



Happy New Year to All Four Seasons Residents!



CJ Besanson and John Normand load the gifts for transport to the GRACE collection center. There is a brand new bicycle in there too for some happy child!

Christmas Gift Program Supported by the Four Seasons Community

In December the Social Committee adopted a family for the **Christmas Gift Program** sponsored by GRACE (Greene Alliance of Church/Community Efforts). Gifts go to the children (through age 14) of needy families.

CJ Besanson and **Janet Tumolo** led the effort. Many members of the Four Seasons community contributed by buying gifts for children in the family or donating cash or checks.

The Social Committee wants to thank the Four Seasons community for their generosity in supporting this program. We were able to provide a wonderful Christmas for our adopted family!



A Special New Year Welcome to the Latest Arrival in the Kibler Family

Jeanne Kibler writes:

I am so pleased to announce that Sylvia and Patrick Kibler had their baby today, January 1, 2014! Liam Daniel was born at 1:33 p.m. at Martha Jefferson Hospital. He weighed a whopping 8 pounds, 7 ounces! Liam was the second baby born at MJH in 2014. Sylvia and Liam are doing beautifully. The two older brothers are excited and in awe over their new baby brother.

Congratulations to the proud parents, Sylvia and Patrick, and grandmother, Jeanne!



~ *A Valentine's Day Love Story* ~
 How My Parents Met and Fell in Love

Story by Vibe Weber

(Editor's note: In Danish, the name 'Vibeke' means "little dove" or "little wife". Our Four Seasons resident Vibeke "Vibe" Weber is the second in a line of four Vibeke's in her family. Her mother was the first Vibeke, and both her daughter and granddaughter carry this lovely and unusual name. This is the love story of our Vibe's parents, as she told it to her granddaughter in a recent letter.)

To my dear granddaughter -

My mother, the first Vibeke in our family, was born in Alborg, Denmark, in 1910. Her father was a Colonel in the Danish army and served as Aide de Camp to the King of Denmark. He worked in the Amelianborg Palace in Copenhagen. She grew up and went to school in Copenhagen.

In 1933, when Vibeke was 23, a US Coast Guard cutter arrived in the Port of Copenhagen on a training cruise. The daughters of the palace personnel were invited to be the dinner partners of the Coast Guard officers. Vibeke's dinner partner was a Lt. Edward Thiele. They enjoyed each other's company that evening, so "Eddie" asked Vibeke for a second date on the next day, and she accepted. Vibeke went home and told her sister Ida that she'd had a wonderful time, and that the handsome American officer in his formal white uniform was coming the next evening to pick her up at 8pm.

It's important for you to understand that in Denmark if you say you will be somewhere at a certain time, you are expected to be ringing the doorbell at that exact moment.

The next evening, Vibeke was waiting for the doorbell to ring, and Ida was standing by to catch a glimpse of this handsome, well-dressed fellow. 8pm arrived and nothing happened. 8:05, no doorbell. 8:10, still no Eddie, and Ida was snickering at her sister's glowing description of this, obviously very rude, American. Finally at 8:15 Eddie arrived, but in a drab beige suit instead of the handsome "dress whites". Ida was now laughing!

But they had a good time anyway, and after the date Eddie asked Vibeke to come to the ship the next Monday for an "open house". On that day she left work a little early to be there ON TIME! When she arrived at the ship there was no one at the gangplank, so she had to find someone and ask for Eddie. Eddie was found, but in the meantime he had been given "the duty", which meant that he had to stand at the gangplank to greet all the visitors. Poor Eddie!

Eddie had to ask another officer friend to escort Vibeke



around the ship, but that didn't last long because he kept noticing that his friend was having a really good time with his date! So Eddie found a more junior officer to take "the duty", and he was able to spend the rest of the day with Vibeke.

When the ship was preparing to leave, Eddie asked if he could write to Vibeke. She thought it was not a good idea, because it would be such a long-distance relationship. But he was smart and just remembered her address. When he got back to his home port, Seattle, Washington, he wrote to her, and a long correspondence began. Vibeke's father and brother would help translate his letters into Danish for her and her letters into English for him.

Can you imagine your father and brother helping you with your love letters?

They wrote back-and-forth for a year and a half...each falling in love with the other. Finally Eddie wrote to Vibeke's father and asked for her hand in marriage. It was agreed by Vibeke and her father and family that she would go to America and marry Eddie Thiele.

Think about this now. Youngest daughter in a conservative European family in 1932 meets a foreigner, writes letters back-and-forth for a year and a half. She does not see him again until she packs up her life, leaves her job, leaves her friends, and leaves her family to cross the ocean and the USA in the middle of the winter to marry this man with whom she has had three dates! What a strong woman. What a confident person! As I write this it still amazes me.

And so it happened just that way. She packed up her trousseau (filled with precious family silver heirlooms and monogrammed towels and the like) and said goodbye to her parents, brothers, and sister. She set off, in January, 1935 on a ship bound for New York City, where her uncle was to meet her at the pier and get her settled on the train from NYC to Seattle. Of course, he was late, but a nice couple stayed with her until he finally arrived and took her to the train station.

When she arrived in Seattle, she was met by Eddie, and some newspaper photographers! The next day, their love story was front page news in the Seattle Daily Times. A week later they were married in the home of some of Eddie's friends. She once said to me, in relating this story, that "if I hadn't been the only bride there I never would have known what was going on because the minister didn't know how to pronounce my name!"

— I hope you enjoyed this bit of family history!

~ Board President's Message ~

From the desk of the President:

The New Year is with us; I wish you a Happy 2014! I know I will have trouble remembering to date checks with the correct year. The next Board of Directors meeting will be January 14, 2014 at 4 PM.

Our community has been busy the last few months with musical events, dining, dancing, singing and coffees. A special thanks to Jeanne Kibler for the two wreaths that adorn the closed gates. It was a very special loan from her personal collection. MSC provided a wonderful Holiday coffee for the ladies; thank you so much.

As you all know we have a new snow removal contractor. Let's all hope we do not see much of them. There will be no snow removal on sidewalks or personal driveways. MSC tried valiantly to find someone to do it, but that did not work out. MSC has a list of snow removal companies or persons who have been recommended by neighbors. If you need assistance please contact someone from this list. (*Ed: also see the story in the next column*)

I would also like to remind you that whenever it rains or snows our roads, sidewalks, and parking lots can become slippery. MSC spreads chemicals regularly in the clubhouse area but sometimes the surface is still slippery. Please be careful!

I would like to propose to you that we try something new. How about meeting at the clubhouse some Tuesday at 5 PM for an impromptu drink and some conversation, strictly BYOB? I will send out an email with dates; let's see how many show up; we might make this a regular event. Bring your tea, your coffee, your wine, or whatever is your pleasure. Let's use our bar area.

We should take a moment to consider those in our community who have volunteered their time and effort to make our community a better place to live and to make our lives better. I thank you all for your contributions.

— Sue Miller

~ Do You Know Who This Is? ~



Her name and current picture will be revealed in the next issue of the newsletter!!
She's your neighbor!

Do You Need Snow Shoveling Help?

Larry Baker and **Vince Donnelly** are organizing an informal group of Four Seasons men who have volunteered to help shovel out Four Seasons residents when the snow storms arrive. They are collecting names for two lists:

- Residents who would **like to have help** getting shoveled out.
- Residents **willing to help with the shoveling** (within personal limits).

You'll just get the minimum needed to get you out — not like a commercial service—but if you would like help from your neighbors, this group will try to provide it.

To get on either list—needing shoveling help or willing to provide shoveling help—email Vince or Larry.

Jazz Guitar Concert at the Clubhouse

On Sat., Dec. 28 a group of about 30 Four Seasons folks gathered at the clubhouse to hear the musical renditions of Aaron Meyer, grandson of **David & Maxine Katz**. Aaron is a sophomore at Michigan State University, majoring in Jazz Guitar. He performed for about an hour with original jazz improvisations, as well as new interpretations of some old standards. Aaron's performance was skilled and enjoyable. Four Seasons musicians **Joe Tucker** and **Doug Miller** gave it a 'thumbs up'!



Join the NAG And Help Create Your Community Newsletter!

Our community newsletter, **The Mountain Breeze**, will be produced by a new group of volunteers starting in 2014. We are calling this group the NAG — the Newsletter Activity Group. Come and join us in this fun activity! It can take as little of your time as you have available.

A Bit of History.

Just a little over a year ago, September 2012, the Communications Committee (CommComm) was formed. One of our first projects was to produce a community newsletter. Under the leadership of Dianne Wilson, and with contributions from all members of the CommComm, the first issue was published on Nov 1, 2012.

A year has now passed and after seven issues, the newsletter has been a resounding success, at least judging from the many compliments we have received. And that success is in large part because of contributions from the whole Four Seasons community. You have contributed stories, photos, ideas, and shared travel experiences, family events and traditions, recipes, and much more.

Now that we know what is involved in producing a good newsletter, the CommComm would like to in-

vite participation from the whole community in the production of the newsletter itself.

Skills and time needed?

Producing the newsletter involves a diverse set of skills. You could take on a small piece or a large piece; everybody can contribute in some way.

Here are some of the things that you might get involved with:

- Suggesting good stories and other content for the newsletter.
- Collecting the information for good stories, and interviewing the people involved.
- Taking photos.
- Editing stories and photos into final form.
- Writing articles on subjects of interest to the community.
- Graphic design: designing and laying out pages, choosing colorful clip art.
- Fact checking, calendars of events, classified ads.

Come join us! If you are interested, email an expression of interest to **Dianne Wilson** or **Terry Pratt**.

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## Photograph of the Year Award Goes to Dave Katz



At the December meeting of the Charlottesville Camera Club the "picture of the year" is selected. This year there were 12 entries. The judge was Ben Greenberg, a well known professional photographer from Charlottesville. Dave Katz took top honors with this photo.

The image is titled "Bridge at Night" and was taken in Macon, France during Dave's recent river cruise.

## BLUEBIRD ALERT!

The melodious, sweet sound of an Eastern Bluebird is enough to tell you Spring is coming. And we are very fortunate that Bluebirds are prolific in our area. They are, in fact, ready for their first nesting of the year in February.

Bluebirds (*Sialia Sialia*) are in the Thrush family. They are typically about 7" long with bright blue back feathers and rusty breast with white belly feathers (males). Females are duller in color. They build a fine, neat nest and lay up to 6 pale blue eggs.



A bit of Bluebird history. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the large population of Bluebirds began to dwindle due to the introduction of two aggressive birds – the European Starling and the House Sparrow. They competed for the same type of nesting cavity as the Eastern Bluebird and the result was the Bluebird lost.

By the 1960's and after a steady decline in the Bluebird population, bird enthusiasts began a Bluebird protection program that also included improved record keeping. The first goal was to provide secure houses for Bluebirds. Records were kept by monitors who checked each house weekly. Bluebird eggs were counted. Fledglings were counted. These records were kept and at the end of the season, sent to Cornell School of Ornithology which is the "Mecca" of ornithological information.

As a result of these efforts there has been a significant increase in the population of the Eastern Bluebird. In our area, in February, June, and sometimes August you will find them on the lawn looking for insects (grasshoppers, spiders, caterpillars etc.) and also eating

berries. Bluebirds nest up to three times in a year, often returning to their previous box or hole. They have 2 – 7 pale blue eggs.

As a Bluebird watcher it is important to monitor the nesting box in order to discourage other birds from taking over. A box is monitored by opening the box and removing all nesting material that is not finely woven of fine grasses. Take the nesting material with you rather than just throwing it on the ground. This includes the eggs of any bird other than a Bluebird. In this area Barn swallows are very persistent box robbers. Approaching the box will bring a flurry of "wing snapping" activity but in general the Bluebird is a gentle bird and does not "fight" if attacked while on the nest.

When the Bluebirds lay eggs, both parents feed the young – worms and bugs – while the female incubates the eggs until they hatch, which takes 11 – 19 days.

If you are interested in building a Bluebird box, there are specific dimensions needed. The interior measurement is 4"x4"; the entry hole 1.75". The hole is near the top of the box, well above the nest so that an intruder would have to reach further into the box. Also, an elongated entry (like a piece of pipe) helps to exclude larger raiding birds, snakes or raccoons that eat eggs and nestlings when they manage to enter at night. And one more thing, remember to provide water if you want birds in your yard!

— article by Vibe Weber

### Coming Up in March, the Virginia Consort Festival Chorus!

Four Seasons resident **Marilyn Kiehn** has sung in the Virginia Consort Festival Chorus for the past seven years. She invites all classical music lovers to attend the March 9 concert featuring Mozart's Great C Minor Mass, presented in UVa's beautiful Old Cabell Hall Auditorium. The concert has a full professional orchestra and soloists.

The concert is Sunday afternoon, March 9, at 3:30pm. Adults \$35. Tickets will be available from Marilyn in February, or through the Consort website at [www.virginiaconsort.org](http://www.virginiaconsort.org). In the Hospice of the Piedmont 'Valpak' there is a coupon that will pay for one person. Call 434-972-3568 for additional details on this offer.

The Old Cabell Hall auditorium has comfortable padded seating and offers handicap parking and elevators. Maps can be found on-line through the UVa website at [www.virginia.edu](http://www.virginia.edu).

~ **Holiday Season Activities in the Clubhouse** ~



(L to R standing) Vibe Weber, Brooke Frautschi, Diane Horvath, Chris Sauter, Sue Stover; (seated) Kathryn Benzinger

**Christmas Ornaments Workshop**

Sue Stover led a "make your own Christmas ornament" workshop on December 6. Participants enjoyed a fun and productive afternoon, and afterwards showed off some of their new creations.



**Ladies Coffee Hosted by MSC**

Our MSC management team hosted a ladies coffee at the Clubhouse on Tuesday, December 17, which was well-attended. Four Seasons Community Association President, Sue Miller, presented the MSC staff with gifts and a "thank you from our community for your hard work and all the extra things you do".



(L to R) Sue Miller, Jeanne Kibler, Diane Caton, Sylvia Kibler



Lots of goodies!



Hazel Sykes



Kim Pasini, Sue Stover, Betty Hefner

Dear Four Seasons Residents,

We cannot begin to express our gratitude for your generous gift to the MSC staff this Christmas. Your thoughtfulness is touching and very much appreciated. The work environment here at Four Seasons is so pleasant, but the relationships and interactions we get to have with each of you are what make this a special place to be!

Thank you again for thinking about us during this holiday season. We wish you a very Happy New Year and we look forward to serving you and alongside you as we continue to build this community together in 2014.

Many Blessings,  
Jeanne, Christine, Sylvia, and Sam

*~ Holiday Clubhouse Decorating Party and Sing-Along ~*



**The Clubhouse Decorating Team**

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Christmas Sing-along with the Ragged Ramblers Band
(Joe Tucker, Joe Brennan, Sue Campbell, Terry Pratt, Doug Miller)



~ *New Years Eve Party* ~



Barbara Pavelle, Linda Pietrzak, Lola Kerr (guest)



Ed Meehan

Great food, great music, great company made for a delightful New Years Eve party at the Clubhouse.



Not even a recent surgery could stop Joanie Widomski



The dance floor was often filled!

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~ *The Annual Four Seasons 8-ball Tournament - 2013* ~

~ *The Winners Are!* ~  
**Mike Avery and Jim Wilson**  
*Runners-up:*  
**Joe Reece and Dixon Clark**



Mike Avery, Ron Heinz (referee), Jim Wilson, Joe Preston (racker)

***Teams participating***

|                                                |                              |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jim Wilson / Mike Avery                        | Joe Reece / Dixon Clark      |
| Dave Katz / Tim Sizer                          | Doug Miller / Vince Donnelly |
| Art Pavelle / Terry Pratt                      | Jim Murray/ Joe Orsini       |
| Rich Pietrzak / Spencer Crute                  | Joe Brennan / John Normand   |
| <b>Ron Heinz—Referee    Joe Preston—Racker</b> |                              |



## January/February Dates to Remember

Monday, January 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Sunday, February 2  
Groundhog Day

Sunday, February 2

Super Bowl Sunday (see below)

Friday, February 14  
Valentine's Day



Monday, February 17  
President's Day



**Reminder** —check the light in your outside light post to make sure it is working. It might help an emergency vehicle find your house easier. If it is not working, it can be very dark in front of your house!



Kathryn Benzinger was recently honored with a party for her 97th!

**Happy Birthday,  
Kathryn!**

*~ Calling all Foodies ~*

## Community Events



Thursday, January 16  
Third Thirsty Thursday  
Soup & Chili Party with DJ  
music and dancing

Sunday, February 2  
Super Bowl Party



Thursday, February 13  
Valentines Day Party

Watch for more information from the Social Committee about these and other events for the Community.

Have you found a new restaurant lately that you would like to share with those in the community?

Send an article to  
**blueridgbreeze@gmail.com**  
and tell us about your experience. What did you like and what didn't you like?



## ~ Classified Ads ~

*This section is for residents only and features any thing or service that you might want to sell or give away to other residents. Ads will be run for one issue of the newsletter and then removed. If you would like your ad to be run again, contact someone on the Communications Team.*

**Hand-drawn Portraits** of a family member or beloved pet make great gifts! Experienced portrait artist; reasonable prices. Contact **Terry Pratt** at 434-990-0533 or email [twpratt@aol.com](mailto:twpratt@aol.com).

**Experienced Seamstress.** Simple alterations, pants and skirt hems. Outstanding workmanship. Call **Betty Ray**—434-985-8593; 23 John Rucker Drive. (Betty owned her own dressmaking business for many years. )

**Small Electrical Services.** Call **Harold Robbins**, 434-985-7202.

**Free Notary Service.** One day advance notice will be helpful. Email [atrjs4p@virginia.edu](mailto:atrjs4p@virginia.edu) or call **Rauzelle Smith** at 434-985-3395.

**Wanted - News articles** for the Four Seasons of Charlottesville newsletter! Send information to [blueridgebreeze@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgebreeze@gmail.com)

*Classified Ads Needed!  
Send us your ads!*

### **The Mountain Breeze at Four Seasons Charlottesville**

*Published bimonthly for the  
Four Seasons Charlottesville Community  
by the*

#### **Communications Committee**

Larry Miller, *chairman*  
Terry Pratt, *newsletter editor*  
Don Brady                      Vera Reece  
Arnie Silverman              Coleen Sizer  
Dianne Wilson

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Many thanks to those people who have submitted articles for the newsletter. If you do not see your article in this edition, we will try to include it in a later issue!

The Communications Committee reserves the right to edit any article for length or clarity.

**The deadline for the 2014 March/April issue is  
February 20**

Send all submissions to

[blueridgebreeze@gmail.com](mailto:blueridgebreeze@gmail.com)



### **Phone Numbers to Remember**

**Club House — 434-990-2012**

**Emergency — 911**

**Greene County Sheriff's Office — 434-985-2222**

**Identity Theft Hotline — 877-438-4338**

**National Do Not Call Registry — 888-382-1222**

**Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia — 804-648-0016**