

Westbury World

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Christmas Variety Show

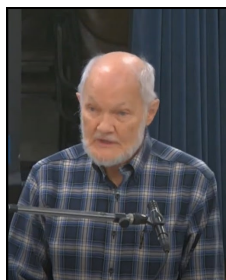


Photos by Bill Young



The Staff House Band opened this always much-anticipated spectacle with a series of classic Christmas songs, including *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Rocking Around the Christmas Tree*, *White Christmas*, and *Feliz Navidad*. The Band appeared by video. Just prior to the Band, also by video, Emilee LaRose did a solo performance of *O Holy Night*. Tucker D'Arcangelis did a medley of Christmas songs, or at least parts of them, coached by his mom, and captivated the audience with his cute efforts. Also by video.

Harvey Ussery recited from memory the epic poem *Jim Bludso*. This poem recounts a Mississippi riverboat captain who after saving his passengers by driving his boat ashore is to be met with a tragic end when the boat explodes. The poem is by John Hay, a secretary to Abraham



Lincoln, who in the years after Lincoln's assassination spent much time on the River.

Mary Kay Pietris reprised her recitation, without which a variety show would be incomplete, of the memory teaser *A Good Fat Hen*.

Bobby Avstreich performed traditional music on his Japanese flute.

Jim Wilcox gave a stand-up comedy routine of several tall tales.

Lyle Rolfes and Lee and Stephen Sanford sang *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Earlier in the show, Lee and Stephen sang the Christmas classic *Silver Bells*.

Laura Hager closed the show with a reading of the Christmas story from the Gospel according to John.

Bill Young



From the President/CEO

On December 13, a winter Town Hall was held with our residents. Each department director briefly discussed their goals for the new year. Residents were then able to ask questions of the leadership team.



Major items for 2024 include the completion of Phase II of the villas, master campus planning as it relates to the future of Shenandoah Hall and streamlining processes for greater efficiencies within departments. All departments are attempting to use less paper and Dining Services plans to implement a new recyclable container program that will help reduce costs and the amount of trash that is sent to the landfill. This is an area that our residents are very committed to.

This Town Hall was timely since the department heads held their bi-annual retreat at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley on December 15. Once again, department goals were discussed as they relate to the Strategic Plan and the 2024 budget. The team started the day by meeting with a purchasing consultant from the group purchasing organization used to obtain cost savings from some of the vendors that SVWC utilizes. A volume analysis was reviewed and a list of existing vendors that participate within the group was shared. Additional vendors were identified for possible further savings.

We all know that technology plays an important role in our lives at SVWC. Our goal is to use technology more robustly in the areas of employee training, acknowledgments, and scheduling in 2024. SVWC continues to prioritize cybersecurity training to help mitigate risk in this area.

Sherry Hudson, Marketing and Foundation Director, shared statistical information for both areas from 2023 and discussed potential program changes in the new year. SVWC is very blessed to have so many donors who truly care about this community and the programs and services that are offered.

During the afternoon, Mike Hunter, Safety and Security Manager, provided Incident Command Training as it relates to our community's emergency preparedness plans. The team

will follow up in early January by participating in a tabletop simulation of an actual emergency. Other emergency training will also be scheduled in 2024.

Overall, the leadership team had a very productive day. We are aligned with our goals and are very excited about the opportunities that the new year will bring!

Jeannie Shiley



Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury was ranked by *Newsweek* as one of the top 250 continuing care retirement communities in the United States as a place where residents not only live but thrive.



Deck the Halls!



Photos by Bill Young

Christmas Bird Count

One hundred twenty-four years ago, the Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was initiated to counter the “side-hunts” taking place during the holidays, in which hunters went out and shot as many birds as possible.

Three years ago, a team from Westminster-Canterbury joined the CBC effort. This year’s counters included Carol and Sherman Barker, Judi Booker, Sandy Galletta, Kay Jones, John Lotz, Paul Miller, Jack and Joyce Palm, Marty and Nancy Tabaka, and Sally Walters.



Data from the CBC are used to study the health of bird populations in the Western Hemisphere. The data we collected is being compiled with that of other area birders from our count circle, a 15-mile diameter area centered on Double Tollgate.

The count week started with the excitement that a rare bird, a Ross’s Goose, found normally in the southwest, had been seen at the Rubbermaid Pond. That pond was part of our count area, bounded by Rt. 11 and Cedar Creek Grade and Barley and Springdale Roads.

Our five groups of two or three counters recorded the birds at the several ponds, Kernstown Battlefield, and various locations such as Marker Miller Farm Market, American Woodmark campus, Rose Hill Park, James Charles Winery, and Lakeside Lake at Bowman Library, a new addition to our count area. The group then lunched together at West Oaks Market.

This year, we counted 41 species of birds, one less than last year. The highlights were Eastern Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, and a variety of ducks, including Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, and Mergansers.

Judi Booker



Bistro Concert: Foot Tapping Fun

Songs have been played on front porches across the Valley since colonial times. That’s what the Newtown String Band will bring to the Bistro on Friday evening, January 19, when they return. We loved their Bistro performance last February.

Listen again to “Rattlesnake Bit the Baby”, an old Merle Haggard song, or vintage jigs and reels. This is fiddle music mixed with a mandolin, guitar, and banjo. Toss in some bluegrass and American folk songs. Nothing serious, just good fun. (Don’t worry. As you may remember, the baby’s fine; a little moonshine did the trick.)

Heather Butler is the fiddler. She’s played in the Bistro before with other groups. We liked her a lot. Gina Faber adds zest, plays mandolin, and sings with Heather. John Thomson plays melodic fiddle melodies on his five-string banjo, unique among banjo players. Paul Hammerton’s guitar fills out the band. You’ll swear you’ve heard his rich baritone somewhere before, and you have. He played with Kate MacLeod last September and will again later this year.

The band has outgrown their modest beginnings in a small Middletown restaurant. Their growing musical excellence is making them better known. They mostly perform locally but are starting to take the Valley’s musical heritage to the DC metro area. We’re proud to have them here again.

Feel free to invite your neighbors, family, and friends. Admission is \$10 at the door (cash only, please). The concert begins at 7:30pm. Atlantic Union Bank sponsors the series.

Bob Sherwood



Helen Maben celebrates her 101st Birthday on January 15.
Happy Birthday, Helen!

Thursday Night Programs

January 4 **"Streets and Alleys of Winchester"**
presented by Tim Youmans

January 11 **Military Dog Training** presented
by Diana Lieber

January 18 **Who Was Judge John Handley?**
presented by Rebecca Ebert

January 25 **Llamas and Fiber Production**
presented by Pam & Ross Curtis

The programs are presented live in the Abbey most Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Residents are invited to attend in person. Programs are also shown live on Channel 970 and streamed on the portal if there are no copyright issues.

To help plan and obtain speakers and programs, please contact Margaret Richardson.



Photo by Bill Young

Santa Arrives for Cottage Illumination

Chaplain's Message

One of my favorite movies of all time is *Cast Away* starring Tom Hanks, in which Hanks plays a character named Chuck Nolan who is a time management expert and trouble shooter for Federal Express, a job that requires him to fly all around the world.



Early in the movie his plane goes down in the middle of the ocean and, as the only survivor, Nolan ends up on a small, deserted island where he survives under primitive conditions for the next four years.

Finally, one day a large piece of plastic washes up on the shore, which Nolan fashions into a sail and attaches to a small makeshift raft, allowing him to sail out into the shipping lanes and be rescued.

In reflecting on the experience, Nolan says, "I was so sad, but then one day the tide came in and brought me a sail. And now, no matter what happens, I can face it, because I know that the thing to do is to keep breathing, because tomorrow the sun *will* rise, and who knows what the tide could bring."

As we begin a new year, we do so uncertain of what the future holds. And while we never really know what tomorrow will bring, we always have hope – hope in the fact that we are all God's children, we are blessed, and we are given the strength to persevere in the face of life's challenges knowing that God walks with us.

In the coming year let us rejoice in our blessings and stand firm in our hope for the future. May we live our lives in response to those blessings, for tomorrow the sun *will* rise and who knows what the tide could bring.

Bill Everhart

HAPPY
New Year



Library Acquisitions New in January

Fiction

The Edge	David Baldacci
The Proof of the Pudding	Rhys Bowen
The Secret (LP)*	Lee Child
Resurrection Walk	Michael Connelly
One Puzzling Afternoon	Emily Critchley
Dirty Thirty	Janet Evanovich
The Spy Coast	Tess Gerritsen
Hercule Poirot's Silent Night	Sophie Hannah
The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store (LP)*	James McBride
Past Lying	Val McDermid
A Christmas Vanishing	Anne Perry
Judgement Prey (LP)*	John Sandford
From a Far and Lovely Country	Alexander McCall Smith
Obsession	Stuart Woods

Non-Fiction

Elon Musk	Walter Isaacson
Chasing Bright Medusas	Benjamin Taylor

* A copy in Wappacomo Library



Santa Paws' Helpers

Photo by Bill Young



The Joe Show

The Lawrence Gallery is pleased to bring you two gentlemen artists both named Joe.

Their art show is from January 22 through March 15, 2024. The two Joes share similar interests and do their art in oils, acrylic, and other media. Joe Gainer is a local from Stephens City, while Joe Case is from Washington, DC.

They have each arrived as artists after careers in graphic arts and design, or in Joe Case's experience in floral design and furniture restoration.

Joe Gainer creates detailed scenes from Main Street small towns, along with abandoned dwellings with a hint of Norman Rockwell.

Joe Case offers rural pastoral scenes of the Virginia countryside similar to those of Bill Whiting.

The show's opening reception is Friday evening, January 26 at 5:00 p.m.

Come meet the two Joes and enjoy their artwork!

Cari Sherwood

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Photo by Bill Young

Colonel Robert Hill, USAF (ret.) addresses the SVWC Veterans Lunch on December 8. His subject was the formation and role of the new U.S. Space Force, along with recruiting and other issues facing the military today.



Calvin University January Series

Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI, will again offer the January Series, a free award-winning lecture series. The 2024 edition features national podcasters and journalists, a world-renowned rock climber, French-American jazz pianist and composer, an American legal scholar, and a Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

SVWC is one of over 50 nationwide remote sites for the series, thanks to the efforts of resident Margaret Toxopeus, a Calvin alumnus.

The lectures will be held on weekdays from January 15 to February 2, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Residents can view the lectures on Channel 970. A room has also been reserved to view the lectures; please check the activities calendar for the room location.

Watch online with on-demand viewing until midnight PST each day from the university's website. Visit calvin.edu/January for more details and information about each lecture and speaker.



From the Archives

The internal channel started 20 years ago, as reported in the *Westbury World* for January, 2004:

Channel 19, our own closed-circuit TV channel, is on its shakedown cruise. John Ferrulli is accepting suggestions to improve and enhance it.

While menus and similar information will appear on Channel 19, the local Extension 200 will continue to provide this type of information. Currently residents in the new cottages cannot dial this extension because they are not connected directly to the Shenandoah Hall switchboard. Mr. Ferrulli plans to examine the situation, seeking a way to make this service available to the new cottages.

Lifelong Learning Series

The new Lifelong Learning series beginning January 8 is "Stress and Your Body." Professor Robert Sapolsky of Stanford University is the producer of "Stress and Your Body." Six of his lessons will be shown, concluding with his advice on stress management on January 29.

Please join us in The Abbey each Monday, January 8 to 29, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. These discussions are free and open to all residents, futures, and guests.

Contact Bob Bolan with recommendations for future Lifelong Learning topics.

Welcome to Our New Neighbors

Virginia DePollo moved into Shenandoah Hall, Apt. 107 from Winchester, VA.

Chris and Ed Bureau moved into 169 Elderberry Drive from Cochranville, PA.



Photo by Bill Cook

**New Day. New Year.
Welcome 2024!**

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