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# MERA

## HOMETOWN NEWS

AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
Items of interest to MERA Members  
October 2024

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

### A Note from MERA President

The chicken bake was a huge success. The weather was perfect and the food was delicious. Sweet Ride Ice Cream provided a variety of ice cream; something to please everyone. NOW Fall approaches; our meetings will move to the REC Center on River Road which the Township has provided for our Fall & Winter meetings. Fire Safety will be the program at the October Meeting. There is always time to catch up with the latest news. A 50/50 raffle is also held and ALL the money is returned to those who participate. Light refreshments will be served. After the meeting, the Board & Membership will be doing some "house cleaning" at the Center as a thank you to the Township for allowing us the use of the facility free of charge. If you feel you can help, shoot me an email or call. 484-333-1009.

Come join us! Jim

### MERA Calendar of Events

Don't miss any of the great MERA events scheduled for the rest of this year!

#### October General Meeting @ Muhlenberg Rec Center at 3025 River Road Monday, October 21 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Program: FIRE PROTECTION MONTH, presented by Muhlenberg Fire Department  
Valuable fire safety information for all retirees and guests. **Volunteer Event:** Help clean the facility after our meeting, as a thank you to Muhlenberg Township for allowing us to use their facilities all year at no cost to MERA.

#### Hike & Happy Hour Wednesday, October 30 Hike at 2 p.m. Wyomissing Parklands

From Cambridge Avenue in Lincoln Park, turn onto Parkview Drive and park in the lot to your left. We'll take a loop around the Parklands, some gravel and some grassy paths. Fairly easy; dogs on the leash are welcome. At 4 p.m. let's regroup for **Happy Hour at the Liberty Ale House**, 1501 Lancaster Ave, Shillington for some chat and chews.

#### November General Meeting @ Muhlenberg Rec Center, 3025 River Road Monday, November 18 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Program: Karl Hausman, pianist and singer

### **Hike & Happy Hour Wed, Nov. 20 Hike at 2 p.m. Wernersville State Hospital Park**

We will revisit this pleasant park area to walk the paths again. Turn onto Sportsman Road from Rt 422 between Wernersville and Robeson. Take the first left into the Hospital property, at the softball field and a sign that says Berks Encore. Go past the first parking area, over the little bridge, and into the lot to the left. We will meet at the pavilion. Dogs on the leash are welcome. After the walk we will gather for our **Happy Hour at 4 p.m. just up the road at Ozgood's Restaurant in Robeson**, 319 E. Penn Ave.

### **December Trip Hershey at Christmas Time Thurs, Dec. 5 9:20 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.**

Park cars in the lower parking lot at Met-Ed. Reservation flyer issued this month via email and on MERA website. Cost: \$141 per person. Please contact **Larry Lenhart** with any comments or questions at 610-582-5212 or 610-207-3026 (cell)

### **Annual Christmas Luncheon, Thursday, December 12 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The Warehouse – Hamburg, PA. Live entertainment provided by Maria Damore  
Cost: \$25/person. *Reservation deadline: November 27.*

Please contact **Gary Pleiss** if you have any questions at (610) 927-7590.

### **Hike & Happy Hour Wed, Dec.18 Hike at 2 p.m. Union Canal Towpath, Gring's Mill**

Barring inclement weather (as usually happens when we want to walk at Gring's Mill) we will meet at the bridge that crosses the creek at the dam. The holiday lights will probably not be illuminated when we are there, but the decorations will still give a festive air. Sorry, no dogs allowed in Berks County Parks/Trails. Following the hike, we will regroup at **4 p.m. for our Happy Hour at Smokey Bones**, 2723 N. Meridian Blvd, Spring Ridge for some holiday cheer.

## **MERA Cleans Up**

After the upcoming meeting on October 21 at the Muhlenberg Twp REC Center, members are asked to participate in some light housekeeping at the Center. As a thank you to the Township for providing free meeting space for our group. We'll be sweeping and mopping floors, wiping down chairs and tables, removing tape and strings, and cleaning the kitchen. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies: rags, rubber gloves, buckets, mops brooms, scrapers, tools, Mr. Clean Sponges and detergents. Please come and help us out. Many hands make light work!

## **MERA Members – Time to Step Up!**

Your Met-Ed Retiree Association NEEDS YOU! The MERA Board of Directors is looking for members to support the organization and help it continue into the future. We need someone to take over the role of Website Manager - post documents and pictures provided by others, manage the site. If you are interested, please call **Cindy Thomas** at (610) 301-1070.

**Don't forget to VOTE Tuesday, November 5!**

Questions? <https://www.berkspa.gov/departments/election-services> or  
call 610-478-6490

## MEMRA Member Bits & Pieces

**Art Salyards** went fishing in the Finger Lakes for largemouth bass. He landed a few 4.5 pounders! **Gary and Lisa Pleiss** also are seeking the elusive bass (and pike) in Lake Sharbot, Canada. **Donna Goughnour** joined more than 100 master gardeners from around the state to groom the grounds at the Flight 93 Memorial in Schwenksville for the 9/11 ceremonies. "Still gives me goose chills! One of my top ten experiences!" **Tom and Lily Lee** welcomed their first grandson, Bowen, to the world. **Erma Miller** had knee surgery in August so she'll be ready to go skiing in Maine this winter. **Barb Seidel** and **Gloria Diaz** celebrated National Lighthouse Day by visiting lighthouses and the Baltimore Harbor. **Kathy & Denis Dorward** took their grandkids, ages 7 & 5, camping at Jellystone Park in Lancaster. The kids loved interacting with all the Yogi Bear characters. Kathy noted that it was more like "glamping" since they stayed in an air-conditioned cabin. **Dean & Monie Hollenbacher's** 18 year-old grandson flew an airplane for the first time! **Bob Mark** enjoyed the Little League World Series in Williamsport in August. "If you love baseball, this is where you should be! The kids play with skill and heart and play for the sheer love of the sport." **Teresa Strook** and her grandson visited family in her hometown in central Italy. **Bruce & Maria Balthaser** just got back from Seattle watching the grandkids while their parents were travelling. The couple is now preparing for their own European adventure: a river cruise from Amsterdam to Bucharest. **Lori Endy** visited DC and the Finger Lakes this summer. She currently splits her time between Elizabethtown and Indian Harbor Beach, Florida.

*One thing we know, MEMRA members are busy people. This column is all about keeping us connected by reporting quick snapshots of MEMRA member activities.*

***We'd love to hear from you. Submit your items by emailing [meraberks@gmail.com](mailto:meraberks@gmail.com).***

## Sunshine Report

Sadly, MEMRA bid final farewell to member **Dennis Nagle**. A sympathy card was sent to his family.

## MEMRA Member Milestones Happy October Anniversary!

Bruce & Maria Balthaser  
Robert & Charlene Benner  
John & Karen Bigelow  
Robert & Marilyn Daniels  
Larry & Linda Henne  
Richard & Sarah Johnson  
Leonard & Willene Koenig  
Roger & Karen Levesque  
Lori Lobb & Sue Perez

Brian & Sandy Lowe  
  
Marie & Jeffrey Nye  
Rich & Cynthia Piergrossi  
Steve & Linda Rathman  
Henry & Philomena Robidoux  
Jon & Kelly Storch  
Richard & Suzanne Zitrick

## Happy October Milestone Birthday!

John Bigelow  
Thomas Edelman  
Ronald Hrabak  
Gerald Miller  
Lana Pentz  
Jeff Rathman  
Rob Stilwell

Quote from the 1990 classic film  
*The Hunt for Red October*.  
"Listen, I'm a politician, which  
means I'm a cheat and a liar, and  
when I'm not kissing babies, I'm  
stealing their lollipops."

