

Last Word

DECEMBER 2016

**HOLIDAY
HOUSE
TOUR
DEC 11**

**CAROL
SING
DEC 24**

**TEEN
MOVIE
NIGHT
DEC 29**

THE LAST WORD
A ROSSLYN FARMS
COMMUNITY CLUB
PUBLICATION

DEADLINE IS THE 24TH
OF THE MONTH
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LAUREN PREPELKA
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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!)

Thursday, December 15th, 7:00 p.m.
Sarafino's
40 East Crafton Avenue, Crafton

Reservations: If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Marie Guerra at 412-480-3920 by Friday, December 9th, so we can be sure that we have a seat for all.
Note that we don't read a book in December – too many other holiday activities to enjoy!

Also, following tradition, in December we have a Holiday "Grab Bag" gift exchange. If you'd like to participate, simply bring a wrapped gift (\$15 value).

Hope to see you there.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING CALENDAR

Friday, December 2 - Garbage/Recycling
Friday, December 9 - Garbage
Friday, December 16 - Garbage/Recycling
Saturday, December 23 - Garbage
Friday, December 30 - Garbage/Recycling

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



from Jordan

Who can believe the holiday is season here? So, bundle up, grab a hot drink and get ready for our events! Our Arts Around the World series culminated in a great art show, thanks to Deneen Underwood (Bigham). Deneen taught art for years — and received many awards — so she has many more ideas. Stay tuned for more classes, including Shakespeare in warmer weather! If you want a class or event geared toward your age, email me at jjparkertongross@gmail.com.

Thank you Harmans and Bergmans, who effortlessly pulled off another great Cold Weather Cocktail Party! The officers will remain the same for another year, but at the end of 2017, I will step down as president. Germaine will also step down as vice president then, if not sooner. If you're possibly interested in taking over, or just want more info, feel free to contact me.

Upcoming events:

Holiday House Tour

December 11, 3 p.m., \$7 in advance/\$10 at the door (for nonmembers, \$10 and \$13 respectively). The tour starts at 12 Edgecliff Road and will be open for 45 minutes. Keep going to the end, because a party with champagne is waiting at the last house! Please bring an appetizer or dessert for the party. At each house look for the slip of paper that has house details and your next address. We still have a little space, so RSVP soon to jjparkertongross@gmail.com or (412) 489-6306. Make checks out to RFCC and mail them to Tara Benner at 2 Revere Road.

Christmas Caroling

December 24, 7:30 p.m., at Parrish Park, with roaring fire and hot wassail — join your neighbors to celebrate all that brings us together!

Teen Movie Night

December 29, 8 p.m., at the Community Center. The movie will be Central Intelligence starring Dwayne Johnson (**PG-13**) and we'll have drinks and popcorn. Please RSVP if interested. Sylvia Bergstedt will be hosting, but we need a second adult to monitor the kids and help with popcorn, so please let me know if you can help.

Stay tuned:

Whiskey Tasting, January or February, at 7:30 p.m., RSVP to Jack Follmer.

Brew-Off, January or February, 7:30 p.m., (featuring homemade brews produced right here in Rosslyn Farms!). For RSVPs or to submit your own brew, contact brgross@inbox.com.

Continuing with this fall's trip with the Classic Car Club of America in a 1934 Packard, we headed to Maine. I hadn't been there since 1974. It's rugged beauty and charm had left such an indelible imprint in my mind and I was really looking forward to being there again. So often though the second time around leaves one disappointed. Not so Maine. To me, it is one of the most beautiful places in our country.

What I love about driving trips is discovering small towns and the unique points of interest along the way as well as unknown facts about the states. I was astonished that Maine has around 3500 miles of coastline which is over half of the total Atlantic coastline of 5565 miles. In Woodstock is a statue erected to commemorate the last telephone call made from a hand-cranked telephone in October of 1983. Barbara and Elden Hathaway, who operated the Bryant Pond Telephone Company from their home until selling it to Oxford Networks when it was integrated into the national dial system, made the call. (And in just the short time since we don't even have dial phones!)

After leaving New Hampshire, our first stop on our car itinerary was an obligatory stop for lunch in Wayne at Tubby's. With over 200 people in 100 classic cars, you can imagine how we took over the town that afternoon, not to mention they probably emptied the local waters of lobster.

Their famous lobster rolls literally started us on a "lobster roll" for a week. Along with their homemade ice cream, it's easy to pack on the pounds while eating your way through the state. We ate lobster every day for a week. Even McDonalds sells lobster rolls!

The first part of our tour in Maine was near Lincolnville at Point Lookout Resort where we stayed in quaint Maine pine log cabins. That evening we enjoyed a typical New England Clam Bake, which of course included more lobster.

I am still amazed at how many antique and classic cars are still around. We toured several private collections along with some gorgeous private historic homes. One of the estates is "East of Eden," built in 1907 and is emblematic of the long gone social lifestyle that was prevalent on Mount Desert Island in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The long center hallway opens to a gracious veranda overlooking the surrounding waters of Bar Harbor. With all the cars parked around the estate, it is easy to step back in time and envision what life was like for the high-society during those days.

Another stop was in the town of Paris and the area of Paris Hill. It is the highest village in Maine at 831 feet above sea level. On a clear day one can see all the way to our previous stop in New England - New Hampshire's White Mountains. Hannibal Hamlin, Abraham Lincoln's first Vice President, once owned this historic home. The car collection here is on 3 floors of outbuildings and is truly a museum - from carriages to a whole row of 1934 Packards (the most desirable year for collectors of Packards), Duesenbergs, a Rolls Royce and more modern classics like one-of-a-kind Jaguars.

Design Details

"Motoring through Magnificent Maine"



by Nancy Barsotti

Across the town square is the white clapboard First Baptist Church of Paris, built in 1791. It houses a 930-pound bell cast in Paul Revere's foundry. And everyone can try his or her hand at ringing it by pulling on the sturdy rope in the vestibule.

The Seal Cove Auto Museum of Mount Desert Island specializes in early automobiles from the Brass Era. There is quite a history here of the fight waged in the early 1900s between the elite who wanted to keep the island free of those "new-fangled cars" and those that wanted to get rid of carriages. Progress prevailed of course.

Since 2016 was the 100th Anniversary of the National Park System, I wanted to again visit the place that had left the most memorable impression in my mind of Maine - Acadia National Park. It was the first National Park in the eastern United States, where its lands were first recognized as such in 1916.

After the car tour ended, we wanted to have more time to explore Acadia. Staying in Southwest Harbor at a quaint B&B for several days afforded us the opportunity to truly experience the park. The curving roads around the glacier-scoured granite cliffs offered spectacular views whether deep in the forests or along the rocky coastline. We were lucky that the park's usual foggy weather cleared for the winding drive up to the top of Cadillac Mountain. At 1,530 feet, it is the highest point on the U.S. Atlantic seaboard. The summit is covered with slabs of many types and colors of granite, the results of volcanic action. The trails at the top give one a panoramic 360 degree view of Bar Harbor, Bar Island, Mount Desert Island and the wooded islands in Frenchman Bay.

Lighthouses hold a real fascination for me and no trip to a coastline is complete without a visit. The Pemaquid is one of the most photographed on the Maine coast. It was built in 1827 and a lighthouse keeper's cottage was constructed in 1857. It is very accessible along a ridge and an easy walk to the top to see the Fresnel lens, one of only six still in service in Maine. Another lighthouse, the Bass Harbor Head Light was down along the shore and harder to see. But nothing will dissuade me from a lighthouse view, even if it means many steep steps and scrambling over large granite boulders.

At the end of the day, the park continued its magic with evening strolls through the town, where you could almost "hear a pin drop." It was interesting to visit with the fishermen and fisher-ladies who enjoyed talking about their work on the lobster boats. Whether it was at the docks or in some very fine local restaurants, we enjoyed the fruits of their labors. The "shedders" are lobsters that have just shedded their hard shells. They are so soft that one hardly has to work to get to the very sweet meat. These lobsters never get shipped off the local shores because they are so fragile. Along with Maine's wild blueberries, late season harvest of vegetables and a beer "Lobster Ale," we immersed ourselves in the local cuisine.

Just reliving this trip puts me into a Maine state-of-mind. I hope it won't be so long before I travel again to this magnificent place.

ARTS AROUND THE WORLD



Carlynton Nature Trail

By Jim Strutz



Perhaps you've glanced into the woods, as you drive north on Baldwin Road just before Carlynton High School, and wondered why there are picnic tables. I did, which led to my discovery of the Carlynton Nature Trail a few years ago.

It was constructed as an Eagle Scout project by Billy Palonis in 2007 with help from Boy Scout troop 228 and with funding by Lowes. Billy is a son of Carlynton science teacher Bill Palonis and grandson of Carlynton principal (1976-1988) William G. Palonis, to whom the trail is dedicated. We, the organizers of the Rosslyn Farms Community Garden, became acquainted with Bill from our contribution of a garden plot to CHS students, who have already planted bulbs and plan to sell daffodils and tulips next spring to raise money for cancer research.

To access the trail, park in the CHS parking lot and walk down the hill to the right of the softball field. A birdhouse and sign on the edge of the woods welcomes visitors to the entrance of the nature trail. The entrance leads to a short quarter mile loop descending the hillside between CHS and Baldwin Road, there are steps and rails in some places to assist hikers. The picnic tables are on the flat at the farthest extent of the trail. The surrounding woods are nice with several of the trees descriptively labeled, including the largest sassafras tree I've ever seen.

The Carlynton Nature Trail is a convenient place for Rosslyn Farmers to get a little exercise, enjoy nature, and find some respite time.

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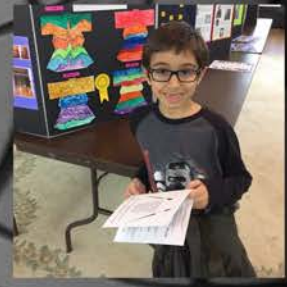
WHO 6TH TO 10TH GRADERS THAT LIVE IN THE CARLYNTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
WHEN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 6:30 TO 8:30PM
WHERE ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CENTER, KINGS HWY

THE DETAILS
* DROP OFF AT THE ROSSLYN FARMS COMMUNITY CENTER BY 6:30 PM
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ARTS AROUND THE WORLD



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