



# The CHATTER

A Publication for the Independent Living Residents of Homewood at Frederick

**VOL. 24 NO. 2**

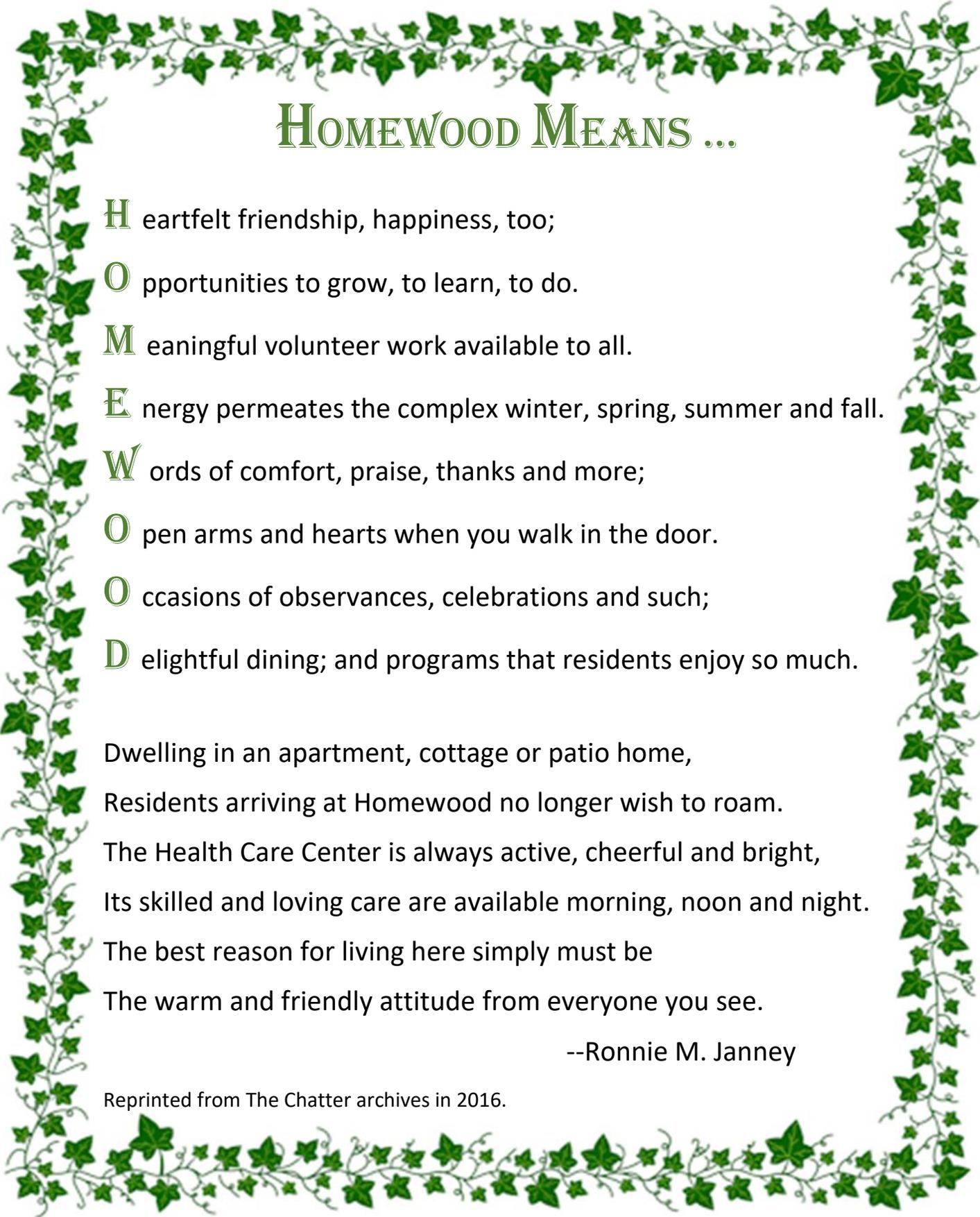
**FEBRUARY 2023**



A snowy scene in downtown Frederick

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...**

***Meet Your New Neighbors ... WRRRA Elections Coming Up ... New Art Exhibit in Assisted Living Gallery ... Co-worker Scholarship Awarded ... The Quest to Bring Her Father Home ... Free Tax Preparation Service Offered ... Chair Yoga ... And More***



## HOMewood MEANS ...

**H**eartfelt friendship, happiness, too;

**O**pportunities to grow, to learn, to do.

**M**eaningful volunteer work available to all.

**E**nergy permeates the complex winter, spring, summer and fall.

**W**ords of comfort, praise, thanks and more;

**O**pen arms and hearts when you walk in the door.

**O**ccasions of observances, celebrations and such;

**D**elightful dining; and programs that residents enjoy so much.

Dwelling in an apartment, cottage or patio home,

Residents arriving at Homewood no longer wish to roam.

The Health Care Center is always active, cheerful and bright,

Its skilled and loving care are available morning, noon and night.

The best reason for living here simply must be

The warm and friendly attitude from everyone you see.

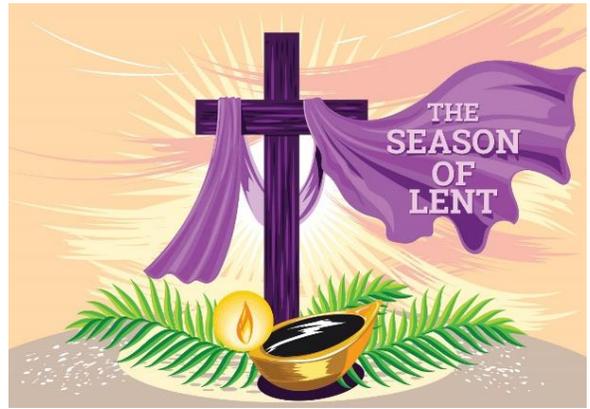
--Ronnie M. Janney

Reprinted from The Chatter archives in 2016.

*Executive Director Karen Main is away. Her column will return next month.*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For Christians, the season of Lent begins this month. Ash Wednesday falls on February 22. We will hold a service in the chapel featuring prayers, readings, and the imposition of ashes at 10:00 a.m. that day. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays, and is the season of the church year preceding the celebration of Easter. Traditionally, it is a period often marked by prayer and fasting and meditation on the suffering of Jesus. Some folks may give up a particular habit or indulgence, such as eating chocolate or complaining. Others vow to take up a discipline such as regular prayer or exercise or volunteering time on behalf of those in need.



Below are some suggestions for activities compiled from a variety of resources to make the most of each day of Lent. Sundays are free days, little Easters, if you will. Feel free to try some or all, in order or adapted to fit your schedule.

**Day 1:** Pray for your enemies. **Day 2:** Go for a walk; pray for people and wildlife you pass on the way. **Day 3:** Fast from one form of media—TV, newspaper, Internet. **Day 4:** Make a donation to a non-profit of your choice.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

**Day 5:** Observe five minutes of silence one time today. **Day 6:** Look outside and notice something of beauty you may have missed before. **Day 7:** Pay a compliment to someone. **Day 8:** Fast from complaining today. **Day 9:** Perform a random act of kindness. **Day 10:** Pray a breath prayer—breathing in and out deeply—inhaling God’s grace and exhaling your worries.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

**Day 11:** Observe five minutes of silence two times today. **Day 12:** Begin a gratitude journal or write an extra entry in your already-kept journal. **Day 13:** Read to a child or visually-impaired person—in person, on the phone or via Facetime. **Day 14:** Send a note of encouragement. **Day 15:** Invite someone you don’t know well to share a cup of coffee. **Day 16:** Read Psalm 139.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

**Day 17:** Forgive someone. **Day 18:** Ask forgiveness from someone. **Day 19:** Pray the Lord’s Prayer slowly and attentively; what stands out to you? **Day 20:** Ask for help. **Day 21:** Light a battery-operated candle in honor or memory of a saint in your life. **Day 22:** Tell someone what you are grateful for.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

(cont’d on p. 4)

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER, Cont'd

**Day 23:** Observe five minutes of silence three times today. **Day 24:** Introduce yourself to someone new. **Day 25:** Read Psalm 121. **Day 26:** Write a thank-you note. **Day 27:** Pray for peace. **Day 28:** Volunteer on campus or in the community.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

**Day 29:** Observe five minutes of silence four times today. **Day 30:** Learn more about a social justice issue of your choice—i.e. human trafficking, environmental justice, racial justice, etc. **Day 31:** Help a neighbor with a chore. **Day 32:** Travel a different hallway or route on campus and pray for those who live along the way. **Day 33:** Read John 8:1-11. **Day 34:** Spend time learning about a religion other than your own; if possible, make plans to worship with a friend of another faith tradition.

**Sunday: Worship; Relax; Rejoice.**

**Day 35:** Fast from complaining. **Day 36:** Listen to a favorite hymn or spiritual song. **Day 37:** Donate to a charity of your choice. **Day 38:** Read the story of the hymn “Amazing Grace” by John Newtoun; 2023 marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this well-known hymn. **Day 39:** Pray for peace. **Day 40:** Pray for your enemies.

May your Lenten journey be a blessed one!

--Chaplain Suzanne Morris

### RELIGIOUS LIFE COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Religious Life Committee will be held Tuesday, February 7 at 2 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. All Independent Living residents are welcome to attend.



On January 6 we had an extraordinary rainbow appear in the western sky as a cold front followed severe storms passing through the area. Several residents sent us photos of the rainbow. We especially liked this submission from **Jean McGraw** which shows The Lodge in an eerie light against the black sky.

It was actually a full double rainbow, but the upper rainbow was too faint to be captured by the cell phone cameras most of our residents grabbed to try and catch the phenomenon, which lasted only a couple of minutes.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE WRRRA PRESIDENT

## *WRRRA Nominations and Elections Approaching*

As most of you know, all Independent Living residents are members of the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc. or the WRRRA. With the annual election of residents to the WRRRA Board fast approaching, I thought it would be helpful to explain some things about the process and the need for nominations.

First, all WRRRA members have the opportunity to nominate any resident (including themselves) to serve on the WRRRA Board of Directors. A Nominations and Election Committee, chaired by **Bruce Robertson**, has been formed to prepare and distribute this year's nomination form for you to complete. To learn more about this process, you may contact Bruce. To learn more about a position up for election this year, the following may be of help to you.

The Board positions up for election in April are:

- **President Elect** – This person will serve in this position for one year, then will become President for one year, and then move to the Immediate Past President position for the third of the three years. Either Bruce or I can advise you about this position.
- **Secretary** – This person will serve for a two-year term and can then choose to run for re-election. To serve in this position, you should be able to take notes at meetings, complete the minutes in a Word document, keep records in accordance with written guidelines, and maintain and merge files. These duties are done in conjunction with the WRRRA Assistant Secretary. **Dale Hoscheit** or **David Carmack** can advise you about this position.
- **Treasurer** – This person will serve a two-year term and can then choose to run for re-election. To serve in this position, you should have some knowledge of QuickBooks and the ability to use spreadsheets to prepare WRRRA financial reports. These duties are done in conjunction with the WRRRA Assistant Treasurer. **Ray Green** or I can advise you about this position.
- **Vice-President, Lodge** – This person will serve for a two-year term and can then choose to run for re-election. Along with the four elected Lodge Representatives, this person will lead informational meetings of Lodge residents and assist with resident concerns. **Jim Spiller** or **Bob Ziegler** can advise you about this position.
- **Representatives** – There are two Representatives elected to two-year terms each year from each of our three neighborhoods. A Representative may be re-elected for a second two-year term. This person will assist the VP for their neighborhood in serving the residents of the neighborhood. The current twelve Representatives who can advise you about this position are:

(cont'd on p. 6)

## WRRRA PRESIDENT, Cont'd

- Lodge: **Beverly Kohlhepp, Margaret Perry, Beverly Shively and Judy Vandever.**
- Crumland Farms: **Maxine French, Libby Fuss, Barbara Kirk and Coralinn Kuehl.**
- Patio Homes: **Sue Chapin, Art Elgin, Richard Fulchiron and Anna Winegar.**

Please consider how you can assist your Association in getting the best-qualified residents to represent your interests. So put your thinking caps on, and when the nomination forms are distributed in March, be ready to nominate yourself or another resident. Don't assume that someone else will always be there to do the job!

--Bill Weller, WRRRA President

## TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE AGAIN OFFERED

The AARP Foundation, in conjunction with the IRS, is again offering free-of-charge assistance in federal and state income tax preparation for Homewood residents. Specially trained volunteer tax preparers will be on-site in the sunroom at Crumland Farms on Tuesdays from February 7 through April 11. You can sign up at the Crumland Farms front desk for a spot.



Although the tax preparers can handle most requests for assistance, the Volunteer Protection Act requires that the volunteers stay within the scope of tax laws and policies set by the IRS and AARP Foundation. Therefore, they **CANNOT** prepare returns with:

- Self-employment if there are employees, losses, expenses that exceed \$25,000, depreciation, business use of home, or other complicating factors.
- Complicated capital gains/losses, such as futures or options.
- Complicated Schedule K-1.
- Rental income, except land-only rentals or rentals of personal residence less than 15 days.
- Royalty income with expenses if not from self-employment.
- Farm income or expenses.
- Moving expenses.
- Some investment income or itemized deductions not in their training.
- Alternative Minimum Tax, Additional Medicare Tax, or Net Investment Income Tax.
- Foreign financial asset reporting requirements.

## MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS



**VIRGINIA JONES-NEWTON** moved to Homewood in October 2022 from New Hampshire. She is living in one of the Crumland Farms apartments with her cat, Halley.

Virginia, an ordained United Methodist minister since 1978, received her Bachelor's degree from Yankton College and both her Master's and Doctorate of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary. Virginia served United Methodist churches in Virginia, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In addition, she was Hospice Chaplain at Concord Hospital in New Hampshire.

Virginia enjoys travel, gardening, birdwatching and reading history books about the Civil War and World War II. She taught classes on the Holocaust after visiting Poland in 1998. She moved to Frederick to be closer to family. Her son Troy lives in Harpers Ferry, her grandson Kenny lives close by in Frederick, and her granddaughter Jenna is a nurse living in Morgantown, West Virginia.

--Barbara Kirk

## ALOHA PRESENTS ...

### *Andrew Och, The First Ladies Man*

Bringing education and entertainment together, Andrew Och is an author, historian, teacher, lecturer and producer. As a producer for the highly acclaimed C-Span series, "First Ladies: Influence and Image," he traveled across America documenting every First Lady from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama. Given access to treasured collections and historical landmarks, Andrew has pulled back the curtain on the public and private lives of America's First Ladies, giving them the recognition and appreciation they deserve.



Please join ALOHA (Active Ladies of Homewood Association) on **Friday, February 24**, at **2 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms for this enlightening and entertaining presentation by Andrew Och. His two books, "Unusual for Their Time: On the Road with America's First Ladies," Volumes 1 and 2, will be for sale. All residents are invited to the presentation. **No sign-up is needed to attend the program only.**

**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](mailto:shulljenny@gmail.com) or 240-421-6087.

## ***CHAIR YOGA: A Gentle Way to Promote Physical and Mental Wellness***

A small group of Homewoodians has discovered the benefits of combining mild stretching and flexibility exercises with meditation techniques as an enjoyable way to improve muscle tone, balance and range of motion, as well as reduce stress and promote relaxation. Led by Debra Tucci Twigg from Yogamour, Chair Yoga classes are held on campus twice weekly—9 to 9:45 a.m. Mondays at The Lodge Fitness Center and Tuesdays 2 to 3 p.m. at the Crumland Farms Wellness Center. Cost is \$10 per class, payable to the instructor.

Deb leads the group in mild warm-up and meditation exercises while participants are seated, then progresses to stretching and flexibility. She supports and assists participants throughout the session, helping them adapt exercises to their physical limitations. Some exercises can be done on mats on the floor, or those with mobility issues can remain seated in chairs. As the session progresses, Deb incorporates sound healing techniques using Himalayan Singing Bowls.

A good way to learn more about the class is to drop in and observe during a session. The photos below, taken during a recent class, will give you an idea of some of the techniques used. If you have any questions, contact Deb at 240-271-7347.

**--Barbara Kirk**



*(Photos by Barbara Kirk)*

## NEW DISPLAY FEATURED IN GALLERY HALL



Maida with one of her favorite paintings, “Scene Stealer.”  
(Photo by **Bruce Wilson**)

In mid-January, we bid farewell to the exhibition of **Barbara Kenny’s** acrylic and oil paintings; they had been on display since last July in the Crumland Farms Assisted Living Gallery Hall.

We have now welcomed a new exhibition of **Maida Wright’s** paintings, mostly in her favorite medium, watercolor. Maida’s work abounds in images from travel, landscapes, viewing sunrises and sunsets, to gardening and flower arranging, as well as family portraiture.

Maida grew up in a family that valued artistic expression. With that background, she started college as an art major. But “life—and love—intervened, and 25 years and five children later” she had earned two degrees in speech communication, a field in which she had a 27-year career.

With the approach of retirement, Maida began to return her focus to painting, and sought instruction in watercolor technique. She says, “Since that early introduction, I have enjoyed learning from quite a few Frederick artists who have collectively enabled me to appreciate broad differences in style and techniques—everything from gorgeous abstract splotches to near-photographic accuracy.”

When you come to the Assisted Living Gallery Hall in Crumland Farm to see Maida’s paintings, be sure to mask yourself for the protection of the residents. Her work will be on view through mid-June. After that will come the opening of The Homewood Collection, an exhibition of fine art photography selected from a juried competition among amateur and professional photographers. The exhibition will hang in the Gallery Hall for one year and will be refreshed through annual cycles of competition.

Maida grew up in a family that



Watch for further details on this competition that is open to residents of Homewood as well as photographers from around Maryland and beyond.

**--Bruce Wilson**

# THE QUEST TO BRING HER FATHER HOME



## *How the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is helping bring closure to families*

The first contact came in 2017, a phone call from someone saying they were from the Department of Defense seeking information. **Marcy Pekar** was out of town, but her daughter took the call, contacted her mother and told her that the government was trying to reach her to verify that she was indeed the daughter of the late Melvin Evans, a Captain assigned to the Army Corps of Engineers who was Missing in Action after World War II (shown at left).

Both Marcy and her son were immediately suspicious, but her daughter Margaret, who has work ties with the Pentagon, was able to verify that it was indeed a legitimate inquiry. However, at the time, the government was looking for a male relative to get a more accurate DNA sample, so Marcy thought that was the end of it.

**Fast forward five years.** Out of the blue, Marcy received a letter from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency one day last fall inviting her to a family update in Norfolk, Virginia about progress that had been made in identifying remains found in a mass grave on a beach in China. Based on what the Department of Defense knew about her father's ship going down near that location, they felt there was a strong possibility that his remains were among those in that grave. Recent advances in forensic science have shown promising results in identifying older fragmented remains previously unusable and the Agency now has an active program underway at several disinterment sites.



Thus began a very emotional journey for Marcy who last saw her father when she was 18 months old, about the age in photo at right.

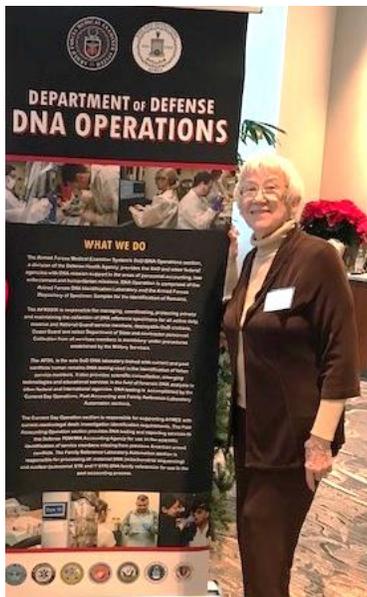
## *A little backstory ...*

Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, Captain Evans, his wife and baby daughter Marcy were stationed in the Philippines. Marcy says that when invasion by the Japanese appeared imminent, she and her mother were evacuated, coincidentally obtaining passage on the last ship to leave the area. The Japanese attacked. Captain Evans survived the Bataan Death March. He survived five years as a Prisoner of War, sending letters to his wife through the Red Cross. Then they lost contact.

Marcy further relates: "As MacArthur prepared to invade and take back the Philippines, the Japanese loaded officer prisoners on ships to take them to Japan. The ships did not fly Red Cross flags so American pilots did not know that the ships held American prisoners, not Japanese soldiers, so our pilots bombed the ships. As the ships sank, the prisoners swam to shore. Chinese peasants buried those who died in a mass grave and marked it with a sign, 'Brave United Nations Army Soldiers.'"

## The meeting revealed new details ...

An in-depth written report on what is known about the circumstances surrounding her father's death was given to Marcy when she, her daughter and grandson met with case managers. The report included aerial photographs of the ship on which her father was being transported, the *Oryoku Maru*, after it was attacked by U.S. aircraft as well as photographs of efforts to recover remains from the mass graves.



In an hour-long private session, the case managers told Marcy and her family that, at some point, the contents of the mass grave had been moved to a cemetery in Hawaii. Congress has now appropriated money to do DNA research to identify those buried there. Because the Department of Defense feels there is strong evidence that Marcy's father is one of those individuals, they wanted a meeting with the family to update them on the findings and obtain DNA.

That day, DNA was taken from five family members. The Agency is particularly hopeful in getting a match in Captain Evans's case because it is unusual that a child of a deceased service member from World War II is available to provide DNA; many of the service personnel who perished were young,

single men in their late teens and early 20s who had not yet started a family and they have no relatives remaining with close blood ties.

At the group session, Marcy and her family learned more about the DNA search, the process of identifying individuals in mass graves, and the process of determining areas where remains may be found.

## Now it's a waiting game ...

In each case, as remains are identified, a member of the decedent's family is notified within 48 hours. The oldest of the line would designate the burial place, and the missing would be brought home. The military pays for funeral expenses, including casket and travel expenses for some members of the family. Marcy has already notified them that, should her father's remains be identified, she wants him interred in the grave with her mother in Richland, Missouri. His name already appears on the back of her mother's headstone.

(Photos courtesy of **Marcy Pekar**)

--**Barbara Kirk**, with **Marcy Pekar**

**Ed. Note:** What are the chances that another resident of Homewood at Frederick would have also been invited to attend the same session because of their connection to a missing service member? Slim to none, right? Wrong! **Brenda Kessler** had also been contacted by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency regarding her uncle. Imagine the women's surprise when they ran into each other a couple of hundred miles from home at this event! We'll have Brenda's story in an upcoming issue of *The Chatter*.

## FESTIVE FUN AT THE CHRISTMAS DAY POTLUCK

Back in 2002 Bob and Marlee Richardson, two of the original 50 to move into Homewood



at Crumland Farms began a Potluck Lunch on Christmas Day. It was for all residents who for various reasons stayed at Homewood for Christmas—and in Christmas 2022, the tradition continued. The event was hosted by **Shirley Erdmanis**, who started helping Marlee in 2008 and continued the tradition

after Marlee's passing. Residents who helped with the event were **Coralinn Kuehl, Pat Culwell, Bonnie Russell, and Bob and Esther Ziegler**, shown (L-R) with me in photo.

Invocation was offered by Esther, followed by a delicious potluck lunch made by some very good cooks living here at Homewood. There was such a variety of foods. After lunch we sang a few carols and played one game. **Andi Packard** and **Shirley Silbernagel** were the game winners.

There is no better way to spend Christmas when family is too far for you to travel to be with than with food, fun and fellowship with our extended family here at Homewood! Thanks to Julie Norris, our Activities Director for helping organize the event and providing napkins and table coverings. Thanks to Tammy Click for providing paper supplies, water, tea, coffee and lemonade. Special thanks to Jacque White from Dietary who kept a close eye on us to see that our needs were met.

Of course, the water damage to the Tuscarora Dining Room from “frozen pipes” and “broken sprinkler heads” caused us to move the event to the Multi-Purpose Room. But it didn't change the spirit of things! My special thanks to my committee and all the residents who participated in our wonderful gathering.

--**Shirley Erdmanis**



Photo at left: Clockwise from left: **Nancy Ahr, Nancy and Claude Revis, Jerry Haley, Kim and Steve Sines**. Photo at right: **Joe and Carol Koman**.



*(Photos courtesy of Shirley Erdmanis)*

# MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS

## **BERNARD “BUCKY” and BIDDIE BEAVER**

are lifetime residents of Frederick County and recently chose Willow Pond as their new residence. After surveying other local venues, they felt Homewood, and especially Willow Pond, offered all the amenities on their check list. The spacious natural environment and wooded surroundings just seemed the perfect fit. Shy by nature, Bucky admits it will take a little adjusting to the frequent passersby along the George Bolling Nature Trail.



Bernard “Bucky” Beaver

Bucky has a lifelong background in eco-engineering while Biddie’s work before they partnered was in water management. Their time around water is what brought them together. As lifetime partners, they are avid outdoors lovers and continue to be dedicated aquatic enthusiasts. “Water is in our DNA” according to Biddie. Both share a love of woodworking and have a daily gnawing for their constant woodcraft projects. “Nothing like getting my teeth around a healthy birch tree,” shared Bucky with a toothy grin.

Younger than other Homewood residents, Biddie shyly shared that they are expecting in late May or June. It could be twins, triplets or even quadruplets, according to her family history. Knowing that the special event is quickly approaching, Biddie is eager to be at home in her new surroundings. Both have been busy as ... let us just say constantly at work creating a cozy new custom lodge on the eastern edge of the Willow Pond Island. Their lodge construction incorporates all natural materials to blend seamlessly with their rustic surroundings. Look very closely to catch a glimpse from the first picnic table site along the trail.



Biddie Beaver

Although frequently nocturnal, you can catch sight of the Beavers almost any time of day as you stroll around Willow Pond or rest on a bench by The Lodge. When you see them swimming or chomping among the trees, give them a wave and marvel at their industrious nature.

**--Skip Stewart**

*Ed. Note: A special thanks to Skip Stewart for this delightful parody of our column introducing new residents. He also took the accompanying photos, as well as some other interesting ones showing the construction work these new residents have underway.*

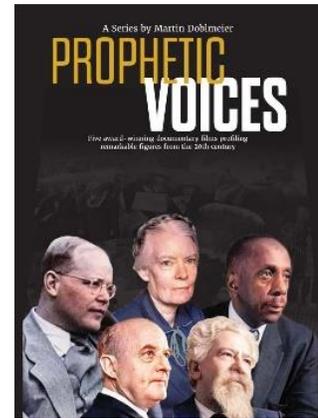


### **FOR YOUR SAFETY ...**

Please observe campus traffic signs. The speed limit on campus is 15 mph, and a true stop at a stop sign means your wheels have stopped turning.

## “PROPHETIC VOICES” SERIES CONTINUES ON FEBRUARY 20

**Prophetic Voices** is a video and discussion series about five modern day prophets—religious and spiritual leaders who spoke to many issues of their time and ours. All Homewood residents are invited to these sessions sponsored the Retired Clergy of Homewood.



Viewing an award-winning Martin Doblmeier film will be followed by a time of reflection with **Suzanne Adele Schmidt** as our discussion guide. Each session is planned for a total of 90 minutes in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms at 10 a.m. on the respective dates. In previous sessions we learned about *Spiritual Audacity: The Abraham Joshua Heschel Story*, *An American Conscience: The Reinhold Niebuhr Story*, and *Dietrich Bonhoeffer (part one)*.

On February 20 the topic is Part Two on *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*—profiling Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young German theologian who joined the plots to kill Adolf Hitler. **Jerry Fuss** will serve as convener and **Bill Holmes**, will be helping with the discussion time. Bill has written a number of books including one called Mature Christianity (William A. Holmes, c. 2010, Resurgence Publishing Co.) in which he has written about “Bonhoeffer’s Ethics.” Join us for this video and discussion. Bill has offered to have a follow-up conversation (or more than one if desired) with all who would like to discuss the subject of “Bonhoeffer’s Ethics” more fully.

The final event in the series will be March 20 on *Backs Against the Wall: The Howard Thurman Story*. Thurman was a writer, preacher, and spiritual advisor to Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement. **Rob Peters** will be the convener.

All are welcome; there is no need to register. Come to one or all of the sessions. Contact **Jerry Fuss** at [gfuss827@comcast.net](mailto:gfuss827@comcast.net) or call 301-378-2134 if you have questions.



These were turned in to the Lost and Found at Do Drop In some time ago. If you know the owner, please have them contact **Diane Holter** at 301-471-2771. There is a date engraved on the larger tag, but it is too worn to decipher. We’d like to get them back to their rightful owner.

## WRRRA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP TO CO-WORKER



WRRRA President **Bill Weller** presents a check for the scholarship to Patricia Halvorson. (Photo by *Shirley Erdmanis*)

The Willow Road Residents Association Appreciation Fund Committee is pleased to announce that a scholarship has been awarded to co-worker Patricia Halvorson.

Within a month of moving from North Carolina to Frederick last year, Patricia was hired as a receptionist at Homewood. When a position opened in the Healthcare activities department, she quickly applied and happily moved into her current position in the Meadows.

Patricia likes the fast pace and especially enjoys developing relationships with the residents. With a bright smile she says, “This doesn’t feel like work!”

Since her goal is to earn a national certification as an Activities Professional, Patricia was delighted to receive the scholarship from the WRRRA. She appreciates the vote of confidence and is eager to start her course work and become qualified as an Activities Director.

This will be the last scholarship funded by operating funds of the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc. We will transition this year into the Endowment Fund established by **Ray and Sandy Green** that you read about in a previous issue of *The Chatter*. The initial gift to endow the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc. was given by Ray and Sandy. 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 coordinated by the Appreciation Fund Committee and anticipates awarding one or two scholarships each year. This new endowment is part of and managed by the Homewood Foundation.

A 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.

--**Leslie Hobbs and Shirley Erdmanis**



**Don’t just recycle ... recycle correctly! That means NO plastic bags, including grocery bags, in the recycle bins!**



## **MANSION HOLIDAY DECOR DID NOT DISAPPOINT**

Among the festive tours Homewoodians enjoyed around the holiday season was an excursion over to Leesburg, Virginia to see the Davis Mansion in Morven Park. Our energetic tour guide enjoyed revealing the history of the modest fieldstone house, resplendent with Christmas decorations during our visit, which through the years has been transformed into the impressive Greek revival building standing today.

The estate has ties to governors from two states. Thomas Swann, who became governor of Maryland in 1866, used it as his summer home. Then a Virginia governor, Westmoreland Davis and his wife Marguerite, purchased the property in 1903.

The interior of the home and its furnishings, including four magnificent tapestries, artwork and artifacts, reflect the period that the Davises lived there, hence the reason it is known as the Davis Mansion. The 1,000-acre property with its stunning scenery is home to walking trails, a park and boxwood gardens, and a museum showcasing horse-drawn vehicles. Morven Park is also home to world-renowned equestrian facilities.



**--Nancy Hamstead**

*(Photos by Nancy Hamstead)*

### **FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS – Some Serious, Some for Fun!**

**Thursday, February 2** – **Candlemas Day**, a Christian holiday commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, which is celebrated by the blessing of candles representing Christ, the Light of the World.

**Thursday, February 2** – **Groundhog Day**. Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow this year?

**Sunday, February 12** – **Super Bowl LVII**. Kickoff is 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Tuesday, February 14** – **Valentine’s Day**. Spread a little love to your family, friends and neighbors.

**Friday, February 17** – **National Acts of Kindness Day**. Couldn’t we all use a little more of this?

**Monday, February 20** – **Presidents Day**. Remember, the banks are closed and there’s no mail service.

**Monday, February 20** – **National Love Your Pet Day**. Give your furry friends extra treats to celebrate!

**Tuesday, February 21** – **Mardi Gras**. There’ll be a party for sure somewhere on campus!

## DARYL DAVIS PRESENTS THOUGHT-PROVOKING PROGRAM ON RACE RELATIONS

In the past, Daryl Davis has captivated Homewood residents with his entertaining piano concerts interlaced with commentary on time spent as an accompanist to such musical talents as Chuck Berry and Little Richard. But on this day, Daryl Davis mesmerized the audience with his thoughts, and according to him, his 41-year obsession with race relations.

A lifetime of living in and visiting 62 countries on six continents gave Daryl a unique perspective on interacting with people of differing nationalities and cultures. He enumerated the five core values important to every human being as the foundation for his approach to establishing meaningful conversations, not confrontations, with people who may not share common viewpoints. Raising each finger and thumb on his right hand to emphasize the importance of each core value as he articulated them, he stated every human being wants these five things:

- Respect,
- Love,
- To be heard, which involves listening,
- Fair treatment, and
- The same things for their families, such as housing and good schools.

Daryl recalled as a youth, marching in a parade with his fellow boy scouts in Massachusetts, being hit in the head with cans of soda pop and other items being tossed at him as the only black participant in the parade that day. This event became the impetus for his obsession to find the answer to the question: *Why would someone hate another person they do not know based ONLY on the color of their skin?*

As the first black author to write a book on the Ku Klux Klan, Daryl demonstrates that the embodiment of these five core values that he holds true can help to bridge the racial divide in our country.

Daryl spoke of the fact that some members of the Ku Klux Klan, with whom he had established relationships through his interviews and conversations, gave him their Ku Klux Klan attire upon renouncement of their membership from the group (see photo at top right). A poignant moment resonating with all of us that encapsulated the work to which Daryl has dedicated his life, was seeing on-screen a wedding photograph ... of the former Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, his bride and Daryl. Because the bride's father was unable to attend the wedding at the last minute, Daryl was asked to walk the bride to the groom at the outdoor wedding.



(cont'd on p. 18)



## **DARYL DAVIS, Cont'd**

Daryl left us with his parting thought that the United States of America is the greatest country in the world with technology and will be even greater when our ideology reaches the same level as our technology.

To send us on our way, we were treated to a rocking piano performance by Daryl himself!

**--Nancy Hamstead**

*(Photos by Nancy Hamstead)*

**Black History Month** is an annual observance each February. It originated in the United States, where it is also known as **African American History Month**. It has received official recognition from governments in the United States and Canada, and more recently has been observed in Ireland and the United Kingdom. It began as a way of remembering important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated in February in the United States and Canada, while in Ireland, and the United Kingdom it is observed in October.

*Source: Wikipedia*

## **DID YOU KNOW ...**

### **You Can Experience "Skydiving" Without Jumping from a Plane?**

In March, the Fitness Committee plans to offer an opportunity to go skydiving indoors at the iFly facility in Ashburn, Virginia. You can do so safely in a vertical wind tunnel that keeps a person safely floating in air. Please check out the Web site, [iFLYworld.com](http://iFLYworld.com), for more information.

If you would like to participate in this unique bucket list activity, please contact **Fred Broadrup**, Fitness Committee Chairman, 301-606-1878. If there is a sufficient level of interest, the Fitness Committee will then distribute additional information about possible dates, times, transportation and costs. Again, check the iFly website for more detail and photos.



## **CAN'T FIND ANYTHING TO WATCH ON TV?**

Check out the DVD collection in the Crumland Farms Café! There are hundreds of titles to choose from, in every genre, from comedy to adventure, to romance enlightenment and light-hearted enjoyment. We even have cartoons, as well as Emmy and Golden Globe Award winners. New titles added in January: *A Woman Called Golda*, *Harvey*, *Young at Heart*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *One Night with the King*.

## THE DOGS TAKE OVER THE POOL!



*(Photos courtesy of the Fitness staff)*

Our Annual Doggy Swim found five dog owners and their pups enjoying a dip in The Lodge pool before it was shut down for the annual cleaning. Shown left to right are **Bob Kinsey** with Sky, **Pat Michener** with Tessa, **Kim Sines** with Peaches and **Sue and Dave Chapin** with Jake. Also participating were **Dennis Brekhus** and Briar, who's shown below with a bumper toy.



## ESCAPE ROOM ADVENTURE DELIGHTS RESIDENTS



Here's proof that our residents REALLY know how to let their hair down and have a good time!

**Jacque Janss** (center) and **Kim and Steve Sines** were in the latest group of residents who journeyed to a local Escape Room to try out their ability to find the clues, solve the puzzles and "break out" of the Old West Saloon.

*(Courtesy photo)*



## **WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?**

As we approach February 14, let's all go back in time to when we were youngsters in elementary school. Our teachers made a big, decorated box covered with red hearts that was the focus of celebrating Valentine's Day.

All week we pondered how many valentines we would receive and if our favorite friends would remember us. The day arrived, and of course there were cupcakes and a drink, and the designated mail persons who delivered the envelopes to our desks.

As we became teenagers in junior and senior high school, the day took on a new meaning. We now had “crushes” and we eagerly anticipated what kind of card he or she would send. Then, as serious college students or out in the work world, the DAY became entirely different because we were now adults and receiving a valentine from a potential suitor was a meaningful event. Valentines now conveyed real romance and were serious about love and commitment. Many have been preserved and have become mementos we still possess.

I always thought that valentines were meant to express love or affection until I received one from a disillusioned beau who found an insulting valentine (highly unusual back then and a “first” for me!). To this day (and believe it or not, we are still in touch), I remember how distraught I became. But as they say, love conquers all, and when I found my significant other, the valentines we exchanged each year for 45 years expressed the love and respect we had for each other.

This Valentine's Day, you might want to hunt for some old cards which you have saved and relive a time when expressing our love for one another was serious and meant to last. As a romantic, I still remember that in the second grade my first boyfriend, Billy Hoffman, knocked on my door and presented me with a small ivy plant that had a stick in it with a heart at the top. I wonder if Billy remembers what an impression it made on me!

On February 14, tell someone ... anyone, “I love you.” You’ll both get those “warm fuzzy” feelings.

**--Alice Haber**

### **THE CHATTER NEWSLETTER STAFF**

**Editor:** Barbara Kirk (Phone: 301-682-2204, Email: [bjkirk107@aol.com](mailto:bjkirk107@aol.com), Mail: CF Apt. 443)

**Staff Writers:** Leslie Hobbs, Nancy Hamstead, Shirley Erdmanis, Jacque Janss

**Proofreader:** Fanny Johnsson

**WRRRA Representative:** Barbara Kirk

**Photographers on Call:** Shirley Erdmanis, Nancy Hamstead, Barbara Kirk

**Advisor/Production Manager:** Julie Norris

**DEADLINE to submit copy: 15<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor library at Crumland Farms.