



The CHATTER

A Publication for the Independent Living Residents of Homewood at Frederick

VOL. 24 NO. 4

APRIL 2023



Morning Fog at Willow Pond

Photo by **Irwin Gerduk**

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THE MAINSTREAM ...

Notes from Executive Director Karen Main

It is a warm and very wet day on campus with rain forecasted through the weekend. Spring is here! As we move into the spring season, there are projects in progress and others that will be started soon.

Renovations to The Lodge interior are well underway. We thank Wagman Construction for taking precautions to allow safe resident traffic throughout our Great Room areas during this time. I thank you for your patience and apologize for any inconvenience this has caused, but our goal is to have our Lodge returned to normal use as soon as possible.

Along with the interior renovations, Wagman continues with the building of our 31-apartment Lodge expansion. There are only five apartments left to offer. We can expect new neighbors to start moving on campus by the fall of 2023.

We are moving closer to a final design for our Slayman Chapel renovation that is scheduled to start this summer. Plans include a complete refresh of the fireplace gathering area, including our main entrance and reception desk. The project is expected to take six months to complete. During that time, worship services will be held in The Lodge Event Center and livestreamed for viewing, and also recorded to be viewed at your convenience on our APP. There is large version of the design on display in the chapel.

Our Woodlands Assisted Living suites/singles are having upgrades, including new granite countertops in the kitchens and bathrooms, along with new window blinds, flooring and beautifully painted cabinets. The upgrades began last year and will continue until all suites/singles are completed.

Due to resident concerns about the campus emergency call system (Lifeline), several vendors were contacted to evaluate features and pricing packages to replace the existing infrastructure. As part of the selection process, residents and staff then had the chance to meet with the preferred vendor (PalCare), watch a live demo and ask questions. Residents also conducted a reference check to ensure they were comfortable with the solution. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive; therefore, a contract was negotiated and signed in March with plans to install the system later this year.

The Morrison team has secured an executive chef, Chef “Z,” along with a bartender and a few cashiers. With this success in hiring team members, they are planning to open the Pub sometime in April. In the last few weeks, many residents have been sharing compliments and commenting on the progress being made with Ray Ballard and his team.

Resident satisfaction and communication are two very important areas of focus. Last year, I shared information from We Care Connect (WCC) in *The Chatter*. I have learned from residents that what was shared may not always be happening. In order to make this tool more effective, a virtual meeting is scheduled to be held at the end of March with the WCC customer service representative to discuss our concerns. We will follow up with the results.



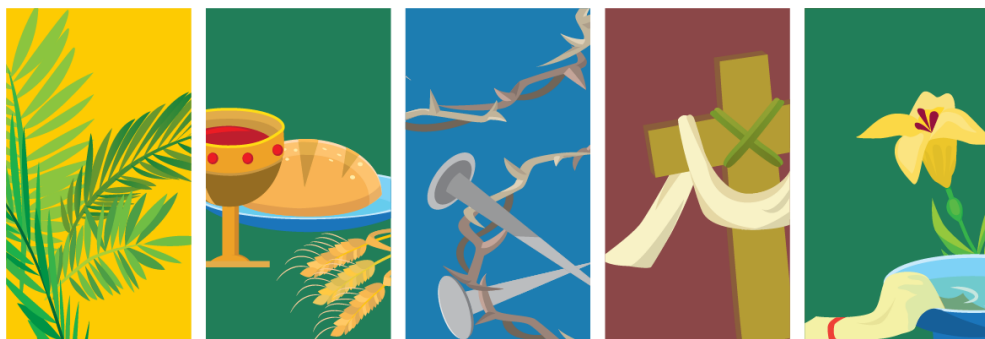
I know spring is just getting started, but warmer weather is right around the corner, and we want to be ready for summer travel. Bus 44 is currently in the shop finalizing repairs so that we can plan trips and stay cool!

*Happy Spring & Easter Blessings,
Karen*

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we turn the calendar to April, two major holidays, Easter and Passover, occur early in the month. Each of these holidays celebrates the gift of new life.

Christians rejoice at the gift of resurrection at Easter following the events of Holy Week. Holy Week marks Jesus' own celebration of Passover as a faithful Jew and his last days on earth. The Lenten season of preparation draws to a close.



Here at Homewood, Holy Week chapel services begin with a **Palm Sunday service**, including the distribution of palms and the celebration of Holy Communion, on Sunday, April 2 at

10:00 a.m. A **Good Friday service** will be held on Friday, April 7 at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel. This service of shadows, known as Tenebrae, will feature reflections on Jesus' passion and death, as candles are extinguished. The service will be televised on Channel 970 and rebroadcast Friday evening at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. An **Easter Sunday service** will be celebrated on Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m. The choir will share special music at this year's Easter service.

Jews commemorate the release of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt and the oppression of Pharaoh at Passover. They celebrate the gift of new life and freedom experienced by their ancestors as recorded in the Book of Exodus.

While we will not be gathering as a community for a Passover Seder this year, we extend best wishes to our residents and friends at the Passover holiday. May all of us, no matter our faith or affiliation, do our part to promote the dignity and freedom of all people.

In other Religious Life news:

The Religious Life Committee will meet Tuesday, April 4 at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. All Independent Living residents are welcome to attend.

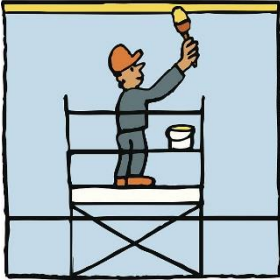
The Retired Clergy Group will be hosting a special program about Antisemitism on Monday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Holocaust Remembrance Day is Tuesday, April 18.

At the time of this writing, Homewood residents have contributed \$5,060 to the special offering for **Turkey/Syria Earthquake Relief**. This offering was being received until March 26. The official total will be reported in the May edition of *The Chatter*.

--Chaplain Suzanne Morris

A MESSAGE FROM THE WRRRA PRESIDENT

After a rather warm start to winter, March has reminded us that winter is not over. But flowers and buds are also telling us that spring will be here when you read this. Spring is a time of change for the Association as well, with elections in April and new officers taking their positions in early May.



We are so thankful for the efforts of the Homewood at Frederick staff during the Christmas holidays to address the water pipe problems at both The Lodge and Crumland Farms plus a cottage or two. We are seeing the work to fix The Lodge start as I write this article. Hopefully, we can get around the scaffolding that is needed for this work. Please be careful as you walk around the work areas.

I have been pleased to see the number of residents that are gathering in The View at dinner time to share that time with others. Dining together is an important part of our community that we have been missing while dining options have been limited. After a not-great start, the food at The Bistro has markedly improved. If you agree, please let Ray and his staff (Chef “Z,” Tom and Ivan, plus more coming) know that you appreciate their efforts.

Enjoy the cherry blossoms, if you get the chance to go to the Capital before Easter.

--Bill Weller, WRRRA President

A HIDDEN TREASURE: The Catoctin Country Store

There are all kinds of goodies, from snack food to household necessities, on the well-stocked shelves of the Catoctin Country Store, located on the second floor of the Crumland Farms community center across from the café. Country Store Committee Chair **Pat Culwell** and volunteers have learned over the years the things that our residents like to purchase from a convenience store on campus.

Yes, you’re sure to find ice cream and chocolate candy bars—two Homewood staples—but you’ll also find a nice selection of household products, sundries, greeting cards and small gift items, plus a variety of McCutcheon’s products.



Open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the store is staffed by volunteers. Why not stop by and browse? You never know what you might find there! Remember, all sales are CASH ONLY, and your meal allowance cannot be used for food purchased through the store.

Did you know that a percentage of all sales from the store goes right back to the Willow Road Residents Association ... so when you shop at the Country Store, it benefits all of us.

Join the WOODPECKERS for our sale!

TUESDAY APRIL 4, 2023, 10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms

Some of the NEW quality handcrafted items we will have available:

Simple Puzzles

"Piggy" banks

Easter-themed items

Stacking puzzles

Coasters

New scroll saw items

We continue to have favorites such as:

Lathe-turned pens and wine bottle stoppers

Cars and trucks

Candle holders, with battery-operated tea lights

Simple puzzles

Variety of covered boxes

Bookmarks



Cat and dog figures



Stacking squirrels



Card and candle holders

At this sale we will accept cash, local checks and credit cards



Front row: Crumland Farms Vice President **Shirley Erdmanis**.
Back row: Neighborhood Representatives **Libby Fuss**, **Maxine French**, **Coralinn Kuehl**, **Barbara Kirk**

The Willow Road Residents Association (WRRA) Neighborhood Vice President and Representatives from **Crumland Farms** encourage **residents who live in that neighborhood** to attend the Crumland Farms Neighborhood Bi-Annual Meeting **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 10 a.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms or watch on Channel 970.

NOTE: This meeting will only address specific items concerning residents of the Crumland Farms apartments and cottages.



WRRA ELECTION NEWS

Nominations have been received for open positions on the Willow Road Residents Association (WRRA) Board of Directors, and elections are now underway! Key dates are:

- **March 27** – Ballots were distributed to all Independent Living residents and are color-coded for specific neighborhoods. Each person received one ballot. Look for yours at your door or in your cubby or mailbox. Ballot boxes are in place at Crumland Farms and The Lodge.
- **April 9** – Election ends. Completed ballots must be placed in ballot boxes at the Crumland Farms or Lodge front desk.
- **April 20** – Election results are posted on bulletin boards at Crumland Farms and The Lodge's Do-Drop-In. Results will also be publicized in Announcements on The Resident APP, and in the May issue of *The Chatter*.
- **May 9** – New Board members take office during the WRRA Annual Meeting.

Please choose your candidates wisely and vote soon, placing ballots in the appropriate boxes. Thanks to all residents who vote, and especially to those willing to run for office. Questions may be addressed to any member of the Nominations Committee. They are President **Bruce Robertson**, and for The Lodge Neighborhood, **Pat Curchin** and **Jim Spiller**; for Crumland Farms Neighborhood, **Nancy Speck** and **Shirley Erdmanis**; for Patio Homes Neighborhood, **Pam Zusi** and **Don Fox**.

--Jim Spiller
for the Nominations Committee

WRRRA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO CO-WORKER



The Willow Road Residents Association (WRRRA) Appreciation Fund Committee is pleased to announce the first scholarship to be awarded from the Endowment Fund established by **Ray and Sandy Green**. The Endowment Fund was established for scholarships for co-workers to “recognize and support these dedicated men and women and want them to have scholarship support in

order to further their own education or that of their children.” The new program is managed by the Appreciation Fund Committee. This new endowment is part of and managed by the Homewood Foundation.

Like so many of Homewood at Frederick’s co-workers, Erin Boller (shown in picture above with WRRRA President Bill Weller) started working in 2008 in Dietary at the Willows unit, while in high school. Over the years, she also worked in the Independent Living dining room as a server. In 2018 she became a receptionist at Cruiland Farms for 1-1/2 years while she was completing her Master’s Degree in Social Work.

Homewood has always worked with Erin for a flexible schedule that was beneficial for them and for her school schedule. Timing was perfect as Erin received her Social Work license—Homewood was looking for a Social Worker for the newly expanded Key Court Rehab unit. Erin applied, was hired, and she started her new career adventure on Key Court. Erin is now the Social Worker in Healthcare, including the Willows Memory Care and the Meadows. Her scholarship monies will assist her in the preparation to sit and take the Clinical Social Work Examination.

Erin is a triplet, has been married for three years and lives with her husband in Middletown. She loves being an aunt to a niece and nephew. Her hobbies include reading, creating collages and photography. Erin is grateful for Homewood, as her 15 years of experience here have guided her down a career path that she loves.

Reminder: Anyone who would like to add to the WRRRA Scholarship Fund can make a donation to the Homewood Foundation and designate their gift to the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc. Scholarship Fund.

(Photo by *Shirley Erdmanis*)

--**Shirley Erdmanis**

ALOHA PRESENTS ...

The Ups and Downs of Life as an Airline Stewardess

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an airline stewardess back in the '60s, when everything was short skirts, perfect hair and figures, and to be the "ideal of every man's dreams"? While it was hard work, long hours, low pay and having to adapt to others' ideas on how we should look, speak, and conduct ourselves, it was also the opportunity to meet exciting people, see wonderful places, and have some unforgettable experiences.



Please join Active Ladies of Homewood Association (ALOHA) and **Sue Snay** on Friday, April 28 at 2 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms as Sue looks back on her two years working in what was once considered to be a glamorous job!

All residents are welcome to attend the program at 2 p.m.

Ladies of Homewood are invited to a social gathering beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the same location. Dessert and beverages will be provided. **Please sign up on the APP for the social gathering to ensure enough desserts for all attendees.**

Questions? Please contact **Jenny Shull**, shulljenny@gmail.com or 240-421-6087.



SPRING FLING FREE CARD GIVEAWAY

Wednesday, April 26
Crumland Farms Multi-Purpose Room
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come browse/choose/enjoy the sharing and repurposing of our community's resources. Birthday, notecards, condolence, love, just-because cards, etc., plus stationery and some surprise giveaways will be there for you to take home ... and it's all **FREE!**

Donations for this giveaway event can be dropped off by Thursday, April 20 at the main desk at Crumland Farms or Deb Ehart's Cottage 19 mailbox at Crumland Farms, or at the Do-Drop-In box in The Lodge. (Remember, we collect cards all year round!)

Questions? **Deb Ehart**, 301-835-7904 or **Karin Belsheim**, 240-409-5082.

FOCUS ON OUR FOUR-FOOTED FRIENDS



When **Deb Ehart** and her husband Hal lived in their country home in Rocky Ridge, Maryland, twice a year without fail, a feral mama cat would ensconce herself under their porch and give birth to a litter of kittens in a spot where she felt safe from predators. Over a several-year period, the Eharts observed that the mama cat was becoming more frail and less able to care for her offspring each time she gave birth.

The litter she had about nine years ago only produced three tiny kittens, and the mama cat disappeared before her young ones were fully raised. Two of the babies met an untimely death but one little grey one survived and the Eharts started feeding him. He got more and more comfortable

around humans ... then one day Deb got the surprise of her life when the kitten climbed into her lap, stood on his hind feet and patted her face with his front paw!

That did it. The Eharts had just been adopted by a cat! They vowed to keep him and give him the best life possible as an indoor-only cat, so shortly thereafter, the little guy went off to the vet for his requisite shots and neutering. And as they say, his life was forever changed. He adapted to indoor life easily, even using a litterbox right away.

Not knowing the sex of the kitten at first, the Eharts had started calling him Ash, because of his gray coat. If it turned out to be a male, that name would become Asher; if a female, Ashley. When the vet proclaimed that this was indeed a fine young tom cat, Asher it was.

Even though Deb was the cat lover in the family, Asher bonded with her husband and became more his cat. But after Hal passed away, Asher bonded with Deb and was definitely coming along when she moved to her East Cottage at Homewood.

Deb had Asher trained to walk with a leash and harness when they lived in the country, wanting to keep him from wandering away. However, since the move to Homewood, Asher has no desire to go outside for walks any more. He is content to stay indoors, basking in a patch of sunlight and watching birds and squirrels through the window.

As he's gotten a little older, Asher has lost interest in many of his toys, except he still occasionally chases a laser light. He is now quite the lap cat. At nine years of age, he is a robust 14-lb. grey and white domestic shorthair cat who loves chicken and liver cat food, with a little tuna and Greenies as treats. Almost like clockwork, he lets Deb know when it's time for her to get up, and when it's time for his meals! You can sure tell who rules the roost in that house.

(Photo by Barbara Kirk)

--Barbara Kirk

A History of Antisemitism and How to be an Ally

Monday, April 17 at 10 a.m.

Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms

Join Rabbi Jennifer Weiner of Congregation Kol Ami Frederick, Maryland, as we explore the root causes of Anti-Semitism in history. We will begin with a study on the word Anti-Semitism and how it incorporates more than just the Jewish community.

During this discussion, Rabbi Weiner will help us understand the idea of being forced into the role of “being other.” From blatant statements throughout history to misunderstood modern tropes, come learn how to evaluate everyday statements that you may not have realized were Anti-Semitic in origin. This learning opportunity will also provide tools for being an ally and advocate.

Rabbi Weiner will also speak about the importance of gathering to discuss this topic on April 17, 2023, which is Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) in the Jewish calendar. In preparation for this learning experience, you are encouraged to read [A Very Brief Guide to Antisemitism](#) by T’ruah, which is available online, or check for a limited number of copies under the Religious Life Board and/or the shelf in the Chapel.

RECYCLING MYSTERIES REVEALED

You care enough to voluntarily recycle. Now, come find out what happens next! Where does your stuff go? Does somebody really want to buy your trash?



You don’t have to be Sherlock Holmes to find out. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 10, 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose room at Crumland Farms, when Homewood’s Environment Awareness Committee (EAC) hosts reps from Frederick County’s Recycling office who’ll tell us about:

- ❖ ***How recycling works – the BIG picture, from your home to marketplace***
- ❖ ***Plastics 101 – a dive into the most confusing category of recyclables***

Plus, get your questions answered and enjoy some light refreshments. Plan to attend to learn more about how the little things you do really have a big environmental impact!

TIME TO HIT THE LINKS!

The Homewood Golf League has started chasing little white and yellow balls around Glade Valley Golf Course again. Special rates for Homewood residents are \$23 for nine holes and \$33 for 18 holes. Call **Bob Kinsey** 301-360-5531 for more information about upcoming outings.



TOO MUCH MONEY LEFT AT THE END OF THE MONTH???



Does this ever happen to you? **The end of the month is almost here and there's still a goodly sum unused in your meal account.** What to do? You don't want to waste the money. Then, the "panic buying" begins.

If you face this situation, please don't let your financial "problem" become a problem for the Dietary staff. After all, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to handle your money. A little planning ahead goes a long way toward showing those hardworking Dietary folks some consideration. A rush of unexpected extra orders on the last day of the month (such as they've been experiencing) wreaks havoc with their food inventory, the number of staff scheduled to work that day, the capacity of the kitchen and the staff's ability to give you the best overall service. It's like unexpectedly doubling the number of orders sent to the kitchen when they're already cooking for an at-capacity dining room ... and expecting everything to come out all right. Something's gotta give.

So how can we give our wonderful food prep and serving staff a break?

Here are some helpful hints on how to spend your money more consistently throughout the month. Easy rule of thumb...**by the 15th of the month you should have used up HALF of your food allowance.** If you haven't, **THAT** is the time to start planning how to spend it down faster. Here are some ideas to help make that happen.

- 1) When the kitchen prepares a soup you especially like, why not order an extra serving to go the day it's offered and freeze it for a quick meal later on? Most pies and cakes freeze well, so that's another option to have on hand in your home. Some entrees, like lasagna, also freeze exceptionally well and can be easily reheated in your microwave.
- 2) You can pre-order your meals for the upcoming week at either Crumland Farms or The Lodge. That way you won't have to be concerned about missing the call-in deadlines of 10 a.m. for lunch or 3 p.m. for dinner if you're involved with another activity that day.
- 3) Remember you can use your food allowance to order items off the menu as well as the daily specials. And, the food allowance can be used for either lunch or dinner, or both, at either the Tuscarora Dining Room or The Bistro.

Starting immediately, anyone ordering extra take-out food on the last day of the month will have to wait until all meals are served and pick-up orders prepared **BEFORE** their order can be filled. This will ensure that we have meals for regular dining patrons. Just another reason why it pays to plan ahead, because some items may not be available! Thanks for your cooperation.

--The Crumland Farms Food Committee

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS



SANDY NYLEN and her rescue dog AJA (pronounced Asia) have been residents of the apartments at Crumland Farms since December 2022. She was born in Washington, DC and moved to Homewood from Frederick. Sandy has two children and one grandchild who live close by. That is one reason she moved to Homewood.

Being a member of a military family growing up, Sandy is used to moving around and having to settle in quickly. After attending Immaculata Junior College, she held various jobs. She was an administrative secretary in Montgomery County Public Schools and retired after more than 35 years.

Sandy enjoys walking her dog and raising plants; she especially likes orchids. Give Sandy and AJA a big “Homewood Welcome” when you see them.

--Jacque Janss

MYSTERY TRIPS ARE BACK ... WITH A TWIST!

After being on hiatus because of weather concerns over the winter months, our driver Ronnie Lushbaugh is ready to GO again with our Mystery Trips on April 17 and 18!



Our first Mystery Trip of the year is a journey to ???????? **But wait ... it wouldn't be a “mystery” if we told you ahead of time, now would it!!!**

To add a little intrigue, we're changing things up a bit this year. You will have two clues ahead of time to give you hints of where we're going. The clues will be listed in *The Chatter* the month of the trip. If you guess correctly, you'll win a prize (there'll be up to two winners). If we have a tie, the bonus clue will be the tie breaker.

Here's how it will work. Before we leave, write down your guess and put it in the guess box when entering the bus. At our lunch break, Ronnie will open the box. Whoever has guessed our destination correctly will be the winner.

Here are the clues for April:

1. This trip has to do with something you grow in your garden – something that has eyes and what looks like a tail.
2. It has the nickname of a child and is always dirty.

Bonus clue: The place we are going was built in 1790 and sits on a corner. It's in a small town north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

EASTER EGGS AND PASSOVER MATZAH

In April of this year we celebrate two extremely important holidays ... Easter and Passover. Unlike Christmas, which is always December 25, both of these holidays are celebrated on different dates each year. Easter is typically the Sunday after the full moon and Passover is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Nissan. So, each year the dates of these festivals change.

Easter is the annual celebration of Christ's resurrection on the third day after His Crucifixion. It follows a period of fasting called Lent.

Passover (Pesach) for Jews is a festival of freedom meant to commemorate the Exodus of the Jews from Egypt. It is celebrated for seven or eight days depending on whether you are an Orthodox, Conservative or Reform Jew. Matzah is eaten instead of bread and is the symbol of affliction and poverty of the Jews who ate as slaves in the land of Egypt.

The Seder (the word for order) is celebrated the first two nights of Passover with a celebratory meal and readings from the Haggadah which tells the story of the Jews' exodus from Egypt. Today there are many versions of the Haggadah that Jews read during the Seder.



Easter and Passover both have symbols relating to these holidays. One of the symbols on the Seder plate is a hard-boiled egg, used as a reminder of the sadness caused by the destruction of the Holy Temple. Many years ago when my family held a Seder, my mother, meaning well, instructed my sons to dye eggs to be used for the Seder meal. Yes, they were colorful, but the symbolism ended when they learned more about Passover and the Seder. And what would Easter be without the colorful eggs that are hidden and then found?

Easter dinner and the Passover meal are the times when we reach out to our families and try to assemble as many relatives as we can to participate in rituals that are ancient but meaningful. There is always a leader to ensure that the symbols and recitation of each holiday are discussed. Years ago when I taught in a Jewish preschool, I dramatically told the story of the Exodus from Egypt and ended my recitation with “and the Jews were finally free, free, free.” One of the three-year-olds jumped up out of her seat and excitedly shouted, “And next week I will be four, four, four!” Telling that wonderful and touching story is always part of any Seder I attend.

Whatever religion you practice, it is incumbent that you keep these traditions alive. Bringing family members together is traditional and even if it takes many hours of shopping, cooking, and arranging, it is vitally important to undertake an Easter repast or a Passover Seder. How else will the next generation know about this part of their heritage?

(cont'd on p. 14)

EASTER EGGS, Cont'd

And you don't have to be religious to participate in the rituals of Easter or Passover. But you do have a responsibility to your children and their children and so on. Traditions keep families together.

I remember, with great love, the Seders that I made and the many guests I invited. My memory bank is full of stories about Passover gatherings. Once, at a family Seder, we waited, much too long, because most of the meal was being prepared by a relative who was extremely late arriving. But now, years later, the story is part of our family history. Easter dinners with family and friends are memorable because we are afforded a chance to bring our families together.

So, Easter eggs and matzah have a lot in common. They are truly the glue that keeps families together.

--Alice L. Haber

SUSTAINABILITY THE THEME OF HOMEWOOD TRIP

If you care about sustainability and our Good Earth, you will definitely enjoy this upcoming Homewood April trip!

“Waste Not, Want Not” is something Joe Richardson believes and lives every day. Joe is the owner of a 115-acre sustainable farm and summer camp near Urbana. On Monday, April 24 Homewood will travel to his Mountainside Farm.

Joe will discuss the “Lunch out of Landfills” program that he and his Rotary Club initiated in ten Frederick County Schools. The students enthusiastically participate in separating cafeteria waste, which is then composted. The **organic matter**, food scraps, is converted into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil. Over 90% of waste designated for the landfill is diverted.



Also discussed will be the opportunity for Homewood Residents to volunteer at local schools and consider introducing these waste-reducing measures at Homewood.

Joe has served on the Frederick County Sustainability Commission, the Rotary International Environmental and Sustainable Action Group and is currently a senior advisor on County Executive Jessica Fitzwater’s transition team.

Questions welcome. Minimal walking. Please sign up on the Homewood APP.

--Sue Chapin



Something special! Our chapel service on Sunday, April 30 will feature a hymn sing.

“HOW YA GONNA KEEP ‘EM DOWN ON THE FARM (AFTER THEY’VE SEEN PAREE?)”



Here's the Homewood gang that went to the first bingo at the Elks Lodge. Seated in front L-R are the winners: **Colleen Newlin, Anna Stroh, Joan Biser, Marcy Pekar, Sharron Smith.** First row standing L-R are: **Jacque Janss, Bev Shively, Bonnie Russell, Eve Whibley, Deb Ehart, Barbara Grigg, Shirley Erdmanis, Gloria Godbee, Barbara Taylor.** Back row standing L-R are: **Walter Binnix, Ann O'Brien, Shirley Wilkinson, Donna Jeo, Joan Wisner.**

We are all familiar with this song and now it can be changed to ***“How ya gonna keep ‘em down at Homewood after they’ve been to the Elks?”***

This could be a song for the 19 Homewood folks who went to the Elks Lodge recently to play bingo. Their bingo is a bit different from how we play it here at Homewood. After a bit of instruction from the very friendly Elks Lodge members and getting settled in with all the different colored sheets and types of games, everyone dived into the number-calling. It wasn't long before we heard “BINGO!” being called from all over the large hall; some of the calls came from our Homewood group. And the prizes? **MONEY!!** There was no cereal, dishwashing detergent or bananas.

Six of our group came home winners. One of them, **Joan Biser** from The Lodge (shown at right in this photo with Elks volunteer Zelma Nickens), was the **BIGGEST** winner of all! She won a game of regular bingo and had a special number included in that bingo worth extra money. Then she won the **BIG BINGO POT** at the end worth \$600.00! This added to her other winnings gave her a total of \$711. The Elks Lodge photographer even took pictures featuring Joan to include in their publication. **Joan wants to know when we are going again!**



(Sarah and Julie, we still love our Bingo here at Homewood and will see you soon for the next game. We also love winning cereal, dishwashing detergent and bananas!!!!)

(Photos courtesy of **Shirley Erdmanis** and **Jacque Janss**)

--Jacque Janss

CLEAN ENERGY OPTIONS EXPLAINED

The Environmental Awareness Committee invites your participation in a program of important information about helping our environment.



“Wired Up, Ready to Go” is a presentation by the Multifaith Alliance of Climate Stewards of Frederick County (MACS), which explains the “Why” and “How” of electrifying everything in our lives as rapidly as possible. We do it for our health, for our wallets, and for the future of our children and grandchildren as the climate crisis intensifies.

Barb Trader has been an environmental activist since 1972. She is a co-founder of MACS, a member of the Sierra Club, Envision Frederick and the Smarter Growth Alliance. She also founded Healthy Soils Frederick, worked with the Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership, SHIP, and was co-author of the Climate Emergency Resolution and co-chair of the Climate Emergency Mobilization Working Group. She continues to work with Mobilize Frederick and has made sustainability recommendations to the new County Executive.

Kathleen Rall is a member of the Sierra Club and of MACS, living in Frederick County since 2014. She has worked previously to ban fracking in Maryland, to protect and increase the forests of our County, to pass the Climate Emergency Resolution and in numerous political campaigns for climate-friendly candidates.

This program will include information about how residents can purchase clean energy via Potomac Edison, even as renters through community solar opportunities and other sources that are available to us.

Join us Wednesday, April 12 at 9:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms.

--Jerry Fuss, Chairperson
Environmental Awareness Committee

Why Are Orangutans Orange?? Stop by the Crumland Farms second floor Library and find the answer in a book of the same name! You might also want to read a book about our new governor, **The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates**. Both books can be found on the new book rack in the second floor Library/Cafe.

Mark Your Calendar ...

HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR AT THE LODGE

Friday, April 28

10 a.m. to Noon

A SPARK OF HOPE FOR MIA SERVICEMAN'S FAMILY



Back in 2012, **Brenda Kessler** saw an article in *The Washington Post* about a program the U.S. had undertaken to recover remains of service members who had perished in action. Intrigued because of a family situation, Brenda reached out to the State Department who put her in contact with a retired military man at Ft. Knox who was working on locating the remains of those missing in action from several wars, including World War II. This started a chain of events over the ensuing years that culminated in Brenda's attending the same Family Member Update sponsored by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency that **Marcy Pekar** had gone to in November 2022 (see article in the February 2023 *Chatter*).

Brenda's uncle, 1st Lieutenant Roy S. Warner, her father's younger brother, was an Army pilot who had been reported Missing in Action during World War II. He had been flying solo on a scheduled mission from Luichow to Kuming via Kweiyang in China. After his plane went down during the last leg of his flight in the China-Burma-India Theater, there was speculation that he might have been on a secret mission. He was declared Missing in Action on August 18, 1945, about two weeks before Japan surrendered. Married with no children, Lt. Warner was 28 years old when he perished.

Brenda says, "Growing up as a child, neither my parents nor my grandparents spoke much about the war. I did sense, however, that my grandmother went to her grave hoping her second son would come walking in the front door." Finding closure for the family is what has spurred Brenda on with her quest for information.

About a year ago the family was contacted for DNA samples. Interestingly, at that time the Government was looking for DNA from a direct line **female**, whereas in Marcy's case they had been looking for **male** descendants. Brenda heard no more until she received an invitation last fall for the session in Norfolk, Virginia.

Brenda, her husband **Ernie** and their daughter attended the Family Member Update where they learned more about the work of the Agency and progress on their specific case. During that time, Brenda was told that hikers had recently come across wreckage of a crashed World War II military plane in the Himalayas that might be her uncle's aircraft, based on the type of plane and location where it was found. The Government is investigating.

It is Brenda's hope that her uncle's remains will be found in her lifetime so that, as his closest surviving kin, she can be sure he is buried next to his parents and his brother and sister-in-law. His headstone is already in place there.

(Photo courtesy of **Marcy Pekar**)

--Barbara Kirk

FOREVER GRATEFUL

Blessed be the spirit
Of an old friend so kind
As to never leave my side
Nor the images in my mind.

A love affair that began
At the very first sight
This flame that never flickered
In the many days and nights.

My weekend companion
Even I never understood
This friend and confidant
In our special neighborhood.

It was never too hot or cold
Never too dry or damp,
She spent her time with me
When ever I came to camp.

She was a wonderful listener
But when coached to talk
Would howl in a language
With much meaning and thought.

She never complained
About the music I played
The food that we ate
Or how long I could stay.

And then I noticed something
Out of the corner of my eye,
Her quickness under foot
Had become a bit on the sly.

As her black coat turned silver
And her senses began to weaken
I could only fear the day when
She wouldn't wake from sleeping.

Many wonderful moments
We did spend together,
Walking towpath and mountain
In all kinds of weather.

That smile on her face,
The twinkle in her eye,
The nudge in my palm
Was all the reason why.

So, now what do I do
When she's not there to talk,
To sleep by my pillow
Or take one of our walks?

Memories are wonderful
And photographs are fine,
But they can't restore
This heartache of mine.

--Doug Manger



BRANDY (Photo courtesy of Doug Manger)

A special thank-you to Doug Manger for sharing this lovely tribute to a special canine friend who crossed the Rainbow Bridge. We are sure many of our readers can relate to the love and gratitude expressed in this poem about the years of companionship he enjoyed with Brandy.

OUR iFLY INDOOR SKYDIVING CAPTURED IN PICTURES

Clockwise from upper right: **Kim Sines** in the blue jumper, **Gail Slezak** in the dark gray jumper, **Joyce Howes** in the light gray jumper. We had so much fun we're going to schedule another trip soon. See Fitness Director Gretchen Smith for details.

(Courtesy photos)



THE FITNESS TEAM PRESENTS ...

BOLLING TRAIL SCAVENGER HUNT, APRIL 3-5

Are you ready for your next adventure? Starting at **12 noon on Monday, April 3**, there will be 32 colorful hole punches carefully hidden on the Bolling Nature Trail for you to find.

Pick up the scavenger hunt punch sheet by the Fitness Center at The Lodge and **drop off your completed sheet by Wednesday, April 5 no later than 2 p.m.** Be sure to turn in your sheet even if you don't find them all. Everyone is a winner!

Awards and prizes will be given on Thursday, April 6 at 11:30 a.m. on The Lodge patio. (If case of rain, we will move to The Lodge Fitness Classroom.) For more information, contact Fitness Director Gretchen Smith at 301-644-4256.



“WACKY FASHIONS” ENLIVEN MAY TEA EVENT

“Spring Styles and Smiles” Fashion Show takes over the Crumland Farms catwalk at May’s Afternoon Tea!

Get ready to laugh at Homewood’s “Spring Styles and Smiles,” where “designers” will showcase their crazy and fun fashion creations. The event is set for Tuesday, May 9 from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Crumland Farms Multi-Purpose Room. Homewood may never have seen anything like this before!!!

Homewood celebrities will compete, wearing their most creative (read, “wacky”) outfits. And audience members get to vote for their favorite! **Gail Slezak** will provide the piano soundtrack, and you provide the laughter, all while enjoying Homewood’s Afternoon Tea.

Be sure to sign up on the APP to attend on May 9. Questions? Contact **Suzanne Schmidt** at revsasphd@gmail.com or 301-802-2862.



TRIBUTE QUARTET IN CONCERT

Southern Gospel Music and Hymns

Friday, May 12

3 p.m. for Assisted Living and Health Care Residents

7 p.m. for Independent Living Residents

Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms

Homewood’s Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, April 19, 2023**. Invitations and details will be mailed out to volunteers who have submitted a timesheet for 2022.

THE CHATTER NEWSLETTER STAFF

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DEADLINE to submit copy: 15th of the month for the following month’s issue. Copy can be emailed to the Editor, given to the receptionists to be sent through in-house mail to CF #443 or placed in the box in the CF coatroom near the reception desk.

Newsletter Committee Meeting: the second Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.
in the 3rd floor library at Crumland Farms.