



The Common Times

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“Lift Every Voice. . . .”

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, soon upon us, the editor quotes these poetic words from the unofficial African-American national anthem to offer a comment about our own community culture. Our home-grown culture at the Commons is benefiting from the ideas and initiatives of a growing pool of residents. But there is certainly room for involvement of many more of us, both as initiators of new activities and as helpers within existing frameworks. Add your own voice to the chorus of folks who make things happen at University Commons.

That’s Entertainment!

Thanks to the initiative of the Program Committee, and Don Smith in particular, several residents got together recently to explore prospects for showing noteworthy movies at University Commons. We soon came to a consensus on the following:

Indeed, we will show a series of movies at the Commons; we’ll arrange the films according to theme, country of origin, genre, director, or some other interesting organizing idea; we’ll schedule two movies per month; begin soon; and name the series CINEMA AT THE COMMONS.

We also decided that we want to hear suggestions and requests from all interested residents, so please regard this as an invitation to tell us what you wish us should show. For that matter, if you feel like joining the cinema taskforce, please let Don Smith know.

You are all invited to attend our first Cinema at the Commons event on Sunday, January 25th at 7:00 PM in the recital hall. We have chosen Destry Rides Again from 1935, starring Marlene Dietrich and James Stewart. Vic Douvan, who suggested this favorite of his, will introduce the film. Mind you, our inaugural film is not the first of a particular series. That comes next time around. Mark your calendar and join us on January 25th!

News From Your Program Committee

Our meetings have already brought forth some exciting plans to tap some of the wealth of resources within our community. The plans for twice-monthly movies are underway and the two discussion sessions on the changing roles of women in the university were a great opportunity to share our experiences.

One of our important goals is to make our evening and Sunday presentations truly resident-directed. A recent experience “hosting” under Alisande’s supervision made us realize how sketchy was our knowledge of the logistics and the small but important details. We would like to invite all of you who may want to “host” in the future to walk through the process with Alisande at 1:30 on Monday, January 19. We’ll have a checklist available. You’ll feel even more proprietary of our home!

And please join the committee on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 with your opinions and ideas.

Elizabeth Dexter

First Asa Gray Day Coming in April

As the behest of the UCA board, and under the guidance of Betty Graham, a committee has been working for some months on a way for University Commons to mark the achievements of our namesake, Asa Gray. They are delighted to announce that this spring, we will celebrate Dr. Gray’s achievements with a scientific lecture delivered by a prominent member of the University of

Michigan faculty. In the words of the planning group, "it was decided to have a speaker, preferably on the cutting edge of science, who would draw University dignitaries and friend as well as our Commons Body to gather for an academic event."

Professor James R. Baker was chosen and has agreed to deliver the Asa Gray Lecture this April. He is the Ruth Dow Dean Professor and Director of the Center for Biologic Nanotechnology, a new field that has tremendous potential for applications in medicine. The committee hopes to make this an annual event and so The Common Times has designated the event as the FIRST Asa Gray Lecture. Prof. Baker's talk will be followed by an elegant reception. We will post additional details as Asa Gray Day draws closer.

Giving Time to the Community

The hospitals and clinics of the University of Michigan Health Systems are always eager to have new volunteers. Kind folks of all ages and backgrounds provide a variety of important patient-related services, many of which would not happen at all, if it weren't for the availability of people who are not on the payroll. When your editor worked in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric

Hospital's outpatient clinic, she had a chatting friendship with two wonderful volunteers, both of whom were well into their senior years. One, whom we called "Grandma," was devoted enough to volunteering in the CAPH waiting-room to come back to us shortly after orthopedic surgery, even though she needed to use a walker for some months. The other was notable for his ability to engage even the most introverted of children in mind-easing banter.

Would you like to offer a few hours a week to hospital patients and staff? The first step is to call **Volunteer Services** to arrange for a brief interview. The number to call is **936-4327**.



Local Flora

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Hawk Home: The Eastern white pine likes our hillside as much as we do. White pines covered many square miles of northern Michigan before they were lumbered off. It is the state tree of Michigan.

Our resident red-tailed hawks live in one tall pine at the north-west corner of our property. The

triplet little hawks were hatched in a hidden nest in the top of the tree. They might return to it next year.

White pines like our sandy soil, so our landscape designer chose to plant many on our property. You can identify a white pine by its leaves (5 needles in a cluster). It can grow to be 70 feet tall! Pinaceae Pinus Strobus is worth recognizing.

Betty Graham

What's In A Name?

One of our residents has commented to the editor that we have misnamed this newsletter, pointing out that as our home is called 'University Commons' and NOT 'University Common,' we should have named the newsletter The Commons Times. In the resident's own words, "If we are so smart, why don't we use correct language?" The editor agrees that we regard ourselves as a community of savvy people and wants to hear from other linguistically sensitive neighbors about the suggested name change. **What's your opinion?**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR WORLD? SEND IN YOUR NEWS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

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