

February 2016 Newsletter

As our community continues to recover from a late January record nor'easter we were thrilled to hear that Punxsutawney Phil predicted an early arrival to spring, the VIA's busiest time of year.

In case you missed our February 2 meeting at the very accommodating VIA Auditorium at the Health and Wellness Center in Warrington, I feel it is worthwhile repeating two correspondences that were shared with those in attendance. Kathy Meyers, chair of Community Response read a thank you from Jessie Alfaro, Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator for the Coalition to Shelter and Support the Homeless. Jessie wrote that our grant played a vital part in their need to keep the Central Bucks Code Blue Shelter open almost every night since January 5th. We often forget that there are many homeless families in our midst but how great it is that the VIA was able to help this population.

Next, Louise Woodruff, co-chair of the Welfare Committee, read a heart wrenching thank you note. The letter was from a single mother who was one of over 450 recipients of the Target gift cards sent out by the committee during the post-holiday season. These cards help families in our community to meet the most basic of needs. The Welfare Committee works closely with the school nurses and guidance counselors to identify the most vulnerable family situations. To each and every VIA member, thank you for everything you do with the VIA as we strive to raise funds for our various service committees. Our goal is to see every dollar we raise be used to help make a positive impact in the life of someone else and thereby advancing them to a more stable position.

On January 7th, the committee chairs along with their vice chairs and VIA board members met to report on their activities, challenges and needs. This year's meeting proved to be an invaluable time for everyone with much sharing, support, and helpful interchange all with the intent of improving our organization.

Joy Levy, Designer House Chair, and her committee are less than a month away from taking possession of Foxwood Manor in Jamison. Don't forget to sign up to help out at our 41st Bucks County Designer House and Gardens. It's always fun to see our visitors appreciate the beautiful work of our talented designers and landscapers.

Sunday, February 28th will be the first public showing of this impressive property. Debbie Thorne, chair of the Empty House Party Committee is finalizing all the necessary details for this delightful afternoon. Please invite your family and friends to join us.

As you read the many interesting articles inside of our newsletter, don't miss Carolyn Della-Rodolfa's message on what's been going on lately at Doylestown Hospital, flagship of Doylestown Health. The changing face of healthcare in our nation presents daily challenges but is met without hesitation by our superb and capable healthcare staff.

Linda McElhinney

President

**March 1, 2016
12 noon
James-Lorah Memorial Home Auditorium**

“Irish Songs and Stories”

Presenter: Gerry Timlin
Program Coordinator: Mary Bachman

Program Preview

Cory H. Schroeder

A great favorite in the USA and Canada, this Pennsylvania-based singer has enjoyed success all over the world. He was born in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, where he developed an early interest in traditional Irish music and in folk music. From the beginning, Gerry displayed a musical talent, winning several singing competitions in Northern Ireland when he was still in his teens. He moved to the USA in the early seventies, and has been delighting audiences with his smooth baritone voice and his irreverent humor ever since. In 2014, he was honored to perform with his singing partner, Tom Kane, at the Congressional Friends of Ireland Luncheon on Capitol Hill for the President and members of Congress as well as the Prime Minister of Ireland.

Many of you may remember his wonderful performances from years past. He was with us just a few years ago and we enjoyed him so much, we have brought him back for your renewed pleasure! It's hard to tell whether his music is best or his stories, but one thing is for sure, you will be laughing and humming, if not singing along outright!

Now, our dear Mary Bachman has, for the last three months, been worrying what if the weather is bad and he gets snowed out. So EVERYONE, please pray for sunshine and warm temps for that day.

A Special Womens History Month Award

Kathy Meyer

Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 5pm the doors to the James-Lorah Memorial Home will open for tours to commemorate the 35th Annual Women's History Month Award. In the true spirit of the month, we pay tribute to the generations of women who have proved invaluable to society and this year a special award recognizes Miss Sarah M. James. The Honorable Cynthia J. Rufe has been selected as this year's Women's History Award recipient. She is a Judge of the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Prior to her federal bench appointment Judge Rufe served as judge

of Bucks County Court of Common Pleas from 1994 – 2002.

Mark your calendars to attend this special event. It would be nice to have a VIA contingent to participate in this very special evening. **Tickets are \$15.00 payable at the door.**

HANDBOOK UPDATES/CORRECTIONS

Please Change:

Midge Vansant: #215-340-7136

If you find missing or incorrect information, please call Admin. Asst. Denise Sanders at 215-345-2347 or email dsanders@dh.org. Thank you.

Marketing Committee

Nancy Gimbol

The Marketing Committee and the Membership Committee have put together materials to give to potential VIA members. If you know someone who is interested in joining the organization and you think it is meaningful to provide them with literature about the VIA, please email or call Denise Sanders in the VIA office and ask her to put together a packet. She has a sample available for anyone interested in checking it out.

VIA Book Club

Marilyn Mele

Selection "THE BULLET" by Mary Louise Kelly

When: Monday, February 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Forest Ridge Clubhouse

Bristol Road, Warrington

Questions: Anne Sweeney (215) 343-1616

SAVE THE DATE

MaryBachman

The Social Committee announces some great activities for you. Simply give the person in charge of the event a call. **Tuesday, March 29, 2016:** Enjoy a great cooking demonstration/lesson at **Carlow Cookery** in Doylestown. A tasty dinner will follow. The theme is "Italian Dinner." \$50pp includes lesson/demonstration and dinner. Contact **Marilyn Jones: 215-822-1109.** **Wednesday, April 20, 2016** The first of our new **Doylestown Appreciation Projects.** Enjoy an independent tour of great art, much of which is by famous local artists; then join the group for lunch. Call **Mary Bachman 215-343-0547** to sign up. All costs are "on your own" Shhhh....it's ok to do only one part of this 2-part excursion. Watch this space for new and exciting social activities. A great way to enjoy membership in VIA!

Exciting Theater Opportunities

Diana Hazzard

On Wednesday, June 22nd at 2:00pm we have 35 seats reserved for the 2016 Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival at DeSales University. This summer's musical features equity actors performing **West Side Story.** **Tickets for orchestra and balcony seats are \$41.** Lunch will be served in a private room at the Copperhead Grille near the theatre on campus. It's only a short drive up 309 and many members arrange carpooling so you can travel with friends.

Paid reservations will be accepted at the March VIA Membership Meeting. Don't miss this opportunity for one of Broadway's best shows. Sign up early!

James - Lorah Memorial Home

Phyllis Morris

Celebrate the end of winter by planning to attend the James-Lorah Memorial Home annual fundraiser "**An Evening at the Theatre**" April 6th at the Town and Country Players theatre. The musical this year is Stephen Sondheim's **Company.** Details and reservation form are included in the enclosed flyer. Reserve early-seating is limited! The JLMH is looking forward to participating in the Women's History Month event that will be held in our auditorium Thursday evening, March 10th. Restoration and repairs to keep our house maintained continued this winter. We recently had to have major plumbing repairs done. Thankfully, we made it through the latest snow storm okay! Once again thanks to our caretaker, Barbara Darr for being there for us.

Fundraising

Sharon Orr

Be one of the first to buy a ticket for the 2016 VIA 50/50 drawing. Proceeds from this drawing will support the VIA and it's missions. You will have a chance to win as much as \$2,000 and only 400 tickets will be sold. Fill out the enclosed form and send it along with your check to: Village Improvement Association, 595 W. State St., Doylestown, PA 18901. All requests must be postmarked by April 28, 2016.

Treasure's Report

Ruth Carlson

Current assets: \$107,445
Long term assets: \$259,804
Total assets: \$367,349

Total income for the year: \$51,782
Total expenses year to date: \$30,490

Total change in assets: \$21,291

BUCKS COUNTY

Designer House & Gardens

This is the VIA's *largest* fundraiser and proceeds from this single event fuel the work the VIA accomplishes each year. Your support is *essential* to the *VIA's success* and each VIA member is responsible to fulfill two shifts at the Designer House. Positions are available as captains, guides, ticket desk sales, café, designer sales, 50/50 raffle sales and waterers. Here's our task - the bottom line numbers:

- 12 – Job types to be filled
- 29 – Days the house is open for tours
- 652 – Shifts throughout the month
- 1,510 – Spots to fill
- 269 – Spots already filled
- 69 – Volunteers already registered

100% Positive ...

That we will fill these jobs with your help!

To sign up please visit:

BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org/viashifts

Designer Treasures

This year Designer Sales will feature an attractive selection of clear and etched glassware. Please contact Terry Steinberg about bowls, candlesticks, decanters, cake plates, beverage glasses, vases, etc. that you, your relatives, or your neighbors would be interested in donating.

Boutiques

“Shop ‘til You Drop” again this year at the Designer House. Back again will be The Crystal Cottage, Fox Heath Saddlery and Floral Wholesale Warehouse. We are excited to welcome Aspiring Artists of the Earth and the Bucks County Cookie Company.

Empty House Party

February 28 | 2 – 5 pm This year, we have a wonderful line-up of fabulous fare. 2016 is going to be a foodie fest and there truly is something for everyone! Here's the line up so far: appetizers & entrees from Bar Louie, Carmel Kitchen, Hattery Stove & Still, Empanada Mama, Mission Foods, Plumsteadville Inn; soups, sandwiches (vegan & gluten free) and a hot-chocolate bar to warm you up, from Sodexo Culinary; sweets to die for from The Lucky Cupcake Company and Oh! Sweet

Caroline's; locally-produced wine from Peace Valley Winery; handcrafted spirits from Hewn Spirits; locally-roasted coffee from The Zen Den; and, pretzels from Philly Pretzel Factory!

\$25 advance sales thru Feb 18; \$30 reservations and at the door; \$40 *Before & After* ticket thru Feb 18. Reserve by Jan 25 and enter a raffle for two additional tickets. Look for the enclosed flyer to reserve tickets.

House Tour & Gourmet Getaway March 31 | 5 - 8 pm

Celebrate “Hollywood Glamour” and sample food and drink from 25 of Bucks' finest caterers, restaurants and wineries, plus raffles, silent auctions and live music at the Warrington Country Club. The Chamber will partner with the new Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Doylestown and Town & Country Players. \$60 – Gourmet Getaway and House Tour Combo ticket.

Preview Gala

April 29 | VIP 6-7 pm and Main Event 7-10 pm

Save the Date - Tickets available soon. Please give Joyce Hanson additional names for the invitation list. Once again, the event will be catered by Jamie Hollander Gourmet Foods and the menu looks spectacular! Music provided by D'Amico Entertainment.

House Tours

May 1 – May 29

View the transformation by 30 professional designers and landscapers. Tour the house, shop the boutiques & designer décor, and indulge at the café. Tickets \$25 Advance and Seniors (62+); Volunteer Tickets \$15, Committee members - Complimentary. Groups Rate - \$20 for groups of 15 or more; Reduced Rate \$25 for pre-approved companies or organizations IDs will be required. Contact Mary Bachman about groups who may be interested.

Veterans Committee

Jan Cope

We recently received a \$500 donation from the Perkasi-area car club, Good Time Motorvators – the second year they've joined us. Their donation, plus some additional member donations, allowed us to help two more military charities. We will be donating \$400 to "A Soldier's Hands" and \$375 to the Doylestown Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans. "A Soldier's Hands" sends goodie bags of toiletries, candies, or other supplies to deployed military units. The Disabled American Veterans helps disabled veterans, their families, their widowed spouses and their orphans. We are investigating options for helping local members participate in the Central Bucks Family YMCA's new Veterans Program or in other Y health programs. We've also been busy presenting the previously allocated donations. On January 10, Jan Cope, Edi Eisenbraun, and Tara Bryant-Gray (and her two young sons!) presented \$1,200 in grocery and gas gifts cards to the Horsham Air Guard Station's Friends of the Airman and Family Readiness non-profit group. Edi and Tara will also be providing \$250 in groceries to the base's food pantry, with purchases spread over the next few months. Two representatives from the base came to our January Veterans Committee meeting to present the VIA with a thank you plaque for our club's continuing support of their members and their families. On Jan 13, Maureen Marron presented our \$800 donation to the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. We are also continuing our ongoing programs for paperback donations and free Get Well Cards for Veterans at Doylestown Hospital. *Mr. Greg Whitney, Director at Washington Crossing, has invited us to tour the shrine, so we are planning a carpool trip on Thursday, April 21, at 11:30, with lunch to follow*

for anyone interested. Please email Jan Cope (janbcope@verizon.net) if you'd like to join us. Mr. Greg Whitney, Director at Washington Crossing, has invited us to tour the shrine, so we are planning a carpool trip on Thursday, April 21, at 11:30, with lunch to follow for anyone interested. Please email Jan Cope (janbcope@verizon.net) if you'd like to join us

1895 Society Committee

Joan Parlee

December 2015 marked the end of the Then, Now and Forever campaign to build the unrestricted endowment funds of the VIA

I am pleased to announce the campaign added \$62,000 to our endowment. This money is now invested and will generate funds for the use of the VIA into the future. A sincere thank you to all who contributed!

Please remember that all gifts to the VIA over \$100 are recognized by the 1895 Society Committee and names are added to our plaques in the rear of the auditorium. In addition to the unrestricted endowment, gifts may be made to the Welfare, James-Lorah Memorial Home, Women's Scholarship or Community Response Committees. Any estate planned gifts to the VIA should be brought to the attention of our committee as well, and will also be recognized by the hospital with membership in the Cornerstone Society.

When you have the occasion to remember, thank or honor a family member, friend or fellow VIA member, please consider a gift to the VIA through the 1895 Society. What a beautiful way to celebrate wonderful achievements and precious lives.

February 2016

For the second month in a row I am reporting on an amazingly advanced clinical care procedure that is available here at Doylestown Hospital. This procedure, known as EUS or Endoscopic Ultrasound, is relatively new to medicine and new to our Hospital. Dr. Joseph Kim came to Doylestown about two years ago and he brought with him this extraordinary skill in this high end procedure. Prior to Dr. Kim's arrival anyone requiring EUS had to be transferred downtown. These patients are now able to stay in the community. The procedure is often done in lieu of surgery that would take hours and require months of recovery. It can also be used for staging cancers and can implant markers for radiation oncologists to focus treatment. I won't even try to explain how this is done since it is so technologically complicated. There are so many uses for EUS and there have been quite a few referrals to Dr. Kim from other hospitals in the area. Suffice it to say that it is another way Doylestown Hospital is offering care to the community.

The hospital Pharmacy is moving to a new home in a better location and with more room. In the process, it will get an upgrade in its systems. They are moving to electronic dispensing which will increase efficiency and safety. Also, the pharmacy carts will be checked electronically for expired medications.

Through Doylestown Health Physicians, pharmacy students have been embedded into doctors' offices for a three month trial period where they have identified various issues such as potential adverse side effects, and the best time of day to take medicine. It's been well received by doctors and patients alike and I expect we'll see more of this in the future.

The Orthopedic Institute has a full time orthopedic navigator and standardized physician orders for specific orthopedic procedures. The hip and knee programs are both certified by the Joint Commission. For those of us who are more "mature" you should know that an Osteoporosis Program was started in September of 2014. Information was sent to doctors with guidelines and resources. In July of 2015, the Physical Therapy Department started monthly fall lectures and screenings for the community.

Financially, the first quarter of fiscal year 2016 was a challenge. The second quarter is showing improvement and once we start seeing the increases from our new contracts we should see a more favorable result. Interestingly, while other hospitals in the area are seeing a decrease in volumes we are actually seeing an increase in market share. So our productivity is actually up. Of course, the Stock Market is a challenge over which we have no control and we just have to weather those peaks and valleys like everyone else in the world.

Our new Vice President of Development has already started planning for fundraising and new approaches to philanthropy. In the meantime, she is taking a three-month maternity leave after giving birth to an adorable baby boy named Charlie.

I am sure you are seeing more Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in your doctor's office lately. Because of the shortage of doctors, they are relying on these professionals to pick up a lot of the work needed to coordinate care for patients and bring the care to the value base to which everyone is moving. Why are there so few doctors? Part of it is burnout. Too many hours, too much bureaucracy, and too much computerization in the office, and that's only part of it.

The big snow storm!! The hospital had about 100 staff stay over the weekend. We had emergency drills to prepare for these contingencies so we are ready with plenty of food and other necessities. We even had hot refreshments for local police and road crews. One thing you notice with this kind of emergency is we all pull together when it counts, neighbor helping neighbor, and emergency personnel going the extra mile. Good old fashioned dedication and togetherness.

Stay Warm!!

Carolyn Della-Rodolfa
Vice President, Health Services

VIA OF DOYLESTOWN
595 W. State Street
Doylestown PA 18901

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February 2016

16	JLMH Committee	Conf. Room A	10:00 am
17	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
17	Marketing Committee	Conf. Room H	11:30 am
18	Hospital Board	Conf. Room K	8:00 am
23	VIA Board Meeting	Conf. Room K	8:30 am
23	Bylaws Meeting	Conf. Room K	10:30 am

March 2016

1	Membership Meeting	JLMH	12 noon
7	VIA Finance Committee	Conf. Rm G	8:30 am
7	Social Committee	Conf. Rm TBA	10:45am
8	Designer House Committee	JLMH	9:30 am
9	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
9	Welfare Committee	Conf. Room A	9:00 am
15	JLMH Committee	JLMH	10:00 am
16	Marketing Committee	Conf. Room H	11:30 am
23	Strategic Planning	VIA Office	9:00 am
24	Hospital Board	Conf. Room K	8:00 am
29	VIA Board Meeting	Conf. Room K	8:30 am
29	Bylaw Meeting	Conf. Room K	10:30 am