

THE BEST OF TIMES

MARCH 2012

Published Monthly since 1997 by the Upper Merion Senior Service Center a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization Serving the Senior Community

UPPER MERION SENIOR SERVICE CENTER 650 SOUTH HENDERSON ROAD KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

TEL: 610-265-4715 FAX 610-265-4005

WEBSITE: www.umssc.org EMAIL: info@umssc.org

HOURS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UPPER MERION
SENIOR SERVICE CENTER SHALL BE TO IDENTIFY AND
TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER ADULTS
IN A MULTI-USE ENVIRONMENT FOR PHYSICAL,
EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

OFFICERS:

Gerry Roth, President Mary F. McCree, Vice President Helen Cabrey, Secretary Harlyce Grossman, Treasurer

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

Paul Buce, Ed Freudenberg, Pari Hoorfar, Ethel Hutchinson, Ruth Shand and Janet Sheehan

HONORARY MEMBERS:

Mary Meere, Arthur Powell, Constance H. Williams

STAFF:

Jonathan Stanback, Executive Director Shirley Robey, Administrative Assistant Beth Cassidy, Receptionist

"Best of Times" Editors:

Mary F. McCree, and Shirley Robey

GOALS

- Increase membership.
- Work to increase funding for operational support: investigate new sources of funding in cooperation with local businesses and government agencies.
- Continue the development of innovative programming.
- Maintain our working partnership with the Upper Merion Area School District and Upper Merion Township.
- Explore the potential for new opportunities for services.
- Search for educational opportunities for members as part of our lifelong learning efforts.
- Help members remain healthy and active through participation in recreational, educational and leisure activities.

MONTHLY MESSAGE

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring must be on the way when we think of our Annual Indoor Flea Market and Bake Sale, which will be held *Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*. Our Flea Room will be accepting clean resalable items starting *Monday, March 26* and will be open from 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Monday thru Thursday. Among donations to be accepted will be children and adult books, toys, jewelry, knickknacks, decorative items, new clothing only and electric and electronic items in working order.

Eight foot by five foot spaces will be available for \$20.00. If you were thinking of holding a garage sale this year, you may want to get a space at the flea market to get great exposure to many people who may wish to purchase your treasures.

We also encourage donations of homemade or purchased cakes, pies and cookies for the bake sale.

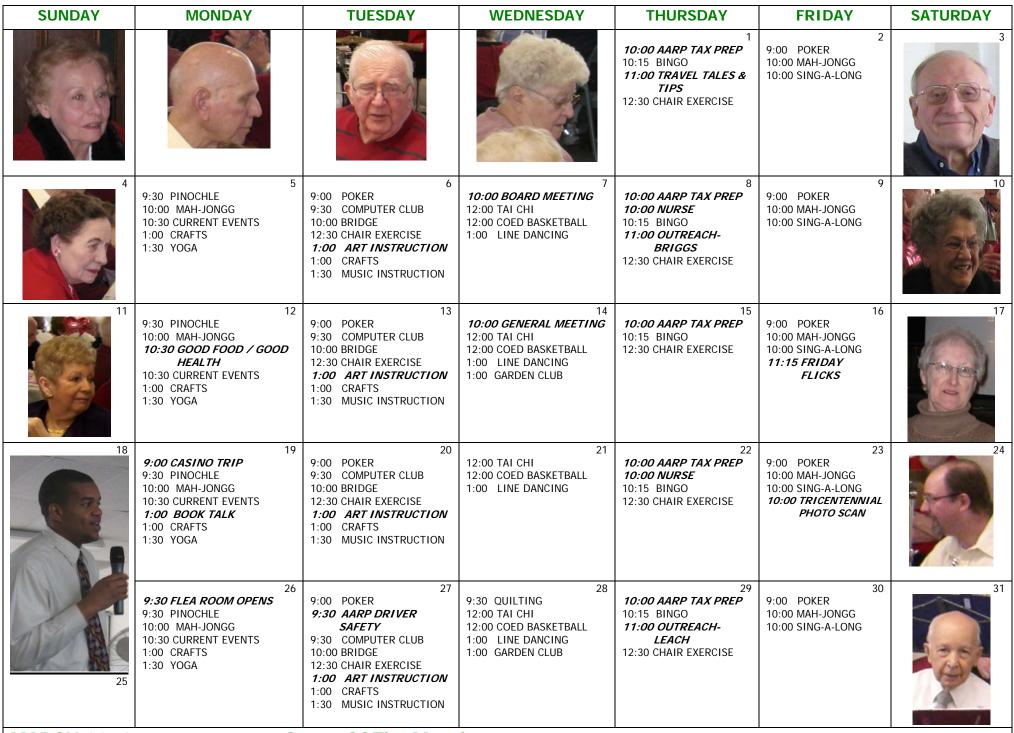
Refreshments will be served in our lunch room.

To make this event successful, be sure to pick up lawn signs in the office to advertise this event. They will be available on March 14 (after General Meeting). *However, you cannot put them on your lawn until March 21.*

Also, mark the date for the flea market on your calendar and on your to do list.

Ed Freudenberg Board Member

Upper Merion Senior Service Center (UMSSC) is an equal opportunity institution that will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious affiliation, national origin, sex, age, marital status or disabilities in its activities, programs or employment practices



MARCH 2012

Quote Of The Month: "St. Patrick's Day is an enchanted time - a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic." Adrienne Cook

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



(NOT PICTURED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JONATHAN STANBACK AND BOARD SECRETARY – HELEN CABREY)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

AARP TAX PREP: Every Thursday beginning February 2 through April 12 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. *Free to all.* One-hour (*only*) appointments are available; signup at Reception Desk. *MUST SIGN-UP IN PERSON – NO TELEPHONE APPOINTMENTS WILL BE TAKEN.*

NEW ACTIVITY: TRAVEL TALES AND TIPS. Starting in March join this discussion group to share travel tips and adventures. Find out how to travel round trip to NYC for \$2.00! 11:00 AM on the first Thursday of each month in the Computer Room. Coordinator: John Desko.

TRICENTENNIAL PHOTO SCAN: Friday, March 23 at 10:00. Bring in your old photos of King of Prussia. Members of the Tricentennial will be at the center to scan them.

FLEA MARKET ROOM OPENS: MONDAY, MARCH 26. We will begin accepting donations of books for children and adults, appliances and electronics (in working order), knickknacks, decorations, etc. Donations of used clothing, junk or broken or nonworking items not accepted! The "Flea Room" will be open for business Monday through Thursday from 9:30

AM to 1:30 PM (note: new times). All profits from sales benefit the Senior Center.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE: Tuesday, March 27 from 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM (4-hour

course). Registration forms available at the center. Checks, \$12.00/AARP members or \$14.00/non-AARP members are to be sent directly to the AARP course instructor, Buzz Ordonio (address is on form). Next course scheduled for June 19 and 20 will be an 8-hour course. Watch for details.

UMSSC 15TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET & BAKE SALE: SATURDAY, APRIL 21 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (RAIN OR SHINE). You

know that saying "one man's junk is another man's treasure". Here's your chance to clear out your garage, basement and attic of unwanted "treasures" and enjoy a day with family or friends. Reserve a space for our annual flea market. An 8x4 space will be \$20.00. If you don't have enough stuff for one space, share it with a friend. Too much for one space – get two! Nothing to sell? Why not stop by and enjoy browsing for perfect treasure. We will also have baked goods and lunch to sell. *All proceeds benefit the Center!*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH DONATIONS TO UMSSC

Upper Merion Senior Service Center is now a member of the *United Way Donor Program*. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the UMSSC can designate UMSSC as the recipient of their donation. (Reference UMSSC ID #45796, UW Agency #8229767.)

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Upper Merion Senior Service Center. **As a non-profit organization 501(c)(3) we rely upon outside donations and gifts to help finance some of our programs, activities and services to our members.**

- ★ Thank you to Mary and Don McCree, Ann Leahan and Leo and June Dolan for their generous donations to the center *in memory of Marie Fischuk*.
- ★ Thank you to Ethel Hutchinson for her generous donation to the center *in memory of Lillian Rinaldi*.
- ★ Thank you to Ernesto and Placida DiGenova for their generous donation to the center.

UPPER MERION EMERGENCY AID

Dried goods donations collected for families in the community. Donation box is outside of the lounge. The Upper Merion Emergency Fund is requesting donation of gloves and socks for any age. As always, we thank you for your generosity.

ST. JOHN'S SOUP KITCHEN

St. John's Soup Kitchen is in need of canned vegetables and baked beans. The collection box is on the table outside of the lounge. Please bring in your donations by Wednesday, March 28. St. John's Kitchen is run by volunteers of the Women's Club of Upper Merion.

PUT BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN WHO NEED THEM

Book donations to the Bridgeport Elementary School children (grades K-4th) are still being collected. Collection box is on the table outside of the lounge. Members might keep in mind how valuable these books are to young readers. Thank you notes have been received from the children and they were posted on our bulletin board. *WE CAN ALL PUT BOOKS INTO THE HANDS OF CHILDREN*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GRACIAS! THANKS! DANKE! MERCI! ARIGATO! GRAZIE! OBRIGADO!

★Thank you to **Angelo's Pizza** - Birthday Hoagie every month, to **★ LeBus Bread** - Member Raffle every month and to **★ Sun Joe** - who generously donates the baked goods we put out for snacks. We also thank **★ Sicilian Delight** for their great discounts on pizza (**Everyone raves about their pizza!!!**).

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

UPPER MERION TOWNSHIP CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Upper Merion Township Police Department will conduct its twelfth "Citizens Police Academy" at the Township Building, **beginning on March 13, 2012** and ending on May 22, 2012. Citizen Police Academy classes will be held every Tuesday evening from 7:00pm until approximately 9:00pm in the Township Building.

The academy is open to Upper Merion Township Residents, eighteen years or older with a *valid driver's license*, * at no charge.

The purpose of the academy is to provide township residents with a basic knowledge of various police functions in a fun and interactive way. Graduates will not be certified in any way to enforce the law.

*Except applicants with physical disabilities precluding them from obtaining a driver's license.

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD MEALS ON WHEELS

If you are interested in doing volunteer work for a worthy local community organization, why not try "Meals on Wheels". *Meals on Wheels* is a non-profit, non-sectarian community service. They deliver two nutritious meals a day to homebound members of our community who are unable to prepare meals for themselves. This service is provided Monday through Friday. They are in need of the volunteers (men and women) to help prepare and deliver these meals on a regular or occasional basis. *All volunteers work in pairs:*

- Meal packers needed from 9:30 to 11:00 AM
- Meal deliverers, needed from 10:45 AM to 12:30 PM.

Their office is located at the Valley Forge Presbyterian Church and is open from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Monday through Friday. Telephone: 610-265-7051.

FRIENDS OF VALLEY FORGE

Speaker Series Programs are held on **Tuesday** evenings at **Washington Memorial Chapel** at 7:00 PM. Admission is free to members and the public.

NOTE TOPIC CHANGE: March 6 – Wash. Memorial Chapel - Nancy V. Webster, a

Delaware County native, is the Curator-Historian of the national Friends Historical Association and Honorary Curator at Swarthmore College presents: *Civil Casualties: Local Civilian Experiences During the American Revolution.*This talk will introduce you to the Quaker aspects and sufferings during the war.

April 3 – Wash. Memorial Chapel - Philip N.

Steel: Former CEO of the Steel family importing business and member of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge presents: *Early American Jewry – The Steel Family.* Meet the Steel's – a Jewish family of determination and resilience who came to America in the 1700s and participated in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Civil War, the reconstruction of Monticello, the Gold Rush, and much more.

May 1 – Park Theater - Dean Malissa: Portrays George Washington at Mount Vernon;

seen on film, TV, commercials, and stage presents: General George Washington as interpreted by Dean Malissa. Spend an evening with George Washington, who, more than anyone else in our nation's history, was central to the formation of the United States and the American character. This program will be held in the Park Theater.

TRI-COUNTY CONCERTS EMERGING ARTISTS SERIES

Concerts are held on **Sundays at 2:30 PM at McInnis Auditorium, Eastern University**, 1300
Eagle Road., St. Davids, PA (610-649-2517). **General Admission:** \$ 20.00 - Senior Admission: \$15.00 Students and Children: Free

Scheduled Concerts:

March 11: Daedalus Quartet April 15: Jonathan Beyer, Baritone

UPPER MERION TRICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COOKBOOK

In honor of the Upper Merion's Tricentennial in 2013, the Committee is collecting family recipes for a *Commemorative Cookbook*. Bring or Send us your favorite, best, and/or family heirloom recipes. Include your name, the person whose recipe it is (if different), how long you or your family has been a resident, and the neighborhood/area of the township where you reside (Gulph Mills, Sweetbriar, Swedeland, etc.) If there is a special story that goes along with the recipe, send that along, too! Recipes can be brought to the Senior Center or mailed to Tricentennial Cookbook, 175 W. Valley Forge Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406 or emailed to: Tricentennial@umtownship.org

NEWSWORTHY

CALLING ALL MEMBERS! COULD YOU HELP US?

Our Flea Market will be on Saturday, April 21st and we are in need of baked goods to sell. We are asking volunteers to bake something for the Center and bring it in on Friday morning, April 20th. Baked good should be marked as to price and contents, (*especially if it contains nuts*). We will have a sign-up sheet at the reception desk if would like to donate. Thank you.

NEWSLETTER SURVEY RESULTS

Following are the results of our newsletter survey: A total of 479 surveys were mailed with the January Newsletter and we requested they be returned by January 20. *Out of the 479 mailed, 88 surveys were*

returned by the requested date. Thank you to all of the respondents.

SURVEY TALLY "THE BEST OF TIMES" NEWSLETTER

	READ	DEAD		
SEGMENT	THIS	READ THIS?	KEEP	KEEP
	? (YES)	(NO)	(YES)	(NO)
CALENDAR	84	0	58	2
UPCOMING EVENTS	82	2	55	3
BE SURE TO SAVE THESE DATES	79	5	52	9
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	80	1	51	11
MEMBERS' SPOTLIGHT	78	3	50	11
NEWSWORTHY	78	2	53	12
UM POLICE REPORTS	73	4	43	21
CONTRIBUTING ARTICLE WRITER(S)	77	4	51	12
DID YOU KNOW?	74	5	50	12
ACTIVITIES	80	3	53	9
REMINDERS	78	5	49	12
PAPER OR WEB?	PAPER 71 – WEB 15			

COMMENTS: A TOTAL OF 38 COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED. 24 POSITIVE, 4 NEGATIVE AND 10 SUGGESTIONS.

ROAD SCHOOL DAISY SCOUT TROOP #7410 AND BROWNIE TROOP #7478

Members should check out the Bulletin Board as you go down the hall and admire all of the beautiful Valentine Days cards made by and sent to us by the Daisy and Brownie troops at Caley Road School. Thank you girls for thinking of us! Hope you all enjoyed your Valentine's Day!



SEWING ROOM RECEIVES DONATION

Last week our Executive Director, Jonathan, visited Steve's Sewing and Vacuum and was given 3 big boxes of fabrics and yarns for our Sewing Room. The sewing room ladies were thrilled to receive the fabric which will be used to sew items to sell. The proceeds from their sales benefit the center. *Thank you so much Steve's Sewing and Vacuum for your generous donation!*

PROJECT LINUS

(Provding Security Through Blankets)
One of our members, Joan Banas, belongs to the The Hearts and Hands ladies group at Good Sheperd's Church. The group is asking for our help with "Project Linus". They need volunteers to knit or crochet 7"x9" squares for blankets which will be donated to hospital pediatric units, nursing homes or disaster areas. The yarn will be provided and they will piece the squares to make the blankets. If interested, you can pick out some yarn which will be in a bin in the reception area.

SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



DOT MORIO

Who's that peering over her classes from behind the piano at Sing-A-Long. Why that's Dot Morio. Dot likes to help out at the center. You have probably noticed her sometimes at the Reception Desk where she volunteers to greet people and help them sign up for activities. Dot has also volunteered to help clean up on our Martin Luther King Day of Service.

What we especially like about Dot is how she will bring in someone who just needs to forget about their worries and sing.

Sometimes during the summer, just like any other grandmother here, Dot takes care of her little granddaughter, Nev. But rather than miss coming to the center, she brings Nev along and we are always

happy to see her. But we are especially happy to see Dot and appreciate all that she does!

ACTIVITIES

APPRISE COUNSELOR: Assistance with insurance and Medicare concerns. Call 610.265.4715 and give your name and telephone. The APPRISE counselor will contact you directly to set up an appointment.

ART INSTRUCTION: Tuesday's until April 10 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. All levels welcomed to do watercolor, oils, acrylics and pastels. Learn color mixing, design, theory, form, line, etc. Please direct any questions to Instructor: Millie Becker (610-265-6561). Bring your own supplies. Advance registration not required. Payment accepted only on day of class. Cost: \$15.00 Per Class.

BINGO: Thursdays at 10:15 AM. Coordinator: Evelyn Cavaliere. Cash prizes!

BOOK TALK: Monday, March 19 at 1:00 PM. Coordinator: Patricia Ackah (610.265.4290). Meets on the third Monday of the month. This month's book is "Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins.

BRIDGE CLUB: Tuesday's at 10:00 AM.

CASINO TRIP: MONDAY, MARCH 19. Bus departs from Center to Showboat Casino at 9:00 AM and returns approximately 6:15 PM. Bus Captain: Harry Bailey. Cost: \$25.00 per person. Limit 47 passengers. No telephone reservations. MINIMUM 35 PASSENGERS REQUIRED. CUT-OFF DATE FOR TRIP IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14.

CHAIR EXERCISE: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM. Coordinator: Jim Parvin. \$3.00 per class.

CO-ED BASKETBALL: Wednesday's from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM in the gym. FREE.

COMPUTER CLUB: Tuesday's 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Coordinators: Herman Natanblut and Howard Lurie. No fee; no class limit. Meetings are open to all *members*, all ability levels.

CRAFTS: Monday's and Tuesday's at 1:00 PM. Coordinator: Dot Price. Instruction provided. Hand-made items are for sale and all proceeds benefit the Center.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION GROUP:

Monday's at 10:30 AM in the Lounge. Coordinator: Joan Shaw. The news items keep rolling in. We try to hit the highlights, but focus on topics we as a group find interesting. Come join us on Monday mornings at 10:30.

FRIDAY FLICKS: Friday, March 16, (Pizza at 11:15 AM, Movie at 12:00 PM.) This month we will be showing "THE QUIET MAN", starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald. A retired American boxer returns to the village where he was born in Ireland, where he finds love. Cost: \$5.00 for movie and pizza or \$2.00 for the movie only. Sign up and pay at the Reception Desk.

GARDEN CLUB: Meets the second and fourth Wednesday at 1:00 PM. As of this writing we have not set up our schedule for 2012. But we will be meeting on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Check our bulletin board for what's happening. Spring is coming soon! Chairperson: Paul Buce.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Monthly meeting open to all members on the 2nd Wednesday at 10:00 AM. Any member who wants to be put on the agenda at the meeting should contact Gerry Roth, President.

GOOD FOOD/GOOD HEALTH WITH PARI: Monday, March 12 at 10:30 AM. For a paltry \$6.00 you'll get lunch with dessert and a beverage too! Pari will be making *Irish Potato Soup*. Minimum of 10 - limited to 15. ADVANCE SIGN-UP AND PAYMENT IS REQUIRED SO THAT ENOUGH FOOD CAN BE PREPARED.

LIBRARY: Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. An excellent selection of large print books, tapes and videos are available to borrow.

LINE DANCING: Every Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the gym. Coordinator: Loretta DeLucca. \$1.00 fee per lesson.

MAH-JONGG: Monday's and Friday's at 10:00 AM. All level players are welcome. Interested in learning Mah-Jongg? *We have some members who are willing to teach new players at any time.* Coordinator: Lynne Boroch.

MUSIC INSTRUCTION: Tuesday's at 1:30 PM. Instructor: Ed Hickman.

NURSE: Every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from *10:00 AM to 12:00 PM*. Have your blood pressure checked by our favorite Nurse Lori Gnacek from Bryn Mawr Hospital/Main Line Health.

OUTREACH: Representative Tim Briggs' aide is here the second Thursday of the month - 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Senator Daylin Leach's aide is here the last Thursday of the month - 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

PINOCHLE LADIES AND GENTS: Monday's at 9:30 AM.

POKER CLUB: Tuesday's and Friday's at 9:00 AM. \$5.00 ante, \$2.00 entry. Coordinator: Bernie **7**elenak.

QUILTING: Fourth Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM. Instructor: Ethel Hutchinson. All levels welcome!

SING-A-LONG: Friday's at 10:00 TO 11:30 AM. Coordinators: Theresa M. Smith and Dot Morio.

STAND-UP YOGA: Monday's at 1:30 PM. Certified Instructor: Dr. Christine Grad. \$3.00 per class. Limited to 8 members per class.

TAI CHI: Every Wednesday from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM. Coordinator Louise Bailey. \$3.00 per class.

NEW ACTIVITY: TRAVEL TALES AND TIPS.

Starting in March join this discussion group to share travel tips and adventures. Find out how to travel round trip to NYC for \$2.00! **11:00 AM** on the first Thursday of each month in the Computer Room. Coordinator: John Desko.



UM RAMBLER Free service to UM **Township Seniors** (Visit GVF Transportation for pass) You can ride back and forth to the Center, the Malls, and other destinations! **GVF Transportation** Dept. 1012 W. Eighth Ave., Suite A King of Prussia, PA 19406 Phone: 610-354-8899 www.gvftma.com

Note:
Information
submitted following
Feb. 1 will be
posted on the
UMSSC Bulletin
Boards and listed on
UMGA-TV (Comcast
Channel 22 or
Verizon FiOS
Channel 33)
Visit the Center's
web site at:
www.umssc.org

REMINDERS FOR MARCH 2012

- * AARP TAX PREP: ON THURSDAYS BEGINNING FEBRUARY 2 TO APRIL 12 FROM 10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM
- *NEW ART INSTRUCTION: TUESDAY'S BEGINNING FEBRUARY 7 TO APRIL 10 AT 1:00 PM
- * FRIDAY FLICKS: FRIDAY, MARCH 16 PIZZA AT 11:15 AM MOVIE AT 12:00 PM. MOVIE: "THE SILENT MAN"
- * CASINO TRIP: MONDAY, MARCH 19 AT 9:00 AM
- * GOOD FOOD/GOOD HEALTH WITH PARI: MONDAY, MARCH 12 AT 10:30 AM
- * BOOK TALK: MONDAY, MARCH 19 AT 1:00 PM
- * TRICENTENNIAL PHOTO SCAN: FRIDAY, MARCH 23 AT 10:00 AM
- * FLEA MARKET ROOM OPENS: MONDAY, MARCH 26. DONATIONS ACCEPTED ONLY MONDAY TO THURSDAY FROM 9:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
- * AARP DRIVER SAFETY COURSE: TUESDAY, MARCH 27 FROM 9:30 TO 2:00 PM (4-HOUR COURSE)
- * 15TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE: SATURDAY, APRIL 21 FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM (HELD RAIN OR SHINE)

Happy \$\mathscr{C}\mat

NOTE:
THE UMSSC
IS CLOSED
WHEN THE UM
AREA SCHOOL
DISTRICT CLOSES
DUE TO
INCLEMENT
WEATHER

UMASD SCHOOL CLOSING NUMBER IS "307"

NOTICE IS ALSO BROADCASTED ON COMCAST CHANNEL 28 OR VERIZON FIOS CHANNEL 32

OR CALL
SENIOR CENTER
AFTER 7:30 AM
(610-265-4715)
AND LISTEN TO
VOICE MAIL
RECORDING

OR CALL
KYW-1060 RADIO
(215-925-1060)
FOLLOW
INSTRUCTIONS
AND ENTER
UMASD SCHOOL
CLOSING
NUMBER "307"

UPPER MERION SENIOR SERVICE CENTER
650 SOUTH HENDERSON ROAD KING OF PRUSSIA, PA 19406

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