



Belle Haven Women's Club

FOUNDED 1936

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Happy 2017! We hope you had a wonderful holiday with your family and friends and are ready to start a new year.

The BHWC's holiday party in mid-December was a beautiful event. Thank you so much to our hosts, Gage and Michael Gribbon, for opening their lovely home to all of us. Many thanks to co-chairs Judy Williams and Tucker Taylor for their tireless work to make this a special evening.

Another momentous occasion: 2016 marked our 80th year of the Belle Haven Women's Club! To commemorate this milestone, all former BHWC presidents were interviewed. Historian Betty Demarest has compiled an impressive written history that we will share with you toward the end of the year. Be sure to not miss her "*Spotlight on History*" column in this newsletter.

Part of our BHWC legacy is to foster engagement in cultural activities. This past fall, we offered a Washington Opera costume tour as well as a night at the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Our next cultural outing will be to the National Gallery of Art to tour the American Art collection. NGA docent Jennifer Jacobs will lead us on a private tour the morning of Wednesday, February 22. You won't want to miss learning more about America's most celebrated artworks by John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and other greats from the Hudson River School. More details may be found below. If you have any ideas for future cultural events, please contact Alison Christmas at: alisonchristmas@icloud.com.

Please mark your calendar for the most fun winter party of the year - Wintertini! Katy and Michael Gaietto are gracious to host us on Saturday evening, February 11.

Last, thank you to each and every one of you that donated coats and toys to our annual holiday drive for United Community Ministries. We greatly appreciate the work Janet Price and Kari Shapero did to organize this effort, which exceeded our goal from last year. Thanks also go to Christine Corcoran Stark for hosting the Community Outreach luncheon. Next up: The Animal Welfare League. Let's join together to help our four-legged friends. Donations begin January 15.

We look forward to many BHWC good times together with you in 2017!

Alison Christmas
President

Amy Alberson
Vice-President

BHWC Website

We hope you will take some time to look at all the great photos of our events on our website! Logging in is super easy. **Here is how to log in:**

WEBSITE: www.bellehavenwc.com

USER NAME: bhwcmember

PASSWORD: bhwc22307

For easy access, bookmark the website and check “remember me” at the log-in prompt. In addition to photos of our previous events, we have our current calendar, membership directory and important information about our Garden Club and Community Outreach events and so much more!

Cultural Corner

Join us for a private tour at the National Gallery of Art!

The National Gallery of Art: West Building

The American Art Collection

Wednesday, February 22

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

RSVP to jenniferrichjacobs@gmail.com (tour limited to 20 people)

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the National Gallery of Art. It is an exciting time to visit the museum, as the East building just reopened after a three-year renovation. In addition, the Corcoran Gallery of Art recently donated its collection to NGA, making its American art collection the most extensive and finest in the world.

Jennifer Jacobs was a docent at the Corcoran for 20 years and has recently joined the National Gallery's docent program. She has a strong knowledge of the combined American art collection which includes the new Corcoran installation and most famous NGA paintings. The tour will cover portraits, landscapes, and scenes from everyday life (genre painting). We will view paintings from America's most famous artists (Winslow Homer, John Singer Sargent, Thomas Eakins, Whistler, etc.).

There is no cost for this event, as admission to the museum is free. An optional lunch will follow in the French Cafe if your time allows. Parking is easy on Constitution Avenue right next to the entrance (a block of spaces opens at 9:30 a.m.).

For more information about the museum, please visit: www.nga.gov. More details about the tour will be sent once registered. Questions? Email Jennifer Jacobs at: jenniferrichjacobs@gmail.com.

Calendar of Events

January

**Monday, January 9, 2017:
7:00 p.m.**

BHWC Board Meeting
Home of Laura Lawler

**Tuesday, January 10, 2017:
10:00 a.m.**

Community Outreach Meeting
Home of Susan Golightly

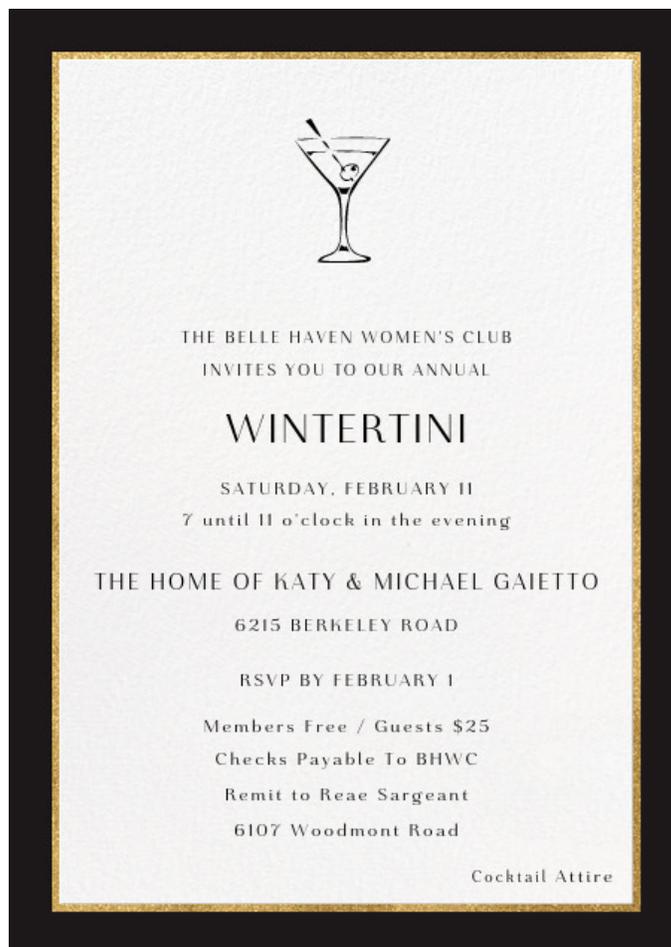
February

**Monday, February 6, 2017:
7:00 p.m.**

BHWC Board Meeting
Home of Lura Nell Mitchell

**Saturday, February 11, 2017:
7:00 p.m.**

Wintertini
Home of Katy and Michael Gaietto
Chairs: Katherine Foltz and Reae Sargeant



February (Continued)

- Tuesday, February 14, 2017:** Community Outreach Meeting
10:00 a.m. Home of Kathy Mulcahy
- Wednesday, February 22, 2017:** Private Tour of National Gallery of Art
10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

March

- Monday, March 6, 2017:** BHWC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Home of Burson Snyder
- Tuesday, March 14, 2017:** Community Outreach Meeting
10:00 a.m. Home of Peggy Baucom
- Saturday, March 18, 2017:** St. Patrick's Day Parade and Community Outreach's
collection of food/diapers for UCM and Campagna Center
- Tuesday, March 21, 2017:** Garden Club Meeting
10:00 a.m. Annual White Elephant Swap
Home of Susan Golightly

April

- Monday, April 3, 2017:** BHWC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Home of Vicki Coward
- Tuesday, April 11, 2017:** Community Outreach Meeting
Sandwich Making for Rising Hope
Home of Margie Griffith
- Tuesday, April 25, 2017:** Garden Club Field Trip
Location: TBD
- Sunday, April 30, 2017:** House/Garden Tour

May

- Monday, May 1, 2017:** BHWC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Home of Christine Washington

May (Continued)

- Thursday, May 4, 2017:** May End of Year Celebration and Dinner
BHCC - Ballroom
Chairs: Patti Dyson and Kim Gess
- Tuesday, May 9, 2017:** Community Outreach End of Year Luncheon
Home of Carol Ambrose
- Tuesday, May 16, 2017:** Garden Club Field Trip
Location: TBD

June

- Monday, June 5, 2017:** BHWC Board Meeting
7:00 p.m. Location: TBD
- Tuesday, June 20, 2017:** Garden Club Meeting
10:00 a.m. Home of Willa Cericola

Please Welcome Our New Neighbors

Tim and Ginny O'Neill
2116 Belle Haven Road

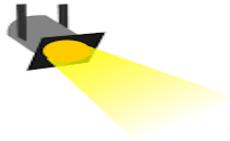
Ann Southerlyn Reisig
6203 Tally Ho Lane

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach section of the BHWC will collect much-needed items for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria beginning January 15 throughout the month of February. Some of the needed items include washable blankets, bath mats, kitty beds, durable toys (such as Nylabones), and unopened pet food. A complete list can be found at www.AlexandriaAnimals.org or by calling 703-746-4774. Drop-off locations are 6039 Edgewood Terrace and 2201 Windsor Road. Community Outreach members and their furry friends thank you for your support!

Our committee plans to continue activities that support the animal shelter, United Community Ministries, Campagna Center, homeless shelter and fire department. Weekday and weekend help are both options. We meet the second Tuesday of each month through May. These gatherings include breakfast and great camaraderie. Join us!

Fran Rice and Susan Golightly



Spotlight on History

This past December, the United States and Japan participated in ceremonies to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. How did WW II affect Belle Haven? Our archive contains quite a bit of information about the war years here.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the BHCA mobilized the neighborhood to address security concerns. The membership approved the construction of an air warden building and a first aid station at Ft. Willard Circle. An air raid alarm system was installed, and the neighborhood was divided into 10 areas that each had a warden. Practice air raids and blackouts were conducted regularly. Additionally, more than 100 people took a first aid course, evacuation plans were developed, and salvage was collected for the war effort. Gradually, people realized that the enemy did not have the capacity to bomb the U.S. mainland, and these security measures were somewhat relaxed.

The BHWC also focused on war-related activities. A new section called Relief and Red Cross was created and became very active producing bandages and surgical dressings. The women worked nearly every day to meet their quotas. The Garden Club encouraged its members to plant victory gardens. Many of the Club's activities were turned into benefits to raise money for the servicemen at Ft. Belvoir, the Red Cross, and other causes. A December 1942 flyer announced: "*Belle Haven's Annual Community Christmas Tree Has Been Dimmed Out for the Duration*" and was not lit again until 1947. While the war years seem grim in many ways, it appears that these shared experiences created an extraordinary sense of community.

Betty Demarest

House and Garden Tour

Back after 5 years!

On Sunday April 30, six beautiful homes and gardens in Belle Haven will be open to our members, neighbors, and friends for visiting!! Afternoon tea will also be served in one of the homes. Watch for updates--requesting volunteers as docents-- and an invitation to this Belle Haven tradition!!

Garden Club

The next garden club meeting will be on March 21st, at 10:00 a.m. at Susan Golightly's home. Field trips are being arranged for April and May. Stay tuned for more details.

Although we will not meet as a Garden Club until March, winter events at the Smithsonian, U.S. Botanical Gardens, Green Spring Garden Park, etc. and general gardening information can be found on our BHGC website: [Belle Haven Garden Club](#).

If you'd like to be included in our Garden Club list serve, please email Eleni Silverman at elenisilverman@gmail.com.

BHWC Seasonal Cookbook Corner

The **Behind These Doors - Season by Season** cookbook is still going strong. If you don't yet have your copy, they make great hostess gifts, teacher appreciation gifts, holiday gifts, and any other occasion where you wish to share a taste of our neighborhood with friends and family. At only \$20, the cookbook has more than 400 pages of great recipes, beautiful color photos, and an entire chapter on growing herbs for the kitchen.

Happy cooking...Christine Corcoran Stark, Cookbook Chair
Christine Corcoran Stark, 2221 Windsor Road

For questions regarding the cookbook or how to purchase one, please contact Christine at: christine.l.corcoran@icloud.com, (703) 960-9990 (h), (703) 577-5517 (c)

