

  
the Village at Stone Ridge

# QUARRY BULLETIN

January-February 2014

## THE QUARRY HAS ITS OWN WINTER BEAUTY



*Photo by Frank Bashore*

# CELEBRATING THE SEASON

## HOLIDAY PARTY

By Louise O'Donnell

On Saturday, December 7, seventy residents gathered in the festively decorated clubhouse to mingle with friends and neighbors and enjoy delicious nibbles and kickoff the holiday season.

The entertainment began with music from the VSR chorus, including "Traditions of Hanukkah," "Christmas in Three Minutes," and performances by our three divas, Wendy Wolfberg, Susan Hill, and Dianne Marston. Phyllis Duggan then gave us playful renditions of "Santa Baby" and "Blue Christmas," with the audience joining in on "White Christmas." Joyce Minosh then presented her updated version of "We Live in a Beautiful Place." Such fun! Great thanks go to Donn and Susan Hill and Ruth Ann Dillon for putting together this agenda of entertainment and directing and accompanying the music. We also appreciate all the work the Social Committee put into this event, especially Clara Currier, Gail Sergenian, and Elaine Tino, coordinators for this event.

The evening ended with a sumptuous rum cake dessert. We lingered, savoring the wonderful feeling of friendship, and left with eagerness for the holiday to begin.

*Our Holiday Party wouldn't be complete without a new rendition of Joyce Minosh's twist on **The Twelve Days of Christmas**. Donn Hill accompanies her (right).*



*Phyllis Duggan (above) sings at the Holiday Party, joining Dianne Marston, Wendy Wolfberg, and Susan Hill (below) as featured entertainers.*







*Coleman granddaughter, Jasmine, admires Elaine Tino's artful fingernails (above). Phil and Lorraine MacPherson (below) celebrate the New Year with neighbors.*



## **New Year's Brunch**

After the rush of the holiday season it is wonderful to gather on New Year's Day for a leisurely brunch. With mimosa or kir royale in hand we all greeted each other and caught up on neighborhood news. Judy Gilmartin, Kathy Abate, and Elaine Tino coordinated this gourmet delight. Village cooks Judy Premru, Clara Currier, Barbara Leary, Ann Sullivan, Elaine Tino, Ruth Coleman, Joyce Minosh, Dorothy Moran, and Kathy Abate contributed sweet and savory stratas, and Loretta Auld, Louise O'Donnell, Louise Tamoush, and Judi Gilmartin baked the hams. Thanks to them and all the others who helped with set up and clean up and of course to Larry Anzivino who saw to it the champagne arrived on time!

## **Social Committee Finances**

The Social Committee hopes you enjoy the many events it oversees each year. We try to offer a variety of entertainment and hope everyone finds something appealing and fun. We work hard to make the events we charge for affordable and to offer at least a few each year that are free of charge. The Social Committee does not have a line item budget earmarked for social function expenses. We run our functions on a cash-in cash-out basis, and the events must pay for themselves, including the costs for food, entertainment, and non-permanent things such as paper products and disposable decorations. We must keep a balance to carry us through the year and "seed money" to take us into the next year. We do have a budget from the Board of Trustees that we use for clubhouse cleaning and buying small fixed or permanent items for the clubhouse such as our grill, benches for restrooms, bulletin board, coffee makers, wine glasses, and seasonal and floral decorations.

## LIBRARY MUSINGS

By Linda Anzivino

*“I never had a sorrow that an hour of reading did not dissipate.”*  
Montesquieu

Amazon recently announced its best selling books for the year 2013. They were: *Inferno* by Dan Brown, *And The Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, and *The Cuckoo’s Calling* by Robert Galbraith (a.k.a. J.K. Rowling). Did you guess them? Have you read them?

I recently read two interviews that showed very different roles books played in the lives of well-known authors, and both were quite interesting. *The Boston Globe* interviewed Mitch Albom:

*Globe*: Did anyone influence you as a reader?

Albom: When I was about six my mom used to drop me at the local library every Saturday morning. At noon I was supposed to come out with a book. One day I came across Jules Verne’s *Twenty Thousand Leagues under The Sea*. I tried to check it out, but the librarian told me it was too hard for me and to get a book from the children’s section. So I grabbed a Curious George book. In the car, my mom saw the Curious George and said, “You’ve read that a 100 times before.” I told her the librarian wouldn’t let me have the book I wanted because it was too hard. My mother slammed on the brakes. We rushed back into the library where she yelled at the librarian and got the Verne book. That book was way too hard for me, but I read it because I had learned that reading was obviously important enough that my mother was going to deck another woman over it. I’ve been a reader ever since.



In a recent video that another best selling author, Dean Koontz, did with Random House, he discussed the role reading has played in his life. “As a child, there were no books in my house, and they were considered a waste of time,” Koontz notes. However, this didn’t end up stopping him from becoming a big reader. He devoured all of the books in the young adult section by thirteen, and then moved on to the adult fiction section. Koontz relates that books changed his life as a kid. He stated that reading “was an escape because our house was not a wonderful place to be in and if there was a lot of shouting or screaming or violence pending or that sort of thing, I would just lock myself away with a book and I could tune out all of that and lose myself in the book.” He also says that books showed him that there were other options for him in life, that not all lives were like his own, and that he could create his own future that differed from his childhood.



## Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

### LIMELIGHT

We decided to return to a real oldie but goodie by Charlie Chaplin, a true genius. Chaplin was involved in every aspect of film. He wrote and directed LIMELIGHT, composed the hauntingly beautiful music, choreographed a ballet sequence and all comic routines and, of course, starred. His accomplishments in all are extraordinary.

This is one of Chaplin's talkies. It was filmed when he was in his 60's, during a very difficult period in his life. He had recently been involved in a reputation-damaging paternity suit. In addition, the U.S., which had fallen in love with his Little Tramp, did not approve of his political leanings, and asked him not to return from Europe.

The story is about an aging comic performer in British music houses who has lost his edge and audience. He saves the life of a young ballerina (luminously portrayed by a 20-year-old Claire Bloom) who is also at a nadir in her life. The two are able to inspire each other to go on. Chaplin understands aging and the loss of fame, and it shows in his expressions, his movements, and his tone of voice. This aspect of the film brought tears to our eyes. When he performs his comic routines, however, he still displays his ability, honed in silent films, to use his limber body in uncanny, very funny ways, as if possessed by a spirit half his age.

This ended up being a family affair. Chaplin's son, Sydney Chaplin, performs the other male lead. You can also see Chaplin's half-brother, four other Chaplin children and even Oona, his wife, in a bit stand-in for Bloom. Buster Keaton also demonstrates his acting chops.

This one will stay with you. Also indulge in some of his silent films (*Modern Times* for example) and in *Chaplin*, a wonderful portrayal of the maestro by Robert Downey Jr.

Any recommendations for DVDs? Please let me know.

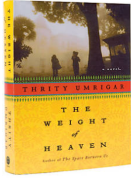


### BATTERY DANGER

If you are storing loose 9-volt or AA or other batteries in a kitchen drawer or a "junk" drawer in your home, watch how you store them. Above all don't store them loose and rolling around with other metal, glues, and more of the lovely mix of things we keep in our junk drawers. All you need to have happen is for a metal object like steel wool or a paper clip short out across the top of a 9 volt battery and ignite paper or other easily ignited materials and you'll have a potential disaster in your home. To store safely, keep batteries in their original packaging or keep ends covered. For disposal, make sure that the positive and negative posts are safely wrapped in electrical tape.

From EHS Safety News America





## BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston

What better time to curl up in front of the fireplace and read a good book than during this “deep freeze” weather! The VSR Book Club has many good books to recommend, and our wonderful Village library is overflowing with more excellent choices. Or, if you are fortunate enough to be traveling to warmer places, pack a couple of good books or your e-reader in your suitcase!

About twenty Villagers attended our last Book Club meeting, held in the library. We had an excellent discussion of *The End of Your Life Bookclub*. Despite the ominous sound of the book title, those who attended felt that it led to one of the best book discussions we’ve had. On February 27 we will meet again to talk about Thrity Umrigar’s *The Weight of Heaven*.

“This novel straddles the United States and India as Frank and Ellie, a grieving American couple, relocate in the hope of healing the trauma of their only child’s death. Frank takes a position managing a factory in a small Indian town, and at first the move seems like the right one. Ellie feels at home in her adopted country, helping out in the village, teaching school, and counseling women. But the company that owns the factory has leased the village’s trees from the Indian government and has prohibited the villagers from accessing what had been a source of medicine, shelter, and income for generations. Frank becomes the face of the company pillaging the village’s land, and violence follows him. Seeking solace, he turns to his servants’ child, who he tries to shoehorn into the empty space left by his son’s loss. Rather than a fresh start, India soon becomes just a different setting for Frank and Ellie to splinter apart.” [*The Barnes & Noble Review*]

The April 10 meeting will feature *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. “Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta’s cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can’t afford health insurance. This phenomenal *New York Times* bestseller tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.” [*Barnes and Noble Overview*]

All Villagers are welcome to join us for these discussions!



Who is this mystery woman? If you can answer that question, you will immediately get excited when you see the next page. If you cannot, read on and get your calendar out!



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Our Village looked so welcoming over the holiday season. Thanks to all who decorated and lit their houses so festively. A special thanks goes to the “elves” who, led by **Buzz McArdle**, organized the purchase and installation of the



lights on the tall trees around the Village. It took lots of man and machine power! Elves included: **Jack Bilodeau, Dom Defronzo, Paul Currier, Rick Culver, Steve Currier, Tom Barry, Skip Giles, Dick Coleman, Mike Gallant, Bill Nussbum, and Bill Townsend.**

Beautiful music wafted over the Village on December 22<sup>nd</sup> as a group of carolers cheered several residents with holiday songs. Following the singing there was a rousing sing-along at the clubhouse with maestro **Donn Hill** at the piano and **Susan Hill** leading the ensemble. Thanks to **Ruth Coleman** and **Louise Tahmoush** for coordinating this event and **Ann Sullivan, Clara Currier, and Barbara Tobiason** who were in charge of the refreshments. The cookies, baked by Nashoba Tech students were excellent!

## SOCIAL NOTES

- On March 15 we will once again welcome Carol O’Shaughnessy and Donn Hill for a fabulous Cabaret Night. That is Carol on the previous page “tawkin” to us in 2012 when they last performed. Will she reprise that hilarious raconteur character, bring along her Italian Momma (right), or have something new up her sleeve? Whatever she does, the evening will feature her delightful singing and abundant energy. She and Donn, who sings, accompanies, and is general straight man, are a dynamic duo that you will not want to miss.
- Do you use the handy Keurig coffee maker in the clubhouse? Do you always put in your \$.50? We have not been breaking even on our supplies lately, so if you do get a cup of coffee, please pay up!





## Organ Recitals

By Catharine Webber

They might talk of bunions, the knees and the hips,  
 Maybe the eyeball, their spines and their lips,  
 Of replacements and plastys and just how to treat  
 Those problems with shoulders, lungs, and feet.

We know much more than we may need to  
 About how those kidneys went totally askew.  
 We also could hear of the weight that they lost  
 And the great big surgery and what it had cost.

It seems the most troublesome body part  
 Is that good old workhorse, the human heart.  
 It needs a bypass or two to continue to tick  
 Oh, if those arteries just wouldn't stick.

There's itis and osis and ecto and flu  
 Many bad things can happen – and do.  
 But there's hardly a problem the surgeons can't fix.  
 They do it with string and clever knife tricks.

It makes you feel better and can be endlessly told  
 And retold again until you are old.  
 An organ recital, a litany of ills.  
 Accompanied by the big list of your pills.

Remember the days of Herr Bach, even Moog,  
 When organ recitals meant prelude and fugue?  
 Like good old JS we would far rather be  
 Listening to the organ in the nice key of C.



**Editor's Note**

*My cousin wrote the above, and I thought you would like it! I hope you are enjoying the Volunteer Highlights. I would like to know more about the food pantry box in the mailroom. Who collects and delivers the donations and where do they go? Who else in the Village would you like to see "written up?" Contact Carlene Craib.*

**QUARRY BULLETIN  
 STAFF**

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*This month's photographs  
 are by Dave Auld, Frank  
 Bashore, and Steve Currier.  
 The Quarry Bulletin is a bi-  
 monthly newsletter to keep  
 you informed about events  
 and information for The  
 Village at Stone Ridge.  
 Contributing writers please  
 send copy to Carlene Craib.*

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