



Real Possibilities
in the New River Valley

Blacksburg Chapter

NEWS

November 2015

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www.blacksburgaarp.org

Serving the greater New River Valley, Virginia

November 17 Chapter Meeting **President's Message**

Activities and facilities for people 50+ in the NRV

Two guests will join us for our November meeting. **Bill Brown**, Chair of the Montgomery Board of Supervisors, and Blacksburg Mayor **Ron Rordam** will report on accomplishments and plans in the county and town of particular interest to persons over the age of 50.

Please bring a food donation (a can or box of non-perishable food) to the meeting. We will distribute it to the food banks in Blacksburg and Christiansburg.

Food Drive Yields 2,460 Pounds

The total collection of food at the September 13 food drive at Kroger on South Main Street was 2,460 pounds. Food was donated to Interfaith Food Pantry and MCEAP Food Bank

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who donated their time and efforts. A special thank-you to RSVP Christiansburg for helping prepare for the food drive and recruiting volunteers.

Sally Anna Stapleton, Coordinator



Membership Expo

Tom and Paula Alston set up an attractive display and hosted the AARP table at the October 10 Membership Expo at the Blacksburg Public Library. About 18 organizations participated in this well-attended event.

You can help the Membership Committee in recruiting by inviting a friend to an event, such as the holiday luncheon.

please turn to p. 3

Taking a Chance *Terry Wildman*

My first cousin, Carolyn Kreiter-Foronda, was appointed Poet Laureate of Virginia, 2006–2008, by Governor Timothy Kaine. First doctorate awarded by George Mason University, a lifetime of teaching, numerous books of poetry, and a continuing rigorous schedule of writing, and teaching about writing and poetry, Carolyn is pretty amazing. Our families were close, going back to the late 40s and early 50s, so staying in touch is important.

Recently, following a phone conversation, Carolyn mailed me three of her books of poetry. In the past we had talked about her writing, and mine, and “why don’t I take a shot at some poetry”—something I had never considered. Anyway, while reading a few of her poems I decided, why not, and why not, in the spirit of seniors continuing to try new things, use my very first effort to complete November’s monthly message. I did share the following with her, receiving good advice and encouragement, so here goes, a little risk taking on my part.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1: annual holiday lunch; see details and the reservation form on p. 5
- Nov. 13–15: 45th Annual YMCA Crafts Fair, University Mall; see p. 3
- Nov. 14: “Big Read” author talk; see p. 3

Caring Committee Seeks Information

The Caring Committee, seeks information about members who need to receive a sympathy, congratulations, or get well card. Contact Violet Drake at 540-552-2807, or at vsdrake28@gmail.com.

Chapter Officers 2015

President • Terry Wildman, wiley@vt.edu
 Vice President • Don Creamer, dgc2@vt.edu
 Secretary • Sally Anna Stapleton, sanna418@gmail.com
 Treasurer • Pat Ballard, pballard@vt.edu

Board of Directors

- 2015—Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Nola Elliott
- 2016—Tom Alston, Tina King, Sally Anna Stapleton
- 2017—Pat Hyer, Jerry Niles, Shirley Peterson



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.

Lyric Theatre Book Launch November 8, 5–6:30 pm by Cheryl Ruggiero

Blacksburg's Lyric Theatre on College Avenue may be a familiar scene to you. But do you know what the very first Lyric in Blacksburg looked like in 1909? Would you like to know more about the heart-warming community of hard-working volunteers who restored and re-opened the theatre in 1998?

Then you may be glad to know about a new book, *The Lyric Theatre: The Heart of Blacksburg*, and the book launch celebration Sunday, November 8, from 5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Lyric. The event is free and all are welcome.

Check the Lyric website, www.thelyric.com, for celebration updates.

As Lyric Executive Director Susan Mattingly writes, "The idea of the book came from Chris Winston, former New River Bureau chief for the *Roanoke Times*, who started the New River Writers Project in about 2009. His vision was that they would supply the writers and publishing know-how to tell our story and we would split the proceeds." Although Winston left the area, Mattingly notes, "we couldn't quite let the idea go. He had convinced us that the story of the Lyric was one that was worth telling, so we kept chipping away at it. Eventually the board of directors decided to just make it happen. So, after we finished the transition to digital cinema in 2013, we made the book our next priority. We hope it's a fund-raiser!"

The project was guided by the Lyric's History Committee: Linda Plaut, Lindsay West, Susan Mattingly, Don Drapeau, and Sherry Quillen. Beginning in spring 2014, writers Lesley Howard, Su Clauson-Wicker, and Cheryl Ruggiero researched the archives of the Lyric, the *Roanoke Times*, Virginia Tech's student newspapers, and Newman Library Special Collections. They went on to interview more than eighty people who knew and loved the Lyric, explore its balcony and backstage with the renovation architect, and weave those memories into a narrative that begins on a dusty Blacksburg street in 1909

and ends looking forward from 2015. Graphic designer Christina O'Connor turned the weavings into pages filled with bright images, and the folks at Pocahontas Press made it all into a book to treasure.

Read all about it!

- Which Lyric founder ran away to Wyoming to be a cowboy before settling down back in town? And who later took his family to California to pal around with 1930s Hollywood bigwigs in order to get films to show in small-town Blacksburg? *Vane Kelsey*.
- Who used to sneak in the side door as a boy to watch movies through the back of the screen? *John Kline—read the tale in his own words, page 42*.
- What happened to the original comedy/tragedy masks that graced the roofline? *See the last-known photo of the original masks, page 37*.
- Who has heard the Lyric's ghost wailing from the balcony? *Keep reading...*
- Which Lyric volunteers have gone on to film-making careers?
- What about all those first dates, marriage proposals, and even weddings at the Lyric?
- And how about that volunteer cast of hundreds!
- And the live shows!
- And the shared times...

The Lyric Theatre: The Heart of Blacksburg will be available at the following venues:

The Lyric Theatre, College Avenue, Blacksburg, www.thelyric.com

Pocahontas Press, www.pocahontaspress.com

Alexander Black House, Draper Avenue, Blacksburg

Montgomery Museum, Pepper Street, Christiansburg

Uncommonly Gifted, Main Street, downtown Blacksburg



A street dance at the Lyric

President's Message (continued)

Breaking News

I'm wondering how the day will begin.

*First light gives a clue. An hour late
nowadays.*

Coffee in hand.
National news on the way;
Something will be breaking
for sure
Named in excited lettering
on the screen

*Out there, the handoff
is fully in play.*

*Leaves anchored hard
from birth
finally released to fly.
Lucky to catch a murmur
of wind
to show some style and color
against shafts of early light*

Prediction confirmed.
Mayhem it seems in all quarters.
Vigorously reported, compelling,
but for its routineness.
Familiar faces will explain
what it all means,
all day
and night
for the news junkie.

*Open the door. The show
is well underway.*

First impressions:

*The sweetish funky smell,
refreshing coolness, a nice
deep breath.*

*Busy birds, squirrels surveying
the massive walnut crop.*

*Crows from the garden sounding the alert,
Time to check out what was
breaking overnight, out here.*

Trains, planes, buses, big trucks,
boats. Close calls,
and disasters on tap today. NTSB is
on the way.

Gunfire, abject misery,
and confused politicians.

Breaking now,
and again, again, again.

No end in sight.

*Rude intrusions don't penetrate
this low place between
cedars and pine.*

*A faint gurgle of water. Stillness and
close attention is the game,
for a hint of who lives and plays
here.*

Riding in my truck, misery and mayhem
can tag along,
on satellite radio.

Breaking news of fires and floods,
and wars.

Angry politicians debate, seeking
explanations. Talking heads
come for the ride.

Breaking news.

*A peaceful transition
Is now underway.*

*Spring-like colors
in every falling leaf.*

*Happy, well fed little folk
of feather and fur, taking in
summer's gift.*

*All this, playing for a limited time
everywhere.*

*Terry Wildman, Professor Emeritus
President, AARP Blacksburg*

**45th Annual YMCA Crafts Fair
November 13-15**

Local and regional artisans will showcase their work at the 45th Annual Y Crafts Fair, November 13-15, 2015, at the University Mall in Blacksburg. Participants were selected by jury, guaranteeing quality work and a balanced section of crafts. Participants will include familiar favorites plus new vendors.

Hours of the fair:

Friday, November 13, noon to 7 pm

Saturday, November 14, 10 am to 7 pm

Sunday, November 15, noon to 5 pm

Parking is free in the lot and in the nearby parking garage.

This fair is a great opportunity to see your neighbors and celebrate community as well as to find unique seasonal gifts.

New features will include activities for children and a Conversation Corner where shoppers may relax and chat. Door prizes from the artisans will be offered.

Support the community programs and student leadership development of the YMCA at Virginia Tech. Come to the 46th Annual Y Crafts Fair!

For further information contact Carol McNeely, Office Manager, YMCA Virginia Tech, 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg, VA 24060, 540-961-9622.

"Big Read" Features Tim O'Brien, Saturday, Nov. 14, 7 pm

Throughout the New River Valley, individuals and groups are participating in the "Big Read." The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts to encourage community reading programs (see mozart.radford.edu/bigreadnr/).

The NRV reading selection is *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien. This book is a powerful, fictionalized rendering of O'Brien's experiences as an infantryman in the Vietnam War.

On Saturday, November 14, at 7 pm, Tim O'Brien will give an author talk at Virginia Tech's Torgersen Hall, Room 2150. The talk is free, but tickets are required. You can reserve tickets online: <http://bit.ly/1LjgUyQ>.

Sponsors of the NRV Big Read include Radford University McConnell Library, Radford Public Library, Virginia Tech's University Library and Department of English, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, New River Community College Library, Pulaski County Library System and Glencoe Museum & Gallery.

Nominees: 2016 Chapter Officers and Board Members

The AARP Blacksburg Board of Directors approved these nominees for AARP chapter officers for 2016.

Officers

President: Don Creamer

Vice President: Ben Crawford

Treasurer: Pat Ballard

Secretary: Sally Anna Stapleton

Board Members

Wendy Baldwin

Ray VanDyke

Ryan Martin

The officers have all been members of the board and are familiar to members.

We welcome new board members. **Wendy Baldwin** is a retired social demographer with the National Institutes of Health and President, Population Reference Bureau, Washington DC. **Ray VanDyke** was a Montgomery County Public school administrator, Director of Academic Assessment at Virginia Tech, and is now with a private assessment firm.

Ryan Martin is Executive Director of the YMCA at Virginia Tech.

The Nominating Committee was composed of Nola Elliot, Terry Wildman, and Don Creamer, all members of the current board with terms expiring in 2015.

New State Director

Jim Dau has joined the AARP Virginia state office as its State Director, a role previously filled by Bill Kallio, who retired earlier this year. Jim comes to the AARP Virginia office after having spent 8 years in AARP's national headquarters, where he helped lead the Association's work on advocacy, consumer and lifestyle issues, including the health, economic security and AARP's Drive to End Hunger NASCAR program. Jim's work in communications has allowed him to work with colleagues and senior volunteers around the country.

Prior to joining AARP, he worked on domestic and international political communications in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. He has worked for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Governor of New Jersey, as well as a small public relations firm and a prominent international democratic development nongovernmental organization.

Jim graduated from the University of Georgia and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He lives with his wife and daughter in Falls Church, Virginia, and looks forward to the family's move to the Richmond area.

Legislative Report *by Val Coluni and Alison Galway*

1. **Legislation 2016.** More gridlock (budget.etc) at the Federal level. This will require more crucial financial decisions (education, roads, bridges, etc) by our state, county and city/town officials. Their budgets will be "stretched." Are we going to see a push for the private funding of some of our local programs? (i.e. public works)

2. **Hospitals and our Health Systems.** The Virginia State Hospital & Healthcare Association believes there are big financial problems facing these institutions now and in the future, which is being caused by recent government decisions. As a result they will be running a public awareness program to educate our citizens and to enlist their support to carry this message to their representatives.

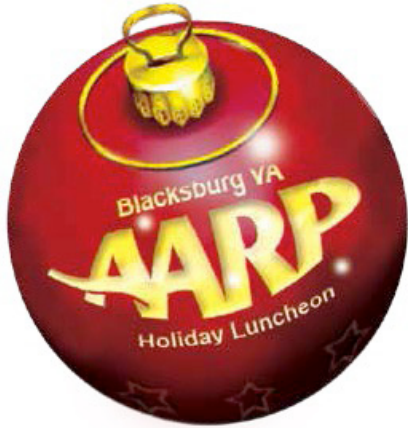
3. **Mountain Valley Pipeline/State Survey Law.** Our local State Senate Candidates (Senator Edwards and candidate Dye) are against the pipeline. Candidate Caldwell advocates building the pipeline in existing public easements rather than using private property. Delegate Yost and candidate Buchwald are also opposed to the pipeline. In addition they are raising questions about the State Surveying Law which permits the acquisition of private property for these purposes.

4. **Potential contentious issues** in the 2016 legislative sessions: 1. **Congressional voting districts.** The Governor, lawyers representing Republicans in the Virginia Congressional Delegation and eight outside parties have submitted plans with different points of view; 2. **Gun Control.** The Governor supports more common sense legislation (i.e., keeping guns out of domestic violence situations; this failed to pass in the 2015 Legislation sessions.) Others believe there are many other reasons for gun violence in our society today.

5. This year is the 50th anniversary of the **Older Americans Act** (OAA). To meet the diverse needs of the growing numbers of older persons in the United States President Lyndon Johnson on July 14, 1965 signed into law the OAA, which set out specific objectives for maintaining the dignity and welfare of older individuals and created the primary vehicle for organizing, coordinating and providing community-based services and opportunities for older Americans and their families. These included the U.S. Department on Aging and a service and information network of State and local Agencies on Aging. Montgomery County is served by the New River Valley Agency on Aging in Pulaski, 540-980-7720 or www.nrva.org.

6. The Montgomery County League of Women Voters is sponsoring evening **candidate forums**. Remaining forums: 10/22, Board of Supervisors; 10/29, School Board. Both forums are at 7 pm in the Blacksburg Town Hall. More information is available at the League of Women Voters website: www.lwvmcva.org.

AARP Holiday Luncheon



Ham with Honey Glaze
 Roasted Turkey Breast
 Mashed Buttered Potatoes
 Southern Green Beans
 Tossed Salad
 Cornbread Stuffing
 Gravy
 Rolls with Whipped Butter
 Coffee and Iced Tea
 Pumpkin Pie

Location

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

Date: December 1, 2015

Time: Beginning at 11:30 am

Program

Announcement and Introduction of
 AARP Community Award Recipients

Price: \$18 per person

Guests welcome!

Reservation deadline: November 20

Luncheon Reservation, Membership Dues

You can write one check

Total the Luncheon and 2016 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 20, 2015

Name _____ \$18.00
 Guest _____ \$18.00
 Guest _____ \$18.00
 Total _____

Sorry, reservations cannot be accepted after November 20, 2015. For more information, contact Thais Beams (540) 552-9177; thaisbeams@yahoo.com

Member Application for 2016

Annual (Calendar Year) Dues \$15.00 (includes spouse)

New___ Renewal ___ 90+ years old (free)___

Name _____

Spouse/Partner _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____

Phone _____

Visit Your AARP Chapter Website at www.blacksburgaarp.org



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

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Holiday Luncheon and Community Awards

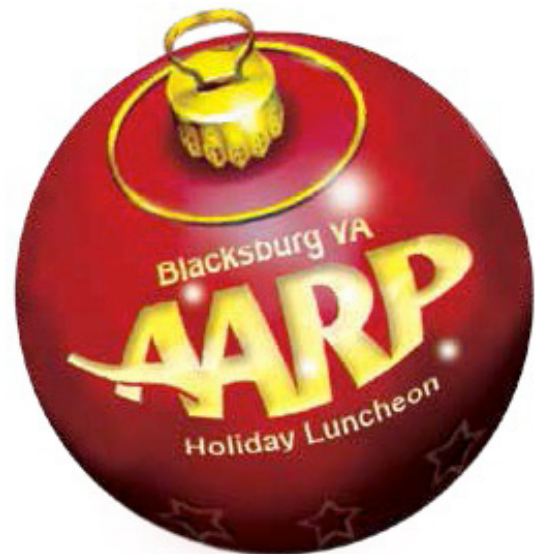
Warm Hearth Village Center

December 1, 2015 11:30 am

**\$18 per person
Guests welcome!**

**Reservation Deadline
November 20, 2015**

See the reservation form on p. 5



Bring a friend!