

The month of December 2022 has been a very busy month with lots of activities at Londonderry and within our community. Hereafter are multiple reports of the happenings.

THE GIVING SEASON

Patricia Bradley

When given the opportunity to contribute to charitable causes, Londonderry residents are very generous. This Christmas time we were able to support Santa for a Senior, which is sponsored by Home Instead, by buying gifts that specific clients had requested. We also filled to overflowing the collection box for Toys for Tots. Some wonderful surprises in that box for some lucky children, including two of the surprisingly big bears hand made by Thelma Haney. And then we adopted a family, sent to us by ARC of Chesapeake, that needed some help providing a happy Christmas for their three boys.

The Londonderry community donated generously, a total of \$2,400. Then Irma and Erica went shopping! Each boy got two outfits of clothing, winter coats and hats, and also warm pajamas. They bought all kinds of toys and games that boys aged four, six and eight could enjoy, including Lego sets of course, a favorite for kids. Each boy also got a pair of shoes. The money that was left over went into various gift cards to places around town. In addition, the whole family will no doubt love the Christmas tree that is now theirs. The tree that we decorated for the yearly Festival of Trees went to their house when the Festival was over. That tree was decorated as a beautiful celebration of children around the world at Christmas time.

It is a gift to be given the opportunity to contribute to others' good fortune during the holidays and we thank Erica and Irma for arrangements for making it happen. But you know, we at Londonderry also give among ourselves when we send cards, when we decorate our doors and put lights in our windows and on our trees, and when we remember to wish each other the greatest gift of all, the one that is good for any season; Peace on Earth, Good Will to All.

THE MID-SHORE COMMUNITY BAND gave a concert the afternoon of Sunday, the 11th. Londonderry residents will recall the wonderful concert this group gave on the green in the 500's last June. It was a heartwarming event, visually as well as musically. The current event was held in the historic Ebenezer Theater, the former Ebenezer Methodist Church.

Conducting a survey of Londonderry residents who attended the program produced unanimous enthusiasm. Elaine Leahy, Carol Lane and others declared it a wonderful event. Elaine pronounced the venue beautiful with good acoustics, earning the band a standing ovation. She has hopes of a repeat program next year.



The dining room was transformed Wednesday night, December 14, into a Speakeasy run by the Mafia sometime in the 1920's, where all the customers were supposed to witness a wedding between two Mafia families but witnessed a murder instead. In fact two poor chumps got knocked off and believe me there were plenty of suspicious characters hanging around. (In addition to the three professional actors from the Murder Mystery Company hired to put on this show, several residents were chosen to play parts as well.) The Don of the Dunn family, one of the professional actors, was named Don, so he was, of course Don Don Dunn. The Don of the Stone family was Don Goodliffe, so we can now all call him Don Don when we see him around, if we dare. Other nefarious characters were Little Willie, Joey Two Hands, Weazle, Izzy Sleezy, Anita Drink, Earl Grey (?), an eight-year-old named Polly and a looker on, Ma Getta Dunn.



Does it sound silly? Of course it was, and the plot was also very convoluted and hard to follow and the people at my table laughed a lot over how confused we got trying to solve the murders, so for us the evening was a success. Who doesn't like to laugh?

The best part of the evening, though, was the magnificent buffet. After cocktails, shrimp cocktail beautifully presented, fantastic prime rib of beef cooked as you like it, potatoes au gratin, asparagus, rolls, and cheese cake for dessert. The table centerpieces consisted of Christmas balls and red plumes that added elegance to the whole affair. (You may remember those red feathers from the 30th Anniversary Celebration.)

Another wonderful part of the evening was the way the residents and staff got into dressing for the times. The flappers' dresses and head pieces, many with feathers, were really beautiful and fun. The gentlemen dressed to the nines. Walt Dominick wore a tuxedo and won the best dressed male prize. Evelyn Wiblin won for the women with her especially lovely flapper outfit. Carole Novian won the prize for Best Actor. She played the part of Ma Getta Dunn, and guess what, she was in fact the murderer. She did the terrible deeds. In all humility, I report I won the prize for best detective for naming Ma. A lucky guess I assure you, although, if you watched Perry Mason you know it's almost always the least prominent character "Who done it."

The evening ended as any such elegant affair should, with champagne. Then off to bed.



**THE JAMMERS
GAVE A
SPIRITED
PERFORMANCE**

(Next time somebody should find a hat for Barry).

They had been out of business for the duration of the Covid shutdowns and had the bad luck of presenting its first Christmas concert in the middle of a 24-hour plus rain event. The hardy but limited audience was augmented by a large group of staffers, perhaps surprised at their newly assigned duties. They joined in the singing, as well as the bell-ringing, and the event took on a homey, casual air. Lots of fun! Thanks to Irma Toce, conductor, and Peggy Sloan on the keyboard, they made it work.

THE FESTIVAL OF TREES

Cathy Cooper

Helen Pritchett issued the invitation and presented the opportunity to get in the season's spirit early on by helping decorate Londonderry's contribution to the Festival of Trees which benefits Talbot Hospice.

The theme for the 2022 festival was "Joy Around the World". We quickly settled on the name for our entry, "Uniting the World through the Joy of Children". What could be easier to make, buy, or assemble than decorations about children.

It's easy to find suitable ornaments –from super-sized pipe cleaners, to tree-sized footballs, to kites of flags of many nations, and whirligigs, to five nested dolls, to little wooden wagons (very little), and paper dolls dressed in the national attire of many countries. The tree skirt had more children. The garland featured long runs of white and red strands twirled together for a lengthy garland encircling the tree round and round. The ornaments were so prolific that it was hard to see the tree part of our tree.

Decorating the tree in the Gold Room of the Tidewater Inn was also good fun. Helen even timed it so that essentially all decorations were ready by the time her kneecap broke. Undaunted, Helen was on hand for the decorating itself, albeit confined to a walker.

Ho.. Ho.. Ho.. and a Special Thanks to:

Barbara McGuinness
Dick Codrington
Gloria Gibson
Joann Campbell
Queenie Swaren

Bonnie Codrington
Cathy Cooper
Helen Pritchett
Judy Harrald
Susan Andrews

Beth Elkins
Cyndy Miller
Jane Bollman
Lari Caldwell

Carole Lane
David Draut
Jean Brown
Nancy Burns



Watch for the invitation this coming September to participate in decorating our 2023 Hospice Tree!

HEALTH CORNER: Finally, Affordable Hearing Aids

An August 2022 rule from the FDA gives consumers access to over-the-counter (OTC) affordable hearing aids, which will be cheaper than their predecessors and will be available without the cost of audiologist visits. Why does it matter, and what might that mean for you?

Close to 25% of Americans aged 65-74 and 50% of those over 75 HAVE HEARING LOSS. This deficit not only keeps seniors from participating in conversations and hearing their favorite television shows, but hearing loss has also been linked to social isolation, depression, and EVEN COGNITIVE DECLINE. However, according to a study published in Archives of Internal Medicine, 86% of those over the age of 50 who need hearing aids do not use them.

The stigma attached to these devices keeps many people from using them, but the exorbitant cost and the complicated process to be fitted may be an even bigger deterrent. The process involves testing by an audiologist up front, and then having the hearing aids tuned and rechecked regularly. Worse, there is no way around that time and expense-until now.

Introducing a new category of hearing aids...

Because of the magnitude of this as a health problem, Congress passed legislation in 2017 directing the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to create a new category of hearing aids. Over-the-counter (OTC) hearing aids will be much more affordable and they will be available directly from stores or online retailers without the expense of a medical exam or fitting. This will make hearing aids accessible to a greater number of people.

“Hearing loss has a profound impact on daily communication, social interaction and the overall health and quality of life for millions of Americans,” said FDA commissioner, Dr. Robert Califf. “This is a tremendous worldwide problem where I think American ingenuity can make a huge difference.”

Are these new affordable hearing aids right for you?

This new category of hearing aids is designed for those with self-perceived mild to moderate hearing loss. This level of hearing loss ranges from not being able to hear people who are talking softly to having difficulty in participating in phone and group conversations or having to turn the television up louder and louder. One of the advantages of the new OTC hearing aids is that you don't have to be screened by an audiologist, however, assessing your own hearing isn't easy. Luckily, there are many online or app-based hearing evaluations, plus some retailers are planning to offer their own screening tests in conjunction with the release of their devices.

How are these hearing aids different?

Chances are that you might already have seen OTC “hearing aids” out there. Technically, some OTC devices that are currently available aren't hearing aids at all but “personal sound amplification devices”. These devices aren't as loud, don't have targeted frequency-range boosts, and are more geared for specific uses, such as birdwatching or suppressing noise in airports and subway stations. In comparison, the new OTC hearing aids are designed for people with hearing loss. They must be regulated by the FDA as well as meet specific ANSI (American National Standards Institute) safety standards. They are also required to have a user-adjustable volume control and include clear, simple user instructions.

What do they cost?

Hearing aids currently cost on average \$4,000 per pair, but you could also spend much more, some as much as \$14,000! Unfortunately, you won't get any help paying for them from Medicare or many insurance plans (unless you purchase an add -on to your plan).

The new OTC hearing aids are no different in terms of insurance coverage, however, it's less of a factor because of the cost. Experts estimate that they could cost as little as \$600 a pair, making them much more feasible for even those on a fixed income.

What if you don't like them?

Acclimating to hearing aids of any kind can take time and a good deal of adjustment, which you will be doing on your own with OTC hearing aids. With patience, you will eventually become accustomed to the change in sound. However, if you simply can't adjust to the hearing aids or they don't fit your needs, it's critical that you understand the return policy. If you do decide to return them, be sure to try another OTC pair or seek help from an audiologist. The worst outcome is that you give up and live with declining hearing.

IN MEMORIAM

by Florence Thompson

DANIEL A. TANNER, JR., grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. He leaves a history of hard work, beginning as a ten-year old delivery boy, then a setter of bowling balls, then delivering ice in a man's job and working in his school cafeteria. Immediately on graduation from high school he enlisted in the United States Army.

From the ranks he was chosen for training with the Army Security Agency (ASA) and his lifelong career in government service began. ASA evolved into the National Security Agency and on to numerous other operations with deep computer industry positions. It was on the job that he met his future wife, Catherine Marie Homer, a Russian linguist. Catherine took leave of her job as their four children were born. When the two boys and two girls were in college and high school Catherine returned to the work force and they commuted for eight years from their home in McDaniel on Harris Creek in Talbot County.

Dan was a former Scoutmaster, Chief Instructor and Coach of the Fort Meade Junior Rifle Club, and Coach of the U. S. Naval Academy Intercollegiate Rifle Team.

In Talbot County Dan was Executive Officer of Sts. Peter and Paul's Parish Pastoral Council, was a Memorial Hospital Auxiliary volunteer, member and office holder in the Knights of Columbus, member and volunteer at St. Vincent DePaul Society, belonged to several federal retiree organizations, Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, and the Miles River Yacht Club. Moving to Londonderry in 2010, Dan was on the Finance Committee and at the time of his passing he was on the Board of Directors.

Dan was predeceased by Catherine, his wife of 46 wonderful years. He is survived by his children: Daniel A. Tanner III and Pam, David A Tanner and Susie, Catherine Tanner Bradshaw and Randy, and Carol Tanner Willey and Timmy as, well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. His Londonderry colleagues and friends join in their mourning his loss.

JAMES EARL SLOAN was born in Eau Claire, Pennsylvania, to Earl and Esther Snyder Sloan. He died on November 22 in his home in Londonderry at age 92.

A native of Canton, Ohio, Jim was a graduate of Grove City College in Pennsylvania in 1951. He enlisted in the U. S. Army, having been encouraged to become part of NSA's program of traffic analysis. While in the specialized training program he met and married his first wife, Jean. Completing his service commitment, he left the Army and spent 30 years within NSA's ranks. He heeded the advice, "join the service and see the world." He got to know 27 countries and 45 states, notably two long periods in Korea where he and his family happily adapted.

Jim left NSA much earlier than planned in order to care for his mother who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. When she passed away after thirteen years, he became a bridge tender on Tilghman's Island. During these years he lost his wife Jean and son Bruce.

Happily, Jim met Peggy on her first hectic day in her job in his doctor's office. They married and moved to Florida. Returning to Peggy's native Eastern Shore and all her family connections, their loving marriage of eighteen years ended at his death.

Jim is survived by Peggy; a daughter, Pamela Ferrante and Joseph and three grandchildren; four stepchildren, Garry Ebling and Judy; Judi Loscomb and Bud; Bryan C. Ebling and Barbara; and Regina Ebling-Douglas and Mike; nine step-grandchildren; and twelve step-great-grandchildren. Londonderry's friends and neighbors join the family in mourning Jim Sloan's passing.

ROBERT A COFFREN was born and raised in Washington D.C. He met his future wife, Judy, in high school, and they married soon after graduation. Their marriage of 65 years ended at Bob's passing on October 21, 2022.

Bob was employed for 34 years by the Bell System, attaining the position of Telecommunications Specialist. He was then employed by the Federal Government in three different agencies for 19 years and retired in 2016. Bob and Judy moved to Londonderry from the Easton Club in 2021.

Londonderry friends and neighbors join Judy and daughter Lorna and her husband George, son Mark and wife Rebecca, and grandchildren Ryan, Nicholas, Lindsay, Mateo, Madison and Mackenzie in their sorrow at their loss.

LONDONDERRY LINES WINTER ISSUE

ANNOUNCING there will be a winter issue of Londonderry Lines coming out soon. New pieces will be added to the books already placed in our public spaces: two in the clubhouse, two in our library and two books are in the lobby. There will be a new cover with a winter scene taken by Craig Caldwell, and articles by Cindy Miller, Ernie Cox, Cathy Cooper and more. Please look for them and enjoy what these writers have shared with us HAPPY NEW YEAR!

“THROUGH THE LENS”

by Florence Thompson

Through the Lens is a monthly feature in the local newspaper, *The Star-Democrat*. Londonderry's own Ron Haddaway, Sr., Maintenance Technician, on the staff for six years, is a photographer by avocation. Ron took up his camera at age eight and continues to hone his skills. In November his photograph “The Boat House,” taken at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, received recognition in the newspaper. The picture was shown next to that month's prize-winning entry, so Ron is allowed to assume his entry placed second. In this month's contest his entry was again placed next to the winner. This photo was taken at the end of Port Street, entitled “Fog at the Point.” Ron has won several awards through the years. He recently asked for and received permission to use the grounds of the Manor House as a setting for pictures of a family of his friends. Ron has our good wishes for more fun and rewards for his hobby.

SCATTERED NOTES

by Florence Thompson

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, December 4th, a drive to the Centreville United Methodist Church to hear the Christmas program of the **QUEEN ANNE CHORALE** was a wonderful beginning for a season of music. Londonderry's own Joy of Music's Bob Huntington has been Artistic Director of the Chorale since 2003. He conducted a program of familiar Christmas songs, entitled *Peace and Harmony*, inviting the audience to sing along to some of the selections. It was a lovely pre-Christmas afternoon well spent.

The Chorale, pre-Covid quarantines, consisted of 60 voices, and was customarily accompanied by a top notch instrumental ensemble. Assembled for the renewed 2022 iteration of the group, 40 voices made beautiful music, accompanied by the outstanding pianist Julia Morris-Myers. Flutist Heather Fullerton enhanced several selections.

Bob's goal is to restore the choir to the prior 60 voices. On January 9, 2023, he will hold an open rehearsal in preparation for the Spring Concert. His Select Ensemble voices audition from the larger group for their special positions. Fans of the Queen Anne Chorale look forward to the spring event.



THE JOE BAIONE JAZZ TRIO came to Londonderry on December 8th and knocked the socks off a very appreciative audience. Joe Baione plays the vibraphone (more about that later), John Holton plays the keyboard, and Nimrod Speaks the double bass.

Joe is in his first year of retirement from the Felton, Delaware school system.

His instrument, the vibraphone, in contrast to the more familiar xylophone, is motorized. Striking the bars produces a tremolo or vibrato sound, and a foot pedal sustains the effect. Joe Baione plays the heck out of it! Last August, on a particularly hot evening, his *quartet* played an outdoor program for Londonderry's summer concert series. His very physical, sweaty performance was repeated in the Clubhouse, minus the sweat.

Jim Holton, from New York City, is a virtuoso on the keyboard, and has played with Joe on several other occasions. Nimrod Speaks is originally from Philadelphia and was a student at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, at Princess Anne, Maryland. He “speaks” lovingly of his instrument, a German double bass which dates back to the 1800s.

The program consisted of Christmas songs and carols. Each jazz version of these familiar tunes is a mini-concert; each performer is given ample time to shine on his instrument in his own way. The audience was enthralled and left on a very happy high note. Another “back by popular demand” Joe Baione concert will be most welcome.

RAY HOBBS on the piano is a welcome accompaniment to Sunday brunch. He solicits requests from the brunch crowd and seemingly can’t be stumped. Ray gives his popular presentation once a month—on December 11 it fell into the category of a pre-Christmas treat.

UKELELE GROUP taught by Jonathan Williams has a roll of five or six students. In November and again on December 15th the ukulele players presented a program to residents of Candlelight Cove. Their appearance pre-Christmas was a highlight of their season.

THE CALIDORE STRING QUARTET was presented in a pre-recorded program on Londonderry’s Clubhouse big screen on December 28th. This ensemble has won many awards and praise in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. Brought to Londonderry by Chesapeake Music, the group is now in residence with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Their program of Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Smetana was a welcome feature of the Christmas-New Year’s season.

LUNCH AT THE TIDEWATER: Drawing nearer to December 25, a group of Londonderry residents took lunch at the Tidewater Inn, the historic centerpiece of the town of Easton. The beautiful decorations throughout the building are worth a sight-seeing trip in themselves. And the food lived up to its reputation.

Demetri Jenkins drove Londonderry’s bus and delivered Marilyn Burns, Beth and Rich Morin, Paula Gervas, Elaine Moore, Sara Brown, Susan Andrews, Florence Thompson and Erica Hardeo for the December luncheon treat. Some of the selections were famous Tidewater dishes: example, snapper soup enhanced with sherry; the quiche was outstanding, as well as the meatloaf. What is in store for January, ’23?



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