

October 16 is the deadline to register for the MERA Bus Trip to see the Christmas Favorite **Miracle on 34th Street** at Toby's Dinner Theatre in Columbia, Md on Dec. 6. Call Larry Lenhart 610-582-5212



# MERA HOMETOWN NEWS

Items of interest to MERA Members  
October 2023

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

## A Note from MERA President

So long to the hot sticky weather; Welcome Fall with the nice cool nights. All sports are in full gear and Halloween and Fall decorations are a welcome sight. We are also ready to see you at our upcoming meetings. Check the calendar of events! Jim

## It's Time to Renew your MERA Membership! Renewing your membership is simple and inexpensive!

**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!**

## Mystery Trip Report, August 30, 2023 by Denis and Kathy Dorward

Another stellar trip by Elite Coach, the organizer of all our mystery trips. As always, the only individuals to have prior knowledge of the destinations are the staff at Elite and the bus driver. The 2023 mystery trip included one destination in the morning, followed by lunch and two destinations in the afternoon.

The first destination was Lake Tobias Wildlife Park, outside the town of Halifax in Dauphin County. The highlight was the open-air safari tour. We got up close and personal to a wide variety of exotic animals from as far away as Africa and Australia, as we observed, touched, and even fed them as they walked up to our bus. The reptile house was also a big hit, as handlers allowed the guests to touch an alligator and pet a python.

Lunch was served at Fenicci 's Italian Restaurant in downtown Hershey. Fenicci's is deeply embedded in the history of the town of Hershey since opening in 1935.

After lunch, we proceeded toward Harrisburg and the Susquehanna River for a boat ride on the Pride of the Susquehanna. The paddle-wheel riverboat, constructed and launched in 1988, is one of the few rear-driven paddle wheelers in America. An enjoyable 45-minute sight-seeing boat ride, in view of the Harrisburg skyline followed.

The final destination was a sweet one; the Turkey Hill Experience located in Columbia, Pa. A walk at your own pace tour of the history of the Turkey Hill Dairy and all its products. Yes, ice cream; not only were we offered free samples of Turkey Hill ice cream, but we also ended the tour in a classroom creating our own flavor of ice cream. Starting with vanilla ice cream and adding drops of flavoring, various ingredients, and topped off with our favorite syrup. And yes, we got to eat our creation.

Associated Websites:

Lake Tobias Wildlife Park: <https://www.laketobias.com>

Fenicci's of Hershey: <https://feniccis.com>

Pride of the Susquehanna-Riverboat:

<https://www.visithersheyharrisburg.org/listings/pride-of-the-susquehanna-riverboat/571/>

Turkey Hill Experience: <https://www.turkeyhillexperience.com>

## 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 the families of Richard Harper and Richard Freymoyer.

If you know of a MERA member who needs some sunshine, please let Karen Baxter know at [kbaxter@ptd.net](mailto:kbaxter@ptd.net).

## October MERA Member Milestones

### Happy October Anniversary!

Bruce & Maria Balthaser  
Bob & Charlene Benner  
John & Karen Bigelow  
Robert & Marilyn Daniels  
Terry & Stacy Hasenauer  
Larry & Linda Henne

David & Dorothy Herbein  
Richard & Sarah Johnson  
Leonard & Willene Koenig  
Roger & Karen Levesque  
Brian & Sandy Lowe  
Rich & Cynthia Piergrossi

Steve & Linda Rathman  
Henry & Philomena  
Robidoux  
Jon & Kelly Storch  
Richard & Suzanne Zitrick

### Happy October Milestone Birthday!

William Barrick  
Marilyn Rauser  
Ken Templin  
Leslie Bruce  
Josephine Pfeifer

I wish that every day was  
Saturday and every month was  
October.  
Charmaine J. Forde  
(Of course, when you are retired,  
every day IS Saturday!)



Do you have any comments  
or recommendations for  
MERA? A program?  
Newsletter article? Please  
email MERA at  
[meraberks@gmail.com](mailto:meraberks@gmail.com).