

THE VILLAGE CRIER

The Newsletter of
The Annapolis Villagers

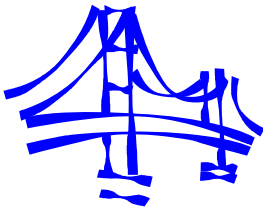


FEBRUARY – MARCH, 2006

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 2

IT IS TIME FOR ANOTHER VILLAGER CARAVAN!

**The Annapolis Villagers are Planning a
Day Trip To St. Michaels
with a stop at The Christmas Goose
Sunday, May 21**



We hope you will join us for a fun day. St. Michaels is a historic & quaint waterfront village on the Eastern Shore, situated on a picturesque peninsula between Tilghman Island, Easton and Oxford. It is known for its nationally acclaimed restaurants, unique specialty

shops, quaint B&B's and renowned museums and galleries. Activities will include a stop at The Christmas Goose and lunch at one of St. Michaels fine restaurants.

The Christmas Goose: The Christmas Goose is located in Queenstown, MD along the route to St. Michaels. It is a year-round gift and collectibles shop that features the Dept 56 Villages as well as Byers Choice Carolers, Charming tails, Cats Meow, Yankee Candles, Lemax, Harbour Lights and much more.

Lunch: Lunch at the Town Dock Restaurant in a semi-private room. Enjoy a waterfront view of St. Michaels Harbor while dining. The cost for the banquet lunch will be \$28 inclusive. The menu will offer the following choices:

- Seafood Platter
- Petit Crab Imperial
- Petit Filet Mignon

The menu includes freshly baked bread, house salad, dessert and tea & coffee.



(Continue on page 5)

Next Meeting

Tuesday Mar. 14, 2006

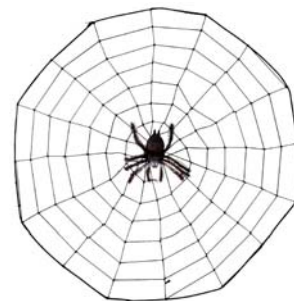
7:00 PM

CATHY KRAMER

**Dept. 56 Regional Representative
will be our Guest Speaker at the
March 14 Membership Meeting.**

Join us and learn what is in store since the Department 56 purchase of Lenox and the corporate name change to Lenox. Also, news on what is happening with the village and Snowbaby collectible lines. Kathy, as in the past, promises to be informative and answer your questions.

TRIVIA



***In the Ukraine, what does it mean if you
find a spider web in your house on
Christmas morning?***

Ans. on Page 5

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JEhrenreich@msn.com*The Prez Says . . .*

Greetings! Hopefully warm weather will be coming soon. Although January was mild, we made up for it in February with cold weather and snow. I hope by the time you read this, warm weather will be here to stay.

A big thank you to Pat Ehrenreich for arranging our House Tours this year. After all the arrangements were made, Pat became ill and couldn't attend the tours herself. Those who participated can attest that her hard work paid off. All had a great time. Also, I want to thank those members who opened their homes for others to enjoy. We were treated to a variety of ways to display the various villages, plus we saw many other beautiful holiday decorations. Once again, we proved what wonderful cooks the Annapolis Villagers are.

At the February Board meeting, we considered many suggestions from club members for activities for another exciting year. In May, we will visit the Christmas Goose in Queenstown and then on to St. Michaels for lunch and a delightful afternoon. Our traditional annual brunch will be held at the Fleet Reserve in June. We need someone to help Barbara in planning this event. We will continue to work on details for the other activities for the year. However, we need someone to host our annual picnic in July, so please think if you might be able to do this.

Our condolences go to Trudi and Pete Baer in the death of Trudi's Mom and to Barbara Schubring in the deaths of Barbara's Dad and husband Terry.

Cathy Kramer, Department 56 Regional Sales Representative, will be our guest speaker at the March meeting. Cathy has been very good to the Annapolis Villagers. She gives excellent presentations that are always knowledgeable, pertinent and many times humorous. Cathy will speak on the acquisition of Lenox and D56 products including items other than houses. Several people requested this when suggestions were requested at the January meeting.

See you at the March meeting!

*Kate**Welcome New Members . . .*

**Richard & Grace Liebno of Westminster, MD
Dick & Pat Schwinger of Glenwood, MD**

January Meeting Highlights

Members were talking about the holidays and how great our annual house tours were this year. They were also anticipating seeing the Angelucci's home - the last one on our 2006 House Tour.

After a brief business meeting, we adjourned to Angelucci's home to view their wonderful displays and to enjoy their delicious refreshments complete with some Greek & Italian delicacies.

Winners of the house tour prizes were:

- Marge Ebersberger – North Pole Teddy Bears Training Center
- Sherian Roberts – Heritage Village - Dorothy's Skate Rental
- Bob Eustice – American Pride Collection - Mount Rushmore

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Jim Underwood.

Our Condolences and Deepest Sympathies go to

Trudi Baer on the death of her Mom and to Barbara Schubring on the death of her Dad and the death of her Husband, Terry

HOSPITALITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

By Maxine Underwood

Volunteers are needed to bring goodies for the Refreshment Table at the March Meeting. Please call Maxine Underwood, your new Hospitality Coordinator, 410-315-8695 for suggestions.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES / EVENTS and MEETING PROGRAMS

The Board of the Annapolis Villagers met in February to discuss and plan activities, events and meeting programs for the coming year. We believe that we have an exciting agenda planned for the club.

Returning are old favorites and traditional events such as the Sunday Summer Brunch in June and Olde Fashion Christmas Party in December. Also returning, but at new locations, are Christmas in July Picnic and Annual Anniversary Banquet in September. A Club Caravan is planned for May (see separate article in this issue) and a Fall activity / event that has yet to be determined. If you have any suggestions for a Fall activity / event, please let Kate Eustice know of your ideas. A suggestion being considered is a club outing to a local Dinner Theatre or Playhouse.

Our meeting programs are planned for the year and include the traditional and new. Starting with our March meeting we will welcome back Cathy Kramer, D56 Regional Rep as a guest speaker and we have a Display Contest later in the year. Other meetings will have new demonstration topics as suggested by the membership.

We hope that can clear your calendar and plan to join us during the year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



The following members are celebrating a birthday in March or April. On behalf of the Annapolis Villagers, we wish you *the best* on your special day.

- Linda Self Mar 5
- Penny Dvorak Mar 7
- Ina Devine Mar 13
- Dean Stevenson Mar 15
- Dorothy Brown Mar 23
- John Ehrenreich Mar 24
- Susan Sensel Apr 18
- Norma Damico Apr 18
- Robert Young Apr 23
- Sue Malin Apr 24
- Marsha Voigt Apr 25
- Lajauna Smouse Apr 27
- Dennis Sellers Apr 28

If your birthday is in March or April and you are not listed, we apologize but we do not have your birthday in our data base. Please notify Pete Baer so the data base can be updated.

HOUSE TOURS 2006*By Pat Ehrenreich***A HUGE SUCCESS
THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED**

It was a pleasure coordinating the 2006 House Tours. The only downside was that I got the stomach flu that was going around and could not take the Tour. Thanks go to my husband, John, for taking a ton of pictures. Thus, I was able to "see" all the beautiful displays and decorations done by our gracious hosts. Once again our hosts outdid the selves. On behalf of the Villagers, thanks go to our member hosts:

Dean and John Stevenson
 Betty Skipper
 Dick Baker
 Marsha and Larry Voigt
 Kate and Bob Eustice
 Sherian and Bill Roberts
 Pat and Dick Schwinger
 Marge and Barry Ebersberger
 Stella & Julius Angelucci

Check out the pictures from the 2006 Tours in the additional E-Crier section.

**ARDEN HOUSE TO RECEIVE
ONE OF OUR CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTUIONS***By Stella Angelucci*

The membership has selected Arden House shelter to receive one of our two charitable contributions this year. Founded in 1984, the shelter provides safe, emergency housing for female victims of domestic violence / sexual assault and their children. Arden house provides a variety of services for the residents including advocacy, safety planning, case management, counseling, parenting classes, services for children, legal services and resource and referral information. Arden House is also the site of the Ann Arundel Country 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline. Male victims are housed at another location.

Perhaps some of you would like to contribute additional needed articles. Your contribution could be brought to any meeting and Stella Angelucci will see that they are delivered.

Items needed are: Baby Products, including Diapers in every size, Baby Wipes, and New Baby clothing; Cleaning Supplies, including Air Fresheners, Garbage Bags, Liquid Hand Soap, Laundry Detergent, Paper Products, Sponges and Scrub Brushes; Personal Items including Cotton Balls, Curling Irons, Dental Floss, Deodorants, Shampoos & Conditioners, Razors, Nail Clippers, Emory Boards, Nail Polish & Remover, Q-Tips, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste; Crafts including Crossword Puzzles, Games, Coloring Books, Crayons, Jigsaw Puzzles, and Scissors for adults and children; Miscellaneous including Alarm Clocks, Batteries, Postage Stamps, Light Bulbs, Flashlights, Night Lights, Small Umbrellas, Ziploc Bags, Books on Parenting and Domestic Violence.

Board Update*By Kate Eustice*

Ruth Baldwin has resigned as Hospitality Chairperson. According to our records, Ruth has been in this position since March 1999. I certainly want to extend a huge thank you to Ruth for all she has done. We will remember the delicious snacks at our meetings during this time. I would also like to thank Dean who assisted her during much of this time.

We are very fortunate to have Maxine Underwood volunteer to fill this position. We extend a warm welcome to Maxine as our newest board member.

TRIVIA ANSWER

In the Ukraine, what does it mean if you find a spider web in your house on Christmas morning?

According to Christmas Trivia, the answer is **GOOD LUCK!** There is a Ukrainian folk tale of an old woman who was so poor that she could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. On Christmas morning, she awoke to find that spider's had trimmed her children's Christmas tree with their webs. When the morning's sun shone through, all of the webs turned to silver and gold. Today, an artificial spider and web are most often found on a Christmas tree in the Ukraine.

From Trivia Park.com

DAY TRIP TO ST. MICHAELS (with Stopover at The Christmas Goose)

(Continued from page 1)

Following lunch, you would be on your own to visit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and/or shops.

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum: The Museum's eighteen-acre campus, with nine exhibit buildings and vistas of the beautiful Miles river, anchors the town of St. Michaels. The complex focuses on the maritime history of the area and the bay. It features the world's largest collection of traditional bay boats, a working boat yard, and the 125-year-old Hooper Strait Lighthouse. The visit to the Museum is optional and tickets can be purchased at the door. The admissions are as follows:

- \$10.00 Adults; \$9.00 Seniors over 62
- Discounts are also available for AAA

members

Shopping: St. Michaels features an array of fashionable clothing, antique and artisan shops to suit any ardent collector and a galaxy of specialty food shops. Over 30 specialty and antique shops, boutiques and galleries include:

- *Artiste Locale*
- *Calico Gallery*
- *The Christmas Shop*
- *Galerie Francaise*
- *Sign O' The Whale*
- *St. Michaels Candy & Gifts*

Participants will make own arrangements for transportation to St. Michaels. The driving time is about ½ hour from Annapolis to the Christmas Goose and an additional ½ hour to St. Michaels. The scheduled activities are as follows:

10:30 a.m. Meet at The Christmas Goose in Queenstown, MD

1:00 p.m. Lunch at the Town Dock Restaurant in St. Michaels, MD

Please contact Bob Eustice (301-552-1858) or e-mail at kateeustice@hotmail.com if you plan to attend. Sign up sheets will also be available at the March and May meetings. Payment must be received by the May 9th members meeting. Further details about the trip including driving directions will be provided at the May meeting.

THE LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

The Little Town of Bethlehem has been retired. First introduced as a set of 12 in the Heritage Village Collection in 1987 as item number 56.59757, it contained three buildings and accessories. For 12 years it was the only Heritage Village that never had new releases added. It remained that way until November, 1999 when it was retired. It appeared that the LTB village ended, only to return in December of that year with new releases for The Little Town of Bethlehem village including the "Innkeeper's Caravansary", "Nativity" and "Gatekeeper's Dwelling".

In 2000, The Little Town of Bethlehem was moved from the Heritage Village Collection to a new collection called the Holy Land Collection.

In 2001, The Easter Story series joined The Little Town of Bethlehem series under The Holy Land Collection banner and in 2002 the Parables of Jesus series joined the collection. By December of 2003, both of these series had been retired, leaving LTB the only remaining series of the Holy Land Collection.

The most recent Department 56 History List, January 2005, still listed four LTB buildings but two of these were announced retirements in November, 2005. There were no new releases in LTB in December.

This would imply that the series is still alive with the two remaining pieces, "Nativity", item # 56.59796 and "The Birth of Christ Nativity Set", item # 56.59816 still being current. This does not appear to be the case. A recent search of the D56 web site does not show these two items. In fact, Little Town of Bethlehem itself is no longer listed as a collectible. So, while New England Village and Alpine Village, which were introduced the year before LTB are celebrating their 20th Anniversary, The Little Town of Bethlehem is no more.

It is ironic that the company known for producing "Christmas Villages" no longer will have the real Christmas Village in it's collection.

DEPARTMENT 56 CELEBRATES THREE ANNIVERSARIES IN 2006

Melinda Seegers, D56 Manager of Consumer Services, reported in the NCC Bulletin that Department 56 is celebrating the 30th anniversary in 2006 with a number of wonderful collector pieces all using pearl accents. Pearl is the accepted anniversary gem for 30 years.

2006 is also the 20th anniversary of two of the Villages—The New England Village and Alpine Village. Each of these Villages will have a second limited edition to celebrate their longevity in the Village series.

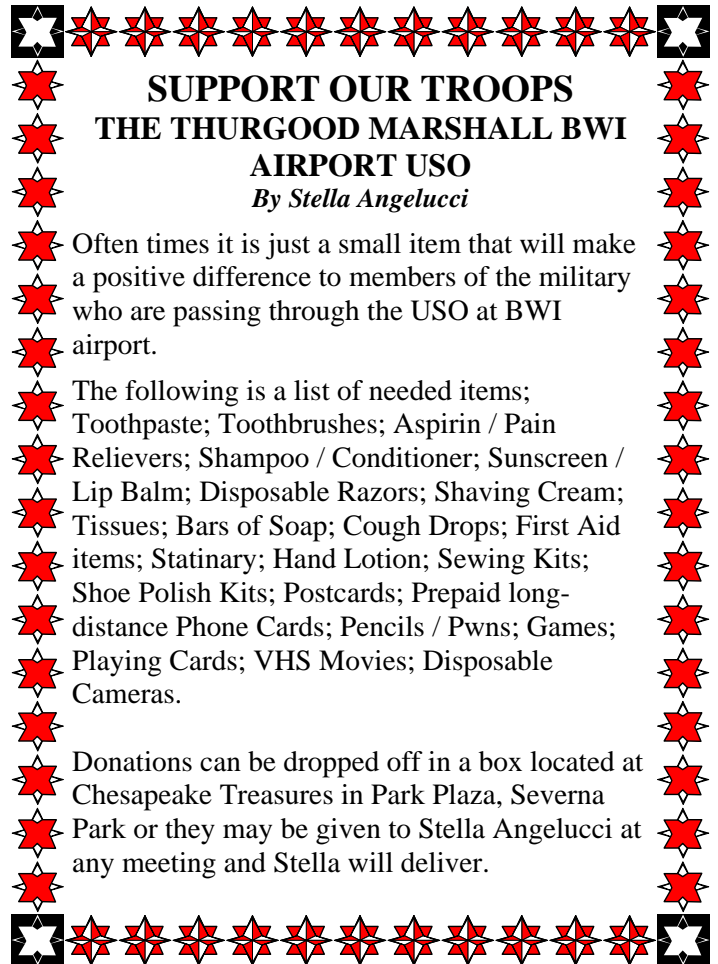
Department 56 will continue to celebrate their 30th anniversary at the three gatherings this year in Quebec, Chicago, and Green Bay. At the gatherings, they hope to take collectors on a nostalgic walk of the company through the years and offer some other surprises!

REPLACEMENT PARTS AVAILABLE FROM DEPT. 56

Many of the Department 56 buildings include small attachments such as signs, pennants, lamps, flags or weathervanes. If you have misplaced or have broken these attachments, all may not be lost. There is good news from D56. Through their Customer Service, you may be able to order your missing pieces directly. Not all parts may be available but they do have parts for many of the retired, as well as current buildings. Additionally, they may also have many parts that wear out, such as bulbs.

Call Customer Service at 1-800-LIT TOWN (1-800-548-8696) and speak to a Customer Service Representative. You need to tell them the building name or item number and the pieces you need. They will be able to tell you immediately if the parts are available.

There is a small fee plus shipping cost. Visa or MasterCard are accepted for payment.



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

THE THURGOOD MARSHALL BWI AIRPORT USO

By Stella Angelucci

Often times it is just a small item that will make a positive difference to members of the military who are passing through the USO at BWI airport.

The following is a list of needed items;
Toothpaste; Toothbrushes; Aspirin / Pain Relievers; Shampoo / Conditioner; Sunscreen / Lip Balm; Disposable Razors; Shaving Cream; Tissues; Bars of Soap; Cough Drops; First Aid items; Statinary; Hand Lotion; Sewing Kits; Shoe Polish Kits; Postcards; Prepaid long-distance Phone Cards; Pencils / Pwns; Games; Playing Cards; VHS Movies; Disposable Cameras.

Donations can be dropped off in a box located at Chesapeake Treasures in Park Plaza, Severna Park or they may be given to Stella Angelucci at any meeting and Stella will deliver.

D56 ENDS CELEBRATIONS MAGAZINE

After fifteen years, Department 56 has decided to cease the publication of its collecting magazine. The magazine was originally called "The Quarterly" and later changed its name to "Fifty-Six". Most recently it was known as "Celebrations". The spring, 2006 edition will be the last magazine published.

If you are a current subscriber, you will receive a refund for the unused portion of your subscription in early 2006. For collectors whose subscriptions have ended or were never a subscriber, you can purchase a copy of this last issue directly from Dept. 56. You can order the last issue by calling 1-800 LIT TOWN (1-800-548-8696). Your magazine will be sent out by first class mail. Payment can be made by MasterCard or VISA. Quantities are limited!

CALENDAR

2006

March

Mar 14 **Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.** Cathy Kramer, area D56 rep., is our Guest Speaker.

April

Apr 11 **Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.**

Apr 27-30 **Chicago Gathering 2006.** Wyndham Hotel, Rosemont, IL. For info call 773-973-1160 / 847-310-8064 or Check www.chicagogathering.org

May

May 9 **Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.**

May 19-21 **Le Petites Village D56 Gathering** Plaza Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. www.lespetitsvillages.com for

info.

May 21 **Day Trip - Caravan to St. Michaels** with Stopover at The Christmas (see article in this issue).

June

Jun 11 **Annapolis Villagers Annual Sunday Brunch** (Tentative - details in next issue)

Jun 13 **Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.**

July

Jul 11 **Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.**

Jul 14-16 **Spirit of 56 on The Bay Dept 56 Gathering.** Notre Dame Academy Green Bay, WI. For info, call 866-497-8535 or check www.d56gathering.com.

Jul 22 **Annapolis Villagers Annual Christmas In July Picnic**

(Tentative date, Location TBD)

August

Aug 8 **Annapolis Villagers Board Meeting.**

September

Sep 12 **Annapolis Villagers Members Meeting.**

Sep 23 **Annual Annapolis Villagers Anniversary Banquet** (Tentative - Look in future issue for details)

October

Let us know about Dealer Events, Open Houses, Swap & Sells, Show & Sells, etc. and we will list it on our calendar.

DIRECTIONS

Meetings Held At
American Legion
Post 175

Unless otherwise noted, all Annapolis Villagers' Membership Meetings and Board Meetings are held at The American Legion, Post 175, Severna Park in Manhattan Beach. Meetings start at 7 P.M.

From Rt. 50, take Rt. 2 North exit. Follow Rt. 2 N (Ritchie Highway) through Arnold. After the traffic light at Rt. 2 and College Parkway, the next light is Jones Station Rd. At the Rt. 2 N and Jones Station Rd intersection (BP and Crown gas Stations), turn right onto Jones Station Rd and make an immediate left onto Manhattan Beach Rd which is behind the Crown Station. Follow Manhattan Beach Rd approximately two tenths of a mile. Make a left into the parking lot of The American Legion Post 175. The entrance to the Banquet Room is to the left side of the parking lot in the rear.

From Baltimore Beltway, take Rt. 2 S. Follow Rt. 2 S (Ritchie Highway) through Severna Park. At Jones Station Rd, make a left. From Jones Station Rd., proceed as above.

**IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER,
WE WILL FOLLOW
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY SCHOOLS.**

From the Editor.....

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of The Crier.

If you have news to share, email me at JEhrenreich@msn.com or call me at (410) 647-1680.

John Ehrenreich

NEWS DEADLINE FOR
THE NEXT ISSUE OF
THE VILLAGE CRIER
April 25, 2005

Please send your items of interest so that they are received by the deadline.

The Village Crier
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Email: JEhrenreich@msn.com

House Tours 2006

Dean & John Stevenson



Betty & Mickey Skipper



House Tours 2006



Betty & Mickey Skipper



Dick Baker



House Tours 2006

Marsha & Larry Voigt



Kate & Bob Eustice



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