

# Park View Village

*Newsletter – Vol. 8, No. 1*  
January-February, 2018



***Dr. Susan Huxman, 9<sup>th</sup> president of Eastern Mennonite University, presented our January 23 program and stayed for our business meeting and social hour. Photos by Greg Versen***

Dr. Huxman, starting her second year as Eastern Mennonite University's 9<sup>th</sup>, and first woman, president, visited with slightly more than 30 PVV members and guests (including a group from Bridgewater). She praised her audience because (to quote that insurance commercial), "You know a thing or two because you've seen a thing or two."  
*(continued on p. 3)*

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## ***PROGRAM CALENDAR***

**Tuesday, Jan 30:** Visit to **Pale Fire Brewery** (in Ice House; 217 S Liberty St #105), for 10:30 a.m. tour followed with lunch for those interested--Food Bar Food or another spot (we're flexible). No sign-up, just show up--parking at municipal lot @ Turner Pavilion.

**Thurs., Feb. 15: Breakfast group begins.** An informal breakfast "interest group" will start (if there is enough interest!) 9AM at the Little Grill, 621 N. Main St. Please contact Paul Yoder, [payoder@comcast.net](mailto:payoder@comcast.net), by Feb. 10.

**Mon., Feb. 19, Trip to Mount Vernon:** Admission free, as it's George's birthday! Events include speeches by

“Washington” and others, military drill with fife and drum, tour of the Washington library and book-signing (over shagbark hickory syrup) with author Jeff Finegan. See <http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/washingtons-birthday-celebration/>

Minimum of 13 people needed to hire a bus, @ \$25. Bus would depart from PVMC at 7:30 am. Deadline to sign up is Feb. 12; contact Greg Versen, 433-1018 or [gregversen@yahoo.com](mailto:gregversen@yahoo.com).

**Tues., Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m.**, at PVMC Fireplace Room: **Esther Nizer** will talk about her life growing up in Elkton and attending its Rosenwald school, which then served students of color. Ms. Nizer is on the staff of JMU’s Dept. of Information Technology.

### **Events “TBA”**

Watch for dates of the following events “to be arranged.” Trips to Staunton depend on numbers signing up. Contact Greg Versen to sign up or for more info: 433-1018, [gregversen@yahoo.com](mailto:gregversen@yahoo.com).

**Sunspots** (glass blowing), Staunton: The largest available bus holds 13, or we may carpool for a morning trip with lunch in Staunton.

**Mary Baldwin University tour:** We may carpool from PVMC to Staunton.

**Woodrow Wilson Home tour:** We may combine two of the above events for a day in Staunton.

**Tour of Dynamic Aviation** (Bridgewater), date TBA.

**Games night/group activity** in March, date TBA.

### **Interest Groups?**

In addition to the breakfast group (see Feb. 15 note, p. 1), proposals for two more interest groups are below. Contact the people listed if you are interested:

**Book Discussion:** Clara Yoder, [clarayoder@yahoo.com](mailto:clarayoder@yahoo.com), 433-1937, or Arlene Wiens, [arlene.wiens8@gmail.com](mailto:arlene.wiens8@gmail.com) 433-3875(h), 540-746-4569 (cell).

**Hiking/Walking Group:** Joe Lapp, [jlamarlapp@gmail.com](mailto:jlamarlapp@gmail.com), Cell, 540-421-6975; and Hannah Lapp, [hmlapp@comcast.net](mailto:hmlapp@comcast.net), 540-421-2451. Home, 433-0381.

### **Movies**

PVV’s longest-running “interest group” (open to all, free) is showing monthly Friday films at **6:30pm (note recent time change)** in VMRC’s Park Place Cinema Room. Please arrive before doors are locked at 6 pm (or use Wellness Center or Park Gables entrances).

**Feb. 16** -- "The Theory of Everything": Famed physicist Stephen Hawking’s work, marriage and struggle with ALS. (2014)

**March 16** -- "Strangers on a Train": Classic murder mystery by Alfred Hitchcock. (1951)

**April 20** -- "Bad News Bears": Walter Mathau comedy about a hapless Little League team. (1976)

**May 18** -- "A Walk in the Woods": Robert Redford and Nick Nolte set out on the Appalachian Trail. (2015)

*Susan Huxman, continued from p. 1:*

The school that began in 1917 with 40 students and four courses (Bible, literature, agriculture and choral music), now has an enrollment around 1,700, with 48 subjects – yet Dr. Huxman assured us it has retained its core mission “to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). In 1917, she’s learned, a class of four boys and three girls debated the topic, “Resolved: that men have contributed more than women to humanity’s well-being.” “The negatives won!” she informed us proudly. And in 1948, then-EMC became the first historically white Virginia college to racially integrate.

Following Dr. Huxman’s administrative careers in Kansas and later, Canada, husband Jesse followed her to EMU as their two adult children left them “empty nesters.” She’s taken on big challenges. As undergraduate enrollment declines (along with Mennonite numbers nationally), budget needs have forced EMU to reduce staff and programs. She hopes to make international cross-cultural studies (now sending groups to India and Guatemala) affordable to all students. Meanwhile, EMU’s international enrollment has plummeted under new federal restrictions.

Yet she said the university is making progress by partnering with several other rural colleges and “batting a thousand on grants” – notably from the National Science Foundation for scholarships, and Lilly for the seminary.

For EMU’s yearlong Centennial, she quipped, “We’ve put Mennonite humility on the shelf.” Events remaining include a Mosaic Theatre production of “I Shall Not Hate” on Feb. 16-17; a roundtable, “Borders and Bridges,” with Mark Sawin (one of PVV’s recent speakers)

participating on March 22; and the 100<sup>th</sup> graduation this May.

Dr. Huxman stayed to field our questions on topics including solar energy, Suter Science Center renovations, a charge planned for public use of the indoor track, and the need to eliminate philosophy, theater and physics majors (but not minors). She encourages us to contact her with ideas and concerns. – C.E.



*Photos by Greg Versen*

## BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

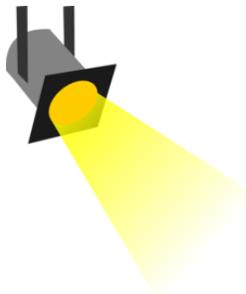
I hope the New Year is off to a good start. The Board and 2.0 Project Team continue working on strategic themes that emerged from the 2017 Member Survey. The January meeting involved a discussion of membership and recruitment issues. How many memberships are need to develop a strong and engaging organization? What do we mean when seeking to become more diverse? Should PVV change geographical boundaries? These questions and others create a lively exchange of ideas.

In February, Project 2.0 members will meet with representatives from Bridgewater who are interested in a Village for Bridgewater. Several came to the program we held in January with EMU President Susan Huxman.

Our thanks to Greg Versen, Robin McNallie and Peggy Landis for organizing wonderful events and programs. Also our thanks to Chris Edwards, who serves as editor of our newsletter.

Thanks for your membership with Park View Village.

--Keith Gnagey



## VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

### Looking For a Fine Carpenter?

PVV members Paul and Ann Yoder are pleased to serve as a reference for a carpenter handyman who is especially skilled in installing cabinetry. **Guy Vlastis** has had experience as a general contractor but prefers to do small residential refinishing and remodeling jobs.

Guy can be contacted by phone at [540-269-6706](tel:540-269-6706) or e-mail at [guyvlasits@gmail.com](mailto:guyvlasits@gmail.com). He is trustworthy and offers years of experience doing residential remodeling.

*John Spicher*  
Vendor Services Chair

## “NO LONGER EDUCABLE?” An idea that’s far too OLD

The *Washington Post* Health & Science section of Dec. 12, 2017 had an article with some eye-opening history of how our culture, and its experts, viewed old age, starting in the 1800s. In 1904, the world-renowned Dr. Sigmund Freud (then aged 48) insisted that “old people are no longer educable,” and that no one over 50 was capable of learning new information or skills, or benefiting from therapy! Such beliefs were widespread at the time, based on theories long since debunked, writes Joseph F. Coughlin, author of *The Longevity Economy: Unlocking the World’s Fastest-Growing, Most Misunderstood Market*, from which his Post article is excerpted. To find it online, search for: [Washington Post Coughlin why do people get old?](#)

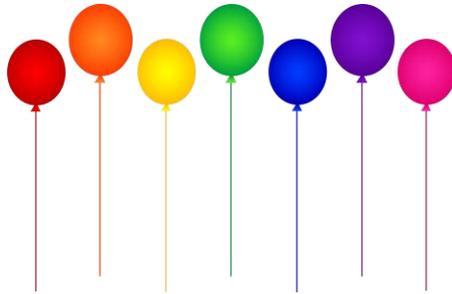
C.E.

**HOLIDAY MEMORIES**

VMRC's Village Hall was the site for our Dec. 12 Christmas banquet, where more than 30 gathered to enjoy sumptuous food brought by PVV members, and carols sung by a nine-man ensemble named The Senior Sound. Those harmonizers, mostly VMRC residents, specialize in singing a capella and sharing the earliest versions of carols, such as "Silent Night, Hallowed Night." Their repertoire also includes "The Angels Hymn," by the late, well-known local writer and composer John Wayland and George Brunk.

*Photos by Greg Versen*





***Happy birthday, PVV members!***

**February** - Kenton Brubaker, Dorothy Jantzi, C. Norman Kraus, Omar Showalter, Sam Weaver, Janet Wenger, David Wiens

**March** - Vernon Jantzi, Mary S. Kauffman, Edie Bontrager, Ruth Stauffer, Janet Weaver, Arlene Wiens, Clara Yoder, Karen Moshier-Shenk

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***THE PARK VIEW VILLAGE BOARD***

Evelyn Driver – Vice President  
Keith Gnagey – President  
Nancy Gunden – Treasurer  
Peggy Landis – Program Committee  
John Spicher – Vendor Services Chair

Clara Yoder – Secretary  
Paul Yoder – Member Recruitment

***STAFF:*** Denise Sauder  
Administrative Assistant

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***TO CONTACT PARK VIEW VILLAGE:***  
***540-705-0432; website, <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>***

***Deadline is March 26 for submissions to the March-April issue of PVV's bimonthly newsletter. Send items to Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457; [chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com](mailto:chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com).***

***PLEASE NOTE:*** The editor made a New Year's resolution to try both to ease my newsletter task and to get each issue to members in a more timely way. So, in the future, submissions will be used that arrive by deadline (and maybe a bit after, if space and time permits), but I promise neither to nag anyone interminably or to wait interminably for anything.

Please let me know ASAP if you will need to send something late. If I receive your submission before the current issue is otherwise ready to go, it will be included. Otherwise, it may not.

Thank you, friends! -- C.E.