



GPCA

GREATER PATAPSCO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

PO Box 31, Granite, MD 21163

Issue #249

GPCA Newsletter

January 3, 2007

Check us out at our website - <http://www.gpca.net/>

January 8 Meeting: Election of Officers

GPCA General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month, except July and August, at 7:30PM at the Granite Presbyterian Church
10637 Old Court Road (Just north of Hernwood Road)

Non-members are encouraged to attend.

What's Inside

January Meeting.....	1
Changing of Guard.....	1
Last Month's Recap.....	1
Membership News.....	2
Three Charms.....	2
Historical Happenings.....	2
Advertisements.....	3,4

January Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Monday, the 8th at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Granite Presbyterian Church. Election of new officers for 2007 will be the main order of business. This is a good time for recommending topics for meetings in the new year, joining GPCA if you have not already done so, and wishing neighbors a Happy New Year.

Changing of the Guard

The proposed slate of GPCA officers is as follows:

- President: Anne Libis
- Vice President: Bruce Mezger
- Secretary: Brenda Creighton
- Treasurer: Marty Kelley
- Board of Directors: Wendy Keller, Curtis Collins, Dr. Harold Ramsey.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor on the night of the

election. And officers assume their positions immediately upon election.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

The GPCA Board

Recap: December's Meeting

As community folks entered the Church hall on the night of December 11, they were met by the aroma of hot mulled cider and a sea of happy, youthful faces. The young people of St. Alphonsus Church and 12 students from the Woodstock Job Corps Center were there to entertain.

Board member Bruce Mezger was the host of the evening. Following an appeal for members to become active in GPCA, the evening festivities began.

Member Mike Kahn opened with a song which he dedicated to Abe Granek, "Let it be a Dance." It was Abe who began the tradition of inviting the Job Corps students to the December meeting.

Under the direction of their very capable and animated student leader Tyrone Williams, the following Job Corps students performed a selection of seasonal hymns: Sade' Addison, Raymond Aiken, Zahirah Abdul-Aziz, Courtney Brown, James Evans,

Anna Ortiz, Montell Peterson, Jeremy Shakes, Marcia Spencer, Jwyanza Umoja and James Wright. The student choral group is led by Col. Robert Curtis, who was unable to attend.

GPCA's dear friend and Safety/Security Advisor Barbara Dunlap and Career Transition instructor Tasha Jones chaperoned the students along with Ed Roberts, Business/Community Liaison.

The St. Alphonsus choir was led by Cathleen Malony with Celest Rusconi accompanying on the piano. The choir members were Mary Gouker and daughter Christa, Mindi Lawton and daughter Briana, Sarah LeDoux, Cathleen Malony and daughters Ann and Kelly, and Angela and Nicole Rusconi. With Brian Carmody taking his turn at the piano, Beth Sembly led the gathering in the sing along. The singing concluded with a rousing rendition of "The 12 Days of Christmas." The program ended with wonderful desserts.

GPCA wishes to thank all those persons who contributed canned goods to the Deacons' Pantry of the Granite Church.

Marty Kelley

Membership News

Membership renewals received this past month for the new year: Dale and Jan Brice, Claude and Meredith Braxton, David and Lisa Goldsmith, Jack and Rubye Kosko and Michael Kosko.

Three's Charm

Frost covered the ground this morning, telling me that it would be a little chilly outside if I were to hurry out to free the horses from their stalls. Surely there would be ice on the water tank, but no ice in the barn. It was cold, just not that cold. Cold enough for long johns and gloves, but not cold enough for a blizzard suit or even a scarf and hat. If I took time to drink more than one cup of coffee, the frost would fade as the sun rose and moved the shadows shorter, closer to the barn wall. Melting from morning into day.

I have grown up in these past few years on the farm. I used to rush to the horses, giving myself time for one cup of coffee and one piece of toast downed in a few bites with the prednisone I must take. Standing at the kitchen counter, taking bites and swallows, the crust would then be shared with the bichons and I would be out the door to the horses. There was an urgency in getting them out in the morning, their need for freedom superseding mine for that morning waking time, that mental gathering for the day. I have learned since that the horses will still be waiting when I get out there even if I drink two cups of coffee while I watch the Weather Channel just a little longer. Some mornings my equine friends aren't in a hurry to leave the warmth of their stalls for the chill of the mudlot, mud frozen in peaks and valleys from hoof prints four inches deep. Once they are there, they are there all day.

This mild December day falls in that hectic week before Christmas when there just isn't enough time to get everything done. This week comes upon us, a surprise as we roll toward the holiday deadline, that we aren't as prepared as we thought we could be. However, this will be a good day to ride. Crisp air, bright sun and good footing. As the frost disappears from the grass, the dirt underneath is solid, and besides, I now have a stone dust ring. An adult student who continues to ride through the winter is scheduled for this morning and I think how lucky she is to have a day like this to ride. Wow. Oh, and the time to do it in. While I would like to ride with her, I know I have a friend coming for coffee after. There is only so much I can do in a day. Even though I hate limitations, I now respect them. While my rider is grooming and tacking up, there are a few more things I can do before the lesson. Supper to be planned and buckets to be dumped. Move this or that, and then be able to give her my full attention as I watch my little grey Arabian walk, trot and canter around the ring.

This is what I do, I watch. Daily I watch my horses move; eat, drink and socialize. I watch them be ridden and I know how they feel. Without expectation, or anticipation, I just observe. Without sense of success or failure, I simply watch to see what is. To be in the moment, to be present when a great day happens. Watching life move around me, even when I am not doing the great fun things, I give myself this gift of pleasure in seeing how life proceeds. To be aware that this is a great day to ride, and then to

know that someone else will be riding. That is enough. Maybe the next great day will be my turn. It just isn't always my turn. That is part of the growing up process, too. There are more things to do, to be done, than one person can enjoy in a day, even on a good day. The farm has made me a little older, a little wiser these past few years. I move forward into the coming year with this new perspective, it's not all about me.

May this new year make you wiser, not just a year older.

Brenda K. Creighton

A Few Historical Happenings as we begin 2007:

- 1457 – Gutenberg Bible became 1st printed book
- 1607 – 1st permanent English settlement in New World, Jamestown
- 1707 – England, Wales, Scotland form UK of Great Britain
- 1807 – Pres. Jefferson received Lewis & Clark expedition report
- 1817 – First US gas company incorporated in Baltimore
- 1847 – Doughnut created
- 1907 – Maiden voyage of British luxury liner, *Lusitania*
- 1917 – Pres. Wilson asked Congress to declare war on Germany
- 1947 – WWII peace treaties signed
- 1957 – USSR launched Sputnik I
- 1957 – Eisenhower sent National Guard to enforce racial integration, Little Rock, AR
- 1957 – US Surgeon General connects smoking with lung cancer
- 1957 – Ford introduced the Edsel
- 1957 – 1st electric portable typewriter placed on sale
- 1967 – Thurgood Marshall sworn in as 1st black Supreme Court justice

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