

# Quarry Bulletin

January-February 2015

## LET'S START 2015 WITH A PARTY!



Village residents are experts in celebrating, and we had many opportunities in the last two months. A group rang in the New Year with dancing and great music. John and Lorraine Facella organized the party and John (seen at left) DJ'd music that had everyone joining in the fun. Thanks John and Lorraine for this new addition to the Village calendar!



*Kathy and Peter Abate dance away 2014.*

New Year's Day found many residents feasting and enjoying champagne at our very popular brunch event. The food was spectacularly delicious as usual. Thank you to everyone who made the huge variety of breakfast casseroles and baked the juicy hams. Joyce Minosh, of course, had something up her sleeve, and we put our heads together to solve her brainteasers. From champagne to rich desserts, the party was a delight and it was a perfect start to 2015 feasting and having fun in the company of our friends and neighbors.



*Left: Frank Bashore and Louise O'Donnell enjoy the buffet. Right: Dean Hubbard and Don Chandler show off their winnings. Below: Joan Roy chats with Lorraine and Phil MacPherson.*



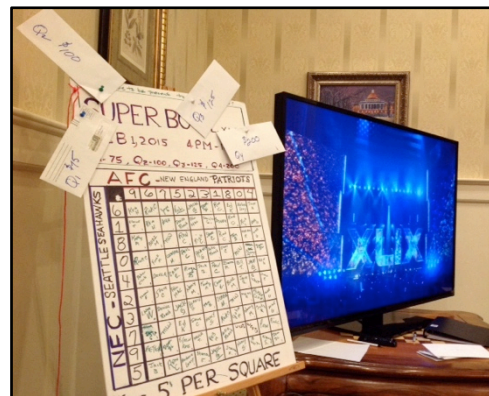


## SUPER BOWL FEVER GRIPS THE VILLAGE

By Paul Currier and Buzz McArdle

The Patriot's winning with last minute heroics was the perfect topping to a night of fun, laughs, and great food at our first annual Super Bowl party. Over thirty residents and friends attended the party. There was a large variety of food to choose from as everyone brought a dish to go along with the snacks provided. Squash soup, lasagna, chili, wings, meatballs, homemade beans, sausage and peppers, deli meats, cheeses and olives, salad, and a number of desserts including a big Super Bowl cake crowded the buffet table. There was no shortage of great food, drinks, or laughs.

A 65" high definition television in the great room along with the set in the library were supported by our new Sonos sound system. Thanks to Buzz McArdle's technical savvy all the equipment worked well, and everyone had a great view of the action. There were several big winners. Judy Gilmartin and Steve Currier won the two door prize drawings. The football squares pool was won by Ken Hyle (two times) and Bill Townsend, who each went home with \$200.



Jack Bilodeau, Paul Currier, Jack Gilmartin, and Buzz McArdle organized the evening and the team was very happy with the turnout and that everybody had a great time. Thanks to all who attended for their support with this first time event and hopefully next year the Patriots can repeat and we can do it all again!



*Above: Paul Currier, Jack Bilodeau, and Dick Coleman watch the action.*



*The action was good and so was the food. Larry Weiderholt and Ron Caterino enjoy both.*



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Dorothy Moran

Ken Hyle has recently resigned as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. Ken was one of the original members of the Committee when the



financial operations of VSR were passed on to us from the builder. In the eleven years he has been on the committee, he was the Chairman for seven of them. His dedication and commitment was outstanding as evidenced by his driving from New Jersey to Westford to attend meetings then returning to New Jersey the next morning prior to making VSR his permanent home. He was very involved in establishing the budgeting process that we continue to use today and, more recently, conducting a search for a new, less expensive and more responsive management company.

Ken is very active in charitable organizations in and around Westford. He dedicates at least one day a week to the Westford Food Pantry and helps distribute food bundles to the needy. Ken is also very involved at the St. Vincent de Paul chapter at St. Agnes Church, counseling needy individuals and families and helping them find help for their every day needs.

Ken's most recent commitment is with the Financial Peace University sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul. Ken will be a coordinator and instructor for this nine-week program starting on March 4 with classes at Westford Academy.



## SHOVEL BRIGADE ANSWERS THE CALL

After a big storm, it is imperative to clean the snow from around furnace and dryer vents.



Three feet of snow and drifts even deeper than that made this a difficult task. As soon as the snow stopped VSR volunteers canvassed the Village, digging out the vents of those who were not at home or not able to do it themselves. Thanks to these men: Frank Bashore, Bob Eddy, Jack Bilodeau, Skip Giles, Bill Townsend, Buzz McArdle, Doug Craib, and Jay Enis. As Wendy Wolfberg put it: "They really saved the day and helped save lives."



## LIBRARY MUSINGS

By Linda Anzivino

*“Books allow you to fully explore a topic and immerse yourself in a deeper way than most media today. I’m looking forward to shifting more of my media diet towards reading books.”*

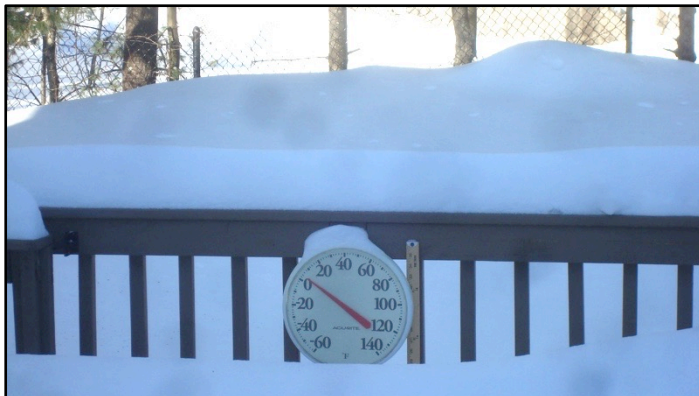
*Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook Founder*

You may have already heard about Mark Zuckerberg’s New Year’s resolution for 2015 – to read books. Although he probably will not have the influence on the publishing industry that Oprah had, it is always encouraging when influential media people try to get more people to read. He plans on picking a new book every two weeks and he does have thirty million followers!

I recently found this on the Internet. See if you qualify!

You’re A Book Nerd if:

- The thought of ripping apart a book for a craft project horrifies you.
- You’ve been caught sniffing books in the back aisle of a used bookstore.
- You hate going to the movies based on books, because they never live up to the movies in your head.
- You look at garage sales and thrift stores as a way to rescue books, not just buy them.
- There’s a real concern your TBR (To Be Read) pile could fall over and crush you in your sleep.
- You know more classic author quotes than pop culture catchphrases.
- You think about characters long after you’ve finished the book and wonder how they are.
- You’ve added GPS tags to your bookplates so you know where your loaned books are at all times.
- You bring a book to every event because you never know when you’ll have a chance to read.
- You love all books, whether they’re electronic, paper, scrolls, or etched on stone tablets.
- You have no idea what’s on television tonight.



*With seven storms so far this year and a total of 69 inches of snow, we have exceeded the seven year average for snowfall here at the Village. That and the temperatures seen here have most of us wanting to join those on page 7! Thanks to Buzz McArdle for this chilling photo.*

## Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

Our VSR Book Club was honored to have the author of *Alice Bliss* meet with us on January 29. Laura Harrington charmed us with her delightful personality and her poignant comments. She delighted us with stories of her background and how it influenced her writing. She brought us into her writing process, entertaining us with her humor! She was grateful to us for sharing our feelings about her novel, its unique characters, and hearing how the story of *Alice* touched us personally. And it did! But it was truly brought to life by her presence with us. She wrote, “I wanted to write to thank all of you for inviting me to Westford, welcoming me so warmly, and then running a first-rate discussion of *Alice Bliss*. Your kindness and hospitality were wonderful.”

Our next meeting will occur on March 5<sup>th</sup>. At that time we will discuss the novel, *A Star for Mrs. Blake* by April Smith. This is the story of a Gold Star mother from Maine who traveled with other mothers whose sons had died and were buried in France during WW I so that they could say their final good-byes to their sons. “With expert storytelling, memorable characters, and beautiful prose, April Smith gives us a timeless story . . . set against a footnote of history, little known, but unforgettable.” (From book jacket)

The book chosen by the group for April 16 is *The Photograph* by Penelope Lively. “Scrounging around in a cupboard stuffed with three decades’ worth of papers and academic debris, Glyn Peters, a recently widowed landscape historian, discovers an envelope marked “Don’t Open—Destroy” in his late wife’s handwriting. Is there anyone on earth who would obey such an injunction? Certainly not Glyn, who opens the envelope to find a photograph of his beautiful, feckless wife hand in hand with her sister’s husband. Determined to understand his wife’s affair, he delves into her past.” (*The New Yorker*)



At left: Clara Currier, Judy Premru, and Joan Roy listen as author Laura Harrington discusses her novel.



Left to right: Linda Anzivino, Laura Harrington, guest author at the VSR Book Club, and June Halio.

We invite you to join us for our interesting and stimulating discussions.

## Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

### *The Good Lie*

Thanks to June Halio for recommending this moving film. It focuses on a group of children from South Sudan who survive a massacre in their village and endure deprivation and many hardships before their walk of almost 1,000 miles takes them to a refugee camp in Kenya. After thirteen years there, they finally get the opportunity to immigrate to the United States as part of a humanitarian program.

When they arrive in the U.S. they meet Reese Witherspoon, playing an employment agent who finds them work and tries to help them adjust to their new environment. Although her official job ends once they are placed, the young men continue to seek her out for help in other areas of their lives.

Witherspoon is excellent in her role, but the true stars are the previously unknown actors playing the Sudanese. They were actual refugees, and some had even been boy soldiers.

The film gets its title from an English lesson in which one of the men learns about “the good lie,” one told for a higher purpose, as in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He later tells such a lie in a very noble act to help one of his countrymen. The African saying “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” cited in the film, epitomizes the communal, humanitarian instincts of the group.

This fictionalized portrayal of the difficulties faced by the Sudanese refugees reminded us of the beautifully filmed documentary *God Grew Tired of Us* about the same issues. They are both worth seeing. Prepare to be inspired.



*Caroling around the neighborhood followed by a spirited sing-along is a favorite holiday event in the Village. Above are just some of the participants. Thanks to Ruth Coleman and Louise Tahmoush who organized the event, to Ruthann Dillon and Susan Hill for playing the piano and leading the singing, and to Ann Sullivan, Joan Roy, and Clara Currier who helped with refreshments.*



## HOW WE SPENT OUR WINTER



The top photos show how most of us spent our winter – watching Morin’s new super snow blower clean our roads and enjoying the



holiday lights all bundled up. (Seen at right – Barbara Leary’s grandsons with the Auld’s herd of reindeer.) But there are many residents who have escaped this scene. Here are some images of how they spent their winters!



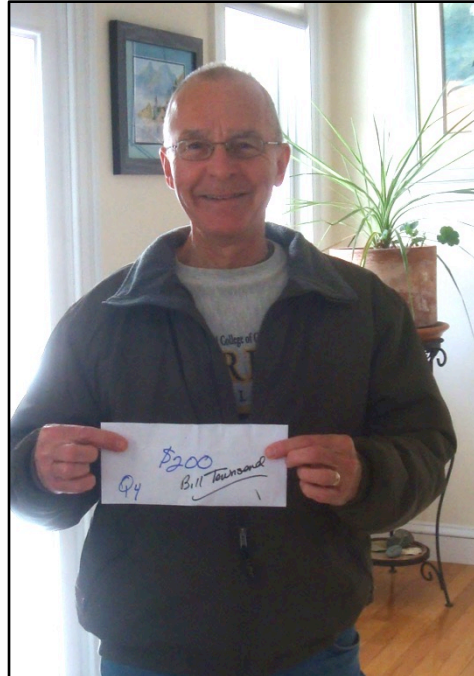
*Seen catching some fun in the sun, left to right, clockwise: Tom*



*Sangiolo, Barbara Leary, Joan and Armand Francoeur, Louise O'Donnell and Frank Bashore ready for the Lazy River, and Mary Ellen Tisdale (beats walking the mall!),*

### Helping Hands

A reminder to all that if you need a hand this winter due to illness or misfortune, don't hesitate to call Helping Hands (Judy Premru, 978-399-0389). The volunteers are always willing to do what they can. Also, if you know someone who is ill or shut in, or someone who deserves a note of appreciation, let Joan Roy know (978-692-6513). She is officially in charge of "caring" in the Village.



*Bill Townsend is all smiles after winning \$200 in the Super Bowl pool.*

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



February 23 – Tea Time!  
Learn about tea and join your neighbors at a VSR tea party. On Monday February 23 at 1:00 p.m. Sally Collura, the owner of The Tea Leaf in Waltham, will lead us in a tea tasting and share some interesting facts about tea and its influence on history followed by afternoon tea. Join us!

March 31 –  
Paint and  
Drink Party  
at Pinot's  
Palette in  
Waltham  
Watch the  
bulletin board for more information and sign up sheet.



Early April – Spring Brunch

### QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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*This month's photographs are by Paul Currier, Barbara Leary, and Buzz McArdle. 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 ccraib@comcast.net*