

# Park View Village

*Newsletter – Vol. 3, No. 7*

**November-December, 2013**



**PVV**



## ***Troll the Ancient Yuletide Carol***



**Monday, December 16, 7 pm** at Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall: **Mel Lee** and his group, **Nonesuch**, will perform **Celtic Christmas carols**. Please bring a dessert to share. . .and have a joyful holiday season!



**“The Sphere” and us:** On Nov. 8, 15 PVV members and guests visited JMU’s Science on a Sphere (SOS). Volunteer guide Ben Lundy (employed by JMU’s Parking Services) treated us to video projections on the sphere-shaped visualization tool developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Topics included energy (its creation and distribution); radioactivity (how wind currents spread particles from Japan's Fukushima meltdown); “dark sky” concerns (how human-made lighting impacts night sky visibility); and global Internet connection patterns. The Sphere also briefly took on the role of the sun, revealing its spots and storms, and served as setting for a video about climate change challenges and strategies that Ben noted was “more informational than scary.” (For more about The Sphere, see <http://www.jmu.edu/stewardship/soshome.shtml>.)

– *Photo by Susie Versen*

## Calendar

**Dec. 16: Celtic Christmas carols!** See page 1.

**January 14, 2014 @ 8 AM** at VMRC's Detweiler Auditorium: Meeting of the **Healthy Community Council**. The focus will be a presentation by the Neighborhood Action group on the resources that are available from the city for neighborhood groups. This event is open to interested community members.

**Jan. 14, 7pm**, PVMC Fireplace Room: PVV program on the crises in **Syria and Jordan**. Our presenter, **J. Daryl Byler**, Executive Director for EMU's Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, has lived and worked in Jordan. He writes, "The crisis in Syria will soon be three years old. Nearly half of the population is uprooted from their homes, including nearly 600,000 Syrian refugees in neighboring Jordan. Is there any end in sight? How are the Mennonite Central Committee and other aid agencies responding to the crisis? The presentation will focus on a brief analysis of the conflict and stories of MCC partners in Jordan who have mounted a major response to the refugees who have flooded into this resource-challenged country."

**Feb 11** at 7pm will be PVV's **Valentine program** in PVMC's Fireplace Room. The **One Accord Barbershop Quartet** will present music appropriate for the occasion. We anticipate offering light refreshments for this event.



## Board President Update

Park View Village is entering our third year of operation in January 2014. During this Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for active members who are committed to developing Park View and the surrounding neighborhoods as a vibrant, healthy community.

This year three people are leaving the board. I am grateful for the service provided by Norm Gerber, Yvonne Stutzman, Secretary, and Cindy Smoker. For several years, Cindy has gladly volunteered her time and impressive skills in capacities that include Membership Committee Chair as well as Administrator – maintaining our database, website and mailings.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Yvonne, is preparing a slate of new board members. The new board members will be introduced in our January newsletter.

In November, a few PVV members explored Village initiatives in other communities:

- I visited Beacon Hill Village in Boston, MA, the first "village program," launched ten years ago. I met with Laura Connors, the current Executive Director, and Susan McWhinney-Morse, one of the organization founders. It was exciting to observe the office buzz as staff and volunteers responded to member inquiries and promoted activities developed by village members. Beacon Hill Village, with approximately 400 members, has formed numerous "interest groups" around food, travel, art, politics, and gender. One group was meeting to discuss travel to Israel. Another example, a men's group, was visiting neighborhood "water holes."
- Paul Yoder and John Spicher attended the Village to Village Network Annual Gathering in St. Louis November 11-13. Representatives of 123 Villages attended. Please read their full report below.

We are learning that people join the Park View Village for a variety of good reasons. Some of the most common are:

- Helping others in the neighborhood
- Maintaining age diversity by inviting households of all life stages to join
- Welcoming new members to the neighborhood
- Building a community that promotes healthy interdependency rather than independence
- Promoting an inclusive and open supportive neighborhood

On behalf of the board, please share your ideas for programs or interest groups you would enjoy hosting. Please invite friends and neighbors to join Park View Village in 2014.

Best regards for the upcoming holiday season and many blessings to you and your family.

--Keith Gnagey

### Village to Village Movement Growing Across Continent



*Attending a breakfast gathering at November's conference in St. Louis, Susan McWhinney Morse, second from right (in red jacket), is the founder of Beacon Hill Village -- the first official such Village, began in 2001. The Village movement has grown to over 100 similar organizations in three countries. The gathering hosted 207 people from both open and developing Villages in the US, and one from Canada. -- Paul Yoder*

John Spicher, Park View Village member, and I (Paul Yoder, board treasurer), spent November 11-13 in St. Louis at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Village Gathering. Over 200 participants met to share ideas and hear from successful Villages from east to west coasts.

Some of the Villages use all-volunteer board and staff while others use from one to four paid or full-time-equivalent staff. We were among the few men at the Village to

Village Gathering. Eighty-one percent of attendees were women. Village to Village Network is a national organization, organized 5-years ago as a resource for the growing number of Villages across North America, of which Park View Village is a member.

The success of a Village appears to be focused on three major ingredients:

1. Strategic partner participation that provides services and, in some cases, also funding for services to the growing number of older members within a community.
2. Leadership that provides motivation and participation of volunteers at all levels.
3. Publicity that keeps members, volunteers and the public informed about the Villages' activities.

The enthusiasm shared by many of the presenters was convincing. They shared excitement about a phenomenon that has grown since 2001 from one Village to over 100 open Villages, in just 12 years! Also attending were an additional 20-plus Villages in development, (not yet ready to invite members to join). According to VTV Network, over 200 Villages are either open or in development. Growth has been most prevalent during the past 5 years! Membership costs range from \$120 per year, per household to over \$1,200. Most

volunteer Village membership costs are on the low side. (Park View Village's fees are among the lowest.)

Cost of living is a major factor in pricing structures as well as for those with paid staff, usually with degrees in the field of social services. Strategic partnerships, such as alliances with hospitals, retirement communities, local merchants and universities can expand the reach of the Village's services. Use of social media, especially Facebook and Linked-In, has proved successful. However, use of local, traditional media was also cited as highly effective.

Recruiting and training volunteers is also necessary for a Village to succeed and expand.

Paid staff is not necessarily a requirement for a Village to be successful. However, a paid staff person is important in fulfilling needed service requirements and managing and training volunteers. In some cases leadership, training and follow-up is done with volunteers. Public relations strategy is key to making this work. Involvement can include a commitment for as little as one hour, one time to fulfill a task for a member. It may also include a member willing to host a living room chat session, providing coffee and tea, where members are encouraged to share what they need from their Village.

Recruiting was emphasized as NOT selling, but listening to what members are experiencing.

Publicity can be done by a volunteer retiree willing to pitch articles and information to potential media. Facebook was considered an effective tool that can be managed by a student willing to commit a weekly scheduled time allotment to the project.

As seniors age, while having fewer children or grandchildren nearby, need for services increases. Many seniors are not willing or able to pay for services of a retirement facility. Today's baby boomers want to age and die in their own homes. However, their needs will increase with age. This is where the Village concept becomes more important. Children live in distant parts of the country and are not available to take care of aging parents. So the social integration of a community is met by the "Village" concept, whether a church, neighborhood, or Village.

One presenter suggested that social services may ask if you need help and if you say "no" one time, that may be the end of the communication. A Village is expected to always be there and continue to check up on members. Park View Village wants to be that kind of a service for its members.

Check out the following web sites: [www.beaconhillvillage.org](http://www.beaconhillvillage.org), site of the first Village. . .and our local website, [www.parkviewvillageva.org](http://www.parkviewvillageva.org). If you are willing to volunteer or learn more about Park View Village, just call call [540-705-0432](tel:540-705-0432) or email [parkviewvillage.harrisonburg@gmail.com](mailto:parkviewvillage.harrisonburg@gmail.com).

*--Paul A Yoder, Park View Village Treasurer*

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### **Park View Village Board Members**

Keith Gnagey – President  
Evelyn Driver – Vice President  
Yvonne Stutzman – Secretary  
Paul Yoder – Treasurer/Finance Committee  
Chris Edwards – Newsletter Editor  
Ed Bontrager – Program Committee

Norman Gerber  
Cliff Lind – Member Services Committee  
Robin McNallie – Program Committee  
Cindy Smoker – Membership Chair  
Greg Versen – Program Committee Chair  
Arlene Wiens – Member Services Chair

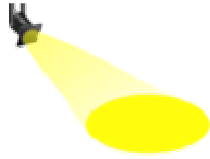




***Moments from autumn PVV programs:*** On Oct. 22, Greg Versen treated 23 PVV members and guests to his slideshow of a family trip, titled “China: Red and Hot, July 2013.” Greg, daughter Jill, son-in-law Chad McGlaughlin, and grandchildren Grady, 9, and Marley, 7, toured Shanghai, Beijing and Xi’An, guided by a Chinese partner in Chad’s and Jill’s cabinetry business. Greg (PVV’s photographer in residence, who, by the way, has an exhibit up through Jan. 14 at WMRA’s studio – see <http://wmra.org/post/canyonland-surprises-art-show>), recalled sights of disheartening poverty alongside brilliant colors and old/new contrasts (exemplified in such place-names as The Great Tang All Day Mall). The family was touched by the friendliness of local people. “You would have thought the Chinese people had seen the Empress and wanted their pictures taken with her,” Greg said of their many photo-ops with granddaughter Marley. *Clockwise from upper left: Marley and a friend. Our travelers trekking the Great Wall. The China slideshow’s audience. And, six PVV’ers lunching at Traditions Restaurant prior to visiting The Sphere (see p. 1) on Nov. 8.*

*Photos by Greg Versen*

- **To contact Park View Village: 540-705-0432; website, <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>.**
- **Deadline is Jan. 20 for submissions to the January-February 2014 PVV newsletter. Send items to Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457; [chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com](mailto:chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com).**



## ***Service Provider Spotlight***

### **BotkinRose PLC**

#### Legal Services

Contact: Steven C. (Dusty)  
Rhodes, Esq.

Phone: 540-437-0019

Address: 3190 Peoples Drive  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Email: Rhodes@botkinrose.com

Website: www.botkinrose.com

Mr. Rhodes (who spoke at PVV's May 2011 program on Medicaid regulations and how the elderly pay for health care) is an attorney with the firm BotkinRose. His specialties are Wills & Trusts, Estate Administration, Probate, Elder Law, Business, Corporate & LLC, Commercial & Residential Real Estate. BotkinRose provides legal representation in a wide range of areas.

survey taken in October. If you're interested, contact anyone on the Program Committee (Greg, Ed or Robin; see p. 4).

**Help needed:** Can you volunteer to help neighbors when needs arise? Arlene Wiens offers to help match helpers and needs. Please let her know what you can do! Call 421-0098 (cell), 433-3875 (home) or email [arlene.wiens8@gmail.com](mailto:arlene.wiens8@gmail.com).

**Unused medications** can lead to accidental overdose or abuse. Flushed, or thrown in the garbage, they present environmental and safety hazards. If you missed the October collection of outdated drugs, you can take advantage of the "round the year" collection by the sheriff's department, at 25 South Liberty Street. Feel free to drop unused, outdated drugs at that location during office hours, to be safely destroyed. See:

<http://www.rcso-va.com/drug-take-back.html>.

**Visit the PVV website** for events, service providers, resources and contact information: <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>. (You'll need your password to access some sections. If you cannot find that, call PVV at 540-705-0432.)

## ***Happy birthday, PVV members!***

**November** (sorry this is late!)

**Lowell Wenger**

**Yvonne Stutzman**

**Esther Augsburg**

**Pearl Lantz**

**Anna Leakey**

**December**

**Don Albright**

**Phil Helmuth**

**Joe Lapp**

**Greg Versen**

**Cindy Smoker**

**Susie Versen**



## **Notes** ✍️

**Got interests to share?** Want to get together with other PVV folks for "game nights," book group, or restaurant dining? Those are suggestions from members in a