



# *The CHATTER*

A Publication for the Independent Living Residents of Homewood at Frederick

**VOL. 24 NO. 1**

**JANUARY 2023**



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

***Great Decisions 2023 Programs ... Aviators Take to the Skies ... Driving Safety Improvements Now Underway ... Introducing Homewood's Drivers ... 2022 Wreaths Across America Exceeds Goal ... Meet Your Neighbors ... Holiday Decorating Contest Winners ... And More***

## THE MAINSTREAM ...

### Notes from Executive Director Karen Main

The accomplishments of this past year have been amazing, and we are encouraged to welcome in the New Year! May we reflect on 2022 and give thanks as we acknowledge our progress and move into 2023! Thanks to co-workers and residents for doing their part to keep us Homewood Strong!

We made an exciting announcement in December that we are beginning a partnership with Morrison Living to provide dining services to our Lodge. Below is a message from the Morrison team:

*The Morrison Living team is so excited to partner with Homewood and serve the Independent Living residents at The Lodge. We have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the Homewood team and look forward to meeting all the residents that we have heard so many wonderful things about and show them our goal really is to Be the Best Part of Someone's Day.*

*Morrison Living is a trend-setting culinary and hospitality services leader exclusively dedicated to senior living communities. As a member of Compass Group, the world's largest food and support services company, Morrison enjoys the benefits of a tradition of quality developed over 50 years ago. Morrison's goal—along with ours—is to transform the dining experience at The Lodge into something truly exceptional for every resident.*

After numerous meetings and conversations with local leadership, Morrison Living has demonstrated a sincere understanding of Homewood's mission, vision, and values, and are best positioned to enhance the resident dining experience at The Lodge.

- Brian Wissman will continue to provide leadership over both Crumland Farms and The Lodge dining programs.
- This will not affect the current Meal Allowance.
- Homewood and Morrison have agreed NOT to compete with soliciting one another's co-workers; therefore, Crumland Farms co-workers will not be impacted.
- Morrison has had experience with our new Volante point-of-sale system

Members of the Morrison team will be on campus **Wednesday, January 4** to meet residents and provide you with their vision and plans to create new dining experiences at The Lodge. Please watch for more details soon!

Join me for the next campus connection on **Thursday, January 5** at 9:30 a.m.



Happy New Year!

*Happy New Year to All!*  
*Karen*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Just like a choir, a worship service has many parts, and all of them must “harmonize” for the service to come together. Our featured chapel musician this month, **Gail Slezak**, knows all about this, as she has an extensive background in choral and vocal music as well as piano. Gail plays on alternate fourth Sundays and, like our other musicians, helps pull the services together by providing “gathering music,” accompaniment for singing the doxology and hymns, and postludes.



*(Photo by Shirley Erdmanis)*

Gail began her musical career at age 3 as she danced and sang to her older sister’s piano accompaniment. So that the audience could see her, she would often perform on a tabletop! Her sister gave her piano lessons, and Gail’s love for music continued throughout her school years. She directed the chorus at her high school and even wrote the class song. Gail majored in voice and minored in piano at Mt. Union College in Ohio, graduating “Magna Cum Laude” with her bachelor’s degree in Music Education. While traveling through Frederick on her way back from a singing engagement, she liked it so much that she decided to stay. She applied for a teaching position and was hired by Frederick County Public Schools to teach vocal music in the fall of 1965.

Gail never left Frederick, teaching at the old Thurmont High and the new Catoclin High School. Always interested in furthering her education, she took graduate courses at Peabody Conservatory, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Maryland. In 1980, she took a sabbatical so that she could earn her Master of Liberal Arts degree and then taught until she retired.

While doing all this, Gail found time to serve as the chancel choir director at the Frederick Church of the Brethren for 47½ years, which made her the church’s longest-serving staff member. Gail also sang in the prestigious Washington Chorus for 20 years and performed with them at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore and Wolf Trap. In 2000, she was justifiably proud as the chorus won the Grammy Award for America’s best choral music. In 2013, just prior to Christmas, Gail and her husband John moved to Homewood where she formed the secular chorus which became the 42-member “Noteables.”

Gail shares that she has had a strong foundation in the Christian faith since childhood and that her faith plays a key role in her music. “My belief in God who has nurtured and guided me through life remains my mainstay in music and my life. The great sacred choral music works that I have been honored to perform have proven many times over that this music was God-inspired.”

Gail has too many favorite composers to name! Among her favorite choral works are the Bach B-Minor Mass and several requiems, including those written by Brahms, Verdi,

*(cont’d on p. 4)*

## CHAPLAIN, Cont'd

Berlioz and Mozart. Some of her favorite hymns are “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” “For All the Saints,” “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” and “Beneath the Cross of Jesus.” “The First Noel” is her favorite Christmas carol.

We are grateful for Gail and her ministry of music among us!

--Chaplain Shelley Weakly

## CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP PRESENTS “RESOURCES FOR SENIORS” PROGRAM

If you’ve never visited Frederick’s Senior Center on Taney Avenue or leafed through *The Blue Book*, the County’s comprehensive resource directory, you may not know of critical services that are available to residents of Homewood at Frederick.

Currently, Frederick County is home to over 60,000 older adults, a group that is growing at a rate three times that of the overall population. A big part of the County’s senior population is coming from new communities like Homewood and Bloomfield, the sprawling new community being built on our northern border.



To get a handle on all that is available to us as residents of Frederick County, a campus-wide program will be held on **Tuesday, January 17, at 2:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms**. Two key staff members of the Frederick County Senior Services Division will share information on the programs and services offered at the Senior Center in Frederick City and throughout Frederick County.

Our guest presenters will be Mindy Lohman-Hinz, Caregiver Program Coordinator, and Joy Rowe, Service Navigator with the Maryland Access Point program. Mark January 17 on your calendar—you won’t want to miss this information-packed hour.

This program is a “Third Tuesday” presentation sponsored by Homewood’s Caregivers Support Group. The caregivers meet to provide mutual support on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. in The Lodge’s Classroom B, and its public presentations on caregiving resources are held on the third Tuesday.

All residents of Homewood are cordially invited to the sponsored program on January 17, and caregivers will be warmly welcomed at the support group’s next monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 3.

--Fred Wenner

# A MESSAGE FROM THE WRRRA PRESIDENT

## *Joyful Times During the Holidays*

While you may be reading this in 2023, I am writing it before Christmas. I, and I hope many others, have already had a wonderful start to the holiday season and look forward to other events that will bring joy with the family here at Homewood and our families around the area.

I participated in the Noteables Christmas concerts in early December after arriving back from our wonderful trip. All the performers in the Noteables really enjoyed singing and looking out at the full houses at the concerts in both The Lodge Event Center and Crumland Farms Multi-Purpose Room. I hope the audience had a good time as well. The one person who deserves special thanks for all her efforts to bring this level of enjoyment to Homewood at Frederick is **Gail Slezak**. As the founder and director of the Noteables, she puts in countless hours in choosing the music we sing, arranging for all the singers to have books with the music, preparing us at many practices and finally, leading us in our performances. So ... a big "Thank You," Gail!

Another opportunity for joy was the distribution of checks to 281 Homewood at Frederick employees to demonstrate our appreciation for their support for us as residents during 2022. They truly do make our lives better. The Willow Road Residents Association thanks all those who contributed to this fund for a total of over \$176,000.

In the first quarter of 2023, we will look forward to the re-opening of all food service areas at The Lodge with a joint effort by Homewood and Morrison Living. Look for more information in the coming days.

While I was away on our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip, I understand that Homewood provided a list of clarifications and corrections to my words during the November 2 residents meeting. If any resident felt that my wording had mislead them in determining their vote on any issue during that meeting, I am sincerely sorry and want to apologize.

Happy New Year to All and Enjoy 2023!

--**Bill Weller**, WRRRA President



When **Ed Edder** looked out his East Cottage front door one November morning, he thought he was imagining things. It looked like a giant Christmas ornament had suddenly appeared in the street! Upon closer inspection, it was the sun reflecting off ice crystals that had formed an interesting pattern on the blacktop. His camera captured another of nature's wonders for us to enjoy!

# GREAT DECISIONS 2023

The news is filled with stories about challenges in countries around the world. *Great Decisions*, America's largest discussion program on world affairs, provides an opportunity to learn the back story about the issues in the headlines

*Great Decisions* groups meet on the Homewood campus twice a month from February through May. A typical session includes watching a short video and discussing the topic. Participants purchase the *Great Decisions 2023* book and are encouraged to read the relevant chapter prior to the meeting.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME and ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!**

Homewood has two groups that meet at different times. You can attend whichever one is more convenient.

<u>Crumland Farms</u> <u>Friday @ 10 a.m.</u> <u>Multi-Purpose</u> <u>Room</u>	Topic	<u>The Lodge</u> <u>Monday @ 7</u> <u>p.m.</u> <u>Classroom A/B</u>
February 10	<i>Energy Geopolitics</i> - The oil and gas industries in flux	February 6
February 24	<i>War Crimes</i> - A history of crimes against humanity	February 20
March 10	<i>China's Foreign Policy</i> - A push for global dominance	March 6
March 24	<i>Economic Warfare</i> - The power of sanctions	March 20
April 14	<i>Politics in Latin America</i> - The rise of left-wing governments	April 3
April 28	<i>Global Famine</i> - Lack of food worldwide	April 17
May 12	<i>Iran and the Gulf States</i> - Iran's status in the world	May 1
May 26	<i>Climate Migration</i> - The human impact of climate change	May 15

**SIGN UP** on the sheet in the Do Drop In or the Crumland Farms coatroom. You may also call or e-mail **Sharron Smith** (Crumland Farms group) or **Leslie Hobbs** (Lodge group) to register.

**PURCHASE THE 2023 GREAT DECISIONS BOOK** for \$35 from:

**Carol Smith**                      Lodge Apt 1003    240-367-3831 (leave a message)  
**Roberta Sprague**              307 Pearson Blvd    301-514-2147

**QUESTIONS?** Contact one of the coordinators:

- **Leslie Hobbs** (301-304-5465 [leslie.hobbs502@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.hobbs502@gmail.com)) for the Lodge group
- **Sharron Smith** (301-693-5227 [sharronlwsmith@gmail.com](mailto:sharronlwsmith@gmail.com)) for Crumland Farms

## MEET YOUR NEW (AND NOT-SO-NEW) NEIGHBORS



**PENNY McDOUGAL** moved into a West Cottage at Homewood this past October with her dog Nell, a lab mix. She is originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania but has lived all over the world. Although she was not enlisted military, she says she did her service on the side as an Air Force daughter, wife and mother!

After attending 12 schools by the time she graduated high school, some in France and Germany, Penny was able to attend college in the U.S. and obtained her B.A. in Science from Penn State University.

She started her career as a research assistant in a science laboratory and was an electron microscopist to the Chief of Anatomy at Penn State's Medical School in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Seeking a change of career, Penny was the founder and owner of a graphic design and printing company. After selling that company, she was an aide to a Maryland legislator where she did research on social justice, peace and environmental issues.

But what she says was her most interesting time was when she and another widowed friend bought an RV "rig" and traveled together on many trips over the years from Maryland to the Grand Canyon, from Newfoundland through the Canadian Rockies and from Nova Scotia to Key West. Ask her about her many adventures!

She is a member or has been a board member of many organizations including the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Frederick, the Green Burial Association of Maryland, the Women's Institute of Notre Dame of Maryland, the Torch Club, Beyond War Maryland and Earthome.

Penny has many interests including bridge, reading, politics and science. She has a partner and often goes to Pennsylvania to visit family. Penny has two children and four grandchildren. Having acquaintances already at Homewood is one reason Penny chose Homewood.



**GAIL PADGETT** moved from Frederick to her Crumland Farms apartment in October 2022.

Originally from North Carolina, she received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts from East Carolina University. She also attended Western Maryland College and has a Master's equivalent from that institution. Gail's career was in elementary art education.

She enjoys travel, public art installations, board games and card games.

**--Jacque Janss and Barbara Kirk**

## MEET YOUR NEW (AND NOT-SO-NEW) NEIGHBORS



**NANCY and GARY FERNANDEZ** moved from Williamsburg, Virginia into a patio home with their dog, Gabe, a Mal-Shi, in December 2019.

Born in New York City, Nancy attended schools in New Jersey and graduated from business school in Summit. While living in California, she worked in journalism as assistant to the editor of the Pacific Coast edition of the Wall Street Journal and as editor of a West Coast Public Employees News Magazine. Nancy has been a Stephen Minister and a lay counselor who mentored young adults. She contributed to the life of her community as an active volunteer in various clubs and a member of the Red Hat Society.

Although a native of Ripon, Wisconsin, Gary grew up and lived many years in California where he earned a B.S. from University of California, Berkeley and attended the Stanford Graduate Business School Executive Program. He had a varied professional life with positions that included computer sales for IBM, management and fund-raising for the YMCA and the United Way, being a labor negotiator, and working for Kaiser Permanente in medical care management. Interested in public service, Gary was a city councilman and mayor of Richmond, California where he also served on numerous boards and commissions. In retirement, he delivered Meals-on-Wheels and was active in faith-based service organizations.

Both Nancy and Gary are glad to be living near their family and are especially enjoying their grandchildren.



**ELSIE BANKS** moved to her Crumland Farms apartment in November from Douglas, Georgia—just in time to experience our Maryland winters once again. She was born in Howard County, Maryland, raised in that area and graduated from Howard County High.

Elsie had worked as receptionist for a group of gastrointestinal specialists in Towson, Maryland. While living in Georgia, she was president of the Coffee County Senior Citizens Center for two years. Her hobbies are reading and crossword puzzles. Elsie has four children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

--Leslie Hobbs and Barbara Kirk



**HELP US SOLVE A MYSTERY ...** A DVD from the Retired Clergy series seems to have disappeared from one of the cubbies at Crumland Farms. It was left in an envelope for **Jerry Fuss** but now remains a mystery as to its whereabouts. If anyone has it, please return it to Jerry in Cottage 38.

## MEET YOUR NEW (AND NOT-SO-NEW) NEIGHBORS



**KATHERINE ORLOFF** and her dog Risley, a Bichon mix, moved into their West Cottage in September 2022. Already a Frederick resident, she moved to Homewood because of its location and friend's recommendations. A native of Los Angeles, California, Katherine graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in Political Science. Later she returned to UCLA for her Master's in Journalism.

Growing up in a “movie family,” Katherine has always been surrounded by the entertainment industry. Her father was a screenwriter and her mother an actress. Starting out after college to be “Brenda Starr, girl reporter,” she worked on several newspapers in California including *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Hearing the call of the entertainment industry again, Katherine did production publicity for feature films, was a producer for NBC News on the Today show and Senior V.P for publicity and promotion at Columbia Studios. She is member of the Screen Actors Guild.

After deciding that she would like to try teaching, Katherine taught for a while in New York, then some friends suggested she check out Frederick and Hood College. She did, and decided she liked it here. Katherine secured a position teaching film at Hood and today is the Director of the Communication Arts Department at Hood College.

Katherine has been active in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. Her interests are films, photography, history, literature, music and travel. After her retirement in two years, she would be interested in starting a film group here at Homewood.

--Jacque Janss

## A REMINDER TO LODGE RESIDENTS ...

Have a hankering for ice cream, a candy bar, snack crackers or a cold drink? Did you know that all of these can be purchased at the Do Drop In located at The Lodge? Also offered are jigsaw puzzles for loan as well as many current magazines.

Cubbies for all Lodge residents are located in the Do Drop In as well as a lost and found bin. Please remember to check your cubby regularly for important Homewood information.

Volunteers who keep the Do Drop In up and running are **Diane Holter**, **Howard Smith** (buyer of all the snacks and drinks offered) and **Helen Hahn** (banker). **Donna Jeo** works her decorating magic each month coming up with attractive displays. Please note: Do Drop In only accepts note cards with envelopes, calendars and greeting cards for our “Please Help Yourself” shelf. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Diane or Howard



## 2022 EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION FUND WRAPS UP

On behalf of the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc. we want to thank all participating residents, responsible parties and friends of Homewood at Frederick for their generosity during this special time of the year. It is the only time we can monetarily show our kind and caring staff how much we appreciate them. The staff has gone above and beyond these past few years to see that our needs were met during very difficult times.

Total gifts received to date are over \$176,752. We distributed \$138,889 to 281 employees. Monies that arrived after the campaign deadline will allow us to have an additional “Thank You’s” for the staff during 2023 and be added to the amount collected for the 2023 Appreciation Fund Campaign.

**Shirley Erdmanis and Phil Young**, co-chairs of the Appreciation Fund Committee headed the event, from organizing through distribution. **Bill Weller, Ray Green, Connie Cranor, Bob Kinsey and Tom Hudson** were instrumental in the decision-making process.

The following residents were on hand to keep the event running smoothly including “stuffing” solicitation letter, “stuffing” employee envelopes and distribution of Appreciation Gift: **Pauline and Dick Kishimoto, Colleen Newlin, Bev and Bob Kinsey, Joan Biser, Diane Holter, Betty George, Joanne Durst, Libby Fuss, Bruce Robertson, Arlene Duprey, Bobby Rickman, Tom Hudson, Ruth and Ed Edder, Joyce and Harry Smith, Bev and Tom Willich, Ray Green, Nancy Speck, Jacque Janss, Fanny Johnsson, Claude Revis and Pat Lufkin.**

Thanks also to staff members Donna Linton, Dore Ackerman, Meg Cliber, Liz Kannenberg, Julie Norris, Jenny Linthicum and Darcy Hines who provided all information and paperwork to accomplish this project. Thanks to Maintenance employees Wayne Snurr, Michael Virts and Mike Wilkes for doing all of our table set-ups.



The staff was very appreciative of your generosity and sharing with them at this time of the year. Thank you notes received from staff have been posted at Do Drop It at The Lodge and in the coat room at Crumland Farms.

-- **Shirley Erdmanis**

Seated, **Joyce and Harry Smith**. Standing (L to R) **Phil Young**, Kelly Nichols, Sherry Smith, Maria Kaetzel, Mark McCormick, Michael Virts, Wayne Snurr.  
(Photo by **Shirley Erdmanis**)

# TAKING TO THE SKIES WITH HOMEWOOD'S AVIATORS

On a bright sunny day in November, two Homewood residents took to the skies for the first time in many years. **Phyllis Ensor** and **Fred Broadrup** each had the opportunity to fly a single-engine simulator at the Frederick Municipal Airport. Years ago, Fred owned his own single-engine plane and Phyllis's family had owned a single-engine plane as well. Both were excited to get back into the pilot's seat again, even if it was virtually at first.

Their instructor was Jonathan Tarkowski, with Bravo Flight Training. He was very patient as they went through the steps to review their flight plan, check out the instrument panel and take the stick to fly again, even though they never left the ground.

The simulator is used to train new pilots as well as to review procedures with pilots



holding valid licenses. It is a two-person capsule similar to the capsule that the astronauts travel in. A wide wrap-around TV-like screen mimics take-offs, landings, and straight-in-the-air flying. The simulator capsule rotates, turns, goes up and down, sounds like an engine, and is very realistic.

Fred took the controls first and made several flights up and around Frederick while watching the control panel and looking out the wide screen at familiar sights. He spotted several local landmarks: Sugar Loaf Mountain, I-270, and the Monocacy River. "This is great!" he exclaimed, "It's very realistic and I'm getting the feel of the controls again." An experienced pilot, he just wanted to enjoy flying without the expense of owning a plane.

The cockpit with Phyllis at the controls.

Phyllis also wanted to remember the fun and accomplishment of being able to fly a plane. The instructor started her with the same preflight checklist. He cautioned that it is always important to do this and to be consistent, no matter how long you have been flying. Phyllis took off and landed three times at the make-believe Frederick Airport and once at the airport near the Grand Canyon, Arizona. The simulator can be programmed to show any airport in the world on the screen. Both felt after this experience that they hadn't lost the feel for flying at the controls. Next on the agenda would be a test of their skills in a REAL flight in a single-engine plane with the instructor!

(cont'd on p. 12)

## **HOMWOOD AVIATORS, Cont'd**



Homewood and Bloomfields from the air. Photo taken by **Fred Broadrup** while Phyllis was at the controls.

On December 8, Fred and Phyllis set off to experience the real deal. It was a perfect day to be in the air—clear, high clouds and no wind. Each had the opportunity to fly the aircraft along with the instructor. Phyllis was at the controls when they flew over Homewood, then up along the Catoclin mountains to Thurmont. She says it was exciting to get the view of Homewood from 1,200 feet in the air!

Fred wanted to practice his take-off and landings so they did several “touch and go’s” so he could hone his skills. He flew within the pattern, which means he circled the airport each time. The instructor thought that Fred was ready to get back in the skies by himself, but Fred demurred. “No, I don’t think I’ll be renewing my pilot’s license,” he said, “but this WAS fun!” Both Phyllis and Fred came away with a real sense of accomplishment and renewed enthusiasm for taking to the skies.

--Phyllis Ensor and Barbara Kirk



## **A REMINDER ABOUT SNOW REMOVAL**

If your vehicle is parked outside and you want to have someone remove snow from it, sign up this month at the Crumland Farms or Lodge front desk. They will need your vehicle description, lot location where you park and your license plate number. Fee for this service is \$17.80 per snow which will be billed to your account.

## *Driving Safety Improvements Happening for Homewood Residents*

Requests to Frederick County and City Governments as well as the State made by our Safety and Security Committee have borne fruit. Thanks to the efforts for **Don Fox** as chair, the members of the Committee and the Natelli Brothers Group, there is now a Stop Sign for southbound traffic at the intersection of Willow Road and Willowbrook.

Late winter or early spring should also see work begin on a median at the intersection of Willow Road and Angell Avenue so that foot traffic crossing Willow Road will be able to take extra time and the median will, hopefully, slow some of the vehicles.

Finally, the State will be looking into extending the access ramp from Willow Road onto Route 15 in 2023 so that it connects with the exit ramp for Christophers Crossing. That means that if you want to exit at Christopher's Crossing, you will not need to enter one of the two lanes of normal traffic. Major thanks for getting this to this stage go to Delegate (soon to be Senator) Karen Lewis-Young and Acting District Engineer Andrew Radcliff.

--Bill Weller

## **ALOHA PRESENTS ...**

### **SENATOR RON YOUNG: STORIES OF FREDERICK'S REVITALIZATION**

On **Friday, January 27**, Senator Ron Young, former mayor of Frederick from 1974 until 1990, will be speaking about the beginning of Frederick's renaissance from a downtown besieged by floods and departing retail businesses to a tourist destination and a place where newcomers want to settle. Retention of government offices in downtown, planned creation of retail, residential, arts and dining spaces, and parking garages were part of the plan to make Frederick a place to "live, work, and play."

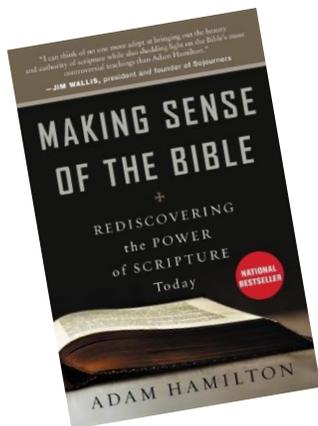
The 1976 Carroll Creek flood was a setback to the plan, but addressing the issue resulted in a tri-fold project: flood control, a linear park and economic development. Today, Carroll Creek Linear Park is one of the crown jewels of downtown Frederick! This program will be a walk down memory lane for many Frederick natives and a history lesson for newcomers.

Senator Young's recently released book, "My Story," capturing more than 400 stories of both accomplishments and unsuccessful efforts, will be available for sale.



**Homewood Ladies:** Please join us for a social gathering at **1:30 p.m.** in the **Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farm**. Please sign up on the APP so we have enough desserts and beverages for everyone. **All Homewood residents:** Please join us for the program, beginning at **2 p.m.** No sign up is needed. Questions?? Contact **Jenny Shull** at 240-421-6087 or shulljenny@gmail.com.

## MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE CLASS BEGINS



A new session of the popular class, Adam Hamilton’s “Making Sense of the Bible,” begins Friday, January 6, at 1:30 p.m. Classes will be held in Classroom B at The Lodge and will be held every other Friday for six sessions, 1½ hours long. **Jim Spiller** will lead the class.

Adam Hamilton is the senior pastor of the largest United Methodist Church in the world, the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. The author of many books and a master at explaining difficult questions of faith in down-to-earth fashion, he combines good scholarship with a light touch and exhibits his wise, generous pastoral heart. He presents a video capsule of each lesson, and the class then, through discussion and work projects, completes the session of the day.

According to the Leader’s Guide, this is a study

- For those who love the Bible and look to it for meaning and purpose for their lives,
- For those willing to wrestle with portions of the Bible about which they have questions, and
- For those largely unfamiliar with the Bible who are curious and want to know more.

Class size is limited to 20 people, so sign up early on the Resident APP. Each student should have a copy of Hamilton’s book, available from Amazon or local booksellers (about \$18 paperback), and a Bible to bring to each session. Please read the first seven chapters of the book **before** the first session to be prepared and get the most from the class. Also, bring pen or pencil and a notebook. Come to each session, ready to begin promptly at 1:30.

**--Jim Spiller**



*(Photo courtesy of Dick Rohe)*

Homewood residents responded enthusiastically to another houseplant giveaway! Dick Rohe is shown with some of the more than 70 plants that found new homes on November 28 at The Lodge and Crumland Farms. Residents were delighted with another opportunity to expand their indoor greenery and many commented about the growth of the plants they had chosen at earlier events. Most popular were geraniums, coleus, pothos, jade and other succulents. Thanks to **Dick Rohe, Skip Stewart, Sue Snay** and **Karin Belsheim** for their propagation efforts.

## THE BUS IS NOW FULL!

At least the transportation department here at Homewood is now full ... of drivers for the bus! There has been a reorganization of the Transportation Department with some new hires. Although Julie Norris is still supervisor, Ronnie Lushbaugh, a recent hire, and



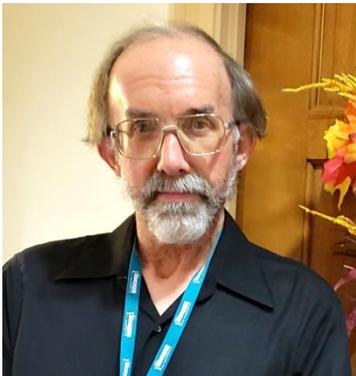
Rhonda Runion, a 36-year Homewood employee, will be sharing the job of transportation coordinator.

Rhonda (shown in photo at left) will be scheduling ALL trips. She is the one to call when you need a ride to the doctor, the bank, etc. Please remember that she needs a notice LONG BEFORE the date that you need a ride. Please refer to your 2023 Homewood Handbook for the number to call and the fees.

Ronnie (shown in photo at right below) organizes the driver's schedules, oversees all maintenance of buses, meets with the Travel Committee, and works with Julie Norris to plan trips, including the popular mystery ones. Many of you have already ridden with Ronnie if you have been on any of the mystery trips or longer day trips. For 40 years he has had his commercial driver's license (CDL) which is required to drive the buses. Although Ronnie did not start out to be a driver, he serendipitously fell into the position of driving residents at a state institution.



His wealth of knowledge of the area and his preparation for the trips, especially the mystery trips, shows as all have been well planned. Often, he will make a dry run on his own before taking Homewood residents. On the mystery trips, he usually plans an activity, then a meal and then another activity. Ronnie enjoys working with the residents and his goal is that everyone on the trip has a safe, secure and enjoyable outing.



The third full-time employee of the department is a familiar one—Carl Leonard (in photo at left). Carl works with the day-to-day needs of the residents: getting them to the doctor, taking them to the bank or meetings, delivering meals to them, taking them shopping at Trader Joe's, etc.

Homewood is fortunate to have three drivers who are available at night and on the weekends. Stacey Alston, Vanessa Dixon and Clarence Harper get us to and from many special events, especially during this holiday season. Ronnie and Roger Smith are long trip drivers as needed.

(cont'd on p. 16)

## TRANSPORTATION, Cont'd



(Left to right) Top Row:  
Night and weekend  
drivers Stacey Alston,  
Vanessa Dixon, Clarence  
Harper and Roger Smith  
  
Bottom Row: Part-time  
drivers Jack Davis, Bryan  
Riffle and Matt Buckner

Jack Davis, Bryan Riffle and Matt Buckner are part-time and work certain days to take residents to health care appointments as there is a need. Occasionally, members of the Activities staff will also fill in.

Many thanks to all the drivers for helping us each day and for getting us to and from our destinations safely.

--Jacque Janss

(Photos by *Jacque Janss* and Homewood staff)



### SAFETY TIP ...

Catalytic converters are a “hot” item for auto thieves because of the money their components generate. Catalytic converters use precious metals in their center, or “core,” and are **regularly targeted for theft due to the high value of these metals, especially the precious metals palladium, platinum, and rhodium**. Some of these metals are more valuable per ounce than gold and their value has been increasing in recent years. To deter theft, police advise that you lock your car and park under a light if possible. There has been a proliferation of catalytic converter thefts reported in the Frederick area recently.

# VETERANS HONORED AND REMEMBERED

Our Homewood at Frederick Wreaths Across America Committee wants to thank everyone who supported our 2022 WAA campaign. As in previous years, we exceeded our goal for sponsoring wreaths. This year our goal was 1,200 wreaths and we sponsored **1,223!**

Wreaths Across America Day was Saturday, December 17. Twenty-nine residents of Homewood and a few family members placed live balsam wreaths on veterans' graves at Mount Olivet Cemetery. A special ceremony started the day's observance at the World War II Memorial, featuring commemorative wreaths being placed for each branch of our Armed Services and POW/MIA veterans. Chris Haugh, Manager of Community Relations and Historic Preservation for the cemetery, acknowledged Homewood for encouraging Mount Olivet to participate in WAA and for our steadfast support over the past five years.



**Donna Bainbridge** places wreaths on the graves at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

*(Photo by Nancy Hamstead)*

proud that Homewood alone sponsored 28% of those wreaths! Thanks to everyone who helped us in this worthy project.

Our sponsorship of 1,223 wreaths means that over \$6,000 will be donated to Homewood to enhance the life experiences of our residents in Health Care and Assisted Living.

**Sue Chapin** and **Libby Fuss** have been Co-Chairs of the WAA Committee for the past three years. They are stepping aside and **Pat Curchin**, who initially encouraged Mt. Olivet's participation, will be chairing the Committee. Sue and Libby say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve and they are grateful for Homewood's outstanding participation! Keep up the good work!

**--Libby Fuss**

Following the ceremony, our volunteers made their way on foot or on the Homewood bus to sections SS and TJ, where wreaths were awaiting. We placed wreaths on the 153 graves in those two sections, previously marked by U.S. flags. Each time a wreath was placed the volunteer said the name of the veteran out loud and reverently thanked them for their service. Despite the cold weather, we had some sunshine and each of our volunteers placed four to six wreaths.

Many volunteers stated that it was an honor to participate. We were proud to see "Homewood Retirement Community" signs on our boxes of wreaths. It was also gratifying to learn from Mr. Haugh that this year, for the first time, enough wreaths were sponsored to memorialize **all 4,383 veterans** buried in Mt. Olivet graves. We are

# JANUARY BRINGS FUN EVENTS AT THE POOL!

- **Doggy Swim**

Our eagerly-awaited **ANNUAL DOGGY SWIM** will be held on **Monday, January 9** in The Lodge pool from **9 a.m. to noon**. Canines of all sizes are welcome to come for a swim, and their owners can hop in the pool with ‘em, too. Just make sure both you and your pup bring your own towels!



After this event, The Lodge pool will be shut down for its annual cleaning, then refilled.

- **Polar Bear Plunge**

**Monday, January 30** marks our **POLAR BEAR PLUNGE** charity event at The Lodge pool, which is the kickoff to this year’s fundraising campaign for Alzheimer’s Association. Hardy souls who want to brave the chilly waters of the freshly-filled pool can do so for a minimum of \$30 contribution to Alzheimer’s Association. This event is held from **9:30 to 10 a.m.**



Contact Gretchen Smith for more information. We will also be accepting donations for Alzheimer’s that day from other than event participants.

The Lodge pool then officially reopens for swim events on **Wednesday, February 1**—after the water has had the chance to heat back up to its usual temperature.

Over on the Crumland Farms side, that pool will be closed for the annual cleaning and refilling on **Friday, January 13** and will reopen on **Monday, January 23**.



## FREDERICK VOLLEYBALL FALLS TO PLUM CREEK

We couldn’t quite pull it off, even on our home turf, er, pool. Our White Caps team came in a respectable second to one of Plum Creek’s water volleyball teams this year in the annual tournament in December between the two Homewood campuses. Plum Creek’s Team #1 took first place and their Team #2 took third place, with Homewood at Frederick’s Silver Spikers rounding out the four teams in competition.

*(Photo courtesy of the Fitness Staff)*

**DID YOU KNOW ... You can call 9-1-1 and ask for “lift assistance” if you have fallen and no one can help you up.**



## **MYSTERY TRIP WITH A HOLIDAY FLAIR**

Our driver Ronnie Lushbaugh surprised residents with another of his meticulously planned Mystery Trips. The first stop at Christmas Tree Shops in Hagerstown, Maryland provided shoppers with an overwhelming variety of specialty items but prominently featuring Christmas decorations.

Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious lunch at Spring Mills Diner in Martinsburg, West Virginia and toured The Historic Springfield Barn in Williamsport,

Maryland which houses a dazzling display of 163 Christmas trees decorated by various individuals, groups and businesses in the area. (Photo at left) Traveling on the bus decorated by driver Vanessa Dixon with Santas, snowflakes and snowmen gently swaying overhead added to the festivity of the jolly holiday trip.

--Nancy Hamstead

## **HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS**

### **THE LODGE**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor: #1002, **John and Patricia Horwath**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: #2017, **Gary and Gail Heimes**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: #3005, **Anna Stroh**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor: #4008, **Diane Holter**

### **CRUMLAND FARMS**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor: #112, **Shirley Erdmanis**

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor: #214, **Libby Henley**

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: #321, **Coralinn Kuehl**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor: #445, **Cindy Elliott**

### **COTTAGES**

#19, **Deb Ehart**

#34, **Lou and Mara Dudrow**

### **PATIO HOMES**

2503 Angell Avenue, **Joe and Pat Neely**

2512 Homewood Drive, **Bob and Colleen Newlin**

406 Homewood Circle, **Bruce Minkoff and Jenny Shull**

## PROPHETIC VOICES VIDEO AND DISCUSSION SERIES

**Monday, January 16, 10 a.m., Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms**

**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 by 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 will be a total of 90 minutes in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farms at 10 a.m. on the respective dates.

January 16 and February 20 videos are on *Bonhoeffer*—profiling Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young German theologian who joined the plots to kill Adolf Hitler. (This video is 90 minutes, to be viewed in two sessions.) **Bill Holmes** and **Jerry Fuss** will serve as conveners.

The final event in the series will be 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.

**Fred Broadrup** is the Chair of the Homewood Fitness Committee and encourages everyone to “get out and do something.” If you have ideas for unusual activities you would like Homewood to offer, let him know at **301-606-1878**. Some ideas might be: horseback riding for an hour through the Gettysburg Battlefield with a guide, up in the air for a balloon ride, visiting a farm that has robots milking the cows, and rafting in warm weather. Give Fred your ideas. It’s time to make some more memories!

### THE CHATTER NEWSLETTER STAFF

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**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.