



Vintages



Volume 20, Issue 11

Editor: Gail Knight

November 2020

UPDATE CLUBHOUSE CLOSURE

Steve Schlesinger

When will the clubhouse re-open? That's a great question. As the day's get shorter and cooler and we suffer from corona fatigue, we all look to the clubhouse as a respite from this bleak pandemic.



With the numbers of infections rising again all over the country it is hard to be optimistic but there is hope on the horizon. More than 160 vaccine trials are underway with several in final Phase 3 testing. Antivirals are on the way as well. All of these will be what we will need to vanquish the coronavirus and begin to enjoy *normal* life again.

The board is constantly reviewing the most current recommendations from the CDC, state, and local agencies and when the time is right and it is safe, we will begin to put our toes back into the water.

I wish we could have a more concise answer but there are a lot of encouraging signs and reasons to be optimistic that in the not too distant future, Four Seasons will once again be bustling with activity.

PARTY TIME AT FOUR SEASONS

WHEN: Sunday, November 1, 2020 (Rain Date to be determined)

WHERE: Clubhouse Parking Lot

WHEN: From 2 to 4 PM

(Don't forget to turn clocks back an hour on Saturday night!)

Pack some food and beverages, bring a chair and mask.

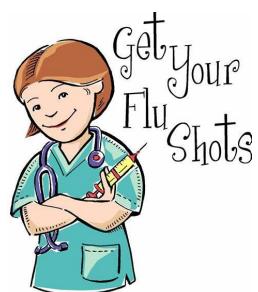
We will gather and see each other from a social distance of 6 feet.

RSVP: mariebryant156@gmail.com or 908-295-6268 by October 29.



REMINDER

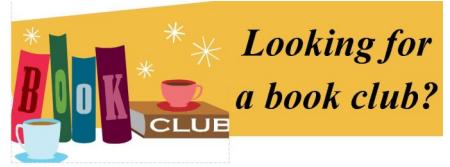
Get a Flu Shot!



BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

Submitted by Lisa Resnick

November 11 at 1pm: The Book Shop in Berlin By Francoise Frenkel
 December 9 at 1pm: The Murmur of the Bees by Sophia Segovia



Interested in updates or joining the discussion?

Contact Pat Perkins @ peacefulpat13@yahoo.com to be included in the book club email roster.

Contact Peggy Zysman @ peggy.zysman@gmail.com with general inquiries



HIKING GROUP

Hope Swarts

We had two beautiful hikes over the last few weeks in the Columbia Trail and at Natirar.

Here we are enjoying cider and donuts after our hike.

LABOR DAY PARTY AT THE FOUR SEASONS A SUCCESS

Karen Shuffler

"Grateful thanks to Hope Swarts who arranged a wonderful concert on Labor Day. Forty residents were mindful of social distancing and managed to laugh and dance six feet apart. It was a such a joy to see people, catch up with friends and just relax. Thank you Hope for a much needed evening of fun."

Note: This article was omitted in error from the October Vintages



MORRIS COUNTY FOOD BANK REQUEST

Hope Swarts

A Volunteer Opportunity

The Morris County Food Pantry is collecting turkeys for needy families this Thanksgiving. The pantry has an overwhelming goal of collecting 2500 turkeys.

Turkeys that weigh between 10 and 15 pounds would be the most desirable since most of the recipients live in small apartments

If you are able to donate a turkey, please contact Hope Swarts by November 20 at:

hopeswarts@gmail.com or 955-7727.

Your help is greatly appreciated!



CHESTER LIBRARY VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS NOVEMBER 2020



11/2 at 12pm: Lunch and Learn; Immune boosting foods from Shoprite dieticians

11/9 at 7pm: Virtual lecture: Current trends and disputes in US Foreign Policy with Dr. Brain Potter

11/10 at 3pm: Monthly art class with Susan Jones

11/11 at 4pm: Virtual Lecture; Remembering the First Ladies from Martha Washington to Melania Trump

11/12 at 3pm: Virtual Lecture; Josephine, The Empress Gardened with Lesley Parness

11/12 at 7pm: Learn how to boost your Wi-Fi with Mike Skara

11/13 at 1pm: Monthly creative writing workshop with Michelle Cameron

11/13 at 3pm: Weekend Winddown; the Jazz Divas - Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Mildred Bailey

11/18 at 4pm: The Super Bowl - The creation of the America's top sports event.

Register for all programs at
chesterlib.org

Need Help? Contact Donnella Tilery
donnella.tilery@chesterlib.org
or
Call 908-879-7612 between 10am & 3pm

BEN FRANKLIN: LIVED A QUARTER OF HIS LIFE IN EUROPE

Tom Morley

Ben was born in Boston on Milk Street across from the Old South Church. His father, Josiah, was non-conformist who had emigrated from England and became a candle and soap maker, one of the lowliest of the artisan crafts. Josiah fathered a total of seventeen children, ten, including Ben, by his second wife. Franklin was number fifteen of these seventeen and the youngest son. Two years of formal schooling was all he had though he said in his "Autobiography" that he never remembered a time when he could not read. Apprenticeship in a trade or skill was still the principal means by which most men prepared for the world. Josiah attempted to introduce Ben to his trade, but Ben rebelled, and his father suggested printing. Printing was the more cerebral of the crafts, requiring an ability to read, spell and write. James, Ben's older brother ran a print shop in Boston after having served an apprenticeship in London. James signed the twelve-year old boy up for a nine-year apprenticeship. In this position Ben had unlimited access to books which were scarce at the time and Ben read whenever and wherever he could which included the works of Plutarch, Defoe, et al.



Franklin's Birthplace, Milk Street.

To break from his unusually long apprenticeship in 1723, at the age of 17, Ben fled from Boston to Philadelphia by ship. He arrived in the Quaker City hungry, tired, dirty in his "Working Dress." He stumbled into a Quaker meetinghouse on Second Street, and "hearing nothing said fell asleep and continued so until the Meeting broke up when one was kind enough to wake me." Philadelphia was a rapidly growing city, soon to grow larger than Boston and the emerging Quaker aristocracy had come to dominate the mercantile affairs and the politics of the colony. He found work easily enough and found out that his talent and personality were respected by the printing community. The Governors of both Pennsylvania and New York at the time had asked to meet with him. Ben now had in his possession a trunk load of books which were rare at this time. People wanted to meet with him and converse with him. Once prominent Pennsylvanians grasped what Franklin was like, they were quick to patronize him. Money, influence, and the position of deputy postmaster came his way. This was all good, but something was missing so off to London went Ben.

London 1724-1726: London was not Boston or Philadelphia. Two persons died for every child born. Growth came from people moving into the city. All these people made for congestion and confusion in the narrow streets and dark alleys. London society was different from Philadelphia's in its hierarchical complexity and luxurious splendor. The Governor of Pennsylvania had promised to supply credit to Ben but it was never forthcoming. Ben's skills were immediately recognized by his peers as he worked at the trade, attended plays, and enjoyed himself. (As an aside, he taught swimming in the Thames River and demonstrated to the crowds his invention of wooden flippers!!!). In 1726 a Philadelphia merchant Thomas Denham offered to pay Franklin's passage back to Philadelphia and bring him into his business. Ben was on the next ship home. (Ships at the time were about 100 feet long and the journey West took six weeks).

Philadelphia offered new challenges and opportunities. Thomas Denham died suddenly, and Ben determined to stay with the trade and potential success. He was befriended by society and patrons. By 1729 he had his own successful business. About this time, he also entered into a common-law marriage with Deborah Read (these marriages were prevalent at the time). Unlike Washington, Jefferson, or Hamilton who married into wealth, Ben did not. The marriage did not help Franklin socially. When the Philadelphia gentry began mingling with Franklin, they never included his wife in the invitation. It was during this time in Philadelphia that Franklin and others organized a lending library which would enable subscribers to have access to more books than they otherwise would. No civic project was too large or small

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for him. He wrote a pamphlet on the printing of paper money, a boon for the tradesmen. He advised people on how to carry hot coals from one room to another, how to keep a chimney safe, how to organize a fire company. He promoted inoculation of smallpox, organized a night patrol to be supported by taxes to keep the streets and alleys safe at night. He invented his Pennsylvania stove to deal with poor heating methods. By 1748, at the age of forty-two, Franklin believed that he had acquired enough wealth and gentility to retire from active business. It meant he could at last become a gentleman, a man of leisure who would not have to work for a living. About the time that he was offered the rank of colonel in the Philadelphia militia. He didn't feel that he was quite a gentleman yet so he turned it down. Ten years later he felt better about himself and finally accepted the rank of colonel and as such became a major player in the politics of the British Empire. (Back around this time, George Washington too was a servant and officer of the British Empire while he served with General Braddock during the French and Indian War). This was the period when he became the premier electrician in a world fascinated by electricians and electricity. He gave the battery its name and introduced other terms such as conductor, charge, discharge and armature.

London 1757-1762: Franklin was a very loyal Englishman. Taxing from England was becoming an issue so Franklin was chosen to be an emissary to represent Pennsylvania. He was fifty-one years old and decided to take his twenty-seven-year-old son William with him, leaving his fourteen-year-old daughter Sally and Deborah at home. (William will later become the Royal Governor of New Jersey and will remain loyal to the Crown). This time he was ready for London! The population had grown and London was drawing talented people from all over the British Isles, and now Ben Franklin. His duties were to represent the Penn Assembly and soon he became an agent for the other colonies. It was supposed to be a two-year stay. Franklin extended it for another three years. World class culture, clubs, coffee houses, and theaters, Franklin soon realized how limited life was in the colonies. He received honorary doctorate degrees resulting in his being called "Dr. Franklin". His fame for his electrical experiments was especially great. Franklin, like many other colonists, had always thought of England as home. Now Franklin has thoughts to settle in England permanently. But, no, back to America.... Back in Philadelphia he found the streets less crowded than the bustling streets of London. Reality set in when he lost his seat in an election to the Pennsylvania Assembly. He had completely misjudged the sentiments of his fellow colonists. Since his political influence remained strong and his Quaker party still had a majority, the Pennsylvania assembly asked him to return to England on behalf of the colony. No doubt he was happy to comply. Off he went, still a loyalist to the Crown while many of his fellow colonists felt they were losing their liberty and fearful that Great Britain was becoming corrupt.

The year was 1764. Great Britain had emerged the year before from the Seven Years War (also known as the French and Indian War) with a depleted treasury and dominance over the north-eastern half of North America. This new land would have to be policed and that would cost lots of money. Britain's solution was to tax the colonies. The Stamp Act started the process with more taxes to follow. Once in Britain where he was to represent just Pennsylvania, eventually he found himself appearing before Parliament championing the American cause for all the colonies. Where he was too English in America, was he now becoming too American in England?

London 1764-1765: To be continued

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

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?

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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