



Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia

November 21 Chapter Meeting

A Case Study of the Hijacking of Egyptair Flight 648

by Virginia Tech Chief of Police, Kevin Foust

Chief Foust will conduct a case review of the hijacking, the investigation and the subsequent capture and successful prosecution of Rezaq.

On November 23-24, 1985, Egyptair Flight 648 was hijacked by three heavily armed hijackers shortly after take-off from Athens, Greece bound for Cairo, Egypt. There were 89 passengers and 6 crew members on board. In a desperate gun battle at 35,000 feet, a bullet pierced the skin of the aircraft and the crippled plane was forced to land on the island of Malta.

During the hijacking the lead hijacker, Omar Mohammed Ali Rezaq, personally shot 5 passengers in the head, killing two. Rezaq, the lone surviving hijacker, was critically wounded during the rescue attempt. He recovered from his wounds and pled guilty to a number of crimes on Malta and was sentenced to the maximum sentence at the time, 35 years in prison.

Rezaq was released from prison in 1993 after only serving 8 years of his sentence. A team of FBI agents traveled to Africa where they captured Rezaq. They brought Rezaq back to Washington, DC, where he stood trial for and was convicted of the crime of Air Piracy. He was sentenced to life in prison and remains in a US federal prison to this day.



Current Virginia Tech Police Department Chief of Police Kevin Foust participated in the capture of Rezaq and was the primary FBI Special Agent for the prosecution team.

President's Column by Terry Wildman

Are You a Member?

Well, of course you are. Kind of a dumb question if you reasonably think I'm asking about your membership in AARP Blacksburg. Most folks receiving this newsletter—although not quite all—are members of our Chapter.

So, let's ask the question again; better yet, ask this question of someone whom you know is not connected to AARP Blacksburg. Are you a member? Chances are you'll receive a quizzical look and maybe the query "member of what?" The general answer that every single person *can give* is YES, I am a member. Even the most reclusive person, living as totally off the grid as possible, has some common bonds with the few others who have achieved this elusive goal. They could probably share some things that few others could understand or comprehend, and thus have established a boundary of sorts between those inside the grid (almost all of us) and those outside. These off-the-grid recluses are *members* of an exclusive group—kind of like those few belonging to Augusta National Golf Club.

Some folks, notably some inquisitive journalists, have tried to ferret out how one becomes a member of Augusta National, and the general policy seems to be that if you need to ask you're not welcome. Certainly not women, that is until 2012, when the gates were open to Condoleezza Rice and a couple other female members after that. Membership at Augusta seems to stay around 300 or so, average age early 70s, average golf handicap for members around 15, average wealth is enormous and member credentials in terms of accomplishment is quite impressive with the likes of Warren Buffett, Bill Gates, Lynn Swann, and of course Dr. Rice fits that bill too. The other way to the green jacket is to win it, and those of us who watch the Master's tournament in early spring can see how likely that is!

Upcoming Events

November 21: Election of AARP officers at chapter meeting

December 5: AARP holiday luncheon, 11:30–1:30

December 13: LLI spring preview, 3–4:30 German Club Manor

January 8: Registration for spring LLI courses opens

Annual Holiday Luncheon December 5

The annual holiday luncheon will be held on December 5, 2017, at the Warm Hearth Village Center. Having a delicious lunch with friends is a great way to celebrate the season. Awards to members and donations to community groups will be presented. Details and the reservation form are on page 5.

The registration deadline is November 27, 2017, 4 pm.

2018 Dues are Due

You may pay your Blacksburg chapter dues with your holiday luncheon reservation or use the form on the back page of this newsletter.



Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Chapter meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center, Patrick Henry Drive at 11:30 am. There are no meetings in July or August. Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the Blacksburg Community Center at 10:00 am.

This issue of the newsletter was compiled and edited by Carolyn Rude and Sandra Griffith.

“The New River Valley Through the Artist’s Eye”

An exhibition featuring work by 51 area artists

On display at The Artful Lawyer, A Fine Gallery, 318 N. Main, Blacksburg, through December 13

Monday–Thursday 8:30-5:30; Fridays 8:30-5:00

In 2016, The Artful Lawyer Gallery invited local artists to submit art representing impressions of the New River Valley. The collection of 51 works, including paintings (oil, watercolor, gouache, acrylic), photographs, stained glass, pencil, tiles, and other media, depicts the landscapes, vistas, historic buildings, and other features of area that artists found moving and that, for them, defines the New River Valley. The art is on exhibit at The Artful Lawyer Gallery through December 13. Some of the art is for sale.

The artists were also asked to create commentaries on their works for inclusion in a book containing color photographs of each entry. The photographs were taken by Pippi Miller of Miller off Main Street, another Blacksburg art gallery. Diana Francis, curator of The Artful Lawyer Gallery, and Mary Ann Parcher coedited the book. The book, titled *The New River Valley Through an Artist’s Eye: A Visual Tour*, is available at the gallery.

As the editors observe, the New River Valley and the Blue Ridge Mountains are ancient, lovely and majestic to behold. What better way to celebrate the beauty that surrounds us than to showcase it through art?

The book is dedicated in loving memory to Jordi Calvera, an artist who made his way to Blacksburg from Spain and Venezuela.



Buffaloes in Riner, VA, by Jordi Calvera

Photo of the painting by Pippi Miller; used with the permission of The Artful Lawyer Gallery



It’s a Big, Amazing World, by Pippi Miller

This photograph depicts a travertine formation at Falls Ridge Preserve. The photographer’s son looks up in wonder and amazement. The photograph received first prize in the exhibit.

A remembrance, by Elizabeth Calvera

One day, a friend invited Jordi to try a buffalo burger at a diner on Route 8. Buffaloes in the New River Valley? Who knew? Intrigued, Jordi accepted. After enjoying the burgers, the friend suggested they visit the farm. Unannounced and uninvited, they drove up to the farmhouse and to their surprise, the owner not only opened the door but actually drove them in his own vehicle to where the buffalo roamed. Awestruck, Jordi took picture after picture and returned home eager to see how the photographs came out. After spreading them before him, he came up with a composite that featured several bulls. Years later, he was invited to show the painting at a special event featuring buffalo meat at the Blacksburg Country Club. The owner of that farm happened to be there. He walked over to the painting, gazed at it for a few minutes, and to Jordi’s amazement, identified by name each one of the bulls in the painting! from *The New River Valley Through an Artist’s Eye*, p. 10; used by permission

This notion of *boundaries* between insiders and outsiders might not have the best vibe for those of us who champion inclusivity, but social research shows that different types of communities that people belong to do have boundaries that perform useful functions. AARP, for example, has the age 50 boundary. As people extend further into the 50 plus age range, the kinds of conversations, concerns, and interests of this group are distinguishable and important. When coalesced through participation in specific social communities, those inside the group or community may experience the emotional safety necessary for needs and feelings to be exposed and for real intimacy to develop.

In thinking about membership and belonging, it is worth remembering that we are all inherently social beings. We all have built up a unique self-narrative that is the current story describing who we are, what others are like, how things work and where we fit. Places where we find ourselves needing to do a lot of self editing are not the best fit. I remember some years ago having access to a barely affordable “deal” to spend a weekend at an exclusive resort that was so far beyond normal affordability as to create for the entire duration a strongly uncomfortable sense of being in the wrong place, almost like an imposter.

Achieving a coherent self-narrative and fully developed identity seems to depend on participation in social communities where we have a role to play, experience a feeling of acceptance, and come to know that we're in the “right place.” Everyone seems to benefit from membership in such communities. We may feel less lonely, find friends more easily, have a more interesting and vital life, and experience better health. The larger community thrives when people are connected and actively engaged.

Yet, it seems easy to become disconnected. Age and retirement are factors, but technology also enables us to access so much of what we need with little contact with other people. In my early years living in a rural environment, country stores with familiar pot belly stoves were essential news sources as well as places to satisfy one's needs for affiliation. Farmers clearly needed this; even a kid following my father around could see this. For factory workers in urban environments, the neighborhood bar likely satisfied a similar need. Along with churches and other community organizations, these places allowed newcomers to be readily assimilated into the flow of life in a new place.

In Blacksburg and surrounding areas we are fortunate to have a physical environment and other affordances that people find attractive and want to gravitate toward. Still, getting socially connected may not always be easy. Advancing age may be a barrier. Personal invitations may encourage participation. I almost certainly would have not become a member of the Blacksburg AARP Chapter without such an invitation.

For me and I suspect for many of you who include Chapter membership among the other groups you may belong to, there is something kind of nice about being a part of this particular group. Most of us need a place where we can smile, meet people, practice kindness, forget ourselves for a short while, volunteer, learn some things, and spend time with others. Come to a local

Legislative Report *by Val Coluni*

1. The Equifax Security Breach—A Shameful Tragedy. Shameful because Equifax staff had the “patch” to fix the flawed software but delayed doing it until after the hackers penetrated the system. A tragedy because over 145 million customers now have some of their most important/personal data available to hackers throughout the world. It will be available to others for their lifetime! These hacks continue to threaten our ways of doing business. Even the Federal Exchange Commission—the Agency set up to protect investors—was hacked in 2016. These hackers can use your data to file a fraudulent tax return and/or create illegal industry trading profits for their own personal purposes.

Some outcomes: The IRS has canceled Equifax's \$7.25 million contract; several states are filing lawsuits; the Equifax Chief Executive Officer has resigned, and other senior staff may soon follow; Congress will hold hearings to determine legislation with much stiffer penalties to punish this breach of public trust. Unfortunately, none of these actions will retrieve your stolen data.

These credit reporting agencies use our data and sell it to others in order to make a profit. We receive no compensation for helping them do this, and we have no control over where they send our data. Many are now suggesting that compensation should be paid to us and that we should have some control over where our data is sent. And Equifax is one of the most significant and profitable companies in the credit reporting industry.

In the October issue of our Blacksburg Chapter Newsletter, we provided specific information about what you should do to protect yourself (October 2017 issue, page 4). In addition to that advice, we add a word of caution: If you are now being offered free products to protect you against these breaches and such documents require you to sign documents to accept the offer, do not do so until you have reviewed such documents with your financial advisor and/or attorney. You need to protect yourself against agreeing to mandatory arbitration and/or releasing the credit agency from liabilities in the future for security breaches. We now are living in a world filled with “bad potholes.”

2. Social Security cost-of-living adjustment. *It is official*—a 2 percent increase, which is the largest increase since 2012.

Chapter meeting and experience some of these things first hand. AARP at the national level provides an amazing assortment of services and advocacy advantages for all of us seniors even if we are not members, but the intimacy of local connections cannot be found just by having the national card in your wallet.

I'll conclude with this simple request. Consider inviting a friend, colleague, neighbor, or newcomer in our area to check out AARP Blacksburg. Invite them to a chapter meeting, point out our website, and use the back page of our newsletter to show how easy and affordable it is to join. From my experience, just being able to hear first-hand Sandy Birch's short, uplifting presentation at the beginning of our public meetings each month is more than worth the price of membership. And finally, if you find a prospective member who is kind of like a Border Collie puppy (i.e., needs a job to do), we can provide that too!

Whitebarrel Winery Social:

Members of AARP and the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech gathered at the Whitebarrel Winery on October 26 for a wine tasting, snacks, and a social. Here is some visual evidence that people had a good time.



Molly McClintock and Irene Petersen chat with Anne McNabb



Don Rude

The Photographer

Peter Magolda took the other pictures on this page and most of the pictures you see in the AARP newsletter. But who takes his picture? Here he is behind his wife, Marcia Baxter-Magolda.

See more pictures of the social at <http://adlogam.smugmug.com/Organizations/AARP/n-49pk5B>



Sandra Griffith



Chapter Officers 2017

President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu
Vice President • Wendy Baldwin, wendybburg@gmail.com
Secretary • Pat Hyer, hyerp@vt.edu
Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pb Ballard@vt.edu

Board of Directors

- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson
- 2018—Wendy Baldwin, Ryan Martin, Lisa Moose
- 2019—Tamara Hodsden, Peter Magolda, Jim Montgomery, Wanda Smith

LLI Spring Registration Begins January 8

Catalogs for the spring 2018 term of Lifelong Learning Institute courses and special events will be mailed early in January, and registration will begin January 9.

Courses include choices in many categories:

History and current issues: South Africa, Political Cartoons; Confederate Monuments; Terrorism; “Making a Murderer”; Biological Ethics Debate; TED Talks

Literature and language: Novels of Toni Morrison; Mysteries

Art, music, and creativity: Memoir Writing; Japanese Flower Arranging; Drawing; Oil Painting; Watercolor; Ukelele

Science and the environment: Nurturing Pollinators

Living well / personal growth: Grilling a 5-Course Meal, Financial Strategies; Love and Sex after 50; Staging the Conversation about End-of-Life Wishes

The VT CLASS Sampler will continue on Tuesdays.

A number of special events address these topics and more.

Great Decisions Program Begins January 31

Great Decisions, the community discussion group on world affairs, will begin the spring 2018 term of 8 sessions on January 31. The group will meet at the German Club Manor (Southgate Drive) from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

Topics for the spring term

The waning of Pax Americana?

Russian foreign policy

China: economic power and geopolitics

Media and foreign policy

U.S. military and global engagement

Turkey: a partner in crisis

South Africa’s fragile democracy

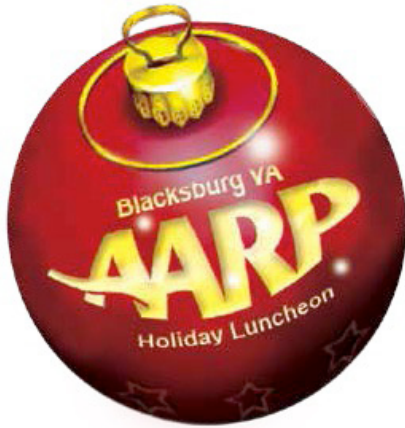
Global health: progress and challenges



A Briefing Book (\$25) provides a 10-page overview for each topic. Meetings begin with a 30-minute video with information on the issues. A local resource person who is expert on the week’s topic provides additional information and guides discussion. The Great Decisions program materials are prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. The Lifelong Learning Institute and the League of Women Voters organize the program in the NRV.

Participants must be members of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Virginia Tech (\$35/term). The cost for the course is an additional \$35. Fee waivers are available for people who need them (call 540-231-4364). Registration for LLI’s classes and events, including Great Decisions, begins January 9. If you have participated in LLI this fall, you will receive a catalog with registration information. If you need to request a catalog, please call 540-231-4364.

AARP Holiday Luncheon



Plated garden house salad
 Grilled turkey steak with a gluten-free sun-dried tomato cream sauce
 Roasted vegetable lasagna
 Wild rice
 Broccoli, cauliflower, and baby carrots
 Rolls and butter
 Cherry cobbler with whipped cream
 Coffee, iced tea, and water

Location

Warm Hearth
 The Village Center
 2387 Warm Hearth Drive
 Blacksburg, VA 24060

Date: Tuesday, December 5, 2017

Time: 11:30 am–1:30 pm

Program

Announcement and Introduction of AARP Community Award Recipients

Price: \$20 per person

Guests welcome!

Reservation deadline: November 27, 4 pm

Luncheon Reservation, Membership Dues

You can write one check

Total the Luncheon and 2018 membership fees and make your check out to **Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613**.

Send with these forms to

Pat Ballard, Treasurer
 Blacksburg AARP Chapter # 2613
 P.O. Box 10082
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

Holiday Luncheon Registration Form

Deadline: November 27, 2017, 4 pm

Name _____ \$20.00
 Spouse/Partner/Guest _____ \$20.00
 Guest _____ \$20.00
 Luncheon Total _____

Reservations cannot be accepted after November 27, 2017, 4 pm.
 For more information, contact Thais Beams (540) 552-0177;
 thaisbeams@yahoo.com

AARP Member Application for 2018 Blacksburg Chapter #2613

Name _____
 Spouse/Partner _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone: _____ Email _____

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New____ Renewal ____ 90+ years old (free) ____

Please consider an additional donation to support our AARP chapter and its projects. \$10____ \$25____ \$50____ \$100____ Other \$____

Donations to the Blacksburg Chapter help us carry out our mission and community service activities while keeping member dues low. However, donations to the chapter are not tax deductible.

Luncheon Total _____

Dues _____ 15

Donation _____

Total _____


Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."

Website: www.blacksburgaarp.org **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AARPBlaacksburg/>



Blacksburg Chapter #2613
 Terry Wildman, President
 P.O. Box 10082
 Blacksburg, VA 24062

**Nonprofit
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Blacksburg Chapter  Member Application for 2018

Name: _____

Spouse/Partner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues: **\$15.00** (includes spouse or partner)

New ___ Renewal ___ 90+ years old (free) ___

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Please make your check payable to "Blacksburg AARP Chapter #2613."
 Mail the check and this form to: .

Ryan Martin • P.O. Box 10082 • Blacksburg, VA 24062