
VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF DOYLESTOWN



January 2014

Since the VIA board took a holiday break in December, there is no business to report, so I'll use this opportunity to tell you about the structure of the board. Did you know that each incoming VIA president names three appointed members to serve? As of June 2012, Liz Fetterman, Joan Parlee, and Liz Sigety accepted my invitation to sit on the board. Liz Fetterman brings fresh thoughts to the group. Past President Joan Parlee brings her experience and wisdom. Attorney Liz Sigety, Fox Rothschild LLC, serves as our legal council. The officers, committee chairmen, and appointed members all contribute to discussions and decision making that are a vital part of board meetings.

Recently Joan Parlee and I gave a presentation on the History of the VIA to The Women's Club of Huntingdon Valley in Bryn Athyn. The ladies were very interested and praised the work of the VIA.

A few months ago I spoke at the District Meeting of the American Association of University Women. With the able assistance of Jean Sandusky, we presented a power point program. We were proud to bring the history of the VIA to the community-minded women's clubs and pleased to accept the honorariums they so generously provided.

Once again this year, the Home Life Committee, Chaired by Marilyn Mele, brought cheer to the residents of Pine Run Health Center by distributing gifts purchased with the profits of the November bake sale. How kind to remember those who could not be home for Christmas and the holidays.

2014 promises to be another rewarding year for the VIA. Please support the work of the committees and make plans to attend the Empty House Party on February 23rd, the kick-off event for the 39th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens.

The decision to cancel our January 7th member meeting, due to extreme weather conditions, meant that we missed a full agenda of programs and committee updates. We'll make up for that at the next meeting on February 4th. Come, and bring a friend!

Marianne Chabot
President

February 4, 2014 – 12:00PM
James Lorah Memorial Auditorium

“Out of Slavery”

Presenter Judith & Doreen Stratton
Program Coordinator Donna Walker

Tea Servers Pam Finley
Zoe Combs
Meditation Tara Bryant-Gray
Hospitality Captains Terry Steinberg/Ann Rainey

Program Preview

Linda K. McIlhinney

Join us for our February VIA Meeting where sisters Judith and Doreen Stratton will present "Out of Slavery" as we honor Black History Month.

The Stratton Family have lived in their East Ashland Street home in Doylestown for over 100 years, when their grandfather moved his family of 8 children here after the Civil War.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about how Doylestown played a vital role in the workings of the Underground Railroad which led many lives "Out of Slavery".

SHUTTLE

Shuttle service from the County parking garage, Broad Street entrance, Level 2 to the JLMH will be available from 11:30 to 12:00 on February 4th.

After the membership meeting, the driver will make ONE trip from the JLMH to the parking garage.



The Bylaws Corner

Georgia Ford

It was determined by several committees of the VIA that it is time to include an anti-bullying statement in our Bylaws and our Policies. The following is the statement that was written and will be presented and voted on at the February 4th general membership meeting. This addition to our policies was voted upon by the VIA Board following our November 2013 meeting.

STATEMENT:

BYLAWS:

- a. The Village Improvement Association and all of its subsidiaries promote an environment, free from harassment and bullying, where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Violations of this policy will be referred to the Executive Committee.
- b. The above statement will appear as Paragraph Two on Page 1 of the Bylaws, under **ARTICLE 1, Purposes.**

If you have any questions regarding the statement or the necessity of having one, please feel free to contact me.

Gourmet Committee

Marie Johnston

You are invited to join us at Vandegrifts in New Britain for a cooking class with wine pairing on Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm. This unique culinary experience will feature cooking instruction by Chef Andy with wine pairing by Mike Conti. Cost is \$55/person. Seating is limited. To reserve your spot contact Marie at mjohnston1@gmail.com. Non VIA members welcome.

Membership Committee

Lee Scheeler

The Membership Committee would like to welcome three new members:

Beverly Kalikow Terri Simon Joanne Donohue

Please note that if your 2013/2014 dues have not been paid you will be dropped as a current member, please get membership dues in to Mary G, ASAP.

Newsletter Staff:

Marie Johnston, Editor Joy Anderson
Phyllis Morris Karen Simon
Barb Thompson Betty Trossett

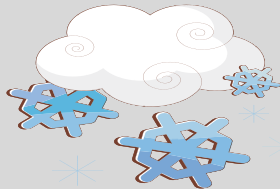
Veterans

Jan Cope

Happy New Year to everyone! Thanks again for your donations: over \$2,000 again this year! We will celebrate your generosity by presenting your donations at the next general meeting. For the Horsham Air Guard Station's Family Readiness Program/Key Volunteers Group, we repeated last year's donation of \$800 for grocery gift cards, \$400 for Wawa gas cards, and \$350 to provide food pantry items over the next several months. As you heard at the November luncheon, support like this helps both the military member and the families.

This year, our second charity is the Bucks County Veterans Van program, to which you've donated \$450. The Van provides transportation to VA medical centers/facilities in Philadelphia and Coatesville. The program is funded by Bucks County and is the only veterans transportation program in the state. Our donation will be used to help purchase a second van. Mr. Dan Fraley, Bucks County Director of Veterans Affairs, has agreed to be our speaker at the November meeting.

We will be choosing next year's charities in April. In preparation, we've created a list of local charities and we are signing up committee members as advocates to research and present those programs. If you know of a local military support program you'd like to recommend, or if you'd like to see our list, please contact Jan Cope by e-mail at jancope@verizon.net.



In the event of winter weather conditions our membership meetings will be cancelled when the schools are closed in the Central Bucks School District. In the event the schools remain open or are delayed, you will be notified via email and a notice will be posted on the website. You can also call the VIA office at 215.345.2347

Fundraising Committee

Sharon Orr

The Fund Raising committee is busy making plans for the VIA's 100 year anniversary. If you would like to help please contact me, you don't need to be a member of the fund raising committee to be involved in helping with these events. We are also putting together a trip to Philadelphia for a mural tour in April. More information to be announced.

Marketing Committee

Nancy Gimbol

This is a new committee that seeks to support activities that promote the VIA to the community. We are always looking for any VIA member with a background in marketing, sales, business development or social media to join our committee. The VIA Board recently approved a marketing plan developed by the Committee. If you would like to read a copy of the report, please email your request to Nancy Gimbol, ngimbol@eastburngray.com.

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

Due to the cancellation of our January membership meeting I was not able, personally, to thank all our members who volunteered at our Christmas House Tour. The committee is so appreciative of your involvement. The response from the community and visitors was so gratifying.

We sold over 30 "A Treasured Legacy" books, over \$1600 in holiday items and raffles and realized over \$3700 total for the event, which included tour tickets!

A special thank you to Terry Steinberg, Karen Young, Jane Lester and Sally Steinbach for her Christmas music. All these ladies worked with Kay Johnson of St Paul's to make this a successful event.

We continue to make repairs and maintain our historic home. Just recently, Barb Darr purchased a new snow blower. A much needed item this winter!

A very happy, safe and peaceful new year from the JLMH committee to all the VIA members.

Love Your Heart



Tuesday, February 18th | **FREE**

Central Bucks YMCA - 2500 Lower State Rd

Lecture: Women & Heart Disease | 9:00 - 10:30 am

Presented by Mary Ann Williamson, MD,

Audrey Fleck, RD, LDN, & Lisa Schwartz, ACE, AFFA, TRX.

To register **215.345.2121** or **dh.org/Love-Your-Heart**.

or come to the **Heart Health Fair | 4:30 - 7:30 pm**

Speak with Doylestown Hospital clinicians, get health information and participate in free health screenings.



Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

Joyce Hanson

Happy 2014! Be sure to mark your calendar with these important Designer House dates:

Empty House Party - Sunday, February 23 • 2 to 5
Preview Gala – Saturday, April 26 • 7 to 10
Fashion Show – Thursday, May 8 • 6:30 to 8:30
Fashion Show Brunch – Friday, May 9 • 11 to 1

The January VIA meeting had to be canceled, unfortunately, because of the extreme cold temperatures. Therefore, you were unable to sign up to volunteer at Serendipity Farm, the 2014 Designer House. We ask that you check your calendar and contact Jean Rospond, Hostess Chair or Helen Hammes, Captain Chair to schedule your shifts at the designer house.

Serendipity Farm will be open **Sunday, April 27th, through Saturday, May 31st.**

Volunteer shifts are:

Monday – Wednesday	10 to 1, 1 to 4
Thursday & Friday	10 to 1, 1 to 4, or 4 to 7
Saturday	10 to 1, 1 to 4
Sunday	Noon to 2, 2 to 4

If possible, please consider volunteering once a week at the same time—i.e. every Monday morning from 10 to 1 or whatever day and time is convenient for you. Because this is a large property with two homes, we need many volunteers. Be sure to contact Jean or Helen soon so that you get your desired shifts.

Hostess- Jean Rospond at jean.rospond@gmail.com or 215. 345.1141.

Captain- Helen Hammes at hhammes@comcast.net or 215. 348.0453.

EMPTY HOUSE PARTY REMINDER...

Please drop off donations of wine, spirits/bar items for basket of cheer to the VIA office or bring to the February VIA meeting. If you have a Silent Auction item put it in the VIA office marked EHP or call Phyllis. We will need all items by February 14th if possible.

Stay Connected!

BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org

 [BucksCountyDesignerHouse](https://www.facebook.com/BucksCountyDesignerHouse)

 [@bcdesignerhouse](https://twitter.com/bcdesignerhouse)

VIA Health Systems

By now you have probably heard about the New Year's Eve leak in the Hospital. There was a water line break above the women's locker room in the Maternity Center at about 10 pm. We were fortunate that none of the patient rooms were affected and there was no interruption of patient services. However, there was considerable damage in the C-section suites on the second floor and the Radiology dept. on the first floor. There was also some damage in the basement particularly to the radiology files. The local fire departments were quick to respond by protecting equipment and mopping up. The response of our Associates and Staff was rapid and prevented further damage. They gave up their New Year's festivities to come in to do whatever was necessary. I am so proud of them and it once again shows that we are blessed with an extraordinary staff. Patient care was never compromised and everyone cooperated to coordinate care and services. Repairs have moved along at a rapid pace and we should soon be back to normal very soon.

Our Heart Institute physicians are among the first in the region to perform Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR). This procedure replaces valves without open heart surgery in the sickest of patients. The first was done on October 31st, that and subsequent surgeries have been highly successful. This is a collaborative team effort with an interventional cardiologist and a cardiothoracic surgeon performing the procedure.

Doylestown Hospital has once again achieved the highest level of recognition for stroke care for the second consecutive year. The gold award is an indicator of evolving standards for stroke care nationally. For example tPA, which is a clot busting drug, if given within a certain time frame can significantly decrease the impairments of stroke and reduce disability. Nationally only about 4% receive tPA. At DH about 12% receive the drug within the recommended 4-5 hour window. We are educating the EMS crews so that stroke patients can be taken immediately to the CT scan where the doctors can make that critical decision.

Financial results show a positive result for excess of revenue over expense but utilization shows that inpatient activity continues to trend down. The shift to observation continues even though the level of clinical care is the same and sometimes even more intense than inpatient. These trends and the changes in the Health care market are causing us to rethink work design and consider the impact of different delivery models. CEO Jim Brexler talked about those programs that were started early 2013 and how they have offset some of the income loss from the decline in utilization. We are working on some new things that we hope will help to grow the organization.

The Directors education was a presentation by Dominic Pesce of Heery Design regarding an efficient workflow plan for the Hospital with the Strategic Plan in mind. This would include a better traffic flow and more efficient use of existing space. Access, "way-finding" and walking distance are all of concern. There were some interesting concepts presented and while we are not ready to make any big changes these will help us to plan any expansions and /or changes with functionality in mind. Heery Design (an architectural and engineering firm) will coordinate with our strategic plan to calculate future space needs and present a facilities master plan solution.

Our Emergency Dept. earned the Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award which recognizes top performing facilities that consistently achieve 95% performance in Patient Satisfaction. Last year the ER received the Press Ganey Summit Award which recognizes top performing facilities that sustain the highest level of Patient Satisfaction for three consecutive years.

There was a lot of Holiday Spirit within the Hospital in December, with Christmas trees, Menorahs, gift giving and happy smiles. I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday time with family and friends. Happy New Year!!

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa

Vice President, Health Services

January "2014"

21	JLMH Committee	Conf Room C	10:00 AM
23	Lunch & Learn	JLMA	12:00 AM
28	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	9:00 AM
28	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

February

4	Membership Meeting	JLMA	12:00 PM
5	Marketing Meeting	Conf Room L	10:00 AM
11	Designer House Meeting	JLMA	10:00 AM
13	Fundraising Meeting	Conf Room A	9:30 AM
18	JLMH Committee	Conf Room B	10:00 AM
25	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	9:00 AM
25	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

Please refer to our website for additional events!
WWW.VIA-DOYLESTOWN.ORG