

the Village at Stone Ridge
May-June 2015
Quarry Bulletin

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THE REWARD FOR A GOOD DAY'S WORK? A GREAT PARTY!

By Buzz McArdle

The mint juleps flowed, the betting was heavy, and the crowd was dressed to the nines. The enthusiastic work-play day crew, who had spent most of the day completing a myriad of Village cleanup and maintenance jobs, gathered later in the day at the clubhouse for the 2nd Annual Kentucky Derby party. The fifty attendees, including more than twenty ladies in their finest hats and semi-formal attire, were still able to summon plenty of energy to cheer on their favorites and indulge in fried chicken from Popeye's of Chelmsford, accompanied by mashed potatoes, corn bread, biscuits, baked beans, and coleslaw, with cookies for dessert. Gail Sergenian (in photo at right with Joyce Minosh) won best ensemble, dressed in a stunning 19th century black, floor-length dress, and Louise Tahmoush won best hat which she had formerly worn at the Royal Ascot races in England.



Paul Currier manned the pari-mutuel window and sold twenty-four winning tickets. Gail Sergenian was the big winner in the Derby stakes, holding five tickets on American Pharaoh. Everyone raved about the hostess, Nancy McArdle, who had lots of help from Judi Gilmartin, Joyce Minosh, Sandy Kelly, and others. And of course Jack Gilmartin and Buzz McArdle served up plenty of mint juleps. Thanks to Nancy Sharpe and Jean Guthrie for helping keep them flowing with some added bottles of bourbon. As usual, everyone pitched in to clean up and the last stragglers left about 9:00 pm.

THE PARTIERS AND THE WORKERS



Nattily attired Buzz McArdle and Jack Gilmartin serve up the mint juleps.



Dave and Loretta Auld toast a job well done.



Left to right, Jayne Currier, Ruth Coleman, Loretta Auld, Barbara West, Judi Gilmartin, Gail Sergenian, Louise O'Donnell, Sharon Erickson, Louise Tahmoush, Sandy Kelly, and Chris DeFronzo show off their haberdashery.



Judi Gilmartin has double the fun washing the mirrors in the fitness room.



Louise Tahmoush gives the refrigerator in the clubhouse a thorough cleaning.

See more Work/Play Day photos on pages 3 and 5.

SPRING BRUNCH A DELIGHT

The Social Committee, with Dorothy Moran and Elaine Tino in charge, put on a wonderful brunch to kick off the spring season in April. Thanks to them and to all who baked the hams, made the scrumptious breakfast casseroles, set up, cleaned up, decorated, and shopped. It was a lovely occasion.



Enjoying brunch: clockwise, Charlotte and Gerry Hall, Susan Hill, and Friederike and George Heiter



Thanks to Peter Abate and Dom DeFronzo, VSR hydrants received a long overdue facelift (Safety Red) on work play day.



Paul Currier, left, and Jack Bilodeau, right, stack bricks as they prepare for their Work/Play Day walk-repointing task.

LIBRARY MUSINGS

By Linda Anzivino

"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."

Anna Quindlen, Author

If you enjoy searching the Internet here are three interesting finds I recently came across.

- A book called *Improbable Libraries: A Visual Journey to the Most Unusual Libraries* (University of Chicago) This book documents unusual and visually striking libraries from across the globe. Alex Johnson, the author, tries to show the "fun and entertaining side" of libraries and I believe he succeeds quite well. There are nearly 250 photographs of libraries on boats, bikes, beaches and pubs to mention a few.
- On the Huffington Post website I found the article "Eight Most Stunning Bookstores In The World." My favorite was the Rio de Janeiro library that shows their books by color in a rainbow like pattern.
- In *Architectural Digest* there is an article called "Most Spectacular Libraries Around the World. These libraries show incredible architecture both inside and out.

Soon many summer books will be on display. Be sure to pick some up to take to the beach or wherever you may be this summer and remember to "have a good little fun" reading!

VSR Ladies Learn About Tea

By Gail Sergenian

A cup of tea is a cup of peace.

Soshitsu Sen XV

Eighteen VSR ladies participated in a delightful celebration of tea at the clubhouse on a fine April afternoon. We were privileged to have as our speaker Sally Collura, proprietor of The Tea Leaf in Waltham. She led us in a tea tasting and enlightened us with interesting facts about tea and its history. One of the teas many of us especially enjoyed was rooibos tea, which comes from a bush grown in South Africa, and is the bush tea mentioned in *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series. The presentation culminated in a tea party with sweets and sandwiches supplied by attendees.



*Above: Gail Sergenian and Sally Collura, proprietor of The Tea Leaf.
Below: Barbara Leary and Jean Willets enjoy the goodies at the Tea Party.*



Groovy Movies

By Gail Sergenian

Interstellar



I loved this film. The idea of space travel has always fascinated me, a Trekkie from way back. In addition I am a big Christopher Nolan fan. I find all of his works (e.g., *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*, *The Prestige*) beautiful to look at and full of intriguing twists and turns. I am biased, but I think others will find much to enjoy.

We begin on a future Earth with a ravaged environment replete with terrible dust storms and a barely surviving population. Matthew McConaghy is perfect as Cooper, a widowed father living with his two children and father-in-law (John Lithgow) in a rural area of the United States. Once a NASA pilot, he now grows corn, the only crop that can survive the Earth's harsh conditions.

NASA scientist Dr. Brand (Michael Caine) enlists Cooper to travel for years on the spaceship *Endurance* to areas beyond our galaxy to find a more habitable planet and save the human race. Accompanying Cooper are Dr. Brand's daughter Amelia (Ann Hathaway), two astronauts and two cool robots.

Cooper's daughter Murph is distraught over her father's departure and grows up (from Mackenzie Foy to Jessica Chastain, both excellent) to work with Dr. Brand on developing theories that support the expedition. Because of relativity, Amelia and Cooper age more slowly than people on earth. Message videos transmitted from earth can be viewed on the spaceship, but none can be sent back. Thus, the McConaghy and Hathaway characters observe the aging of those they left behind.

At the heart of the film are the longing of humans for love, connection and the continuation of our species. The emotions exhibited by Cooper and the young Brand when they view their family's video messages are powerful and moving. Cooper, for example, watches his son grow up, marry, have a child, and give up on his father's survival.

Much of the science underlying the film was beyond me, but Neil deGrasse Tyson, the American astrophysicist and cosmologist, has said that it generally follows present theory. I recommend *Interstellar*. I was unabashedly awestruck by its grandeur and frequently moved to tears. I'd love to hear what others who see it think.



Left: Doug Craib and Frank Bashore repair a sign



Right: Ed Kern clears brush and Dom DeFronzo repaints a sign.





2016 Budget Process Begins

By Tom Barry

I know it's only June of 2015 and the hot summer weather hasn't even gotten here yet. But the Committee that watches out for your money is already hard at work thinking about how much money the Village at Stone

Ridge will need next year to operate everything that requires funding. Working diligently now will insure that the Village has the funds to operate efficiently and effectively to maintain the grounds, the clubhouse, and the water & sewer plant, and all the administrative expenses that support those functions. In addition to expenses for Operations and Water & Sewer, planning ahead for future capital expenditures is just as important since the reserve accounts need to keep up with the age of the Village so that, someday when it's required, we'll have the funds to replace roofs, roads, decks, and equipment in the Water & Sewer Plant.

On June 1st, the 2016 Budget Sub-Committee of the Finance Committee (Tom Barry and Eli Demetri) submitted the 2016 Budget Process/Calendar to the Board of Trustees. As each VSR Committee works to put together their requested 2016 Budget over the next 2 ½ months, they will also be looking at the balance of 2015 to report how much will be required to finish out this year. Then on August 12th and 13th, Committee Chairs and some of their members, along with their Board of Trustees liaison will present their 2016 requested budget to the Finance Committee for review and analysis.

After trying to make all the numbers fit, the final recommended 2016 Budget will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees on October 1st for their review. The Trustees and the Finance Committee will meet on October 14th to talk out the rationale for each line item on each budget, making changes based on Trustee input. On October 19th, at the Board of Trustees monthly meeting, the Trustees will take a formal vote to approve the 2016 Budget.

During the November 5th Village meeting, Tom Barry and Eli Demetri will present the approved 2016 Budget to VSR unit owners along with the percent change in condo fees. As a follow-up, on December 1st, a copy of the 2016 Budget will be included with the annual letter sent to all unit owners from the VSR President, showing each unit owner's specific condo fee and water & sewer fee for 2016.

This is **your** 2016 Budget. The whole process involves some forty to fifty VSR residents. If you have comments or input that you would like to have considered for next year, please contact the appropriate Committee Chair or any member of the Board of Trustees.

Book Club News

By Dianne Marston

At our last meeting the VSR Book Club met to discuss *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams*. As always, we gathered for refreshments and socializing first, followed by a very interesting discussion of truly amazing characters in our country's history.

Our next meeting will be on July 9. The book chosen for that discussion is Geraldine Brooks' *Nine Parts of Desire: The Hidden World of Islamic Women*. We have read and enjoyed many of Brooks' novels, but this is a non-fiction book. "As a prizewinning foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, Geraldine Brooks spent six years covering the Middle East through wars, insurrections, and the volcanic upheaval of resurgent fundamentalism. This is the story of Brooks' intrepid journey toward an understanding of the women behind the veils, and of the often contradictory political, religious, and cultural forces that shape their lives". (from the book jacket)

Our August 20 meeting will feature *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. "Inspired by the true story of early-nineteenth-century abolitionist and suffragist Sarah Grimké, Kidd paints a moving portrait of two women inextricably linked by the horrors of slavery. Sarah, daughter of a wealthy South Carolina plantation owner, exhibits an independent spirit and strong belief in the equality of all. Thwarted from her dreams of becoming a lawyer, she struggles throughout life to find an outlet for her convictions. Handful, a slave in the Grimké household, displays a sharp intellect and brave, rebellious disposition. She maintains a compliant exterior, while planning for a brighter future. Told in first person, the chapters alternate between the two main characters' perspectives, as we follow their unlikely friendship (characterized by both respect and resentment) from childhood to middle age." (from Booklist) Many of us remember Kidd's earlier novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, and look forward to reading this book.




VSR residents celebrating 1965 and their 50th wedding anniversaries together at Gibbett Hill were (L-R) Tink Nussbum, Sharon Erickson, Linda Anzivino, Pauline Giles, Terry Bilodeau, Nancy McArdle, Buzz McArdle, Jack Bilodeau, Skip Giles, Larry Anzivino, Carl Erickson and Bill Nussbum (photographer).

SOCIAL COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Social Committee is looking for some folks to be the clubhouse checker after rental events for the next few months. This is a small task, but important for keeping our clubhouse in tiptop condition. If you rent the clubhouse or enjoy events there, consider volunteering for this job. There is a sign up sheet in the mailroom or contact Joan Roy for more information.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME ON THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE

They meet at the clubhouse at 7 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month.



We are happy to welcome our newest neighbors:

Diane Holmes at 13 Sandstone Road.

Robert (Bob) and Joan Murphy at 22 Stone Ridge Road.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Fourth of July Cookout

Joyce Minosh is in charge. Give her a call if you want to help.

Labor Day Cookout

Kathy Abate and Judi Gilmartin are in charge. Help always welcomed!

October 17 International Dinner

November 11 "Johnny Cash" comes to VSR

QUARRY BULLETIN STAFF

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This month's photographs are Carlene Craib, Jayne Currier, 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

Volume 12

Issue 3