

**Community Relations Committee  
MINUTES  
January 5, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM in the Lawton Center Art Room.

Members Present: Wicca Davidson (Chair), Julie Stanish, Ann Wild, Aki Peritz, Julie Trocchio, Barbara Rose, Nilmini Rubin, and Scott Foster (Committee liaison).

A motion to pass the November minutes was made by Barbara Rose and seconded by Julie Stanish. The minutes were then unanimously approved by those who had attended the meeting.

**Old Business—Events/Community Service:**

- Movie Nights for Families: *Monkey Kingdom*, shown on Friday, December 2, was very well attended, with a full house of 65-70. Although there were some technical problems with the projector at the beginning, parents and children enjoyed the event. On Friday, January 6, *The Secret Life of Pets* will be shown. Over 60 people have RSVP'd for this event already, and Committee members are encouraged to come and help.
- Movie Nights for Grown-Ups: *Seymour, An Introduction*, was shown on Friday, December 9. This documentary explores how pianist Seymour Bernstein gave up his many years of performing for teaching others and shows him discussing his passion for music and his philosophy of life. The movie was well attended by more than 45 people. The feedback after the showing was that this was a wonderful film and enjoyed by all. Both the movie and the wine and snacks were praised. On Friday, January 13, *Dior and I* will be featured. The movie takes the viewer inside the storied world of the Christian Dior fashion house with a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of Raf Simons' first haute couture collection as its new artistic director. Committee members are encouraged to attend to help in setting out the snacks and pouring wine.
- Winter Outerwear Clothing Drive: Ann Wild reported that the Town Office staff have taken eight large bags of warm winter clothing and accessories to Interfaith Works, which provides clothing and more for individuals of all ages who are in need. Since Bethesda Cares only accepts clothing for men, only one bag has gone to them since donations of men's clothing to the Clothing Drive has been low. The drive will continue through February 28.
- Town Coffee: Nilmini Rubin will host this event at her home on Friday, January 13. Hopefully, we will have other Town residents in the future host Town Coffees. There will be an invitation in the *Forecast* encouraging volunteers.
- Round House Theatre: Barbara Rose reported that the play, *Miss Bennet, Christmas at Pemberley* on Thursday, December 15, was wonderful, although only three Town residents participated. Tickets had been offered at a discounted price. The Committee discussed possible factors associated with poor attendance, including some difficulties in

registration, the December date (which may have conflicted with holiday events and preparations), and the fact that some people do not care for Jane Austin. The Committee decided to proceed planning the February showing at Round House, *Caroline, or Change* (a musical), on Thursday, February 23. Barbara Rose will write the *Forecast Article*.

- Discussion & Desserts: Nilmini Rubin is still working on getting a date for the well-known journalist. The Committee discussed other possible speakers.
- Holiday Gift Drive: Ann Wild reported that \$3,755 was collected in checks and gift cards to help brighten the holidays for adults and their children who have suffered domestic violence. In addition, nine Town families adopted recipient families to provide gifts for each family member. The outpouring from Town residents exceeded that of last year. The receiving agency, Montgomery County's Family Justice Center, was extremely appreciative of the Town's generosity. The success of the Holiday Gift Drive, along with that of the Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets Drive, will be reported in the February *Forecast*.
- Food Competition: Last year's Soup's On! competition was a great success, with all ages participating. The Committee decided that this year the competition, to be held on Sunday, March 19, will feature cookies for the competition. It was suggested we have categories for bakers under and over age 18, but no decision on that was made. Nilmini Rubin and Wicca Davidson will be co-coordinators of the event.
- Chili Dinner: This annual event, which is the Town's second largest yearly gathering, will be held Sunday, February 26, at Chevy Chase Elementary School. Approximately 220 people are expected. The menu will be vegetarian and meat chilis, hot dogs, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, and ice cream sundaes. The Committee prefers that vendors serve the food, if possible. Wicca Davidson and Julie Stanish are investigating vendors and asking for bids. All Committee members are encouraged to participate and help.

### **Old Business—Communications:**

- Welcome Package: Wicca Davidson reported that this project is about to be launched. She asked the Committee for someone to take charge of this project.

### **New Business—Events:**

- Spring Art Show: After talking with Town resident and artist, Katie Vita, Ann Wild reported that the bi-annual Art Show will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 28 (includes a wine reception) and 29. Katie Vita is once again willing to curate the show and work with the Committee to publicize, organize, and help run it. Ann requested that other Committee members volunteer to serve as co-chair with her for this event.

- Magic Show: Michael Chamberlain will again present a Magic Show for Town children on Friday, February 3, at 6 PM. This event is always very popular and gets a large audience.
- Movie Night for Grown-Ups: The movie *Weiner!* will be screened on Friday, February 10. The documentary follows Anthony Weiner and his wife Huma Abedin, beginning with his time in Congress, followed by his 2011 resignation after sexually objectionable photos of him appeared on Twitter, but then focuses mostly on his unsuccessful primary run in 2013 to become mayor of New York City. Savory snacks and wine will be served, and Committee members are requested to assist.
- Lulu's Fate Concert: Wicca Davidson will check with Tom Espinola, the leader of the band, to see if they are available to perform on Friday, March 10.
- Rockville Concert Band: Julie Stanish will check with the band to plan a spring event on Sunday, May 21. Food trucks will also be organized to allow residents to eat as they enjoy the music. This event proved to be very successful in the past.
- Future Events: The Committee discussed possible future events, which will be decided on later.

### **Other Business:**

- Committee Operations: The Committee discussed the need for additional members, as well as the need for members to take on leadership roles in planning and coordinating events. Scott Fosler approved an announcement in the February *Forecast* requesting new members and emphasizing that the Committee is one that is a “hands-on” working committee.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Trocchio

Edited by Ann Wild