



Brit Club News

August, 2015 Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276 Vol. 15, Issue 8

Coming Events

The SBC Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday August 13th** at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

On **Friday, 21st August**, at 12:30 p.m., come and lunch with other SBC members at “Fins,” a relatively new and sparkling restaurant with a diverse and inviting menu along with great views of the Gulf adjacent to “Sharkey’s on the Pier” in Venice. Our group will, of course, dine in air-conditioned comfort in a reserved dining area while enjoying the fine food and views along with the conviviality of fellow members of the Club. To review the enticing lunch choices and see photos of Fins at your leisure beforehand, do visit the restaurant’s inviting website at “Fins at Sharkeys.com”. The street address of “Fins” is 1600 Harbor Drive S, Venice, FL 34285. To reserve your place at “Fins”, contact lunch organizer Barry Evans by phone (941-993-9752 or email: barry.evans@ml.com). Please note that advance reservations are required in order to give the restaurant an accurate count before the lunch date AND to assure there is a setting for you.

*Fins
at Sharky's*

Dinner at Miguel’s French Restaurant

Join us for Sunday evening dinner at a Sarasota classic dining location. Miguel’s has been the #1 French restaurant since 1983, and we have reserved their private dining room for a bargain dinner event. For less than \$20 pp we will receive their signature 4 course dinner in an intimate setting on Siesta Key. There are only 40 places, so RSVP quickly to reserve your place!



<http://www.miguelsrestaurant.net/>

When: SUNDAY August 16, 6.30 pm

Where: Miguel’s Siesta Key, 6631 Midnight Pass Road, Sarasota FL 34242

RSVP to: pwilkinson18@comcast.net

MUST RSVP TO SECURE A SPACE

A **New Members’ Tea on Sunday, September 13th** – If you are a new member you will receive an invitation.

H **ome Insurance—a Presentation.** August 19th at Gulf Gate Library see page 3.

S **arasota British Club’s 15th Anniversary Party** Sunday October 11 from 5pm at Meadows Village Pub & Grill 5013 Ringwood Meadows, Sarasota Fl 34235 see meadowspub.com

From 5pm - 7pm there will be Happy Hour drinks, music & dancing 5.30 - 7.30. Fully flexible dining times from 5pm - 9pm with choice of entrees from selective dinner menu. Drinks & dinner to be paid on the night at individual’s own expense. SBC members & guests welcome - \$5pp(members) \$8pp (guests) to cover the cost of entertainment.

Full details next month. Brian & Jane Thompson lakewood2@gmail.com, 941-388-8018



President's Letter

What does August conjure up? Among other things, the month takes its name from Augustus, the founder of the Roman Empire and its first Emperor. In the U.S., August is back to school month in many locales. In the UK, August 12th ("The Glorious Twelfth") marks the beginning of the shooting season for the Red Grouse and extends to December 10th—an interval established by the 1773 Game Act. In Scotland, August also marks the time for the annual Edinburgh International Festival. And in Wales, the National Eisteddfod of Wales is held celebrating many aspects of Welsh arts and culture. On a more celestial level, you may want to note that it is in August when the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower occurs. I read that this year, the peak will occur on or around 11 August; and if we're graced with clear skies, the new moon of 14 August will present perfect conditions for viewing the meteor shower. I read that the best time for viewing is right before dawn; and, of course get as far as possible from any artificial light. So, be sure those clock alarms are set accordingly; have your binoculars by the door; have a thermos of tea or coffee; and be ready to enjoy nature's free light show.

Kudos to Jane Thompson on her organizing of the SBC's Cocktail Party at the Kona Grill at University Town Center on Sunday, July 12. Jane tells me she had 56 reservations for the drinks and hors d'oeuvres 5-7 pm portion of the occasion and 23 reservations for dinner; but without counting heads, it certainly appeared that some Club members who originally came only for the drinks hour decided to enjoy the dinner menu as well, but sat in the cocktail area. I agree with Jane that I only heard positive comments from fellow members on the food, drink and service at Kona Grill. It was good meeting members old and new and at a new (at least to me) and enticing restaurant.

I hope to see many of you at the Club's lunch at "Fins" restaurant in Venice on Friday, August 21 as detailed on page 1 of this newsletter.

Gary Lee



August's Recipe

This is a delicious and easy one-pot supper dish, it can also be made ahead of time and frozen. Luvly served with a nice salad, and/or minted peas.



Salmon and Dill

About 2 1/2 lbs potatoes
1 lb skinned fresh salmon fillet
1 Tbsp vegetable oil
2 Tbsp butter
2 shallots, finely chopped
2 Tbsp flour
1 1/2 cups milk
2 Tbs chopped dill
1/4-1/2 cup creme fraiche

Preheat oven to 350F. Grease an ovenproof casserole dish with butter or Pam spray. Peel and slice the potatoes (can use russet or new), simmer in water for a few minutes to par boil them. Drain. Cut the salmon into small pieces. Heat the oil and butter in a pan, add the shallots and sauté until softened; stir in the flour and the milk, stirring until smooth and thickened over medium heat. Remove from the heat and add the dill and crème fraîche and seasoning to taste. Arrange 1/3 of the potatoes in the dish, scatter over some of the salmon, do another layer of potatoes and salmon, finishing with the potatoes. Pour the sauce overall, and bake 30-35 minutes or until golden on the top.



Recipe from Sandra Cherry, Union Jack Food Columnist.

(I welcome comments, requests and recipes, and can be reached at Yourcuppateal@yahoo.com)

Home Insurance with NO selling!

Steve Adams, a former President of the Club, is giving a presentation to members on "Questions To Ask Your Homeowner's Insurance Agent." He is now retired and knows most of the secrets of the trade, having been in the insurance business for over 40 years, in London, Bermuda, New York and Sarasota.



The inspiration for this talk came about at one of our monthly lunches, when a member remarked about the high cost of homeowner's insurance on the Gulf Coast and Steve responded that the problem is that homeowners don't know the right questions to ask. When challenged as to what those questions are, Steve decided to offer a presentation.

Steve promises to make a potentially dull subject both interesting and amusing, while also helping members save money in the future.

Library: Gulf Gate Library, 7166 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota

Room: Meeting Room A

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Time: 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Please email Steve at sha@adamsiac.com if you would like to come.

QUOTES

“Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence.”

— **George Washington**

“Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.”

— **Thomas A. Edison**

“Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone else says anything back, that is an outrage.”

— **Winston Churchill**

CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE 2016 BOARD

As it's mid-year, it's time to begin assembling a slate of candidates for the 2016 SBC Board that will be elected at our AGM this autumn. We are fortunate that our Club membership reflects a wide spectrum of strong talents and interests. All organizations stand to benefit and grow stronger by the infusion of new ideas and creative forces brought by members to leadership positions. For our Club, this extends as well to ideas for new and interesting social events and venues that keep members energized, active and engaged. Do bring your own talents and ideas to the fore by standing for the SBC Board. The Board elected positions are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, Website Liaison Director, Newsletter Editor, and Director at Large (2). If you are interested in being a candidate for a Board position or want more information on the positions, please contact Gary Lee (glee01@verizon.net or 941-706-1172). I will put you in touch with the Nominating Committee.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Precis of the July Board Meeting.

July 9th, 2015

Maggie Hughes our new Treasurer reports our current bank balance is \$3907.29.

Membership currently stands at 183. YTD membership income is only down \$54.00 compared with 11/2014.

Hits on the website have fallen off during the low season. The British Open in Venice has been added to the website. Mark discovered the link to Bentley's was being directed to an establishment Mumbai! It now links to Nokomis.

A general call for 2016 Board candidates went out in the July newsletter but no response to date. Paul Cassidy has agreed to assume the vacant Director-at-Large position for the remainder of 2015.

Discussed future events such as dinner at Miguel's on Siesta Key on August 16, New Member Tea on September 13 and SBC 15th anniversary party October 15.

Next Board Meeting Thursday August 13 location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by

Jane Jacobs.

A Cautionary Tale

Attention please! Attention please!
 Don't dare talk! Don't dare sneeze!
 Don't doze or daydream! Stay awake!
 Your health, your very life's at stake!
 Ho-ho you say, they can't mean me.
 Ha-ha, we answer, wait and see.
 Did any of you ever meet
 A child called Goldie Pinksweet?
 Who on her seventh birthday went
 To stay with Granny down in Kent.
 At lunchtime on the second day
 Of dearest little Goldie's stay,
 Granny announced, 'I'm going down
 To do some shopping in the town.'
 (D'you know why Granny didn't tell
 The child to come along as well?
 She's going to the nearest inn
 To buy herself a double gin.)
 So out she creeps. She shuts the door.
 And Goldie, after making sure
 That she is really by herself,
 Goes quickly to the medicine-shelf,
 And there, her little greedy eyes
 See pills of every shape and size,
 Such fascinating colors, too--
 Some green, some pink, some brown, some blue.
 "All right," she says, "let's try the brown."



She takes one pill and gulps it down.
 "Yum-yum!" she cries. "Hooray! What fun!
 They're chocolate-coated, every one!"
 She gobbles five, she gobbles ten,
 She stops her gobbling only when
 The last pill's gone. There are no more.
 Slowly she rises from the floor.
 She stops. She hiccups. Dear, oh dear,
 She starts to feel a trifle queer.
 You see, how could young Goldie know,
 For nobody had told her so,
 That Grandmama, her old relation
 Suffered from frightful constipation.
 This meant that every night she'd give
 Herself a powerful laxative,
 And all the medicines that she'd bought,
 Were naturally of this sort.
 The pink and red and blue and green
 Were all extremely strong and mean,
 But far more fierce and meaner still,

Was Granny's little chocolate pill.
 Its blast effect was quite uncanny.
 It used to shake up even Granny.
 In point of fact she did not dare
 To use them more than twice a year.
 So can you wonder little Goldie
 Began to feel a wee bit moldy?

Submitted by *Sandra Cherry*

Exchange Rates—from Moneycorp.com on July 27th

From	To	Rate
GBP	USD	1.5519
EUR	USD	1.1023
CAD	USD	0.7675
USD	BRL	3.3555

On your computer

We are only a week or so from the start of the English Premier League football season. A Google search for 'EPL' will find the fixtures and scores for this and future weeks.

English Premier League							
Scores & Schedule							
<	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	>
Saturday, August 8							
Man United			7:45 AM	Everton			10:00 AM
Tottenham				Watford			
Bournemouth			10:00 AM	Leicester City			10:00 AM
Aston Villa				Sunderland			
Norwich City			10:00 AM	Chelsea			12:30 PM
Crystal Palace				Swansea City			
<i>All times are in Eastern Time</i>							
Full schedule and scores							

Do not forget the traditional opening game of the Community Shield game between Chelsea and Arsenal on Sunday 2nd August.

At livesoccer.com you can find the day by day TV listings and scores for football leagues, friendlies and international games from around the world. This also includes channels for streamed games.

I recently heard that long-time member and a past Secretary of the Sarasota British Club Doreen Wilson has not been well. A few weeks ago Doreen sent me a copy of her memories of living in England at the time of World War II which I have re-printed below.

Doreen receives an emailed copy of BritNews each month. I hope that she reads this and knows that we are thinking of her.

Brian Thompson



Reliving an English Schoolgirl's WWII Memories, 1939-1945

By Doreen Wilson as told to Linda Russo

My family is from Gidea Park, located in the east London district of the Borough of Havering, England. It was September 3rd, 1939, and I was nine years old. On that day, my grandmother and grandfather, my mother and father, and younger sister were gathered in our living room waiting for the impending news that England was going to war. My grandmother said, "War is terrible, I hope we don't go to war."

But we did. On that day, the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain declared war on Germany, two days after Germany's invasion of Poland. King George VI said, "My people at home and my peoples across the seas. I ask them to stand calm, firm and united in this time of trial. The task will be hard. There may be dark days ahead and war can no longer be confined to the battlefield. But we can only do the right as we see the right and reverently commit our cause to God."

Little did my grandmother know how personally she would be affected by the war and the losses she would suffer.

A few days later, my parents, Frederick and Marjorie Locke, drove us off to Wales in search of safety. We stayed in a farmhouse owned by Mr. and Mrs. Price. They were kind people who rented rooms to my family when we arrived on the spur of the moment.

My sister Phyllis and I went to a one-room schoolhouse. We were called, "The Londoners," by the local people. I remember it as a happy time in the country because there were no sounds of sirens, air raids, bombs or guns. Shortly before Christmas, we went back to our home in Gidea Park because the Germans had not bombed our area.

The bombing begins

Then the bombing started and we had to go down to the garden at night in our siren suits to an underground shelter built by my father. The siren suit was a one-piece

jumpsuit that covered our entire body, and was easily put on and taken off to keep us warm at night during the raids.

The shelter was small, probably ten by eight feet in size. It was especially crowded in the daytime when our neighbors also sought safety in our shelter. I remember always being afraid that a downed German pilot would be lurking behind the bushes, ready to shoot us when we went into the shelter during the air raids.

The German planes swarmed overhead every day. The planes were kept high up in the sky by barrage balloons, or "blimps" that helped to protect us against the aerial attacks. Our soldiers were shooting at the aircrafts constantly. The noise was deafening, like a constant, thunderous lightning storm that shook the ground.

One night I looked out of my bedroom window and saw all of London on fire with just the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral outlined. The fire watchers sat on the roof of the dome and diffused the explosive incendiary bombs as they fell.

The devastation was terrible. We had a crater the size of a double-decker bus in our road and many homes were demolished. When the flying bombs, called "doodlebugs" or "buzz bombs," came over and we heard the engines cut out, we had to drop into the gutter for protection. The sudden silence meant that the bombs were falling from the sky and would explode.

It was very frightening. School children were shot at on their way to school, as well as passengers waiting at the railway station.

In 1942, I had a blood disorder and had to go to London's St. Bartholomew's Hospital, which is the oldest hospital in Europe (1123), and founded by King Henry VIII (1546). Air raids attacked the hospital constantly, day and night. I remember one nurse being killed, and another nurse losing her leg.

Nearby, one of my uncles, Arthur Cornish, who worked for the gas company, knew that an incendiary bomb had landed on a gasometer, which was a large gas holding tank. My uncle climbed up the vertical ladder to the top of the gasometer to diffuse the bomb, thus preventing an enormous explosion. My uncle was very brave to risk his life for all of us.

Because the German planes covered the sky at 4:30 p.m. every day, we left school early to get home before the bombing. That meant that we had to go to school on Saturday to make up the time.

Even though our home had protective covering, our windows were constantly being blown in and out, and our ceilings were frequently falling down. We always

had to have our gasmasks with us. My sister and I used to amuse ourselves by making rude noises when we were wearing them.

A friend of mine from London told me a story of his experience during the London bombings. One night when the air raid siren went off, he went into the London Underground (public transit system) for shelter, wearing only a raincoat in his hurry to get out of his home.

On the next day, he tried to go back in to his home to get some clothes but the policeman outside refused to let him in. Nevertheless, my friend did go into his house to get his clothes in order to go to work. Suddenly, the chimney pot on the roof fell onto the policeman and killed him instantly.

Neighbors would patrol the streets all night to report any fires on the house roofs that were ignited by the bombs. But life went on. I remember the postman stepping over the piles rubble in the street to pick up mail in the red mailboxes.

Rationing

We had strict rationing, with very little food available because of Germany's strategy to limit food imports as a way to win the war. We had ration books, allowing us to just small portions of meat, cheese, eggs, butter, sugar and tea. Because oranges were reserved for children and pregnant women, I once lined up for three hours at the greengrocers for five oranges for our family. We each had one egg a week and often that would be our dinner on a pile of mashed potatoes. If our mother made a cake, she used her week's ration for that. For half a penny a day, we could buy one third of a pint of milk at school. We had Victory Gardens where people planted their own vegetables in their yards or parks.

Clothes and shoes were also in short supply and provided on a point system. Paper was scarce and rationed as well. I remember my teacher counting the pages of my exercise book before issuing another.

Loss and sacrifice

My grandparents, Arthur and Hilda Colbourn, left their London home to live in Poole, a south coastal town in the county of Dorset, where they owned pleasure boats. The boats sailed daily to Sandbanks, Studland, and Branksome, taking passengers back and forth to the beaches. In 1940, the boats were all taken for the rescue of the soldiers from the Battle of Dunkirk in France. And, so my grandparents lost their business.

My grandparents' home in London was requisitioned by the government to house a family who were bombed out. They were never able to recover their house from

the squatters.

Their son, my uncle, Harold Colbourn, who had served all through the war in the British Navy, was asked to return to the Mediterranean after the war for just one month to clear the mines set by the Germans. He was killed while on the mission.

My grandmother and grandfather lost their son, their home, and their business.

Life carries on

I could never envision life without war as five and a half years seemed an eternity in an impressionable school-girl's life. We tried to have fun though, giving concerts for our parents. They had to pay sixpence to watch us sing and dance in aid of the Spitfire Fund. Spitfires were England's Royal Air Force high-performance, single-seat, fast fighter planes. The planes were produced continuously throughout the war. I remember that metal fences were removed from private homes to help build them.

There were many savings campaigns during the war to help support Britain. At the time, my future father-in-law, Kenneth John Wilson, ISO, MBE, was the Regional Commissioner of the National Savings Committee for the London region. Fundraising campaigns such as *Salute the Soldier* and *Wings for Victory* were very popular and effective in raising money for the war effort. The towns and counties were always having competitions to exceed each other in the amount of money they could raise. There was a trophy for the "Bob in the Pound." A bob was a shilling, twelve pence. Towns were expected to save a bob for every pound they earned. The competition between the towns was fierce.

Everyone was united in their effort to win the war. There was so much publicity to rally everyone to protect our country and win the war. Slogans such as *Careless Talk Costs Lives, Even the Walls Have Ears, Make Your Money Fight, Save Now for a Sunny Day when Cheaper Things are On Display, Help Britain Pull Through, and Look Lively London, Now's the Time to Raise a Towering Savings Total* (referring to the Tower of London). After the war, there was a *Silver Lining* parachute display in Hyde Park. The slogan on a parachutist was, "If this man can jump to it, so can you." Londoners saved £2,425,400,000 from September 1939 to February 1947 as reported in *The Savings News*

Victory at last

"Lord Haw Haw" would scare us children by broadcasting from Germany that we were losing the war. Lord Haw-Haw was a nickname for the wartime traitor who

conducted propaganda broadcasts that opened with "Jairmany calling, Jairmany calling," spoken in a comic upper-class accent. However, with the Allies in England, we felt more secure that we were going to win the war.

Finally, we celebrated victory in May, 1945. I remember the victory parties where tables and chairs were set down in the center of the streets with an abundance of Union Jacks decorating the tables. Everyone sang "There'll Always be an England, and England Shall be Free if England Means as Much to You as England means to Me."

From the beach, we could see ships decorated overall, and church bells rang out the joyous news that the war in Europe was over and were at peace at last.

What I remember most about the people in England is that we worked in unity. Everyone did whatever they had to do to win the war. People had a wonderful spirit. It's the British way, keep a stiff upper lip and carry on.

About the author

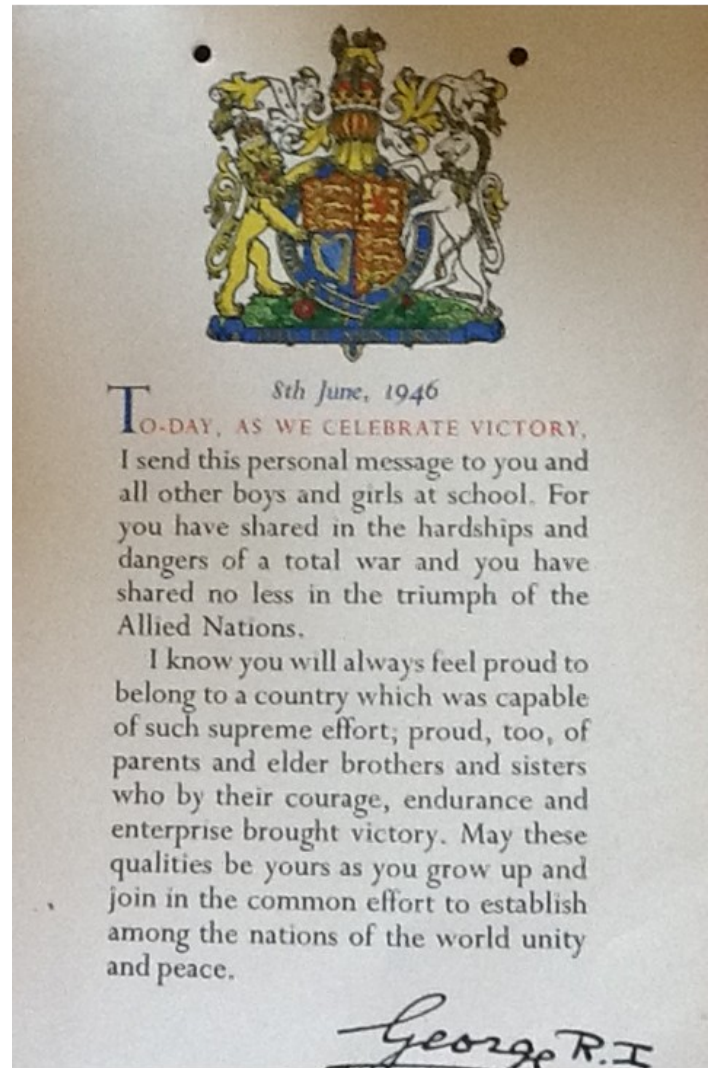
Doreen Wilson lives in Venice, Florida, and is a writer and painter. After the war, Doreen went to London University and worked for the Bank of England. She was married to Peter John Wilson, and has three sons, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

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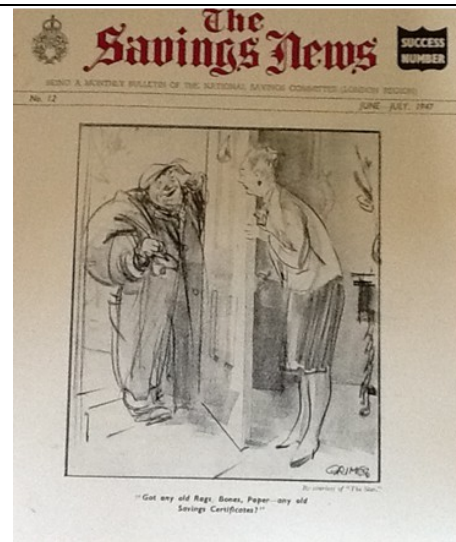
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Doreen Wilson wearing a replica of her Brentwood School blazer that she wore from age 11 to 16.



Doreen's Brentwood School message from King George, VI



The Savings News publication kept community groups updated about contributions of the National Savings Committee that helped to fund the war effort.

On-line Survey.

Recently members were asked a few questions about citizenship.

There were 56 responses—Thank You.

Most of the replies were from couples, so it covered about half of the members.

If you have a passport, is it from the USA, UK or from another country?

USA 66%, UK 64%

Does your partner have a passport from the USA, UK or another country?

USA 72% , UK 45%

Are you permanent residents in Florida?

Yes 86%, No 14% (8 people)

If you are not a permanent resident in Florida, where do you go the rest of the year?

UK 62% (5 people), Other US State 38% (3 people)

[Numbers rounded for simplicity]

QUOTES

“ Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing. ”

— *Abraham Lincoln*

“ Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish. ”

— *John Quincy Adams*

“There is nothing wrong in change, if it is in the right direction. To improve is to change, so to be perfect is to have changed often.”

— *Winston Churchill*

And possibly the best to last.....

“Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love.”

— *Mother Teresa*

2015 Board of Directors

President:	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net
Vice-President	Barry Evans	993-9752	barry.evans@ml.com
Treasurer/Web Liaison:	Mark Malkasian	445-2890	mark@armeng.com
Secretary:	Maggie Hughes	487-7216	mvhughes50@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:	Paul Wilkinson	410-990-4698	pwilkinson18@comcast.net
Newsletter:	B. Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Director at Large1:	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcupatea1@yahoo.com
Director at Large2:	Jane Jacobs	847-370-2811	jane60010@yahoo.com
Director at Large3:	Diana Wilkinson	410-990-4698	dwilkinson18@comcast.net

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