

WE WANT TO HEAR

YOUR STORY • YOUR CULTURE • YOUR TRUTH



BRANDERMILL WOODS DEI COMMITTEE

EDUCATE • EMBRACE • EMPOWER

Want to be featured in one of our quarterly newsletters? Submit your story to Willia Lloyd at (wlloyd@brandermillwoods.com). Need help writing your story or putting your thoughts on to paper? Let us know and we will have a member of our committee reach out to help write your story with you.



FOOD CULTURE

Food is a universal language, it allows one to express their culture all in one dish. The DEI Committee sponsored an IL Resident Potluck on July 19. Residents shared their favorite family and cultural recipes from desserts to casseroles. The recipes are being collected and will be compiled into a cookbook with representation from all different cultures and backgrounds which make up Brandermill Woods.



BRANDERMILL WOODS
14311 Brandermill Woods Trail
Midlothian, VA 23112

GESCHNETZELTES
SCHWEINEFLEISCH
(Sautéed Pork) for 4 servings

1 lb. pork- boneless pork chops work best
olive oil
1 lg. onion or 2-3 small onions-cut into sm. pcs.
1 6 oz. tomato paste
1 cup broth
1 lg. green pepper
12 oz. frozen corn
salt and pepper, paprika, basil, thyme.
(I like to add also some crushed red pepper)

- Gisela Stech

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Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

COMMITTEE

What is DEI?

What is the purpose of the DEI Committee?

The Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee exists to help guide administration, staff, residents, and other stakeholders to maintain a balance in our community. This balance is one built off of race, beliefs, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and any other qualification which people may see as "different," we see as a unique part of an equation which makes up Brandermill Woods. We seek to create a community where all staff, residents, and family members feel welcomed, understood, and heard.

What do we do?

Our aim is to educate residents and staff on the numerous different religions, identities, customs, and beliefs which may differ from their own. We have accomplished this through different avenues, whether showing a movie in the movie theater, videos on TV, excerpts in newsletters, and we continue to expand our reach into other avenues.

Why is it important?

The work conducted by the DEI Committee plays hand and hand with current events in society. It is our goal to create and maintain a place where people can fully express themselves without fear of retaliation or criticism because here at Brandermill Woods, we are all family.



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chris Brunning, Chairman
Barbara Campbell, Resident
Carol Kratch, Resident
Carolyn Williams
David Benedict
Kristen Moore
Liz Miller-Scott, Resident
Stephanie Murphy
Steven Perez
Tomeka Scott
Willia Lloyd

DEI HOLIDAYS

August

National Civility Month
August 4, 1790: Coast Guard established
August 6-8: Tish'a B'Av
August 7: Purple Heart Day
August 9: International Day of the World's Indigenous People
August 15: Feast of the Assumption
August 16: National Airborne Day
August 17: Marcus Garvey Day
August 18-19: Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)
August 19: World Humanitarian Day
August 21: Senior Citizens Day
August 26: National Women's Equality Day
August 31: Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)

September

National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 5: Labor Day
September 2: VJ Day
September 11: Patriot's Day/Grandparents' Day
September 15: International Day of Democracy
September 15-October 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
September 16: National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 17: Constitution Day/Citizenship Day
September 18, 1947: Airforce established
September 21: International Day of Peace
September 22: American Business Women's Day
September 23: National Native American Day
September 25-27: Rosh Hashanah
September 26: European Day of Languages
September 26: Navrati begins (Hindu)

October

National Bullying Prevention Month
Filipino-American Heritage Month
German-American Heritage Month
Italian-American Heritage Month
National Disability Employment Awareness Month
National Polish-American Heritage Month
LGBTQ History Month
October 4-5: Yom Kippur
October 6: German American Day
October 9: Leif Erikson Day, Sukkot begins (Jewish Oct. 9-16)
October 10: Indigenous Peoples Day
Columbus Day
National Mental Health Day
October 11: National Coming Out Day
October 13, 1775: Navy established
October 15: White Cane Safety Day (Blindness Awareness)
October 17: Simchat Torah (17-18)
October 20: Spirit Day (LGBTQIAA+) Anti-bullying
October 24: Dwali/United Nations Day
October 25: Birth of Bab (Baha'i)
October 31: Dia des los Muertos begins

School Supplies Represent Everyone



Crayola is representing the "Colors of the World." The subtle shades inside are formulated to better represent diversity worldwide. "Colors of the World" fall into three main shades: Almond, Golden, and Rose and all the darker or lighter shades in between.

Ernst Keller Story Continues:

children switch religious classes. When my father stated that his conscience prevented him from obliging, the supervisor said: Your conscience has no meaning; Adolf Hitler carries the conscience for the German people. This kind of fanaticism knows no limits!!

My best friend's father was also very opposed to the Nazis. We boys had to join the "Jungvolk" and both of us hated the weekly marches, learning Nazi songs and playing all kinds of pre-military games. We much rather pursued our own games and projects and fortunately had understanding mothers who helped us with sometimes quite ingenious excuses to be able to stay home.

What I did not understand at the time and what left a deep impression was why my friend's father, the outspoken anit-Nazi, who had been drafted into the Wehrmacht and put in charge of one of the POW camps behind the Russian front, committed suicide during one of his leaves at home. As I learned later, he could not take seeing the abuse some of the prisoners had to endure and felt such strong guilt about not having protested or stopped some of the treatment of the prisoners that he simply could no longer live with his shattered conscience.

As the war raged on and Hitler's initial successes came to a halt, the Nazi harassment eased somewhat. The war effort had priority. We followed the news on a daily basis, particularly the developments on the eastern front, where our father was. We listened to the speeches of Hitler and Goebbels, always full of optimism, always with the claim that a secret weapon would soon be deployed to reverse the negative trend and to secure the "Endsieg" or final victory. My brother, a radio geek, had secretly managed to build a receiver, some of it from parts we were able to retrieve from an enemy bomber that had crash landed not far from our house. This allowed us occasionally and very secretly, to listen to the BBC and get information from the other side.

Then came the horrible defeat in Stalingrad, the failed attempt to assassinate Hitler by Stauffenberg and others and the mysterious disappearances of many heroes in the armed forces, among them Rommel, the desert fox, who was born and grew up in Aalen, my hometown. Anyone who would dare to question Hitler's "genius" to lead Germany to final victory put his life at risk. The Nazi government lost the faith and trust of more and more Germans.

On a different, but equally distressing level is another sad experience I will never forget: my mother had many friends with whom she played chamber music such as the piano trios at home. On the program was a trio by Felix Mendelssohn, one of our favorite composers. When it came to the beautiful slow movement, the violinist and an MD and a staunch Nazi, suddenly stopped and said something to the effect of: we should not be playing this decadent, kitschy music when there are so many great German composers. And that only because Mendelssohn is Jewish and as such was banned from being performed anywhere in Germany. This is how the perverse Nazi doctrine pervaded every aspect of life and culture. My mother was shocked and insisted that the movement be finished. Another friendship was shattered.

As the war dragged on and the Allie's aerial bombardment destroyed city after city while the air defense for lack of fuel became completely ineffective, antiaircraft gunners needed manpower and drafted 16-year-old high schoolers. So also, my brother was sent to Friedrichshafen on Lake Konstanz to help protect the Zeppelin plant there. Many of the bombers destined for Augsburg, Munich or Nuernberg crossed over Aalen. Air-raid on Aalen I will never forget: I was working in a nursery to make some extra money when the alarm sounded and a small squadron of 2-engine bombers appeared overhead at relatively high altitude. Thinking they were headed as usual to a larger city, we continued our yard work when someone pointed to the black somethings suddenly appearing under the planes. The nursery had a bomb shelter and we were immediately rushed in there. Shortly after the heavy concrete doors were closed, the ground shook accompanied by loud bangs. When the sirens indicated the attack was over and we were able to leave the shelter, a large cloud hung over the city. Mostly strategic targets were hit: an army supply depot and the railroad station. We walked home and found our house untouched. More and more sudden and short attacks, mostly by fighter bombers followed. Rarely but sometimes people, who were fleeing to find protection in the surrounding woods were shot at and wounded.

As the approaching US Army moved closer, tank grenades did some serious damage to our house. Even the basement in our house was no longer safe. A defunct iron ore mine about a half mile from our house was open for shelter and when the tank grenade fire became more steady and threatening, my mother decided to move at night with our 75 year old aunt, on my shoulders, into the mine and wait there for the inevitable capitulation, which happened 2 days later.