



The

# Senior Informer

Volume 11

Issue 1

JANUARY 2014

ABINGTON COUNCIL  
ON AGING  
441 Summer Street, Abington, MA 02351  
781-982-2145

Website:  
ABINGTONSENIORCENTER.COM

Suzanne Djusberg, Director  
COADirector@Abingtonma.gov

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**ANNUAL FOAS MEETING  
ELECTIONS**  
*Wed., January 8, 9:00am*  
**Senior Center**  
**Light Refreshments**

*It is the nature of all things that  
take form to dissolve again. Strive  
with your whole being to attain  
perfection. —Buddha*

## ACTIVITIES

Bingo  
Blood Pressure Screening  
Bridge & Chess  
Chair Yoga w/Joanne  
Computer Classes  
Cribbage  
Hearing Tests  
Knitting & Crocheting Group  
Legal Assistance  
Mah Jongg  
Quilting Class  
Senior Lunches  
Tai Chi & Zumba

## COUNCIL ON AGING STAFF

Suzanne Djusberg - Director  
Valerie O'Loughlin -  
Outreach Coordinator  
Karen Butler -  
Nutrition Coordinator  
Jean Connell -  
Transportation Coordinator  
John Freese - Custodian  
Susan Young - General Services  
Jack Brown, David LaCouture,  
Linda Elliot - Van Drivers



## THE ABINGTON CHILD STUDY GROUP—CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

The Abington Child Study Group will be celebrating their 80th year of continuous meetings thereby becoming the oldest organization in Abington.

It began on March 1, 1934 in the kitchen of six women who had concerns for children. On that day these women set forth a mission to help the needs of children and families in their community and beyond. They would take home a topic related to children to research and return their findings to be discussed at their next meeting. The stated purpose of this group was "To Help Needy Children." That is why this club was called "The Child Study Group."

The Charter members included Margaret Crownfield, Alice Robertson, Esther Drake, Mrs. Bowman, Marguerite Haskins, Helen Ewell, Vera Christiansen, Betty Rounds, Ella Sanderson, Alice Seaman, Ruby Wheatley, and Dorothy Witherell.

These women met every other week and collected 10 cents for dues. Dues were raised as membership increased. In 1996, when the membership reached its maximum of twenty-five members, dues increased to \$25.00 which allowed for a \$500.00 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating senior. Even though in 1944 the treasury was only \$40.77, the treasury has grown steadily by the outstanding efforts of these twenty-five women.

Fundraising was primarily self-contained within the group. They held food auctions, bridge games, sold chances, held dances, penny sales, white elephant sales, yard sales and compiled a very profitable cook book. The most successful events financially and socially were guest nights and progressive dinners, prepared by members, as well as the annual Christmas dances.

Although it is difficult to cover and evaluate 80 years of service, many opportunities did arise. The Child Study Group rose to the occasion from the onset in the '30s and have continued their efforts as they celebrate their 80th upcoming year.

### THROUGH THE YEARS

In the '40s many activities were devoted to the war effort.

The club rocked and rolled through the '50s, continuing to grow in their relationships with each other and their community.

The '60s were successful as well with pool parties and their first yard sale. Although different from yard sales of today, each member brought a yard of something to be auctioned, with the proceeds enlarging the treasury. October 1964 marked the 30th birthday celebration at the Toll House in Whitman.

The '70s offered more memorable meetings, especially the Christmas parties with Yankee swaps. In later years it was voted to purchase a gift that a member would have wished for in their youth. The gift was then donated to a children's organization. This tradition has been rewarding and continues as our gift exchange at our December meetings.

—continued on page 6

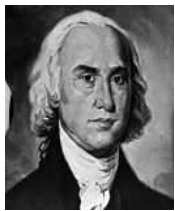
**ORPHAN TRAIN by Christina Baker Kline**

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fate would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude?

As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was such a child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community service position helping an elderly widow clean out her attic is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past.

Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota. *Orphan Train* is a powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendship.



**BOOK RE-COMMENDATION ABOVE**



**FACTS ABOUT PRESIDENT JAMES MADISON**

James Madison was the 4th President of the United States (3/4/1809 to 3/4/1817). Madison was the oldest of 12 children, raised on the family plantation known as Montpelier in Orange County, VA. It is interesting to note that his administration was the only one to have 2 vice presidents die while in office (i.e., George Clinton and Elbridge Gerry). Also noteworthy is that he was the shortest president, just 5 ft. 4 in. and weighed only 100 lbs. Madison was married to Dolley, an outgoing Quaker widow who loved entertaining and hosted many receptions. The First Lady was also very brave. Right before the British burned down the White House during the War of 1812, Mrs. Madison managed to save a number of important documents as well as a famous painting of George Washington. President Madison is known as the Father of the Constitution. He wrote the first drafts of the U.S. Constitution, co-wrote the Federalist Papers (a series of persuasive letters written in an effort to get the Constitution ratified), and sponsored the Bill of Rights. Madison was never in the military, although he led the nation in war against Britain from 1812 to 1814. The "Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key during Madison's administration (1814), later to become our National Anthem.

**INFORMER NEWS DEADLINE**

Place in Newsletter inbox by 10th of previous month (i.e., 10th of January for the February 2014 issue).

**HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE**

Walk-In Health Screening for Blood Pressure, Sugar Testing, Nutrition and Weight Counseling & Medication Instruction are held at Abington Sr. Ctr., weekly on Mondays 9:30 to 12:30 and the last Tuesday of the month, 9:30 to 12:30. *The Board of Health states the nurse will be available to ALL Abington residents, regardless of age, and Seniors are welcome at ALL sessions.*

Free Hearing Screenings and Hearing Aid Checks are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Senior Center with John Klefeker. Call for appt. 781-982-2145.

**SENIOR TRANSPORTATION—CALL 781-982-2145**

(24 HOUR ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIRED)

**Council on Aging Van** is door-to-door service to medical appointments, and other needs. \$3 round trip - suggested donation. Call the COA at 781-982-2145 to book rides in advance. **Dial-A-BAT** vehicles travel a bit further out, to Brockton and the Bridgewaters between 9:30 and 4:30 and to Boston Wed. & Fri. BAT rides must be booked thru the COA. Fees vary. Door-to-door-pay driver. **Friday Morning Shopping Van.** We will be using our trusty van to get you to either the Hanover Mall or another mall. We will pick you up starting at 9:15 or shortly after. We will pick you up at the mall at 12:30 getting you home around 1 or 1:15. Cost for round trip is \$3.00. Each week we will alternate between malls.

**SENIOR NUTRITION—CALL 781-982-2145**

**Meals on Wheels** delivered to homebound Seniors, lunchtime Mon-Fri, \$3.00 per meal. Our wonderful volunteers deliver nutritious meals right to your kitchen table. Although anyone can apply for this service, approval must be given by the recipient's doctor. In winter months, when there is inclement weather and there is no school that day, there will be no prepared meals delivered.

**Senior Lunches:** Tuesdays & Thursdays at 11:30. Tuesday—cost \$4.00. Thursday suggested donation is \$3.00. Call the Center at 781-982-2145 to make your reservation by Friday of the previous week.

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

Wheelchairs, walkers, and other medical equipment are available at the Senior Center. Call 781-982-2145 for availability.

**FUEL ASSISTANCE**

Appointments (scheduled) began November 8th continuing on through the 2014 season. Friday appointments only!

**SENIOR COMPUTER LEARNING CENTER**

For info regarding classes, dates, times, etc., call 508-521-4008 or by email go to [www.seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org](http://www.seniorcomputerlearningcenter.org).

**NOTABLE JANUARY EVENTS: (National Soup Month)**

Louis Braille, born in France in January 1809, blinded as a boy, later invented a reading system for the blind using punch marks in paper.

The Euro was introduced to the financial market on January 1, 1999. Can you name the original eleven countries to implement a single monetary policy? *See answer on page 8.*

Birthdays: 1/1, Paul Revere, Betsy Ross; 1/8, Elvis Presley; 1/9, Richard Nixon; 1/12, John Hancock; 1/14, B. Slinger, 1/17, J. Curtis.

January 20 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



"I always knew that deep down in every human heart, there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite." —Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom*

**FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS**

The Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. would like to thank both past and present members for their support and contributions.

**JUNE 2013 started a new membership year with dues of \$5.00 payable and good until JUNE 2014. Please make checks payable to:**

**“Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.”**

**and mail to P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351.**

**Many thanks to families selecting “Friends of Abington Seniors” for memorial gifts.**

**Friends of Abington Seniors Membership for 2013-2014: \$5.00 per person or \$100 for lifetime membership.**

**Please send donations to this address: P.O. Box 2035, Abington, MA 02351**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of \_\_\_\_\_

Send Acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_

**THE BIRTHDAY GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING**

***Do you have a birthday coming? Can't think of anything you want or need?***

**Suggest a donation in your name to the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.**

**Memberships:**

Karl & Jean Anderson      June Hill      Emelda S. Slonina      Carmela Chevrie

**In Memory of:** Edward Kiernan by Muriel Kiernan      Loretta Cifelli by Bill & Charlene Jones  
 Anthony Abban by Sylvia Abban      Bill Schutt by Dorothy Underdown

***Special thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the Friends of Abington Seniors.***

**MEETING MR. PRESIDENT —Maureen Wall**

In late November, my family and I had the privilege of meeting and being photographed with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office of the White House. Let me explain how this came about, as we are just everyday Americans who pay our taxes and vote, shop at Trucchi's, like everyone else. Our daughter, Mary Wall, has been working in the Executive Offices of the President at the White House for the past 3 yrs. She is now taking another job in the Obama Administration, and thus a "departure picture" is taken of that employee and their family. D.C. is not around the corner from Abington, but we knew this was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and we were going to make this work. So, the entire family (8 of us including our granddaughters, 3 yr. old Lucy and 6 yr. old Violet) took off for a few days to the District. Let me tell you that we were all in awe at being in the Oval Office with our Commander in Chief. It was a totally surreal experience—Mr. Obama stooped down to welcome the two little ones and then welcomed the group of us into the Oval Office. Mr. Obama commended Mary for her service the past few years and wished her luck in this new position in the Administration. He chatted about the Red Sox and their winning the World Series. By that time it was 4:00 p.m., Lucy was tired and really needed a nap and quietly scooted over to one of the sofas and started to lay down. It was really cute. Then, pictures. We were there with him just about 10 minutes, but it's something none of us will ever forget.

Well, I'm sure you're all wondering where are the pictures? They have been electronically mailed to us and they look AMAZING! One of them is being printed as a jumbo to be hung in the West Wing (Whaaa?!?!). That one is of the little ones and is super cute. However, we are NOT permitted to share any of these pictures on social media. So, after we have them printed we'll be able to share them with our friends.

**THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN**

Many thanks once again to **Lowe's of Abington** for its generosity in supplying a beautiful Electrolux electric clothes dryer for our Breakfast with Santa raffle. Lowe's is a loyal friend of the Abington Senior Center and we deeply appreciate their kindness.

**ANNUAL FRIENDS OF ABINGTON SENIORS, INC. MEETING**

On **January 8, at 9 AM**, the annual meeting of the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. will be held for the nomination and election of officers and directors. All members (anyone who paid a \$5 membership) are welcome to participate. Light refreshments will be served.

**OUTREACH WITH VALERIE — JANUARY 2014**

Since the rollout of the Affordable Care Act there has been a huge increase in fraud. The shifts in the healthcare landscape have prompted some criminals to carry out health care scams targeting seniors, according to the Senate Special Committee on Aging. The fact is that if you have Medicare, you do not need to buy health insurance through the exchanges created by the Affordable Care Act. And, although it is illegal for someone to sell an exchange health insurance plan to a known Medicare recipient, it hasn't deterred fraudsters from trying. Below are a few steps seniors can take to avoid falling victim to this type of fraud:

- Protect your personal information and be suspicious of solicitations. Never share personal information, such as Medicare, Social Security or bank account numbers with anyone who contacts you uninvited at your door, over the phone or by e-mail seeking to verify personal information or to sell you a health plan.
  - Know that Medicare will never call you at home. If you receive a call from someone who says they're from Medicare or Social Security, hang up. Medicare and Social Security employees will never call you at home, unless you have contacted them first about a problem.
  - Use official websites only. Seniors enrolling in Medicare Part D plans or Medicare Advantage plans, should sign up only through the official Medicare Plan Finder website **www.Medicare.gov** or by phone at 1-800-Medicare. Or of course you can make an appointment with me here at the office at 781-982-2145.
- Scam Hotline. If you or a loved one have been the victim of fraud, please call 1-855-303-9470 to report it.

These are just some tips for protecting yourself from Medicare fraud. I hope you all had a great holiday season, and I hope you have a great new year!

**January Recipe**

Lemon Bars – submitted by Cordane Bradley

Bottom Layer:

2 cups flour

½ cup conf. sugar

2 sticks butter (1 cup)

Mix well until like pie crust. Press evenly into greased 9 x 13 pan. Bake @ 350 for 17-20 minutes, until evenly brown.

Top Layer:

Beat 4 eggs, add 2 cups sugar, ½ cup lemon juice, and 4 Tbs. flour, and 1 tsp baking powder.

Mix together, but do not beat too much. Pour onto bottom layer and immediately return to oven. Bake at 350 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Sprinkle with conf. sugar and let cool.



**January Puzzle**

Number of:

Consonants in CONSECUTIVE x different vowels in SUBSEQUENT

Letters in HUNGARY + syllables in BUDAPEST

Wheels on seven tricycles – saddles on three tandems

Different consonants in SUNBATHING + different letters in BIKINI

Ounces in two pounds – years in a score.

See answers on page 8.

**CHOICES**

Wife: Do you want dinner, dear?

Husband: Sure! What are my choices?

Wife: Yes and No.

**MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM**

During 2013, the Meals on Wheels client base increased from 14 meals delivered daily to 24 meals delivered daily, with two, often three routes, covering all of Abington to the Brockton line and to the Whitman line delivering the more than 4,500 meals. The hydration program, which ran from June to September, allowed us to provide 1,600 bottles to our clients. Also 75 breakfasts from a pilot program were delivered. Valentine's cards and cupcakes, Easter baskets, Thanksgiving dinners and pies, Christmas gift baskets – were taken to the door of each recipient. The people who make these deliveries are all volunteers. They do whatever is asked of them, however often, and do it willingly. They are a wonderful, caring group. They take the time to chat for a moment or two with each client and can forward any requests or concerns to the COA office. Most of these drivers have been volunteers for a very long time. I am extremely grateful to each and every one of them: Chuck Collins, Dave Evans, Jack Libby, Kathy Corcoran, Valerie Barry, Greg Doyan, Barbara Tower, Susan Emery, Eleanor Howe, Christine Mulkern, Susan Mollica, Patricia Dailey, Stan Shura.

Additionally, our office staff helps with fielding calls and assisting seniors at the Thursday lunches – Jean Connell, Susan Young, and John Freese. It is a cooperative effort and includes the Wooddale School staff who prepare the lunches (Betty, Nancy, Mike), and Liz and Barbara who serve the Thursday luncheon. Thanks to all of you for your support and your continued devotion to this program.

—Karen Butler, Meals on Wheels Coordinator

**LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU**

On Tuesday, December 10, the first and fifth graders from St. Bridget's school presented their Christmas program at the Senior Center. The singing of Christmas carols was interspersed with short readings by members of both classes relating to birth of Christ. The students were very well rehearsed and confident in their presentation. It was a most enjoyable morning, and we are once again grateful to the staff and students at St. Bridget's.



*Months that begin on a Sunday will always have a Friday the 13th.*

# JANUARY 2014 LUNCH & ACTIVITIES

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><u>1/1/1863</u> <i>Emancipation Proclamation Signed</i></p> <p><u>1/1/1892</u> <i>Ellis Island in N.Y. Harbor Opened</i></p> <p><u>1/28</u> <i>U.S. Coast Guard Created, 1915</i></p>	<p><u>1/27/1973</u> <i>U.S. Involvement in Vietnam War ended</i></p> <p><u>1/28/1986</u> <i>Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, 74 seconds into flight</i></p> <p><u>1/30</u> <i>Raccoons Mate Now</i></p>	<p><u>1</u> <b>New Year's Day</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Center Closed</b></p>	<p><u>2</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Donation)</u> <u>11:30 Lunch: TBA</u> <i>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr., 1st come, 1st serve</i></p>	<p><u>3</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>9:00 Shopping Van</u> <u>11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</u></p>
<p><u>6</u> <u>9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/ Crocheting Class (\$5)</u> <u>11:00 Bingo</u></p>	<p><u>7</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>11:30 Lunch:</u> Swedish Meatballs on Noodles, Vegetables, Dessert, Beverage <u>1:00-3pm: Mah-Jongg</u> <u>5:30-6:30pm: Zumba (\$4)</u></p>	<p><u>8</u> <u>9:00 FOAS Meeting</u> <u>10:00 Knitting Group</u> <u>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</u> <u>10:00 Bridge</u> <u>10:30 Chess</u></p>	<p><u>9</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Donation)</u> <u>11:30 Lunch: TBA</u> <i>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr., 1st come, 1st serve</i></p>	<p><u>10</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>9:00 Shopping Van</u> <u>11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</u></p>
<p><u>13</u> <u>9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Chocheting Class, (\$5)</u> <u>11:00 Bingo</u></p>	<p><u>14</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>11:30 Lunch:</u> Corn Chowder, Ham &amp; Pickle Sandwich, Dessert, Beverage <u>1:00-3pm: Mah-Jongg</u> <u>5:30-6:30pm: Zumba (\$4)</u></p>	<p><u>15</u> <u>9:30 COA Meeting</u> <u>10:00 Knitting Group</u> <u>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</u> <u>10:00 Bridge</u> <u>10:30 Chess</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Full Wolf Moon</i></p>	<p><u>16</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Donation)</u> <u>11:30 Lunch: TBA</u> <i>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr., 1st come, 1st serve</i></p>	<p><u>17</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>9:00 Shopping Van</u> <u>11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</u> <u>10:00-11:00 Sen. Keenan, office hours</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Benjamin Franklin Born, 1706</i></p>
<p><u>20</u> <u>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observed</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Senior Center Closed</b></p>	<p><u>21</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>11:30 Lunch</u> Roast Pork, Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables, Dessert, Beverage <u>1:00-3pm Mah Jongg</u> <u>5:30-6:30 pm Zumba \$4)</u></p>	<p><u>22</u> <u>10:00 Knitting Group</u> <u>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</u> <u>10:00 Bridge</u> <u>10:30 Chess</u></p>	<p><u>23</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Donation)</u> <u>11:30 Lunch: TBA</u> <i>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr. 1st come, 1st serve</i></p>	<p><u>24</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>9:00 Shopping Van</u> <u>11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>California Gold Rush Began, 1848</i></p>
<p><u>27</u> <u>9:00-10:00 Beginners Knitting/Crocheting Class (\$5)</u> <u>11:00 Bingo</u></p>	<p><u>28</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>11:30 Lunch:</u> Meat Loaf, Baked Potato, Vegetables, B-Day Cake, Beverage <u>1:00-3pm Mah Jongg</u> <u>5:30-6:30 pm Zumba \$4)</u></p>	<p><u>29</u> <u>10:00 Knitting Group</u> <u>10:00-12:00 Quilting Class</u> <u>10:00 Bridge</u> <u>10:30 Chess</u></p>	<p><u>30</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>10:00 Chair Yoga w/ Joanne (Donation)</u> <u>11:30 Lunch TBA</u> <i>Free bread distribution at Sr. Ctr, 1st come 1st serve</i></p>	<p><u>31</u> <u>9:00 Cribbage</u> <u>9:00 Shopping Van</u> <u>11:00 Tai Chi (Free)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chinese New Year</i></p>



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### JESSIE — A DREAMER AND HIS DREAM



Jessie hated his job; he was a chicken plucker. For a short period of his life, he stood on a line in a chicken factory. It wasn't much of a job.

His father was a brute of a man. His dad was actually thought to be mentally ill and was also alcoholic. He treated Jessie roughly. Jessie's older brother wasn't much better. Jessie grew up in a dysfunctional home in West Virginia. Life was anything but easy, and he thought life didn't hold much hope for him.

In addition to all the rough treatment at home, it seemed that Jessie was always sick. Sometimes it was real physical illness, but way too often it was all in his head—he was a hypochondriac. He was a small child, skinny and meek which didn't help. In school, he was the object of every bully on the playground. Tomorrow was not always something he looked forward to.

But, he had dreams. He decided to be a ventriloquist. He found books on ventriloquism. He practiced with sock puppets and saved his hard earned dollars until he could get a real ventriloquist dummy. In mid-1943 when he was old enough, he was drafted into the Army and even though many of his hypochondriac symptoms persisted, the military did recognize his talents and put him in the special services entertainment unit. He saw no combat but spent his "hitch" touring the Pacific Islands to entertain troops as a comedian in a G.I. variety show. That was when his world changed. He gained confidence. He found that he had a talent for making people laugh, and laugh so hard they often had tears in their eyes. He had found himself.

Many people have overcome a handicap to go on and make a success of themselves, but Jessie was one of the few who didn't overcome it. Instead he used his paranoia to make a million dollars, and become one of the best-loved characters of all time in doing it. As a comedian who transferred his nervousness into a successful career, he holds the record for the most Emmys (5) given in a single category. The wonderful, gifted, talented, and nervous comedian who brought us Barney Fife was Jessie Don Knotts.

The folks of Morgantown, WV, his place of birth, erected a statue of him as well as naming a boulevard for him. Jessie Donald "Don" Knotts—WWII veteran (July 21, 1924 – February 24, 2006).

### JANUARY'S CHUCKLE

Two gas company servicemen, a senior training supervisor and a young trainee, were out checking meters in a suburban neighborhood. They parked their truck at the end of the alley and worked their way to the other end. At the last house a woman looking out her kitchen window watched the two men as they checked her gas meter. Finishing the meter check, the senior supervisor challenged his younger coworker to a foot race down the alley back to the truck to prove that an older guy could outrun a younger one. As they came running up to the truck, they realized the lady from that last house was huffing and puffing right behind them. They stopped and asked her what was wrong. Gasping for breath, she replied, "When I see two gas men running as hard as you two were, I figured I'd better run too!"

### TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

A Little Bit of Ireland, March 15: Reagle Players presents a salute to all things Irish with a touch of Riverdance, Irish pub visit, Irish comedy, charms of Irish Bands, Irish Tenors, and much more. Show also features Massachusetts Harp Ensemble, as well as the Harney Academy, an elite group of Irish step dancers. Lunch will be at the Chateau Restaurant. \$79

Debbie Reynolds & Mohegan Sun, April 15: Many of her accolades include an Academy Award Nomination, 2 Golden Globe Nominations, and an Emmy Award. She made numerous "Top 10" hits in the 1950's and 60s including the hit song "Tammy". She still performs, much to the delight of her fans. A must see! Includes Show Ticket, Transportation, and \$30 Casino Gaming Package. \$79

A Devine Comedy, June 11: Enjoy Fr. Patrick Aloysius Misgivings sharing stories about growing up Catholic. Nothing escapes the good father's razor sharp wit. Lunch will be prepared and served by the instructors at the Johnson & Wales Cooking School. \$79

—Contact Rita Webster at 781-982-9102 for information on trips.



### THE ABINGTON CHILD STUDY GROUP —continued from page 1

On May 1984 the 50th birthday celebration was held at the Whitten House in Hingham.

In the '90s their friendship and commitment continued doing the work our town needed, financially and with hands-on projects. *THE YEAR 2000—THE NEW MILLENNIUM—"IT TAKES A WOMAN"*

In the spring of 2004, Abington Child Study was featured in an article in the *Brockton Enterprise* entitled "Sssh ... Abington's Best Kept Secret," marking the 70th anniversary of the club.

In 2008 the Abington Public Library displayed the many Child Study booklets and their Millennium Quilt (each square made by a member) as well as a display of *all* the donations that were made over the past 80 years.

Please keep in mind this quote that speaks of our past, present, and future. "I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not neglect it, for I may not pass this way again."—*Anonymous* —Submitted by Blanche Sims, Past President and Joanne Donovan, Historian

### THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER

On November 19, 150 of Abington's seniors were treated to a free Thanksgiving dinner, sponsored by the Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc. Extra tables were set up in the Senior Center dining area and decorated with white tablecloths and napkins. Many of the diners arrived early for an opportunity to socialize with old friends and new acquaintances. The meal, which was deemed excellent, was catered by Mastrangelo Family Catering Service. Many thanks to Friends of Abington Seniors.





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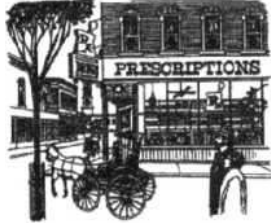
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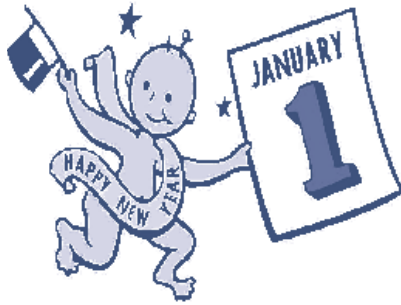
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### Miscellaneous

**Line Dance Schedule:** Dancing with Dot Dunham at St. Bridget's Parish Hall on Friday afternoons, at 1 p.m. to 2:30p.m. Donation: \$3.00. Call 781-293-7727 for more information.

**Support Groups— Open to the Public— No Charge:** Bereavement Group, Abington, meets once a month at the Library, 1st Tues., 6:30 pm; Prostate Cancer Support Group, monthly, 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Brockton Hospital, Assembly Room 2nd floor by café.

**Food Pantry:** St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry is open on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the old Friary Convent at St. Bridget's, 781-878-1194.

### Supporters of the Abington Seniors

#### Abington Elderly Services, Inc.

Lois Kelley, President; Ann Reilly, Vice President/Van Account Liaison; Mary Graham, Treasurer; Tricia Force; Evelyn Drew; Atty. Edward Reilly

#### Friends of Abington Seniors, Inc.

Darlean Lewis, President; Larry Keough, Vice-President; William Kendall, Treasurer; Jack Burns, Asst. Treasurer; Peggy Keating, Clerk; Mary Cordeiro, Secretary

**Informer Newsletter Staff:** Marie Brown, Joanne Curtis, Lorraine Leventuk, Betty Slinger, Maureen Wall.

—Answer to question regarding Euro countries on page 2: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain. (Greece joined in 2001)

—Answers to puzzle on page 4: 12 (6x2); 10 (7+3); 15 (21-6); 10 (6+4); 12 (32-20)

### WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF

The White House Chief of Staff is the highest ranking employee of the White House Office inside the Executive Office of the President of the United States. The duties of the White House Chief of Staff vary greatly from one administration to another, and, in fact, there is no legal requirement that the President even fill the position. However, since at least 1979, all Presidents have found the need for a Chief of Staff who typically oversees the actions of the White House staff, manages the President's schedule, and decides who is allowed to meet with the President. Because of these duties, the Chief of Staff has at various times been labeled "The Gatekeeper," or "The Power Behind the Throne." The current White House Chief of Staff is Denis McDonough, who assumed the position on January 25, 2013, after Jack Lew resigned to accept appointment as Secretary of the Treasury.

*A mother asked her son, "Why don't you run down the street and see how old Mrs. Smith is this morning?" The boy returned a few minutes later and reported, "Mrs. Smith says her age is none of your business."*