

# Algonquin House Newsletter

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## Around the House



### Roasted Turkey...

#### Social Events...

- There will be no **TGIF** in December. Instead, the annual **Holiday Party** will be held on **Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00pm** until ...whenever. ☺ **The deadline for purchasing tickets is Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. (Remember, Thanksgiving was late this year, so stay on top of the dates!) The cost of the tickets is **\$25.00** per person - one of the few things not to give way to inflation this year.
  - The December movie is "Scoot & Kassie's Christmas Adventure," which will be shown on Wednesday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, at **1:30pm**. The movie runs about two hours.
  - The **Belly Dancing Class** meets **Mondays at 10:30am** and **Tuesdays at 11:30am** in the Algonquin Room. The cost is \$30.00 for 10 weeks for each time slot.
  - The **Travel Club** will not meet in December.
  - Don't forget the **Holiday Tree Ornament Drive**. We have already started to decorate the tree, but new ornaments can always be added.
  - And don't forget to order your easy meals from **Sue Adler**. The information is downstairs in the mail room. Her number is 621-0372.
- \* Hey guys (and gals), interested in a game of **Poker**? If so, call Ted Forte, 11-E, at 328-6951.

#### Around the Corner...

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|----------------------|---------|
| ◆ Pearl Harbor Day   | Dec. 7  |
| ◆ Hanukkah (sundown) | Dec. 16 |
| ◆ Christmas Eve      | Dec. 24 |
| ◆ Christmas          | Dec. 25 |
| ◆ Kwanzaa Begins     | Dec 26  |
| ◆ New Year's Eve     | Dec. 31 |

#### Mark your Calendars...

- The next **Board Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** at **10:00am**, with the Homeowner's Forum at **9:45am**.

The Board will be adopting a policy of meeting at regularly set times whenever possible, of course working around Holidays and other events.

- On Sunday, **January 15, 2015**, at 4:00pm, we will be hosting the Inaugural Algonquin House Poetry Festival in the Algonquin Room. All are invited to attend. Those who would like to present or read a poem of their own, or that of a published poet, may call Ida E. Becker Hersh at 375-0749.

#### Did You Know...

\*Our very own Shirley Sellers was featured in the *Virginian Pilot* last month, when they ran the story on Granby High School's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Shirley is their oldest surviving high school graduate. She went on to become a teacher as well as an award-winning poet.

\*The Do-Nut Dinette, located in Ghent, will re-open its doors in 2015. Good news for doughnut lovers as well as hearty breakfast fans! The Dinette originally opened more than 50 years ago. The last few years have been a little confusing for fans, with its doors opening and closing, but the new owners are confident the doors will stay open once again.

\*It is now officially policy with the Algonquin House, i.e., adopted and passed by the Board of Directors, if there is damage done to the House either by residents or contractors there will be a fine. I mentioned this in the October Newsletter, but it was not official at the time. *(And now you have another reason to attend the Board Meetings.*

#### Helpful Hints...

\*When you do your laundry, remember to clean out your pockets. When others find your loose change or wet dollars, it's not so bad cleaning up after you, but your left over Kleenexes...not so much. They

really make a mess. Don't put those used tissues in recycling, either – they are trash!

\* Some more trash and recycling info .... Styro-foam (meat trays and the like) cannot be recycled. Please rinse all cans, bottles and jars before placing in the rubbish room. If you are throwing out shrimp, fish, or anything else smelly, triple bag it. It costs us extra money when we have to have a half-full dumpster emptied just because it is super stinky!

### **Kudos...**

A big “shout-out to Loftus Hichens, 12-A, for helping the Grounds Committee thin out the lilies in the front of the “House”. In doing so, he saved us over \$300.00, and he did it in under an hour. Of course he had help from his two cheerleaders who kept telling him what a great job he was doing. Seriously, he did us all a big favor!

### **I Hear A Bird Sing**

“I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember.”

“We are nearer to Spring  
Than we were in September  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December.”

*Oliver Herford*

### **Editorial Comments...**

I truly wish more people would attend the Algonquin House Board Meetings. Lots of vital and interesting subjects are discussed, which impact on all of us. At the November meeting, Gorge Compo gave a presentation on the second Exterior Water Intrusion Report Summary from the testing done on October 13, 2014. The front desk has copies of the presentation and the pictures Mr. Compo took to document his findings. Anyone can request a copy of the report.

Here is one of my “quick and dirty” summaries:

- 1) Based on the water testing done, Compo believes the water intrusion is coming in mainly through the windows and the precast panel system.

- 2) The fix will be a rework of the window /precast system and installing an end dam at the flashing at the window/precast system.
- 3) Before Compo moves forward with any design he would like to see inside the wall of unit 4-J (the Goldwassers’s unit, where the infrared testing showed water infiltration, and water intrusion was observed during the testing) during a heavy rain storm. A removable panel has been installed in their unit for easy access.
- 4) Mr. Compo believes we should now hire an architect to come up with a design for repairs.

*If you need more information, I suggest you look at the summary at the desk and attend upcoming meetings.*

Meriel Wright, Grounds Committee Member, presented to the board a proposal based on the information gathered from several arborists she had contacted to survey our trees. All stated that the trees in the back are basically in good shape. Sadly, the same cannot be said for the Pin Oaks in the front of the building by the parking lots. Several are dead and the rest are struggling. There are two main culprits:

- 1) The stones around the Pin Oaks are overheating the roots of the trees, so we need to remove the stones.
- 2) The trees have been invaded by a fungus. Those of you who have experienced “sap” on your cars....not sap....fungus “poop”. The arborists can treat this, but at a price.

I am putting this report in the paper, because the Algonquin House needs volunteers to help us move the rocks. This should be done before the fungus treatment. A good rake and some wheelbarrows to move the stones to the bare ground in the front of the parking areas should work, but we also need some willing workers to help the Grounds Committee do this. Moving the stones to the bare spots should save us some money on material and make the area more attractive before the Algonquin House 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration next May. Any ideas, or thoughts or help....call Lyn Tucci, Bob or Ellyn Place, Gloria Orloff, Meriel Wright, or Barbara Romeo.