

MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members
December 2023

Want to know more?
Check us out at
merasite.org

SENDING
WARM
WISHES TO
YOU AND
YOUR
FAMILY THIS
HOLIDAY
SEASON.



MERA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Note from MERA President

We still have not received any information regarding the company donations to our organization...we are like the Phillies "Dancin' on our own"!
With the holidays approaching it is a busy time for many. I'm wishing you a Happy Holiday and hope to see you at our upcoming Christmas luncheon on December 14!
Jim

January 15 General Meeting is a Winner

Do you play bingo? How about *musical* bingo? Our January 15th meeting will certainly entertain you while playing bingo for prizes! We will be playing two different musical cards: Oldies and 1950s to the present. Rich Weilacher of TGB Entertainment will provide a full hour of fun for us, followed by our fellowship reception afterwards. Joyce Zeiber is always on top of her game providing great snacks after our meeting. Please put it on your schedule for January and pray for NO snow!

MERA Member Bits & Pieces

*Welcome to a new HOMETOWN NEWS feature, **MERA Member Bits & Pieces**. One thing we know, MERA members are busy people. This column is all about keeping us connected by reporting quick snapshots of MERA member activities.*

Art Salyards hosted his Annual Apple Pie Baking Celebration with **Doug Myers, Gail Landis and Karen Baxter** pitching in to make 10 mouthwateringly good pies and a dozen apple dumplings. Penelope from Pittsburgh will soon be visiting her Granddad, **Vince Schimoler**. **Clare and Edna Kramer** are back from two weeks on St. Martins in the Caribbean. **Nelson and Betty Moeller** hosted an early Thanksgiving for their 3 children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren (#12 is on the way). **Curtis and Arlene Bonanni** caught the Northern Lights on a 2-week cruise to Greenland. **Randy and Michelle Collins** have taken on the refurbishment of Myerstown's Christmas decorations. Forty-nine 4' wreaths needed new LED lights (50 feet of lights on each wreath) and then rehung on wooden utility poles along Main Avenue.

Got something for next month's column? Please send it to meraberks@gmail.com

Member Profile

For many of us, the image that comes to mind when we say "Corporate Librarian" is from that great 1957 movie *Desk Set* starring the inimitable duo of Kathryn Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. Tracy is an efficiency expert installing a new computer called EMERAC ("Electromagnetic MEemory and Research ARithmetical Calculator) which Hepburn's character fears is meant to replace her and her co-workers. The Librarians are tough to beat even for a computer as big as a room. Even the efficiency expert is humbled. When asked if he could name Santa's reindeer he replies, "Uh, why yes I can... let's see there's Dopey, Sneezzy, Grouchy, Happy, Sleepy, uh Rudolph, and Blitzen!" The movie ends happily for all, well, maybe not for EMERAC.

Diane Pawling has been just about every kind of librarian you can think of – school, public, and special librarian. Although if she was ever romanced by an efficiency expert, she didn't mention it. From 1982 to 1995 she served as the corporate librarian for Met-Ed. The Library had closed during TMI and Diane was tasked with reconstituting it. The

Library served as a central resource center for research materials including a collection comprised of technical reports, EPRI publications, industry journals and online databases. Diane and her staff also researched specific topics by request. The biggest users of the library were Human Resources, Marketing and T&D.

Although during her tenure the library's service area grew to encompass multiple distribution companies, soon after Diane left Met-Ed the library was centralized at Corporate and eventually was closed. "It was a wonderful job. No two days were the same and I worked with such great people."

Diane grew up in Boyertown and met her husband, Rich, at Kutztown University where she obtained her undergraduate degree in education/library science. She received her master's degree in library science at Villanova. However, Diane had decided in 7th grade she wanted to be a librarian. "I've always been attracted to research and it is my forte. I like helping people find accurate information...and, of course, this was all pre-internet." (Brings to mind the quote: Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right answer.)

She and Rich have been married 47 years and round out their family with Labrador retrievers Sunbeam and Sammie, a third puppy is on its way!

In her retirement, she is still active in libraries serving in leadership roles in the Friends of the Mifflin Community Library (MCL) group since 2015. Indeed, Diane played a leadership role in getting MCL off the ground in 1999-2005. She loves to travel, especially in the western United States and particularly in Montana and Wyoming.

When asked if there was anything interesting about her that might have been missed, she came up with a decidedly un-librarian answer. In the early 1970s, Diane was very involved in local stock car racing, back when the Reading Fairgrounds had a racetrack.

One of her biggest retirement surprises was living on a fixed income and dealing with inflation! Her advice to other retirees: stay active, keep volunteering, be with people.

In true librarian fashion, Diane recommends great online resources for fellow MERA members to explore. "A PA public library card is the key to opening doors to information beyond the Library or an Internet search. Your card also gives you free access from home to subscription databases (including MyHeritage for genealogical research and Auto Repair Source) on the state-funded Power Library (powerlibrary.org). And, if you have a Lancaster County library card, you can log onto a number of online business and company info resources via the Business & Reference Center tab on the Lancaster Public Library website (lancasterpubliclibrary.org) too!" (Diane notes you do not have to live in Lancaster County to get a card at a Lancaster Library.)

It's Time to Renew your MERA Membership!
Don't let your connection to your MERA friends fade away.
Renew today! Deadline: December 31.

MERA dues are still just \$5.00! What can you get for five bucks, these days, that delivers this much value?

MERA connects you to a community of fun-loving and caring seniors. Meet up with workplace friends and meet some new ones! Most retirees will tell you they do not miss the work but they do miss the people ...MERA is the answer! There's always something new at MERA...walks, history talks, picnics, bus trips, luncheons, live music...and lots of laughter! MERA gets you out of the house and smiling! **DON'T MISS OUT!**

Just follow these easy steps:

- **Complete the renewal membership form. To find the form, just click on the image included in this email or you can find it on the website under "printable forms." If you don't have a printer, simply write down the information requested on the form on a piece of paper and send it in!**
- **Make a check out to MERA for \$5.**
- **Send the form and the check by December 31, 2023 to **Karen Baxter**,
2 Belgian Lane, Wernersville, PA 19565**

THANK YOU!

The Sunshine Report

MERA's own Sunshine Chair, **Cindy Doaty**, sends cards and notes to members who are feeling under the weather or need a kind word. Recently, MERA sent sympathy cards to family of **Dave Herbein** and to **Nelson Moeller** on the death of his father-in-law.

If you know of a MERA member who needs some sunshine, please let Karen Baxter know at kbaxter@ptd.net.

Welcome New Members!

A very warm MERA welcome to new members: **Marie Nye** and **Terrilyn Flasdick** recruited by **Roxane Hartman**. We hope to see you at a MERA event soon!

Remember, anyone who brings a new member to MERA during the year will be eligible to win a gift card drawing held during the annual Christmas luncheon. Help us grow by bringing new members to the fold!

December MERA Member Milestones Happy December Anniversary!

Tassy & Joe DeAngelo
Ron & Deloris Frederick

Craig & Robin Fries
Clayton & Alice Heiser

Don & Pat McKinney
Bill & Cheryl Zewe

Happy December Milestone Birthday!

Vivian Faust
Harold Green
Janet Hotzman

Sharon Marshall-Davis
Richard Noll
Ronald Redcay

Gary Wright
SueAnn Webber
Ruth Ann Schlegel
Joe McCool

Q: Are Santa's reindeer male or female?

A: Female. Male reindeer lose their antlers in November, while female reindeer keep their antlers through the winter. Most depictions of Santa's reindeer show antlers, which means they must be female to guide his sleigh in December.



Do you have any comments or recommendations for MERA? A program? Newsletter article? Please email MERA at meraberks@gmail.com.