

“  
And really, it wasn't much good having  
anything exciting like floods, if you  
couldn't share them with somebody.  
~A. A. MILNE”

Come join the **DAY TRIPS CLUB** and **THE MEN'S CLUB** in their joint trip to this **POP CULTURE MUSEUM...**

**AMERICAN TREASURE  
TOUR MUSEUM**



**AMERICAN TREASURE TOUR MUSEUM**

One American Treasure Way • Oaks, PA 19456

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2026**

**The Museum Tour is on an escorted Tram!**

MUSEUM TRAM TOUR COST: **\$16 per person**

WE WILL BE CAR POOLING. **DRIVERS are NEEDED!**

We will be leaving **from the Clubhouse promptly at 10 AM.**

Following the museum tour, we will be going to lunch at **Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant**, 160 N Gulph Rd., King of Prussia, PA 19406. Lunch is at your expense. Please **check box** if you are planning to on going to lunch.

If you would like to visit the American Treasure Tour Museum, please drop off your non-refundable check in the amount of **\$16 payable to Villas at Five Ponds Social Committee to Merryl Pelberg**, 103 Villa Drive, 215-443-8588 or **Steve Warshaw**, 24 Villa Drive, 215-674-4894 **by March 31**. There will be collection bags on their front doors.

Checks are due by **no later than March 31, 2026.**

**AMERICAN TREASURE TOUR MUSEUM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#/E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NO. of TICKETS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/ We will be going to MAGGIANO'S for lunch. No. of Seats \_\_\_\_\_

A Warm up from the cold with our trip to...

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HOT TIN  
ROOF**



**CAT ON A HOT  
TIN ROOF**

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**WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 6TH, 2026**

Cost of Show & Bus: **\$79. per person**

Bus will leave from the clubhouse promptly at 11 AM.

Lunch at *The Deck* (at your expense)

**LIMITED NUMBER OF SEATS AVAILABLE!**

Please make your non-refundable check for \$79. per person to "Villas at Five Ponds Social Committee" and deliver to:

Reba Grossman, 235 Fairway Drive,  
215-675-6883 (bag on her door) or

Barbara Kains, 114 Villa Drive,  
215-444-9908 (box by her front door.)

*Do not put your checks in their mail boxes!*

**CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE#/EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF SEATS \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

■ THE VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS EXECUTIVE BOARD

### CLUBHOUSE RESTORATION UPDATE

The day after the sprinkler pipe break caused a flood on Monday, February 9, 2026, Easter Diversified Services, a full-service restoration company, was engaged.

They removed the base boards enabling the existing holes from a previous flood incident in January of 2014, to aid in the drying out of the wood in the Clubhouse.

They brought in many large dehumidifying devices to dry out the entire building.

The building is now dry, and we are in a queue of many commercial buildings awaiting a next step proposal from EDS. Unfortunately, due to the recent spell of extremely cold weather restoration companies are overwhelmed.

We will keep you posted on progress toward re-opening.

### CARD PLAYING LOCATIONS

As the clubhouse is closed for repairs, residents may be for places to play cards for the next several months.

Lorraine Incollingo is investigating the use of Wegman's facilities on the mezzanine level as a possibility. Lorraine is expecting an update next week on their rules for using the facility and its availability. *Updates will be announced.*

### MEETINGS POSPONED DUE TO CLUBHOUSE FLOOD

As the clubhouse is closed due to the flood, the April 14th Bingo

as well as the meeting scheduled for next week to discuss the event is postponed until the clubhouse is reopened.

### POOL HEATER

We have had a new indoor pool water heater installed.

### ROOF ISSUES

The Villas at Five Ponds Board on Monday, February 16, 2026 met with Jim Stevens, Vice President of Continental Management, Amy Wert, Property Manager of The Villa at Five Ponds, Mario Augilar, President of Lemus Construction and Victor Lemus, owner and founder of the company, to discuss the issues that of some of our residents are having, where moisture has penetrated into their homes.

As a reminder, all issues that residents believe are roof related for two years from the completion date of your roof should be reported to our property manager and she will process a work order to Lemus. After the two-year period, all future issues will need to be reported through the GAF contact information provided in your warranty information which was postal mailed from Lemus Construction to you.

To date to the best of our knowledge Lemus has responded to all legitimate requests reported to the property manager. At the meeting, a plan to move forward was agreed upon and shortly, all who have had problems will receive a detailed letter from Lemus regarding next steps.

### TRASH TRUCK DANGER

On Wednesday, February 18th, one of our residents came very close to getting hit by a trash truck that was backing up while they were out of their car getting mail.

The Trash company has been informed that their driver must be more careful and also we asked that all residents be aware on trash pick up day to be extra careful when anywhere on the street their is a truck close by, thank you.



Allen Bornstein, Ashlee Check, Deena Check

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The Villa's Voice newspaper is an independently owned and operated enterprise providing information as a public service.

All views expressed in credited columns are those of the individual writer(s). They are not necessarily the opinions of The Villa's Voice staff, The Villas at Five Ponds management company, Board or of the VFP Association.

As our community members, your comments and remarks are invited on any shared topic of interest.

~The Villa's Voice Staff



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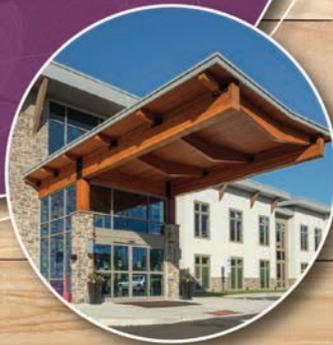
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BRYAN CRANSTON ANNETTE BENING  
**JERRY & MARGE GO LARGE**

**THE VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS MOVIE CLUB**  
*By Popular Request!*

**NEW DATE!**

WHAT IF EVERY TIME YOU PLAYED THE LOTTERY, you knew you would win? That’s the feeling that Jerry and Marge Selbee experienced whenever they played the Massachusetts lottery from 2003 to 2012. Not only that, but they didn’t keep it to themselves—they involved their entire community! Of course, there’s a “bad guy” to spoil the fun.

Starring Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening, it’s a serio-comic take on actual events which you’re sure to enjoy!

*“Based on the true story about long-married couple Jerry and Marge Selbee, who win the lottery and use the money to revive their small town.”*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19th, 2026 at 7:30 PM**

- Check-in begins at 7 PM • Movie begins promptly at 7:30 PM
- Refreshments will be served
- No Walk-Ins • Reservations Required
- **Deadline for reservations: Wednesday, March 11th, 2026**
- Cost: **\$3 per person**

**Questions?** Call Beth Edelman, 215-407-0177, Jimmie Edelman, 215-470-7212, Susan Budman, 215-858-3614 or Alan Budman, 215-858-9314.

**JERRY AND MARGE GO LARGE**

Please send your non-refundable payment made out to “Villas at Five Ponds Social Committee” along with this coupon to Beth and Jimmie Edelman, 201 Fairway Drive.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTION:**  
 WHAT’S RETURNING TO THE VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS SOON?

**ANSWER:**



**WHEN???**

**ANSWER: JUNE 19TH, 2026**

**SAVE THIS DATE!!!**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2026**

Check-In begins at 7 PM • Games start promptly at 7:30 PM

- **Space Is Limited • Reservations Will Be Taken in April**
- **BYOB**
- **Light Refreshments • CASH PRIZES! • No Walk-Ins**

**COST: \$12 pp** There will be a maximum of 10 teams— **10 People per team, per table.** (Pick your teammates for their “smarts”—not because they are your best friends!)

**QUESTIONS** or if you need help filling your table: Call Ron Gordon at 215-674-3838 or 215-884-4000.

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### TABLE GAMES (DOMINOES, RUMMIKUB & SEQUENCE) AT FIVE PONDS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING

■ DONNA BESIGNANO

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS for a friendly, pickup game of either Rummikub, Mexican Train Dominoes or Sequence.

Don't know how to play? We'll teach you. Newbies always welcome. No stress, just fun!

We get together EVERY Thursday at 7 PM in the Clubhouse and play according to the following schedule:

- 1st & 3rd Thursdays—Mexican Train Dominoes
- 2nd & 4th Thursdays—Rummikub
- 5th Thursdays—Sequence OR Players Choice

(Check the calendar in *The Villa's Voice* for our regular schedule.)

For questions, call Donna Besignano 908-672-1092.

NOTE: If it is a Rummikub night and you have your own portable Rummikub, please bring it along to make sure that we have enough for everyone.

### PING PONG PLAYERS WANTED!

■ JOE KWIATEK

PING PONG is played every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 2 to 3:30 PM in the Clubhouse Sports Lounge. Join us.

For information, talk to us in the Clubhouse while we play.



### JOIN US AT THE 5 PONDS KNITTING & CRAFTING GROUP

Are you creative? Can you read a pattern?

■ DONNA BESIGNANO

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 2:00 to 3:30 PM in the Clubhouse.

(Check the calendar in *The Villa's Voice* for any changes to our regular schedule.)

Bring your own portable craft that you are working on and share the friendship of the evening.

Call Donna Besignano 908-672-1092.

**NOTICE!**  
ALL on site activities are on hold & NOT RUNNING until clubhouse flood repairs are completed. PLEASE CHECK with activity/club leaders to find out if temporary off site activities have been scheduled.



### YOGA CLASSES ■ RON DORFMAN

THERE IS A NEW SESSION AVAILABLE of our Chair Yoga class. The next Friday class begins on February 27, 2026 at 10:30 AM in the clubhouse. Monday sessions continue throughout February.

Also, a Mat Yoga class began on December 17th at 9:30 AM. Anyone interested in joining any of the classes, please contact Sue Tonik at 267-987-4059 or by email at pepita5210@aol.com.

### PROJECT LINUS GROUP PROJECT!

■ KATHY O'BRIEN

THIS CHILD'S fleece blanket was recently completed by our community volunteers for Project Linus. It is so rewarding to provide security and comfort to children with this easy group project.

We get together in the Clubhouse on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:30 PM. We'd love to have you join us.

Questions? Call Kathy O'Brien 215-674-4729.





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<u>Status</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Asking Price</u>
PENDING	100 Villa Drive	\$729,000
SOLD	9 Fairway Drive	\$679,900
SOLD	95 Villa Drive	\$680,000
SOLD	159 Villa Drive	\$725,000

Data supplied by Bright MLS (06/30/2025—1/15/2026). Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



*Jake Samson works on the Data Science team at Aramark Sports & Entertainment after completing a Masters of Business Analytics with a Sports Business Concentration at Drexel University. Jake is the grandson of longtime residents Beverly and Larry Samson.*

## MARCH MADNESS

■ JAKE SAMSON,  
THE VILLA'S VOICE GUEST SPORTS REPORTER

MY FAVORITE TIME OF YEAR is when the weather starts to get warmer (I hope) and March

Madness is there to get us out of the winter time and kick our spring off in the best way possible. For those that aren't familiar, March Madness is the top 68 teams in College Basketball facing off in a tournament that lasts between mid March and early April.

College Basketball has become a totally new game though with the passing of the NIL rules. With the players now having the ability to get paid for play, teams now have budgets to build their teams. Depending on the level of competition and donors, sometimes these budgets can stretch to the millions!

How are the best teams determined? That is a great question. There are 68 teams selected, but 31 of them are what we call "auto-bids". There are 31 conferences (the Big Ten, the Big 12, Ivy League etc.) where the winner of their conference tournament automatically gets into March Madness. Those conference winners are from your

power conferences but also will be from smaller conferences giving teams like New Mexico State, Belmont, Colgate and more to get in and play meaningful "playoff" basketball.

Then, the next 37 teams are filled and they are called "at-large" bids. There is a selection committee that fills in the rest of the field based on record, strength of schedule, "quality wins", "bad losses" and any other advanced metrics they feel are worthwhile. This inherently gives the teams in stronger conferences an advantage, as they have played much harder schedules in their conference compared to a lesser conference. For example, there is a better chance of a 20-12 Indiana (who plays in a harder conference) is getting into the tournament compared to a 26-6 Pepperdine.

Although March Madness often produces upsets, here are the top 10 teams as we are just about 3 weeks away from the bracket being set! Note that these rankings are not my own, but by Ken Pomeroy who is very much the college basketball data nerd.

Michigan; Duke; Arizona; Illinois; Florida; Houston; Purdue; Iowa State; Michigan State; Gonzaga

Why is this my favorite time of year? The pure chaos that happens and just the sheer amount of games in such a short period of time. There are 16 games each on the first 2 days of the tournament, where everywhere you look, there is a close finish upcoming.

Selection Sunday (where the bracket is created) is March 15th, and the tournament begins on Thursday March 19th.



— JUST LISTED —

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**JOIN THE PROGRAM CLUB  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2026  
AT 7 PM...**

## 50 CHILDREN

*The Rescue Mission of  
Mr. & Mrs. Kraus*

**NEW  
DATE!**

Tentative, due to  
Clubhouse  
remediation in  
progress.



A Documentary Film produced & directed by Steven Pressman  
Narrated by Alan Alda • Presented by Shari Herman Glaiser

**Wednesday JUNE 24, 2026 • 7PM**

**Clubhouse Multipurpose Room • \$5 p/p**

Doors Open 6:30 PM • No Walk-Ins • No Payments at the door

IN SPRING 1939, a Philadelphia Jewish couple, Gilbert and Eleanor Kraus, with the support of Brith Sholom, embarked on a bold plan to rescue 50 Jewish children from Nazi-occupied Vienna.

Kurt Herman, 9 years old, was one of the children rescued in this Kindertransport to Philadelphia.

The film based on Eleanor Kraus' memoir, *Don't Wave Goodbye*, tells the gripping story of two ordinary people who became extraordinary heroes.

Shari Herman Glaiser, Kurt Herman's daughter and a board member of the Holocaust Awareness Museum, will share Kurt's story as a Holocaust survivor and her experience as a second generation family member. She has been sharing Kurt's story for 12 years to keep his story alive and to encourage and support second generation family members in telling their stories.

### 50 CHILDREN: FILM AND DISCUSSION

Please return this completed slip and your non-refundable payment or check payable to: *The Villas at Five Ponds Social Committee*

\_\_\_\_ Seat(s) Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 p/p

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Place this completed slip and your non-refundable payment in the bag on the front door of Suzanne Yeager 66 Villa Drive

Any questions? Call Suzanne (215) 394-8157

Sign-ups and payments accepted until Wednesday, June 18, 2026.



We invite you to join the Lunch Bunch on  
**Thursday, March 26th**  
at the  
**Grey Stone Inn**

**Time:** Noon

**Location:** 552 Washington Crossing Road, Newtown

**Cost:** \$40 p/p

#### Menu:

- Greystone Salad
- Entrée (Choose 1)
  - Chicken Marsala with mushrooms with mashed potatoes and vegetable.
  - Salmon with Mustard Sauce with Mashed Potatoes and vegetable.
  - Vodka Rigatoni (vegetarian)
- Dessert: Tiramisu
- Soft drinks, tea, coffee

**Limited Seating. Please RSVP by March 10.**

Please drop off your non-refundable check for \$40 payable to The Villas at Five Ponds Social Committee with your entrée selection to Diane Polsky, 84 Villa Drive, 203-733-3929. **Lunch: March 26 • Snow Date: March 27**

#### GREY STONE INN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Entrée choice** (please select one)...

Chicken  Salmon  Gluten free Salmon  Pasta

Seating Request (up to 8) \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSTED BY RITA, SHARI & SHERYL**

**WATCH FOR BINGO TO BE RESCHEDULED  
AS SOON AS CLUBHOUSE REPAIRS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.**

# Milestones, & Memories, Messages

THIS SECTION features personal community messages, extended family notes, and special events. Your free listing is welcomed.

Please provide information and/or photo via email by the 15th of the month preceding publication. Send to: [RonaldDorfmanDesign@comcast.net](mailto:RonaldDorfmanDesign@comcast.net)



Thank You

Graduations, weddings, special birthdays, anniversaries, travels?  
Send pictures & info for this page to  
[ronalddorfmandesign@comcast.net](mailto:ronalddorfmandesign@comcast.net)

## GOOD NEWS in the NEIGHBORHOOD

### NOW IN PRINCETON PHD PROGRAM

TEDDY PRESS, grandson of Dave & Elvy Reilly was just accepted into the PhD program at Princeton.

His research interest is biological chemistry. He was awarded a MS and is now a PhD Candidate.

His work will include teaching while pursuing research.



Teddy Press

### FIVE PONDS SINGLES ■ MERRYL PELBERG

THE FIVE PONDS SINGLES had an interesting and fun few months. In January, twenty-five of us braved the cold, snowy weather and met for a delicious lunch at Bonefish Grill in Willow Grove. We ate, talked a lot, laughed a lot and just enjoyed a fun afternoon together. On February 12, a group of us went to the Barnes Foundation on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia to enjoy the *Henri Rousseau—A Painter's Exhibit* exhibition. We broke up into two groups with two Docents. The exhibition was wonderful. Following the tour, we enjoyed a boxed lunch at the Museum. A fun day was had by all.

Our committees are in the midst of planning shows, activities and outings which will conclude with our closing luncheon in June. We always meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 PM in the Clubhouse Multipurpose room. Due to the temporary closing of our Clubhouse, our March meeting will be a dinner meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at the *Break Time Family Restaurant*, 41 York Road, Warminster, PA at 4:30 PM. We will meet for dinner and have the meeting at the same time.

If you are Single and would like to get together with good friends and neighbors for fun outings, theater and good times, come out and join us at the *Break Time Family Restaurant* on March 4.



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

■ AILEEN SALUS, CHAIR

SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER—really it is! Although our clubhouse is closed, the members of the Social Committee are busy planning future events and rescheduling those activities that had to be canceled.

Kathy Lunde and Suzanne Yeager are working with our treasurer, Holly Green, to refund money to those people who had paid for Music Bingo. Kathy and Suzanne are planning to reschedule music bingo in the Fall.

Hoping that the clubhouse will reopen in a few months, Kathy and Suzanne have worked with our neighbor, Shari Glauser, to reschedule her presentation, *50 Children: Holocaust*. That will be held on Wednesday, June 24 at 7 PM.

On March 26 the Lunch Bunch will hold their next luncheon at *Greystone Inn in Newtown*. Contact Diane Polsky for more information.

The Day Trip committee and the Men's Club are working together to schedule a trip on Wednesday, April 22 to the *American Treasure Tour Museum* in Oaks, PA, followed by lunch at Maggiano's in King of Prussia. Look for the ad in this month's *Voice* and contact Merryl Pelberg or Steve Warshaw for more information.

So, despite the fact that our clubhouse is closed, the members of the Social Committee are forging ahead and planning a number of events for the coming months. We hope you will support us and all the work we put into these activities.



## HELPING HANDS CLUB

■ MARY LANGDON, CHAIR

TO OUR NEIGHBORS who are celebrating a birthday or anniversary during the month of March, the Helping Hands Club of The Villas at Five Ponds wish you a happy day.

- GET WELL WISHES to those who are ill.
- CONDOLENCES to Barbara Platt & family on the passing of our dear friend & neighbor, Barry; and to Susan & Steven Gelfand on the passing of their beloved daughter; and to the family & friends of our former neighbor, Marion Gittis, sister of Roy Freiman (Joan).

Please tell us if you know of anyone who is ill/hospitalized, lost a loved one, or just needs a “helping hand.”

Contact Mary Langdon, 30 Villa Drive, 215-441-8093.

### HELP IS AVAILABLE! ■ MARY LANGDON

IF YOU ARE RECOVERING from an illness or are home-bound we would like to help. Would you like a visit? Need errands run?

Please consider using Helping Hands. We have “Hands” ready to assist the needs of our residents. Contact Mary Langdon, 30 Villa Drive, 215-441-8093.



**Social Committee**

*Chair:*  
Aileen Salus, 104 Villa Drive  
215-441-9339; asalus1945@gmail.com

*Treasurer:*  
Holly Green, 275 Fairway Drive  
215-805-8597; mngreen@verizon.net

*Assistant Treasurer:*  
Michael Silverman, 96 Villa Drive,  
215-989-0417; drfood9410@aol.com

*Recording Secretary:*  
Alan Budman, 13 Five Ponds Circle  
215-858-9314; mymail36@gmail.com

**Calendar**  
*Chair:*  
Aileen Salus, 104 Villa Drive  
215-441-9339; asalus1945@gmail.com

**Cooking Club**

*Chair:* Susan Budman, 13 Five Ponds Circle, 215-858-3614  
susan.budman@gmail.com

**Day Trips Club**

*Chair:* Merryl Pelberg, 103 Villa Drive, 215-443-8588  
merrylpelberg@gmail.com

**Helping Hands Club**

*Chair:* Mary Langdon, 30 Villa Drive  
215-441-8093; edmaryl@verizon.net

**Lunch Bunch Club**

*Chair:*  
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203-733-3929, dpolsky@gmail.com

**Memorial Day**

*Co-Chairs:*  
Mary Lou Nodiff, 255 Fairway Drive  
215-327-7589; Yichus41@aol.com  
Barbara Feldman, 304 Clubhouse Lane, 215-266-3600  
bjacobsfeldman@verizon.net

**Men's Club**

*Co-Chairs:*  
Howard Rabinovitch, 63 Five Ponds Circle  
267-282-5018, cell 215-601-1866  
howanddi@comcast.net;  
Steve Warshaw, 24 Villa Drive  
215-674-4894, cell 215-620-6698  
sgwarshaw@aol.com



**Movie Club**

*Co-Chairs:*  
Sue Gordon, 21 Five Ponds Circle  
267-968-0705  
suegordon116@gmail.com  
Anne Leskowitz, 42 Villa Drive  
215-674-8365;  
anne.leskowitz@gmail.com

**BUNCO**

*Chair:*  
Joanne Tevere, 197 Fairway Drive  
215-813-0084, Tevere@verizon.net

*Co-Chair:*  
Mary Lou Nodiff, 255 Fairway Drive  
Yichus41@aol.com, 215-327-7589

**Parties Plus**

*Co-Chairs:*  
Karen Schwartz, 80 Villa Drive  
215-444-0660; msincerely@aol.com  
Leenie Rogovitz, 98 Villa Drive  
215-920-8225; arogovitz@comcast.net

**Special Activities & BINGO**

*Co-Chair:*  
Janet Lynch, 101 Villa Drive  
215-802-0282, jmlynch54@aol.com

*Co-Chair:*  
Kathy Burke, 34 Villa Drive, 215-431-2053, kathy.burke@hotmail.com

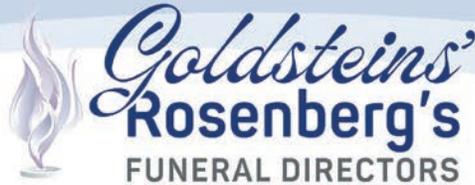
**Program Club**

*Co-Chairs:*  
Kathy Lunde, 19 Fairway Drive  
215 361-1186, lundefam@verizon.net  
Suzanne Yeager, 66 Villa Drive  
215-394-8157, suzyeager@comcast.net

**Welcoming Committee**

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# Book Reviews

## “MIDWINTER BREAK” BY BERNARD MACLAVERTY

■ SHARYN POLSKY, BOOK REVIEWER

A FEW WEEKS AGO I was watching the previews of movies that are shown before the main feature. I am usually not interested in the coming attractions because they are geared for a younger audience. It is either Marvel Action movies or horror films. There is a dearth of movies for grownups. When I saw the trailer for “Midwinter Break” it caught my attention. It was about an elderly couple who take a trip to Amsterdam to rejuvenate their relationship, but it quickly turns into a journey of self-reflection and the unravelling of their marriage. I made a mental note to see it when it came to the movies.

Meanwhile I got the book from the Warminster library. The novel was written in 2017, but the movie just came to the Regal recently. Since a blizzard of 8–12 inches was forecast, I decided to see the movie before I was housebound for several days.

Stella was a former teacher and her husband, Gerry was a former architect. They have contrasting personalities. She is a devout Catholic who has grown increasingly weary with her husband's struggles with alcohol addiction and his constant undermining of her religious faith.

When they were young, they lived in Ireland at the time of the Troubles and had to flee to Scotland because they were Catholics. Stella has made a bargain with God which she feels the need to repay in this last chapter of her life. Perhaps Gerry's experiences at this time in history have made him more cynical than religious.

Gerry is forgetful and set in his ways. He will ask Stella what's for dinner and then he will ask her again a few minutes later after she has told him the menu.

She sometimes has no patience when Gerry complains about his health. As we age each day is a new adventure. We don't know what ache or pain will assault us that day. I call it the ‘cvetch’ (complaint) of the day. Stella calls it the “ailment hour”. Her friend calls it the “organ recital”. Some people will endure in silence while others will give you a blow by blow description of the status of their health. TMI.

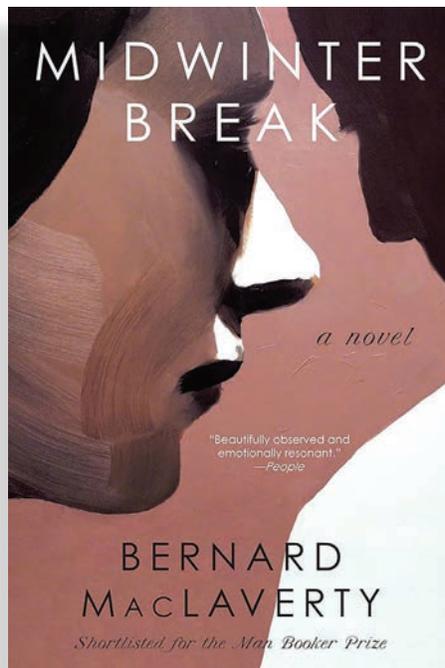
During their stay in Amsterdam they visit the Anne Frank House, the Rijksmuseum and the Red Light district but this does not distract them from their demons. Their conversation initially civil, turn into bitter arguments.

In a decades old marriage, one can either become inured to their partner's foibles or it can become an irritant that, unlike a beautiful pearl which forms in an oyster's shell, it can become hardened resentment.

Despite their struggles, there are moments of tenderness and intimacy between the couple showing the deep love they still have for each other. These moments are overshadowed by the weight of their unresolved issues.

Stella has to decide if she will stay in the marriage or not. Gerry makes a half-hearted attempt to seek help.

In the end we do not know if the couple have a future together



We also learn how the trauma they experienced when they were young impacted their future.

The book and the movie delve into themes of love, regret, and the search for meaning in one's life.

I enjoyed reading the book and seeing the movie. The scenes of Amsterdam are beautiful as well.

The author, Bernard MacLaverly is an acclaimed Northern Irish author known for his poignant and lyrical writing style. With a career spanning several decades, MacLaverly has produced a range of works, including novels, short stories and screenplays. “Midwinter Break” was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. His other works include: “Lamb”, “Cal”, “Grace Notes” and “The Anatomy School”.

He has written several short stories as well including “A Time to Dance”, “the Great Profundo” “Walking the Dog”, “Matters of Life and Death” and *Collected Stories*.

His books explore themes of love, loss, and the complexities of human relationships.

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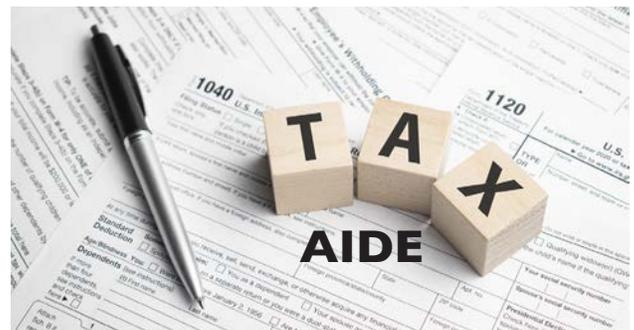
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**NOTICE!**

Due to Clubhouse flood that occurred on February 9th, 2026, ALL ACTIVITIES within our clubhouse ARE SUSPENDED while remediation and repairs are being made.

RESTART DATES will be posted as soon as available.

OFF SITE activities will continue and also be posted as they become available.

the villa's **VOICE**

THE INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING THE VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS

97 Villa Drive • Warminster, PA 18974

**COMING 2026  
VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS  
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

**APRIL 14.** BINGO, 7 PM.

**APRIL 22.** American Treasure Tour Museum.

**MAY 6.** "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" at Bucks County Playhouse.

**JUNE 19.** Movie Night. "Jerry and Marge Go Large," 7:30 PM.

**JUNE 24.** Program Club, "50 Children: The Rescue Mission...", 7 PM.

THE VILLAS AT FIVE PONDS COMMUNITY

*Calendar*

Clubhouse flood remediation is in progress.  
Watch for updates and activity locations.

**MARCH 2026**

■ AILEEN SALUS, (215-441-9339)

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