MONTHLY MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Wishing all a very Happy and Exciting 2015. The Upper Merion Senior Service Center will have lots of new plans this year.

Plan to help out on Martin Luther King Day January 19; many hands make light work. We are working gradually toward our move later in the year so much needs to be reviewed.

Remember to renew your membership for 2015 if you have not already done so...also please bring a friend and we will be happy to welcome them.

AARP 2014 Tax preparation on Thursdays only starting February 5 TO April 9. Free tax preparation for seniors by AARP. Bring your tax documentation including your receipted real estate tax bills. Appointment sign-up schedule will be at the Reception Desk beginning in January 2015. Must sign up in person. No appointments will be taken over the telephone.

We welcome our new 2015 board members. We value our board members who have much to offer and without them the center would not be able to function as well as we do. You will see them listed in our newsletter. A thank you to those departing the board after many years of service: Paul Buce, Pari Hoorfar and Ruth Shand.

The Upper Merion Senior Service Center, I know, will have a fruitful 2015 with our board and active membership. As we prepare for our move later this year we will be quite busy but will still have our activities and also look for your suggestions as to which activities you would like. The suggestion box is in the lobby and we encourage you to use it. Come spend some time with us and remember to always say something nice about UMSSC.

Happy New Year!

Mary McCree,
President
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**UMSSC MONTH OF JANUARY 2015**

**SUNDAY**

**MONDAY**

**TUESDAY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**THURSDAY**

**FRIDAY**

**SATURDAY**
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21: VALLEY FORGE CASINO. THE OFFER FOR GROUP IS $20.00 IN SLOT PLAY. This offer does not cost anything but to take advantage of this offer you must complete registration form available at the Senior Center or on our website at www.umssc.org. All new and renewal casino memberships or one-day passes are handled by Valley Services (not UMSSC). Cash or credit card will be accepted by Valley Services. If you have any questions you can contact Valley Services at 610-354-8118. Shuttle will depart the center at 9:30 AM and return at 2:00 PM. For those driving, please meet in the Casino lobby between 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM. CUT-OFF DATE FOR THIS TRIP IS WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14. Everyone must bring a valid photo ID.

AARP 2014 TAX PREPARATION: THURSDAYS ONLY STARTING FEBRUARY 5 TO APRIL 9: It's that time again! Free tax preparation for seniors by AARP. Bring your tax documentation including your receipted real estate tax bills. Appointment sign-up schedule will be at the Reception Desk on January 5, 2015. Must sign up in person. No appointments will be taken over the telephone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
GRACIAS! THANKS! DANKE! MERCI!
ARIGATO! GRAZIE! OBRIGADO!
★ Thank you Tony from Angelo’s Pizza - for the foot long Birthday Hoagie he donates to the center every month. ★ LeBus Bread - who donates delicious baked bread every month for the Member Bread Raffle 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 for Friday Flicks! ★ Brian Neuffer made a very generous donation of everyone’s favorite Entenmann’s baked goodies for snacking. Who doesn’t like Entenmann’s? ★ Costco for their generous donation of a monthly gift card for our birthday cake purchases.

MITZVAH DAY AT UPPER MERION SENIOR SERVICE CENTER
A group of Temple Brith Achim members in King of Prussia chose UMSSC to do their volunteer work for their “Mitzvah Day”. In preparation for our future move we have begun to clean out items which we do not want to take with us. The small library contained many small print books that were just collecting dust. We were grateful to these volunteers who boxed up all of the books in the small library and donated them to other organizations in need. The group, led by Cathy Coffs, included Lois Snyder, MD and Stuart Schuman, Esq. The books were donated to The Washington Memorial Chapel Used Book Store in Valley Forge and the Green drop on Trooper Road in Audubon (serving veterans and the blind). They have offered their services for any future projects for which we need volunteers. Thank you Cathy, Lois and Stuart!

MEMBER DONATIONS TO UMSSC
Upper Merion Senior Service Center is 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. Does your company offer matching funds?

Thank you to the following members who have generously made donations to the Center:
★ Barbara Siegel in memory of her good friend and avid gardener, George Waterman, who lived in King of Prussia.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

GUEST READERS FOR EXTENDED DAY
Extended day is looking for volunteers to read stories to the children on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays at 10:00 AM. If you are interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the Reception Desk.
**SHOEBOX RECYCLING**
We are running new program in partnership with Community Recycling that collects gently used, suitable for re-use shoes for men, women or children around the globe. This program has other benefits as well. Every box we fill will raise funds for the center. **Please be sure shoes are clean and in good condition. Boots, flip-flops, slippers, plastic shoes, crocs, etc. are NOT accepted.**

**KNITTERS WANTED**
As you may or may not know, our knitting group donates knitted caps to St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. The hats are for the preemie babies to keep their tiny bodies warm. We are in need of some additional volunteers to help knit the hats. If you can knit and would like to help out, please stop in the office and give your name. The yarn and pattern will be supplied to you and you can join the group here at the Center on Tuesday’s at 1:00 PM or you can take the yarn and do your knitting at home.

**ST. JOHN’S SOUP KITCHEN**
Food donations are now being collected for meals to serve the homeless at the St. John’s Soup Kitchen on January 29. They have requested donations of: canned vegetables, canned kidney beans and canned tomato sauce. Donations should be brought in to the Center by Tuesday, January 27. A box has been placed on the table outside of the lounge.

**UPPER MERION EMERGENCY AID**
Dried goods donations collected for families in the community. More families are in need than ever before. Donation box is outside of the lounge. The Upper Merion Emergency Fund has specifically requested food donations of Boxed Potatoes (mashed, scalloped, au gratin, etc.) Boxed Pasta, Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Stuffing (any flavor), Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Turkey Gravy, Chicken Broth, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup. Toiletries, household and laundry detergents are also appreciated.

**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. Our book donations are a big hit with the kids. Let’s keep it going! Collection box is on the table under the bulletin board. When donating books please be sure that they are in good condition.

**PROJECT LINUS – ONGOING**
The “Hearts and Hands” ladies group at Good Shepherd’s Church is still collecting knitted and crocheted squares for blankets. The purpose of Project Linus is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer “blanketeers.” Joan Banas has been collecting the squares on behalf of the church and will continue to do so as long as they are being made. Our participating members have a done a great job for a very good cause.

**COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS**
The Farmers Market winter hours are on alternate Saturdays, from 10-12 beginning December 6 until April, 2015.

**NEWSWORTHY**

**DONATION FROM UPPER MERION POLICE**
Officer Harry Nuskey presents UMSSC with a generous donation of $1,000.00 from the Upper Merion Police Association. Accepting the check from Officer Nuskey are Harlyce Grossman and and Mary McCree.

**DONATION FROM ALTRIA**
State Representative Tim Briggs presented a $5,000 check from the Altria Group headquartered in Richmond, VA and the parent company of John Middleton. The check was presented at the December 3rd Board Meeting. We would like to thank Tim Briggs and Altria for this generous donation.
THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS
Our Holiday Party, held on December 8, was a great success. The entertainment was wonderful, the guests were delightful and the food was delicious. Photos of this happy event are posted on our bulletin board. We would like to thank our volunteers who worked hard to make this party happen. The Party Volunteers were Helen Cabrey, Loretta DeLuca, June Dolan, Harlyce Grossman, Howard Lurie, Dick McCann, Mary & Don McCree, Loretta Polites, Barbara Richter, Shirley Robey, Janet Sheehan, and Sarah Phillips (and her team of ticket sellers). Thank you for all your hard work! A special thank you goes to our UMSSC Band!

SOME PHOTOS FROM OUR PARTY!
(more at end of newsletter and on our bulletin board)

BOARD & OFFICER NOMINATIONS
OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NOMINATIONS:
Following is the list of the officers and board members who were nominated at the November general meeting:
Officers: Mary F. McCree, President; Richard McCann, Vice President; Helen Cabrey, Secretary; Harlyce Grossman, Treasurer.
Members of the Board: Ann Lister, Barry Sachais and Roseanne Scully.

SOME PLAYERS NEEDED
Wii game is available and has attracted some new players. Beth will be happy to get a game of bowling started. Why not join her in the lounge on Wednesdays or Fridays at 11:00 AM. Bring a friend to play these games and maybe make a few new ones!

KEEPING SENIORS INFORMED
SOME BENEFITS FROM EXERCISE
Exercise can change your body composition reducing body fat and increasing muscle mass. Increased muscle mass can be helpful in weight management because muscle burns more calories than fat does. Exercise can help you gain strength and endurance and can boost energy. Physical activity also had the unique ability to have a favorable influence on one's blood pressure.

(Contributed by Jane Burger)
Our long term memories, once they’re formed, are pretty much immobilized in amber. It’s the day to day stuff that slips through our grasp. Not remembering where you put your keys last night, or the name of the person you just met a moment ago, or the combination to your new gym locker, are all signs that the demands of daily life are intruding on your ability to form new memories. But here’s some good news: **A few tweaks to your diet might restore your mediocre memory to Total Recall.**

And we’ve uncovered a collection of everyday foods that you can throw into soups, pile on salads, and slip into your routine. Boosting your brain health and your memory has never been easier or more delicious.

**BRAIN-POWER FOOD #1 - Leafy Green Salad with Cheese:** If you’re constantly forgetting the name of someone you’ve just met, or if “We talked about this...” is a common conversation starter at your house, then leafy greens like spinach or broccoli may be your produce-aisle prescription. They’re packed with vitamin K, which has been shown to improve verbal episodic memory, your ability to absorb and remember verbal instructions. Leafy greens also deliver high doses of folate, which works in tandem with vitamin B12 to help improve cognitive function for older adults. Since greens don’t contain vitamin B12, add some cheese or eggs (which do) to a spinach or Romaine salad and you’re good to go.

**BRAIN-POWER FOOD #2 – Blueberries:** Ready to expand your horizons? The flavonoids in blueberries have been shown to improve spatial memory in rats. Their antioxidants help lessen inflammation, which can cause longer-term problems for the brain and its memory function, so sprinkle them over your oatmeal and stock up on frozen bags for smoothie making in the winter! Berries are one of the Best Fruits That Boost Fat Loss. The more of these you eat, the less of you there will be!

**BRAIN-POWER FOOD #3 - Green Tea:** Drink up. One study found that subjects who drank green tea before a cognitive-functioning test performed significantly better than those who drank a placebo. Researchers who monitored the brain function of those undergoing testing say that the green tea improved brain plasticity—basically, it allowed their brains to learn faster. While you’re showing off your flexible new brain, you can also flex your abs by drinking any of these 5 Best Teas for Weight Loss.

**BRAIN-POWER FOOD #4 - Salmon or Tuna:** It might seem fishy, but DHA—a type of omega-3 fatty acid found in fattier fish like salmon and tuna—can improve memory and the time it takes to recall a memory. Researchers tested DHA supplements on a group of 176 adults who had low levels of omega-3s in their diets. (Most of us do, by the way.) Just 1.16 grams of DHA—about what you’d find in a 3 ½ ounce serving of salmon—made a measurable difference.

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**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.

**BAND PRACTICE & INSTRUCTION:** Every Tuesday, from 1:30 to 2:30 PM the Upper Merion Senior Service Center Band practices under the direction of Ed Hickman. Our wonderful band is planning to expand. They have an open invitation to anyone 55 or over. They are looking for musicians who want to get back into playing with a group. They are specifically looking for those who play trombone, French horn or trumpet. The band meets every Tuesday at 1:30 PM under the direction of Ed Hickman. Stop in and see them. **All are welcome!**

**BINGO:** Thursdays at 10:15 AM. Cash prizes!

**BOARD GAMES AVAILABLE:** Any day or time. Various board games available to play in the kitchen. Card table set up.

**BOOK TALK:** Monday, January 12 at 1:00 PM. Meets on the 3rd Monday of the month (except this month). Coordinator: Patricia Ackah (610.265.4290). This month we will be reading *The Sand Castle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian. A sweeping historical love story, *The Sandcastle Girls* introduces us to Elizabeth Endicott, an adventure-seeking graduate of Mount Holyoke College who travels to Syria just as the Great War has begun to spread across Europe. With only a crash course in nursing, Elizabeth has volunteered on behalf of the Boston-based Friends of Armenia to deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the genocide. She soon befriends a striking Armenian engineer. He is young, but he has already lost his wife and infant daughter to Turkish brutality. When Armen leaves Aleppo to join the British army in Egypt, he and Elizabeth begin a daring correspondence, bridging their very different worlds with words of love and hope.

**BRIDGE CLUB:** Tuesdays at 9:30 AM. All bridge players welcome!

**CHAIR EXERCISE:** Tuesdays at 11:30 AM to 12:15 PM and Thursdays from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM. $3.00 per class.

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COMPUTER CLUB: Tuesdays 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Coordinators: Herman Natanblut and Howard Lurie. Meetings are open to all members, all ability levels. The Computer Club will be glad to answer any technical questions members have.

CURRENT EVENTS DISCUSSION GROUP: Mondays at 10:30 AM in the Lounge. Coordinators: Joan Shaw and Paul Buce. Never a break from the onslaught of news; so catch up and join us to figure out what it all means.

FINANCIAL/INVESTMENT DISCUSSION GROUP: Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Computer Room. Coordinator: Dick McCann. All levels of experience in making the best choices for your investments are welcome.

FRIDAY FLICKS: FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 (Pizza at 11:15 AM, Movie at 12:00 PM) Coordinator: Don McCree. Pizza & Movie: $5.00. Movie Only: $2.00. If you are coming to Friday Flicks, please sign up in advance; this is important to do prior to end of day Thursday, January 15, as we order our pizzas and set up the great room with comfortable chairs for our movie goers. This month we will be showing "THE LOVE PUNCH" STARRING PIERCE BROSnan AND EMMA THOMPSON. Retirement at last! Middle-aged and divorced, company owner Richard Jones is looking forward to a worry-free existence as he arrives at his office on his last day of work. Much to his dismay, he discovers that the management buyout of his company was fraudulent. The company is now bankrupt and the employee pension fund - including his own - has been embezzled. Enlisting the help of his ex-wife Kate, Richard sets out to track down the shady businessman behind the fraud.

GARDEN CLUB: Meets the Second and Fourth Wednesday at 1:00 PM. Coordinator: Paul Buce. No meetings in January. Read those seed catalogs and dream of warm weather.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Monthly meeting open to all members on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00 AM (on January 14). Any member who wants to be put on the agenda at the meeting should contact Mary McCree, President.

KNITTING & CROCHETING: Tuesdays at 1:00 PM. Coordinator: Patricia Ackah. Instruction provided. Hand-made items are for sale and all proceeds benefit the Center.

LIBRARY: Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Library Volunteer: Nancy Kime. An excellent selection of large print books, tapes and videos are available to borrow. Don't forget to check out the "roving book cart" featuring a special selection on loan from the Upper Merion Township Library.

LINE DANCING: Every Wednesday at 1:00 PM in the gym. Coordinator: Aracelia Panzano.

MAH-JONGG: Mondays at 9:30 AM. Coordinator: Lynne Boroch. All level players are welcome, even beginners! Come in and learn to play this very popular game.

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) and Senator Daylin Leach's aide is here the last Thursday of the month (11:30 AM to 1:00 PM)

PINOCHLE LADIES AND GENTS: Tuesday's at 12:30 AM in the Game Room.

POKER: Tuesday's and Friday's at 9:30 AM in the kitchen.

QUILTING: Third Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Instructor: Ethel Hutchinson. All levels welcome!

SING-A-LONG: Fridays at 10:00 to 11:30 AM. Coordinators: Theresa M. Smith and Dot Morio; Pianist: Ed Wenger. Come in and enjoy singing some old favorites together. Members meet for lunch at Michael's Deli following the program.

TAI CHI: Wednesdays at 12:00 PM in the gymnasium. Cost: $3.00 per class.

Wii GAMES: Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:00 AM in the lounge. Coordinator: Beth Cassidy

YOGA: Monday's at 1:30 PM. Video instruction good for beginners, intermediate or advanced. Limited to 8 members per class.

ZUMBA GOLD: Session runs Monday's only from January 12 through March 9 from 12:00 PM to 12:45 PM. (NO CLASS JANUARY 19). Cost: $16.00 UM Residents and $26.00 Non-UM Residents. Sign up and pay at the Township Building. THIS IS AN UM TWP. PARK & REC DEPT. PROGRAM.
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TO: RESIDENT or OCCUPANT

**REMINDERS FOR JANUARY 2015**

* MONDAY, JANUARY 12 AT 12:00 PM: ZUMBA GOLD (IN THE GYM)
* MONDAY, JANUARY 12 AT 1:00 PM: BOOK TALK
* WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 10:00 AM: GENERAL MEETING
* FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 FRIDAY FLICKS: (Pizza at 11:15 AM, Movie at 12:00 PM.) PLAYING THIS MONTH: "THE LOVE PUNCH" STARRING PIERCE BROSNAN AND EMMA THOMPSON. PLEASE SIGN UP BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 15 SO THAT WE CAN ORDER ENOUGH PIZZA AND SET UP THE MORE COMFORTABLE CHAIRS FOR OUR MOVIE-GOERS!
* MONDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 9:00 AM - MLK DAY OF SERVICE AT UMSSC - ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED FOR THE DAY
* WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21: VALLEY FORGE CASINO. THE OFFER FOR GROUP IS $20.00 IN SLOT PLAY.
* AARP 2014 TAX PREPARATION: THURSDAYS ONLY STARTING FEBRUARY 5 TO APRIL 9. APPOINTMENT BOOK IS AT RECEPTION DESK. NO PHONE APPOINTMENTS.

**NOTE:**

THE SENIOR CENTER WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE NEW YEARS HOLIDAY ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 AND FRIDAY, JANUARY 2.
WE WILL ALSO BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 19 FOR THE MLK DAY OF SERVICE (*WHY NOT VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUT!*)

**Happy New Year!**