The Future is Now: Cyber Asbury

By George Stosur, Past President, AMVCC and Bob Samworth, President, AMVCC

Yes, a potentially big change is coming to the existing Asbury Methodist Village Computer Club (AMVCC) and the Apple Corps. On the silver anniversary of the AMVCC, a specially appointed Committee looked at our past and recommended changes for our future. Here’s how and why:

- Computers have become much more reliable. User complaints about hardware and software are declining.
- Limited purpose Apps are replacing complex multipurpose software. New Apps have become increasingly user friendly and are focused on activities we engage in every day. And they don’t require programming by the user.

In a recent Washington Post article Steve Case, founder of AOL, noted that we are entering the third wave of the internet. In this wave...

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This Month in the Gallery

The Rosborough Cultural Arts and Wellness Center is home to an ever-changing gallery of arts and handicraft created by our residents. Stop by and see what’s new. With 12 display cases to look at, there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Here’s this month’s sampling of art.

Above left, Ruth Lotz, Diamond, Watercolor Center, Jeanne Jarvis, Park View, Woven fabrics, Woven baskets, Ceramics, Macrame

Above right, Dolores Kalo, Edwards-Fisher, Photographs

Cyber Asbury Party Coming Soon!

By Jeanne North, Trott

Cyber Asbury—what is it? A new species of wildlife, just sighted down by the lower pond? Another pub, this one on the near side of Asbury Drive? A brand new motor vehicle, sunshine yellow, that runs on grass clippings from AMV lawns?

Well, guess again. Cyber Asbury is none of the above but a concoction cooked up by a committee. Wouldn’t you know? It’s a new approach to conquering those inscrutable, exasperating, amazing inventions known as computers of all shapes and sizes; it’s the coming together under a large, multistriped/multicolored/multifunctioning umbrella of the Windows World and the Apple World and the Android World and other iterations of Comput...

Continued on page 2
Do All the Good You Can

By Kathy Lowe, member of the Spiritual Life PAC

Want To Do All the Good You Can For All That You Can?

Want to find a new home for:
• Used Bibles (English or Spanish)
• New Blank Greeting Cards
• New Current Calendars

Then, partner with Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church (GPC) and donate these items to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg, MD.

Send your items to the Pastoral Care and Counseling Office. The items will be delivered to the prison by a parishioner from GPC.

These items are in great need at the prison. This is a way to do a lot of good with little effort on your part.

Questions: Contact Kathy Lowe X 4883

CYBER

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The internet will become integrated into every life, involving health care, education, transportation, energy, financial services, food, and government services.

The Committee was asked to propose structural changes that will make the computer groups more responsive to the computing and communication needs of all Asbury residents and will result in greater utilization of computers by Asbury residents.

Committee members were: Bob Samworth, Chairman, Ken Rogers, Jeanne North, Jim Utterback, and Hal Gault.

The three key recommendations of the ad hoc committee are:
• Computer interest organizations at AM will function in a more unified way. The club will be supplanted by a more inclusive organization of residents with, or in search of, computer experience at all levels. The name will be “Cyber Asbury.”
• “The mission of Cyber Asbury is to serve all residents of Asbury Methodist Village by all available means in order to maximize the utility of computer devices and software to those residents.”
• Initially, the Windows Group and The Apple Corps will continue as special interest (SI) groups within the new organization, but will work together to pursue common concerns. Additional SI groups may develop, e.g. residents using tablet computers or smart phones.

Two activities that the groups can work together on are:
• Educating all residents in the use of basic apps. The basic apps are telecommunications with Skype and email, social networking and photo sharing, and retrieving information using the internet. A parallel program may introduce residents to new apps such as photo editing, word processing, and highly specific apps such as internet banking, finding local restaurants and restaurant reviews, obtaining weather information, making travel reservations, etc., etc., etc. Finally residents can gain the skills needed to integrate computers into their lives.
• Putting computers to work on the Asbury campus. Asbury has barely begun to use computer networking to provide care and services to residents. Access to the internet in residential units relies on a resident having their own cable internet connection. For the most part, terminals in residential units are limited to what the resident has acquired on his or her own. Asbury Web sites are in their infant state and appear destined to grow up slowly. Information on the Asbury web sites is at times limited and outdated. The Asbury sites can be nurtured as computers are put to work.

On May 6, the AMVCC Executive Committee endorsed the new organizational concept.

“The mission of Village Life is to provide timely, interesting and entertaining news about the lives, concerns and activities of the people who reside, work and volunteer at Asbury Methodist Village.”

Village Life, Gaithersburg, MD. 20877

“Visit Village Life’s web site, asburyvillage.org, for updates and information about our Village Life Editor and our Village Life Team.”

Village Life is brought to you in part by:

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PARTY

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ers yet to be designed.

Why now? Because 2015 is the 25th anniversary of the Computer Club, which as of this year, will officially no longer exist, but be subsumed by Cyber Asbury and become instead the Windows Special Interest Group, an independent organization that can carry on business as usual, but with new vigor.

To salute the Silver Anniversary of the Computer Club, the newly christened Cyber Asbury, blessed by both the Executive Committee of the Computer Club and the Asbury Apple Corps and welcomed by AMV Executive Director Henry Moehring, the ad hoc committee that so famously (or infamously?) cooked up Cyber Asbury is planning a Big Bash.

This is What We Know: the Silver Anniversary Celebration will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Rosborough Community Rooms. There will be refreshments, entertainment in the form of displays, hands-on activities for visitors, raffles and give-aways for guests.

This is What We Don’t Know yet for sure: what the raffles and give-aways will be; an Apple Watch? (not likely; unless you or someone else cares to donate one); a free computer course? probably; an Apple calendar? hmmm… good idea; at demonstration tables, a chance to Skype someone, to learn how to get info from the internet, to email a friend.

In the weeks and months ahead, you’ll be hearing more about Cyber Asbury. We’ll fill you in on what we plan over the weeks ahead. Follow your nose, follow the news. And come to the party on September 8.
Something New at the Bistro

By Mac McCullough, Diamond

Chamber music is being performed in the Blue Note Bistro this summer. Residents are invited to come and enjoy. Each performance begins at 2:00 PM.

The first concert was held on June 24 when the Wellspring String Quartet: Tiia Karlen and Jeanine Green, violins; Howard Holman, viola; and Barbara Jackson, cello; and Asbury Piano Quartet: Michelle Bartlow, violin; Howard Hallman, viola; Barbara Jackson, cello; and Sylva McCulloh will perform Piano Quartet No. 1 in G minor, K. 478 by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and a selection of Rogers and Hammerstein show tunes.

The Wellspring Quartet brought the first live performance to the Blue Note Bistro.

Asbury made the parade scene last year and is getting ready to do it again!

Love A Parade?
Labor Day is Calling YOU!

By Mac McCullough, Diamond

Labor Day is just around the corner and Asbury Methodist Village will be participating again in the traditional Gaithersburg Parade down Russell Avenue. There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved. Here are a few:

“Burma Shave” signs. We are going to post a series of a signs along Russell Avenue saying something about Asbury, like the old Burma Shave signs. We invite you to submit 5 or 6 signs with 2 or 3 words on each ending with “at Asbury”. You can submit your suggestions to Howard Hallman (D-716 or hwhallman@verizon.net) by June 20th.

The Labor Day Parade Committee will pick the winning entry and have the signs prepared.

World War II Veterans. We would like 16 or so World War II veterans to ride on the trolley in observance of the 70th Anniversary of the war’s end. We would also like one of those who volunteer to be the coordinator of this activity.

Convertible. Do you have a son, daughter or other relative who would like to be in the parade? We need a convertible and driver to provide transportation for the Asbury Clowns. If you do, contact Howard.

There are three opportunities for residents. There will be more in the future, including the opportunity to actually be in the parade. Last year’s marchers found the mile and a half walk fun and not too arduous. This is a great way to show off Asbury and its active residents.

The final concert, Asbury Pianists Play the Classics, will be on Wednesday, August 12 and will feature Jean Lauderdale and Alma Rhodes. Just one more reason to come to the Bistro.

MyAMV.org - Your WINDOW on Asbury

By Hal Gaut 6/15/2015

Even though I couldn’t resist the metaphor, MyAMV.org is really just a website. It has been evolving over the past few years under the creative eye of Joon Kim with loads of advice and suggestions from residents and most recently the Communications PAC. When I say, “just” a website, don’t be misled. While it is, and will continue to be a work in progress, it’s probably the largest single collection of information about anything and everything going on around campus.

For example, on the front page alone, a single click on Dining Menus will bring up information on all things gustatorial. Here you will find current menus, nutritional information, pictures of our dining staff, as well as Dish on Dining videos that you may have missed when they originally aired on AVTV. And speaking of missing things, if you have missed out on a recent Village Life, a single click on Village Life will bring up the entire library of back issues.

As residents, one of our big problems is that there are so many things going on around campus. In an effort to please as many tastes as possible in organizing things, if you have missed out on the latter containing unique information furnished by your own Council, are a gold mine for you to explore. And as if this weren’t enough, the AVTV scroll runs continuously in a “window” on the main screen.

Folks without their own computer might want to check out the Smithie Center or the Apple Corps lab in Rosborough, or the Diamond Computer facility in 415, or possibly even a good neighbor with a computer. MyAMV.org is well worth a visit.
“Baile” Makes Its Asbury Debut

By Jan Garman, Diamond

It may have been “April Fool’s Day” on Wednesday, April 1 when the Baile (Spanish for “dance”) Club of Gaithersburg Elementary School took the stage in AMV’s Rosborough Theatre, but these young dancers did not fool around. They took their dancing very seriously and treated their families and Asbury residents to a lovely performance of hip-hop and salsa fusion dancing. In addition to the elementary students, three of their instructors performed numbers including salsa, African and modern dancing.

Three of the dancers, Emily Mejía, Angel Rios and Helen Sanchez, were familiar with Asbury as they are part of the group that attends the Beloved Community Initiative’s (BCI) Friday mentoring program. Emily and Helen’s mentors had given them a “sneak peek” at the stage. To the rest of the group, however, the stage at Rosborough could have been overwhelming but they were grateful to Asbury for the opportunity to perform on our beautiful stage and took their new venue in stride. They lived up to their pledge to follow directions, pay attention, participate, try new things and to remember that Baile Club is a safe zone.

Baile Club is the creation of Sydney Stasch, a recreation supervisor with the City of Gaithersburg and a member of BCI’s Advisory Committee. Sydney runs after-school programs at five elementary schools in Gaithersburg with the largest program being at Gaithersburg Elementary School. For several semesters, there has been a waitlist of over 100 students, so it became apparent that something more was needed. When Sydney conferred with Renata Pavani from Linkages to Learning at GES, she discovered that many parents had expressed sadness that their school children did not participate in traditional dances, an important part of their native cultures, so Sydney started Baile Club last October.

Just about the same time that Sydney had expressed the need for dance shoes at a BCI Advisory Committee meeting, she was put in touch with the Metropolitan Ballet Theatre who not only provided the shoes through a grant but also provided a professional ballet/jazz instructor. Baile Club now has staff who offer instruction in jazz/ballet, African, hip-hop and folklore/traditional salsa dancing. As Sydney says, “This is only the beginning of the story.” We at AMV hope that it is only the beginning of Baile Club recitals here at Asbury.

Asbury Guild Showcase

By Marilyn Gaut, Trott

If you missed the annual Guild Showcase, April 10, you missed something special. I have discovered that many of us on campus have little idea what the Guild does. Did you know...

Since the Guild’s founding in 1934, it has supported many unfunded needs at AMV. For example, the Guild provided the chapel here on campus. It gave $500,000 to create the Benevolent Care Endowment Fund. Other past contributions have been the first bus of the Asbury fleet, resident laundry rooms at Wilson, a gift for the walking garden, silverware for dining tables, bed linens, rocking chairs for Kindley.

Recent contributions have been the Wilson Bistro amenities stations on Wilson’s third floor and new first floor. Annual contributions go to Wilson and Kindley for trips and activities. Best known are probably the monthly birthday parties and Elves day at Christmas.

Where does this money come from? Our biggest supply comes from the Bargain Mart. It takes many hard working people to do this. Our gift shop in Wilson is another big help. And we now have a sewing room near Arcadia where residents do repair and altering for a small gift to the Guild’s work. The Guild also has a membership drive, $5 a person, but many people give more. Anyone who wants to contribute time or money to this work can contact their Guild representative: Trott-Britta Chambers, Mund-Jeanne McCoy, Edwards Fisher-Sandy Matthews, Diamond-Carol Brewer, Wallace-Illa (Deen) Olson, Villas-Jo Yount, Courtyard-Terry Herndon, Kindley-Val McIlrath.

Now you know!!

We Came, We Saw, We Identified

By Minette McCullough, Diamond

Twenty Asbury birders, some participating in just one walk and others in all five, identified 37 different species of birds on our campus. Alternating between the ponds and the gardens, we had great weather (except for one rainy morning). We didn’t have any new species we hadn’t seen in previous years, but we enjoyed seeing our old friends.

Here are the species we identified:

- Double-crested Cormorant
- Great Blue Heron
- Green Heron
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Canada Goose
- Mallard
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Mourning Dove
- Eastern Phoebe
- Great Crested Flycatcher
- Eastern Kingbird
- Red-eyed Vireo
- Blue Jay
- American Crow
- Fish Crow
- Tree Swallow
- Barn Swallow
- Carolina Chickadee
- House Wren
- Blue-grey Gnatcatcher
- American Robin
- Gray Catbird
- Northern Mockingbird
- European Starling
- Cedar Waxwing
- Yellow Warbler
- Eastern Towhee
- Chipping Sparrow
- Song Sparrow
- Northern Cardinal
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Common Grackle
- Brown-headed Cowbird
- Orchard Oriole
- House Finch
- American Goldfinch
- House Sparrow

Maybe we will try again next spring.
nice chat I brought in our step stool from the kitchen and he climbed back up through my ceiling, suggesting that if I called 4071 that Marcia and Lenny would send someone over to patch the hole in my ceiling before it rained too hard. I wasn’t too concerned because we’re due for renovation anyway.

OK, OK, OK, so I may have exaggerated just a little bit. But we have felt a definite closeness to the guys working right over our heads. Every so often we’d experienced what might be described as small earthquakes, accompanied by intermittent sonic “booms.” And that’s after the pile drivers stopped.

I prevailed upon Norma Barr in Diamond to let me use her 11 floor balcony for a few pictures looking down on Trott from across the way. A little later, while photographing a resident on the back of the 5th floor, I got a little different perspective. Her apartment looked out on a huge crane, extending well over the top of the roof. Also got a few, albeit not very spectacular from the ground, one picture I don’t have is the view from Jeanne North’s patio on back of the first floor of Trott. However, being the writer that she is, this is how she describes it. “The scene was like a ballet, one guy on the ground directed the crane as it lowered a giant box of debris, then positioned it over the dumpster outside my bedroom window and while I wondered who was going to scoop the contents out of the box and put them in the dumpster, Whoosh! splat! The bottom of the box opened and in a flurry of dust everything in the box fell neatly, noiselessly into the dumpster. Meanwhile, another workman was standing on the bed of a truck, wrapping wide sturdy straps around big packets of some unknown kind of roofing material, then hooking them to the finger of the arm of the crane, to be hoisted slowly, skillfully eight stories high.

When it’s all over and the roof is done, I’ll miss the crane and the dumpster and the beep beep beep of the truck as it backs into place in Trott’s service drive, delivering workmen and then, at day’s end, taking the crew away.” One thing Jeanne was too discreet to mention was watching the crane haul port-a-johns up and down, but its all part of the package.

So between all the ‘boom’s” and the “beep beep beep’s”, in a few weeks Trott should have a ‘Bang up” new roof. In all seriousness, we appreciate all the good work these guys do, especially in the extreme heat that we had in late June.

The Keese School Awards are gratifying to give and to get.

The Education Awards Program Continues to Grow

This year the Keese School Education Awards program had more recipients, more funds, and more resident participation than ever before. It was possible to assist the higher education of more AMV dining room servers, twenty in all. And 163 AMV residents contributed a record amount of money. Added generous support from the Keese School led to a grand total of slightly over $28,000.

Awards were presented during a ceremony to Elolo Ayemayoh, Chris Assibu, Ehrin Baul, Cindy Bazuwabo, Jeremiah Bennett, Jessica Canedes, Khalid Kamara, Grant Munson, Mohamed Nabe, Martha Ngong, and Betsy Quintinilla from the Crawford Dining Room staff. Those from Hefner were Tajmia Gentry, Ariel Mercado, Jennifer Fletcher, Jazmine Thomas, Sara Cruz, Monica Reynoso, Erica George, Drevan Thomas, and Britany Carroll.

The Friday, May 22, festive award celebration brought laughter, a few tears of joy, and lots and lots of smiles and applause. The Rosborough Community room was packed with AMV residents, Dining Services and other associate staff members, award recipients, and their families and friends. After a welcome from Keese School President David Kosow and the Invocation by the Reverend Doctor Gerard Green, Bruce Kuehnle, Chair of the Education Awards Committee, introduced the presentations. Each recipient received a certificate and a $1400 contribution for tuition. Next, Mary Lou Luff, representing the Catholic Community, presented certificates and checks for $150 to help pay for books. The awardees had chances to make a few comments including announcements of their intended fields of study.

The program concluded with comments from Henry Moerhing, who emphasized the awards as a symbol of AMV Community spirit. Finally all adjourned to enjoy conversation and light refreshments.

The Awards Committee members are Bruce Kuehnle, Audrey Chereshkin, Jack Hutchings, Mary Beth Morsink, Donna Schramm, Jane Sween, Peggy Jones, Carol McNeil, and Mary Wiehl. Well-deserved kudos go to Susan Veras, Chair for Special Occasions, who handled the arrangements for the affair. It was the best celebration ever.

YOU ARE NEEDED

There was a Health Fair for our Asbury associates June 9 and 10. I was there with information about the English tutoring program we have here on campus. Several signed up for help with English. But this leaves me in a quandary as I do not have enough tutors (residents trained in the program) for them.

To overcome this problem we will be having a tutor training workshop in November, the Saturdays of Nov. 7 and 21, with an Orientation Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. in the Community Rooms. The Orientation gives an overview of the program to see if you want to do this because the workshop costs $25. If you are interested please put these dates on your calendar and call me, Marilyn Gaut, at 5219. I have already started a list and am ready to add your name.
I Dared to Do It

By Mac McCullough, Diamond

In April 1987, Minette and I went to the Pecos River Conference Center, east of Santa Fe, New Mexico to attend an ‘outward bound’ experience. With 12 other friends, we spent four days being put through a series of daring tests.

There was the “trust walk” where blindfolded, one was required to walk around unfamiliar grounds. There was the “trust fall” where you stood on a 5-foot walk with your back to the group and your arms folded and then fell back counting on the group to catch you. The other women in the group were all quite small, so Minette announced just before she fell backwards, “Remember, I am deceptively heavy.”

Then they got serious with the “zip wire” and “telephone pole.” We were driven to the top of a 200-foot bluff facing the Pecos River. A zip wire stretched 300 or so yards to the top of the pole. We were equipped with safety harnesses, but they didn’t stop people from falling. It took some guts to try.

It was a great experience and certainly a challenge for me. I’ve not done anything as physically and mentally daring since.

Mac and Zil

Yikes! Mac did THIS!

a thrill, but not as daring as the next one.

The telephone pole had pieces of wood nailed to it so that you could climb up, but when you got to the top you had to climb around and stand up on a 12’ disc attached to the top of the pole. We were equipped with safety harnesses, but they didn’t stop people from falling. It took some guts to try.

It was a great experience and certainly a challenge for me. I’ve not done anything as physically and mentally daring since.

Commissioning Week for the Guys on Navy Crew

By Jeanne North, Trott

Four years it takes to get to the last week as a U.S. Naval Academy midshipman rowing for the Navy in endless competitions. Four years of early morning rising, grueling training, “Yes Sir!” here there and everywhere, workouts in the boathouse and on the river, late nights studying, prepping for endless exams, daily 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. practice sessions called by the coach, the sobering realization of all that is involved in earning the privilege of rowing in the U.S. Navy’s First Varsity Crew in one regatta after another, culminating in the Eastern Sprints in Worcester, MA where 18 schools fielded crews in 49 races.

Then finally, the top rowers, no longer Midshipmen but commissioned as Ensigns (Navy) or Second Lieutenants (Maries), go on to the Nationals, vying to be ranked among the best in the country. Having reached the pinnacle of their Naval Academy experience with the brotherhood forged in the crucible of development and testing of skill, the graduated rowers now are ready for the next step in their lives in the U.S. Navy or Marine Corps — naval aviation school, surface warfare training, bomb demolition, submarine force, Marine Corps ground warfare, among other options.

Commissioning Week, the week before the May 22, 2015 Graduation Day offered families a memorable spectacle of events: Monday, Reception at the home of the USNA Superintendent, Vice Admiral Walter C. Carter, Jr., U.S. Navy; Tuesday, a flyover by the Blue Angels, seen from the Sea wall, then an awards ceremony where many Mids receive recognition of one kind or another, dinner at the Carroll’s Creek dockside restaurant in Annapolis, a concert by NA glee clubs at the historic Chapel, with its landmark dome being ever closer to the mostly white-uniformed block of Mids seated near the podium, then as the Covers go flying up, scrambling, running in a wild frenzy to seize a hat and the coins or bills that traditionally the Mids tuck inside the hat they will wear no more. Their new Cover, with its new insignia, will mark their new rank.

The Final Good-bye comes in an emotional gathering of that special group, the guys from the Heavyweight Varsity Eight Crew, at a designated meeting place, an old Blue Angel parked just outside the stadium, to exchange that treasured First Salute, take photos, and make plans for future meetings.

Luis, a valued Naval Academy Cox who opted to join the Marines after graduation, wears his heart on his sleeve and is not embarrassed to hug either officer or this grandmother, put it this way when speaking of the special feelings for his fellow crew members: “They’re my brothers,” he said. “They’ll be at my wedding. I’ll know them my whole life.”
I am just back from Baltimore harbor where my wife and I had a marvelous time touring the aquarium, visiting Phillips Crabhouse for lunch, and taking a cruise of Baltimore harbor. It was all part of an Asbury-sponsored trip organized by Beryl Miller of Diamond. As a resident of Kindley we have access to all Asbury-sponsored trips. Next month we are going to go back to Baltimore to see the Cirque de Soliel on an excursion which is sponsored by the wellness program. Between these activities and the regular Kindley trips organized by Celia Nathan and Ann Giaquinto we manage to keep busy.

There is a luncheon trip essentially every week. One trip a month is usually to Walmart for general shopping. In the month of June, for example, we start with a ride in the country combined with a trip to the ice cream store. The following week we go to the Golden Bull restaurant; then there is a tour of the National Arboretum with a picnic lunch. It is important that I point out that a relatively small fraction of the Kindley residents avail themselves of all of these activities. Although the bus is fully equipped to handle wheelchair and people with walkers, only a dozen or so of us are restless enough to want to go on all the trips. These articles represent my wife and my personal experience to try and give you a sense of what one couple has found attractive in living in Kindley. Everyone has their own story and this is ours.

The trips are organized primarily by the irrepressible Celia Nathan. She or Ann Giaquinto accompany us on every trip and I would swear that they can multiply themselves, because one is always nearby, watching that we don’t trip, collide with other people or enter the wrong restroom, embarrassing everyone. I swear I don’t know how one person can be in so many places seemingly at the same time. In any case, they cheerfully manage every week to load around 13 or 14 people onto the Kindley bus and bring them back on time, well fed, and generally content. For those who do not desire, or are unable to go, on the trips there is plenty going on back home. Every day begins with morning stretch exercise and ends with a movie in the evening. In between there is a constant stream of activities for various tastes. There is a low vision program, a knitting circle, exercise training with James Warner, monthly meetings of the resident Council and the ubiquitous Bingo. Musical groups or sing-alongs seem to appear three or four times weekly.

There is a weekly Chat with the Chaplain led by the Kindley Chaplain, Rev. Noemi Parella-Mena. Kindley hosts a Parkinson’s exercise classes three times a week. I could go on, but I think this conveys the idea that something is going on all the time. Like the weather in the Midwest, if you don’t like it now, wait half an hour and it will be different.

Kindley residents have abundant space for their activities. There is a library on the second floor and a well-stocked game room on the fifth floor. The first and third floors are used for group activities and meetings. The activities include balloon volleyball, dancing, music and exercise programs and a potpourri of other events. Groups such as the Parkinson’s support group often meet in the third floor living room. Weekends are longest for us at Kindley. As the staff takes a well-earned break, the activity rate winds down. On Sundays a Vesper service is held in the afternoon and movies are shown but it is generally a very quiet day. I am afraid we get spoiled with so much provided for us during the week; we have to relearn the art of entertaining ourselves. But with my fast Internet connection, and my wife’s activity in the Asbury Choir we usually manage to keep busy until the Monday activities roll around.

In the end, the activity level for us is governed by the same constraints that we experienced living independently in Park View; namely our energy level and enthusiasm, or at least willingness, to do things a little differently; with people whom we knew a bit less well than those we left behind. Asbury in general has a wealth of opportunities to keep one busy all the time. But one doesn’t want to be busy all the time. So it becomes a constant struggle to find the balance between over-commitment and a lethargic withdrawal from the world. Kindley provides the opportunities to be active, or to be withdrawn. All of us have to help each other as we battle to constantly find that balance in an ever-changing world of challenges and reduced personal resources. We need our friends now more than ever—I hope you have a friend to lean upon in the weeks to come. Thank you for letting me lean on you a bit this month.

By PHYLLIS W. ZENO, WALLACE

It Ain’t Over ‘Til It’s Over!

W asn’t it Yogi Berra who coined that phrase? But it was the Village Life Players who brought it to life on the Asbury campus. Our Village Life: The Musical II played its last performance on May 3, 2015. The scenery was torn down, the costumes were stored away, the cast of 52 players and 10 stage crew had moved on to other activities, when word reached us that Asbury Board members from other campuses across the country would be paying a three-day visit to the Gaithersburg campus for a look at some of the activities that fill our lives here.

There would be lectures and tours and dinners, and, oh, how about performing a scene from our recent show? Our first impulse was to christen our new Blue Note Bistro with a cast gathering on the premises...a perfect setting for “Meet Me at the Mystery Bistro.” But did we have the sound and lighting equipment in place, and was there room enough for the 56 visiting Board members? We’d have to give two performances for sure, and would they conflict with luncheon in the Hef-
Up, Up and Away

From the time I was very young and read all 26 of the Oz books, I've had the fantasy that I, like Dorothy, would climb into a balloon and fly away to the land of Oz.

A few years back, when I was editor of a travel magazine, I finally realized my fantasy when I was invited to join a test flight over the French countryside in one of Buddy Bombard's new balloons. Buddy had made a name for himself by providing hot air balloon trips over Burgundy.

The flight was to take place at dusk with the launch from a friendly French farmyard, and the entire neighborhood had turned out to see us. A few of the farmers had already prepared themselves for bed in their white union suits.

Yves, the pilot, and his assistants, Jules and Noel, had spread the balloon out on the ground and were filling it with air from a small, gas-operated fan. As the balloon began to take shape, Yves substituted a propane gas tank for the fan and fired a jet-propelled flame into the balloon. The noise was deafening!

“All right,” said Yves. “We can go.”

I viewed the high basket with alarm. There was one toe-rope in the lower corner but nothing else.

“When we begin to offer these flights commercially, we'll have steps to mount them,” Yves assured me.

But for now, the most challenging part of the balloon ride might be getting into the basket. It would be like throwing my leg over an upright piano.

“Come on, come on,” Yves called frantically. “The balloon’s taking off!”

I began to envision that I, like Dorothy, would be left sitting on the ground while the Wizard took off without me. Worse still, the balloon could lift off with me dragging by the toehold.

Noel ran forward and offered his knee. “Step on my leg... quickly!”

“You’ll never walk again,” I protested, but Yves was urgent, so using Noel as a stepladder, I managed to get one leg over the basket and hoist myself in.

With another blast of propane, we seemed to go straight up. Our absolute weightlessness as we wafted over French farmlands was a heady feeling. The sky was nearly cloudless, the air soft and warm. Far below I could see the chase vehicle.

After the initial shock of the lift-off, I was able to peer over the side of the basket at the quiet farmlands below and reflect on the amazing experience I was enjoying.

Forty-five minutes later, Yves was preparing for our landing. “As we descend, do not hang onto the edge of the basket in case we roll. Hold onto the hand ropes inside and take a crouching position to cushion the shock.”

When we were ten feet off the ground, Yves signaled, “All right now! Crouch!”

There were a few slight bumps, and the basket came to a halt. Upright! To my dismay, the basket was upright! I thought it would land on its side, and I would crawl out.

What an inglorious way to end a flight... instead of hopping out of the basket to the cheers of the crowd, I would be crouched at the bottom until everyone left so I could exit head first.

With a burst of strength I didn’t even know I had, I backed up to the rim of the basket, boosted myself by my hands and swung my legs over the toehold.

“Ahah!” said Yves proudly. “Now we drink champagne! We have landed successfully!”

“And if we hadn’t?” I asked timidly.

“Then Jules and Noel would have drunk it without us,” grinned Yves.

“Over my dead body!” I protested.

“Exactement!” nodded Yves.

Z-Notes
By Phyllis W. Zeno, Wallace
Thank you, Asbury, for a Delightful Solstice Party!

By Marilyn Gaut, Trott

As the partygoers entered the huge tents, colorful leis were placed around their necks. The place was a-buzz with conversation and laughter, and tables filled quickly.

Shrimp kabobs, crab cakes, infused bourbon chicken, and bbq ribs lined the food tables along with vegetable wraps and fresh fruit. The dessert table had yummy brownies, fruit squares and a spicy watermelon gazpacho.

At seven the Seth Kiebel instrumental quartet from Strathmore began to play. Seth on the clarinet and sax was outstanding. People were invited to dance. It was cloudy and they played songs such as “Blue Skies” to keep the rain away. Actually, the temperature was more comfortable without the burning rays of sun.

All pronounced the event a huge success.

Photos: Hal Gaut
How GREAT I AM! – How About You?

By Jean Hubbell Villas

Being “great” is doubtless a designation many Asbury residents share. Recently I had the opportunity to hold my six-week-old great granddaughter and I just melted as I received what I am sure was a big smile. Alexandria is my second “great” grand, the first being Benjamin, who just turned three. All in all we probably live on a “great” campus. Wouldn’t it be fun to know who is the “greatest” among us? And, is it possible we have a “great great” grand here with us? If I live to be 100 as my mother did, I may make that goal.

Having an older brother who got started in the family business much earlier than I means I have achieved double great status in a different way. In May I had the pleasure of having a visit from my niece, her daughter, and her daughter – my latest great great niece, now two years old. Being “great” is just that – GREAT – all play and no work.

Looking forward to next month’s challenge!

OUR NATIVE PLANTS (8 of a series) BEARD TONGUE

By Peter Cascio, Courtyard Homes

Now in my third year dealing with Penstemon digitalis, (It did not exist in my Life-before-Asbury) I think I must reiterate to the readers what I admitted to my fellow Courtyard Homes residents on horticultural issues: I am not infallible on any topics (no matter how I wish I were more knowledgeable). When Linda asked at the May 7th meeting of Village Life what I would write for the next issue, I confidently responded, “Penstemon digitalis.” Thus committed, I discovered that I had to learn a whole lot more than I knew when I spoke.

Research reveals that our Penstemon digitalis is called “Husker’s Red” as indicated by the red foliage and pinkish flowers. Straight digitalis has green foliage and white flowers. They are the six plants at the east end (before you get to the one live Spicetree and the tiny White dogwood up front) of the fenced pollination plot at the south end of the upper pond.

The genus, Penstemon, in Greek means five stamens of which four are fertile and one is sterile. The fifth and sterile stamen, which has a tuft of small hairs, gives the plant the common name of “Beard tongue”. The species part, digitalis, comes from the finger-like tubular flowers at the end of each stem.

There are over 250 native species of Penstemon in North America. The eastern varieties are found from Nova Scotia to Georgia and west to Texas and Minnesota. The western US has many more varieties in all colors except yellow with some flourishing under unusually harsh desert-like conditions in Nebraska, Utah and Wyoming. Penstemon is included in our pollination garden because it attracts hummingbirds, our native mason, mining, leafcutter and carpenter bees, the hawk moth and various butterflies for the nectar. Accidental pollen on an insect or the forehead of a hummingbird acts to pollinate other plants. But pollen not spread elsewhere by the bumble bee is taken home to feed the young. Goldfinches and cardinals come in the fall for the seeds. The seeds that they don’t eat will eventually create a Penstemon carpet of perennial plants in this Pollination Plot #2.

Historically, our Native Americans found Penstemon species useful in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. The Navaho used it to increase recovery rate of open flesh wounds by inhibiting swelling. One of its chemical properties increases the muscular activity of new generative growth of tissues from bullet or arrow wounds and flesh burns. It has also been used for compresses, ointments, creams, balms, foot soaks, bath herbs and as suppositories. For internal use it was boiled to produce a refreshing tea for internal injuries and coughs. It was used for sick or injured animals externally for abrasions, flesh wounds and broken bones.

During the research, the species digitalis received all kinds of Internet responses because of Digitalis purpurea a.k.a. Foxglove. The Foxglove flower has a similar shaped two-lipped glove finger but it is much larger than the Penstemon flower. And the renown of Digitalis for its beneficial treatment of heart disease has been able to interrupt my research efforts for this article to an unreasonable degree.

Looking forward to next month’s challenge!

OUR NATIVE PLANTS (9 OF A SERIES) BEEBALM

In our Pollination Plot at the south end of the upper pond (PP#2) we have planted two varieties of Beebalm. Wild bergamot (Monarda fistulosa) has a white flower with a purple tinge and crimson or scarlet beebalm or bergamot or Oswego tea (Monarda didyma) with its (guess)-colored flower. Both are in full bloom today (June 18, 2015). John Villforth has identified and photographed a third variety growing on campus: Horsemint or spotted bee-balm (Monarda punctata).

Wild bergamot pretty much covers the North American continent. It ranges from Quebec westward to the Northwest Territories and south to Arizona and Georgia. Oddly there was no mention of Florida or California so maybe by nature it avoids heavy tourist and CCRC populations. Wild bergamot is noted for its aroma. It is the source of oil of thyme. Interestingly, Native Americans identified four different fragrances in four different subspecies of wild bergamot.

The plant was considered medicinal by several Native American communities including the Menominee, Ojibwa and Winnebago. Commonly it was used to treat colds and made into a tea sweetened with honey because of its strength. It is still used today during cold and flu season. John Villforth’s research brought out that Thymol (thyme oil) as a depressant is one of the most commonly used by anesthetiologists and nurses. The Blackfoot used it in poultices as an antiseptic for skin infections and wounds.

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Looking forward to next month’s challenge!
Oakdale High School in Frederick, MD, held its senior class awards assembly recently. The procedure was that the people representing the sponsor of an award would make the presentation. This included such organizations as the American Legion, the local business bank, etc. Each one would get up, state what the award was about and then proceed to specify what the winner, who was not yet named, had done to earn it. Finally the name was given. The seniors gave generous rounds of applause, sometimes more vigorously than others.

One of the representatives was a member of the staff. When she started to describe the yet unnamed winner she became quite emotional. Another teacher came up and stood beside her to offer support. When she finally announced the name, the seniors en masse, stood up and rendered thunderous applause and cheers. This young man had been in the school four years ago as a Special Needs pupil. His problem did it magnificently. He knew what he was doing and he did it magnificently.

This young man had arrived at the school last year as a Special Needs pupil. His problem was about 2/3 of the way across he stopped. He just stood there. And he stood there. And he stood there. I thought he had lost his composure and I wondered why some staff member on the stage did not guide him. And he stood there. The arena, filled with about 2,000 people, began to become silent as everyone watched him. And he stood there. The arena became absolutely quiet—not a sound. At that point he raised his hand to his tassel and moved it from one side to the other and the seniors did likewise to up roarious cheers.

This young man had been in complete and absolute control of the situation throughout. He knew what he was doing and he did it magnificently. And once he could not relate to people. God bless our teachers.

### In Memoriam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Residence(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Betty Neal</td>
<td>WHCC</td>
<td>05-23-2015</td>
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<td>Dorothy Fordham</td>
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<td>Harriet Stern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen DeSoto</td>
<td>Kindley</td>
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<td>Richard D. Olson</td>
<td>Wallace</td>
<td>06-07-2015</td>
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<td>Mary Marjorie Russin</td>
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<tr>
<td>James P. Bass</td>
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<td>Clifford Bachrach</td>
<td>WHCC/Kindley/Villas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Geran</td>
<td>WHCC/Kindley/Edwards-Fisher</td>
<td>06-17-2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Weinstein</td>
<td>WHCC</td>
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### Gil’s granddaughter Samantha is a Maryland State Champion!

This past April 19 was a very big day for the Snyder family. It was on this day that my eight-year-old grand-daughter Samantha became the Maryland State Champion in level 5 gymnastics. The venue for the event was the Athletic Recreation and Community Center at the Hagerstown Community College. The overall event had 33 teams and 18 age groups that were comprised of 406 participants. Samantha was in the age group designated Ch D, along with 21 other participants. She was a member of Hill’s Gymnastics Team located in Gaithersburg. Hill’s Gymnastics was represented by eleven young ladies, two of which competed at the age group Ch D.

Each participant performed in Vault, Bars, Beam and Floor events. As in the Olympics, each participant can score a total of 10.00 points per event with up to 40.00 points for all four events. Samantha scored a total of 38.15 points made up of 9.30 in the Vault, 9.55 in Bars, 9.55 in Beam and 9.75 in Floor. This was Samantha’s first year in competition and she participated in eight events throughout the state of Maryland with events as far away as Waldorf and Churchville. Her scores in three of the championship events exceeded any of her previous scores while she tied her previous high in the Vault. The Hill’s Gymnastics team won third place in Hagerstown.

Samantha started gymnastics at The Little Gym in Germantown and went on to Hill’s Gymnastics from there. She attended The Little Gym just one day a week for an hour at each visit. After her experience at The Little Gym and after watching the 2012 Summer Olympics, she decided she would like to keep up gymnastics at Hill’s Gymnastics where she was expected to practice two nights a week and every Saturday for three hours; that is really some commitment for a young girl. With her win at level 3, she will be moving on to level 4, where she will be expected to practice four hours each session with sessions on Wednesday evening, Friday evening and Saturday, meaning she will only be required to practice on one school night.

 Needless to say, the Snyder family is very proud of Samantha’s achievements and dedication as is her Mother’s family, the Brassels. Is there an Olympic Gymnastics Champ in the future? Only time and many hours of practice will tell.
Welcome New Residents

Sandra Clunies
Trott 213, x6667

The Trott Editor (and her computer support staff) owe Sandra MacLean Clunies a huge apology. Sandra, who moved into Trott early last year, is an internationally known genealogist. She has published four books on genealogy and innumerable articles in professional journals, and she has also lectured widely, including a presentation to our own Asbury Computer Club. (She also reads Village Life cover to cover which is how the omission finally was discovered.)

Born and brought up in Lexington, Massachusetts, she attended Simmons College in Boston and was graduated with a degree in Social Work. She worked in that field for 20 years and followed with a ‘middle’ degree from Johns Hopkins in Applied Behavioral Science. A second career in the Public Health Service followed, so genealogy is her third career.

Sandy loves to travel, especially with the Elderhostel Road Scholar program. She has been to Hawaii, most of the National Parks, Sea Island Georgia, and on a lovely river cruise from Normandy to Paris. She will soon depart for a Mediterranean cruise.

Divorced, Sandy has two adult children, a daughter in California and a son in Pittsburgh and two grandchildren, one of whom just graduated from Syracuse University. Sandy has lived in Montgomery County 50 years and has many happy memories. One of them is of a job she had as a very young woman. In 1966 she was the first director of Gaithersburg HELP and one of the first volunteers there was a young woman named Marilyn Gaut, also a Trott resident who is well known here for her generous volunteer work.

At Asbury we frequently come upon connections to our earlier lives, and to former colleagues and old friends. These connections form a friendly bridge to our new life here and to new friends.

—Becky Ratliff, (amended by Hal Gaut) Trott reporter

Eileen and Paul Eshleman
Wallace 104, x6927

Eileen and Paul Eshleman didn’t have to travel far when they moved to Asbury May 4. They had lived in the same Derwood house for 48 years. They’ve been married 49 years. They met on a blind date in Ocean City. Paul was an electrical engineer, Eileen a teacher. Before becoming a freelancer, Paul worked for the NUS Corporation of Gaithersburg. Eileen, an elementary school teacher, says that teaching first-graders was “the love of my life.”

Paul, a native of Pittsburgh, graduated from Carnegie Tech—now Carnegie Mellon—University. Eileen was born Eileen Hawkins in the District of Columbia and grew up in Silver Spring. She is a graduate of Trinity College.

On their honeymoon, Paul and Eileen traveled to Jamaica. With a friend, years after they were married, Eileen visited Greece. The Eshlemans have five children and eight grandchildren. The family built a getaway house at Ocean Pines, Md.

—Mercer Cross, Wallace reporter

Charles and Lora Sheridan
Diamond 206, x5733

Both were born in Massachusetts, Charlie in Boston and Lora in Auburndale. She graduated from Wakefield High School and then got her BS in Education after attending Colby College and Lowell State College. He grew up in Somerville, MA. After graduating from high school he joined the US Army for two years and became part of the occupation of Japan. When he returned he attended Tufts College, graduating in 1952.

Upon her graduation, Lora taught 4th and 5th in Wakefield for two years, then took an overseas job in Maracaibo, Venezuela. After she returned to Wakefield, she met Charlie in the choir of the Congregational Church. They were married there a couple of years later. Two children, Daniel and Melissa arrived in the next few years. As of now they have one grandson.

Lora worked as an elementary school teacher for eight years and after the kids grew up, as an Administrative Assistant at the Food and Drug Administration for six years. Charlie went into the real estate/insurance business for 11 years and at the same time earned his LL.B. degree from Suffolk University Law School. He became a civilian lawyer for the Army Corps of Engineers and served there for 32 years, the last 16 as an Administrative Judge on the Board of Contract Appeals.

Lora’s interests are in music, reading and writing poetry. Charlie also enjoys music which is quite understandable since he has performed in Gilbert and Sullivan operas as well as Broadway musicals with local theater groups. He was also active in Barbershop and was a bass with the Glen Echoes quartet, which has performed at Kindley.

The Sheridans lived in Olney for 46 years. A number of their friends had moved to Asbury and encouraged them to move here to.

—Mac McCullough, Diamond reporter
Welcome New Residents

Tom Guisto
Diamond 810, x5458

You can take the boy out of New York City but you can’t take the accent out of the boy. It doesn’t take long to realize Tom Guisto wasn’t born in Mississippi. No, he was born in Brooklyn, NY and grew up in Freeport, Long Island. After giving college a try, he left to join the United States Navy, where, after Officer’s Candidate training, he became a Naval Flight Officer and Navigator. Seven years later he reentered civilian life and went back to Hofstra University, where he earned his BA in Psychology.


Tom never married. He lived in a townhouse in Gaithersburg for the past 32 years. His family, father, mother and 2 sisters all had moved to Florida years ago and most of Tom’s family is still there. He says the main reasons he moved to Asbury were the steep stairs and much-needed maintenance of his townhouse.

Tom likes to travel, but his real interest is in writing. He has belonged to a writing group for a number of years and has had items published in the Washington Post. He writes for the fun of it, concentrating mostly on his early years, navy experiences and life in general. Now he will have a whole lot of Asbury experiences to write about.

—Mac McCullough, Diamond reporter

Catherine Kalbacher
Diamond 218, x5539

Dr. Catherine Kalbacher prefers to be called Cathy. We of Diamond 2nd floor are very happy to have her among us. Cathy was born in Chicago and grew up there, receiving her Bachelor’s Degree at the University of Chicago, where she had an internship. Her master’s degree in English literature was awarded by the University of Michigan, where she stayed on to earn her Ph.D. in American Studies. University of Michigan was also the place she first taught, as well as at several small colleges there. Harper College in suburban Chicago then called her to teach their students. Along the way, Cathy found time to marry and have three children, now grown. Her son and one daughter live in Bethesda and in Reston. Her other daughter is farther away, in Prescott, Arizona. In 1977, she moved to Maryland. She taught at Gallaudet for many years, retiring in 2001. There she taught English and American literature, along with some French. She used both Signed English and American Sign Languages in her teaching. Cathy has maintained an interest in book clubs, dinner clubs, etc. She is involved with the Unitarian Church, and sees as much as possible of her grandchildren and their parents.

Why did Cathy choose Asbury? She is the daughter of a Methodist minister mother, and the granddaughter of a circuit riding Methodist evangelist in the Midwest, which made the choice of Asbury Village desirable.

—Kay Travis, Diamond reporter

Adriel Graham
Edwards-Fisher 612, x4565

’Twas in the bleak midwinter, January 20, 2015, when Adriel Graham (Ade, as he prefers) moved into Edwards-Fisher apartment 612. Born in Erie, Pennsylvania, he received his BA in mathematics from Yale University.

Ade married his childhood sweetheart before entering the United States Army. After his tour of duty (1957-1960) he began a career at the General Electric Company working in computer services. In 1975 he moved his family from Erie to Rockville, Maryland with a residence in Olney. A widower, Ade has one son and two daughters plus four wonderful grandchildren.

Art, mainly drawing and print making, is one of Ade’s main interests, as is reading, primarily works of fiction. For exercise he frequents the gym and enjoys biking. A Roman Catholic, Ade has been a worker at church programs. He has done volunteer work at Medstar Montgomery Medical Center and the Olney Boys and Girls Club.

In making his selection for retirement living, Ade pursued many options, but the key consideration was location central to family. The wide variety of activities offered and the large number of residents participating in them made Asbury Methodist Village his clear choice.

Edwards-Fisher floor mates, neighbors and campus friends are well on the way of making him a part of this vibrant community.

—Joan Dunlop, Edwards-Fisher reporter
Paul and Maureen moved to Asbury Methodist Village on April 9, 2015. They came from their home of 41 years in Arlington, Virginia only a short distance away, but a major undertaking nevertheless. Selling their house, transferring legal papers from state to state, doing renovations to the AMV apartment, and a pesky water problem when they arrived kept them occupied for several months. They are now almost settled in and happy with their decision, ready to become active residents of the AMV community.

The move from Virginia to Maryland may have been short, but Paul, born in Hungary, did a lot of moving as a young boy. At the end of World War II, he and his family moved to Germany. Five years later, they moved to New York State where Paul received his education. He did his undergraduate work in Political Science at Union College in Schenectady and his graduate work at the Maxwell School in Syracuse.

Maureen was born and raised in the Washington, DC area. Her large family is spread throughout the area and is a major part of their lives. When Maureen and Paul decided to down-size they had many alternatives for places to live near family members. Maureen attended the College of New Rochelle in New York, majoring in Economics. She did graduate work at Cornell in Economics and Public Policy, but chose to go back to the real world working for the Federal Government.

The Baltays met while working at the Bureau of the Budget (now OMB). They both enjoyed the exposure they got to top levels of the government working for political appointees even though the latter didn’t really trust the capability of civil servants. Both moved on to other positions, Maureen to the Congressional Budget Office and Paul to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Gardening is an important activity that Maureen and Paul shared. After retirement from the government, Maureen chose a new creative outlet. She received Professional Certification for Landscape Design and continues to practice as a Master Gardener. Paul became interested in genealogy. They owned a sailboat until health problems intervened. A major occupation now is reading mystery stories of different cultures. For example, try books by Robert Van Gulik writing about 6th and 7th century China.

We welcome the Baltays and are happy that they will be joining us as they find new activities to pursue at AMV.

—Lois Eberhard, Park View reporter

Hazel Sutherland
Trott 407, x4481

Hazel and her late husband, C. R. "Don", were married in their home state, Nebraska, in 1948. They came to Washington where he completed his college work at American University and Hazel worked at the Naval Station nearby as a secretary. Don began his career in journalism and became a publisher of business magazines. When the first of their two sons was born she stayed home. Don passed away in 1978 and Hazel returned to work as a secretary with a contractor at NIH.

The family had moved to Potomac in 1966. In 2013 her older son, who lived with her at the time, died suddenly of a heart attack. Her younger son lives in Seattle, so while there are no closer relatives here, there are “lots of nieces and nephews” nearby who are attentive and very helpful. They helped her downsize, prepare to move and get settled. She sold her house in three days and is glad to be here.

Hazel plays bridge—‘social bridge!’ she exclaims – and has been a member of three bridge clubs for many years. She is a Methodist and longtime member of Bethesda United Methodist Church.

She is also a member of the Chevy Chase Women’s Club and volunteers in their Montgomery County Thrift store in Bethesda.

We welcome Hazel to the Trott family.

—Becky Ratliff, Trott reporter

Ruth and Richard Carlson
Wallace 314, x6690

After living 27 years at Leisure World, Ruth and Dick Carlson moved to Asbury April 10. One reason for their move was to be closer to a daughter who teaches mathematics at Montgomery College.

Dick, a mechanical engineer, retired in 1990 after 30 years at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard County. A Detroit native, he is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he also studied economics.

Ruth was born in Cleveland and graduated from Case Western Reserve University. She was living in Los Angeles when she met Dick through one of his college roommates who lived there. They were married in 1959.

Before moving to Maryland, the Carlsons lived in Edina, Minn., a suburb of Minneapolis. They traveled widely over the years, covering all 50 states and much of Europe. On their travels, Dick took many photographs.

Their second daughter and her husband live in Arlington. Their Montgomery County grandson is a talented guitar player; his sister is an organist. Dick sang in the Interfaith Chapel Choir at Leisure World.

—Mercer Cross, Wallace reporter
On February 20, 2015, remarkable for being the coldest day of the year, Joan and Jake (John’s preferred name) moved into Villa 380. Exactly 14 years earlier, when they moved to Lakelands, a Gaithersburg community, it was the warmest day of the year at 72 degrees! Quite a contrast, but the move to AMV was accomplished successfully with the help of a “door minder” who kept the wind out as the movers did their work.

Joan grew up in a rural area near Harrisburg, PA, the eldest of six children. Her father, a postal worker, bought a farm for the family when she was 10. Given her father’s “day job,” a lot of responsibility for taking care of the farm animals fell to Joan. She started piano lessons when she was eight and at 12 became the pianist for her church. After high school, Joan went on to get her RN.

Jake spent his childhood in Andover, MA, with his brother and parents. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1959, Jake entered the Navy through the Naval Officer Candidate School and spent the next three years as a Naval Intelligence Officer. In August of 1960, while serving at Naval Station Anacostia in Washington, D.C., he met Joan on a blind date aboard the presidential yacht Sequoia! If the yacht was not being used by the President or any of his staff, the navy “owned” it for the day. One of Jake’s fraternity brothers from Penn, a fellow naval officer stationed in DC, “won the lottery for the use of Sequoia” and invited Jake to join his friends aboard the yacht. Joan, who was living in Alexandria and working as a psychiatric nurse at St. Elizabeth’s, was among those friends and the rest, as the saying goes, “is history.” Jake proposed on Election Day in 1960, and they married in February, 1961, six months after meeting aboard Sequoia.

After completing his active duty service aboard USS Saratoga (CVA-60), Jake served as a Weekend Warrior in the Naval Reserve, retiring 20 years later as a Captain. He had a parallel civilian career in the intelligence field where he worked for the government for 30 years. In his “spare time,” Jake taught Dale Carnegie courses for 25 years, from 1975-1999. They lived for 37 years in Rockville before moving to Lakelands in 2001. They have been members of The First Baptist Church of Rockville since 1985. Their three children, a son and two daughters, and three grandchildren all live in the area. “After children,” Joan worked in health insurance for 20 years. Their 12-year-old granddaughter sings in the Strathmore Children’s Chorus and it was to attend one of her performances that first brought the Polgreen’s to Ashby. They were so impressed and pleased that, after a year of investigating a retirement home, they chose a Villa, fulfilling their need to have a place all on one floor.

Both Joan and Jake have health challenges, so they are taking their time to explore what they can do to become involved in life here. They love movies and performances and hope to find additional ways to enjoy what AMV has to offer. Our Villa neighborhood is very happy to have them.

—Fran Blendermann, Villas reporter
The Seth Kibel Quartet captured in pen and ink by Park View resident Duane McKenna.