

A message from your Board...

by Lori Klein, President

I was sorry to miss seeing many of you at the annual meeting in February, but I was traveling in Australia and New Zealand with family. We did get to visit Milford Sound and I saw Stirling Falls and Bowen Falls. Since others have posted great pictures of that in the past, I am using a different picture. I have re-written this article, because I think the uncertainty caused by COVID-19 needs to be addressed; this information may be outdated by the time you read it. In just a few days, we have seen recommendations go from keeping gatherings under 250 people to 50 people to just 10 people. Grocery store shelves have emptied of all the usual staples as well as Kleenex and all disinfectants and rubbing alcohol, and events of all kinds are cancelling. **As I am rewriting this, we on your Board of Directors have decided to close the Amenities Center effective March 20th at 4:00pm.** All I can request is that you keep up with the changing information, either on your own or by reading the information Oded will continue to distribute by email as Manatee County and other health agencies continue to update guidelines. Most importantly, please consider



not only your own health but also that of your family, friends and neighbors; if you have been close to someone in the last 2 weeks who is not feeling well, or you are not feeling well, you need to stay in touch with others but physically isolate yourself.

Information that will not change:

We, your Board, are looking into options for virtual meetings and remote participation. **I encourage committees to do their work through email, and the Board will consider committee recommendations reached through email consensus during this time.**

Staying on the topic of Board meetings, some of you who were at or heard about the March Board Meeting may wonder why resident comments were limited to agenda items, and not allowed for other topics. The Board tries to do as much business as possible, especially regarding financial matters and committee recommendations, in our Board Meetings, which are usually only once a month. Previous Boards have implemented specific procedures to insure the accomplishment of necessary Association business dur-

LRF ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President, Lynn H. Gregg: VicePresident@lakeridgefalls.org
Treasurer, Calvin Fitzgerald: Treasurer@lakeridgefalls.org
Secretary, Judy Buffa: Secretary@lakeridgefalls.org
Director, OPEN: Director@lakeridgefalls.org

Committees

Architectural Review Board (ARB)

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Lanny Weintraub, Chairperson
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am

Budget Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Calvin Fitzgerald, Co-Board Liaison
TBD, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Buildings Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Liz Ott, Chairperson
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm

Community Relations Committee (CRC)

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Dan DeRoner, Chairperson
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 9:00am

Landscape Committee

Lynn Gregg, Board Liaison
Calvin Fitzgerald, Co-Board Liaison
Mary Cochran & Karen McGee, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am

Roads and Grounds Committee

Calvin Fitzgerald, Board Liaison
Dick Dorn & Lanny Weintraub, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 10:00am

Pool Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Elma Azurdia & Suzanne Weinstein, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 2:00pm

Security Committee

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Durand Glovinsky, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Hurricane Preparedness Group

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Jim DuGranrut, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Long Range Landscape Plan Working Group

Calvin Fitzgerald, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Barbara Weintraub, Chairperson
Meetings: TBD

Long Range Ponds Working Group

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
TBD, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Social Committee

Jane Kintz & Leigh Selby, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 10:00am

Art League

President...Jackie Hathaway
Meetings as needed

www.lakeridgefalls.org

ing the meetings and the one I followed is the most recent, adopted by the LRF Board in February of 2015. These procedures impose a three-minute time limit and specify that members (this is LRF Association members) will have the opportunity to comment on specific issues on the agenda. Anyone wishing to see the procedures, I can share a copy with you or Oded can provide it. This procedure is usually followed (why the comment sign-up sheet usually asks for both name and subject), but when agendas appear to be light the Board has not always followed the procedure when it comes to limiting the subject of Association member comments. For March we had a number of items on the agenda to get through, some of them at the suggestion of residents, and a few of them were going to need time for discussion. The comment sign-up only had resident names, so I had to ask if the comments related to the agenda before allowing them. I would like to remind everyone Oded emails and posts the agenda before every Board meeting. Unless there is something that is an emergency for the Association, only items on the actual agenda will be acted on by the Board at that meeting since those not in attendance did not know other subjects would be discussed and may have chosen to attend or send a comment if they had. If there is something you want discussed and acted upon by the Board, please notify the Board and Oded ahead of time so that it can go on the agenda and the Board members have time to consider and research if necessary the matter. If you do not provide Board members enough information or time, there is a good chance the Board will table a decision until the next meeting.

Continued on Page 3

Office

Property Manager: Oded Neeman
Phone: 360-1046 Line #101
email: PropertyManager@lakeridgefalls.org
After hours Emergency Only - 941-951-4034

Community Assistant/ LRF Falls Forum: Paula Murray
Phone: 360-1046 Line #103 Hours: M-W-F 9:30am—3:30pm
email: Paula@lakeridgefalls.org

Guardhouse: 355-1328 / Security@lakeridgefalls.org

4200 Lakeridge Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34243

I am hoping to write a more positive sounding piece for May. Some of you are seasonal residents who will be leaving soon for more northern locations, please have a safe trip and we will see you again in the fall or next winter. Meanwhile we will keep you current through emails, the website, and the Forum.



LakeRidge Falls extends its sympathies to the family and friends of our neighbors:

**Paul Benini
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Forrest Miner**

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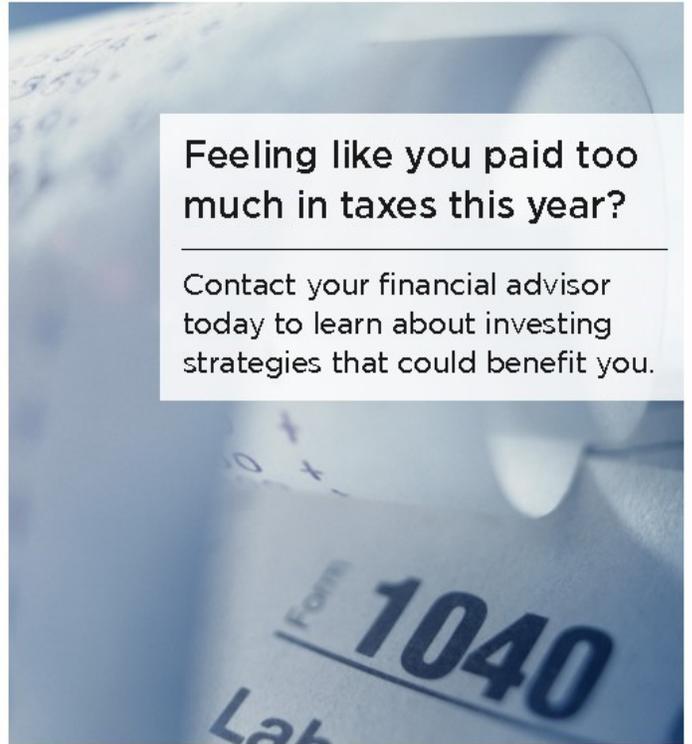
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Property Manager Report

by Oded Neeman

Desirability – As many may know, LakeRidge Falls is one of the more desirable communities to live in. When I share this information with others, they tend to argue, rightly so, that I am biased. “After all, a person who serves a community for almost 9 years now,” they claim, “would not say differently.” The counter-argument is always the same: “don’t take my word for it, go look at the numbers.” And indeed, numbers don’t lie as the old phrase goes. Here is some data taken from Stellar MLS (multiple listing service) for this area comparing LakeRidge Falls to Cascades at Sarasota, a 55+ community located a couple of miles north on Lockwood Ridge Rd.

Cumulative Days on the Market (CDOM) is a tool used to measure the number of days from when a property is first listed to when it goes into pending status. More importantly, it is a great indicator of the condition of the property, the price it is offered for, the desirability of the community/area it is located in, and the effectiveness of the Realtor’s work (aka the 4 Ps of Marketing). Looking at the median data from the last two years, or the last 720 days to be exact, it takes 69 days for a house in Cascades at Sarasota to be on the market before it goes pending. On the other hand, it takes only 37 days for a house in LakeRidge Falls to do the same. In super simple terms, houses in LakeRidge Falls are selling almost twice as fast as in Cascades at Sarasota. Knowing properties in both communities are about the same age, located pretty much in the same area, and share the same Realtors, one variable is left to explain why homes in LakeRidge Falls are selling faster than neighboring communities: LakeRidge Falls is a more desirable place to live in.

The first and foremost reason why LakeRidge Falls is a desirable place to live in is its members. Without you, this community would not be what it is today. Period. A lot was said about the dedicated members of this Association. Just a few

weeks ago during the Annual Meeting, the Association recognized so many of its members who volunteered endless hours in serving the community on the various committees while exercising enormous care. The great people of LakeRidge Falls and their passion for the community is part of LakeRidge Falls’ unbreakable DNA.

Another important factor in making LakeRidge Falls a desirable place to live in is the governing documents. They are the set of core principles used by the various Board of Directors and committees to govern the Association. They provide the manual on how to conduct the Association’s internal affairs. And finally, they help determine and shape the rules, policies, and regulations that are derived from the set of core principles. Without the governing documents, for example, there would be no Community-Wide-Standard, a core principle that preserves “the community architectural integrity, harmonious design, and aesthetic principles.” The Community-Wide-Standard allows for this community to look the way it looks. This is what draws new members and what causes guests to be jealous of their hosts.

Because they play a significant role in the success of this community, I am writing a series of articles that will be published in my weekly reports and in next month’s Falls Forum. These articles are aimed, more specifically, at outlining LakeRidge Falls’ Governing Documents, Architectural Guidelines, and Landscape Procedures. The hope is to describe the rationale behind some of the rules, guidelines, and procedures governing this Association. More importantly, it will provide a glance at why LakeRidge Falls is one of the more desirable communities to live in.

Residents Directory – We are happy to announce that the 2020 Residents Directory is now available. As every year, residents are invited to pick up their directory at the LakeRidge Falls’ offices. Also, each household will be eligible to receive one copy of the directory. Therefore, when picking up your copy, please make sure to sign your name on the sign-up list indicating you re-

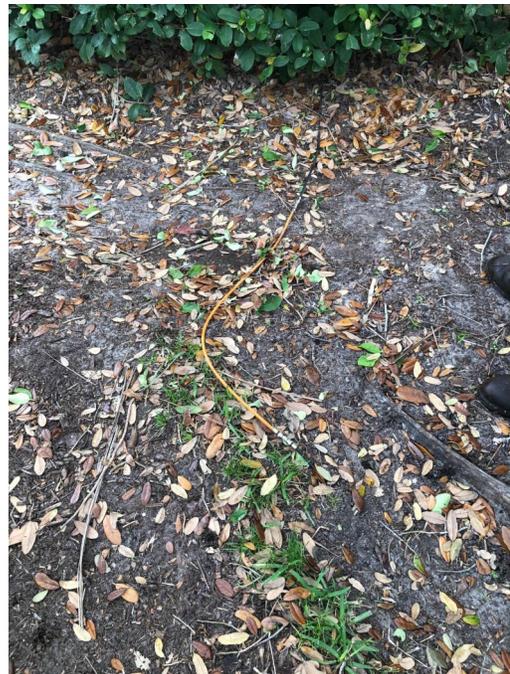
Continued on Page 6

ceived your copy. Lastly, we wish to thank Mrs. Paula Murray, Association Assistant, Mr. Dan DeRoner, Community Relations Committee Chairperson, Mr. Clark McFall, and Mike Byrnes, members of the community, for all their hard work in recruiting advertisers, thus helping to provide this beautiful directory to you at no charge.

Mulching – Ramco Mulch Solutions started and finished the spreading of mulch throughout the Association last month. Mulch has several benefits. Here are a few. First and based on the community-wide standard, it adds aesthetic value to all landscaping beds especially during springtime when the brown color helps bring out the vivid colors of the ornamental plants. Secondly, mulch helps in controlling weed growth as less light reaches weed seeds. Finally, it traps the moisture in the soil which requires less irrigation and also improves soil fertility because as the mulch breaks down its nutrients help plant material to grow. That said, Ramco Mulch Solutions did a nice job as was expressed and recognized by many members of the community.

Palm Trees – ACI Tree Care was onsite last month trimming all Queen Palms. Please note that ACI was only addressing 1) *Queen Palms* and 2) queen palms that are *over 15'*. Therefore, don't be alarmed if you saw their crews working on your neighbor's house, "skipping" your tree/s, then moving on to a different neighbor's house. If you have a tree that is less than 15' tall, it should be handled by West Bay Landscape during their routine pruning cycles. If you have a different palm such as a Sabal or a Chinese Fan palm, they will be addressed in September. Please note that Foxtail Palms are not being trimmed because they are considered self pruned palms. In other words, Foxtail Palms older leaves die and quickly fall from palm to facilitate new leaves which do not require maintenance. If you are puzzled regarding which palm you have in your front yard or regarding its size, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will be more than happy to provide you with this information.

Cable Companies – It is not uncommon, unfortunately, for West Bay Landscape, LakeRidge Falls' landscape maintenance company, to cut during mowing cycles and/or enhancement projects a communication cable that provides television/ phone/internet services to a house. In such cases, residents are left with no service/s for hours and in some cases days. It is therefore understandable for residents to be frustrated with West Bay Landscape and the Association. However, please note that in the vast majority, if not all cases, there was no way for West Bay to avoid cutting communication cables. The reason why is because these cables are never laid deep enough into the ground as can be seen in the picture below.



When the community was first developed, cable companies laid their infrastructure in a way that didn't interfere with any other vendor work. As the years go by, maintenance issues arise. To save time and money, many cable companies now will simply run a new cable line from the communication tower to the house. This takes a few minutes and saves valuable time in the troubleshooting process. Because the time of a skilled technician is also valuable, the digging of the new cable line into the ground is left to a subcontractor. For this reason, by the way, you may see orange cables laying on one's driveway for a couple of days.

Continued on Page 7

When a subcontractor company eventually comes onsite to install the cable into the ground, it may not always do a good job, to say the least. You see, digging into an established landscape bed is not an easy task. For example, palm roots are very hard to dig into without a very sharp shovel. Because time is money, such subcontractors may perform the job as fast as possible without further consideration. For this reason, cables are not dug deep enough and at times simply are left exposed behind shrubbery.

Therefore, please understand that West Bay can't avoid damaging one's cable with their equipment when cables are laid in such a manner. As frustrating as it may be, you must demand your cable provider ensures to lay the cables properly. We hope this will help to clarify the matter.

Wildlife / Raccoons – A couple of residents recently reported that they spotted raccoons around their property. Here are a couple of safety tips related to raccoons in particular and wildlife in general:

Do not feed them – artificially feeding wildlife may result in larger animal families which their natural food supply can't support. Therefore, they become more and more dependent on humans. As a result, they may lose their natural fear of humans which may lead to property damage and endangers surrounding neighbors.

Do not leave your garbage outside unsecured – raccoons are pretty smart animals as they can figure out a way inside an unsecured garbage container. Therefore, please make sure to use a garbage container that has a locking/clamping lid.

Do not leave pet food outside or in the lanai – this also means not to leave your pet outside unattended as raccoons may attack dogs or cats if they feel threatened by them.

Do not handle raccoons yourself if you feel threatened – instead, please immediately contact nuisance wildlife professionals. A nuisance animal may be removed from a property as long as the professional follow Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) 68A-9.010.

For more information about raccoons, please take a moment to read a pamphlet by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission called "Living With Raccoons." A copy is available in the following web address: <https://myfwc.com/media/1666/livingwithraccoons.pdf>. We kindly ask for residents' cooperation on this matter. Please help us to protect LakeRidge Falls' wildlife.

Pool

The Board had to make a difficult decision regarding closing the pool knowing that many people depend on it for their only form of exercise. The risk of keeping the pool open however during this global pandemic became too great. There is overwhelming information that this deadly virus is spreading from person to person and surface contamination. Some people are continuing to put themselves and others at risk by socializing as much as they can before "things get serious". Things are already serious so let's make sure our neighbors who need help get it. Use your new 2020 Directory to call your neighbor the next time you make a food run to see if they need something or if it is difficult for you to get out ask for some help from a healthy neighbor. Remember to keep your distance, smile, give a little wave and stay healthy.

Decorative Objects – It was brought to our attention that several residents throughout the community placed exterior decorative objects in excess of the allowed number. Article 8, Exterior Decorative Objects, of LakeRidgeFalls' Architectural Guidelines states that "Homeowners in Stirling and Victoria Falls Neighborhoods are allowed to place **up to three** exterior decorative objects. Sandstone Neighborhood homeowners may place **up to two** exterior decorative objects. These objects may include garden statues, garden flags, plant pots and water features without prior approval by the ARB provided that those objects are within the permitted size... are placed only in the front landscaping bed and are not vulgar, offensive and or obscene in nature as judged by the ARB." Remember, while you may think that having five items is not a big deal, others may feel it clutters the community. We ask you to please help us follow the ARB guideline by having no more than 3 or 2 decorative items in the front of the home.

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Appreciation

The positive response from many LRF residents to the Special Edition of the Weekly Report in March by our Property Manager, Oded Neeman certainly shows how much we appreciate him. If you missed it go to our website at:

[Oded's Weekly Report 03-20-2020](#)

Furthermore, we started noticing that more and more residents are installing navigation or security light fixtures. These are the solar or regular light fixtures one may install along the pathway or sidewalk. Please note that Article 17, Exterior Lighting, of Architectural Guidelines may permit such fixtures but an ARB approval is required. Some may install path light fixtures that the neighbors across the street may feel are "too big" or "excessive in number." Please understand that pleasing all shall mean pleasing none. Therefore, we must follow the Declaration and ARB Guidelines. It is not to punish you but to simply ask you to apply to the ARB if you installed path light fixtures without obtaining approval from the ARB.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation on the matter.

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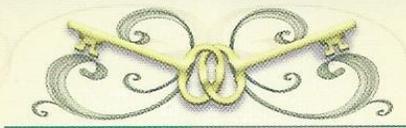
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There is an Irish Blessing, "May your life be like a roll of toilet paper: long and useful."

So how will you survive the great toilet paper crisis of 2020? May we suggest with humor.

Remember, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer you get to the end the faster it goes." So use lots of common sense and don't bury your extra toilet paper in the ground thinking it might grow.



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1. Wet Hands



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3. Scrub palm to palm



4. Interlace Fingers



5. Back of hands/fingers



6. Wrists



7. Base of thumb



8. Fingernails



10. Dry



11. Turn off with towel



9. Rinse



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THE BOOK CLUB
Selections for 2020

April: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, 384 pgs. 2018
May: *Becoming* by Michele Obama, 426 pgs. 2018
June: *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout, 304 pgs. 2019
July: *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore, 480 pgs. 2017
Aug: *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum, 352 pgs. 2019
Sept: *Falling Angels* by Tracy Chevalier, 321 pgs. 2002
Oct: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, 337 pgs. 2019
Nov: *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, 336 pgs. 2018

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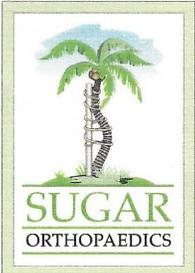
The Sociable Stitchers are diligently working on lap throws and blankets for our veterans, as well as, hats for newborns and scarves for recipients of Meals on Wheels.



LakeRidge Falls Art League
by Jackie Hathaway, President

The next Art Exhibit will be Sunday, May 17th from 4:00 - 7:00pm. The theme is "Asia" with a challenge board theme of red and gold. The pieces are due to Irene Cerdas or Jackie Hathaway by May 1st. Please let Jackie know if you plan on participating and the number of pieces (jackhath1@hotmail.com). If you have photographs you'd like to enter in the September show, please contact Dorie Parsons dorie_parsons@hotmail.com.

We would like to thank Linda Lorenz for her generous yarn contribution. If you have yarn that you would like to donate to our worthy cause, please let us know. We are in the Multipurpose Room every Friday from 10:00am - 12:00pm.

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Social Committee News

by Jane Kintz / Leigh Selby, Co-Chairs

Hello Spring and welcome to the strange new world of Social Distancing – which isn't good news for a Social Committee! As we're sure you're all aware by now, recently implemented COVID-19 pandemic regulations prohibit group gatherings of more than 10 people. While national and state guidelines are saying these rules are in effect at least through the end of March, our Board of Directors is erring on the side of caution and maintaining good health and cancelling all large group functions at least through April 12th.

This resulted in the cancellation of the March TGIF and while the March Bingo had a wonderful turnout, we will not be holding Bingo on April 13th as anticipated. At this point in time no one has any idea how long the social distancing requirements may be in effect and we felt it better to cancel Bingo now rather than possibly having to cancel at the last minute.

So no Bingo in April 

On a more optimistic note, the outing to the Sarasota Pops concert at Ed Smith stadium is still on the calendar, however only a handful of tickets are still available so be sure to get your checks to Paula (\$25 per person payable to LRF Social Committee) by April 10th for an outdoor evening of good music and fireworks.

A good time was had by all who attended the Spring Training game at Ed Smith stadium on March 2nd. It was a perfect day for baseball.

Dependent on the diminishment of the COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying rules, we are hoping to have a TGIF event at the clubhouse on Friday, April 24th. Admission is an appetizer or dessert to share starting at 5 in the Grand Salon. While we are delighted that so many of you are enthusiastic about attending this event, it will not be open to homeowners until 4:50 due to all the set up required, so please contain your eagerness until that time.

Be safe and healthy in the coming days and keep your fingers crossed we can get back to socializing without distance sooner rather than later!

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Thank you to resident Elizabeth Spahn for sharing.

SATURDAY INFO GROUP

The Community Relation Committee is looking for your ideas/suggestions on topics that are of interest to you that could be presented during the Saturday Info Group. Please send your ideas/suggestions to Carol Lockwood at ginseng@aol.com.

Clark McFall



The CRC would like everyone to give a big round of applause to Clark for his sales efforts which allow us to provide the Falls Forum to you at no charge!

thank you

ICONIC SONGS OF THE 70S

Tickets for the Friday, 8:00pm, May 8th outdoor performance of the Sarasota Pops Orchestra are now on sale. Grab your bell bottoms and come out to the Orioles' Ed Smith Stadium for a night of music from a time when the term "catch you on the flip side" referred to vinyl records. Grab some ballpark fare and listen to the powerful vocals of AJ Swearingen and Jayne Kelli with Sarasota Orchestra as they perform a collection of iconic songs such as James Taylor's *Fire and Rain*, Fleetwood Mac's *Land-slide*, Carole King's *You've Got a Friend* and so much more. A spectacular fireworks display closes out this memorable evening of song and symphony. **Please call or email Paula if you are interested in purchasing a ticket.** Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased from Paula by April 10th. Make checks payable to the LRF Social Committee. (Cash payment cannot be accepted.)

ONLY 6 TICKETS REMAINING!

For additional information contact Sandie Nuwaysir at nuwaysir@verizon.net.



Check out the new page on the website under the **ACTIVITIES** tab called the **LAKERIDGE FALLS PHOTO ALBUM**. Once our amenities center reopens and our social activities restart, please be sure to send me your event photos and I will post them there.



A group of us attended a Tea at the Church of the Nativity on Saturday February 22nd.
We were treated as Royalty. Carol



Valentine's Day—TGIF





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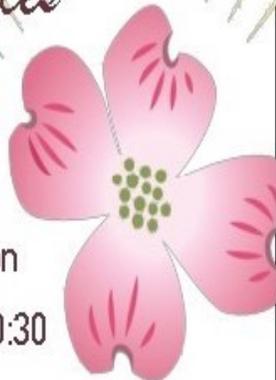
Holy Week Services

PALM SUNDAY: April 5, 10:30

MAUNDY THURSDAY:
April 9, 5:30

GOOD FRIDAY: April 10 at noon

EASTER SERVICE: April 12, 10:30



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The second Storytelling Night was even better attended than the first with 55 people in the room. At the end of the evening when the audience was asked if they would like to see it done again, every hand in the room went up!



So....now the event host, Marty Collins is looking for more story tellers to share their true, 5 - 15 minutes long stories. He hopes to reserve a time after Thanksgiving to do it again. Now is a perfect time to work on a story to share with your neighbors considering most events have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19.

Marty is happy to help you put your story together. If you are interested in finding out more, contact him at mcolli53202@gmail.com.

Thanks to Marty's efforts Story Telling Night is now an official initiative of the CRC.



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