

President Carol Stearns opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Carol Pearce, a woman who readily shared a wealth of information about our village with all who were curious. *

Carol introduced Tom Mannle, Vice President of Development and Board Member of the Cape Ann Symphony who encouraged support of the Symphony. All members are paid professionals who perform 4 concerts per year. They also participate in the Youth Initiative, which sends symphony members into the 4th and 5th grades to foster music appreciation and education, culminating in a concert lead by the Symphony's conductor. With an annual budget of close to \$250,000, of which only 30%-40% is covered by ticket sales, support from sponsors and individual patrons is crucial. Tom is appreciative of any support the Circle can provide.

Speaking on behalf of Wellspring House, Jackie Littlefield invited all to a party on the Sunday after the Fair, Dec. 8th. Guests are asked to bring an unwrapped present for a child or teenager to help supply the Wellspring Holiday Store which provides gifts for approximately 550 children of families participating in Wellspring programs as well as children of other low income families in the area. Wellspring House has recently been asked to help with a similar store for 100 families with 150 children living in a motel in Danvers, and has committed to help these families find homes, set up budgets, and tackle other problems. An extra gift for the store is welcomed.

In addition to an email she has already sent to members, Jackie mentioned that no more children's grabs are needed for the Fair. Please provide three grabs, marked for a female, male, or either gender. And don't forget the pets, if so inclined.

Treasurer reported that there is \$15,362.22 in the Circle's checking account.

Deborah Bird remarked how beautiful the presentation of foods was at the Gourmet Table last year. She encouraged members to make the food as visible as possible, to label and to mark those containing nuts. If food is in a tin, please envelop with cellophane to deter those who, in their excitement, open tins for sampling. If possible, please drop off food at the Village Hall on Friday afternoon for pricing.

Finance Committee Chair Mimi Emmons has received requests for gifts for The Open Door, Wellspring House, Cape Ann Youth Symphony, Rose Baker Senior Center, The Dockers, the Gloucester Education Foundation, Annisquam Village Church, Pathways, The Haiti Project, Cape Ann Animal Aid, and Backyard Growers, which Mimi reports has just received a \$10,000 grant from Tom's of Maine.

Special order wreaths are the bread and butter of greens' sales so Bonnie Angus encouraged members to sign up for wreaths and to let friends know of this opportunity to order special sizes and bows. Requested are cuttings from plants such as juniper, holly, and white pine, but not hemlock. We still need more large

pinecones as well as tiny ones for the boxwood trees. Wreaths will be arriving on Monday morning after Thanksgiving. Pat Makin will be in charge of quality control. Twelve-inch wreaths with regular red bows will cost \$25, with special ribbon, \$40; 16" wreaths will cost \$35 with red bows, \$50 with special ribbon.

A request was made for fine wire for wiring the pinecones, and wirers will be needed on Monday of the Fair week at 9am

Connie Mason is looking for more volunteers for making salads and pies for the luncheon, which will cost \$15.

Suzanne Brown and committee will begin assembling baskets this coming Thursday.

A raffle will be considered, depending on the items donated for the Crafts Table or the Fair.

President Stearns adjourned the meeting.

Kate Meader, Emily Murphy, Stevie Neal, Deborah Michel, and Mary Curtis treated members to delicious refreshments following the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Ebeling

*Joan Collier reported after the meeting that a condolence card had been sent to Dave Pearce.