



# Vintages



Volume 20, Issue 12

Editor: Gail Knight

December 2020



Speaking as Editor of Vintages I am so proud of our community and how everyone came together to make the most of a terrible situation. Below are examples that I am aware of, and I am sure there are many more.

The community attended a special Military Memorial Day ceremony conducted by Robin & Tom Morley.

The Recreation Planning Committee was very innovative - organizing, among other events, recreation walks and tailgate parties, one with a DJ, that brought residents together in safe venues.

Our walking paths and roads permitted residents to walk together while distancing.

The Book Club and Science Friday groups are meeting via Zoom.



## A MOMENT TO BE THANKFUL

Hope Swarts

A big thank you to all of our friends at Four Seasons who donated a turkey or ham to the Morris County Food Pantry.

During this year especially, your generosity was sincerely appreciated.



## STATE CONSERVATION EASEMENT ALONG ROUTE 206 - UPDATE

The Board

The Board is obtaining opinions on the amount of tree risk mitigation required in the Conservation Easement along Route 206.

When that information is available and the board has decided what work it wants to undertake, the proposal will have to be submitted to Chester Township for approval before any work is undertaken. The work will only be to remove high branches and trees that may, during a storm could damage homes. Otherwise we are not allowed to do anything in the easement area.

We will advise you more about this in future communications.



**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

Members Zoom Meeting at 7pm

Please note the date change  
from Tuesday to Thursday

The letter, agenda, and notice of elections  
will be mailed the week of November 30th.

## RENEWING MVC DISABILITY PARKING PLACARDS

Bob Ardis

I received a renewal application by mail in early October, returned it by mail a few days later. More than a month passed without receiving a replacement. It was utterly impossible to get through to the MVC on their public phone number and ask any questions.

Research found that on July 31, 2020 Governor Murphy signed Executive Order No. 170, which includes a provision that extends the time for individuals to apply for renewed disability placards until 90 days after the last day of the COVID-19 public health emergency. That obviously means that if I still receive the renewal, fine, but that if I don't I can just continue to use the old one and apply for a new one again within 90 days after the emergency finally comes to an end.



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## MONARCH BUTTERFLY WAYSTATION IN CHESTER

New Jersey Hills Media Group

**CHESTER TWP.** – Migrating Monarch butterflies now have a home of their own thanks to installation of a “Monarch Waystation” established in Highlands Ridge Park on North Road.

Distinctive orange and black Monarch butterflies that flutter from flower to flower each summer consistently delight those who are fortunate enough to watch them. However, they have been on the decline for several decades, largely due to habitat destruction and overuse of pesticides. The trend has prompted a nationwide effort to restore habitat that will help boost populations. A nationwide effort to reintroduce this butterfly’s host plant, the common milkweed, is now the mission of the nonprofit group Monarch Watch based out of the University of Kansas.

Hence, Monarch Watch provided guidance to the township’s Environmental Commission to create the waystation, actually an area infused with all types of plants Monarchs like, including milkweed and other nectar plants.

The waystation is a wildflower meadow next door to the Chester Community Garden and is officially designated as such by the Commission, who joined the University of Kansas program. The meadow is visible to anyone hiking along the trails in the property around the Chester Community Garden.

“We hope that residents and other visitors will enjoy walking throughout the park and viewing milkweed and other wildflowers, and see monarch butterflies in summer and early fall before they begin their journey south to Mexico,” said Environmental Commission Chair Steve Hansbury.

“We hope that many residents will be inspired to create monarch habitat in their own yards at home and contribute to the effort to restore necessary habitat for the monarch butterfly species’ survival.”

To learn more about the program visit [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)

Thanks to Diana Schlesinger for identifying this article and Steve Hansbury’s involvement



Chester Twp. Environmental Comm. Chair Steve Hansbury sets up a sign calling attention to new Monarch Waystation in Highlands Ridge Park off North Road.

## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Submitted by Lisa Resnick

**January 13 - The English Wife** by Adrienne Chinn

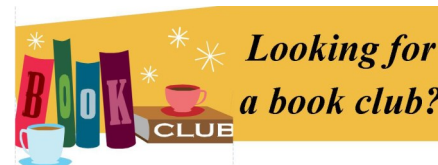
**February 10 - Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste NG

**March 10 - The Restaurant** by Pamela M. Kelly

**April 14 - The Turn of the Key** by Ruth Ware

**May 12 - White Ivy** by Susie Yang

**June 9 - The Huntress** by Kate Quinn



### Interested in updates or joining the discussion?

Contact Pat Perkins @ [peacefulpat13@yahoo.com](mailto:peacefulpat13@yahoo.com) to be included in the book club email roster.

Contact Peggy Zysman @ [peggy.zysman@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.zysman@gmail.com) with general inquiries

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## CHESTER LIBRARY VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS DECEMBER 2020

12/1 at 4pm: Media Made Simple; or what are my kids talking about with Instagram or Facebook?

12/1 at 7pm: Christmas Traditions with Kevin Woyce

12/7 at noon: Lunch and Learn; COVID-19, what should seniors know?

12/8 at 3pm: Monthly art class with Susan Jones

12/8 at 7pm: Lecture on medicinal plants of the Civil War with Lesley Parness

12/9 at 10am: Library Director's book review club

12/9 at 4pm: Sort your photos with Jamie Novak

12/9 at 7pm: Talk with Kristin Bair, author of *Agatha Arch is afraid of Everything*

12/10 at 4pm: Christmas Lights of NYC

12/10 at 7pm: NASA's next Mars Mission with Astronomer Paul Cirillo.

12/11 at 1pm: Monthly creative writing workshop with Michelle Cameron

12/15 at 7pm: Anxiety, Stress and the Holidays; tips on how to thrive instead of survive.

12/17 at 3pm: Christmas music that is not overplayed with pictures.

**Register for all programs at [chesterlib.org](http://chesterlib.org)**

**Need Help? Contact Donnella Tilery**

**[donnella.tilery@chesterlib.org](mailto:donnella.tilery@chesterlib.org)**

**or**

**Call 908-879-7612 between 10am & 3pm**

## BEN FRANKLIN: LIVED A QUARTER OF HIS LIFE IN EUROPE PART 2

Tom Morley

London 1764-1765: Where he was too English in America and too American in England, there were some who began to question where he really stood. He, while in London, now continued to write pieces for the British press sometimes as a colonist and other times as an Englishman. In his writings he tried to be evenhanded. Though well known for his knowledge of electricity, he was now being looked upon as a thinker and a publicist and this was how he had hoped to be remembered. English officials thought that some of the colonial leaders were rebellious and wanting to overthrow the British rule and become independent. (This was ten years before the Battles at Lexington and Concord which occurred in April of 1775). Living in London, Franklin often had a sense what the English were up to, but what the Americans were thinking was not so clear to him. It was a while before Franklin really understood the damage and the anguish that the taxes were exerting on the colonists.

Franklin was still enjoying life in London. The King of Denmark came to the city for a visit and asked, while there, to meet with Ben. Meanwhile, back in Philadelphia, Deborah, his wife, continued to supply him with long and rambling letters filled with "chaotic spelling and unpunctuated streams of thoughts, but wonderfully warm and detailed, crammed with the everyday routines of life in Philadelphia and with minute descriptions of the new house Franklin had never seen." The year was 1768 and Deborah was sixty. A year later she suffered a stroke from which she slowly recovered. In 1773 nine years from the last time he had seen her, Franklin told her that he hesitated to come back to America for fear that "I would find myself a Stranger in my Own Country." She wrote her last letter to him in 1773 and died the next year in December 1774. In 1768 the British government decided that American affairs merited their own executive department. Franklin was chosen for a ministerial position. By 1771 he was now representing Massachusetts as their agent.

In 1772 Ben was given a packet of letters written in the 1760s by Thomas Hutchinson, the lieutenant governor of Massachusetts. In these letters Thomas had written to the British undersecretary urging stern measures toward the colonists. He urged for "some declaratory acts of resolves" or "the friends of anarchy will be afraid of nothing be it ever so extravagant!". After his death. Ben was given these letters which he sent to Massachusetts and against his best judgement, the letters were published throughout the Colony. They created an uproar in Massachusetts. Rather than becoming less resentful of Britain, the colonists were angrier than ever at the mother country. The revelation in the letters seemed to confirm the conspiracy against their liberty that Americans had only feared and suspected. The Massachusetts radicals looked for an opportunity to renew their struggle and on December 16, 1773, taking advantage of the British Tea Act, they dumped British tea into the Boston harbor. When the Letters were published in England, everyone wanted to know how they had been obtained. Ben publicly confessed and with it went his confidence to calm the crisis that had arisen. In the eyes of the British government, Franklin had now come to represent the problems of the unruly colonists, including the recent Tea Party. Franklin had now become in the eyes of the British the single person most responsible for colonial resistance. Despite his humiliation and anger, Franklin had not given up hope. His friends advised him to leave, but he stayed. The Continental Congress was to meet in Philadelphia in September 1774. By December of that year Franklin made it clear to negotiators that the colonies would never accept the right of Parliament to legislate in the internal affairs of any colony. February 1775, both sides agreed that they were at an impasse. May 5, 1775, Franklin arrived back in Philadelphia. Fighting between the colonists and British soldiers had already broken out the month before in Lexington and Concord. In a newspaper interview upon his arrival, he said, "We have no favors to expect from the Ministry; nothing but submission will satisfy them. Only spirited opposition can save America from the most abject slavery and destruction." The day after he landed, the Pennsylvania Assembly elected him as one of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress.

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The Revolutionary War continued for another six years until Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in October of 1781. By the capture of Cornwallis and his army, the British government decided to negotiate an end to the conflict. The Battle boosted American morale, revived French further interest in the war, and undermined the support for the war among the British citizens.

France 1776-1783: Congress realized that a Delegate was needed in Paris if the United States was to persuade France to join the war as America's Ally. Jefferson and Adams declined but Franklin willing accepted. Franklin yearned to cross the Atlantic once again. He brought with him, this early in the game, various conditions for peace which he had outlined that might be negotiated with Great Britain. Some of the terms included unconditional surrender and monies for the right to all of Canada, Florida and Bermuda. So, on October 26, 1776, Franklin sailed with his two grandsons of his son and daughter who were 16 and 7 years old! They arrive in France in December after a long and difficult passage where, if Franklin was captured by the British, he could have been brought up on charges.

Franklin was able to bring the French monarchy into the war on behalf of the United States and was able to sustain this alliance for six years. Had he not gone to Paris; France might never have been as supportive of the American Revolution as they were. And without the French support the War for Independence might never have been won. Not only did Franklin have to convince the French to support America, but he also had to support his countrymen to trust France. Americans had always know France to be England's traditional enemy. England was Protestant, France was Catholic. America and Britain had previously been involved in the French and Indian War and the memory of that war lingered. And there was another issue, America needed money/loans and France complied.

Peace was formally established on September 3, 1783 and would be effective on May 12, 1784 with representatives of King George the III and representatives from the United States. The signing took place in Paris. It ended the Revolutionary War, it set the boundaries between the Empire in North America and the United States of America. Other details included fishing rights and restoration of property and prisoners of war.

After the signing of the Peace Treaty, Franklin reluctantly realized that he ought to end his days in America, but he had come to love France. It was "the civilest Nation upon Earth" and the French were "a delightful People to live with". Franklin had spent all but three and a half years out of the previous twenty-seven years abroad, the last eight years in France! By 1783 some of his countrymen had come to believe he was more loyal to France than to America.



*Franklin, by Charles Willson Peale, 1785*

Franklin arrived home in Philadelphia on September 14, 1785 to cheering crowds and ringing bells. Philadelphia had the only bank and the only library in the country that was open to the public. A year later local politics were in disarray and Franklin became the head of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It all happened so fast and at age seventy-nine he was suffering from gout as well as kidney or bladder stones. Washington who had retired from public office thought Franklin was out of his mind to accept public office. In March of 1787 he was appointed to a committee to revise the Articles of Confederation. Early in April of 1790, Franklin developed a fever and some sort of lung ailment that made breathing difficult. He was in pain and took opium for relief. With him at his death were his daughter Sally, her husband, and Franklin's two grandsons. At one-point Sally told her father she hoped he would recover and live many more years. He replied, "I hope not."

Ben Franklin died on April 17, 1790 at the age of eighty-four.



## COMMUNITY PROBLEMS / QUESTIONS ?

Taylor Management, as our property management firm, creates our work orders and interfaces with contractors about any questions regarding landscaping, maintenance or other problems in the community.

When you have any questions or concerns, please remember to contact Daniela DeVries at ddevries@taylormgt.com or call either 973-267-9000 x316 or 973-532-8216 direct.

Clare Ramirez, Property Manager can be reached at cramirez@taylormgt.com or call either 732-764-1001 x131 or 732-357-8441 direct.

Visit our Community Website: [www.fourseasonschester.com](http://www.fourseasonschester.com)

### Four Seasons at Chester is on Facebook

Dan Hartman has put Four Seasons activities on Facebook.

All you need to do to participate is have a Facebook account and become a friend of "Four Seasons at Chester"

## WHO'S WHO?

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President - Tim Stewart (2022)  
Vice Pres./Facility - Mike Pelepshin (2021)  
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Gail Knight, printed

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The Klines - Backup

### Information Distribution

George Kline, Email  
Karen Shuffler, Flyers

### EMERGENCIES

Clare Ramirez, Property Manager -  
EMERGENCIES ONLY  
1-888-992-9288

### Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Located in the fitness center at the  
Clubhouse — Call 911