

JANUARY 2015

Welcome 2015! Wishing you all a year filled with good health, rich experiences and realized dreams. This year's VIA schedule is filled with many interesting and fun events. Don't hesitate to join in on one that interests you.

The first snow of 2015 serenaded fifty-five hearty souls as they attended our January 6th member meeting. Our program "Carol for Heart", presented by Jeannine McKeogh challenged and motivated us to begin taking steps toward living a heart healthy lifestyle. Thank you to Mary Bachman for coordinating this very informative program.

A special thank you to our VIA membership for their generous donations to the Veterans Committee this past fall. At our member meeting, we were proud to have Jan Cope, Chair of the Veteran's Committee along with committee secretary Maureen Marron present a check for \$800 to Mr. Greg Whitney, Director of the Washington Crossing National Cemetery located right here in Bucks County. Thank you to everyone on the committee for your dedication to our Vets and keeping them ever before us.

Please mark your calendars for our very popular Empty House Party on Sunday, March 1st chaired by Phyllis Morris and Debbie Thorne. Come and view Villa d'Braccia before the designers and landscaper begin to create their wonderful magic on this unique property. We are always excited for the Empty House Party as it reminds us that spring is just around the corner.

A big thank you to the Home Life Committee chaired by Kathy Lambert and Denise Fingelton for organizing the Christmas bake sale at the Pine Run Health Center this past holiday season. Their efforts netted \$520 from the bake sale plus another \$200 from member donations. This impressive amount allowed the committee to purchase gifts for sixty-six full time residents at the Health Center who otherwise might not have received one. Due to the success of their efforts the committee will also be hosting a Tea in the spring for the Health Center residents.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention one of the biggest changes the VIA will be having this year. For more than 7 ½ years Mary Gerczyk has been our ever faithful and dedicated secretary, and might I add, a friend to us all. Please see my letter inside this newsletter that addresses this change for the VIA and in Mary's career. Don't miss our February 3rd meeting where we will all have a special time to gather and celebrate Mary.

Linda McShinney

President

EMPTY HOUSE PARTY
Sunday, March 1, 2-5pm

February 3, 2015 – 12:00PM
James Lorah Memorial Auditorium

“Out of Slavery”

Presenter Judith & Doreen Stratton
Program Coordinator Donna Walker
Meditation Becky Dragos
Hospitality Captains Marianne Chabot/
Sandy Homel

Program Preview

Cory H. Schroeder

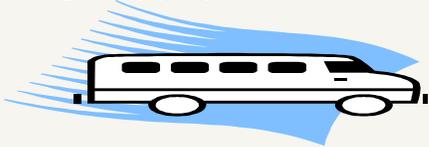
Second time around! This exciting program was scheduled for February last year, but was cancelled due to bad weather. It's been worth waiting for. Judith and Doreen Stratton will present “Out of Slavery” in honor of Black History Month.

The Stratton Family has 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 a minute of this opportunity to learn about the fascinating Underground Railroad that led so many lives to freedom and “Out of Slavery”.

SHUTTLE

Shuttle service from the parking garage, Broad Street entrance, Level 2 to the JLMA will be available from 11:30 to 12:00 on February 3. After the membership meeting, the driver will make **ONE** trip from the JLMA to the parking garage.



2015 is here, so is the **first event of the Designer House**. New Members, plan to come with family and friends. New this year is a **Dessert Room, Olive Oil Tasting, and Mystery Wine Raffle**, along with old favorites, Craft Beer and Wine Tasting.

Be an early bird and send in the enclosed reservation by February 15, to be entered into a drawing to win two tickets to tour the 2015 Designer House. Come and enjoy “La Dolce Vita” Sunday, March 1st at Villa d’ Braccia. If you can **donate** much needed wine or a silent auction item please call one of the Co-Chairs or leave donation in the VIA office:

Debbie Thorne-267.546.8566 or
Phyllis Morris 610.847.5336

Looking forward to seeing you at the party!

Treasurer’s Report

Ruth Carlson

Month ending **November 30, 2014**

Current assets ytd:	\$68,209
Investments long term assets ytd:	\$268,059
Total Assets ytd:	\$336,268
Total income ytd:	\$42,370
Total expenses ytd:	\$28,166
Total increase in assets ytd:	\$14,204

Home Life Committee

Kathy Lambert and Denise Fingleton

With deep appreciation, the committee wishes to thank you for their wonderful contributions of delicious, beautifully, baked goods for our bake sale. Also, for the monetary contributions we received as well. We were able to purchase 66 gifts to help make a merry Christmas for Pine Run residents. Our plan is to have a Tea in June with funds from the bake sale. Thank you all again!

Newsletter Staff:

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

Membership Committee

Lee Scheeler

The Membership Committee would like to welcome the following new members to the VIA:

Susan P Brodish Ellen Buckley
Holly Reed Fey Teeny Lacher
Linda Sullivan

If you have any friends or neighbors who have an interest in the VIA please bring them to one of our meetings as a guest. We are always looking for new members.

MATINEE MUSICAL THEATRE IN MARCH

Sign up at the February meeting to see "Ragtime: The Musical" at the Bristol Riverside Theatre on Sunday, March 29 at 3:00. Plans are being finalized for a lunch option at the King George Inn next door to the theatre. Tickets are \$38 payable by our March meeting.

Called by Time magazine, "A triumph for the stage," this Tony Award-winning musical is a powerful portrait of life in turn-of-the-century America. It tells the extraordinary tale of three families as they confront America's timeless contradictions of freedom and prejudice, wealth and poverty, hope and despair, and what it means to be an American. With an unforgettable and powerful score, this must-see musical is filled with show-stopping songs.

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

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 about meeting cancellations.

SEEKING

Pie or candy lovers. Call a friend, brush off your entrepreneurial skills and sign on to oversee a spring project to support the VIA. No experience necessary. Support staff available. Contact Sharon Orr @215.340.0817 or orrteam@verizon.net

James-Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

It is difficult to believe it is already 2015. Last year our VIA home went through a list of repairs and improvements. We will continue to work on that list in 2015!

The most recent improvement was the replanting of boxwood bushes outside the auditorium entrance. Bucks Country Gardens did the work over the holidays so it was a wonderful surprise.

The committee will now be planning our annual fundraiser, "An Evening at the Theatre". It will be held April 15 at the Town and Country Players Theatre in Buckingham. The show this year is "*The Drowsy Chaperone*" and no doubt will provide us with a wonderful evening. More details to follow in upcoming newsletters.

The committee wishes you all a new year filled with much happiness and good health!

Fundraising Committee

Sharon Orr

Did you know that the VIA's Fundraising Committee ("FC") raises funds that are used to run the VIA? Thanks in part to the generosity of our VIA members, the Fundraising Committee raised more than \$4,000 in 2014. Previous FC events include bus trips to various places, plant sales, bake sales and 50/50 raffles at membership meetings. In 2013, students at Central Buck West High School designed a coffee mug which was sold throughout the Central Bucks community. We hope that through our fundraising efforts we also educate the community about the VIA and our missions. If you have an idea for an event or if you want to get involved with the Fundraising Committee, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Sharon Orr, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, at orrteam@verizon.net or 215-353-3117. We welcome new people and new ideas to the committee.

Don't forget Amazon Smile!

2015 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

Jean Upton

It's 2015 and preparations for the 40th Bucks County Designer House are accelerating. Our designers have been selected, measuring days have been held, and we are looking forward to seeing creative design boards turned into stunning décor. Once the designers begin their work on March 3, through the completion of their work period on April 20, we will need the help of VIA members to serve as House Sitters. Shifts are available from 9:00am - 12:30pm and 12:30pm - 4:00pm Mondays through Saturdays; and Noon - 4:00pm on Sundays. This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy the gradual transformation of the property while welcoming the designers as they arrive to work. Look for information on how you can self-schedule a shift on-line which will be sent via e-mail during the month of January. In addition, you can contact April Roesing at 267.966.5065 to volunteer.

Please consider a donation of a bottle of wine or spirits to stock the Empty House Party raffle basket. This is always a popular raffle item and a good fundraiser at the event. Please contact Phyllis Morris (610-847-5336) or Debbie Thorne (215-766-0639) if you would like to make a donation.

And don't forget to join us for the Empty House Party on Sunday, March 1 from 2-5pm featuring lite fare with an Italian flare and specialty stations for wine, beer, and olive oil tasting. Parking will be at the Central Bucks South High School on Folly Road with shuttles beginning at 1:45pm. Purchase your tickets early to be automatically entered into a drawing for two free Designer House tour tickets.

Mark your calendars for the Preview Gala on Friday, April 24 where we will celebrate both the 120th Anniversary of the VIA and the 40th Designer House—two milestones in our organization's history you won't want to miss. This is a very special year for the VIA and the Designer House, and we would love to see as many VIA members as possible at the Gala to celebrate these momentous events.

Look for additional information on the fashion shows, which will be held on Thursday, May 7 and Friday, May 8 at the Doylestown County Club and the Mother's Day Champagne Brunch on May 10th at the Villa. And join in the fun at the close of the house on May 30th with the Blue Jean Bash from 5-8pm.

Thanks to all our volunteers, VIA members and Designer House committee members, who are working so hard to make this important fundraiser a success.

Veterans Committee

Jan Cope

Ladies, you have a LOT to be proud of. The VIA donated over \$3,600 to local military charities this year: \$1,025 to the Horsham Air Guard Station's **Project Hero** disabled cycling program, \$800 to the Bucks County **Veterans Van**, \$800 to the **Washington Crossing National Cemetery**, \$400 to "A Soldier's Hands" toiletries care packages, \$200 to our book donation program, and \$100 for the get well cards now available throughout our hospital.

Our work had a significant boost from the Perkasié-based "Good Time Motorvators Car Club," who gave us \$500 to add to our planned donations. Their generosity and yours raised our working fund to an all time high. We've retained a small amount for any administration expenses or other donations needed between June and our donation collections in October/November. Everything else goes to the charities.

We're donating service too: in addition to decorating for the Petite Luncheon, our members helped with the YMCA's annual Veterans Day Luncheon, spoke about the VIA programs to the Ladies of Mt. Carmel, packed candy bags for "A Soldier's Hands," and shipped 3 LARGE boxes of books out to our military. Now we're planning to visit the National Cemetery and support the Designer House and Memorial Day Parade in May. Remember: The committee is open to new members. Our last meeting of the year will be April 16, at 1:00 PM at the JLMH. And, as always, thank you for your support.

First, I would like to address the rumor that has been circulating this past month. One never knows where they start but I would caution you to always approach someone who is likely to have the correct information before passing it on. This rumor purports that the Hospital is for sale. I can unequivocally state that is NOT TRUE! We are not about to merge either. We are talking to similar hospitals about how we can work together to be more efficient. None of these hospitals plan on merging or selling, all are committed to remaining independent. Please do not fall for these juicy bits of gossip without considering the source and without checking with someone who knows.

The changes taking place in the health world can be alarming. Insurance companies are more and more denying coverage or insisting that care be given in free standing facilities. Virtual medical care is on the rise. Walgreens is aligning with MDLive to connect their customers with licensed doctors via video chat. The appointments will cost \$49.00, not much more than a co-pay. While this is now only available in California and Michigan they hope to expand the service throughout 2015. The doctors will be able to write a prescription for that visit. Obviously this would be for non-emergent illness such as a sore throat. We were being challenged by free standing clinics in places like CVS, now its virtual. The competition continues to grow and we are going to have to find ways to meet it.

The Hospital Board had a wonderful presentation by Cathleen Stewart regarding the Reinvestment Plan for Pine Run. I am sure many of you remember that it was not so long ago that it was seriously considered that Pine Run should be sold. Now with the improvements being made it is once again a thriving, active community. On the horizon next is the Community Center. Now in the design stage, it is hoped that construction will begin in 2016. The Health Center should be completed this spring and work continues on the cottages.

The Hospital financials for the five months ending November 30, 2014 show a YTD excess of revenue over expenses at 37% over budget and a \$2.2M improvement over the prior year. The gain from operations is 8% behind budget but is an improvement over the previous year of \$1.3M.

Jim and the Systemness Committee have been meeting with Associates and volunteers to explain Doylestown Health and the new logo. There has been a very positive response and morale is good. A Systemness sub-group is working to establish what the culture of the Health System should look like. All of the parts hold the patient and people first but as a system, what would define us? It's a tricky concept but this group is meeting often and with others in the system to try to define this most illusive of thoughts.

One of the articles that came across my desk this month stated that between the years 2011 and 2013 hospitals saved the lives of 50,000 people. Infections fell by 17% and approximately \$12B was saved in healthcare spending. There were fewer falls and fewer adverse drug events. There has been a big push to improve the quality of healthcare in the US and it looks like it's working. I know how hard we work to improve quality and patient safety and it appears more and more hospitals are doing the same.

Healthcare continues to improve in many ways but in some ways we will need to see where it takes us. Hospitals will find it harder and harder to survive unless they find a way to become "relevant and indispensable." You have been hearing this all year as we work on a strategic plan for the future. Our consultants feel we are ahead of many other health systems in the country and we seem to have the right team to keep us ahead of the challenges we face. I am grateful for all of them. Remember that while we were celebrating for the holidays, our Associates, doctors and nurses were at the Hospital working to keep our patients safe and get them home to their families so they too could share in their feasts. God Bless them all!!

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa

Vice President, Health Services

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January 2015

20	JLMH Meeting	Conf Room C	9:00 AM
21	Marketing Meeting	Conf Room G/H	11:30 AM
27	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	8:30 AM
27	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM

February 2015

2	Finance Meeting	Conf Room G	8:30 AM
3	Membership Meeting	JLMA	12:00 PM
10	Designer House Meeting	JLMA	10:00 AM
11	Welfare Meeting	Conf Room A	9:00 AM
12	Fundraising Meeting	Conf Room A	9:30 AM
17	JLMH Committee	Conf Room A	10:00 AM
18	Marketing Meeting	Conf Room H	11:30 AM
24	VIA Board Meeting	Conf Room K	8:30 AM
24	Bylaws Meeting	Conf Room K	10:30 AM