

## Veterans Tour Historic Plane

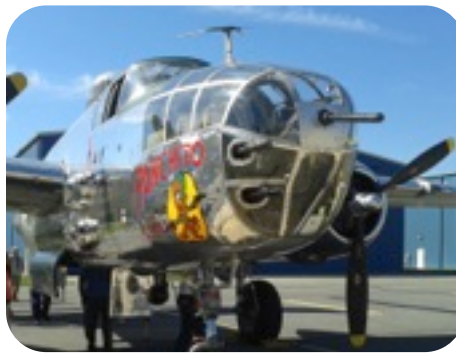
by Gil Kaufman

Most of us are old enough to remember the electrifying moment during the early, often dismal days of WWII when we learned that Colonel Jimmy Doolittle made the first ever bombing run on Tokyo using B-25 bombers that took off from the aircraft carrier Hornet. On April 26, the Veteran's Group here at the Moorings had their first field trip, a visit to the restored B-25 Mitchell bomber, Panchito, headquartered at the Delaware Aviation Museum at the Georgetown airport.

The visit was planned and led by Della Wernecke, leader of our Veterans' Social get-togethers through her contacts with the aircraft's owner, Larry Kelly, and we had the benefit of our own very knowledgeable guide for the afternoon, John Karr.

It was a beautiful sunny day and we were able to look over and inside most parts of the aircraft, including the bomb bay doors, where a mock-up of one of the bombs signed by some of the original Doolittle Raiders is mounted. The group was fascinated by the heavy armament of the B-25, and impressed by the tight quarters for the crew, especially the gunners.

While this particular aircraft was manufactured too late in the war to have seen enemy action, it would have been among the aircraft



The Panchito

*More on page 8 including a great picture*

## President's Message

*from Gil Kaufman*



Finally we are blessed with spring weather (summer some days too) so I hope you too are enjoying the long desired passage of winter. But, of course, it may snow tomorrow!

Despite the weather, it has been a busy spring here at The Moorings at Lewes. Among the changes that we have seen:

- Increasing exposure to Stacey Judge and the LivWell program, including featured sessions on brain health and eating more healthily.

- A growing group of Taijifit exercisers under the leadership of Thisbe. From personal experience I can say it is very professionally led with slow movements that most of us can follow but which leave you with the feeling that you have had a pretty good workout.

*Continued on page 2*

## Shuffleboard Season is Here!

by George Maxey



Spring is in the air, and here at the Moorings our beautiful shuffleboard courts are up and running. This year we have umbrellas for shade.

The League started off with great success on May 5th and runs through July 15th, with matches played Saturday between 3 and 5 pm, Sunday from 5pm until 7 pm and Wednesday between 3 and 5 pm.

League sign-up has been great, with twelve teams signed up so far. Many of last year's teams are back (Cue sticks, Shufflers, Sisters, etc.) and are joined by newcomers (Sliders, Nu Neez, 3 Bairs-1, etc.).

We are looking forward to fun in the sun, and with our newly installed umbrellas, and cold drink coolers, FUN IN THE SHADE.

Come out and join us either as a player or a spectator. Remember the courts are open for play or practice all the time when League play is not in progress.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Editor	Sara Corbishley
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	Pat O'Hanlon

**BOARD MEETS** 2nd Monday  
**GENERAL MEETINGS**  
3rd Monday

## President's Message *continued from page 1*

•For those able to take it there is a more aggressive exercise program known as "Cardio Groove." Lori gets rave reviews for it as well as for her other programs; you can tell when it is over as the participants limp out! "Aqua Stretch" led by Dinah is new too!

For those of you looking forward to trying your hand at vegetable gardening, that will not be coming in the foreseeable future. The Community Garden Group who were going to do some fund-raising and the heavy lifting for us on the project had difficulty establishing their way forward so that idea is on hold.

But more interesting things are already on the way or in the planning, including:

- The introduction of the new "point of service" or POS system of handling Chart Room and Bistro orders for food, with the benefit of faster communication of orders between server and kitchen and much better records of menu selections and dining service expenses,

- Shuffleboard competition getting into high gear under the leadership of our new Shuffleboard Commissar George Maxey (the old Commissar, Ron Trupp, having retired after doing a great job of getting the facility added to The Moorings). Later on, for those of us less mobile or preferring to stay indoors, the option of tabletop shuffleboard spearheaded by Bill Dunn.

- The return of Osher classes to The Moorings. While the opera class held here previously will not return because of the unfortunate loss of the teacher, we understand at least one music class will be included,

- Finally, watch for new larger umbrellas for the patio, to enable us to be better shaded in that often overbearing afternoon sun during picnics and other outdoor events.

We trust you will find some if not all of these innovations to your liking!

### TMALRA WOOD SHOP

- Furniture Repair
- Custom Made Pieces
- Resident Project Assistance
- Orientations to Shop & Tools
- Equipment Safety Instruction

*No charge for labor, only materials*

Contact Residents:  
Ron Trupp or Dean Hoover



## **Lil' Bites**

### **❖NEW TMALRA BOARD MEMBER**

We welcome Marianne Jarvis as the new Corresponding Secretary.

### **❖ A THANK YOU FROM BINKY TOMPKINS, OUTGOING CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

So many kind words and warm good wishes from you!

I was so totally surprised on Friday April 6 at Happy Hour.

Many thanks to each of you — I shall miss you all.

### **❖ TMALRA BYLAWS REVISIONS**

At our April 16 Residents' Meeting, members approved revisions to the TMALRA Bylaws, as recommended by the Bylaws Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

The primary substantive change is the addition of the Wellness Committee to the list of standing committees.

Other revisions resolve issues of clarity and consistency, including (1) specifying January 1 as the beginning and ending date for officers' and representatives' terms of office, (2) revising the President's duties to be consistent with other sections of the bylaws, (3) eliminating the requirement that the membership must ratify committee chair appointments, and (4) distinguishing between standing committees and temporary committees.

### **❖ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

On **June 18** there will be an opportunity to recycle unwanted electronics. Call Alan in Maintenance to be put on the pick-up list or for information as to what may be recycled.

### **❖COMPUTER HELPERS**

The Communications Committee is looking for residents who would be willing to help other residents with computer issues. You don't have to be a technical wizard, just some experience with a PC. Try it, you might like it! Contact Jim McMullen or Tom Reed.

### **❖FALL ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW**

The Moorings Fall Arts and Crafts Show will begin on Friday, November 17 this year. That's earlier than previous years to avoid Christmas commotion and competition.

So, paint! Knit! Carve! Make something! All staff, Cadbury at Homers, and residents are urged to contribute to this show.

Your contributions can be offered as: (NFS) Not For Sale, Display Only; or marked with a sale price and your initials. The Lend a Hand table displays NFS items to be given to shelters or other helpful organizations. The payment for sold items will be shared with 25% donated to the Residents' Reserve Fund and the remainder paid to you.

Pantone, which standardizes commercial colors, has declared the color of the year 2018 to be a bluish purple and so we are going to feature a Shades of Purple table. Right now I am knitting a purple scarf to donate to a shelter. I hear someone is

assembling purple beads to be sold. The table should be a splendid sight!

MEANWHILE, some residents are already working in the craft room on objects for the show. Join us there especially on Thursday mornings.

And we need hookers to work on our Moorings latch hook rug. We'll show you how!

Come! Make something!

### **❖MOVIE RATINGS**

In planning movies, the Program Committee recognizes that all residents will not like all movies. So now ratings will be displayed with the movie descriptions posted on the wall of the cubby station. That way, residents will be able to make their own decisions as to their likely preference for the movie of the week.

### **❖VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As many of you know, volunteers used to man the entrance desk at the Assisted Living entrance. The procedure was changed so that a staff person sits at that desk from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. However, it is highly desirable to have resident volunteers at that desk from 3:00 to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. If you have an interest in volunteering, please let Gil Kaufman know what days you are available.

### **❖A SPECIAL GRADUATION AND FAMILY TRADITION**

Residents Claire and Richard Thomas will be watching their grandson, Ryan, graduate from Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore this month. Their daughter, Ryan's Mom, is also a Johns Hopkins Med. School grad.



# Nature at The Moorings

by Jean Woolley



The difficult weather we experienced from the end of January through the end of March seemed to keep the snow geese in this area longer than usual. Daffodils were blooming around the west pond while lingering flocks of snow geese were seen in the surrounding fields.

In January, Fran Baker spotted a blue heron on top of our roof. Perhaps he was the same one that regularly joins two mallard ducks and two geese at one end of the west pond. We enjoy watching the antics of this small group of friends.

As January came to an end, Jeane Wampler was surprised to see an American kestrel (small falcon the size of a large jay) on the ground near her feeder. It flew into her arborvitae bush and the birds hiding in there decided to vacate rapidly. Jeane has a bird bath with a rock in it. The birds let her know when she needs to refill the bath. The rock is a good place for butterflies to rest and keep their feet dry while getting a sip of water.

Some of the birds spotted in our community are juncos, sparrows, wrens, house finches, gold finches, grackles, red-winged black birds, chickadees, mocking birds, shrike, bluebirds, cardinals and robins. We have seen an orange-colored house finch. The orange color is due to diet but I have no idea what the bird is eating to make it appear orange instead of red. We have plenty of robins thanks to the plentiful worms and holly berries.

Have you seen the unusual robin cavorting in the trees and bushes near Bob and Ellane Hein's house? This robin has a white breast and white neck area. Through consultation with a member of the bird club, we have learned this is a piebald robin and that it is unusual but not rare. The lack of coloring is due to a genetic anomaly. George and Barbara Sumereau have seen the robin near their cottage and we have seen him with a friend in one of the trees between our cottage and the

Sumereau's. Watch for the flash of white if you are walking the paths in that area. It's an amazing sight guaranteed to make you smile.

On the east side of the community, Mike and Diane Bair have seen bluebirds in the large Bradford pear tree directly in front of their window. We hope these birds will nest in the tree and provide more entertainment for Mike and Diane to share.

Did you know that you can establish a Certified Wildlife Habitat even if you have just a patio or balcony (as long as it is not screened). There are five criteria necessary for certification: food, water, cover, a place for wildlife to raise their young, and landscaping practices that are friendly to the wildlife.

If you are interested in more information, contact the Delaware Nature Society at 302-239-2334.



Our piebald robin



How Do You Do!  
Welcome to The Moorings

James and Vickie McCool moved into Cottage 25  
on April 10

Cathleen Davison moved into Apartment 228  
on April 25.



## Andy Abel's Mystery Tour

by Mildred  
Wiedmann

### Where are we going?

On March 7th the Moorings bus headed out, almost full, toward an unknown destination with Andy taking us on a Mystery Trip. All he would tell us was that we would be heading North and within an hour or an hour and a half of Lewes.

What he didn't anticipate was that we would encounter considerable unpredicted snow. He expected the snow would be further North. However, it was raining and suddenly between Dover and Smyrna, in the blink of an eye it was snowing like crazy. Enough for the Appoquinmink School District to have cancelled school but we continued on.

Our unknown destination turned out to be the Chesapeake Inn located in Chesapeake City on

the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Probably the only reason for the restaurant to have been open that day was because of the group of crazy people coming from Southern Delaware who had luncheon reservations. The C & D Canal Museum where Andy intended to also take us was closed due to the snow

We had a great meal, saw several snow plows, and cars in some ditches but arrived back in Lewes safely, happily and with an adventure to relate.

There will be a Mystery Trip scheduled about every second month. I suspect the May trip is going East or South but I bet it turns out it will be South!

by Corinne Lehman

On March 7, 2018 Fourteen residents took a Mystery Tour Bus Trip. We were in high spirits because we knew we

were in good hands. Our bus driver and tour guide, Andy Abel had already amazed us on previous trips with his ability to find the most picturesque roads.

As we rolled along, sometimes singing, Andy gave us hints about the history of our destination. Mother Nature at times showed us a blizzard, some sleet, rain and more snow flakes. The fields we passed were a beautiful white while the roadway was wet and clear.

After more hints someone guessed our destination — Chesapeake City. We rode through the town and then went to a lovely restaurant on the Chesapeake Canal. We had a delicious lunch while looking out the spacious windows at the Canal.

It was a most enjoyable day and we look forward to the next mystery tour trip.



## Rathskeller Ramblings

by Jim McMullen

Hey! Hey! Hey! Spring is finally here. Isn't it great? And a great new brew is on the way to help us celebrate.

The McMullen men had a gathering recently and just about demolished the sediment-laden Black Ale that has been cluttering up my aging cellar. I can now report on the latest effort – a seasonal appropriate Summer Ale. Hooray!

As often happens plans don't always work out. I started the brewing process only to discover that the supplier had left out a package of hops. There are usually two packages of hops. One is added when the brew begins to boil. This infusion gives the ale bitterness and astringency. The second

infusion is added near the end of boiling to lend aroma. Anyway, I was missing a package of hops.

The brew supply store is in Laurel, behind Johnny Janosik's big furniture store. So I went to Laurel to get the hops. Of course, while there, I had to look around and see what else was new and different. Then I saw them; bottle caps in an American flag motif. What could be more appropriate for ale served at Memorial Day and Fourth of July; our most important patriotic holidays?

So the brewing was delayed a couple of hours but otherwise went well. This Summer Ale has an infusion of orange and lemon peels to give a lighter body and refreshing taste. These are frequent additions to summer ales. It is in primary fermentation as I write this (April 29) and will go into secondary fermentation later this week. Bottling is projected for mid-May and we can pop the flag caps by Memorial Day. Skoal!

## Dining Out with Diane & Mike

by Diane and Mike Bair



### HOT AND SPICEY, or NOT

It's no secret that my husband, Mike Bair, loves hot, spicy foods! It is with great pleasure that he shares his list with you.

#### Bangkok Thai Cuisine

(17644 Coastal Hwy Lewes) — Pineapple Curry, simmered with red curry paste, pineapple, and tomatoes. \$13.95 with shrimp, squid, mussels, or seafood combo. \$10.95 with chicken, pork, tofu, or vegetable.

#### Agave Mexican Restaurant

(Lewes ) — Hot Mexican Rockets- Jalapeno peppers stuffed with chicken, wrapped in bacon and fried. 4 per serving. \$10.00

#### Pig and Publican Restaurant

(Lewes )— Mussels with ginger-jalapeno, charred carrot, cilantro, yellow curry. \$11 (ask for a spoon to finish all the broth)

#### Crust and Craft Pizza Bar, 1870

(Coastal Hwy, Rehoboth) — Pizza-Truth About 'Roni-crushed tomato sauce, oregano, mozzarella, pepperoni, and Calabrian chili. \$14 (be sure you have a cold drink close at hand)

#### Bluecoast

(Coastal Hwy, Rehoboth) — Crawfish Gumbo-Andouille, Anson Mills cheese grits. \$10

Now, on another note — check out **99 Sea Level**, Bethany Beach. It opened about 3 years ago and is located in part in the new Marriott Hotel on Hollywood St. and the Boardwalk. It's a very inviting, comfortable place to enjoy a Happy Hour,

lunch or dinner. Sitting at the roomy, boat shaped bar one can view the boardwalk and ocean, as well as from the indoor and outdoor dining areas. We were told the menu is in process of some changes, but it will still boast farm to table seafood fare, supporting local sources. The Coconut shrimp appetizer acceptable, but sauce too spicy for me, but definitely not Mike! The Crostini Trio was quite unusual, but tasty.

The Asian Pear Flatbread a little on the sweet side. According to an employee, the "Build Your Own Seafood Tower" is a very popular seller.

Surely, the restaurant will be a popular spot during the "Season".

Hopefully, Mike's list above will encourage those of you who love hot spicy foods to venture out and let him know of your reactions to his suggestions. For those of you who are like me, not a hot spicy eater, there are other options at all of the above eateries! As for 99 Sea Level, we'll be anxious to hear your comments.

Cheers!

## BUY-THE-SEA GIFT SHOP

*Clear recycling trash bags  
for cottages and apartments  
Gifts, jewelry, watches  
Greeting cards  
Hearing aid batteries  
Cadbury logo items  
Toiletries, sundries  
Candy, ice cream  
Snapple, Coke  
Stamps*

**Celebrate  
Butterflies  
with a print by  
Judy Burgess**

Open: M-F 11 am to 3 pm, S 11 am to 1 pm  
Proceeds benefit TMALRA activities





## Library Lines

by Judy Burgess

The second annual History Book Festival will be held on the 28 and 29 of September. The keynote speaker will be Blanch Wiesen Cook. Ms. Cook will be speaking about her third (and final) volume of her biography on Eleanor Roosevelt.

Our library has the first volume, *Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884 - 1933*. We are ordering her second volume and will be purchasing the third volume at the Festival. Other sessions will be held on Saturday, the 29th. The rest of the schedule has not been finalized quite

yet. Last year's program included four different locations in Lewes with various authors speaking at different times during the day, a total of 18 sessions.

Once a month, on Wednesday afternoons, 2 p.m., the Lewes Library holds discussions featuring one of the history books presented during the first Festival. The authors are skyped and respond to questions, such as their methods for researching their manuscripts and their reasons for choosing their topics. The books to be discussed will be available to borrow for the month before. The book to be discussed on May 16 is *Bunny Mellon, the Life of an American Style Legend*, by Meryl Gordon. These sessions are very interesting and are open to everyone.

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## Upcoming Programs for May and June

by Rich Woolley

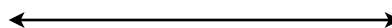
*Programs are held in the Kalmar Nyckel Auditorium at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted*

**Tuesday May 15** will be an evening for learning about the Marine Life of Delaware Bay and coast presented by Bob Bachand.

The Delaware Bay is the estuary outlet of the Delaware River. Consisting of about 782 miles, the bay's fresh water mixes with the salt water of the Atlantic Ocean. In this unique habitat can be found a great variety of marine life including dolphin, star fish, sharks, horseshoe crabs and much more.

Bob will share his knowledge about this important part of our environment.

Denny and Patty will be staying on campus and are interested in our community. Please introduce yourself and welcome these special guests. They are coming quite a distance to share information and their love of wolves.



**Friday, June 22** will be a follow-up to the program about the Wolf Sanctuary.

A powerpoint presentation created by middle-school student Emily Karolczak, will provide some amazing facts about the life and behavior of wolves.

Following this a documentary, *In the Valley of the Wolves*, will be shown. It is about one of the largest wolf packs ever documented. These wolves were brought to Yellowstone Park to help reestablish a balanced ecosystem and they are given recognition for the resulting positive impact on their environment..



**Tuesday, June 19** we will have overnight guests from the Wolf Sanctuary of PA, located in Lititz, PA. Patty and Denny Binkley have been loyal volunteers for many years at this sanctuary. Denny will be giving a visual and oral presentation about the history and mission of the sanctuary. He will share stories about the special wolves and wolf-dogs that have been rescued from all over the United States and who will live out their lives safely in this natural environment.



### In Memoriam

*Dick Cleveland* (02/26/2018)

*Tom Olsen* (03/02/2018)

*Alice Parker* (03/27/2018)

*Joan Gaffney* (04/14/2018)

*John Souder* (04/14/2018)



## Memoir Memories

After taking a memoir writing class taught by Rae Tyson, several residents decided they wanted to continue. As a result, "Informal Memoirs" was added to our activity calendar.

The group meets once a month and shares what they have written. At the end of each meeting a memoirs topic is chosen for the next meeting. These meetings are both thought provoking and fun. All residents with a desire to write and learn the art of memoir writing are welcome.



### Journeys of Independence by Jane Bretnall

#### Walking

Since we were the last family on our block in suburban New York

to have a television, I watched Howdy Doody at my best friend's house. She lived two doors down on the other side of the street. I felt very grown up at five years old crossing the street by myself after dark.

When I was a little older, on summer mornings in Ocean Grove, NJ, I was allowed to walk almost a mile to Thornley Chapel. I learned the hard way freedom comes with responsibility. One afternoon I was sitting on our porch when a police car stopped at our house. My little sister was in the front seat. I had forgotten to walk her home from chapel.

#### Biking

After learning to ride a bicycle, I was tempted to become completely independent. I packed a suitcase small enough to fit in my bike basket and proceeded to runaway. I was going to go

live with my aunt who had no children and full candy dishes. I got a block from home when to my dismay I realized I did not know how to get there.

#### Driving

My driver's license provided a whole new level of independence. I remember the joy of driving a Jeep beach buggy all over St. Croix while on Christmas vacation. However, the ultimate exhilaration of freedom came the day I snuck out of school and drove off for an afternoon of playing hooky.

#### Flying

Thanksgiving break my freshman year at the College of William and Mary provided the opportunity for my first solo plane trip. I was proud of myself that I was able to get plane tickets and arrange for transportation to the airport. The experience opened new possibilities for independence and adventure.

## Veterans Tour *continued from page 1*

needed for the invasion of Japan by allied forces if the Japanese had not surrendered as a result of the raids on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today this aircraft is involved in airshows across the entire USA, including several in our area.

Our Veterans' Social meets monthly, usually the last Thursday of the month, at 3:30 PM in the auditorium. Beer and light snacks are served. Programs include outside speakers as well as reviews of military experiences by the veterans themselves. More field trips are being considered, and a visit to the Air Mobility Museum at the Dover AFB is likely to be among them.

If you are a veteran of any service, you are invited to join the group.



Back row l to r: Joe Boyle, U.S. Coast Guard; Thelma Maxey, U.S. Army; George Maxey, U.S. Army; Fred Yost, U.S. Army; George Sumereau, U.S. Navy; Jim McMullen, U.S. Air Force; Carl Jeffers, U.S. Marines; Gil Kaufman, Alcoa aluminum supplier; Bob Hein; U.S. Army.

Front row l to r: Jim Roberts, U.S. Coast Guard; Woody Seamone, U.S. Navy





## History and Human Migration

by Janet (Bunny) Guerrin

*"In a world of 100 million immigrants  
-----19 million of them refugees ---  
migration is a major social phenomenon,  
as it has been for thousands of years."*

The residents' book club recently discussed *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson which detailed the experience of three families during the massive movements of black Americans from the rural south to northern cities between WWI and WWII. The sacrifices, efforts, and changes that these travelers suffered to escape oppression and their eventual settling into new environments, were different for each individual.

Family memories and the author's insights suggested more reading to grasp the courage of these migrant people. The vast movement of populations currently crossing Europe does not yet have a literature of its own.

I reread Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, and as an adult reader I found it beautifully and compellingly descriptive of the pain of leaving home. Human kindness and family solidarity made survival possible.

In *The Dollmaker* which the bookclub has read, it is art and family that keeps the main character strong. Unlike *The Warmth of Other Suns*, *The Dollmaker* is fiction, but both books tell of 20th century migrations toward Northern cities. *The Dollmaker* is set in Appalachia and Detroit.

The previous books describe voluntary migrations of many individuals together struggling toward a better life. The 19th century relocation of the Cherokee people to the West was a brutal forced march. John Ehle's *Trail of Tears* is a richly researched history of the Cherokee adaptation to "modern civilization", the political conflicts regarding them, and finally the mismanagement of their trek to Oklahoma.

The horrors of that history brought to my mind a novel *Ohan's Inheritance*, by Alice Ohansian, which is based on the Armenian diaspora. That calamity is

still alive in memory. Friends have told me their grandparents' stories of somehow surviving the desperate march and adjusting to life in New England.

So, my reading took me overseas. Most of us have immigrant ancestors. I hope we have inherited their bravery. If I can bear it, next on my list is Thomas Sowell' 1996 book, *Migrations and Cultures*. The book begins: "In a world of 100 million immigrants..."

The *Warmth of Other Suns* is available at the Lewes Public Library, the other books are in the library at The Moorings.

### Buy-the-Sea Gift Shop Loses One Volunteer and Gains Four

by Gil Kaufman

The great work of the volunteer staff of the Buy-the-Sea Gift Shop, most of whom were identified in the last Newsletter, was recognized at a recent luncheon.

Especially noted was the loss of long-time volunteer Binky Tompkins who has left The Mooring to live closer to her three sons in Timonium, MD. It was Binky who proposed that the Gift Shop begin opening on Saturday mornings — we had not done so in the first seven years of operations. Not only that, Binky went on to say "I'll be glad to staff it," and she did so for more than three years, in addition to her regular Friday duty. Binky's efforts will be missed and we all wished her well.

Also recognized at the luncheon were four new volunteers: Diane Bair, Joan Hayes, Naomi Lowe, and Ruth Morton.

And for you Saturday shoppers, Jane Forgie has kindly offered to fill in many of those days.

# An Early History of the State of Delaware

by Bill Gehron

It is difficult to put the historical background of the state of Delaware in any logical perspective. That's, in part, because of the early cast of European settlers who laid claim to its parts starting with English explorer James Cabot in 1497 to William Penn and Lord Baltimore in the late 1700s.

Among the cast of characters beginning with Cabot are Captain John Smith, Henry Hudson, Peter Minuit, Peter Stuyvesant, Baron Del La Warr. Not to be overlooked is the role of two English and one Swedish king plus the Dutch West India Company, all in the early years of the settlement.

And while the area was home to the Lenni Lenape, Susquehanna and other Native American tribes prior to settlement by the Europeans, three groups — the English, Dutch and Swedes were the most prominent.

After conflicts among those three, James, the Duke of York and brother of King Charles II, took proprietary control over the entire area in 1664.

William Penn arrived in New Castle in 1682 with two documents: A charter for the Province of Pennsylvania and a lease for what became known as “the Lower Counties on the Delaware”.

Penn had inherited James' claim and thus began nearly 100 years of litigation between Penn and Baltimore and their heirs only to be finally settled with the heirs agreement to accept the boundaries established by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon between 1763 and 1767 (the Mason/Dixon Line).

Even then, there was a continuing debate between the two states over a small piece of land called the “Wedge” which was finally settled by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1926.

Delaware is the second smallest state in the country and has the fewest counties. Of the three countries comprising the state, Kent and Sussex were

established in 1664 and New Castle in 1680. It was not until after the American Revolution began in 1776 that the three counties became the state of Delaware.

The original European settlers were the Dutch, who sent an expedition of 30 individuals from Hoorn. That colony, established in 1631, was called Zwaaendael (the valley of the swans) and was located near Lewes on what is now the west bank of the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. It was destroyed within a year with the settlers killed and their

buildings destroyed due to a misunderstanding with the natives. It was the Swedes who in 1638 tried to establish a permanent colony in present day Wilmington. It survived as such until 1655 when it was subjugated by the Dutch who, in turn, were forced out by the English.

As mentioned earlier, in 1664 James, Duke of York, ousted the Dutch from both the Delaware and Hudson rivers leaving the Duke of York the proprietary authority in the entire area.

Signaling their hold over the entire area involved the English designating the Delaware River and Bay, the South River and the Hudson River, the North River.

Perhaps the highlight of this summary would be to recall that when the new Constitution was submitted to the 13 original states Delaware was the first to ratify it doing so on the date it assumed statehood, December 7, 1787.

This takes Delaware's history far enough to support a rich, early historical background. Its nicknames suggest as much: The First State, The Diamond State, Blue Hen State, and Small Wonder. The latter seems to sum it all up.

