

Quarry Bulletin

March-April 2015

A VILLAGE WINTER



VSR had a winter to remember. With over 116 inches of snow, below average temperatures for days on end, snow drifts meeting icicles for igloo effects in dining room windows, and howling winds piling up mountains on some roofs and leaving others bare, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Some of course enjoyed it elsewhere (see later in the Bulletin) and some

found beauty in nature's winter assault and the creatures that populate our neighborhood. Thanks to those who shared their photos with me: Dave Auld, Frank Bashore, Jayne Currier, Doug Craib, and one anonymous Villager with a night camera on the deck.

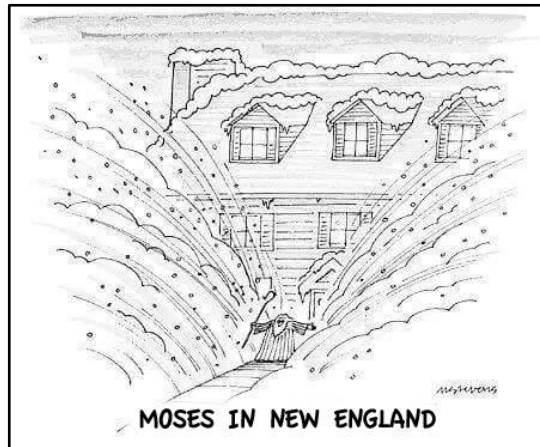




Above, Frank Bashore found these prints in his back yard one morning. Right, Doug Craib checked the length of his visitor's print.



Above and right: A motion detector camera caught a black bear and a coy wolf (coyote?).



Dave Auld caught this chipmy seeing his shadow on March 8 (new predictor of winter's length.) Right: Bob Eddy sent this apt contribution!

VILLAGER WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

At the Annual Town Meeting on March 28 Judy Culver was awarded the Gordon B. Seavey Appreciation Award, given to a towns person who contributes in an extraordinary way to the children of Westford.



Superintendent of Schools, Bill Olsen, presents Judy Culver with the Gordon B. Seavey Award.

At right are Rick and Judy Culver and Paula and Bill Townsend who met up during their respective vacation as in Hawaii in March.

WINTER ESCAPEES CHECK IN



Paul and Jayne Currier enjoying their cruise in the Caribbean in January.



Left: How many Villagers can you find in this beautiful photo from their cruise in the western Caribbean? See answer below.

Dianne Marston,
Barbara Leary, Nancy
Sharpe, Judy Premru,
and Joyce Minosh

BOOK CLUB NEWS

By Dianne Marston

The VSR Book Club continues to meet every six weeks to discuss books recommended and then chosen by our members, with usually about 15-20 in attendance. At our March meeting we discussed *A Star for Mrs. Blake* by April Smith. The April 16 meeting will feature *The Photograph* by Penelope Lively.

On May 28 the group will focus on a non-fiction book, *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams*. “The letters reveal the making of the American nation, in all its chaos and passion, from the inside. Both John and Abigail’s letters are packed with evocative details that throw the reader into the epicenter of American revolutionary life. They recount the developments that led to the Declaration of Independence and the emergence of opposing political parties, the Federalists and Republicans. But, equally fascinating, they open a window on to a private world. *My Dearest Friend* deserves a special place in the literary canon of the founding fathers, not only for recording the amazing relationship between John and Abigail, but also because of the rarity of the survival of such a correspondence. The Adams’s’ letters are so enjoyable because they offer a wonderful breadth of topics, breathlessly jumping between flirtatious teasing, gossip about friends and family, and philosophical and political argument.” (Andrea Wulf, *The Guardian*)

All are welcome to come to the Book Club meetings. Some folks are there regularly, while others attend only occasionally. There is no “membership” requirement. We begin with a social hour with refreshments at 1:00 p.m., followed by discussion at



Artists in Residents

By Clara Currier

On Tuesday, March 31, the ten Villagers seen above, Tink Nussbum, Christine Catarino, Charlotte Demetri, Judi Gilmartin, Barbara Leary, June Halio, Gail Sergenian, Barbara West, and Linda Anzivino, went to Pinot’s

Palette in Lexington for a Paint and Drink party. We all had a wonderful few hours of socializing, drinking, snacking, and painting. And of each of us came home with our own beautiful interpretations of two paintings of poppies.

ENERGY AUDIT WRAP UP

By Peter Abate



It has taken more than a year but the program offered by Mass Save and implemented by the Conservation Services Group (CSG) is nearly complete. Many resident volunteers participated in the delivery of the nine skids of LED (Light Emitting Diode) bulbs in September to resident homes. Buzz and his crew helped many residents to install the new LED bulbs. Nine-nine residents signed up for 7,153 bulbs at a cost of over \$112,000. The bulbs were at no cost to the residents of VSR. These bulbs use up to 85% less electricity as compared to conventional bulbs. CSG electricians used their bucket trucks to change the bulbs in the streetlights. These bulbs have an expected life of ten years and will save the Village the cost of replacing conventional bulbs over this time. They also changed fixtures in the treatment plant and in the clubhouse. Rick Culver and Bob Morton changed all of the exterior bulbs over all of the garages. Larry Anzivino changed all of the bulbs in the clubhouse and is in the process of changing all of the fence post bulbs. New rear door fixtures using LED bulbs were installed on all homes. Initially there were thirty residents that signed up for the pull-down attic staircase Therma-Dome covers, but when the Air Tight trucks were seen in the neighborhood eliminating draft situations, primarily in the attic, many more residents signed up. Drafts in the clubhouse were also eliminated, although common areas are normally not done. When you see the Energy Conservation fee on your National Grid monthly bill, you will know how this is all being paid for.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Peter and all the folks mentioned above for helping the Village to take advantage of this opportunity to save money and energy.

Helping Hands Report

By Joan Roy

Helping Hands continues to be a source of support to residents who are in need of a temporary lift, providing a variety of services when called upon. During the past year at least fifteen meals and twenty rides were provided, two residents were visited, four trips were made to the grocery store, and one resident's mail was picked up over a period of time. And these were only the services that were documented! The Committee knows that there were many more kind deeds that went officially unmarked. If you would like to be a part of those who help, or if you need help, call Judy Premru at 978-399-0389.

Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

Alive Inside: A Story of Music and Memory

This documentary won the 2014 Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival. It is about a simple yet revolutionary program to treat those suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia, and Parkinson's diseases. Patients who listen to their personal music (music that they loved when they were younger), are transformed and reawakened.

Experts in neurology (including my favorite, Oliver Sacks), aging, and care of the aging discuss explanations for this dramatic effect. Apparently, the part of the brain that stores memories of our favorite music is one of the last to be affected by these diseases. Connecting with that part of the brain stimulates other parts as well, and reveals what is still alive inside.

By far the most moving parts of the film show actual patients and their reactions to listening to their music. One man, previously almost catatonic, starts singing and moving in ways that bring smiles to everyone else's faces. A woman who has experienced significant memory loss gets up to dance ecstatically and says later "it" (the loss) can't get to her if she stays in "that place" (listening to the music). We see a woman loving the experience and return to her 6 months later and see that she has made considerable progress.

The film highlights the efforts of Dan Cohen, a social worker, who founded the Music and Memory non-profit organization after observing the profound effects of this treatment and gives contact information for those who would like to volunteer. If a loved one is suffering from any of these diseases, you might find a personal reason to see the film, but it has moments that will move everyone.

VILLAGE MEETING HOSTS "TED WILLIAMS"

At the April Village Meeting a large crowd gathered to welcome Bud Elwin, aka Ted Williams, and hear him give us his "pitch," wonderful stories and photos about Ted and his life and career. At the end of his presentation everyone was treated to some crackerjacks as they looked over the memorabilia Bud brought with him. What a fun way to kick off the baseball season!



ALL ABOUT BIRDS

By David Auld



A web site you may find of interest and enjoyment is cams.allaboutbirds.org. These cams can be reached on computers, iPads, and smart phones. It is provided free of charge by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. They have cams watching birds nesting in a wide range of places. At the present there are about 12 bird cam sites. These include a pair of great horned owlets in an abandoned eagle's nest in Savannah GA; red tailed hawks in a light tower on the Cornell campus in Ithaca, NY; four nests of laysan albatrosses in Kauai, Hawaii; and a barred owl in Indiana. There are also lots of colorful birds such as evening and pine grosbeaks feasting at feeders in Ontario, Canada and several bird species in the 230-acre Sapsucker Woods sanctuary in Ithaca, NY. Cornell promises a cam for the great blue heron in this region. Another web site I found through the Cornell one is hdontap.com. At this one you will find America's bird, the bald eagle raising a pair of young ones high above Hanover, PA. Each year I usually do some catch and release fly fishing for trout on the Delaware River and often see the bald eagles catching but not releasing trout. The other day this site showed the mother eagle with six large fish in the nest for feeding. The HD on Tap site also has web cams for seeing all kinds of wild life, various types of fish, and even African wild life at the MPLA ranch in Kenya Africa.

Loretta and I have had many laughs seeing the owlets growing up in Savannah. They are now at the "branching" stage. This means they venture out a bit on the limbs and then fly a short distance to a new limb. One is three days older than the other so seeing the one owlet coaxing its sibling is particularly fun. They can be seen even at night through the means of infrared viewing. Either Mom or Dad were in the nest all the time in the early stages of growth but now are encouraging some owlet ventures. They do call them back every so often as well as still leaving take out dinners for them. You may not want to watch the meal time scenes as they are raptors and it can be pretty "raw." The red tailed hawks just formed a nest and have three eggs for the fourth year at this site. The web camera view is of high definition quality in all the sites I have visited. The action is not only live but sometimes locally controlled to give different angles or distances of viewing. Enjoy.

Tea Party Time

Come help us celebrate spring! A tea talk and party will take place on Monday, April 27th at 1:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. Sally Collura from the Tea Leaf in Waltham will enlighten us about tea and coordinate a tea tasting, followed by a tea party. There is no charge for this event, but we will ask you to contribute something to eat, either tea sandwiches or similar small bites or small sweets that can be easily handled and consumed, as well as a fancy teacup. Sally will provide the teas. Look for a sign up soon.





THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Memorial Day and Fourth of July have always been celebrated in the Village with wonderful cookouts. This year we find ourselves without volunteers to make these two great events happen. We need two lead arrangers for each one and grill cooks for Memorial Day. The Social Committee will help you and there are complete instructions to guide you as you plan. Call Clara Currier if you are willing to be a lead arranger for either of these traditional parties.



An Evening of Platters

With Tony Funches

The lead vocalist for the internationally renowned Herb Reed of the “Original” Platters, is coming to The Village at Stone Ridge on

Saturday June 13, 2015.

The incomparable Tony Funches, former lead singer of Herb Reed’s Platters, spent more than 12 years with the Platters. Tony has traveled worldwide, presenting a first class entertainment extravaganza singing Platters songs such as *Only You*, *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*, *My Prayer*, *Twilight Time*, *Great Pretender*, *You’ve Got the Magic Touch*, *Harbor Lights*, and many more.

The wide vocal range of this incredible singer is just the beginning of his talents. Tony’s on-stage personality and entertainment quality win over every audience.

Watch for a sign up soon!

SOCIAL EVENTS

Saturday, April 18 – Spring Brunch

Wednesday, April 27, 1 p.m. – Tea Party

May 2 – Work/Play Day

Memorial Day cookout?

Fourth of July cookout?

October 17 – International Dinner

November 11 – “Johnny Cash” comes to VSR

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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This month’s photographs are by Dave Auld, Ruth Coleman, Doug Craib, Rick Culver, Clara Currier, Paul and Jayne Currier, and Barbara Leary. 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