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ISSUE 19

WINTER 2009

HELLO from the President's Perch

While El Presidente spends the week in the sunny climes of Costa Rica, we turn to VP Kris Johnson for our quarterly address.

I would like to thank the membership along with all the volunteers and committee heads for a great 2009! In a year of great economic uncertainty the Berks County Parrot Head Club rose above it and all of our events from Cabin Fever Festival right through the Christmas Show were a great SUCCESS. We are truly a GREAT CLUB and it is because of our membership that we achieve the successes that we have enjoyed.



It looks like 2010 is shaping up to be a fantastic year starting with the Cabin Fever Festival that benefitted the Berks County Visiting Nurses Association and the Berks County Alopecia Project. That's the first of many scheduled charity events that we have planned for this year.

Welcome to all of our new members and I encourage all of you to join one of our committees. Duane has done a great job on the web site and you can go to www.berkscountyparc.org to see who the committee chairs are and e-mail them if you wish to join one of them - or just come to one of our monthly meetings at Third & Spruce the first Tuesday of every month and meet with them personally.

As of this writing, only 251 days left (depending on when you leave) until Meeting Of The Minds in Key West, Florida. For those of you who have not made is venture I encourage you to try this trip at least once. It is an experience all its own. You can visit our web site for information concerning MOTM and I usually give additional information at the monthly meetings that I find out through the month.

In closing I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed serving our club as VP and look forward to continued service. Working with Denny, the board, committee heads and the membership has been a great pleasure to see our club rise up to the occasion every time.

Phins UP!

The VEEP

Land was created to provide a place for boats to visit.

~ Brooks Atkinson

2010 Cabin Fever Festival Tina Schrieb



An autographed Dan Marino jersey brought in a winning bid of over \$300 to benefit our charities.

“Even though the temperatures outside struggled to reach 30°, the atmosphere inside was warm and welcoming.”

Eileen Davies and Nick Blatt soaking up rays at Cabin Fever at Reading Country Club.

I gotta go where it's WARM!!

It seems a bad case of Cabin Fever has docked in the Berks County area! So, on Sunday January 31, 2010 the Berks County Parrot Head Club phlew to the Reading Country Club to find a cure. Even though the temperatures outside struggled to reach 30°, the atmosphere inside was warm and welcoming. As usual, the phlock was having a beachin' good time at the annual Cabin Fever Festival. And a big phlock it was! Tickets were sold out and the room was crowded with people having a great time.

This time we were raising money for not one, but two local charities: The Children's Alopecia Project and Berks Visiting Nurses Association Childhood Immunization Program. Representatives from the CAP and BVNA were on hand to explain the importance of their foundations.

We also heard from the Mifflin YMCA. Our spring golf outing in May will help them raise money for their new facility to be built in Mohnton.

And where would our event be without the entertaining silent, Chinese & live auctions? We had some fantastic items, thanks to all of the great donations. The winners of each item received some phine phare, and our chosen charities received some much needed and appreciated funds.

Our wonderful Merchandise Committee and Membership Committee were well represented also. There was plenty of phun merchandise available for the BCPHC. And the Membership Committee reported more than 40 renewals and new members through the afternoon. Welcome to all!

Our entertainment was provided by Maryland-based band Nautical



Wheelers, who amused the crowd with familiar Jimmy Buffett tunes. They even managed to get our Prez to join in a song! And as the sun shone brightly through the large windows, the Parrotheads danced, sang & had their Fins Up! If you can't go where it's warm, at least you can go where it's fun!



Thanks to our Cabin Fever sponsors for helping make the event such a great success!

- Pollack Furs and Leather
- The Plumbing Works
- Jimmy G's Railroad House
- Good Eatz
- Denny's Electric
- Hess Embroidery
- Tina's Salon

Christmas in the Caribbean

Duane Cahill



The newest member of Jimmy and the Parrots. We approve!

“From then on, the evening became a mix of ad-libs and ‘What should we do next?’ - and the audience loved it!”

In past years, the Berks County Parrot Head club has hosted some outstanding trop-rock acts—from Captain Quint to Tropical Soul to Nautical Wheelers. But with all due respect to those groups, we ain’t never had nothin’ like this!

On December 5, the club had an opportunity to bring in none other than Coral Reeferette Nadirah Shakoor for our annual Christmas in the Caribbean show to benefit Berks County Crime Alert. The Scottish Rite Cathedral in Reading was the venue and the attendees were anticipating a one-of-a-kind performance to kickoff the Christmas season.

The excitement was palpable as the concert opened with Maryland high school steel drum band Plenty Problems. They entertained first at a pre-concert reception and then opened the show and were warmly received as they entertained the audience with a mix of reggae and holiday favorites.

They were followed by Jimmy and the Parrots, who opened with a couple of their standards before being joined on stage by Nadirah. From then on, the night was magic.

Nadirah began the evening following a scripted set beginning with Makin’ Music for Money from her “Nod to the Storyteller” CD. Mele Kalikimaka was next, followed by Ho Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum. A few more Buffett favorites that featured her golden pipes and then all it took was one request from the audience to get Nadirah and the band to break away from the preplanned song list. From then on, the evening became a mix of ad-libs and “What should we do next?” - and the audience loved it!

The appreciative crowd danced the night away, filling the aisles with the kind of merry-making that can only be created with the perfect storm of a seasoned vocalist backed by a fun-loving band and mixed with a phlock of party-happy parrotheads.

And after the final encore, and just when the evening was coming to a close, Nadirah and the Band showed up at the Third and Spruce and played well into the wee hours of the morning for those who attended the afterparty.

If success in measured in dollars, then the \$8000 raised for Crime Alert was a victory. If it’s measured in the smiles on the faces of everyone who attended, the entire evening was a landslide.



Meet Nadirah Shakoor

Lou Zmroczek

I was lucky enough to catch up with Nadirah Shakoor after her fabulous performance with Jimmy and the Parrots on December 5th at the Scottish Rite Cathedral. Although she was tired and hungry, Nadirah graciously granted me an interview.

I asked her what it was like “growing up Nadirah.” She said she grew up in a musical family. Her father was a singer and when Nadirah was five years old, he taught her to harmonize. He also named her Nadirah – Arabic for rare and unique. The family lived in a two-bedroom apartment and she shared a bedroom with a brother. Nadirah said she didn’t mind sharing a room because she liked listening to her brother play the drums. Nadirah’s first band (she was 15 at the time), consisted of her, her uncle, three cousins, her brother and her best friend. If you are planning to visit Los Angeles, stop in at The Red Rooster and you might catch their act - they still perform together. Nadirah originally entered college as a pre-med student. After two years, she switched to music and never looked back. Nadirah said was married at age 20, had a son (Basil) at 22, and was divorced by 25.

I posed series of questions to gain some further insight on Nadirah the person. Here are the questions with her answers.

Who/what inspires you? Life. I try to write about the struggles people go through.

What grounds you/keeps you sane? My family and my spirituality. Mostly my family. I miss my family when I’m on the road. One summer, Jimmy Buffett hired my son to go with me.

Do you have a favorite Jimmy Buffett story you can share with us? Before I worked for him, I thought Jimmy Buffett was a jazz group. Then they sent me the music – and it was Jimmy’s old music. Like country music. I told my mom I couldn’t do it and she said, “You need the job, just go.” And so, 15 years later...

What does the future hold for Nadirah Shakoor? I would like to do some artist management.

If it suddenly ended tomorrow, how would you somehow adjust to the fall? House music. Dance music. I started doing dance music. I can say “God” in my music and no one is offended. If it all ended, I would have a shelter where people would come to learn life skills so they could move on to the next level.

Since Nadirah qualifies as a parrothead, I asked her a few of the questions posed to club members in the “Strange Birds” section of the newsletter.

Favorite book: The Prophet by Kahlil Gibran.

Favorite line from a Jimmy Buffett song: “Now don’t get me wrong, this is not a sad song” ~ Growing older but not up.

What one thing would you like to do in life that you haven’t already done? I would be doing work with Bono and hunger in the world. Also, a concert at Carnegie Hall in a long gown ... and bare feet.

Where is Margaritaville? In the hearts and minds of people who live to have fun.

Finish this line: “You might be a parrot head if...” ... if you wear shorts and flip flops in the snow like Denny. (I want to make it clear I did NOT prompt her on her answers!)

By this time, Nadirah’s supper arrived and we ended the interview. I have to tell you that I was impressed. Nadirah Shakoor is one of the sweetest people I have ever met. Even though it was late and she had just finished a jaw-dropping performance with Jimmy and the Parrots, she was gracious and candid throughout the interview.

Musician, humanitarian, lady. Nadirah has it all.



Dinner and Drinks

Duane Cahill



Caribbean Reef Chicken

“Arrange chicken on a serving platter. Serve over rice with a side of sautéed vegetables”.

This month, we go Caribbean for our gastric getaway:

Caribbean Reef Chicken

Ingredients:

- 2 chickens—broiler/fryer type, halved.
- 1/2 ts salt
- 1/4 ts pepper
- 1/2 c dark brown sugar
- 1/4 c dark rum
- 1 tb lime juice
- 2 ts lemon pepper
- 1 ts ginger
- 1/2 ts ground cloves
- 1/4 ts cinnamon
- 1/4 ts garlic powder
- 1 oz. hot pepper sauce
- 10 oz mango chutney

Instructions:

Sprinkle salt and pepper over washed and dried chicken. Set aside.

In a small bowl, make Caribbean paste by mixing together sugar, two tablespoons of the rum, lime juice, lemon pepper, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, garlic powder and hot pepper sauce; set aside.

Place the chicken, skin side up, in a large shallow baking pan. Rub Caribbean paste evenly over the chicken. Bake in a 400F degree oven for 45 minutes or until the chicken is fork tender.

In a blender, place chutney and remaining 2 tablespoons of rum; process to blend. Spoon chutney mixture over chicken and bake about 3 minutes more or until chutney is warm.

Arrange chicken on a serving platter. Serve over rice with a side of sautéed vegetables.

Caribbean Breeze



Caribbean Breeze

- 1 oz light rum
- 1 oz coconut rum
- 3 oz chilled pineapple juice
- 3 oz chilled cranberry juice

Fill a tall glass with ice.

Pour ingredients.

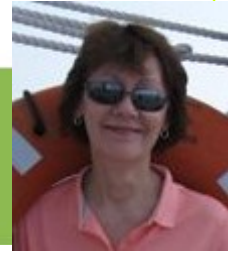
Garnish with an orange slice and enjoy.





Strange Birds

Lou Zmroczek



Our featured Strange Bird this month is Lou Zmroczek, a member of the Newsletter committee who is, as the photo reveals, a woman with a guy's name.

Lou is a native Berks Countian who was raised "up against the Neversink Mountain in Irish Town," as her dad would often refer to the area of Reading where the family resided. Today Lou lives with her husband, John, and their four cats in Oley.

While raising their son, Josh, an Eagle Scout who found his calling working for the Girl Scouts of America in Florida, Lou worked as a law clerk, legal secretary, and executive secretary for several local firms. Seven years ago she decided to enroll in college and graduated in May, 2009 from Kutztown University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

Lou currently teaches for Reading Area Community College in the Continuing Education Department (part-time) and is looking for a full-time career in the non-profit sector in Berks County. In her spare time, Lou is researching her family's history and writing a narrative of their lives to publish for her siblings. An avid reader of mystery novels, Lou was surprised to find an unexplained mystery in her own family, for which she will offer various possible solutions. What is it? You'll have to find her and ask...

FUN FACTS ABOUT LOU

Just how DO you pronounce your last name? People always ask that question - and then they butcher it anyway but it goes like this: zim ROW check. Accent the second syllable.

Favorite Jimmy Buffett song: One Particular Harbour

Favorite line from a JB song: "And the walls that won't come down, we can decorate or climb, or find some way to get around, 'cause I'm still on your side." ~ Coast of Carolina

How many JB concerts have you been to, and was one any more memorable than the others? Three, with the most memorable being at Citizen's Bank Park in Philadelphia in August, 2005

Have you read any of JB's books? Not yet.

If all your Buffett music was lost or stolen, what would you listen to? Bob Marley, Celtic Woman, Straight No Chaser

Favorite food: Dark chocolate-covered fruit.

Favorite movie: Shrek

Favorite restaurant: Bahama Breeze, House of Blues

What do you like on your cheeseburger in paradise? Ketchup, mayo, green pepper, tomato, red onion.

Favorite frozen (or unfrozen) concoction: Frozen margarita (no salt), otherwise, tea with lemon.

How did you get involved in the BCPHC? Discovered the club at Parrot Head night at the Reading Phillies, told my husband, and the rest—as they say—is history.

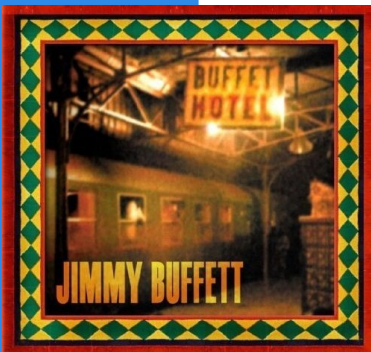
What one thing would you like to do in life that you haven't already done? Write and have a novel published.

Any insights or inspirations to pass on? "It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important. You have to do the right thing... You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result." – M. Gandhi

Where the heck is Margaritaville? Ha! If you have to ask, you haven't seen my rec room!

“Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they’ve made a difference in the world. Marines don’t have that problem” ~ President Ronald Reagan

How many of these Buffett songs can you name?



Toys for Tots Collection

Diane Renninger

“Help someone who can’t return the favor” - Author Unknown-

The decorations have been stored for another year and the 8000 tons of wrapping paper that America shreds on December 25th has begun to disintegrate in the landfills. What Christmas memories do you have of Christmas 2009? Did you receive that special gift? Did you host the family reunion at your house?

Or were you one of the 50 people that attended this year’s Toys for Tots party at Third & Spruce Café on Friday December 4th? The Annual event was no less spectacular than those in previous years. Toy donations were overflowing. Marines stood tall as the club greeted and thanked them for their dedication to not only the campaign but our country.

The Marines then agreed to escort some of the club members through the entire restaurant to sell 50/50 raffle tickets to also benefit Toys for Tots. Everyone loves a man in uniform! Fins up Parrot Heads for a truly magical evening!

“Some people live an entire lifetime wondering if they’ve made a difference in the world, Marines don’t have that problem”. *President Ronald Reagan*

Thank you to ALL service men and women for a job well done!

Many thanks to John & Peggy Woodward for providing a wonderful venue for this event!

Special Note: The results of the 62nd annual US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign showed that Marines distributed 16.4 million new toys to 7.4 million less fortunate children throughout the nation.

Trivia

Rich Leiby

The following are all phrases or lines Jimmy sings in his songs, but the catch is that he sings them in a foreign language. Can you name the songs the following lines come from by their English translations? For one additional bonus point, name the language the original line is in.

“Song for the children, song for the world”

“It’s my fault, it’s my fault, it’s all my fault”

“It is a sleepless night”

As always, answers can be found on our website at <http://www.berkscountyphc.org>

Hint - despite the photo, none of these songs are found on the new Buffet Hotel CD. That would just be mean!



Peter Mayer Plays Lancaster

Duane Cahill

It's rare enough when any of the Coral Reefers finds their way to South Central Pennsylvania, but five days after Nadirah Shakoor graced us with her presence, Peter Mayer brought his "Stars and Promises—Sing Joy" tour to Lancaster County.

A couple of dozen Berks County Parrot Heads made the journey to the Highland Presbyterian Church in Lancaster and were treated to an evening of inspirational tunes from Jimmy Buffett's lead guitarist. As Denny Lorah likes to say, "there's a reason that Jimmy doesn't let his backup singers perform at his concerts" and it was obvious to those who came with high expectations.

Mayer didn't disappoint, as he filled the evening with stories of his childhood, influences and Christmas music, both traditional and unconventional. He was backed up by bassist Marc Tolina, pianist Chris Walters, percussionist R. Scott Bryan, violin/mandolin player Maggie Estes, and Mark Holland on the Native American flute.

The show was very well produced, with a lighting package that enhanced Mayer's smooth jazzy vocals and transported his audience from a church basement to an intimate jazz club.

A show highlight was when the band grabbed some very non-traditional instruments such as a slide whistle, a saw and an accordion to provide backup to Mayer's informal crooning.

All in attendance from Berks County agreed that the trip was worthwhile and would encourage anyone to consider attending Mayer's "Goodbye Hello" concert March 26 at the Whittaker Center in Harrisburg.

"...there's a reason that Jimmy (Buffett) doesn't let his backup singers perform at his concerts"

In 25 words (more) or less

Stars on the Water (Volunteers Committee) - Scott Kauffman What can I say! My first big event (Cabin Fever) & Boy what a club. We had more volunteers than we had time slots for them. Keep up the great work. Thanks again.

We Need More Junior Mints (Sponsorship Committee) - Sam Beam We would like some feedback. Did you enjoy the slide presentation at Cabin Fever in lieu of program books? And as always, we're on the lookout for new potential sponsors for upcoming events.

Parrot Poop (Newsletter Committee) - Duane Cahill Three quarterly publications in a row—whee! The next issue will be the one that we submit for the newsletter award and without much happening in the club over the second quarter (pub crawl, highway cleanup and golf outing) I'll take any and all suggestions as to what new content you'd like to see in the newsletter.

Pfeeding Pfrenzy (Merchandise Committee) - Tina Shenk Thanks to all for donations for our cabin fever event. This committee is starting to regroup and organize for Parrot Daze- if you would like to join fun and creative volunteers-meet with us on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Party With a Purpose (Events Committee) - Jodi Blatt We have been partying with a purpose lately and doing a lot of good for the charities we supported, now we have something just for our club members to kick back and bring out the pirate in all of us. **Pub Pirates Port of Call** our first pub crawl, only 57 tickets are available and 33 tickets were already snapped up at the Feb. general meeting. Price includes a bus to transport us to various bars in Reading for only \$20 per person. Contact Jodi at meandmyboz@aol.com for your tickets! Remember our next charity function is the Golf Outing on 5/14/10, reserve your foursome now!!!

Changes in Attitude (Charity Committee) - Gary Kraft The Mifflin Area YMCA and Prospectus Berco are the charities for the remaining 2010 events, and we are now accepting nominations for 2011. Forward charity info to Gary Kraft by June for the Committee's consideration.

If the Phone Doesn't Ring (Membership Committee) - Shawn Guevin If you know anyone who likes Jimmy Buffett, good times, good friends, helping others and partying with a purpose, maybe you should suggest they join an organization built around those things. If only I could think of one...

Parade Musings

Marilyn Baertschy

For those who were at the Myerstown parade, how many of these things do you remember?

- What was in that old trunk that Cheri and Shawn found? Rumor has it that it was old bones and an ID card that says "Hoffa".
- Who volunteered to ride in between the palm trees wearing only a Speedo if we put sand and a beach chair on the small float?
- Who was checking the names on the tombstones at the end of town?
- Who was the "pin up girl" posing on the front lawn?
- Who was adorning all the corner policemen?
- Who was trying to teach the cows to say "AAARGH"?
- Who ran a 50-yard dash carrying the dolphin and the stairsteps?
- Did the balloon release indicate the start of the parade?
- Who got two ringers with beads on a parade official?
- Who didn't have their land legs and fell into a mud puddle?
- Who took a joy ride with the float down 5th Street?

A crew of Pirates from the BCPHC "invades" Myerstown

"Who didn't have their land legs and fell into a mud puddle?"

Berks County Parrot Heads

D	D	A	V	I	D	H	E	I	S	E	R	A	S	D	N	A	S	L	S
U	R	E	K	C	E	B	S	A	K	H	S	C	V	S	K	O	H	L	T
N	E	L	L	O	W	O	M	F	Y	I	D	K	R	A	A	E	N	I	E
K	K	T	E	I	A	F	I	E	R	E	S	U	A	E	N	N	I	H	V
E	S	R	P	S	U	T	T	N	T	I	C	S	S	U	S	I	C	A	E
R	I	E	L	L	S	L	H	R	F	L	E	A	I	H	F	S	N	C	N
H	W	W	U	M	N	I	E	S	A	A	H	S	L	N	U	F	M	O	S
S	E	E	M	N	A	N	E	O	R	T	A	L	M	E	G	L	M	A	O
C	L	L	M	N	H	N	I	B	K	S	D	A	R	O	O	E	T	A	N
A	T	L	E	S	R	C	L	R	A	T	E	N	A	L	Y	A	R	Z	N
M	U	A	R	R	C	A	I	N	E	T	S	I	S	A	O	E	E	I	E
P	R	E	H	O	C	R	T	O	D	E	S	D	A	U	A	Z	R	K	H
I	K	N	M	H	A	E	S	T	R	N	O	R	E	E	I	Z	L	E	A
T	E	E	A	J	R	G	C	R	A	E	R	A	N	R	I	A	I	I	W
E	S	R	S	O	M	N	H	E	W	L	P	C	G	R	H	L	B	H	C
L	O	R	E	H	O	I	R	H	D	H	B	A	R	R	E	A	G	U	N
L	Z	H	I	N	T	N	E	C	O	A	T	R	O	N	C	R	A	M	L
I	T	A	D	S	I	N	I	S	O	U	D	M	M	H	T	E	N	M	R
N	U	D	E	O	K	E	B	I	W	P	E	A	I	A	E	E	A	E	F
S	L	O	L	N	A	R	M	F	S	T	N	N	S	A	D	D	S	L	N

4 Letters

KOHL
LUTZ
REED
WOLL

5 Letters

BLATT
FRIES
GANAS
HAUPT
IBACH
KLAHR
KRAFT
LACEY
LAUER
LEWIS
LORAH
MOYER
SANDS
SMITH

6 Letters

BECKER
CAHILL
CARMAN
DUNKER
GROMIS
HUMMEL
LENETT
MOCCIO
MOTIKA
SEIDEL
SHULTZ
TURKES
VANINO

7 Letters

BEISSEL
FISCHER
JOHNSON
PLUMMER
SCHREIB

8 Letters

CARDINAL
CRESSMAN
KAUFFMAN
KERSHNER
PROSEDA
TREWELLA
WOODWARD

9 Letters

HEILENMAN
KISSINGER
RENNINGER
STEVENSON

10 Letters

CAMPITELLI

11 Letters

DAVIDHEISER



It's Five O'Clock Somewhere



A.K.A. UPCOMING EVENTS OF 2010:

Pub Pirates Pub Crawl

Saturday, April 24, 2010
On the Border, Wyomissing

Spring Highway Cleanup

Sunday, April 25, 2010
Applebee's Wyomissing

Golf Outing

Friday, May 14, 2010
Willow Hollow Golf Course
Leesport

Buffett Night @ Reading Phillies

Tuesday, June 22, 2010
First Energy Stadium, Reading

Summer Parrot Daze

Saturday, July 17, 2010
Fish Pond West

Topton Parade

October 9, 2010
Topton, PA



BERKS COUNTY PARROT HEAD CLUB
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