

Ready to  
"Get out of Dodge?"  
Sign up for MERA's bus  
trip to St. Michael's MD on  
June 24. St. Michaels is a  
1600s Chesapeake town  
that blends rich history  
with scenic charm.  
Deadline to register is  
May 27.  
Details in the calendar  
below.



# MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
Items of interest to MERA Members  
May 2026

Want to know more?  
Check us out at  
[merasite.org](http://merasite.org)

## MERA Calendar of Events

*You won't want to miss any of these great MERA events!*

- **MERA General Meeting May 18**, 1:00 at the Muhlenberg Rec Center located at 3025 River Rd, Reading, Pa. 19605. Historian Paul Miller will present a program on the history of the South Mountain resorts. A light lunch will be provided!
- **Happy Hour and Hike, May 27**. Hike at 2pm at Shiloh Hills 303 Sage Drive, Sinking Spring. Happy Hour at 4pm at Paolo's, 2480 Lancaster Pike, Reading
- **Happy Hour, June 17. (Please note date change due to MERA bus trip on June 24)** No hikes planned for the summer. Happy Hour at 4pm at the Valley Bar and Grill, 4741 Penn Ave, Sinking Spring (formerly the Bar-B-Q Pitt)
- **MERA Annual Picnic June 18, 11:00am** at Jim Dietrich Park. \$12 per person. **Deadline to register is June 10**. Questions? Reach out to **Rob Kehr**, 540 N 6<sup>th</sup> St., Hamburg, PA 19526. 484-388-0024
- **MERA Bus Trip, St Michael's, Maryland. June 24**. The day includes lunch at the Crab Claw Restaurant, free time to stroll through this quaint little town and a cruise taking in the beauty of the Chesapeake landscape. Transportation, lunch and cruise included in the price of \$174/person. **Registration deadline is May 27**. If you have questions, reach out to **Barb Seidel** at 484-794-0857 or [baseidel3523@gmail.com](mailto:baseidel3523@gmail.com).
- **Game on! at the Reading Fightin Phils July 28 @ 12 noon**. Buffet & entrance ticket included in \$41 cost. If you have questions, reach out to **Barb Seidel** at 484-794-0857 or [baseidel3523@gmail.com](mailto:baseidel3523@gmail.com).
- **Happy Hour, July 29**. 4 pm at Ozgood's Neighborhood Bar and Grill, 4 Lincoln Rd, Kutztown
- **Happy Hour, August 26**. 4 pm at Trooper Thorn's Irish Beef House, 451 Morgantown Rd, Reading

## **Volunteer Spotlight: Nelson Moeller and the Lion's Club**

**By Kathy Heffner**

**Nelson Moeller**, our former MERA Webmaster, serves his community as a member of the Exeter Township Lions Club. He's the former club secretary and also a past president and now focuses on service and fund-raising projects. Nelson got involved with The Lions Club when he expressed interest to a club member 13+ years ago.

Internationally, Lions clubs primarily focus on providing assistance to people who have vision impairments of any sort. Interesting fact: the clubs were challenged by Helen Keller to become "Knights of the Blind" many years ago and have been doing so ever since! The Exeter Club supports Leader Dogs for the Blind, Berks County Vision Resource Center, KidSight vision screening for children, AltruVision Eye Bank, Beacon Lodge campers, eyeglasses for needy students, and PA eye research programs.

In addition, the club provides financial support and labor for the Exeter Food Pantry's monthly food give. They also donate to needy families and/or individuals who have suffered losses of homes or other critical needs. And the club has a storage building with used medical equipment (walkers, shower chairs, hospital beds, wheelchairs, etc.) available to anyone who needs it. These days, Nelson serves as the organizer of one of the primary fundraisers - White Cane Days. He also provides transportation/delivery of medical equipment with his own truck and is the "trailer coordinator" of the District's KidSight trailer – making sure that the trailer and equipment are transported to events across Berks and Chester counties for free vision screenings.

And not one to sit on his laurels, in June, Nelson will move up from Vice Chairman to Chairman of the Board of Trustees for AltruVision, a Lions Eye Bank in Philadelphia. AltruVision is a non-profit organization that provides donor corneal tissue for over 1,000 corneal transplants every year. Based in Philadelphia at the Gift of Life Building downtown, they serve southeast PA, most of NJ, and all of Delaware – also providing corneal tissue worldwide for locations that cannot otherwise obtain or afford it. "We literally cure blindness." It's a big challenge for Nelson and you can go [www.altruvision.org](http://www.altruvision.org) for more information.

For anyone interested in helping out, Nelson would be glad to put you in touch with someone from their local Lions club. It's really a worthwhile effort!

## **MERA Welcomes New Members**

Since the beginning of the year, MERA has been pleased to welcome four new members to our ranks:

- **Chris Traxler**
- **Dave Laubach**
- **Steve Stremba**
- **Charles Beard**

If you know one of our new members, please make a point to invite them to an upcoming MERA event. And, if you know a retiree who is not a member, invite them as well! The best way for MERA to gain a new member is for an existing member to reach out. Thank you!

## Sunshine Remembrances

MERA recently sent condolences to **Dick Tracy** on the passing of his wife of nearly 60 years, Pat. And to the family of **Miriam Kachel**, wife of retiree Harold and at 100 years of age, MERA's oldest member.

## MERA Member Milestones Happy May Anniversary!

Mike & Marianne Benioff  
Joe & Lesley Bruce  
MaryBeth & Dan Clark  
Linda & Mark Coutts  
Gerry & Keith Day  
Pankaj & Pragna Doshi  
Dale & Sheila Faust  
Dave & Chris Forrer  
Brian & Suzette Frantz  
Julia & Walter Frith

Donna & Tim Goughnour  
Dave & Nola Henry  
Dean & Monie Hollenbacher  
Mark & Elayne Hummel  
Rob & Corie Kehr  
James & Robin Kelly  
Walt & Maryellen LaSota  
Sharon & William Marshall-  
Davis  
Jeff & Marlene Rathman

Ronda & David Reed  
Judy & Jack Seidel  
Rob & Lois Stilwell  
Bob & Beth Stout  
Harold & SueAnn Webber  
Ann & Douglas White  
Daniel & Doris Wurster  
Clarence & Luccill Yenser  
Andy & Kristen Zulkosky

## Happy May Milestone\* Birthday!

\*A milestone birthday is one that ends in "0" or "5."

Walter Axsmith	Deb Hoover
Randy Collins	Corie Kehr
Gerry Day	Ann Lebo
Bob Hartz	Carol Miller
Monie Hollenbacher	Russell Rogers

Some cause happiness wherever  
they go; others whenever they go.  
Oscar Wilde

