



WINTER 2017

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USELESS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BERKS COUNTY PARROT HEAD CLUB

2016

Highlights as I Remember Them...

Hello all Parrot Heads,

Looking back at 2016, it was another successful year for our club in many ways. It started in January with another great Cabin Fever Party. Big Brothers/Big Sisters was our Charity and a nice fit for our Club. We were back at the DoubleTree Hilton surrounded by their great staff who cannot do enough to support us. It was a cold night outside but our biggest crowd ever at a Cabin Fever Party made it plenty warm inside. Jimmy and the Parrots playing all those tunes we know by heart had everyone singing along or dancing. We raised \$17,000.00 which helps many Berks County kids while many people had a nice winter's night out with friends. The 2017 event is scheduled for Saturday February 25th, 2017. Yes, we will be back at the DoubleTree.

The Angel Fund Golf outing that occurred in May of this year was a little disappointing by our standards. Conflicting schedules with many members didn't allow the attendance we normally have. Thanks to Jimmy G and April, we were able to make a \$2,100 contribution to the Angel Fund. Please mark your calendars for the 2017 golf outing to be held on June 24th.

A new and exciting two-day Summer Parrot Daze party took place on July 23rd and 24th at Beverly Hills Tavern. This was another first and proved to be an excellent site for our Summer Event. The weather brought record high temperatures but did not discourage our members and are guests from enjoying the festivities. Berks Visiting Nurses was the beneficiary of \$15,800 and were impressed with our Party with a Purpose mission. Jimmy and the Parrots provided the entertainment and the heat didn't stop them at all as they rocked the big crowd. Our own Dead Jimmy finished out both days with his awesome solo performance. We will be repeating this two-day format and be back to Beverly Hills in 2017 on July 22nd and 23rd.

This year we decided to participate in the annual PHIP Newsletter Contest. And guess what... we WON FIRST PLACE. It was announced at MOTM in Key West in November. Congratulations to Dave Hartranft and the Newsletter Committee. Veterans Making a Difference will be the recipient of the \$300 award that comes with the first-place win.



See **Presidents Message'** on page 6

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP and VOLUNTEERS



As of February 13th we have 144 members.

The next Membership meeting will be held March 15 at 6:30 at the Standefer house. New members are welcome.

IN MEMORANDUM

It is with heavy heart that in 2016, we bid farewell to two wonderful ladies taken from us long before their time. Brandy and Dianne, You will be missed by all.



Big Brothers Big Sisters Community Sponsor of the Year

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berks County, our charity partner for Cabin Fever, 2016, honored the Berks County Parrot Head Club with their Community Sponsor of the Year award. Jim Smith, Executive Director, said "The Berks County Parrot Heads made an overwhelming impact on Big Brothers Big Sisters of Berks County this year. Not only did your organization raise a great deal of money for the agency, but raised a great deal of awareness. We are so very grateful for your contribution to our mission early in the year." Great job Parrot Heads!



BCPHC

CABIN FEVER / FEB.25, 2017

DOUBLETREE HOTEL, PENN STREET READING, PA



**BRANDY
LORAH CAHILL
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY
CLEANUP / APR. 30**

**ONE PARTICULAR
PHLOCKING / MAY 5,6,7**

PRINCETON NJ.

BCPHC GOLF OUTING/ JUNE 24

CHAPEL HILL GOLF COURSE
OLD LANCASTER PIKE READING, PA



**SUMMER
PARROT DAZE
/ JUL. 22,23**

BEVERLY HILLS TAVERN
OLD FRITZTOWN ROAD,
SINKING SPRING

A STARS AND PROMISES KIND OF NIGHT



Photo Jeanie Dougherty Philly Phins

By **DEB Motika**

On Thursday December 8th, magic filled the air at the DoubleTree Hotel on Penn Street in Reading Pennsylvania. A seamless, awe inspiring event captured the attention of a crowd of several hundred for the evening. Peter Mayer brought his band for the second consecutive year to us as his Stars and Promises Tour made its way around the country. This year's event was aptly titled "Wings of Angels".

No event of this magnitude can occur without the help and dedication of many of our BCPHC Family members. The planning for the event started many months earlier. Actually, if you allow me to digress a bit, the planning for these shows occurred about 7 years ago. After an amazing MOTM Key West vacation

we were in the Fort Lauderdale airport near the Landshark Bar and I happened to look over and see Peter. He was deeply engrossed in reading a book. There was an attractive blond woman sitting next to him so I thought I would sashay over. I sat down next to this woman and asked "are you Peter's wife". She laughed just as he looked up from his book and d "oh no, I'm Beth his tour manager" in that southern drawl I've learned to quickly recognize. Peter smiled and put his book down as the gentlemen he is and joined in the conversation. We talked about MOTM and all the great talent and fantastic music we enjoyed over the last five days. This happened to be the year following my first exposure to Stars and Promises in Lancaster. Not one to miss an opportunity I asked if they would ever consider coming to Reading. Beth graciously said she would keep it in mind. Fast forward a few years, I reached out to

her again and asked if they were interested in coming to Reading. She explained their policy to not have a show that may take away from a nearby event. Peter is very respectful of the charity that will benefit from his shows. That is often the first question Beth poses when discussing a Stars and Promises event. At this point the show was still being held in Lancaster. Last year I heard from Beth asking if we were still interested in the event coming to Reading and the rest is history. We hope to continue this Christmas season tradition for a long time to come.

Ok getting back to this year's show. Beth Estes, Peter Mayer's event coordinator assisted us in the setup and organization of the many aspects needing our attention. From the height of the stage to the food in the green room, all details needed attention. Denny was the hub that



Photo Jeanie Dougherty Philly Phins

made all the pieces come together and stay together for the many months it took to achieve the success. This year we added a new aspect to the show. He personally visited many of the local restaurants trying to get the Penn Street corridor involved in the show.

Fortunately, he was able to get The Peanut Bar, Panevino's and The Ugly Oyster to partake in the event by accepting reservations with time constraints and get a financial commitment as sponsors as only Denny can do. During the last few weeks we were able to bring in another sponsor, Wyomissing Taxi and Car Service to provide transportation to the restaurants and back to the DoubleTree.

During this hectic time of year, several of our members and volunteers from Crime Alert Berks came early to help set up for

the event. Many thanks go out to all of you who not only volunteered ahead of time but to those of you who we enlisted last minute to assist. Kudos as always to the volunteers who make these events easy. We were also able to procure a guitar, set up a raffle and have the guitar personally autographed at the end of the show by Peter. It was nice to see the new Reading Chief of Police Andres Dominguez Jr be the winner of the guitar raffle. Steins flowers also provided a beautiful wreath and Crime Alert Berks brought a basket that Beth also added a few Peter Mayer items to.

The Stars shown and the Promises of new beginnings engulfed us all as "Wings of Angels" began. Peter Mayer and his band took the subtly lit stage shining in hues of green and red. The ballroom was beautifully decorated for the Christmas

Season. All in attendance were sitting mesmerized by the beautiful lyrics, well-arranged and orchestrated music and the evocative sounds of the wind instruments. Peter's sweet and touching voice enchanted us throughout the evening. One moving piece after another came from that stage. Brendan Mayer, Peter's son on many occasions brought a youthful angelic sound to the room. Alicia Enstrom and her amazing violin was an additional bright spot in the evening. Wonderful, amazing, beautiful and for me a particularly poignant moment was when Peter dedicated Faith in Angels to Denny.

Looking forward to many more years of Stars and Promises.

Deb ■



MORE PHOTOS on page 8



CABIN FEVER

FEB 25 2017

at the **DOUBLETREE HOTEL** Downtown Penn Street, Reading

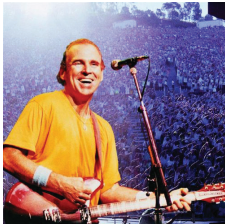
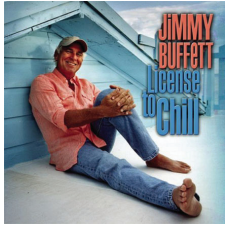
WHAT'S UP WITH

JIMMY



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Songs You Know By Heart... or maybe not.



Name the Buffett song from which these lyrics were taken.

1. "Nothing can tear you apart if you keep living straight from the heart."
2. "My twain of thought is loosely bound."
3. "They only see the islands from a tacky cruise ship."
4. "Girl of a thousand faces from a long line of basket cases."
5. "It was a pleasure and a hell of an evening."
6. "Running up and down the aisles of the mini-mart sticking food in our jeans."
7. "I'm a one man band with no immediate plans."
8. "It was too much tequila or not quite enough."
9. "You know that you cannot trust them, cause they know they can't trust you."
10. "Let's all take our clothes off and form a conga line."

1. Bring Back the Magic, 2. That's What Living is to Me, 3. Morris' Nightmare, 4. Changing Channels, 5. African Friend
6. Peanut Butter Conspiracy, 7. Tonight I Just Need My Guitar, 8. Semi-true Story, 9. Banana Republics, 10. Gypsies in the Palace



**Don't look at me.
Jimmy said it.**

Quotes in the key of Jimmy

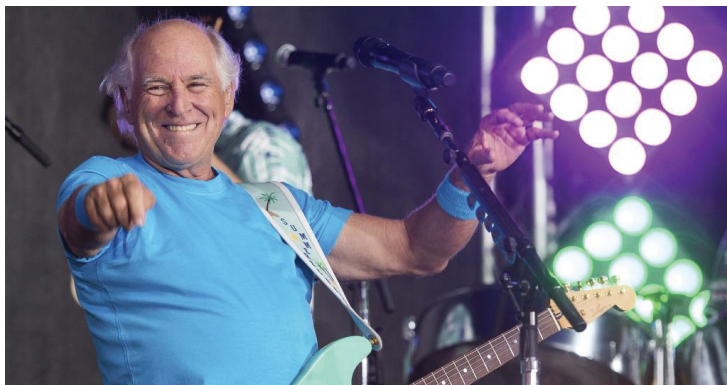
**"IF THERE'S A HEAVEN FOR ME,
I'M SURE IT HAS A BEACH ATTACHED."**

**"WELL, I'M STILL HERE. DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO
REHAB, AND I'M NOT BROKE."**

— Jimmy Buffett



2017 TOUR DATES as of publication date



| | | |
|----------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| April 1 | Las Vegas, NV | MGM Grand Garden Arena |
| April 14 | Byron Bay, Australia | Bluesfest |
| May 11 | Charleston, SC | Volvo Car Stadium |
| May 16 | West Palm Beach, FL | Perfect Vodka Amphitheatre |
| May 18 | Virginia Beach, VA | Vererans United Home Loans Amp. |
| May 20 | Bristow, VA | Jiffy Lube Live |
| July 15 | Chicago, IL | Wrigley Field |
| Sept 21 | Paris, France | La Cigale |
| Sept 22 | Paris, France | La Cigale |
| Sept 23 | Paris, France | La Cigale |

STRANGE BIRDS



BARBARA "GRAMMY" LORAH

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How & why you joined the club?

I joined club because my son and granddaughter were in and my husband liked to have fun.

Where will you go when the volcano blows?

Key West

What is your favorite Buffet song?

Margaritaville



Presidents Message

December brought Peter Mayer and the Stars and Promises tour back to Reading and the DoubleTree Hilton. "Wings of Angels" was the best of all the Stars and Promises Christmas shows I have seen. We raffled off a guitar and Peter autographed it at the meet and greet gathering after the show. It was a beautiful performance and all who were there got in the Christmas spirit early. Truly a beautiful night for everyone.

All of this could not happen without the commitment of our Board, Committee members, and you, the volunteers, who continue to give to our events no matter the task or the environment. I would also like to thank all of our members, their families and friends who purchase tickets, support raffles and spend money while attending the events. Thank you to the outgoing Board members for your efforts and making 2015 and 2016 so successful for your club. We hope you remain active in some way because you have a lot to offer.

We have a new Board and new excitement about the coming year. I am proud to be your President and look forward to new opportunities and challenges in the coming year.

Wishing you all blue skies in 2017,
The Prez, Denny Lorah ■

What is your favorite line from a Buffet song?

"Waisted away again in Margaritaville"

How many Buffet concerts have you attended / and favorite?

One. Citizens Bank Park

If all Buffet music was lost what would you listen to?

Allen Jackson

How long have you listened to Buffet?

Since Denny started the club

Favorite Movie

My big fat Greek weddings.

What do you like on your cheeseburger?

Mushrooms and onions

Favorite Food?

Cheeseburger with mushrooms and onions

What is your favorite Trop Rock Venue?

At this point wherever I can get to

Where is your Margaritaville?

Fat Tuesday in Key West ■

COMING JULY 22,23

To the Beverly Hills Tavern

SUMMER PARROT DAZE

Music by
Jimmy &
The Parrots



EXPANDING THE VIEW

BCPHC • WINTER 2017

Parrot Head Club Blends Fun With Love of Community

Reprinted from :Greater Reading Merchandiser Western Edition.

By **DAWN Wivell** Greater Reading Merchandiser

“Party with a Purpose!” The motto of the Berks County Parrot Head Club (BCPHC) says it all. This group of about 200 members “Promote friendship and organize activities for people who share an affection for the tropical spirit of singer-songwriter Jimmy Buffett and a desire to contribute to the betterment of the community and environment through a variety of volunteer efforts.” Those efforts include donating nearly \$600,000 to a variety of Berks County charities since the clubs inception in 2002.



One way the group raises money is through their annual events - Winter Cabin Fever Festival, a Golf Outing in May, and Summer Daze (July 22-23). The groups next event – Cabin Fever on February 25 – will feature one of Berks County’s favorite trop rock bands –Jimmy and thre Parrots, live auctions, silent and Chinese auctions and many raffle events with great prizes like an autographed Trop Rock Musician Guitar.

Most major events raise in the order og \$10,000 plus dollars each time. The more the charity gets involved, the more money we raise,” according to BCPHC President, Denny Lorah. He adds, In addition, this is a great time to socialize and party with your friends.”

How is a charity chosen? Charity nominations are accepted from the Club membership as well as at large (check their website for an online application). Eligible charities must guarantee that proceeds from BCPHC events will be used solely to benefit residents of Berks

County. Charities are further screened based on their individual even schedule and their ability to support the event with sponsorships, ticket sales, and auction item donations. The charity Committee strives to select worthy charities that fit the BCPHC’s goal to give back to the community while “Partying with a Purpose.”

The BCPHC also holds a bi-annualhighway cleanup each April and October. In 2016, the group memorialized the even in honor of Brandy Lorah Cahill (Lorah’s daughter) who passed away unexpectedly in August at the age of 40. Brandy was instrumental in setting up the event initially and participated every year.

The BCPHC also helped create the Angel Fund in May of 2010 when the charity selected for one of their events –Safe Haven – folded and returned the \$13,200 raised for them. The group reached out to Berks County Community Foundation to manage the fund. Today the money for the fund comes from a variety of

sources including the BCPHC. The Angel Fund provides grants for Berks County residents under the age of 18 who are in an extrodinary situation where a nominal amount of intervention is likely to yield life-changing outcomes.

Some of those grants have included...

- \$150 to a child who needed a specialized contact lens to correct an eye disorder
- \$500 to a family to help pay for expenses incurred while taking their child to the Mayo Clinic for medical treatment
- \$1,000 towards the \$15,000 cost to purchase electronic eyewear for a 9-year-old legally blind girl

OK, maybe “Party with a purpose” doesn’t really say it all. To learn more about this fun-loving, philanthropic organization, go to:

<http://berkscountyparrothead.club/> ■

Special thanks for re-print to Greater Western Reading Merchandiser

Another trip around the SUN

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Circle of Life



By DENNY Lorah

I hope all of my Parrot Head Family had a very Merry Christmas wherever life took you this Holiday season. Celebrating the Gift of Life is always a time of great emotions and reflections of past Christmas memories with family and loved ones. This Christmas was different for many of our BCPHC family and I couldn't help reflecting on my last Prez article about what's in your bucket list and the need to do it soon.

I had no idea my life would include the loss of my only Daughter who had just married the love of her life.

We didn't know we would lose Diane who was so full of fun and enjoyed her friends so much.

We didn't realize we would lose Captain Ed, I thought we were only retiring the Ship.

My deepest sympathy goes out to Duane and Bob and all of Captain Ed's friends. The memories will go on forever and we were all blessed to have them in our lives.



The new arrivals of Kylie Kraft and Logan Lenox added 2 new additions to the BCPHC extended Family in 2016. Congratulations to Tim and Mandy Kraft and Jana Blimline Lenox and her husband Tom and proud Grandparents Jan and Gary Kraft and Gene and Judy Blimline. Wishing these new lives bring many smiles and pride to your families in the future years.

Some of us will have tears of sorrow and grief for our loss and memories that will make us smile as time heals us. Others will have many smiles as you make memories and build the love of family with your new additions. The lesson is that the Circle of Life is very real and touches us all eventually, including our BCPHC.

Remember family is everything and we have no control on what 2017 will bring to us. Try to live each day with a positive outlook, spend time with family and make time to laugh with friends. Days wasted are not added on at the end as they are lost forever.

Congratulations to Paul Smith and Gene Blimline on your retirement. I hope all of your dreams come true. I wish you all health and happiness in the new year.

Sincerely Denny Lorah ■

THE FINAL WORD

Peter Mayer Stars and Promises



USELESS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Useless and Important Information is a publication of the Berks County Parrot Head Club, a non-profit organization based in Reading, Pennsylvania. The club's mission is to promote friendship and organize social activities for people who share a tropical spirit, an affection for island music, and the desire to contribute to the betterment of the community through a variety of volunteer and charitable efforts and functions.

The BCPHC was chartered in 2002 and is affiliated with Parrot Heads in Paradise, the national organization governing all Parrot Head clubs across the United States. This publication is produced by the staff of the club's newsletter committee and is a vehicle to exchange information about club activities and social events. Any opinions expressed in the articles are those of the authors alone and not necessarily those of the BCPHC or its leadership. The images, articles, and graphics in this newsletter are the property of the BCPHC and may not be reproduced in any way without the permission of the club leadership.

Anyone who wishes to help further the mission of the organization is invited to join and participate. More information can be found on the club website, located at

<http://www.berkscountyparrothead.club>

THE BOTTOM LINE



it's all about the charity