

REMINDER:
THERE WILL
BE NO MERA
MAILING IN
AUGUST!

MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

A compilation of items of interest to MERA Members July 2022

A Note from MERA President

Summertime and the Living is Easy

We kicked off Summer with the most wonderful time at the June 16 MERA Picnic! About 150 beautiful people smiling and laughing, munching picnic goodies and ice cream and having just a fantastic time together. What a wonderful MERA Family gathering! Thanks to chair Clair Kramer, with lovely wife Edna, on his First Picnic - along with the wonderful MERA Picnic Team. Special thanks to everyone on the MERA Board and Leadership Team and Committee Members. They all do so much to organize fun and interesting events for all of us! Enjoy your Summertime with your loved ones, check out the MERA Hikes and Happy Hours, and see you on September 15 for the next gathering of the MERA Family at the MERA Chicken Bake! God's blessings!

Sandy | 610 698 7056 sandbille7@gmail.com

MERA Communications Moves Toward Email Delivery

Did you catch the "Special Announcement" emailed to all MERA members (with email addresses) in June? There are so many special things happening at MERA you might have missed this one. But it is especially important.

Beginning this month, most MERA members (with email addresses) will receive MERA information BOTH in an email and hard copy from the US Mail. If you are one of the 78 members who helped us to test and perfect our email communications OR if you joined MERA since January 2022, you will receive ONLY the email version beginning this month. The email will come from "MERABERKS" so be sure to look for it!

In January, MERA will eliminate the US Mail/hard copy mailing for all MERA members with email addresses. IMPORTANT NOTE: If you are a MERA member who does *not* have an email address, you will not be left out! We will continue to prepare and send hard copy versions of the MERA mailing via US Mail to this group of members.

The MERA Board knows how important regular communications is to our members – to feel connected to fellow members and learn about MERA events and happenings. We know there will be questions and snafus but we are prepared to offer all the assistance we can during this transition. In October, there will be a survey so you can provide feedback on the email delivery of MERA information. Ultimately, using email to deliver MERA's monthly communications is more flexible, timelier, and in color! You'll get more real time information about cancelations, program changes and opportunities. Further, MERA will save significantly on paper, postage and people time. So, if you've got email...watch for a MERABERKS email coming your way soon!

MERA Member Profile

It is a myth that people working in IT and auditing are not creative types. And this MERA couple is proof positive. Paul Henry retired from Met-Ed after 33 years. Using his BS in economics/accounting from Albright, he started as an auditor and moved to fleet management where he stayed for 25 years and ended up in Records Management. Paul is a Berks County and Pennsylvania juried weaver. He has a 40" loom in his living room where he creates shaker-style rugs, scarves and shawls. He also holds one "Best of Show" award and a dozen medals including some gold for his own wine. He's particularly proud of his Strawberry Wine that took the top medal against more than 300 entries in the Fruit Category while competing with almost 3000 entries in the largest amateur competition in the world. "I have about 600 bottles of wine that, as an amateur winemaker, I'm not licensed to sell but I enjoy sharing with fellow wine-lovers!"

As a co-op student, Sharon Henry started working for Met-Ed before she even left high school. She worked her way through the steno pool and the sales department eventually finding a home in IT where she was an analyst, programmer and project manager. When she retired 37 years later, the fleet software company that Met-Ed was using snapped her up and she traveled all over the US and internationally installing software, training and troubleshooting for another 18 years. But, in her spare time she creates works of art in glass using

her own kilns, crafts jewelry out of metal and makes soaps, candles and body lotions. Sharon is always willing to try something new!

Paul was born and raised in Berks County while Sharon was a military kid whose family moved 35 times! They have been married 51 years. They met in Spain, on a trip planned by the Met-Ed Employee Association Travel Committee. Each have had many Met-Ed adventures including coping with the 1977 Johnstown Flood (Sharon: "Big surprise when I looked out my hotel window!") and Three Mile Island (Paul: "Why is everybody else driving away and I'm driving towards?")

Sharon has been active in Muhlenberg Township Rotary (two stints as president) and the Berks County Literacy Council including training literacy tutors in the Camp Hill Correctional Institution. First Sharon then Paul were members of the Muhlenberg Arts Board. Paul also served on the Muhlenberg School Board for 13 years. And, he served on the MERA Board. From 2000-2019, Paul worked with the Muhlenberg Township Community Youth Aid Panel. This is a program sponsored by the Juvenile Probation Office that helps young, first offenders to rehabilitate and avoid getting a criminal record. "If anyone is looking for meaningful volunteer work, I highly recommend serving on one of Berks County's 13 panels. I found the work very rewarding. You are helping kids that need and deserve help." For more info:

<https://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/courts/jpo/pages/communityyouthaidpanels.aspx>

Paul and Sharon remind fellow retirees that growing old is not for sissies so live every day to the max!

Welcome New Members!

Welcome new members **Paul Schwartz** (recruited by **Becky Wingenroth**) and **Neil Light**! And a warm greeting indeed to new retiree, **Barb Seidel**! We are so very happy to have you with us!

Remember, anyone who recruits a new member any time during the year will be entered into a drawing for gift certificates at the Holiday Luncheon. The new member form can be found on merasite.org.

July & August MERA Member Milestones Happy Anniversary!

July Anniversaries

Bob & Jean Bonneville
Jeff & Cheryl Fick
Laurie & Ken Gifford
Janice & Brian Grill
Paul K & Cheryl Haring

Melanie & Michael Hart
George & Barbara Kunder
Frederick & Garnice Leer
Louise P & Fred Lingenfelter
Donald C & Rosemary Ludwig
Larry R & Carol Miller

Beverly & Larry Moyer
William H & Nancy Surgeoner
Cindy & Jeff Thomas
Elizabeth & Joseph Uliasz
Nancy & Allen Wenrich
Thomas A & Barbara Witman

August Anniversaries

Robert & Theresa Bates
Stephen & Eilene Bauer
Richard C & Vivian Faust
Dean C & Jackie Fenstermaker
Ronald & Barbara Gehret
Richard W & Betty Harper
Alan & Barbara Harris
Paul B & Sharon Henry

Bruce & Ann Jones
Willard J & Louise Lutz
Georgine & Joe McCool
Jay & Jane Moyer
Gene P & Nancy Naus
John P & Barbara O'Brien
Edwin M & Barbara Ogden
Robert & Maynis Peace
David & Lynda Ringler

Russell M & Jane Rogers
Henri & Mike Santoro
Leonard M & Ruth Ann Schlegel
Paul & Marie Sensenig
Ken & Pat Snyder
Robert E & Priscilla Steger
David V & Sue Topper
Thomas & Linda Woelaglagle
Gary & Patricia Wright

Hometown News would like to wish a belated 50th Anniversary to Dan & Doris Wurster who celebrated in May. Sorry we missed you!

Happy July & August Milestone Birthday!

July Birthdays

Leon E. Adams
Brian Grill
Lynn Miller
Christine Leshner
Barb Seidel

August Birthdays

Martin Christman
Paul Henry
Richard Johnson
Dorothy Herbein
Ray Morse
Robert Peace
Jane Blatt

"Deep summer is
when laziness finds
respectability."
Sam Keen

