



The

Senior Informer

JANUARY 2012

**ABINGTON COUNCIL
ON AGING**

441 Summer Street, Abington, MA 02351
781-982-2145

ABINGTONSENIORCENTER.COM
Office Hours:

Mon.—Thurs., 9 am - 2:00 pm
Friday, 9 am - 1 pm

Co-Directors:
Suzanne Djusberg & David Klein
COADirector@Abingtonma.gov

Volume 9 — **ISSUE 1**

Council on Aging

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VALENTINE'S PARTY

Tues. Feb. 14, 11:30

Bag Lunch, \$3

"Old Kids on the Block" band

Music at 1:00 p.m.

Abington Senior Center

Reservations not necessary.

"Historians are like deaf people who go on answering questions that no one has asked them." -- Leo Tolstoy

ACTIVITIES

Bingo
Blood Pressure Screening
Chair Yoga w/Joanne
Computer Classes
Cribbage
Hearing Tests
Knitting & Crocheting Group
Legal Assistance
Quilting Class
Senior Lunches
Tai Chi

COUNCIL ON AGING STAFF

Suzanne Djusberg,
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Outreach Coordinator
Cheryl Cohen -
Nutrition Coordinator
Jean Connell -
Activities Coordinator
John Freese - Custodian
Susan Young - General Services
Jack Brown, David LaCouture
Linda Elliot - Van Drivers



Erected in 1912, the Memorial Arch at Island Grove Park carries an inscription that reads: "Abington To Her Sons Who Offered Their Lives For The Union" and is topped off by an 11 foot bronze eagle.

—Photo by David Klein

Happy New Year to all!!!

Suzanne & David

2012 – HAPPY 300th BIRTHDAY OLD ABINGTON!

Since the 275th Birthday Celebration many improvements have been added to the Town of Abington to make our community one of which we can be very proud. Abington now has a new library, town hall and Millennium Memorial complex with an all-weather track and bandstand and a Senior Center. All were made possible through the efforts of many volunteers. Volunteers have been one of our Town's biggest assets!

For over 15 months now, the Tricentennial Committee, the steering committee appointed by the Abington Board of Selectmen, has been meeting twice a month to plan a memorable 300th Birthday Celebration for the Town of Abington. A year filled with many enjoyable fund-raising and celebration events has been planned IF enough funding and volunteers can be obtained. The Tricentennial Committee is optimistic that as the year progresses, more residents will jump on the band wagon and give much-needed support. The small Committee of 12 cannot bring all their plans to fruition without the help of many more volunteers. The Committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Abington Town Hall and anyone able to help in some way is encouraged to attend. The Committee members are: Chairperson, Frank Giniewicz; Vice-Chairs Jan Prall and Jack Bailey; Recording Secretary, Robyn Fernald; Corresponding Secretary, Phyllis Wheatley; Treasurer, Robert Kelley, Jr.; Publicity Chairperson, Nancy Reid; Doug Ulwick, Chairman of the Historical Society of Old Abington; Kathy Bailey, Joe Shea, Rita Wing, and Russell Wheatley. Michael Franey is the liaison from the Board of Selectmen.

Some other residents from the community who have already volunteered to chair projects include Ann Reilly and Amy Barrett, who organized and oversaw the completion of another successful Olde Town Christmas House Tour with the help of over 50 other volunteers. Rosie Walls and Eileen Walls assisted by Irene Nicholson are chairing the Abington Commemorative Book Committee and in addition to photographs of old Abington's places and events are now seeking family and business sponsors to pay for the publishing. Jack Bailey and other St. Patrick's Day Parade committee members have volunteered to organize a Celebration Parade to be held on the actual day of the Town's Birthday, June 10th. Kathy Bailey is the liaison from the steering committee to the schools and a student project night is being planned for May. Kathy is also working on an Art Show to be held at the Senior Center during the last week of April. The Committee also hopes members of the PTO's will come together to help with an old-fashioned field day and children's costume parade to be held prior to the giant fireworks display planned for June 23rd. Jim Kane is over-seeing the fireworks project with assistance from the fire and police chiefs.

(continued on page 6)

It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half the wars of the world.

—Thomas Jefferson

INFORMER NEWS DEADLINE

Place in Newsletter inbox by 10th of previous month (i.e., 10th of January for the February issue).

HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE—NEW HOURS

Walk-In Health Screening for Blood Pressure, Sugar Testing, Nutrition and Weight Counseling & Medication Instruction are held as follows: Leavitt Terrace, 1st Tues. 9:30 to 12:30; Abington Sr. Ctr., weekly on Mondays 9:30 to 12:30 pm; Blanchard Gardens, 2nd Tues. 9:30 to 12:30; Chestnut Glen, 3rd Tues. 9:30 to 12:30. **Board of Health states the nurse will be available to ALL Abington residents, regardless of age, and Seniors are welcome at ALL sessions**

Free Hearing Screenings and Hearing Aid Checks are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center with John Klefeker. Call for appt. 781-982-2145.

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION—CALL 781-982-2145

(24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED)

Council on Aging Van is door-to-door service to medical appointments, and other needs, \$3 round trip. Call the COA at 781-982-2145 to book rides in advance. **Dial-A-BAT** vehicles travel a bit further out, to Brockton and the Bridgewater between 9:30 and 4:30 and to Boston Wed. & Fri. BAT rides must be booked thru the COA. Fees vary. Door-to-door-pay driver. **Friday Morning Shopping Van.** We will be using our trusty van to get you to either the Hanover Mall or another mall. We will pick you up starting at 9:15 or shortly after. We will pick you up at the mall at 12:30 getting you home around 1 or 1:15. Cost for round trip is \$3.00. Each week we will alternate between malls.

SENIOR NUTRITION—CALL 781-982-2145

Meals on Wheels delivered to homebound Seniors, lunchtime Mon-Fri, \$3.00 per meal. Our wonderful volunteers deliver nutritious meals right to your kitchen table. A referral is needed from your doctor, visiting nurse, social worker or case worker.

Senior Lunches: Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:30. Tuesday—cost \$4.00. Thursday suggested donation is \$3.00. Call the Center at 781-982-2145 to make your reservation by Friday of the previous week.

VOLUNTEER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES—FREE

FOR APPOINTMENT OR CONNECTION CALL 781-982-2145

Elder Law Clinic founded by Atty. George Whiting held at the COA on the 3rd Monday morning monthly. Meet confidentially-Atty. Whiting

FUEL ASSISTANCE

Fuel assistance application help began November 1. Hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9:30 to Noon, and Thursday from 9:30 to 1 P.M. Call the office (781-982-2145) for information and to make appointment.

If you wish to please people, you must begin by understanding them.

—submitted by Cheryl

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 legal9186@verizon.net

All the seniors in town are reading this newsletter!

Do they know who YOU are?

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APPLY NOW

- Brand New
- 62+ Senior Rental
- 1BR \$489-\$1,031*
- 2BR \$1,234*
- All utilities included except electric
- Income Limits Apply

The initial selection for these units will be done by Lottery which will take place on 12/16/11.

Barstow Village
 60 Legion Drive - Hanover, MA 02339
617-212-6305
 www.barstowvillage.com

*2011 Income Limits:

# HH	30% AMI	50% AMI	60% AMI
1	\$20,250	\$33,750	\$40,500
2	\$23,150	\$38,550	\$46,260
3	\$26,050	\$43,350	\$52,020
4	\$28,900	\$48,150	\$57,780

Rents & income limits based on HUD schedule & subject to change. Info contained herein subject to change w/o notice.



FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS

The Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. would like to thank both past and present members for their support and contributions.

JUNE 2011 started a new membership year with dues of \$5.00 payable now and good until JUNE 2012. Please make checks payable to:

“Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.”

and mail to P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351.

Many thanks to families selecting “Friends of Abington Seniors” for memorial gifts.

Friends of Abington Seniors Membership for 2011-2012: \$5.00 per person or \$100 for lifetime membership.

Please send donations to our New Address:

P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351

Name _____

Address _____

In Memory Of _____

Send Acknowledgement To _____

THE BIRTHDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Do you have a birthday coming ?? Can't think of anything you want or need ??

Suggest a donation in your name to the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.

Donation:

Tithing donation
from St. Bridget's, Abington

Memberships:

Cheryl & John Taylor
Leonore A. Nason
Hugh & Concepta Bithell

Karen DiLorenzo
Mary Barbato

James Tormey
Ronald & Bonnie Winston

In Memory of:

Amy Whitman by George Snow
Amy Whitman by Karen DiLorenzo
Robert Devereau by Edith Doughty

Francis Allen by Edith Doughty
Myrtle Byrne by William Byrne
Evelyn M. Doherty by Steven J.
Doherty

Eleanor Williamson by John & Cheryl Taylor
Eleanor Williamson by Anna M. Fopiano
Myrtle Byrne by the Delany & Godbout families

JANUARY'S SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF ABINGTON MEETING

The Senior Citizens Association of Abington meeting on Tuesday, January 10, is very important. We are having refreshments, 50/50, collecting for the food pantry, a surprise drawing for gift baskets, and a DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION.

VALENTINE'S PARTY

On Tuesday, February 14, the 11:30 lunch will be the brown bag type, with a sandwich and chips, \$3. The Friends of Abington Seniors have arranged to provide entertainment at 1 pm - the Olde Kids on the Block, a 19 piece band and a vocalist. The luncheon dessert will be served during the intermission of their program. It should be fun. No reservations necessary.

MEALS ON WHEELS TOUCHES LIVES OF PEOPLE IN A POSITIVE WAY

Meals on Wheels is a program furnishing a nutritious meal to our homebound seniors. This program helps people maintain a healthy life style and remain in their homes for as long as possible. Not only is it comforting to receive a good meal once a day, but it makes available a well-needed safety check. This program undertakes volunteers who, without a doubt, deliver the meal with a smiling face and words of kindness and friendship. This interaction could be the person's only contact with other people. Each Meals on Wheels program operates individually. A referral is required from a doctor, visiting nurse, or social worker. —*Cheryl Cohen, Meals on Wheels Coordinator, Abington Council on Aging, 781-982-2145*

Thomas Jefferson: John F. Kennedy held a dinner in the White House for a group of the brightest minds in the nation at that time. He made this statement: “This is perhaps the assembly of the most intelligence ever to gather at one time in the White House with the exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.”

OUTREACH WITH VALERIE

Hello everyone, I am Valerie O'Loughlin the new Outreach Coordinator at the Council on Aging. I have enjoyed getting acquainted with everyone and look forward to working with the seniors of Abington! I wanted to go over some of the projects and services I am going to be working on in the upcoming months. I hope to focus much of my Outreach work on home visits, and this includes both home bound seniors and non-home bound seniors, so please never hesitate to call and ask me to stop by to help with anything or even if you just need someone to talk with. I will always do my best to make myself available to anyone who needs me. Also, I am going to be working with local pharmacies to help in making prescription needs more accessible to home-bound seniors. I am going to be working with Peapod by Stop and Shop, helping seniors get their groceries through the Peapod home delivery service, which I feel will be a great service to seniors especially with the upcoming winter months. Also, I will be assisting seniors in filling out and applying for SNAP (formally called food stamps); call me to make an appointment.

I have recently been approached by several seniors who had some questions about the new Shingles vaccination and the Medicare coverage of it. The shingles vaccine is covered under the Part D prescription drug program. That means you must be enrolled in a private Part D plan (a stand-alone drug plan or a Medicare health plan that covers drugs), get the vaccine through your plan and pay whatever share of the cost that your plan requires. But there are some pitfalls to watch out for in terms of paying for the shingles shot, depending on where you receive it:

— If you're vaccinated at a pharmacy, make sure it's one that is in your Part D plan's pharmacy network. Otherwise, the shot will cost you more than the plan's normal co-payment, perhaps even the full price.

— If you're vaccinated in a doctor's office, make sure the doctor can bill your plan directly through its computer billing process, or can work through a pharmacy in your plan's network that can also bill the plan directly. Otherwise you'll have to pay the entire bill upfront and then claim reimbursement from your plan.

The bottom line: Call your plan in advance and ask which pharmacies and doctors in your area you should use to receive the shingles vaccine at the plan's regular co-pay. (*AARP Bulletin*)

A JOHNNY SHIRT

It's dubbed a "johnny" or a "johnny shirt" by some medical professionals. Some coin new terms such as "ICU gowns", while others refer to them as hospital gowns. Patient wear did not always feature breezy backsides. For centuries, patients remained fully clothed during examinations. Physicians shuffled clothing layers, rarely breaching the privacy of their patients' undergarments. By the mid-eighteenth century, those unfortunate enough to enter hospitals would likely have received uniforms. Research of hospital stays of injured British soldiers during World War I indicates that recuperating troopers wore pajama-like outfits. In a 1928 manual written by Eugene Lyman Fisk, the advice to physicians was to offer women a type of covering that "gives a sense of protection and lessens embarrassment", such as a poncho type garment with small tape ties between the head opening and the hem. The suggestion for men was for them to be stripped of clothing. Although patient gowns are found in clinics and hospitals throughout the nation, "johnny" is not found in everyone's wardrobe of terms. It displays a distinctly regional style. Its geographic popularity, according to Luanne von Schneidmesser, senior editor of the *Dictionary of Regional English* centers in Massachusetts and Maine. While the design of hospital gowns has stayed frozen in time, there has recently been a thawing of that design. Some are giving the humble cover-up a more uptown feel by making it fashion wear, while others are modifying it to meet the modesty and style requirements of specific populations. Nicole Miller, designer commissioned by the N.J. Hackensack University Medical Center, replaced the gown with an outfit of drawstring pants, pullover tops, and front-snap gowns. Maine Medical Center replaced their examination gowns with a two-piece ensemble composed of a roomy long sleeve top and a floor-length sarong. Although this change was originally made to accommodate the requirements of the Muslim patients, these outfits are offered to all patients. Discomfort of a different nature led to a line of garments for women undergoing chemotherapy. Wearing a johnny while awaiting radiation treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital, Margaret Feodoroff felt vulnerable and chilly. With her experience as inspiration, she joined with her two sisters, one of whom was simultaneously undergoing treatment for colon cancer, and developed Healing Threads. The design of this line of garments allows patients to remain covered and comfortable, while also providing medical personnel the access needed for the delivery of radiation and chemotherapy treatments. The stylish yet practical line has drawn acclaim from patients and from the fashion industry. (*Direct quotes and excerpts from an article by Ann Marie Menting.*) Although the origin of the term "johnny" is unknown, it was in use in Boston area hospitals in the early 1900's.


JANUARY'S CHUCKLE — Some Irish Humor

Paddy was driving home, drunk as a skunk. Suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another. A cop car pulls him over as he veers about all over the road. Paddy tells the cop about all the trees in the road. Cop says, "For God's sake paddy, that's your air freshener swinging about!"

An old farmer's dog goes missing and he's inconsolable. His wife says, "Why don't you put an advert in the paper?" He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing. "What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks. "Here boy," he replies.

JANUARY 2012 LUNCH & ACTIVITIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>2</u> CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY</p>	<p><u>3</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: American Chop Suey, Green Salad, Bread, Dessert, Beverage</p>	<p><u>4</u> 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</p>	<p><u>5</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Free) 10:00-12:00 SCLC Open House 11:30 Lunch: TBA</p>	<p><u>6</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping van 11:00-12:00 Tai Chi (Free)</p>
<p><u>9</u> 9:00-11:00 Beginners Knitting/ Crocheting Class, (8weeks) 10:00 Zumba (\$5) 12:30 Bingo <i>Full Wolf Moon</i></p>	<p><u>10</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Tomato Soup, Sandwich, Chips, Dessert, Beverage 10:30 Meet w/State Rep. Geoff Diehl</p>	<p><u>11</u> 9:00 FOAS Mtg. 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</p>	<p><u>12</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Free) 11:30 Lunch: TBA <i>John Hancock born, 1737</i></p>	<p><u>13</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping van 11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</p>
<p><u>16</u> CENTER CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY <i>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed</i></p>	<p><u>17</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Meat Loaf, Baked Potato, Greek Style Green Beans, Dessert, Bev. <i>Chinese New Year and Benjamin Franklin born 1706</i></p>	<p><u>18</u> 9:00 COA Mtg. 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</p>	<p><u>19</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Free) 11:30 Lunch: TBA</p>	<p><u>20</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping van 11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</p>
<p><u>23</u> 9:00-11:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (8weeks) 10:00 Zumba (\$5) 12:30 Bingo</p>	<p><u>24</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Shepherd's Pie, Rolls, Birthday Cake, Beverage</p>	<p><u>25</u> 10:00 Knitting Group 10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</p>	<p><u>26</u> 9:00 Cribbage 10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Free) 11:30 Lunch: TBA</p>	<p><u>27</u> 9:00 Cribbage 9:00 Shopping van 11:00 Tai Chi (Free) <i>Tri-Centennial Trivia Nite—Sat., Jan. 28, Abington VFW</i> Raccoons Mate Now</p>
<p><u>30</u> 9:00-11:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (8weeks) 10:00 Zumba (\$5) 12:30 Bingo</p>	<p><u>31</u> 9:00 Cribbage 11:30 Lunch: Chicken ala King on Biscuits, Peas, Cranberry Sauce, Dessert, Beverage</p>	<p><i>"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve...You need only a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." —Martin Luther King</i></p>	<p>Books in the Hall Library — Stop and take a look at all the titles available for your reading pleasure, no card necessary and no need to return the books; pass them on to your reader friends.</p>	<p>FYI: Free Tai Chi & Chair Yoga w/Joanne are sponsored by Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.</p>



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2012—HAPPY BIRTHDAY OLD ABINGTON! (continued from page 1)

Al Donaghy and Jim Pozerski have been heading up 5K road races and are currently planning a ½-marathon through the towns of Abington, Rockland and Whitman. The date will be announced when the logistics concerning railroad crossings are worked out.

The first event in the New Year will be another TRIVIA NIGHT planned for January 28th at the Abington V.F.W. hall.

Mike Franey is heading up this event once again. This fun-filled night is a great way to spend a winter evening with friends and family while helping raise funds for the 300th Celebration! Another evening of fun is being planned for March 3rd at Massasoit Conference Center. The Olde Abington Tricentennial Gala will feature a catered dinner followed by dancing to the music of “Four Guys in Tuxes plus Two.” Terry Maze is chairing this event assisted by Ann Kent, Ann Colby, and Lee Shay. Historical costume attire will be optional but encouraged.

The Town of Abington, like other communities in 1711, could not become incorporated unless it had a church with an ordained minister approved by the Governor of the Commonwealth. The First Parish Congregational Church was recognized in 1711 hence the Town of Abington became incorporated in 1712. To remember the importance of the churches in Town, an ecumenical service of worship is being planned for May. The Rev. Kristy Coburn, pastor of the United Church of Christ in Abington which was once the First Parish Church will lead a committee for this event.

A tri-town firemen’s muster and band concert are being planned for August with the final events taking place at Island Grove in September. On the weekend of September 22 and 23, there will be a Civil War encampment at Island Grove and a re-dedication of the Memorial Arch and Bridge. Robyn Fernald, Nancy Reid and Jan Prall are planning this event along with residents Rob O’Bryan and Debra DiFranco-Andrade, Civil War re-enactors. Finally, Bob Kelley has led a committee to seek celebration sponsors and a tier program for sponsors has been established. Abington Bank is the first area business to become a “Platinum” sponsor with a donation of \$10,000! A donation of \$5,000 makes one a Gold sponsor, \$3,000 a Silver sponsor and \$1,000 a Bronze sponsor. Many benefits are afforded sponsors as well.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in any of the Tricentennial projects may contact any steering committee member. The website address is www.abington300th.webs.com or abington_ma_300th@verizon.net —Nancy Reid, 781-878-8521

PUZZLE

See if you can figure out what these seven words all have in common? And it's *SO* obvious!!!

1. Banana 2. Dresser 3. Grammar 4. Potato 5. Revive 6. Uneven 7. Assess

Are you peeking or have you already given up? Give it another try....Look at each word carefully. You'll kick yourself when you discover the answer. And, no, it is not that they all have at least 2 double letters. *Answer on page 8.*

TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

January 19, 2012: A surprise bag bingo at Wright’s Farm Restaurant in Rhode Island. The trip includes your bingo card, as well as an all you can eat chicken dinner. Price: \$43.00

February 13, 2012: Valentine’s celebration featuring tunes from the 50’s sung by the Elderly Brothers. Your meal is included. Price \$59.00. Reservations and Deposit required for all trips. Contact Rita Webster @ 781-982-9102.

TRANSPORTATION —Adele Dombrowski

I go back to the early 20s. I grew up in Hanover which, at the time, was real country. It was during the Depression years and there was no public transportation. A few people had cars, most had a horse and buggy. There, also, were train tracks since a few businesses required freight transportation. Eventually, a passenger car was added which we called the Toonaville, which took us back and forth to Rockland and, I believe, Abington. We had to walk a mile to the station. We thought Abington was well advanced with their railroad and train to Boston. Then came the bus service from Rockland to Brockton, through Abington. It ran on the hour and half hour and the fare was .10 to .25.

My husband and I lived in Center Abington on Lake Street, on North Avenue in an apartment over Dave’s Barbershop, and eventually, a home on Temple Street, always well within walking distance for the bus service. We didn’t need a car and, since we were raising four children, we couldn’t afford one.

I took advantage of the bus service daily for work, shopping, and pleasure. I occasionally took my three-year-old youngster with me in a folding stroller. The bus drivers were very caring and would even help me on the bus. After a number of years, the demand for bus transportation decreased and the company discontinued service to our area.

Eventually, through our own dear Cathy Corcoran an Abington resident and Director of the Council of Aging at that time, and after numerous town meetings and tireless effort, the townspeople voted for Dial-a-Bat and finally our own van for the seniors. Thank you Cathy, and I am happy to say I was her assistant at that time.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE COA

The COA Board of Directors want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. This past year has been a very rewarding *and* exciting year. Thanks to the generosity and hard work of everyone our Senior Center is a warm and welcoming place for our seniors to gather and enjoy our ever expanding programs.

At our October Board Meeting the Board presented Jack Bailey, owner of Bailey’s Garage in Abington, with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his help in keeping our van on the road.

Our Board Meetings are held on the third Weds of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. I have a mailbox in the Senior Center Office if you have any matters that you would like to bring before the Board. Marie Brown, *COA Chair-woman.*



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

The Friends of Abington Seniors held their 3rd annual "Breakfast With Santa" on Saturday, December 3, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. As usual, it was a big success and was attended by approximately 166-200 people. Because of the large turnout, we ran out of bacon and eggs by 10:30 a.m., but we still had pancakes, pastries, and beverages left. Therefore, we only charged half-price to the remainder of the people, and they seemed pleased with that. A special event was the participation of New England Patriots cheerleader Sarah Caldera who signed posters, talked with the children, and assisted our wonderful Santa Claus, Rick Franey. Our photographer was Fred Robertson, and John Freese was our custodian. The children's faces when they saw Santa and when they shopped in Santa's Store were something to behold. It made all of our efforts worthwhile. The raffles, chaired by Peggy Keating, were a big hit, as were the children's \$1.00 grabs. Rosemary Burns and her husband brought in a large blowup Christmas decoration, and the children were enchanted. Neil Caldera led the crowd in some Christmas songs. Many thanks to the kitchen crews, Andy Burbine, Chris Aiello, Anna Fopiano, Jack Brown, Joanne Curtis, Pat Jackman, and to our servers, Jack Glynn, Marie Brown, Pat Jackman, and Carol and Neil Caldera. Also to Co-Chairmen Pat Beaulieu and Noreen Jackson for Santa's Store and Grabs; to Marsha Libby and helpers at Admissions, and to the people who came in at 5:00 a.m. to set up the hall, especially Andy Burbine who moved most of the chairs into the auditorium and to Joe Jackman who helped Andy finish up and to all the people who came in "early". Thank you to the people who helped the children shop and the people who wrapped their gifts. To Dotty Trosky and Marie Brown for publicity. A special thanks to my sister, Leslie O'Keefe, who drove down from Leominster to wrap gifts. Thank you to everyone who helped and are too numerous to name individually. Thank you to Colony House for their donation and to Home Depot in Brockton for donating all the pointsettias. Thank you notes will be sent to all businesses who donated raffles, such as the Keurig coffee machine by Lowe's in Abington. I must share a humorous remark. A little child asked why Santa didn't have a big belly? I replied that maybe his doctor made him go on a diet because of eating all those cookies. The child seemed satisfied with that answer. Happy New Year to you all!

—Diane Keith, Event Chairman

RECIPE OF THE MONTH— Almond Raspberry Shortbread by Topper's, Nantucket

- 1 1/2 cups butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 jar raspberry preserves
- 1 tablespoon almond extract
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 325F. 2. In a mixing bowl, cream all items, except the flour, until light and fluffy. 3. Add the flour and mix until incorporated. 4. Scoop dough into balls, flatten them, and make a thumbprint indentation. 5. Pipe the jam in the middle of the cookie. 6. Bake until slightly golden. Enjoy!

REQUESTS

FOAS Santa's Helpers: Please keep us in mind for donation of those well-meaning gifts you received but will not use. We can use them for next year's Breakfast with Santa. **THANK YOU.**

Kitchen Wish List: Coffee, Napkins, Paper Towels, Large Disposable Aluminum Pans. **THANK YOU.**

Bingo: Helpers needed @ Monday Bingo to serve refreshments and clean up. **THANK YOU.**

SENIOR COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER OF MASS. — SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

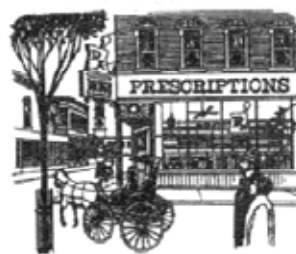
SCLC Tip of The Month: You may want to lock up access to your PC if strangers are nearby and you step away. The Screensaver tab (in Display Settings under Control Panel) has an option that requires a password to resume. Check the box in "Settings" that says "On resume, password protect". Or, if your keyboard has the Windows key press that key+L to lock your PC.

The Senior Computer Learning Center at the Abington COA, 441 Summer St, has scheduled an "Open House" on Jan 5, 2012 from 10:00 to 12:00. SCLC staff will be on hand to assist with the evaluation, selection and the registration of computer courses. Low cost Basic and Intermediate courses will be offered along with more advanced courses and workshops such as The Internet and Email Skills, Digital Picture Editing, Buying and Selling on Ebay, Copying and Adding Files, All About Windows7, Windows Live Photo Slide Show, Do the Right Thing, Mail Merge, Fantastic Freebies and Keep Your PC Up-to-date.

SCLC is set up with 11 modern PCs with Windows 7 software and the appropriate application software. Instructors and staff are all PC experienced volunteers. We are all here to give back to our communities.

A presentation "Rainy Day Fun" on your PC will be given at 11:00 to show how to access free games, (Sudoku, puzzles, maps, geography, typing speed); look up your doctor, get computer help, access music, old time radio, free software, How Things Work, Wikipedia encyclopedia, hobbies and more.

For more information please go to our website seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org, or, for more information please call and leave us a message at 508-521-4008.



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Miscellaneous

Line Dance Schedule: Dancing with Dot Dunham at St. Bridget's Parish Hall on Friday afternoons, at 1 p.m. to 2:30p.m. Donation: \$3.00. Call 781-293-7727 for more information.

Senior Citizen's Association: A Social Club, for Abington residents over 59 1/2 years old, singles and couples, that meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. A different and varied program is offered at each meeting. Cost \$10 yearly.

Support Groups– Open to the Public– No Charge: Bereavement Group, Abington, meets once a month at the Library, 1st Tues., 6:30 pm; Caregivers Support Group, Rockland COA, 394 Union St, 4th Mon, 1 pm; Prostate Cancer Support Group, monthly, 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Brockton Hospital, Assembly Room 2nd floor by café.

Food Pantry: St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the old Friary Convent at St. Bridget's, 781-878-1194.

Supporters of the Abington Seniors

Abington Elderly Services, Inc.

Lois Kelley, President; Ann Reilly, Vice President/Van Account Liaison; Eleanor Pappone, Secretary; Mary Graham, Treasurer; Tricia Force; Evelyn Drew; Atty. Edward Reilly

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Larry Keough, President; Diane Keith, Vice President; William Kendall, Treasurer; Jack Libby, Asst. Treasurer; Peggy Keating, Secretary

Informers Newsletter Staff

Marie Brown, Joanne Curtis, Betty Slinger, Maureen Wall

Answer to puzzle on page 6: In all of the words listed, if you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word, and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word. Did you figure it out?

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old one leaves. — Bill Vaughn

FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. The annual meeting and election of officers & directors will be held at 9:00 AM on January 11, 2012 at the Senior Center. Every member is welcome and encouraged to attend.