



The CHATTER

A Publication for the Independent Living Residents of Homewood at Frederick

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

Great Decisions Program Schedule ... Basket Bingo Wrap-Up ... Senior Theatre Review ... Food Drive Results ... Meet Your New Neighbors ... Appreciation Fund Campaign Wrap-Up ... Fun and Frolic in The Lodge Pool ... Holiday Pictures ... And More

THE MAINSTREAM ...

Notes from Executive Director Karen Main

We are welcoming in a New Year ... Happy 2022!

I have been grateful throughout 2021 for many wonderful people and things, as well as some things that I wasn't grateful for. But one of the most important things to do is to be grateful each and every day. One of my resolutions for 2022 (which I usually do not make!), is to be and remain grateful. Sometimes we need to dig around and be a little patient to find that something to be grateful for ... but know it will always be there for you!



One of the joys on campus was to celebrate together during the holiday season. It was so refreshing to see so many residents gathering and enjoying events and celebrations. The true meaning of our holiday season is sharing with others and we were able to make that happen this year.

There are plans to schedule a presentation from Michael Natelli in January to receive updates on the neighboring development, Bloomfields. Please watch the calendar for the date.

Phase 10 patio home construction is reaching completion and new neighbors are expected to move on campus during the first or second quarter of the year.

Our marketing team is working on pre-sales for The Lodge expansion so that construction can start in the Spring of 2022! If you would like to see your friends living here on campus and sharing a wonderful lifestyle with you, please let the marketing team know. We are offering a resident referral bonus!

May we begin our New Year with much Health and Happiness and being Grateful throughout each day! Thanks for making 2021 a wonderful year at Homewood!

Welcome to a Happy New Year!
Karen



Pat Michener and therapy dog Tessa visited residents in our Meadows unit recently. When residents found out it was Tessa's 8th birthday, they sang "Happy Birthday" to her! Tessa has been doing visits like this since she passed her therapy dog test six years ago out in Garrett County.

(Photo courtesy of Pat Michener)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

“You can’t go home again.” We’ve all heard that old saw, usually when we are experiencing a difficult time in our lives and yearn to go back to earlier days when things seemed simpler and more secure.

As we grew and matured, took on new responsibilities, and left our families of origin, life sometimes appeared to be complicated, even overwhelming. If we were raised in a nurturing and loving family, we may long to return to “the nest” where we were surrounded by people who cared for us and who helped us through our struggles. But as the saying reminds us, we can’t. The nest changes over time. People move away and sometimes even die. No matter how much we wish we could, we can’t go back to “the old days.”

Right after my husband and I got married, my mother sold the house where I had grown up. For a time after that, I felt rootless. Neither her new house nor the place where my husband and I were living felt like home to me. It took me a while to realize that as an adult, I had to make my own home. I learned that home wasn’t so much a place as a set of relationships, flexible and ever-changing, yet strong, like a spider’s web.



All of us here at Homewood have experienced what it means to give up one dwelling place in exchange for another. For some of us, it has been a welcome change, a chance to downsize and to give up some of the responsibilities of owning a house. For others, it may have involved grief, as we gave up prized possessions, gardens, and yards. Homewood may not feel like home yet. It may take time to put down roots and build relationships with our new neighbors.

Regardless of how we are experiencing life here in this community, the New Year gives us an opportunity to reflect on another old saying, “Home is where the heart is.” Where are our hearts located right now? Are they still in another place, a place from our past? If so, what will help us accept Homewood as our new home? How can we find joy in our surroundings and neighbors? On the other hand, if we find our hearts are truly here in this place, what are the things we enjoy and even treasure about it? How can we share these gifts so that we can make our community more homelike for those who are newcomers or who are missing their former homes?

Blessings to you this New Year. May you find it to be healthy, happy, and homey!

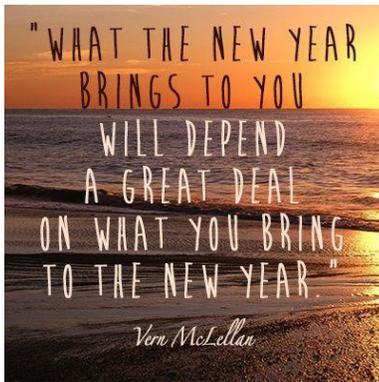
--Chaplain Shelley Weakly

A NOTE FROM THE WRRRA PRESIDENT

Were you as impressed as I was with the Holiday Parties (yes, parties—one at The Lodge and one at Crumland Farms? The Culinary and Dining staffs worked for four days to put on the fabulous displays we enjoyed. A **BIG** thank you to everyone who had a part in making our holiday bright, warm and wonderful.

Holiday gatherings with family and friends are over. College Football Championships and Bowl Game winners have been decided. Do you have any New Year's resolutions that are still attainable? My guess is that very few people our age bother to even think about

resolutions. We learned a long time ago to set realistic goals and not set goals we knew we would never achieve.



By the time you read this, the holidays will be behind us and 2022 will be moving along at a pace we could not have imagined when we were younger. The old saying that life is like a roll of paper towels (or something like that)—the closer you get to the end, the faster it goes—has a lot more meaning with each passing year.

We were deeply saddened by the death of the Lodge Vice President **George Bolling** on Monday, November 15. To my knowledge, this is the first time we have lost a current officer of the Residents Association. George had a great agenda planned for himself and the four representatives of The Lodge. The meeting he conducted, the same day he entered the hospital, was exceptionally well planned and presented. We lost an excellent officer and a wonderful friend.

Bruce Robertson has stepped down as Vice President of the Patio Homes to assume a leadership position in his church. Bruce, “**thank you**” doesn’t come close to telling you what you have meant to the Residents Association, and to me. You have been an exceptional leader.

We are proud to welcome the newest members of the Board of Directors, **Karl Boehle** as the new Vice President of The Lodge and **Bob Wolpert** as the Vice President of the Patio Homes. Thank you both for volunteering to serve on the Residents Association Board. Until next month, Stay Safe and Stay Well.

--**Claude Revis**, WRRRA President

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

A grief support group for residents is forming with facilitation by Chaplain Suzanne. This group will be ongoing and open to anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one. Meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning **January 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the 4th Floor Library at Crumland Farms**. The group will provide a safe place for those who are grieving to share their story and express their feelings.

RESULTS ARE IN FROM OUR BASKET BINGO NIGHT!



With big smiles in anticipation of a fun evening, the Basket Bingo Committee, volunteers and Homewood staff admire the 20 filled baskets that would be awarded to the lucky winners. Left to right: **Bobby Rickman**, Angela Liberto, **Maxine French**, **Nancy Marron**, **Ann Moyer**, **Donna Bainbridge**, **Maggi Hartzell**, IL Assistant Food Services Director **Tammy Click**, **Barbara Rhoads**, **Shirley Luersen**, **Gloria Gafney**, **Betty Fox**, **Mary Lou Dent**, **Joan Farrell**, Volunteer Director **Liz Kannenberg** and **Shirley Erdmanis**. Not pictured are **Peg Strine** and Activities Director **Julie Norris**.

We had a very successful evening of fun, food, fellowship and Bingo, with a sold-out crowd of 102. The event generated a profit of \$1,580.97. The committee voted to commit the proceeds to the Hearing Loop Project at Crumland Farms. This year, due to COVID restrictions, participation was limited to Independent Living residents. But we still had 20 beautiful theme-filled baskets and 12 door prizes.

This year the committee was responsible for the selling of food that evening to both residents and Bingo players. Selling and cashiering was handled by Community Volunteers **Mary Lou Dent** and **Angela Liberto**, Volunteer Director **Liz Kannenberg** and Activities Director **Julie Norris**, who also gave us a hand in other areas as well.

Thanks to the Committee for their tireless effort in making our thirteenth Basket Bingo a success! Committee members were **Maggi Hartzell**, **Gloria Gafney**, **Bobby Rickman**, **Peg Strine**, **Betty Fox**, **Barbara Rhoads**, **Shirley Luersen**, **Nancy Marron**, **Joan Farrell**, **Ann Moyer**, **Donna Bainbridge** and **Maxine French**.



(L-R) **Pam Zusi**, **Jacque Janss**, **Joyce Howes** and **Lindsey Williams** wait for the games to begin.

(Cont'd on p. 6)

BASKET BINGO, cont'd

All of the items for our baskets were donated by committee members, Nancy Hendrick (our Insurance Representative here at Homewood at Frederick, the Catoctin Country Store, the Marketing Department, the Willow Road Residents Association, the Knit Wits, the Activities Department, Community Volunteer Mary Lou Dent, the Volunteer Office ... and joining us for the first time this year, the Woodpeckers group.

Dietary, Maintenance and Housekeeping staff members deserve a big hand for all their assistance in keeping the event running smoothly. Thanks also to MATURA Salon Beauty and Spa Management for the two gift certificates to our Beauty Salon. And thanks to **Bobby Rickman, Nancy Marron and Maxine French** for selling the tickets for a 50/50 Raffle. I called all 20 games.

--Shirley Erdmanis

(Photos courtesy of Shirley Erdmanis)

At the follow-up meeting, **Shirley Erdmanis** announced she would be stepping down from chairing the committee, after having served for 14 years. **Gloria Gafney, Bobby Rickman, Shirley Luersen, Maggi Hartzell and Barbara Rhoads** are also leaving the committee. We're now looking for a new chair or co-chairs to start planning the event for 2022. Anyone interested should contact Shirley Erdmanis at 301-378-2822 or erdmanis@comcast.net.



The Weather Outside is Frightful ... But Our Pool is Just Delightful!!!

Here are some fun upcoming events at The Lodge pool:

Monday, January 3, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., DOGGIE SWIM

Come swim along with your furry friend(s). Just make sure they bring their own towel!

Friday, January 14, 9 to 9:30 a.m., POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

Not for the faint of heart as we drop the pool temperature down a few degrees with the help of ice ... but it's for a good cause. This is the kickoff to our 2022 support for the Alzheimer's Association. Bring \$20 (or more) as a donation to participate. Hot treats await you afterwards.

For more information, contact Gretchen Smith, Wellness Director, at ghsmith@hmwd.org or 301-644- 4256.

ALOHA PRESENTS....

The Delaplaine Arts Center: Adapting a Landmark Building into a Vital Community Resource Friday, January 28, 2022, 2 p.m.

Repurposing a steam flour mill into a community arts center was just the beginning of The Delaplaine Arts Center in the last decades of the 20th century. On **January 28 at 2 p.m.**, Corey Frey, will discuss the history of Mountain City Mill building and its metamorphosis into The Delaplaine, along with the mission of the community arts center. As Exhibitions Manager, Corey will share the processes used to select artists for exhibition. Several Homewood residents have had their work displayed at The Delaplaine, most recently in the 70-Plus Exhibition in 2021.

LADIES of Homewood, please join us for the Active Ladies of Homewood Association (ALOHA) social gathering at 1:15 p.m. on January 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room at Crumland Farm prior to the program. **Please sign up on the APP.** Then EVERYONE is welcome at 2 p.m. for the program in the same location, with NO sign-up needed.

Questions? Contact **Jenny Shull** at shulljenny@gmail.com or 240-831-4757.

SURVEY CONDUCTED ON SATURDAY BUFFET

The Willow Pond Food Committee recently sent an e-mail survey to 150 residents to determine levels of satisfaction with the Saturday theme buffet. Sixty-three percent of respondents indicated they were “Very Satisfied/Somewhat Satisfied” with a theme buffet. **Italian, French, and Indian themes were the favorites**, in that order.

Co-chairs **Jean McGraw** and **Stephanie Hoscheit** initiated the survey after learning during the committee’s last meeting that patronage at the Saturday buffet had been disappointing.



The survey was mailed to two groups of 75 residents each. One group consisted of residents who had served on the Food Committee, either at present or in the past, and the other was a random group of names provided by Marketing Director Meg Cliber. **Dick Rohe** designed the survey and presented its findings to the Food Committee and Chef Sean Dunham. The need for increased awareness of the buffet was one of the findings.

The theme of each Saturday buffet is listed in the weekly Specials Menu for The View, and the specific menus are listed for Saturday each week on the Homewood APP.

The next Willow Pond Food Committee will meet on **Friday, February 18 at 1:00 p.m.** in Classrooms A/B at the Lodge.

--Jean McGraw and Stephanie Hoscheit, Co-Chairs

APPRECIATION FUND CAMPAIGN WRAP-UP:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Willow Road Residents Association, Inc., I want to thank all Residents, Responsible Parties and Friends of Homewood at Frederick who participated, for their wonderful 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. It was especially important in 2021, a year that was very traumatic and uncertain for all of us. The staff went above and beyond the call of duty to see that we were kept comfortable and safe.

We distributed \$144,287.93 to 277 co-workers during the 2021 Campaign. Monies that arrived after the campaign deadline will allow us to have an additional “Thank You” for the staff and also to provide Scholarships during 2022. Monies not used during 2022 will be maintained in a restricted fund and be added to the amount collected for the 2022 Appreciation Fund Campaign.

Shirley Erdmanis and **Phil Young** co-chaired the Appreciation Fund Committee that headed the event from organizing to the distribution process. Committee members **Bill Weller, Ray Green, Ernie Kessler, Bob Kinsey, Tom Hudson** and **Claude Revis** were instrumental in the decision-making process.

The following residents volunteered with stuffing envelopes and distribution to staff to make the event smooth-running: **Cindy Abbott, Bobby Rickman, Judy Haines, Harry Smith, Kathy Dollar, Deb Ehart, Ray Green, Diane Holter, Nancy and Ted Marron, Sandy Gangawere, Joan Farrell, Pauline and Dick Kishimoto, Roland Hobbs, Pat Curchin, Natalie Bowers, Joanne Durst, Margo Stevenson, Sue Chapin, Judie Kirkpatrick and Tom Hudson**

Thanks also to Administrative Staff members Samantha Turner, Dore Ackerman, Brittany Clark and Jenny Linthicum who obtained the paperwork and labels we needed.

The staff was so appreciative of your generosity and sharing it with them at this time of the year.

--Shirley Erdmanis



Residents work as a team to stuff envelopes for the check distribution. Photo at left: **Ray Green** and **Diane Holter**. Photo at right: **Phil Young, Deb Ehart** and **Shirley Erdmanis**.

(Photos courtesy of Shirley Erdmanis)

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS



LINDSEY WILLIAMS moved from Middletown, Maryland to The Lodge in September 2021. Born in Confluence, Pennsylvania, she studied music at West Virginia University and earned an M.A. in Music Education from Towson State University.

Lindsey taught elementary vocal music in Baltimore and Harford counties for many years. She is also a talented church musician and organist who served at Jefferson United Church of Christ. She has been active in the Midvalley Homemakers, the Rose Hill Garden Club and the Central Maryland Chapter of the Organ Guild. In addition to music, Lindsey enjoys cooking, traveling and visiting art museums.

JUDY and VIC RYE recently moved to an apartment at Crumland Farms from Middletown, Maryland, along with their Bichon dog, Teddy.

Vic calls East McKeesport, Pennsylvania home. Over the years since high school, he has taken courses in Accounting, Business Administration, Office Management and Industrial Engineering at George Washington University, Sacramento State College, and local community colleges. He had a varied career over his 36 years with Association of American Railroads, working in such diverse areas as finance and accounting, data systems, management systems, damage prevention and freight claims, operations and maintenance. Vic has done volunteer work in church groups and for local political candidates, besides being involved with various civic activities through his place of employment. He enjoys classic mystery novels and home improvements, as well as having an interest in genealogy.



Judy hails from Kalamazoo, Michigan but grew up in California. She received a degree in Child Psychology and Physiology from American River Community College and has taken additional courses in Adolescent Psychology. Judy worked with children in a pre-elementary private school and also did in-home childcare. She has been a foster parent for children from infant to age 3 and volunteered in foster care agencies. She was also a schoolteacher assistant volunteer at all grade levels. Judy enjoys TV series shows, documentaries and old movies, but her passion is finding new uses for old things. When Judy first visited Homewood about 20 years ago, she decided she would someday like to live here!

The Ryes have three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

--Leslie Hobbs and Barbara Kirk

A LOOK BACK AT 2021 ...



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY

JUNE



(Photos by Barbara Kirk, Shirley Erdmanis, Nancy Hamstead and Homewood staff)



JULY



AUGUST

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



GREAT DECISIONS 2022

Great Decisions is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Groups meet in communities across the country to learn more 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 book and are encouraged to read the relevant chapter prior to the meeting.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

We have **two groups that meet at different times**. Participants can attend whichever one is more convenient.

<u>Crumland Farms</u> <u>Friday @10 a.m.</u> <u>MultiPurpose Room</u>	<u>The Lodge</u> <u>Monday @ 7 p.m.</u> <u>Classroom A/B</u>
Topic	
February 11	February 7
February 25	February 21
March 11	March 7
March 25	March 21
April 8	April 4
April 22	April 18
May 13	May 9
May 27	May 22

SIGN UP on the sheet in the Do Drop In or the Crumland Farms coat room. You may also call or email **Sharron Smith** (CF group) or **Leslie Hobbs** (Lodge group) to register.

PURCHASE the 2022 GREAT DECISIONS BOOK for \$32 from:

Carol and Howard Smith	Lodge Apt 2024	240-367-3831
Roberta Sprague	2516 Homewood Drive	301-304-2772

QUESTIONS? Contact one of the coordinators:

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

HOMEWOOD RESPONDS GENEROUSLY TO RESCUE MISSION APPEAL

Thank you to all the residents who generously donated to the Frederick Rescue Mission Shelter Goods Drive.

Together we collected so many useful household and personal items to support the shelter, including various toiletries, socks and underwear, baby products, sleeping bags, baby monitors, pack and plays, etc. We also gave them a sizable cash donation in addition to all the donated goods.

It is so heartwarming to see how generous the residents and staff are in supporting those in our community in need.

--Liz Kannenberg, Volunteer Director



DINNER THEATER EVENING DELIGHTS RESIDENTS

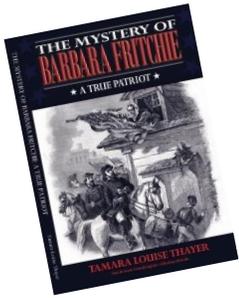
One of the many seasonal activities Homewoodians enjoyed last month was a trip to Way Off Broadway dinner theater. A group of eager residents attended a creative holiday musical entitled "The Christmas Spirit," performed by the Way Off Broadway production crew in an intimate theater setting. The musical featured numerous familiar Christmas carols. Of interest to those who may not have attended a play at the Way Off Broadway theater is that the actors also double as the wait staff for the buffet dinner served prior to the show. After enjoying the performance of the talented cast, guests left the theater in a festive mood and filled with "the Christmas spirit."

--Nancy Hamstead



Photo at left, L-R: **Hugh Morris, Pam Zusi, Margo Stevenson, Nancy Revis, Claude Revis, Dick Stevenson, Beverly Stang, Peter Stang, Mary Owens.** Photo at right, L-R: **Carole Van Gosen, Laurie Henry, Marghee Beatty, Bev Shively, Bob Coulson, Donna Coulson, Marcy Pekar.**
(Photo by Nancy Hamstead)

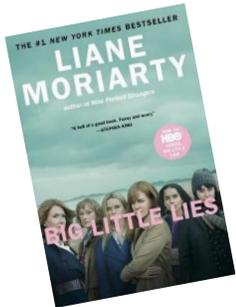
BOOK REVIEWS



The Mystery of Barbara Fritchie by Tamara Louise Thayer

Learn about Barbara Fritchie and how brave she was. Read John Greenleaf Whittier's poem about Barbara. Learn the famous people Barbara knew who were part of her life. There is a lot of North and South in this book and it all boils down to USA Patriotism. What a story of our flag and the people of those times! Thayer's research presented her with many lies and truths, but she sorts them out for our education and enjoyment. You will find some surprises in this book as well. This book will be on the New Arrivals rack at Crumland Farms for a while, then will be moved to the Biography shelves.

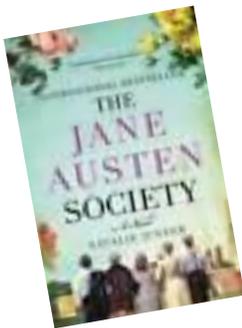
--Ruth Edder



Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty

This book is a murder mystery that takes place in a small town—but from the very beginning, you don't know who was killed, much less who might have done it! The characters are all parents of kindergarten children in a very rich community. You are introduced to their individual problems as they deal with their children and as they speculate on who has upset their formerly safe lives. Meanwhile, there are various town witnesses declaring what they deem to be fact—proving that witnesses never agree! A fascinating psychological drama with some romance thrown in. This book is in the large print section at The Lodge library.

--Kathy White



Jane Austen Society by Natalie Jenner

I am not a lover of all things Jane Austen, but her fans have enjoyed this book immensely. The story takes place in the 1940s, in Chawton, England, where Jane Austen lived during her final years. Several local residents discover that a local businessman wants to raze Austen's house and build a shopping center. They eventually get their act together and put up a fight to save the house. The book is lovely, and apparently the characters resemble those in Austen's books. Just a positive, gentle read in difficult times. You can find this in the large print collection at The Lodge library.

--Kathy White

There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind. – C.S. Lewis

THE SPIANS ENTERTAIN WITH COMEDY EVENING

There is Broadway, and Off-Broadway, and Way-Off-Broadway, as when the Homewood Senior Theatre players presented an *Early Evening Comedy* production at Crumland Farms recently. The show featured skits, short vignettes, and gentle humor about the trials and tribulations of the senior stage of life. The room was packed, and the audience clapped again and again as the talented band of performers played to the full house.

Of course, there were “glitches,” in the production, but they just added to the challenges, reality, and hilarity of the evening. Still, the troupers soldiered through, egged on by a delighted audience. All the performers were smartly prepared.

The group, formerly known as Readers Theatre, is chaired by **Sue Chapin**, who directed the production, and wearing a jester’s hat, co-narrated. **Libby Fuss** offered two irreverent prayers that rambled with humorous personal experiences. **Cindy Elliott** played a medley of show tunes that eased all into the mood as residents waited for additional chairs to be brought into the venue. The troupe included **Judi Adams, Nancy Boltz, Donna Coulson, Pat Dawson, Maxine French, Ann Moyer, Bob Powers, Claude Revis, Jim Spiller** and **Bruce Wilson**. **Neil Adams** managed sound effects. Activities Director Julie Norris designed the program and coordinated production.

The audience was there to laugh and be entertained, and they weren’t disappointed. Judging by the audience reaction, the “showstopper” was **Jim Spiller** in his surprise appearance as Elvis, with wig and sunglasses, singing a custom rendition of the 1926 ditty, “Are You Lonesome Tonight?”

As the invisible curtain came down, all the players joined together to sing “Give My Regards to Broadway” with special lyrics written by **Sue Chapin**. The show had what is known as a “limited run”—that is, the opening night was also the closing night! But to the players, the audience and this reviewer, the evening earned that oft-repeated review... “a good time was had by all.”

--Lillian Rohe



(Photo by Shirley Erdmanis)

MINDFUL MEDITATION GROUP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AND CURIOUS VISITORS

The Homewood Mindful Meditation Group has been meditating for over two years, even meeting over ZOOM during the worst of the pandemic! After a few changes of venue, we now settle into our circle of chairs every Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. in The Lodge library.

We are an interfaith group with varying degrees of “prior experience” (including NONE!) and share the task of offering a suggestion and/or teaching for the focus of an approximately 30-minute period of silence. On the second Tuesday of each month, we are led by Monda Sagalkin, a trained Mindful Meditation teacher in Frederick, who helped found the group.

Mindful meditation is a practice of awareness, of paying close attention to what we are feeling and thinking moment by moment, without judgment. (It was “popularized” in the U.S. and Europe by Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh, who you can google for further details.) However, each of us brings our own spin from our own life journeys and experiences.



The best way to “learn” is through experience. You do not have to come every time nor volunteer to lead. We welcome newcomers, as we were all newcomers once!

If you would like more information, contact **Franna Ruddell**, 301- 873-5225; **Cindy Abbott**, 240-446-5914; **Harry Smith**, 607-760-0297; **Dorothy Meacham**, 843-224-4598; **Gloria Dubin**, 301-620-1950; or **Letty Carpenter**, 301-378-9856.

Or, just drop by The Lodge library on a Tuesday afternoon at 2!

--Franna Ruddell

CAMPUS-WIDE QUARTERLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

The next quarterly memorial service will be held **Wednesday, January 26 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Chapel. We will be remembering residents from all levels of living who have died between October 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Independent Living and Assisted Living residents may attend in person. **Everyone must wear a mask to the service.**

It will be broadcast on Channel 970 and available via ZOOM for those family members who request it. Families whose loved ones are being remembered will receive personal invitations to attend.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA EXTENDS A BIG THANK-YOU TO ALL OUR DONORS!

We are pleased to announce that our Wreaths Across America campaign has exceeded our goal of sponsoring 1,000 wreaths. Thanks to all of our residents, businesses, families, friends and co-workers who contributed to sponsor **1,118 wreaths!!** That means that our Healthcare Center will receive \$5,400, which will be used to enhance alternative therapies such as art, music and massage therapy in both Willows and Meadows.

--Libby Fuss



A group of volunteers from Homewood participated in the wreath-laying ceremony on December 18. **Dave Chapin** is shown placing a wreath on one of the graves.



Pictured here is the presentation of the funds to Vicki Keriakos, Director of Nursing, by WAA Committee members. Left to right: **Nancy Hamstead, Jim Spiller, Vicki Keriakos, Libby Fuss, Howard Smith, Sue Chapin, Bev Kinsey and Diane Holter.** Not shown in the picture are committee members **Sandy Green and Kathy White.**

(Photos courtesy of Libby Fuss and Sue Chapin)

Congratulations to the Winners of our Holiday Decorating Contest!

THE LODGE

1st Floor: **Betty Wolf**
3rd Floor: **June Wagner**

2nd Floor: **Martha Moser**
4th Floor: **Margaret Perkoski**

CRUMLAND FARMS APARTMENTS

1st Floor: **"Lucky" Brittain**
3rd Floor: **Barbara Brakebill**

2nd Floor: **Lorina Tocknell**
4th Floor: **Cindy Elliott**

COTTAGES

Deborah Ehart

PATIO HOMES

Skip and Hazel Stewart, Bruce and Sandy Robertson, Jo Zimmerly and Joe Berman

PLEASE RECYCLE RIGHT!

Recycling bins to be utilized by Homewood at Frederick Independent Living residents were placed on campus in November—one at Crumland Farms between East Cottages and the staff parking lot and one at The Lodge near the Fitness Center entrance. To all IL residents who have been conscientiously and responsibly using recycling bins, we say THANK YOU!

There have, however, been incidents of things being deposited in recycling bins which are unacceptable. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE NOT SURE THAT AN ITEM IS RECYCLABLE, PUT IT IN THE TRASH! WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

The following are things which have been improperly disposed of in recycling bins:

Foam/Styrofoam packaging and trays such as meat products come on at grocery stores and clear clam-shell containers like those used by our food services for carry-outs.



Plastic bags of any kind are not to be placed in recycling. If you take recycling to a bin in a plastic bag, please empty it and take the bag with you!

Trash, including items such as disposable underwear, has been spotted in recycling bins. Please: No trash in recycling bins!

Our recycling goes to the Frederick County Landfill operated by the Department of Solid Waste Management and Recycling. If you want to find information through a computer, visit: www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/RecycleRight. If you have specific questions, you can call their office at 301-600-2960.

-- Jerry Fuss, Chairperson
Environmental Awareness Committee

FOOD DRIVE UPDATE

The fall food drive to benefit the Frederick Food Bank was a wonderful success. Thanks to the generosity of residents and coworkers who participated, we donated 65 bags of food items and \$2,270. Hats off to **Bob and Esther Ziegler** and Samantha Turner for making deliveries to the Food Bank.

'T WAS A HOLLY, JOLLY CHRISTMAS ...



*(Photos by Shirley Erdmanis,
Nancy Hamstead and Homewood staff)*

THOUGHTS ABOUT GIFTS ...

The holiday season is now just a memory, but those wonderful tokens of love and thoughtfulness are still with us. Every time we notice them, use them or even eat them, we are reminded of the person or persons who made our holidays bright and full of happiness. Yes, gifts do make us feel a certain kind of personage ... someone took the time and trouble to search for something special for us, and our appreciation for whatever was given is bountiful. However, there are some gifts that do not come wrapped or in boxes or bags but are still very much loved and remembered.



For example, my grandson, a young adult just preparing to enter the working world, visited me one day when I was just worn out from participating in some exhausting activities. He very quickly created order out of chaos in my apartment (even changing Honey's litter box!), running to the trash room several times, and performing a myriad of clean-up chores while I was “couching.” When he had finished, I thanked him profusely, and he said, “Grandma, call me whenever you need help.”

Then there's my exceptionally dear neighbor, who cleaned out her refrigerator to make room for my very large turkey that went back and forth to its temporary home until it was just skin and bones. And my former neighbor who sent me a birthday card (of course adorned with a cat) with a very lovely note. She remembered the day even though she has not lived across the hall for some time.

So, exactly what am I saying to all the many good people at Homewood? Yes, material things may give us a thrill because they are sent from those we love who have remembered us. But gifts from the heart, which are not “things” but rather “happenings,” are what makes the difference in our lives. This is because they cannot be bought. They are from the heart; they are very inexpensive; and they make us feel a gratitude that is indescribable.

--Alice Haber

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Newsletter Committee Meeting: the second Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.
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