

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 1 p.m.

Present: 32 members

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 2 p.m., preceded by a social at 1 p.m.

Meeting

In lieu of a meeting, a potluck luncheon was held to honor and thank Kathy for over seven years of leadership. Kathy was surprised by the outpouring of good cheer, with a lovely fall floral arrangement, being serenaded by the ukulele players and singers, and other gifts.

New member, Evelyn, was welcomed.

Copies of the November issue of Prime Time News were available.

Recent Activities

None reported this past month.

Upcoming Activities

An email will be sent to all members soon regarding the Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 5 at Benvenuto's. The room size is limited to 30. Those attending should arrive at 11:30 a.m., menu orders will be taken at noon.

Remember: Active Women's Group does not meet in either November or December because they would fall too close to the holidays.

Sharing

None reported this month.

Program

None this month.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Bev, Mary Lou, Wendy, Joanne, Ruthann, Mary C. Judy N., Lindy, Susan, Rita, Carol Q., Roxann, Barbara R., Sharon, Marina, Nancy, Judy B., Jeanie, Anne, Karen, Amy, Kathy, Marcia

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a pot luck luncheon at 1 p.m.

Meeting

New members, Mary Lou and Ruthann, were welcomed.

At last month's meeting, the new coordinator of the Active Women's Group, Carolyn Hook, had asked for a volunteer to serve as back-up when she is out of town. Wendy has volunteered to serve in that capacity. Thank you, Wendy.

Jane Davis has volunteered to join the program committee. Thank you, Jane.

Copies of the October issue of Prime Time News were available, and a number of upcoming events were noted.

A Core Class will be offered on Thursdays beginning in late October. See page 2 of the newsletter for more information.

Zumba Gold is moving to Thursdays in late October. More information can be found on page 2 as well.

The next Learning Annex will be on Tuesday, October 18 at 2 p.m. The topic will be the History of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo. This should answer any questions about the expansive property visible from US Highway 12. See p. 2 of the newsletter.

Jeremy and his staff from FACT will present a workshop on the Apple iPad on Wednesday, October 26 at 10:30 a.m. Call the center to register as space is limited.

The movie to be shown on Friday, October 21 at 1 p.m. will be "Hunt of the Wilderpeople." Amy has seen this movie and was touched by it. It is set in New Zealand. Some members have seen "Sully" in the theater and recommend it.

Judy B. talked about the Travel Show which will be presented on Thursday, September 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the dining room. The travel committee is working with three travel

companies to provide trips of varying lengths, and to interesting places in the U.S., and one to Cuba. If you miss the show, brochures are available near the center's front desk.

Four members of the Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center Board of Directors are completing their terms—all of them members of the Active Women's Group. Four new members will begin their three-year term in October. They include three members of the Active Women's Group.

The recently held "Meet, Greet & Eat" event sponsored by the Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center was enthusiastically praised for bringing in people new to the center, and for thanking everyone who already utilizes the senior center.

Recent Activities

Lindy explained how she organized a trip this month to see a play at American Players Theatre, ordering the tickets back in February in order to take advantage of the early-purchase discount. Attendees saw Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband."

Carol Q. organized a trip to the Stoughton Opera House to see a musical group similar to Peter, Paul and Mary, called Small Potatoes. Tickets were only \$15. They ate dinner at Halverson's, and noted that they take reservations on Friday night for any size group. She commented that the seats at the Stoughton Opera House are quite hard, so it's suggested you bring a pillow. This activity was planned more at the last minute than Lindy's, which also works well when planning activities for the group.

Upcoming Activities

Carol Q. sent an email shortly before this meeting, but reminded us, that prior to the October 25th meeting, we will have a pot luck Harvest Luncheon, at 1 p.m. in the usual meeting room. A sheet was passed around asking members to indicate what (other than dessert) each would like to bring to the pot luck.

An email will be sent to all members soon regarding the Holiday Luncheon on Monday, December 5 at Benvenuto's. The room size is limited to 30, so watch for that email to arrive.

Remember: There are no regular meetings of the Active Women's Group in either November or December because they would fall too close to the holidays.

Sharing

Jeanie announced that the Friends of the Fitchburg Public Library will hold its fall Book Sale on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22. They received a significant donation of military history books in excellent condition, which may be of special interest to fans of military history. Someone asked how to donate books to the library: Donations should be brought to the circulation desk at the library.

Another event at the library will be held on Saturday, October 8 at 1:30 p.m. The topic is: All That Glitters: A Sparkling Romp through 100+ Years of Costume Jewelry by Ann Koski. This is a fundraiser for the library. The admission charge is \$10.

Lindy thought she saw that Jessica Michna will be coming in December to the library to give a presentation.

Lindy passed around flyers about a fundraiser for the families affected by the explosion in Fitchburg near the corner of Cheryl Drive and Fish Hatchery. There will be a pig roast by Larry, who has done pig roasts for the Senior Center in the past. This will take place on Saturday, October 22 at Tower Hill Park Shelter, from noon to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for ages 10 and under. All proceeds will go to benefit the fund that's been established at Summit Credit Union for the Fitchburg Explosion Fund.

Nancy mentioned that the Stoughton Public Library will have a fundraiser with Elvis Presley tribute artist Tony Rocker performing on Saturday, October 15 at BBG's, 800 Nygaard St. Tickets are \$30 if purchased ahead of time, \$40 at the door. It starts at 4:30 p.m. with a social hour, followed by a buffet dinner and performance by Tony Rocker.

Program

Bev described how she got into memoir writing. It all started 21 years ago, when she realized that as she was getting older, there were stories about her life that she wanted to share with her children and grandchildren. Through her church, a group of 8 women started meeting in each other's homes to share what each had recently written. She has used several books to teach herself about memoir writing, which along with others are available at the public library: Writing Life Stories by Bill Roorbach (1st and 2nd editions); Writing from Within by Bernard Selling; The Story of Your Life by Dan Wakefield. About 12 years ago, they started attending the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, New York, for a week of writing. Over the years, they've met many famous authors including Amy Tan, Joyce Carol Oates, Jane Pauley and her husband, Garry Trudeau, and Ann Patchett.

Different people have different motivations for writing their memoirs. Some intend from the outset to publish their memoirs, while others see it as therapeutic, and others simply want to pass on their stories to future generations.

Some writers work chronologically in their memoirs, but that doesn't work for Bev, who is currently trying to organize her 21 years of writing by theme. She recommends that a person find a comfortable place to write on a regular basis. When she starts a new topic, she doesn't concern herself with good grammar or punctuation, which will get cleaned up in a final draft. She wants to tell a story with enthusiasm and colorfully. She likes to include conversation, recalling it as best she can, writing it in the nature of the person who's speaking. She uses poetry at times to tell her story.

Bev advises writers to put their name and the date on their work, so if anyone finds it, it will be attributed to the correct person. Bev eventually prints what she's written, on single pages and slips the sheets into protective sleeves. She has several 3-ring binders of her writing.

Bev recommends joining a group to get feedback and to hear each other's stories. In a group of writers, a prompt is often used to get everyone writing. However, while writing about one thing, other memories come back, so she keeps a note pad handy to jot down that new idea.

Bev read her story of a Spanish Dancer doll, Cynthia, which she received as a Christmas gift many years ago. Her friend, Mary Lou, read her story called "Blind Date." Bev also read a story about her 95-year-old father and his great grandson, called "Gardening."

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 23, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Ruth, Lindy, Joanne, Bev, Judy B., Sharon, Karen, Jean, Amy, Judy B., Carol Q., Lela, Laurelle, Martha, Jane, Mary D., Sandy, Carolyn, Sue, Mary C., Carol T. Mary R., Nancy, Wendy, Kathy, Marcia

Guest speaker: Tegan Stringfield, Fitchburg Public Library Electronic Services Librarian

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m.

Meeting

New members, Nancy, Martha, and Laurelle, were welcomed. Martha and Laurel came to the meeting with Ruth. Nancy is a member of a local book club.

Copies of the September issue of Prime Time News were not available in paper form, but will be soon. However, the online version is available today. A number of upcoming events were noted.

An AARP Driver Safety class will be offered in October. Some insurance companies give a discount to seniors who have taken this class. Check with your insurance

company. Contact the senior center to register. AARP members pay only \$15 for the class. Non-members are charged \$20. See page 4 of the newsletter for details.

An Easy Yoga Plus class will be offered starting Tuesday, September 13. See page 2 of the newsletter for complete information. Ruth recommends this class to all.

The next Learning Annex will be on Tuesday, September 20 at 2 p.m. The executive director of the Henry Vilas Zoo will be the guest speaker.

David Hill will teach a workshop on how to record over-the-air TV programs on Wednesday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m. Be sure to register for this class.

Over Labor Day weekend, volunteers of the Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center will be serving ice cream at Eplegaarden. Donations will be accepted. A sign-up sheet was passed around to solicit volunteers.

To celebrate National Senior Center Month, come to the center on Thursday, September 22 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. The Fitchburg Senior Center Friends invite everyone to attend the "Meet, Greet & Eat" event, highlighting the activities that go on at the Senior Center. Hors d'oeuvres & beverages will be provided. This event is intended to encourage new people to visit the center, and to give back to all the people who already participate.

The annual Travel Show will be presented on Thursday, September 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the dining room. The travel committee is working with three travel companies. If travel arrangements are made for any tours with these companies, it is acceptable to mention Fitchburg Senior Center so that a percentage of your travel dollars will come back to support the Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center.

Sharon informed the group that she is in the process of planning six one-day trips for 2017. Stay tuned for further details.

Bev reported that the Couples Dinner Group will not be dining at Charlie's as named in the newsletter, but rather at the Gastropub on Monroe Street. She will email all members.

The AWG Program Committee will be meeting soon to finalize plans for future meetings. They intend to keep us busy. Next month, Bev will lead us in a memoir writing exercise, something she has enjoyed for many years.

Kathy announced that starting in January 2017, Carolyn Hook will facilitate the Active Women's Group. She would like some one or more than one to assist and fill in when she is unable to be at a meeting. Contact Jill McHone if interested. It has been decided that the facilitator shall have a 3-year term limit.

Recent Activities

No activities were planned for August. Kathy related that in past years, AWG has had upwards of 20 activities per year. In 2016, there have been only 4.

Upcoming Activities

Lindy has organized a trip to see a play at American Players Theatre in September. She will be emailing all those who purchased tickets with final arrangements.

Sharing

Jane displayed her recent finds at the newly opened craft shop called Wayward Apple Gifts. It is located near Laredo's and Rolling Pin Bakery. She purchased doll clothing that will fit American girl dolls with Badger and Packer themes, and other nifty things. The merchandise changes constantly. Their website is: www.waywardapplegifts.com

Related to that, Kathy mentioned that the speaker from Dane Buy Local at the last Learning Annex advised attendees to stop frequently at local shops, because they need our business to stay in business.

Our guest, Tegan Stringfield, from the Fitchburg Public Library, provided everyone with a handout covering various social media apps: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Snapchat, including some of the vocabulary terms used with each.

Facebook is great for keeping up with friends and family. You can post personal photos and videos.

Twitter allows people to comment on current events and follow topics or people that are of interest to you. The message is called a Tweet. Hashtags (#) mark keywords or topics in a Tweet. A Handle (@) is used before a user's name to direct a Tweet or Retweet at that user.

Instagram allows a person to post photos with comments or comment on others' photos. One must be using a smart phone or tablet, not a computer. It too uses @ and #. You can connect your Instagram to Facebook. Once posted to Instagram, you can not edit a photo; you must do that before posting. Instagram has fewer ads than Facebook.

Using Pinterest, you create boards of things that interest you, such as crafts or recipes, captured as pictures from websites. You can remove them later. You can send pins to others, or have a private board.

Snapchat allows you to send photos or videos to others that last 10 seconds or less. It is an app you can only use on a smart phone or a tablet.

Tegan was asked about WhatsApp, which is a way of sending text messages over the internet without phone service. This could be of use in traveling in foreign countries.

As far as safety, privacy and security, Tegan recommended having strong passwords, such as 4 random words, and to think before you share anything. Review the privacy policy at each site. With some apps, when you first register, your personal info is public. You need to change the settings so make it private or to limit access to friends only.

Tegan walked us through some of the features of the online library services, such as downloading a book to your device. Located under “eLibrary” at the library’s website, you can download audio books, eBooks and eMagazines. You can also perform research by selecting “databases by subject”. Some eMagazines don’t post every article. To read an entire issue, go to EBSCOHost. To search Ancestry, you must be in the library.

Mango allows you to learn a foreign language while sitting at your computer or device. There are 72 languages currently available.

Tegan frequently holds technology workshops at the library. Check the library calendar, or sign up at the city website for receiving email reminders from the library of adult programming. Tegan will also provide free one-hour one-on-one instructions on any of these technology topics, as well.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women’s Group

Fitchburg Active Women’s Group Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Judy N., Joanne, Carolyn, Mary C., Judy B., Sharon, Barb V., Marina, Barbara R., Sandy, Amy, Rita, Ruth, Jean C., Roxann, Carol Q., Judy B., Mary D., Anne, Lois, Lela, Kathy, Marcia

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m. (Reminder: AWG meets on the fourth Tuesday)

Meeting

New member, Lois, was welcomed. Kathy encouraged all members to invite new women to attend our meetings, just as Lois was invited.

The anticipated speaker for today's meeting from Dr. Robertson's office had to cancel. Skin care was one of the topics requested in the member survey taken several months ago. Hopefully, this program will be rescheduled sometime in the future.

Carolyn came up with an alternate activity for us to enjoy at the end of the meeting.

Copies of the August issue of Prime Time News were available for pick-up. A number of upcoming events were noted.

The next Learning Annex lecture will be on Tuesday, August 16 at 2 p.m. The topic is Dane Buy Local.

The Retiree Rebels will discuss Reinventing Your Life in Retirement on Tuesday, August 9 at 10:30 a.m.

If you are interested in volunteering for the LEEPS program, which stands for Language Enriched Exercise Plus Socialization, see page 3 of Prime Time News.

The Aging Mastery Program will be offered again, this time at the Oregon Area Senior Center. Ruth took the classes previously held in Fitchburg and enjoyed the many interesting speakers on various topics related to aging—finances, health, etc. It is a 10-week series of classes and begins on Wednesday, September 7 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There is a cost, but it is reasonable at \$25. A light supper is provided. If interested, sign up soon, as the number of attendees is limited. A special handout describing the program is available with the online newsletter or at the front desk of the Fitchburg Senior Center.

A group of people who enjoy the craft of traditional rug hooking is inviting new members to join them on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. See page 9 of the newsletter.

The Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center have several events coming up this fall. Over Labor Day weekend, volunteers will be serving ice cream at Eplegaarden on all three days. Donations will be accepted.

The following weekend, to celebrate National Grandparents Day, volunteers are needed to work at the snack bar. Proceeds from these two events will be earmarked for scholarships so local needy residents can attend programs that have a cost associated with them. Contact Mary Cochem to volunteer to work a shift or two.

On Thursday, September 22 from 4 to 6 p.m., the Friends invite us all to attend the "Meet, Greet & Eat" event, highlighting the activities that go on at the Senior Center. Hors d'oeuvres & beverages will be provided. This event is intended to invite new people to the Senior Center, and to give back to all the people who already participate. Volunteer to be a greeter at this event.

If only a couple more people sign up for the Arkansas Autumn Foliage bus tour scheduled for October 4-9, the bus will stop for pick up at the Senior Center. The tour is getting full, so make plans now to travel to this lovely fall location.

The annual Travel Show will be presented on Thursday, September 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the dining room. Six exciting and interesting tours are being scheduled for next year, including baseball spring training in Arizona, a tour of cities with historical significance, the California coast by rail, Nova Scotia in summer, and a "people to people" tour of Cuba in fall. A tour of the Apostle Islands will be a shorter trip of only 3 nights. The travel committee is working with three travel companies. If travel arrangements are made with these companies for tours other than the ones sponsored by the Senior Center, it is acceptable to mention Fitchburg Senior Center so that a small amount of your travel dollars would come back to the Senior Center.

The speaker at the next Active Women's Group meeting will be Tegan Stringfield from the Fitchburg Public Library who will speak on the various types of Social Media including Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat. She will go into digital resources, also. This was a topic that was suggested through the member survey taken several months ago. David Hill and Lisa Sanford will also talk about Facebook at a program presented at the Senior Center on Monday, August 29 at 10:30 a.m. You must register for David's program.

Recent Activities

Rita invited members to tour her lovely gardens, and many did. The flowers were really showing off that day.

Mary C. arranged for members to attend one of two performances of "Kinky Boots" at the Overture Center. It was a fun show to see.

Upcoming Activities

No activities have been scheduled for August as yet. Members are encouraged to plan something by simply picking a day and sending an email to all members.

Sharing

Barb V. encouraged members to visit the Blooming Butterflies exhibit currently at Olbrich Gardens. She had a few tickets to give away.

Ruth is planning to take a bi-plane ride. She will let us know if she recommends it.

Marcia reminded members that Tuesday, August 9, is a primary election day. Absentee balloting is available at City Hall now. A photo ID will still be required to vote.

The sunflowers are in bloom at Pope Farm. The location is on Old Sauk Road several miles west of Madison. Amy advised the group that there is more to see than just flowers. The grounds are open from dawn to dusk. Bring your own water bottle.

As a group activity, Carolyn challenged members to identify wild flowers, passing around photocopies of about 35 of them. The winner got to take home a vase of wild flowers that Carolyn had brought in. Most of us were able to identify less than a third of them. Sounds like we need to get out into the wild more with a flower identification book.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes June 28, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: 23 Members and Guest speakers from RSVP, Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.

Mary Schmelzer, Driver Services Volunteer Recruiter and Group Projects & Homeworkers Coordinator

Diana Jost, Intergenerational Program Coordinator

Next meeting: Tuesday, Jul 26, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m

Meeting Copies of the July issue of Prime Time News were available for pick-up. Kathy welcomed new members, Sandy Turk and Lyn O'Brien, and asked the group if there were any questions pertaining to the July issue. As there were no questions **Other Area Events** were discussed. Kathy mentioned that the Friends of the Library reported a successful book sale. Friday, the first day of the sale provides the best selection but the bag sale on Saturday would be a great idea for gifts. Other events were Jazz Fest, Make Music Madison and Concerts at McKee. The next McKee concert is Monday, July 18th. Oregon summer concert series starts Tuesday July 12 and runs most Tuesday's through August

Past Events: June 8th trip to Governor Dodge State Park to see the lupines and waterfall followed by lunch at Bob's Bitchin BBQ in Dodgeville.

Future Events: Rita's Garden Party June 29th 4:00 PM to dark,
Overture "Kinky Boots" with Mary Cochems July 12th and July 16th
American Players Theater "The Ideal Husband" with Lindy September 11
Madison Restaurant Week July 17-22 includes many reasonably priced lunch options.
Kathy thought this may present a good opportunity to organize an AWG outing.

Today's Program: Mary and Diana spoke to the group about RSVP volunteer opportunities in the Madison area and brought many informative handouts. RSVP is a

nonprofit organization that matches volunteers with community service opportunities. Their vision statement describes the organization.

“Build and expand a community-wide network of volunteers and organizations that unite compassionate, experienced adults with meaningful and fulfilling service opportunities which enrich the lives of the volunteers while enhancing support for people in need”

Mary and Diana described volunteer opportunities in RSVP’s many programs, Community Connections, Driver Escorts, Home-Delivered Meals and Vets Helping Vets Drivers, Intergenerational (older adults with children and youth), Foster Grandparents, Triad (crime prevention and safety for senior), Bus Buddy & Bus Buddy Tours, and Group Projects/HomeWorkers.

RSVP contacts

Phone: 608-238-7931

Email: Info@rsvpdane.org

Web: www.Rsvpdane.org

Facebook: RSVP of Dane County

Kathy asked the group if they wanted to share any volunteer experiences. Sandy and Sharon talked briefly about volunteer driving and how rewarding they found it to be.

Group News: Kathy announced she will be ending her leadership with the October meeting but remain an active member.

submitted by Wendy Wornson

Fitchburg Active Women’s Group Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Carolyn, Sue S., Mary C., Barbara R., Barb K., Lynn, Marina, Mary R., Mavourneen, Sharon, Judy B., Lindy, Patti, Amy, Jean D., Mary D., Carol T., Phyllis, Judy N., Roxann, Sandy, Rita T., Carol Q., Wendy, Lela, Kathy, Marcia

Guest speaker: Marianne Jensen, bluebird rescuer and volunteer at Governor Nelson State Park

Next meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m. (Marcia will be absent, so a volunteer is needed to take notes. She’ll help this person, if needed, to get the notes ready and posted to the website. Thanks!)

Meeting

Copies of the April issue of Prime Time News were available for pick-up. Kathy called our attention to several things coming up.

David Hill is offering another informative workshop on Wednesday, June 29 at 10:30 a.m. Learn how to record over-the-air television programs using Channel Master Hard Drive.

Dave St. Amant will explain how to use several social networks, like Facebook, Twitter, etc. on Wednesday, June 22 at 1 p.m.

The next Learning Annex lecture will be on Tuesday, June 21 at 2 p.m. Lynne and Bob Diebel of Stoughton will share their experiences of their canoe trip through the Driftless region of Wisconsin.

Although she was absent, Bev wanted to remind anyone interested in joining the Couples Dinner Group, that the next dinner will be on Tuesday, June 21 at 5 p.m. The newly opened Me and Julio's will be the location of that gathering. Contact Bev to get on her list and to make a reservation.

Carolyn said she tried the Zumba Gold class being offered on Friday mornings. Call the instructor for more information. Marcia took the swing classes in April being offered on Friday afternoons. She encouraged others to try the waltz class that will be offered beginning in late September.

Kathy circulated a brochure of Historic Architecture Walking Tours which will begin on June 4. Search online at www.madisonpreservation.org. Organizing an event like this is quite easy to do—simply send out an email to all AWG members after picking a date and a tour to join. The cost is only \$10.

The Verona Area Community Theater will present "Mary Poppins" in June. Search www.vact.org for performance times and ticket prices. Only \$10 for seniors and children.

Current members of the Fitchburg Senior Center Friends, Mary D, Sue S. and Mary C. described the many ways that the senior center benefits from the work of the Friends including raising funds through the pancake breakfast, organizing the recent Pella/Amana trip, and other trips, serving ice cream at Eplegaarden, etc. All funds raised are used to benefit the senior center and the people it serves. It's a 3-year commitment, but a wonderful way to be involved in the community. See page 2 of the June issue of Prime Times News to find out how to apply.

Recent Activities

Sue S. reported on the recent trip enjoyed by 25 people to the Pella tulip festival and the Amana Colonies in Iowa. Stops were also made at the Dubuque Arboretum, Trappist Monastery where wooden caskets are made and shipped around the world and a farm where Shetland sheep are raised. Pella was settled by Dutch immigrants, and their descendants each year display their traditions in their dress, dance and celebrations. There are actually seven Amana Colonies, where they learned about the founding of the colonies and their customs. This tour was organized by Country Travel Discoveries, which was formed by the same company that publishes "Taste of Home" magazine.

Mary C. and others volunteers from the Senior Center have been picking asparagus at Eplegaarden on Mondays and Wednesdays. The crop has really come in, with 125 pounds having been picked the day before this meeting. Eplegaarden has donated its crop this year.

Upcoming Activities

Mary C. sent an email regarding the purchase of tickets to see "Kinky Boots" in July. She needs to get commitments by Friday.

Interested in joining the fall trip to Arkansas and Branson, Missouri in early October? Anyone signing up before June 15 gets \$75 savings toward the cost. See the Prime Time News, page 4, for details.

At the June meeting of the Active Women's Group, we will hear about the RSVP program. Retired and Senior Volunteer Program provides many services in the area. It is a great way to give of your time and talents to help others of all ages. At the July meeting, Dr. Robertson will speak to us.

Save the date for the annual Travel Show scheduled for September 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Fitchburg Senior Center dining room. Judy B. reminded everyone that if you register for a trip with any of the travel companies whose pamphlets are located at the center, please mention the Fitchburg Senior Center, because the Fitchburg Senior Center Friends will benefit from your travels. The companies currently offering this include Mayflower, Collette and Premier.

Sharing

Marianne Jensen, a retired teacher, has volunteered her time for 16 years at Governor Nelson State Park in a program to rescue Eastern bluebirds. This park is for day use only; no camping is allowed. Most visitors are there to enjoy a quiet walk. Marianne passed around a booklet of nature walks and experiences available in all parts of Wisconsin. Her walk is number 54 in the booklet, a copy of which can be found at the senior center. To obtain the information online, visit www.wisconservation.org. The website for the North American Bluebird Society is nabluebirdsociety.org where you can locate bird nest plans and learn about the effort to bring back these beautiful birds.

Bluebirds are small song birds that use cavity nests. Their season in this part of Wisconsin is from April through September. The males arrive first to pick a nesting place. The female arrives and builds the nest. They feed each other, but after the female lays the eggs and begins to incubate them, he feeds her while guarding the area. They both feed the babies which when born are totally dependent on their parents. In less than 3 weeks, the fledglings are out of the nest. The day of fledging, the parents don't feed them, so the babies are forced to climb out of the nest. Over the next two weeks, the parents teach them how to find food.

After the first batch of fledglings, there may be a second and occasionally a third batch. A new nest must be made of pine needles and grass, so Marianne helps by cleaning out the old debris. Surprisingly, the first brood will help feed the second. When the weather is very cold and might kill the young, Marianne has opened the nest, and using a pancake spatula, inserted a hand warmer under them. That will get them safely through a cold night. Unlike some animals, the birds are not affected by her human smell. The description of how the birds keep the nests clean was quite interesting.

House sparrows, which were brought from England, are quite aggressive and will usurp bluebird cavity nests. Bluebirds need one to three acres to forage for insects. They especially like open spaces—golf courses or your back yard. When Marianne first began volunteering at Gov. Nelson, there were about 60 cavity nests built for bluebirds, which was too many. Last year, there were 26 boxes, with 55 fledglings. Bluebirds live only two to three years, which means that the number of fledglings a female will produce in her lifetime is limited. Bluebirds and chickadees are monogamous, seeking a new mate only if one dies. Other birds, such as swallows, are polygamous.

Everyone enjoyed Marianne's presentation, which included photos, posted and examples of nest boxes.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Jean, Anne, Mary, Joanne, Jackie, Sandy, Wendy, Barbara R., Barb V., Bev T., Patti, Mavourneen, Lindy, Amy, Mary C., Ruth, Lynn, Marian, Carol Q., Carolyn, Marcia

Guest speaker: Anna Healy, Fitchburg Urban Forester and Naturalist

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m.
Note: This is the 4th Tuesday.

Meeting

In Kathy's absence, Carolyn conducted the meeting. Kathy is traveling in Portugal.

New members: Bev T. and Marian were welcomed.

Barb V. and Jean had April birthdays.

Copies of the April issue of Prime Time News were available for pick-up.

The Couples Group has grown quite large. There might be members who would like to do lunch without their spouses during the year. Perhaps the Tuesday of the week when the Men's Group meets for their monthly meeting would be a good day to schedule a luncheon. Is there a volunteer or two who would like to co-ordinate it???

One of our members has a photo display at the Fitchburg Public Library. Be sure to check it out.

Recent Activities

No activities occurred this past month.

Upcoming Activities

Mary C. asked if there were volunteers interested in harvesting asparagus at Eplegaarden next Monday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m. The owner wishes to donate the crop to the senior center. Harvesters will also get to take some home. Mary will contact those who raised their hands.

Next month, Mary Ann Jensen will speak at the meeting. She will talk about blue birds at Governor Nelson State Park on Co. Highway M north of Middleton. The day after the meeting, she will lead a walking tour at the park. Lunch will follow at the Prairie Cafe.

Sharing

There are several trips coming up that Mary C. reminded members about. A good-sized group is off to Pella, Iowa next week for the tulip festival. The trip to the Canadian Rockies this summer is full. A brochure describing the Mayflower bus tour of Arkansas Autumn Foliage is available in the hall. It departs on October 4, 2016. It includes a scenic ride on a railroad and a dinner cruise among other things. On the return, there will be a stopover in Branson, Missouri for a couple of shows. If 10 people from Fitchburg sign up to go, the bus will pick them up at the Senior Center.

On Saturday, May 21, 2016, there is a bike ride that starts at the Badger Trail at 10 a.m. and makes stops at several historic Fitchburg locales including a local farm, an old mill

and old Fitchburg. It is limited to 40 people. (Marcia could not verify this information. Perhaps someone could provide more information.)

If you are frustrated with the political scene since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that corporations are people and money is speech, contact Ruth at: hale.ruthmarie920@gmail.com for more information. Ruth said she was, so she joined a group called Wisconsin United to Amend. They have a website.

Carolyn alerted members that Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" will be performed by her favorite performance group at City Church on Buckeye Road on April 28, 29 and 30. All performances will be at 7:30 p.m., with a matinee on the 30th at 2:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online (Google: Cinderella at City Church). Bunky's is not open for dining any longer, as they've limited their business to catering. So Bunky's is not an option if you want to eat before attending the show.

Guest speaker, Anna Healy, Fitchburg Urban Forester and Naturalist, began working for the city of Fitchburg in February. She is currently busy with spring tree planting. Some trees are being moved from Verona Road to McGaw Park where there are older trees that need to be replaced. Park volunteering is an activity that lost momentum over the years. She is trying to revive it, and suggested contacting her if interested at annahealy@fitchburgwi.gov or by phone at 270-4289 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Members can subscribe to Green E-News Blast, a monthly newsletter with upcoming events and sustainability information. Search the city website for past issues of this newsletter.

As residents of Fitchburg, Anna suggested members could help by watering a city tree during a dry spell, putting some mulch around it (which is free at the maintenance facility), contacting her if there is a tree that seems to be in trouble, and by keeping leaves from going down drains in the fall so as to keep phosphorus out of the lakes.

Anna passed around a book titled: Enact: Steps to Greener Living by Sonya Newenhouse. Multiple copies are available at the library. It contains tons of good ideas.

The group was surprised to learn that people dump yard waste into parks, which could spread invasive plants into the parks and woods. Someone asked what she could do with a large rock that is in her yard. Other members suggested putting it on the "Curb Alert" on Craig's List (Google: Craigslist Madison free stuff or curb alert) or use the Freecycle website (Google: freecycle Madison WI)

Anna advised us to be careful what we plant in our yards as some plants may get out of control. She suggested looking at the list posted on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website (wi.dnr.gov look under Education for Invasive Species), also Wild Ones (wildone.org Madison has a chapter) or IPAW (ipaw.org stands for Invasive Plants Association of Wisconsin). Laura Jull at U.W. Madison, Dept. of Horticulture and Wisconsin State Extension Specialist of Woody Ornamental Horticulture recommends

talking to one's County Extension office or Master Gardener volunteer program about home gardening issues.

Anna said the best way to dispose of invasive plants such as garlic mustard is to place them into clear garbage bags, so the plants are heated and killed by the sun. Place the bag in the regular garbage can, not in a compost pile. Dark plastic bags actually promote growth.

Milkweed planting is being promoted city-wide. A group called Monarch Rising (Marcia could not verify this group, but did locate monarchwatch.org) is encouraging monarch butterfly hatching.

On Saturday, May 7, 2016 at Swan Creek Park, the city will celebrate Arbor Day/International Migratory Bird Day beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a bird walk, tree planting with the mayor at 10 a.m., and other activities. The Bird and Tree City recognition will take place at 9:30 a.m. and at 11:30, the monarch wayside installation will occur. Contact Anna for more information.

Olbrich Garden (www.olbrich.org/events/documents/ButterflyPlantList2016.pdf) has a list of plants that are either larval host plants for butterflies or provide nectar for them.

Everyone is familiar with the destructiveness of the emerald ash borer. Fitchburg has about 600 ash trees which are being removed and replaced with a variety of new trees including honey locust, Japanese tree lilac, hackberry, some oaks, plane tree, etc. Anna said that by the time we realize a tree is in trouble, it's really in trouble. This insect is being transported by human activity.

There are invasive jumping worms which eat all the fallen leaves on a forest floor, which is hard on the native plants in the woods. These worms were probably brought into an area when fishing bait was dumped. Mustard mixed with water will tell you if you have jumping worms in your area because they hate mustard.

If you need a tree trimmer, search online at Wisconsin Arborist Association (www.waa-isa.org) for a reputable provider. Searching can be narrowed by county. Oaks need to be trimmed in winter months because oak wilt is carried by beetles attracted to exposed cuts. Be careful of people who stop at your residence and offer to trim your trees.

People are concerned about mosquitos breeding in standing water. It was mentioned that purple martins eat lots of mosquitos, as do bats. People can erect purple martin houses to encourage them to nest in your area.

At the conclusion of Anna's presentation, members shared some ideas for reusing and recycling as follows:

- Use empty toilet paper tubes to clamp around rolls of wrapping paper or for electrical cords.

- Reuse plastic grocery bags in a variety of ways, such as giving them to the local food bank to be reused. Recycle them by placing a bunch of them into another bag and putting them into your recycle bin or into the container at the entrance of a grocery store.
- Use the plastic bags that newspapers come in for dog doo-doo. The Sunday one is larger and often a colored plastic. This can be used as a gift bag if tissue paper is placed inside. Tie with a pretty ribbon.
- Use a fabric sleeve as a plastic bag holder and keep it in a handy place.
- Keep rain gardens doing what they were intended to do by clearing out invasive plants.
- Share plants if you have an over-grown garden.
- Compost more. Keep a small compost bin in the kitchen.
- When in a natural area, be sure to take your trash out with you.
- Take large styrofoam and plastic to the recycling area near the Fitchburg Maintenance Building.
- Packing peanuts can be dropped off at the UPS store. They can also be used in the bottom of a planter, so less potting soil is needed to fill it.
- Packaged air and bubble wrap can be dropped at the Post Office in the Hallmark store to be reused.
- Build a bat house.
- Bike more, drive your car less.
- Fire pit ash when mixed with sand can be used in beds around the cabin up north.
- Goodwill will recycle fabric. When dropping a bag off, just tell them that it is "fabric for recycling." Rather than donating something that would only get thrown out because it is clothing that is not reusable, separate it so it can be recycled more easily.
- Old mattress pads and blankets are good for quilting. Sheets as well.
- Using the reverse osmosis water machine in the grocery store to refill large jugs will cut down on the number of plastic water bottles in our environment.
- Reuse empty cereal or cracker plastic bags like you would use waxed paper.
- Wash your laundry using cold water. Dry for 5 minutes, then shake and hang the clothing to dry completely.
- Collect plastic spoons, especially Culver's blue spoons, and donate them to a food pantry.

The door prize of a fabric bag to keep your plastic bags more organized was awarded to one of our new members, Marian.

Carolyn has a video titled "Plastic Planet" which she will show at her home. She will be contacting everyone regarding a date and time.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

**Fitchburg Active Women's Group
Meeting Minutes**

March 22, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Mary P., Jeanie S., Sue S., Mavourneen, Carolyn, Rita, Joanne, Mary C., Wendy, Barb K., Barb V., Bev, Mary D., Sandy, Lynn, Sharon, Judy B., Anne, Jean C., Ruth, Kathy, Marcia

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m.

Meeting

Copies of the April issue of Prime Time News were not available.

As a reminder, Kathy advised members to mark their calendars for future meetings which always occur on the fourth Tuesday of the month, which is not necessarily the last Tuesday. March has five Tuesdays, for example.

Since our activity today is a coloring contest, Kathy passed around a flyer describing the coloring for adults activity to be held at the Fitchburg Public Library on Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. Members who enjoy coloring should check this out. All supplies will be provided.

Several members saw Barbara R.'s photo in the Wisconsin State Journal recently. She is currently president of the Madison Knitters' Guild which held it's convention recently.

Recent Activities

No activities occurred this past month.

All members are encouraged to plan an activity. It can be done on short notice, or something planned months in advance. Just send out an email to all members with a date and time of the event, and a deadline for responding.

Upcoming Activities

Lindy sent an email that she is organizing another trip to American Players Theatre near Spring Green to see the Oscar Wilde play "An Ideal Husband." The date she has chosen is Sunday, September 11, 2016. The performance is at 6 p.m., so departure from Fitchburg will occur around 4 p.m. Contact her no later than April 1 if interested at lindymb@aol.com. The cost is \$30.60.

Mary C. asked if there is interest in getting a group to attend Kinky Boots which will be at the Overture Center on July 12-17. The music is by Cindy Lauper who wrote "Girls just want to have fun." She will send an email to all members.

Sharing

The Friends of the Fitchburg Senior Center who have planned a 2-night bus trip to the tulip festival in Pella, Iowa have only a few seats left. In addition to the tulip festival, there will be several side trips, including to the Amana Colonies, a botanical gardens, the monks' coffin factory, a farm, and two nights in Grinnell, Iowa.

Judy B. indicated that in past years, the senior centers from Oregon, Verona and Fitchburg have taken turns planning a couple of day trips, which some seniors prefer. She asked for suggestions, and the list provided by the members was long. It included: Circus World in Baraboo, International Crane Foundation, Penzeys in Milwaukee, Villa Louis in Prairie du Chien, Art in Bloom in Milwaukee, Johnny's Steak House which will demonstrate cooking for 20 people, Underground Railroad in Milton, Rotary Gardens in Janesville, Pendarvis in Mineral Point, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in LaCrosse, Old World Wisconsin in Eagle. Other ideas may be emailed to Judy at jbst@charter.net

In April, the city forester will speak at our meeting. The April activity will be to share a recycling tip.

As members colored with crayons, markers or colored pencils, we learned that coloring is meditative, creative and centering. In 2014, one million coloring books were sold. In 2015, twelve million were sold. The coloring book was the book of the year. The precipitating event that is believed to have caused of the resurgence of coloring especially by adults is the book, Secret Garden: An Inky Treasure Hunt and Coloring Book by Johanna Basford. Kathy recalled that her husband showed a video in his sciences classes called "Why Man Creates." It was an Oscar winning short documentary and is available for viewing online.

After a half hour of coloring, members voted on their favorite. The prize of chocolate shaped like crayons was awarded to Kathy.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group

Fitchburg Active Women's Group Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016, 2 p.m.

Present: Robin, Nedra, Jane, Barb V., Carolyn, Barbara R., Wendy, Amy, Barb K., Judy N. Bev, Jackie, Mavourneen, Lindy, Patti, Susan, Sandy, Jean C., Jean D., Anne, Karen, Kathy, Marcia

New members: Barb V., Barb K., Robin and Nedra were welcomed.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 2 p.m., preceded by a coffee social at 1 p.m. Be sure to bring Crayons or colored pencils for the coloring contest.

Meeting

Copies of the February issue of Prime Time News were available.

Kathy pointed out that the Pancake Breakfast which benefits Friends of the Senior Center will be held on Sunday, March 20 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Fitchburg Senior Center.

The Stoughton Norwegian Dancers will perform on Wednesday, March 9 at 10:15 a.m. They are very entertaining.

Bev indicated that couples who wish to join the Couples Dinner Group should contact her. They will be dining at Quivey's Grove Stone House soon.

Mavourneen informed the group that the next movie to be shown at the Senior Center on Friday, March 18, at 12:40 p.m. will be "I'll See You in My Dreams." It stars Blythe Danner, Sam Elliott, Rhea Perlman and Mary Kay Place, and has gotten good reviews.

Marcia recommended signing up for the ballroom dance classes with instructors, Mike and Deb Moe. The classes begin on Friday, April 1, at 1 p.m., and will run through that month for five Fridays. The cost is a very reasonable \$25.

Barbara R. suggests attending the Madison Knitters' Guild "Knit-In 2016" at the Alliant Energy Center the weekend of March 18-20. More information is available at madisonknittersguild.org

The Used Book Sale at the Fitchburg Public Library will be held on Friday, March 18 beginning at 12 noon, and continuing on Saturday, March 19 at 10 a.m.

The Spring Flower Show at Olbrich Gardens begins Saturday, March 5 and runs through Sunday, March 20. It's a wonderful way to anticipate the arrival of spring.

Patti brought in a newspaper article explaining that the owner of the Casa del Sol restaurant is planning to reopen it as a sports bar or something similar. So stay tuned for developments there.

Recent Activities

Kathy arranged for a group to have lunch at the Marigold Kitchen and attend a lecture at the State Historical Museum by author, Kathleen Ernst. She was discussing her recent book titled: [A Settler's Year: Pioneer Life Through the Seasons](#). Kathleen has a blog at: www.sitesandstories.wordpress.com which explores historic sites—the stories they tell and the stories they inspire.

Upcoming Activities

Mavourneen asked members if there was interest in visiting Ten Chimneys, which was the estate of Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. The Men's Group had discussed it as a possible place to visit. Quite a few people indicated they were interested. It's located near Genesee Depot, Wisconsin. Their tour season runs from May 3 to December 4. Group rates are available. To learn more about Ten Chimneys visit their website: www.tenchimneys.org There are a number of places to have lunch or dinner nearby.

According to Jane, an ornithologist working at Wild Birds Unlimited might be available to speak to our group. She will coordinate her idea with Carolyn.

Lindy is willing to organize another trip to American Players Theatre near Spring Green. The list of plays being performed this season, as well as the theater in which each will be performed, will be coming out soon. Discounted tickets are available if purchased well in advance.

Sharing

Carolyn shared the results from the survey that the planning committee gathered at last month's meeting. They are:

Talents, Hobbies, Interests: Gardening (3), Writing, Reading (13), Entertaining/
Socializing (2), Musical Theatre, Memoirs, Nature/Walking (8), Bird Watching (2),
Tutoring (2), Sports, Knitting (5), Quilting, Travel (6), Piano, Genealogy,
Flower Arranging, Playing Cards (especially Bridge) (5), Mahjong, Baking,
Exercise (including water exercise & yoga), movies, dogs, local current
events, biking (3), cooking, music, plays, foreign languages, line dancing,
photography, coloring for adults.

Past careers that might benefit the group and a willingness by members to do a program: counseling, teaching, medical, nursing, research, interior decoration, raw food preparation.

Would like to learn more about: Gardening, painting, clay arts, cooking, baking, holiday meal making, cooking with spices, slow cooker recipes, local authors and their books, genealogy, volunteer opportunities in the area, Friendship Force, personal style mistakes, beauty tips, care of aging skin, pedestrian safety, operating Craig's List.

Hearing about travels: The consensus was that it was a good idea, if the talk wasn't too long and was of a place of interest to members.

How long in Fitchburg: Ranges from 2 1/2 years to 44 years (quite diverse!)

More about Fitchburg: New shops, new restaurants, tours, Chasen Museum of Art, Discovery World, local history (Roger Cohee's name was mentioned as good source), business in Fitchburg—old and new, MG&E Training Facility, new buildings south of Library, computer/electronics services, derivation of Fitchburg street names, local points of interest.

Anyone who wishes to offer other ideas for programs may contact the planning committee.

Lindy recalled being involved in ethnic dinners with friends, each preparing a dish to share. Some dinners were Greek, Mexican, etc.

Mavourneen attended two performances by Jessica Michna. In one performance, she portrayed Mary Todd Lincoln; In the other, she portrayed Dolly Madison. It turns out that the two women were related to each other through the Todd family.

The group activity this month of February was a Valentine activity where members shared a Valentine or a Valentine story. A few of them were: Patti brought in her collection of antique Valentines which were originally sent between her grandmother and great-aunts in the early 1900s. Barbara R. had sent members a link to the State Historical Society's online Valentine collection prior to the meeting. Kathy shared a poem by author, Kathleen Ernst, the gist of which was that love between a husband and a wife is often expressed in the ways a spouse makes life better or easier for the other by the things he/she does. Jackie made chocolate covered strawberries and candy hearts, and brought small candy bars for attendees to enjoy. Bev passed around copies of several Suffragette Valentines she located online, from the days before women were allowed to vote. Carolyn brought in and shared the pattern for a Valentine bookmark made from cotton fabric. It could be attached to the corner of a page.

The March activity will be a coloring contest. Everyone is to bring Crayons or colored pencils. A sheet will be distributed to decorate, and someone will win a prize.

Submitted by Marcia Griskavich
Fitchburg Active Women's Group