



the Village at Stone Ridge

Quarry Bulletin

March - April 2017

Dianne Marston Honored for her Ten-Year Book Club Leadership

by Carlene Craib

Last month's VSR Book Club meeting wasn't just our usual stimulating and fun get together. Instead, the members gathered secretly a few minutes early and assembled eagerly at the door as their leader, Dianne Marston, entered casually, totally unaware of the surprise that greeted her: a lavish tea party in honor of her ten-year tenure as the leader of the VSR Book Club. Embroidered tablecloths and napkins, book-themed decorations, china cups and teapots, delicate sandwiches and decadent sweets turned the clubhouse into a festive tearoom where the twenty ladies enjoyed lunch before turning to the serious book talk. We presented Dianne with a token of our appreciation to "keep her reading and traveling," and sent her home with flowers and much love and appreciation.



Dianne reacts to the surprise tea party.



From left: Carlene Craib, Dianne Marston, Judy Premru, and Barbara Leary celebrate Dianne's ten-years as Book Club leader.

March Happy Hour Come Join the Fun Each Month!



Could Charlotte and Jack be talking politics?



Judy Gilmartin with Kathy Abate



Paul Currier entertaining Dom & Christine DeFronzo, above



Frank chatting with Stephanie & Paul, above



Ruth Ann Dillon welcoming Anna & Dick to the Village, above

The Way We Were

by Carlene Craib

Recently Doug was talking to a resident of an over-55 condo development in New Hampshire that is very similar to ours. They also use Evergreen Harvard Group (did you know that is EMI's new name?) and have Morin's as their landscape contractor. Doug was surprised to learn that they have only one Committee – the Board of Trustees. That got me to thinking about how our Committee organization began and evolved.

We moved here in 2002, into a Phase 2 house. At that time, the Association was Dave Guthrie and Howard Hall, the developers of the project. The Trust Documents specify that within 120 days after 75% of the units are sold, the residents must elect a Board of Trustees, who then would choose a management company, prepare a budget, and propose revisions and enforce the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations.

On April 15, 2004, there was a meeting to discuss the transition from builder management to homeowner management. The Transition Committee members were Gene Hudon, George Heiter, Paul Currier, Nick Johnson, and Lois Frampton. As George noted to me, "Gene Hudon and I spent a lot of time discussing how to structure the Board to achieve a good compromise between required individual involvements and cost savings. Gene had MA Condo Association background, while I came from home ownership only. That led to some fruitful discussions and eventually to the structure we established for the Transition and initial Board." The Transition Committee set up an election process, and the first Board of Trustees (BOT) was elected on October 14, 2004. The Trustees were Tom Barry, George Heiter, Bill Nussbum, Judy Culver, and Nick Johnson. You will note that all of these individuals are still residents and are still active in managing VSR. **Thank you to all for your exceptionally long service!**

The transition was set to take place on November 12, 2004. By that time many Committees had been put in place and the precedent was established that each Trustee would serve as liaison to one or more Committees, sitting in on meetings and bringing reports to the BOT meeting. I have read the minutes of the transition meeting held with Guthrie and Hall, our then property manager, and seven residents. The issues raised, questions asked, and depth and breadth of thinking about all the aspects of VSR is unbelievably impressive. Items dealing with finance, our capital reserves, the property, including trails and the quarry, as well as landscaping, the wastewater treatment plant, the roads, clubhouse, and legal matters were all part of the discussion. A Builder Committee was established to serve as a liaison with the builder and manage issues relating to all aspects of the builder's (continued...)



responsibilities going forward, and a Property Committee was formed to identify and deal with issues relating to vendor contracts, including a future management company contract, to work on enforcing and revising the Rules and Regulations and By-Laws, and to review and make decisions about insurance. After the transition in November, the original Committees began their work in earnest and the BOT became the governing body of VSR holding their first meeting on December 6, 2004.

By 2006 a roster of Standing Committees had been established as follows: Architectural Standards and Review, Finance, Legal, Property, Social, and Wastewater Treatment. A Landscaping Committee was added in May 2007 and Communications in 2008. Looking at our directory today, I count **thirty-two “subcommittees,”** some composed of the single person in charge of a Village initiative, others active subcommittees.

At our Annual Meetings, mention is always made of the large number of volunteers who make VSR what it is. Looking back, I see that the seeds of that characteristic was set from the very beginning. Our residents have always been generous with their time and expertise to establish policies and procedures and then to spend much more time and effort to shape our physical surroundings and to offer ways to bond us socially. Residents use their knowledge and skills to negotiate landscaping and wastewater treatment management contracts, plan and present social events, wrestle with thorny legal issues, research, evaluate, and approve proposals for unit modifications, build budgets and monitor expenditures, work closely with landscapers and snow removal professionals to maintain and improve our property, put out a Bulletin and Directory and maintain a website – and these are just those at the “top” of our organizational chart. Many others organize clubs and groups, keep our library in order, send cards to the sick and bereaved, grill burgers at cookouts, maintain our flag, replace our lost clubhouse keys, keep the fitness equipment going, replace bricks, clear trails, change light bulbs, decorate the clubhouse, put up holiday lighting, and on and on. This kind of involvement and volunteerism just doesn’t happen at other condos that I know of. The spirit of working together to make our neighborhood so comfortable, appealing, friendly, and welcoming was apparent in 2004 and set the tone for the future. Those early volunteers could have turned all the jobs listed above over to the management company as many condo associations do and spent their free time elsewhere, but instead most of them are still meeting, discussing, and then doing for the Village.

What will the next fifteen years be like? Those who have been here that long know that we probably won’t be “doing” as much fifteen years from now! We may have to make some changes to the way we have always done things here in at VSR, but I am confident that the spirit of volunteerism and the willingness to give of one’s time and expertise, our unique Village model, will continue and flourish.

Neighborhood friends...how many have you seen?

by David Auld



Sleepy Owl



Who said this bird feeder was squirrel-proof?

Are you looking at me?



Two red-heads...





GROOVY MOVIES

by Gail Sergenian

Every now and then I like to go back and watch films I enjoyed years ago. Sometimes they don't hold up, but if anything, I think CINEMA PARADISO moved me more this time around.

At the beginning of PARADISO, a prominent Italian film producer is told that the projectionist from his small home town has passed away. At first reluctant to go to the funeral, after spending the night reminiscing, he eagerly makes arrangements.

In his recollections, we discover that the projectionist was the most important person in the producer's early life. As a young boy Toto, the producer, was smitten with

the magic of film. He convinced the projectionist, Alfredo, to teach him how everything worked. Over the years, Alfredo taught Toto about much more than running a projector.

The boy playing Toto is adorable. It is hard not to care about him AND the projectionist. Some of the community characters are unforgettable.

The director Tornatore also wrote the film, which is based on his memories. He is expressing the sense of loss for the communal movie-going of his youth. The residents of Toto's village wooed, gave birth, married and even died in the theater. Technological advancements enable our viewing on other devices or in smaller theaters. He views these changes are a double-edged sword.

This is an exquisite movie with the best ending I can remember. It is well worth a second (and more) viewing.



BOOK CLUB NEWS

by Dianne Marston

Our VSR Book Club has met twice recently. Our discussion on February 16 was about the novel by Kent Haruf, *Our Souls at Night*. We met again on March 30 to discuss an historical novel about Ferdinand Magellan's terrifying trip around the world in the early 1500's while searching for the Spice Islands.

Our next scheduled meeting will be on **May 18** when we will discuss a very different book, Judy Blume's *In the Unlikely Event: A Novel*.

"In this brilliant new novel...Judy Blume takes us back to the 1950s and introduces us to the town of Elizabeth, New Jersey, where she herself grew up. Here she imagines and weaves together a vivid portrait of three generations of families, friends, and strangers, whose lives are profoundly changed during one winter...when a real-life tragedy struck the town. A series of airplanes fell from the sky, leaving the community reeling. Gripping, authentic, and unforgettable, *In the Unlikely Event* has all the hallmarks of this renowned author's deft narrative magic." [Amazon review]



Our **June 29** meeting will feature *The Residence: Inside the Private World of the White House* by Kate Andersen Brower. The following excerpt is taken from the back cover:

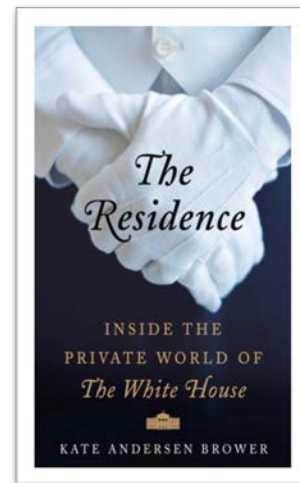
"From the mystique of the glamorous Kennedys to the tumult that surrounded Bill and Hillary Clinton during the president's impeachment to the historic tenure of Barack and Michelle Obama, each new administration

BOOK CLUB NEWS

(continued)

brings a unique set of personalities to the White House—and a new set of challenges to the fiercely loyal and hardworking people who serve them: the White House residence staff.

In her runaway bestseller *The Residence*, former White House correspondent Kate Andersen Brower pulls back the curtain on the world's most famous address. Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews with butlers, maids, chefs, florists, doormen, and other staffers—as well as conversations with three former first ladies and the children of four presidents—Brower offers a group portrait of the dedicated professionals who orchestrate lavish state dinners; stand ready during meetings with foreign dignitaries; care for the president and first lady's young children; and cater to every need the first couple may have, however sublime or, on occasion, ridiculous."



We encourage you to read either of these books and hope that you might consider joining us for our discussions. We meet in the Clubhouse at 1:00 p.m. for refreshments and socializing. Our discussion, held in the Library, begins about 1:30. All are welcome!

Update on Cornell Bird Cams

by David S. Auld

I know a number of you enjoyed seeing the Great Horned owl chicks progress from chick to fledging stages at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site in Savannah, GA last year. If you missed this you can still see many of the events by just “hitting” the Great Horned Owls Highlights on the menu at the Savannah site. You will find 71 videos of the last two year’s owl events as well as some interesting ones of other birds visiting the tree nest in the off season. Unfortunately, last year after the owls left a couple main limbs of the old tree came down when some vultures were sitting on them. This gives a better view of the area but the site is now better suited for Ospreys who seem to high perched open nests. A pair of Ospreys have taken over the nest in the past couple weeks.



Another favorite of Loretta’s and mine, is the Red Tailed hawks in a light tower at Cornell University. The two red tails named, Big Red (BR) and Ezra, have had three eggs each year for the past 7 years. The chicks were named the G troop, G1, G2 and G3 last year. This year, if all goes well, they will be the named H1 etc. In the previous years, all three chicks have survived to fly away eventually. BR and Ezra are already busy fixing up the nest. The young hawks develop rapidly and fledge within a couple months.

The lab is also following the growth of the Laysan Albatross chicks In Kauai, Hawaii and the chick of the Bermuda Petrel or “Cahow”, thought extinct for over 300 years until it was rediscovered in the 1950's. *(continued next page...)*

Update on Cornell Bird Cams (continued)

Both of these chicks are very slow growing since they live off their own fat, only feeding when the parents come home. In the case of the Albatross the parents may fly up to 3000 miles to gather food for them. The Albatross chicks may sit in or around their nest for weeks without eating. During this period, they can lose 50% of their body weight. The Cahow cam is placed in the side of a dome-shaped, manmade burrow constructed by the Bermuda Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Nonsuch Island, Bermuda. The three-day old Cahow chick had to fight for its life when an unknown adult made its way into the nesting burrow. I don't think our young would be able to do that.

Other nesting sites become active during the year. The Barred owls in Indiana was an interesting one last year. The site still has some nice film clips from last year. Hopefully the Hellgate Ospreys named Iris and Stanley will return to their nesting site in Missoula, MT in April. One thing that is apparent in watching Ospreys is that the female does a lot of "talking" ... asking the male to bring a fish or some new "stick furniture" to the nest. The female Osprey loves to rearrange the furniture. **The feeders at**



Sapsucker woods in Ithaca, NY and Ontario Canada have many colorful birds feeding and singing regularly most of the year.



Social Committee Chair to Step Down

by Carlene Craib

Clara Currier, our Social Committee Chair, has told the Committee that she will be stepping down at the end of her term. Although this won't happen for a while, it is a perfect time for someone to step up and take her place. The Committee has many events already planned and it would be a perfect time to work alongside Clara and be ready to take over in January. Give her a call or email her if you want to learn more about the job or to volunteer.



Here is Clara in her usual form, cheerfully setting up for a fun social event for all of us. We thank her for all her meticulous organization and gentle prodding as Chair as well as the many hours she put in cooking delicious food, making grocery runs for food for events, setting up, cleaning up, and bringing us to order with her bell as we all blithely enjoyed socializing. We look forward to seeing her relax at our gatherings, but we know that she will probably still have her apron on and be joining the kitchen crew even if she isn't in charge!



Social News

April 17	7:00pm	The Trustee Board Meeting
April 19	6:30-7:30	Access to your unit's insurance file at Clubhouse
May 3	7:00pm	Village Meeting
May 13	TBD	Work Play Saturday – sign-up in the Clubhouse
May 15	7:00pm	Trustee Meeting
May 18	1:00pm	Book Club reviews Judy Blume's <i>In the Unlikely Event</i>
May 29	TBD	Memorial Day Cookout
June 29	1:00pm	Book Club reviews Brower's <i>The Residence</i>



Thank you to Judy Gilmartin and Kathy Abate for continuing to organize our Village Happy Hours!!

Insurance Coverage Reminder

This is to notify all homeowners that the Master Insurance Policy deductible is \$5000. Therefore, your HO6 policy (condominium insurance policy) should carry dwelling insurance to cover at least the cost of this deductible. The Association's Policy coverage will cover improvements made by the owner to their unit to the same extent that they would be covered if they were an original part of the unit. This includes new kitchen cabinets, upgrades to kitchen counters, flooring, molding, etc. For proper coverage, it is most important that your Unit Owner's File is accurate and reflects all improvements to your unit. A copy of the invoice of the completed work is proof to the insurance company that the work has been done.

Unit Owner's Files are located in the office at the clubhouse and are strictly confidential. Carlene Craib will be at the clubhouse on **Wednesday, April 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** to allow unit owners access to their files. Residents can also contact Carlene to set up a separate time or they can also mail the information to her (28 Stone Ridge Road) and she will update the file for them. *–Carlene Craib*

Just Paddlin' Around Hawaii
Aloha from Paula & Bill Townsend



Styrofoam is NOT Recyclable - Don't toss it into your recycle bin! What should you do with it? A special, one day collection is planned for the Fall. So, save it. And as a reminder: Do not put plastic bags in your recycle bin because they gum up the rollers when they reach the Recycle Center.

Thanks, Dick Coleman

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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.

Please send your pictures and articles to your Quarry Bulletin editor
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Welcome Anna Erenmark and Dick Martel, who joined the Village!