigation pipes were removed, the fitness center cleaned and equipment tuned up, loam was repaired, and other spring chores. All in all much was accomplished by many dedicated folks, and everyone should be proud of his contribution.

I did hear a few things that bear mentioning: that Phil MacPherson is a tireless sander extraordinaire; that Skip Giles was on the job – the driving around committee – and spotted by several people; that David Auld was also on this committee and was working undercover taking pictures for the FBI or CIA or possibly for Mad Magazine.

Message of Thanks ~ Work/Play Day
From Carlene Craib, Board of Trustees President

To those residents who gave their all on Work/Play Day, thank you. We wish to give a special shout-out to the team captains: Kathy Abate, Rick Culver, Nick Johnson, Jack Bilodeau, Larry Tobiason, Doug Craib, Phil MacPherson, and Peter Abate. Thanks to the cookout and kitchen crews: Dom DeFronzo and Peter Abate and Kathy Abate, Ruth Coleman, Dorothy Moran, Joan Roy, Elaine Tino, Jean Willets and Loretta Auld. An extra special salute is due Doug Craib, Larry Tobiason and Bill Townsend who spent many hours before the event canvassing the village to determine what needed to be done, doing the prep work, assembling materials and organizing crews. Everyone’s willing spirit is just more evidence of how lucky we are to live in this village.



HEAVY ~ Stones are available for the taking to use in landscaping. They are in a pile at the top of Sandstone on the right-hand side. Don’t forget, these in any quantity can be quite heavv.

OUR THANKS TO LARRY TOBIASON FOR THE SPECIAL FOOTINGS FOR VSR SIGNPOSTS

by Dave Auld

During Work/Play Day Nick Johnson and I placed footings on a couple of dozen signposts in the Village using “kits” designed by Larry Tobiason. Larry had found PVC piping that would fit over our posts. He used a template post to cut the PVC lengthwise first and then crosswise to have two small identical pieces that could be joined together to surround the post. He drilled small holes in the top and bottom of each side plate and supplied wooden wedges to make the fit tight. Once the wedges were in place, the two PVC pieces were clamped over the wedges (see photo), nailed in position and ADAP applied to the top and sides, resulting in a sealed, nice looking “footing” for all the posts. This will protect the posts from being damaged during mowing and weed whacking. Thanks Larry for designing and making these footings.



OPPORTUNES "SCORE" AT OUR VILLAGE

by Dianne Marston

On Friday night, April 29, about 60 Villagers gathered at the Clubhouse for an evening of socializing and entertainment. An array of appetizers greeted folks on this spring evening while they sipped, chatted, laughed, and hugged. Winter was past and friends once again reunited in anticipation of an evening of togetherness and entertainment. Larry Anzivino welcomed us all and introduced the newest VSR resident, Larry Wiederholt.

The Harvard "Opportunes," the oldest co-ed acappella group at Harvard, ventured all the way to Westford to grace us with their fine singing. You might wonder what the connection was that brought this fine group here? Linda Anzivino first met Zach Bernstein (one of the singers) some 20 years ago when he was a newborn and she was working for "Sweet Beginnings" at Newton Wellesley Hospital. They have maintained a close relationship since that time, and Linda invited him with his group to perform for us at VSR. And perform they did!

Six gals and six guys wearing formalwear thrilled the audience with their wholesome energetic singing, acting, and dancing. Their contemporary pop style music was very much enjoyed by all. The grinning faces of the Villagers showed the appreciation we all felt.

During the performance the singers introduced themselves and their fields of study. They were from as far away as Paris and Texas and as close as the Boston area. There were several favorite selections such as Somebody to Love and Go Up the Ladder to Heaven. Another of the favorite pieces, Midnight Train to Georgia, as acted out by two of the guys! The choreography throughout the evening was outstanding, as was the sound system, which was expertly set up and manned by Skip Giles.

The last piece, Change in My Life Since You Came Along, was followed by a rousing standing ovation. After the singing, dessert was served. It featured a delicious cake that said "Thank You Opportunes!" Villagers and singers were able to mingle and chat with one another. As folks headed home, one could sense lightness in their steps and a song in their hearts. Many thanks to Linda for bringing this wonderful group to perform for us.



SKIP DOES IT AGAIN -- PUT SEPT 25 ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Skip is bringing us another fantastic show. Originally he had planned on an Elvis show, but scheduling became a problem. At the suggestion of Larry Anzivino, Skip is bringing us a tribute to the incomparable Neil Diamond, THE REAL DIAMOND, with vocals by Curt DiDomizio who has been entertaining crowds since elementary school singing Elvis, Neil Diamond, Elton John and others. From 80's rock bands to the present day he has been doing what he loves best – singing and entertaining. His stage presence will make you feel as though you are part of the show. Curt plays rhythm guitar, drums and is also a songwriter. He has appeared in commercials, TV shows and voice-over work. Curt is the lead singer and founder of REAL DIAMOND. "KEEPING IT NEIL."

A MARDI GRAS PARTY WITH A LIVE AND LIVELY BAND COMING ON NOV. 5

by Shirley Chambers

New Orleans may be its official home, but you don't have to live in the Big Easy to have a Mardi Gras party, and that's what our Social Committee has planned for us on November 5.

What makes it really special is the Smashbox Stompers band that will be playing for this party. Barbara Leary, Judy Premru, Dianne Marston and I "discovered" this group two years ago and knew instantly that our Villagers would love them.

You will be entranced by the wonderful foot-tapping, knee-bouncing American roots music these guys play - cajun, zydeco, blues, and swamp pop originals. It's all very lively and danceable music, and they expect us to do a little dancing if we feel like it, which we undoubtedly will. It's a fun gang playing piano and cajun accordions, fiddle, guitar, mandolin, harmonica, acoustic bass, triangle, rub-board, and drums, with the entire band singing lead and harmony vocals.





OUR WELCOME SPRING BRUNCH

VSR's spring brunch was on April 2 with 50 attending. Our tables "spoke" WELCOME SPRING, having been decorated with screaming yellow floral plates and napkins, to which Loretta added her special touch by lovingly placing on each table slim vases holding several daffodils and tulips. The food tables were, as is the custom here, rife with delicious food (in this case, appropriately, breakfast/lunch goodies). And it seemed that we were all just simply in the mood for some warm spring weather. As evident in the photo, Len, Peter, and Herb were replete and thoroughly enjoying themselves.

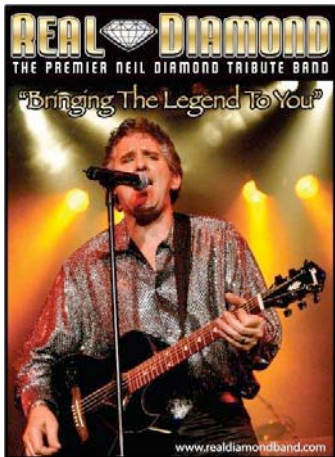


EVERYTHING HAS TO BE PUT BACK IN PLACE

These photos were taken by Dave Auld after the Spring Brunch. Usually you would see him as one of the furniture movers as well. "Move it back in, you can see where it belongs by the impressions on the carpet." Fortunately the big stuff is on dollies. Notice in the photos the "bosses" giving directions! And look at the women bystanders! No comment!

September 25th ~ A Tribute to Neil Diamond

The Voice...the Songs...the Man With a Special Tribute to Christina Aguilera



REAL DIAMOND is a professional, dedicated to the faithful re-creation of the live Neil Diamond experience. We are obsessively passionate about providing you and your audience the finest Neil Diamond show short of having the man there himself.

Curt Di Domizio fronts the Tribute with a chillingly realistic Neil Diamond interpretation. Your audience will be amazed and dazzled as they dance and sing along to four decades of incredible, unforgettable songs.

The set list includes note-for-note renditions of all Neil Diamond's greatest hits including: *Cherry Cherry, Holly Holy, Kentucky Woman, Cracklin Rosie, Sweet Caroline, America, Love on the Rocks, September Morn, Solitary Man, If You Know What I Mean, Thank the Lord for the Nighttime, I am...I Said, Hello Again, Brother Loves Traveling Salvation Show, Play Me, Desiree, Shilo, He ain't Heavy, Red Red Wine, Forever in Blue Jeans, Beautiful Noise* and many more. Thanks to Neil Diamond for the many years of wonderful songs!

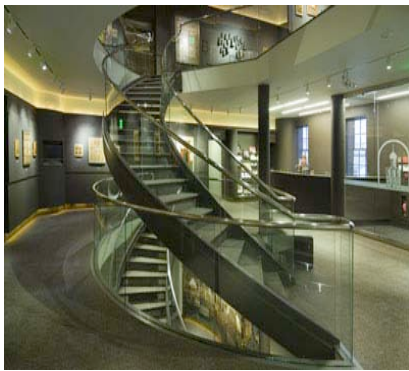
Russian Icon Museum in Clinton

by Joyce Minosh

On May 12 a small group from our village visited the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton, MA. We were pleasantly surprised by the beauty and elegance of the historical artwork within the walls of this 19th century brick building. The collection includes more than 400 Russian icons, the largest collection of its kind in North America, and one of the largest collections outside Russia.

Our guide, Carole, pointed out that icons were found in nearly all Russian homes, cathedrals and local churches. The rich and the poor alike shared a love for these richly decorated religious paintings on wood. She briefed us on the history of the icons and identified some interesting aspects of these 15th century marvels.

We were also fascinated by the building, which housed this collection. It is a 150-year-old, 6000 sq.ft. former mill building renovated (on the inside only) to accommodate this important collection. Its three levels are connected by a “custom designed, sweeping metal and glass stairway that allows visual access to all three floors from any place in the museum.”



After our museum visit we had lunch at the Old Timers Restaurant located nearby on the Nashua River. Like Westford, Clinton was a textile manufacturing town. We were all amazed at the beautiful architecture in the downtown section. You can learn more about the Museum of Russian Icons at www.museumofrussianicons.org.

Those of us who went on this tour would encourage others to visit this lovely town, museum and restaurant. www.oldtimerrestaurant.com.

** PLEASE PLEASE Remember, last year we had some problems in our area with bears being attracted to our bird feeders. So please remove all feeders so that we can keep the critters away this summer.*

WE ATE, WE LEARNED AND WE SHOPPED

On April 5th, 20 of our Village ladies caravanned to York, Maine, to the Stonewall Kitchen Cooking School where Joyce Minosh had made reservations for us to have a nice lunch accompanied by demonstrations by Patty Roche (Cooking School Manager).

The chef instructors show you easy ways to master classic prep and cooking techniques. These are demonstration classes only, no hands-on classes. We watched the preparation of our lunch: a prosciutto, lettuce and tomato salad, a cauliflower and pear concoction, classic eggplant parmigiana, and a creamy lemon parfait.

We had quite a detailed lesson on choosing the best eggplant by its gender – boy or girl. Seeds of the male eggplants are fewer, smaller, and less bitter than the female. The male eggplant has a rounded circular shape and is plumper. One of our ladies confessed she could always tell the gender by feeling it.

Stonewall Kitchen’s motto is EAT, DRINK, and LEARN, which is quite appropriate, but they should add SHOP. They produce many mixtures of tempting foods, all in little jars. There are several rooms and buildings filled with all these many jars of everything imaginable, plus food-related gadgets galore. The gidget and gadget gurus will love this place.



LISTEN UP RED WINE DRINKERS

Two suggestions to avoid a purple smile: Enjoying cheese with your wine changes your mouth’s PH, reducing acidity and making it hard for stains to stick. Want more whitening? Reach for celery after your drink – its texture acts as a toothbrush in scouring away stains.



LIBRARY NEWS
by Linda Anzivino



*“Temples fail, statues decay, and mausoleums perish,
eloquent phrases declaimed are forgotten,
but good books are immortal,” William Vernon*

Please note recent Library changes:

- All audio books, DVD’s and cookbooks are underneath the regular bookshelves in the middle bottom cabinet on the right side of the fireplace.
- All the puzzles are now in the far right bottom cabinet along with card playing equipment and knitting supplies.

The Reading Promise – *My Father and the Books We Shared* by Alice Ozma is a new book that tells the story of a father and daughter and their reading ritual called “The Streak.” It is also about family bonds, treasured books and life lessons learned. Chris Gardner, author of *The Pursuit of Happiness*, says it is “a powerful testament to the difference a parent’s devotion and the act of reading can make in a child’s life. A rare and triumphant story.”



Hand Holding Helps Too

by Ann Sullivan

One day Johnny was late getting home from school, and when his concerned mother asked why he was late he told her “Oh, Billy fell and broke his bike.” To which she replied, “I didn’t know you could fix bicycles, Johnny.” “Oh, no, I sat on the sidewalk and held his hand because he was crying.” “Then you were a Helping Hand,” said Mom proudly.

Many thanks to all who have been Helping Hands at VSR these last few months. Like Johnny, it’s always a kindness when you lend a hand to help others. We’ve driven folks to the pharmacy, the hospital, mailed letters, picked up mail, helped with trash pickup, brought food, and more. It’s been our pleasure to help those who requested our assistance.

Call if you need us. Of course giving us a few days notice is helpful, but it’s not essential. Please call Judy (978-399-0389) or Cathy (978-496-1172). Other members of the committee are Ann (978-692-0801), Joan (978-692-6513, or Louise (978-589-1175). We will have one of our wonderful volunteers come to your aid.



VSR BOOK CLUB NEWS
by Dianne Marston



The Book Club met on June 2 to discuss the non-fiction book, *Am I Old Yet? A True Story of a Timeless Friendship* by Leah Komaiko. It was a memoir of a baby boomer’s experience of “adopting” a 94 year old blind woman. The book explored in a moving and humorous way the miracle of friendship.

Our next meeting will be on July 14th. The book to be discussed is *Testimony* by Anita Shreve. The story takes place in a Vermont prep school. It explores issues surrounding teenage sexuality and the long-term ramifications and psychological of our in-the-moment decisions. As the story unfolds, secrets are unearthed, relationships are irretrievably damaged, and psychological burdens are revealed. *Testimony* is a searing and powerful indictment of a society that, in many ways, has lost its moral compass, and for that, everyone pays a price.

The August meeting will be on Thursday, August 25th. The book for that meeting will be posted on the VSR bulletin board. All Villagers are welcome to join us at any of the meetings.



SIMPLY SOCIAL

by Loretta Auld and Joyce Minosh, Co-chairs

Spring has shown its colors with beautiful flowering shrubs, trees, daffodils and tulips. We are now ready for those bright warm summer days. Our coming events offer many opportunities for pleasurable visiting with our neighbors.

June 24, Fri.	Trip to Tower Hill Gardens
July 4, Mon.	Fourth of July Cookout
Aug. 2, Tue.	Lowell Spinners
Aug. 21, Sun.	Ice Cream Social
Sept. 5, Mon.	Labor Day Cookout
Sept. 25, Sun.	Tribute to Neil Diamond and Christina Aguilera
Oct. 1, Sat.	Drop-in Coffee
Nov. 5, Sat.	Mardis Gras Party with the Squeezebox Stompers
Dec. 10, Sat.	Holiday Party
Dec. 20, Tue.	Caroling
Dec. 31, Sat.	New Years Party



Pulling Another Cork at VSR

"Riunite on ice... that's nice"

In the late 60's the Banfi Company, Italy's largest producer of wine, wanted to catch the attention of the American drinker's transitioning from soft drinks to wine. The thinking was to keep from being stuffy or complicated - an easy wine for easy living, with a twist-off cap and no cork to pull. If you didn't finish the bottle, just twist the cap back on and put it in the fridge. Helped by the above popular jingle, Banfi was right. By 1975 their Riunite Lambrusco was the top-selling imported wine in the United States, a position it held until 2000.

Recently we're noticing some "earlier favorites" have come back and are enjoying a higher profile in the world of wine. Perhaps, as was the case with the Riunite years ago, it has to do with lightening up and enjoying the easy life. Rose', for one, has found it's way back onto the pages of many of the wine publications and enjoys a higher presence in wine tastings and special sales at local wine shops. In addition to being served as an aperitif, Rose' is terrific chilled as a sipping wine on a summer afternoon.

Not to be outdone by Banfi and the Italians, Spain has its claim to fame in the world of easy living wine, Sangria. After experiencing it anew with friends at a local restaurant a few months back, it too has resurfaced as a light and festive addition to be enjoyed through the summer months with friends on the deck.

At Quarry Cellars we have been playing with a few Sangria recipes of late and thought we would share them with you for your list of fun summer beverages. Along with the few noted here, we encourage you to go on the web and look up Sangria. You'll find numerous Sangria recipes, many with a flair or flavors accentuating different cultures from around the world.

Here are two easy ones that we've been using, one for red and the other for white. *C'mon, did you really think we were going to recommend Riunite?*

In a time when more and more of the finer restaurants are now putting cotton candy on their dessert menus, we should put a little fun back into our summer wines. *ahhh yes, summer... Quarry Cellars*

Red Sangria

1 bottle of Merlot
 1 lemon cut into thin wedges
 1 orange cut into thin wedges
 2 tbsp sugar
 1.5 oz brandy
 chill overnight
 just before serving, add ice and 2 cups of club soda

White Sangria

1 bottle of Chardonnay
 3/4 cup of peach schnapps
 1 lemon cut into thin wedges
 1 lime cut into thin wedges
 1 orange cut into thin wedges
 toss in a few fresh blueberries or chopped strawberries for color (and fun)
 chill overnight
 just before serving, add ice and 12 ounces of Sprite

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The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you informed about events and information for The Village at Stone Ridge.

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