

The Last Word

A Rosslyn Farms Community Club Publication

www.rosslynfarmspa.com

rosslynfarmscommunityclub@gmail.com

Facebook: Rosslyn Farms Community Forum

Egg Hunt

April 13 at 12:00 p.m.

Kids and Grandkids - don't miss our Rosslyn Farms Easter Egg Hunt at the Community Center. After the hunt, there'll be games, egg decorating, and spring crafts to make.

Redd-Up Day

April 27 at 9 a.m.

Our annual Redd Up Day will be Saturday April 27th starting at 9 at the swimming pool parking lot. We will work on raking and mulching in the park and pool area and possibly others areas around the community. Please bring gloves, a rake, a leaf blower if you have it. This is a great morning to get out and work with your neighbors and help Charlie Smith.

Around noon we will stop to have a hot dog lunch and admire our work. If you can't work, but would like to provide something for the lunch, please let me know what you will be bringing.

Please RSVP (412-215-7144) if you can work so we will know how many to plan for lunch.

Wine Tasting

April 27 at 7 p.m.

Wine Tasting "Full Bodied Taste/Skinny Price" at the Community Center. Bring 2 glasses per person and an appetizer or dessert to share. Sign-up details inside.



FEBRUARY POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Most of the calls Scott Township police responded to in February were to assist Robinson EMS and the Crafton VFD. Two calls were to assist Robinson EMS with medical emergencies and several calls were to assist firemen with downed power line calls as a result of the storms. The police also investigated a door-to-door salesman who was soliciting without a license. Generally speaking, solicitors must have a permit before going door-to-door. Exceptions to the ordinance are given for religious, political and student canvassing. A downed utility line should never be touched. Police and firemen will never touch a downed power line, usually even if it has fallen on a car. They are trained to wait for the power company to cut the line. A downed power line, even if it is not sparking, may still be energized. The system also periodically sends a charge through the line as a test. If you touch what appears to be a dead line, you may be shocked when it is periodically recharged. During the last storm, one downed power line on Alden was "guarded" by a Duquesne Light representative for several days, 24 hours a day, because it was still energized. In short, never touch a downed utility line, even if you think it is only a phone or cable line. If you are wrong, it could be deadly.

Jim Stover, Mayor

WINE TASTING

FULL BODIED TASTE/SKINNY PRICE

April 27 at 7 p.m.
at the Community Center

Bring 2 wine glasses
per person and an
appetizer or dessert to
share.

\$20/person

Cash or Check made to RFCC

R.S.V. P. to Jeanne Rosen by April 20

422 Kings Highway

Carnegie, PA 15106

call (412)276-7777

e-mail jdrsales@comcast.net

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Rosslyn Farms Plant Sale is back!
Our sale this year will be held on
Saturday, May 11th from 8 a.m. until noon
at the Community Center.

More information to follow in next
month's Last Word. Any questions,
feel free to give me a call.

John Repine

412-279-7368

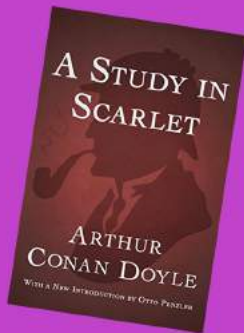
Rosslyn Farms Garden Club





BOOK DISCUSSION

All are welcome to join the community book discussions which are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. (and feel free to join us, even if you haven't read the book!).



April 18

at the home of Chrissy Green
215 Puritan Road
A Study in Scarlet
by Arthur Conan Doyle

Please let Chrissy
(chrissygreen988@gmail.com)
know if you will be joining us for
April's book club.

May 16

at the home of Mary Lou Gegick
21 Standish Way
The Chicken Runs at Midnight
by Tom Friend



by Grace, Julia and Elizabeth

PAWS-LYN FARMS

LINCOLN

The Robb Family Dog



How old is your dog: 2 years old

Breed: Beagle Shepherd mix

How long have you had your dog: 2 years

Tricks: sit, stay, jump, come

Favorite human food: chicken

Where did you get your dog: Monroeville Animal Shelter

Favorite toy: bone

Funniest Thing: Lincoln sits on top of the cat

Favorite place in the house: In his crate

Like dogs or humans better: Humans!

of Rosslyn Farms

THE EARLY YEARS

by Isabel Ford

CARDIOPULMONARY
CEREBRAL
RESUSCITATION



Famous Farmers –

Since Rosslyn Farms was founded in 1902, there have been a number of people who have been recognized for their accomplishments.

Peter Safar, his wife and three children lived at 107 Edgecliff Road in the 1960s. Dr. Safar was a pioneer in critical care medicine and a three-time Nobel prize nominee for medicine. He was known as the father of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). He is best known for combining mouth-to-mouth resuscitation with chest compressions. He emphasized the importance of teaching CPR to “ordinary people”. He is also credited with pioneering work in assembling modern intensive care units.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Reminder: Please take in your trash cans by the end of the day.

FRI
APRIL 12
GARBAGE

FRI
APRIL 19
GARBAGE+
RECYCLE

FRI
APRIL 26
GARBAGE

FRI
MAY 3
GARBAGE+
RECYCLE

FRI
MAY 10
GARBAGE



RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.

WASTE MANAGEMENT: DO NOT 'BAG' RECYCLABLES
bagged recyclables will be collected as trash, not as
recycling at sorting facility



PAPER RETRIEVER(by the pool):

no plastic bags - it ruins the "paper batch" • no cardboard
only paper, junk mail, catalogs, etc.



ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CLUB

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E-mail: rosslynfarmscommunityclub@gmail.com
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 - Crossfit Level 1 Trainer
 - USA Olympic Weightlifting Level 1 Certified
 - Nutrition Consultant

Email us today for
more information at: maddymartinez7@gmail.com



“Really? You want to go to Easter Island. Why?”

by Nancy Barsotti



My partner Jon asked this question – in all seriousness – as I was beginning to plan our big adventure to South America and Antarctica, where we traveled this January.

“Well, I’ve always wanted to go there. Besides it’s in the neighborhood of where we’re going and I don’t know when we might go back this way. Just trust me please,” was my response. So he did and on we went.

Since it was discovered by the outside world on Easter Sunday in 1722 – and hence its name – I thought the celebration of Easter would be a good time to write about this exciting part of our trip. It is 2500 miles out into the Pacific, a five-hour plane ride from Santiago to this diminutive island, which is under the jurisdiction of Chile.

There has always been such mystery of this place – especially due to its monumental stonework, the Moais. Who made them and why? What happened to the original inhabitants? There have been many theories and innumerable studies of Easter Island – some good and some not so much.

The island was formed by three separate volcanic eruptions between 1 million and 100,000 years ago giving the island its triangular shape. It has now been proven that the first humans to reach the island came from another island in Polynesia, between 600-900 AD. They brought everything with them to lay the foundations for a thriving Polynesian community. Then the island was a typical paradise – covered with palm trees and edible plants as well as an abundance of seabirds and fish.

Ancestor worship was common throughout Polynesia, with the idea that an important person’s mana, or spiritual power, continued to help and influence their descendants after their death. Nowhere else in Polynesia did the construction of the platforms and the carving of ancestral representations reach the extent or size that they reached on Easter Island. From 1000-1600 AD when a chief or important member of a tribe died, the Rapanui people commissioned a statue from the quarry at Rano Raraku and transported it across the island back to their village where it was erected overlooking the village and their descendants. They were not set up facing out to sea. At that time there were about eleven tribes trying to outdo each other with ever-larger statues.

This was likely the beginning of problems between the tribes as well as massive deforestation of the island. When the Dutch arrived in 1722, it didn’t take them long to see that this island, heretofore unmarked on their maps, didn’t offer much. They left after one week after skirmishes that left islanders dead. In 1770 the Spanish arrived from Peru and claimed the island without any resistance. But that didn’t turn out well for the inhabitants, and after six days the Spanish left and never came back to stake their claim. Captain James Cook arrived four years later, bringing his sick and weary crew on board the HMS Resolution, desperate for supplies and fresh water. Finding very little, they left after four days.

In the meantime there was heavy fighting on the island. The warring islanders toppled each other’s statues, they were in poor health, lacking in food and the ability to farm anything except sweet potatoes. All the intrusions from the outside had certainly not helped either. The invaders had also brought rats that fed on the landscape. Beginning in 1770 all of the Moai on Easter Island were thrown from their platforms. 1838 was the final year in which any outside visitor recorded seeing an upright Moai.

But the worst was yet to come in 1862 when Peru raided the island and as many as 1500 Rapanui were forcibly removed and taken to Peru as slaves. But they had also brought smallpox and by 1877 there were just over 100 people left from about 12,000 during the peak of the Moai period. A Christian missionary arrived from Tahiti, and while unsuccessful in converting the Rapanui he did manage to get the message back to his superiors that the island’s inhabitants were on the brink of extinction. This saved people and Rapa Nui artifacts.



Chile annexed the island in 1888 but never put much into their original colonization plan and the island returned to its forgotten status. In 1903 a sheep farming company acquired the island on a 25-year lease. Sheep roamed the island while the islanders themselves were herded into the only small town (still the only one) Hanga Roa. Although the lease was extended another 20 years and there were some improvements made for the islanders, the company left in 1953, turning the island over to the Chilean Navy. Fortunately some Rapanui who traveled to the mainland for their military service returned much wiser to the ways of the world and a strong autonomous movement began and the island gained some freedom from outsider rule.

After such a tumultuous history the people (about 8000, including 3000 of whom are descendants of the original Rapanui) now enjoy many benefits including no income tax, free schooling and health care, subsidized fuel and air travel and most importantly, land on the island can only be owned by Rapanui. No foreigners can acquire land and this has kept the island free of over-development. In fact the resort where we stayed, the Explora, only has a 20-year lease.

The resort offered us excursions every day and our guides were descendants of Rapanui. When visiting the hidden caves on the island, one told us stories of staying there with his grandfather. When we walked to the top of one of the craters at Rano Kau, our guide told us that her grandmother used to hike to the bottom to do her laundry in the crystal clean water. We listened to the stories of the Birdman Competition at Orongo where we toured the old stone houses high above the cliffs where the tribes stayed and watched their able competitors. But of course, the highlight was learning more about the Moais. We toured most of the platforms and statues, the restoration of them having been funded by many countries, notably Japan, and the designation of 40% of the island being declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. Visiting the quarry at Rano Raraku was mind-boggling. Here one learns how they carved the Moai and we viewed the largest Moai ever started, still lying unfinished at the top of the hill. Many of them are partially buried underground due to the forces of nature. But the large heads and torsos that are visible gave one the image that they were marching down the hill. Others are scattered like fallen comrades on the hillside and all the way down towards the sea. How they managed to move the Moai into position across this island is just unbelievable – and how they did it remains somewhat a mystery. At one time there were 800-1000 of them!

I hope this history lesson gives you some idea about why our trip to this remote place and unique culture was an absolutely incredible and fascinating part of our travels. Three days there were so eye opening and educational. It would be wonderful to have even more time there.

As we headed back to the mainland, Jon and I both agreed that our time on Easter Island was “beyond our expectations.” We have used those words to describe everywhere we went in January but experiencing this mystical island was something we will never stop talking about, particularly Jon who is really happy we added this to our journey.

As time permits I will write more travel tales of our trip south of the Equator.

Note: Credit to “A Companion to Easter Island” by James Grant-Peterkin from which many of the historical facts were taken in the writing of this article.