



# Vintages



Volume 21, Issue 2

Editor: Gail Knight

February 2021

## **RENEWAL AND GETTING READY FOR SPRING**

The Board of Trustees

We all look forward to Spring and to some resumption of normality in our lives, especially in community activities and the management of our community property. We hope to open the Club House and the Pool - provided insurance and government guidance permit. In the meantime, please welcome any new neighbors who have moved into the community during winter.

This year, we are planning on renovating the Club House deck, painting the columns and trim on the deck and Club House entrance areas; replacing the pool deck pavers with a new and upgraded material, replacing the pool cover and changing out the older chairs and tables with new models. In the Club House, a deep cleaning, including windows and rugs should make the Club House a welcome place to resume our weekly and monthly discussion groups, bridge groups, fitness and aerobic programs when circumstances permit.

On the property, you might have noticed, the entrance trees have been trimmed and almost all the remaining excess front yard trees have been removed as we continue to reduce the cost of yard maintenance while preserving the beauty of the community. In Spring we will accept bids to perform selected tree maintenance in the conservation area behind homes on Route 206 in order to mitigate the risk of damage to homes. Also, we are issuing contracts to treat and preserve the cedar fences, resume the driveway replacement program and perform corrective concrete maintenance and certain building maintenance throughout the community.

For efficiency, we are looking to put more information on-line, using TaylorNow - a part of Nabr Network. Steve Schlesinger is leading this effort and will be looking for volunteers to assist in administering on-line preferences and data.

February 11 is the annual Association Election meeting. Please submit your ballot to Taylor Management by Friday February 5 (you can use the ballot and return envelope you received in the mail) and please join the Zoom meeting on the 11th (Zoom invitation and agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting)

### **WEATHER WATCH!!!**



Please Secure Your Recyclables

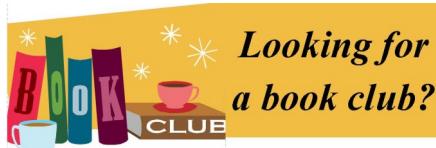
### **iPhone and iPad UPDATE RECOMMENDED**

January 27, 2021 Apple Upgrade made available

If you have not yet done so, it is highly recommended you update your iPhone and iPad to iOS 14.4 as soon as possible.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/apple-update-iphone-security-ios-14-4/>

## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE



Submitted by Lisa Resnick

**February 10** - Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng and The Turn of the Key by Ruth Ware

**March 10** - To be determined

**April 14** - The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson

**May 12** - White Ivy by Susie Yang and The Huntress by Kate Quinn

**June 9** - Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

**July 14** - Daughters of Yalta by Catherine Grace

**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

## DOG WASTE ETIQUETTE

Four Seasons is a pet friendly community but with no posted rules or designated pet areas.

Four Seasons expectation of dog walkers - be they residents, professional dog walkers or visitors to Four Seasons - is they must pick up their dog's waste.

Thoughtful dog owners always clean up after their pets. Please make this cleanup a habit. It will protect other pets and our residents from disease, help ensure our community remains clean and keep the neighbors happy.



## RETIRING “OLD GLORY”

Stephen Heller



There are many residents in Four Seasons at Chester that choose to display US flags on their mailboxes and fences. It's a welcome display!

Please keep in mind that Flying Old Glory carries an obligation to not let it deteriorate in place. These flags inevitably get damaged by wind and rain. If you are displaying a flag that is frayed, torn, or touching the ground, please replace or ‘retire’ it.

Retired flags are accepted at the American Legion collection box in our local Shop Rite. Depositing it there, assures a proper, respectful disposal.



**Thursday, February 11, 2021**

Members Zoom Meeting at 7pm

Annual Election Meeting

**Please submit Ballot by February 5**

## CHESTER LIBRARY VIRTUAL ADULT PROGRAMS FEBRUARY 2021



- 2/1 at noon: Lunch & Learn: The benefits of laughter for seniors.
- 2/4 at 4pm: Beginners Feng Shui with Vikki Anderson.
- 2/9 at 7pm: Great Decision Meeting 1; The role of international organizations in a Global Pandemic.
- 2/10 at 10am: 7pm: Library Director's book review club.
- 2/10 at 7pm: Art Talk; The Harlem Renaissance with Janet Cohen Mandel.
- 2/11 at 3pm: Virtual Yoga Sequence.
- 2/11 at 4pm: Listening Party; A vintages music playlist with images.
- 2/12 at 1pm: Monthly creative writing workshop with Michelle Cameron.
- 2/12 at 3pm: Crystal Singing Bowl meditation.
- 2/15 at 2pm: Eyes of the Wild wildlife program.
- 2/16 at 2pm: Art Club for Adults with Susan Jones.
- 2/16 at 4pm: Valentine Greetings with Kevin Woyce.
- 2/18 at 4pm: Highlights of Central Park with Mario Medici.
- 2/18 at 7pm: Exploring the World's Fair history with Jason Scappaticci.
- 2/23 at 4pm: Desserts & Delicacies from the Garden State with the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts.
- 2/23 at 7pm: Great Decisions Meeting 2; Global supply chains and national security.
- 2/24 at 4pm: Derick Lugo author of "The Unlikely Hiker".
- 2/24 at 7pm: Gut health discussion with Dr. Cedrick Batchateu.
- 2/25 at 2pm: Carousels Then & Now with Mario Medici
- 2/25 at 3pm: Virtual Yoga Sequence.
- 2/25 at 7pm: History of the US Presidents with the Museum of Early Trades & Crafts.

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

### Contribute to local history!

The Chester Library is documenting our Covid-19 experiences for their archives. If you live, work, or go to school in Chester please share a written memory of no more than 1500 words and/or a captioned photo and/or a short video (no more than five minutes) describing your personal experiences in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

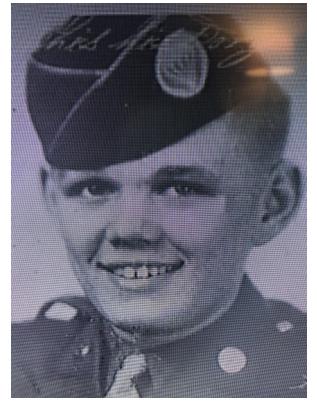


## WHO WAS THAT GUY JIMMY SMITH?

Tom Morley

"Just boys facing danger, please God make them men; If they live through the danger, make them boys again." A World War Soldier

December 7, 1942, Pearl Harbor was just attacked! Jimmy Smith, a thirteen-year-old eighth grade boy from San Rafael CA, was caught up in the moment like everyone else. Millions were answering the call and wanted revenge on the sneak attack of the fleet at "Pearl". The US was now involved on two fronts, Europe and the Pacific. Jimmy was inspired to be a paratrooper like William Preston and Edmond O'Brien who had starred in a movie Jimmy had seen before the Pearl attack called "Paratrooper Battalion". Jimmy wanted to be a paratrooper and help his country, so he went down to the local recruiting office and lied/enlisted (Jimmy is still 13 years old but Jimmy is six foot tall and weighs 200 pounds so the Army seemed to ignore the baby face.) Requirements for enlisting were 18 years old or 16 or 17 with parent's permission. Jimmy was 0 for 2. Since everyone was on the move at this time, Jimmy had run away from home and his mother assumed that he was with his father who was already in the military.



So, after Jimmy finished basic training, he was shipped off to Fort Benning Jump School in South Carolina in June of '42 to learn/train to be a paratrooper. The movie that inspired Jimmy was filmed at Fort Benning so Jimmy was really pumped. Early November '42 he completed jump school with the required 5 jumps out of a C47 and on November 15 he earned his Jump Wings! Quite a feat for a 14-year-old boy! After Benning, he boarded a bus and headed to Ft Bragg, NC to make preparations to go overseas. He became a member of the 82nd Airborne and continued the jump program at Bragg. In the Spring of '43 he left Bragg on a troop train for NYC where he boarded the US George Washington with the destination being Casa Blanca in North Africa. Once there the 82nd would join the British in an attempt to drive Rommel off the Continent. The drive was winding down when the 82" crossed the desert in May of '43. He managed to do some fighting and continue to do jumps while there.

The summer of '43 was the right time to start a push against the Axis Powers in southern Europe. The 82nd was to lead the way. Now a CORPORAL in rank, Jimmy knew enough to keep a low profile because of his age. Still, no one asked or challenged him! Before leaving Africa, Jimmy wrote a letter home (in beautiful cursive script) in which he asked how everyone was, said there was not much to do, that the temperature was 105 degrees but cooler at night and enclosed \$30 from his pay roll. His mother did not know he was out of the country. She thought he was with his father at Ft Campbell, KY. Dad assumed he was with Mom.

The 82nd with Jimmy were preparing to jump into at a town, Gela, on the Southern coast of Sicily. On July 10 of '43 the 82nd left with 2000 paratroopers for the mission to Gela, the drop zone. After leaving Tunisia the flight over the Mediterranean was uneventful until they arrived near the coast of Sicily. Beneath them was a US fleet of destroyers looking for German aircraft. Not having been notified of the arrival of US soldiers in US aircraft and it being nighttime, the anti-aircraft firing began! Twenty-three US planes were shot down and 318 paratroopers of the 82" died. The remaining US planes emptied their fighters as quickly as possible scattering them all over the coastal area. Jimmy was nicked on the chin on the way down which was not serious. He met up with a few men of his unit and they worked their way to Gela with some skirmishers along the way. At Gela all were reassembling in a vineyard where many American and German bodies were strewn across the landscape. Here he had an encounter with a 15-year-old German soldier on a motorcycle who seemed to be doing reconnaissance for the enemy and the

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incident ended in the German soldier's death. Sometime during this period Jimmy was nicked on the wrist by a bullet which resulted in the necessity of a report and ultimately a Purple Heart. As per protocol, a Western Union Telegram was sent home saying "your son was injured in battle". This was really the first time Mom knew he was out of the country. Angry, she fired off a scathing letter to FDR about her 14 year-old son being in combat. FDR responded that the Military didn't know his age and he would be sent home as quickly as possible. Now 15 years old, Jimmy was contacted just before the battle of Messina, was flown back to the camp in North Africa, and then by ship to the States. He was discharged by the Army and sent home where his mother chewed him out. Shortly thereafter, Jimmy ran away from home again and successfully joined the Navy! Again, he didn't have to prove his age, he just showed the recruiter his tattoos. He served on a naval destroyer for two years before they caught up with him again! He next joined the Merchant Marine transporting materials to France and did this until the war ended. When the war was over, he was 18! He joined the Army AGAIN as an ES Sergeant and an officer who recognized him from years back vouched for his authenticity.

The rest of the Jim Schmidt's story continues to raise interest. In 1950 he shipped to Japan to train Japanese soldiers to fight as the North Korean War was heating up. September '50 with the 35th Infantry Regiment at Chosin Reservoir in -25 degrees, snow. He and his men were outnumbered and surrounded. Now a Sergeant Major he retreated back to the coast. In '55 he met his wife Peggy Ford. In '55 he was assigned to Airborne in the States. Late '50s off to Vietnam. Laos in '62 (Green Beret) and Sergeant Major of all Special Forces in Vietnam. '65 Signed up for Air America. '67 retired for good.

#### SGM James O. Schmidt Awards and Decorations

Silver Star with 1 Oak Cluster

Bronze Star Medal with 2 Oak Clusters

Purple Hear Medal with 1 Oak Cluster

Air Medal with 1 Oak Cluster

Army Commendation Medal with 2 Oak Clusters

Good Conduct Medal with 4 Loops

American Campaign Medal

European-Africa-Middle Easter Campaign Medal

World War II Victory Medal

Army of Occupation Medal with Germany and Japan

National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Combat Infantry Badge 3rd Award

Expert Badge with Rifle

Parachutist Badge-Master

Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam Service Medal

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Unit Palm Citation

(\*) Google "James Schmidt" for additional information on this amazing patriot!

## 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

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 Pelephshin (2021)  
 Secretary - Karen Newhouse (2021)  
 Treasurer - Hector Garcia (2022)  
 Amenities - Steve Schlesinger (2023)

### COMMITTEES

#### Architectural Modifications

Bob Duffy, Chair  
 Marie & Charlie Bryant  
 Jim Daly  
 Roger Off

#### By-Laws

Bob Ardis  
 Bob Duffy  
 Ray Lanza  
 Steve Heller  
 Len Palamaro

#### Clubhouse

Judy Spiniello, Chair  
 Valerie Kent, Supplies  
 Gail Knight, Supplies  
 Betsey Garcia, Supplies  
 Lynne Melillo, Holiday Decor  
 Joel Melillo, Exercise Equipment  
 Library - Rosanne Palamaro  
 Barbara Newcomb, Advisor

#### Covenants

Bob Ardis  
 Debbie Omansky  
 Peter Spera

#### Facilities

Fred Karasek  
 Bob Reigrod  
 Steve Schlesinger

#### Finance Advisory Group

John Fuss  
 Ray McCann  
 Betsy Mintz

#### Insurance Advisor

Rick Resnick

#### Landscaping & Trees

Chris Biava  
 Colleen Hamrah  
 Robin Morley  
 Diana Schlesinger

#### Pool

Richard Dischinger  
 Greg Faughnan  
 Bruce Goldstein  
 Steve Hansbury  
 Lynne Melillo,  
 Louise Saliceti

#### SUPPORT COMMITTEES

##### Caring & Newcomers

Valerie Kent, Chair  
 Betty Busciglio, Co-chair  
 Colleen Hamrah  
 Martha Hatch, Welcomer

##### Directory

George Kline, monthly electronic  
 Gail Knight, printed

#### Media Committee

Hector Garcia

#### Recreation Planning

Hope Swarts, Chair  
 Marie Bryant  
 Betty Busciglio  
 Patricia Cable-Perkins  
 Linda Diforio  
 Lucille Duffy  
 Marion Ellis  
 Colleen Hamrah  
 Martha Hatch  
 Allan & Barbara Newcomb  
 Joan Off  
 Karen Shuffler  
 Barbara Stewart  
 Lori Tolento  
 Birgit Wills

#### Vintages

Gail Knight - Editor  
 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