



Real Possibilities

SHEPHERD PARK NEWS

CHAPTER 2667

From the Desk of the President



Melton P. Baxter
President

**Greetings and
Happy New Year!**

It is my wish that the new year brings you an abundance of amazing opportunities, bountiful moments, good health and joyful experiences.

I wish to thank each of you for your support of the Chapter in 2016 and solicit your continued support in 2017. Our goal for the new year is to continue to involve everyone to provide a creative and workable approach to our chapter's total program. We will continue our efforts to make sure our chapter operations are in compliance with established AARP principles and that members are aware of and encouraged to participate in the AARP and chapter sponsored community service activities at every opportunity.

Our plans are to continue to provide inspirational and informative programs to meet the wishes of the members and provide enjoyable trips and outings while supporting our budgeting responsibilities.

We welcome Marjorie Burke as corresponding secretary and Donna Graham and Willa Faulkner as members of the Board of Directors. We will increase our efforts to recruit new members and solicit members' participation in committee service. Thanks to Donna Graham for stepping up to the plate to serve as scholarship chairman. We are in dire need of a hospitality chairman and a budget chairman. Please consider where you would like to serve and advise me of your decision.

The year 2016 ended with the Annual Holiday Luncheon held again at Martin's Crosswinds on December 14th. We recognized the Chapter's fortieth anniversary, installation of 2017 officers and board, great live entertainment, fellowship, delicious food and much more. Thanks to the program participants, members and guests who attended. Special thanks to Ronald Dupart for coordinating an amazing event. It was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all!
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2017 Leadership Team

- President**
Melton P. Baxter
- Vice President**
Jacquelyn Short Simmons
- Recording Secretary**
Bessie Crosson
- Corresponding Secretary**
Marjorie Burke
- Treasurer**
Ronald J. Dupart
- Financial Secretary**
Charla T. Glass
- Parliamentarian**
Paula McKann
- Board of Directors**
Patricia Dickerson
Willa Faulkner
Donna Graham
Novella Nesbitt
Mary Wicks
Ceceilia B. Williamson

Committees

- Birthday Celebrations**
Constance Dickerson
- Budget**
Vacant
- Community Service**
Charla T. Glass
- Hospitality**
Vacant
- Legislative**
Bessie Crosson
- Membership**
Jacquelyn Short Simmons
- Newsletter**
Ronald J. Dupart
- Programs**
Jacquelyn Short Simmons
- Scholarship**
Donna Graham
- Standing Rules**
Vacant
- Telephone Tree**
Mary Wicks
- Trips/Outings**
Vacant
- 50/50
Wendy Bridges

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From the Desk of the President (Continued from Front Page)

Our monthly meetings will continue to be held every third Wednesday at People's United Church of Christ at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a friend. We look forward to a successful year. Wishing you happiness every day as you follow your dreams.

"The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his opportunity when it comes."

— Benjamin Disraeli ■

Membership Notes

by Jacquelyn Simmons, Chairman

Dues for 2017 will continue to be \$12 for the year. I will continue to accept checks at the February chapter meeting. Please make your check payable to AARP Chapter 2667. Cash is acceptable but checks are preferable for many reasons.

If you must pay with cash, please try to bring the exact amount so that you will not require change. A limited amount of change is kept for transactions. If there are any changes in your address, telephone number or email address, please let me know at the time that you pay your dues so that I will have proper information for the 2017

Financial Directory which will I plan to have ready by the March meeting.

During our Christmas Party, we celebrated the chapter's 40 years of service. We honored our founder, Ethel Andrus and past presidents of Chapter 2667 who have served us well. Please invite guests to our meetings and try to recruit new members. ■

In Memoriam

● On December 2, 2016, **Dorothy Carter Tuckson**, Golden Member, passed peacefully in her sleep. Her funeral was held on Monday, December 12, 2016, at Albright Memorial United Methodist Church, 409 Rittenhouse St., NW, Washington, DC 20011. Several Chapter members attended the funeral and repast, that was held at the V.I.P. Room, 6201 3rd St., NW, Washington, DC. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate a donation to: Capital Area Food Bank, 202-644-4800, www.capitalareafoodbank.org. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to her daughter, Sheena Farthing Tuckson, 27 Milmarson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20011, 202-882-1652, stuckson@aol.com.



Dorothy Carter Tuckson

● It is with sadness that we announce the passing of inactive member, **Norris Capers**. Norris was the husband of the late Brittanica Capers (d. 2009) who also was a member of our Chapter. Norris is survived by his son, Selvy Norris Capers (Lola) and his daughter, Cheryl Capers Hogans. His service was held on Monday, January 9th at Northminster Presbyterian Church, 7720 Alaska Avenue, NW. The viewing was at 10 am followed by the funeral service at 11 am. Norris' burial was scheduled at Arlington National Cemetery for a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to Allen University GAAAU Foundation Inc. (Payee) Scholarship Fund in honor of Brittanica Wright Capers, c/o Freddie Brown, Sr., P.O. Box 29622, Washington, DC 20017. Please keep the Norris family in your prayers.

● We received word on January 10, 2017 that **Louis Griffin** had passed. His memorial service was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, 10:00 a.m., at St. Stephen & the Incarnation Episcopal Church, 1525 Newton St., NW. At one time, Louis was an integral part of Chapter 2667. He was the person who prepared our yearly budget and also handled the 50-50 raffle. Some of you who may have known him better, may know of many other activities in which he might have been involved. He was also very active with the seniors at the Fort Stevens Recreation Center. Please keep Louis and his family in your prayers.

● Shirley Powell lost her mother, **Anna B. Greene**. Service was held on Friday, February 3, 2017, Berean Baptist Church, 924 Madison St., NW, Viewing: 10:00 a.m., Funeral: 11:00 a.m. Cards/condolences may be sent to Shirley at: 6724 13th Place, NW, Washington, DC 20012. Please keep Shirley and her family in your prayers. ■

Trips and Outings

by Ronald Dupart & Mary Wicks

PENCIL in the date of Wednesday, June 21, 2017 for the Spirit of Washington Cruise. A registration flyer will be distributed at the February 15th chapter membership meeting. PARKING is FREE and we can park at SAFEWAY parking lot without any problem. The distance from Safeway to cruise line is about 7 minutes.

Sixty-three members and guests registered for the Annual Holiday Luncheon at Martin's Crosswinds on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. Attendance was down from previous years. It was a grand affair, executed with class and elegance. It was unfortunate that more members did not attend. Martin's required a guaranteed meal count of 75 in order to book its facility. As a result, the Chapter sustained a financial deficit of \$649.22.

The results of a survey conducted at the January membership meeting showed that a plurality of members expressed a preference to return to Martin's this year. Several other suggested venues were listed in the survey, including La Fon-

taine Bleue, Old Ebbitt Grill, El Golfo, the Odyssey Cruise Ship, the Spirit of Washington Cruise Ship, the V.I.P. Room and Medieval Times.

Martin's Crosswinds has offered a proposal to host the 2017 Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, December 13th based on a guaranteed meal count of 60. This will result in a significant reduction in cost and allow us to lower the price to \$60.00 pp. The Chapter Board approved the proposal at its February meeting. Members are encouraged to increase attendance by inviting guests and members of other AARP chapters to our 2017 Luncheon.

The 2017 trips and outings activities will be coordinated by various committees as opposed to one central committee. Andrew Mickens has volunteered to coordinate the Spirit of Washington cruise in June. A fall outing is uncertain. Volunteers are requested to select and coordinate this activity. Ronald Dupart and Mary Wicks will again coordinate this year's Holiday Luncheon. Suggestions for future trips and outings are welcome! ■

"An Old Fashioned Christmas"

Holiday Luncheon



The 2016 Annual AARP Shepherd Park Chapter 2667 Holiday Luncheon was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at the plush Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt, Maryland. Sixty-three members and guests registered for the event. "An Old Fashioned Christmas" was the chosen theme, celebrating Christmas in high fashion and style. Chapter President Melton Baxter graciously served as Mistress of Ceremonies. In addition to the sumptuous buffet meal and festive decorations, Jacquelyn Short Simmons, vocalist, added a jazzy swing to the holiday spirit with Vincent Smith on keyboard and Wesley Biles on bass. Jacqui also presented a beautiful tribute to Chapter 2667 in salute of its 40th Anniversary. Special thanks to Donna Graham who donated the fun door prizes and Ronald Dupart who donated the colorful table centerpieces. Denise Rolark Barnes, Publisher of *The Washington Informer*, served as both guest speaker and Installing Officer. Ronald Dupart and Mary Wicks coordinated the event. Bessie Crosson is acknowledged for assisting in planning the program and Andrew Mickens, Lula McLaughlin, Cecelia Williamson and Wendy Bridges for their support and participation. We were all so very pleased with the splendid service and accommodations provided by the Martin Crosswinds banquet staff. Despite all the wonderful things that can be said of this affair, we look forward to our 2017 "Party" that will be even better! See you there!!! ■

AARP TAX-AIDE

February 1 was the official launch of AARP Foundation Tax-Aide's 2017 tax season. IRS-Certified Tax-Aide volunteers offer free tax preparation assistance to low-to-moderate 50-plus income taxpayers at more than 5,000 locations nationwide.

Share the site locator tool with your chapter, church, family, friends.

https://secure.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action?cmp=RDRCT-FNDTX_DEC23_010. ■

Through the Looking Glass by Dave Minges, *Land Marks*, Fall/Winter 2016 (Excerpts)

"Shortly after Larry Glass and his wife Charla acquired Flintstone, they chose to preserve it in a conservation easement co-held since by the Potomac Conservancy and Maryland Environmental Trust. Larry Glass, Scientist, writer, gardener, hunter, grandfather — senses and thinks deeply about nature and his place in it. Flintstone is that place — subtle, complex, diverse, growing, changing and fascinating. Flintstone is a labor of love and a love of labor: tree planting and habitat creation, forest management, hand built rock walls and organic gardening.



Charla and Larry Glass at Flintstone, their 90-acre property in Allegheny County, MD

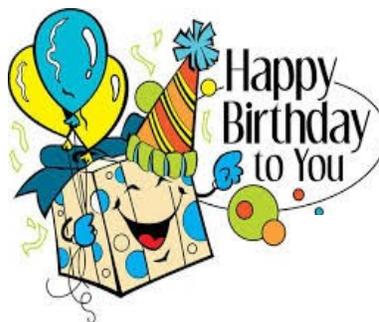
Deer, bear, turkey and coyotes roam through the 90 acres of wooded ridges and meadow hollows near the Green Ridge State Forest in Allegheny County. Larry shares a very personal, nonjudgmental view of the human/land relationship, writing that, "The work that we have done for Flintstone reflects an evolving philosophy that values unobtrusive support and sustenance of land."

even amid modern life. Time at Flintstone reconnects his suburban extended life to the pace and perspective of green space. Their son, Jordon, helped mark boundaries and plant trees. Larry knows that he can help support the land just as it helps to support him. That mutual respect and appreciation lights the view through the Glass of Flintstone." ■

Larry sees the primordial pull of nature in us all,

JANUARY

BOSIER, Fannie (1/26)
BRAILEY, Jewerlean (1/2)
GREENE, Alma E. (1/18)
HERRIOTT, Adrienne (1/19)
HODGE, Victoria E. (1/21)
JOHNSON, Gwendolyn (1/26)
LEE, Rosa L. (1/25)
MICKENS, Andrew (1/15)
SPENCER, Billie (1/18)



FEBRUARY

CURSEEN, Amy (2/9)
HAWKINS, Brin (2/1)
JONES, Judi (2/21)
NESBITT, Novella (2/4)
RAMOS, Barbara* (2/9)
SMACKUM, JoAnne (2/6)
SMITH, Fonseca L. (2/6)
TAYLOR, Cynthia (2/2)
WILLIAMS, Lillian R. (2/4)

* Golden Member

THE LAST CAB RIDE: A beautiful reminder about what life is really about

I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I honked again. Since this was going to be the last ride of my shift I thought about just driving away. But instead I put the car in park and walked up to the door and knocked... "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor.

After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 90's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.

"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she asked. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother to be treated." "Oh, you're such a good boy," she said.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly.. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice." I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued in a soft voice. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow down in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now".

We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I answered. "You have to make a living," she said. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. *It was the sound of the closing of a life...*

For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware, beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, BUT THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL...

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance! ■

SHEPHERD PARK NEWS

Chapter 2667



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- 20% off digital hearing aids
- Risk-Free 90 day trial
- Free 3-year supply of batteries
- Free 3-year warranty

The *Shepherd Park News* newsletter is published five times each year. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization for people age 50 and over. AARP is dedicated to enhancing quality of life for all as we age. We lead positive social change and deliver value to members via information, advocacy and service.

AARP also provides a wide range of unique benefits, special products and services for our members. These benefits include the AARP Web site at www.aarp.org, "AARP The Magazine," and the monthly "AARP Bulletin."

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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